



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Published
10/05/2022

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

National Disease Control Centre
Number 2 of 2022

African Swine Fever confirmed in previously unaffected region of mainland Italy

- Italy has confirmed a case of African Swine Fever (ASF) in a wild boar in the municipality of Rome on 5th May 2022 (Figure 1). This is the first time ASF has been found in this area
- This most recent location is a jump of ~400km from the nearest area where wild boar have previously been confirmed to be infected, indicating that the disease may have inadvertently spread by humans
- In January 2022, Italy confirmed the first case of ASF on the Italian mainland in Perugia, Municipality of Ovada, in the Province of Alessandria (Piemonte Region) in the North-East of the country where more than 100 wild boar have since confirmed to have been infected
- Genotyping tests are pending in order to determine if it is the same strain that was first detected in the EU in 2014 and is currently present in several other EU Member States and Eastern European countries (Genotype II)
- ASF has been endemic on Sardinia since 1978 but has been confined to the island. However, Sardinia is affected by a different genotype of the ASF virus – ASF Genotype I
- Italian veterinary authorities are carrying out an epidemiological enquiry and surveillance in the wild boar population in the region
- To date, Italy has not confirmed the presence of ASF Genotype II in domestic pigs
- There has been no movement of live pigs into Ireland from Italy in the past six months

Figure 1: Location of African swine fever case in wild boar in the municipality of Rome, Italy 5th May 2022 (Source: Animal Disease Information System (ADIS))



Risk to Ireland

- ASF continues to spread into new regions such as mainland Italy and Thailand
- Wild boar and feral pigs play an important role in the spread of the disease worldwide
- Ireland does not have a sustainable wild boar or feral pig population
- EU legislation (Article 15 of Commission Delegated Regulation 2021/605) prohibits the trade of wild boar between EU Member States and implements control measures on the movement of live pigs within ASF affected areas of the EU which is a risk factor for the introduction of the disease
- ASF outbreaks in the EU must be reported to the European Commission and there is Animal Health Law legislation in place (Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687) to implement control measures for outbreaks in domestic pigs to prevent further spread
- Food waste infected with the ASF virus being consumed by pigs represents the most significant risk pathway for a disease incursion into Ireland
- Other risk factors include clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment contaminated with the ASF virus

Advice for Pig Owners



NEVER FEED FOOD WASTE TO PIGS

- Food waste (swill) including kitchen waste and catering waste must be disposed of carefully away from livestock. Bins must be located in a secure location and sealed to ensure that vermin, birds or other animals do not carry food waste into areas where pigs are kept
- Pig owners in Ireland are advised to implement biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of an outbreak of the disease in this country such as establishing disinfectant points and implementing a pig-free period of 72 hours for anyone coming from an ASF affected region to prevent the risk of contaminated clothing, footwear, vehicles or equipment coming into contact with pigs
- Vigilance for any unexplained disease patterns or unusual presentations of disease should be maintained. Any suspicions of ASF must be reported to your [Regional Veterinary Office](#) during normal office hours or the National Disease Emergency Hotline at 01 4928026 (outside of normal office hours) without delay
- A dedicated page of useful information including clinical signs of ASF and biosecurity information is available at www.gov.ie/asf

Rest of Europe – Current Situation

- Since ASF first entered Lithuania in 2014, a total of 13 EU Member States have been affected by the disease. Czech Republic and Belgium are the only two Member States who have successfully eradicated ASF from the wild boar population. Greece confirmed outbreaks in domestic pigs only in 2020 and was successful in preventing further spread of the disease.
- In 2022 (up to the 5th May), 162 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and 3,362 ASF events in wild boar were reported by 10 EU Member States and other Eastern European countries to the European Commission's Animal Disease Information System (Table 1)
- In 2022, the EU Member States of Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia have reported ASF. It has also been reported in Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine (Figure 2)
- During 2021, 1,874 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and 12,147 ASF events involving wild boar were reported by 10 EU Member States (Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy (Sardinia), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia) and other Eastern European countries (Moldova, Ukraine and Serbia) to the European Commission's Animal Disease Information System (ADIS)
- The EU has legislation in place to prevent the spread of ASF within and between Member States through the implementation of control measures on the movement of pigs and pig products and prohibits the movement of wild boar between Member States (Commission Implementing Decision 2021/605)

Figure. 2. ASF disease events in **wild boar in red** and outbreaks in **domestic pigs in blue** during 2022 (1st January to 5th May 2022) (Source: ADIS).

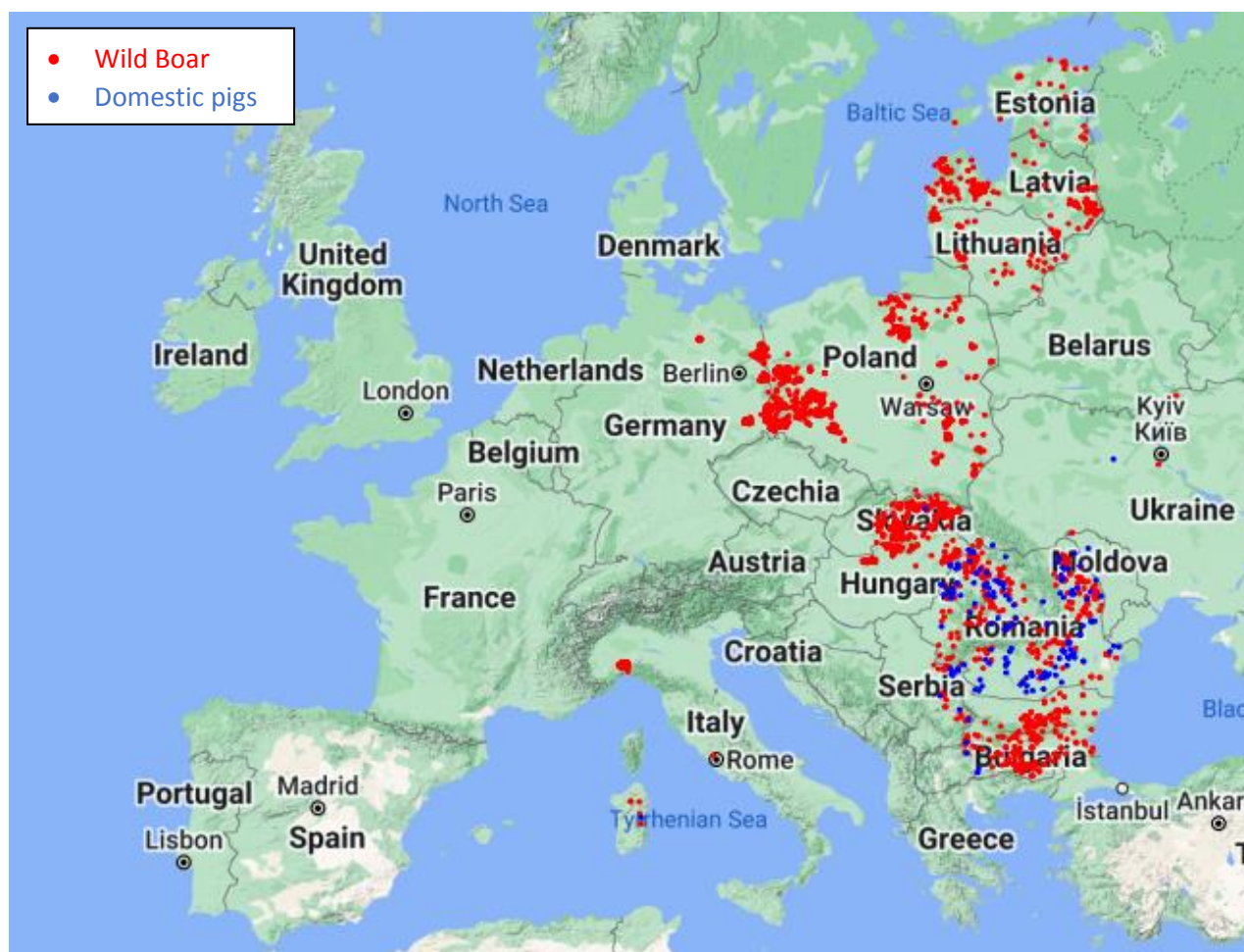


Table 2: African swine fever outbreaks and events in Europe during 2022 (up to 5 th May 2022) (Source: ADIS)				
Country	Date of most recent outbreak in domestic pigs	No. of ASF. outbreaks in domestic pigs	Date of most recent case in wild boar	No. of ASF wild boar events (involving 1 or more animals)
Bulgaria	28/2/2022	2	14/04/2022	231
Estonia	n/a	n/a	14/04/2022	27
Rep. of North Macedonia	12/01/2022	1	14/04/2022	2
Germany	n/a	n/a	05/05/2022	760
Hungary	n/a	n/a	05/05/2022	286
Italy	01/02/2022	1	5/05/2022	118
Latvia	n/a	n/a	27/04/2022	213
Lithuania	n/a	n/a	28/04/2022	96
Moldova	02/02/2022	1	25/02/2022	2
Poland	n/a	n/a	29/04/2022	1034
Romania	29/04/2022	144	29/04/2022	282
Serbia	10/02/2022	11	10/02/2022	32
Slovakia	21/01/2022	1	29/04/2022	274
Ukraine	09/02/2022	1	02/02/2022	2
Total		162		3524

Current Situation - Worldwide

- The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) have been promoting the control of ASF for several years and developed a five - year global initiative in 2020 to control ASF which can now be found on four continents – Europe, Asia, Americas and Africa. The initiative established [a Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases \(GF-TADs\)](#) as a platform to develop and promote national, regional and global partnerships and to strengthen disease preparedness measures in an effort to control the disease and prevent further spread.

Asia & Pacific

- Since ASF first entered China in August 2018, ASF has been confirmed in a total of 16 countries including Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Timor-Leste, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Bhutan and Thailand
- In January 2022, Thailand reported its first case of ASF; a further 81 outbreaks in 31 provinces have been reported since
- More than 60% of the world's domestic pig population is located in East and Southeast Asia

Figure 3. ASF situation in Asia during the period 17th February to 28th April 2022 (Source: [FAO](#))



Americas

- ASF was confirmed during 2021 in both the Dominican Republic and in Haiti, which share a land border
- This is the first confirmation of ASF in the Americas since an outbreak in Haiti in 1982

Africa

- Historically, the disease was first described in East Africa in the 1920s. Since 2005 the disease has been reported in 32 African countries and is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. All known genotypes of the ASF virus are believed to be present on the continent. At the time of the entry of Genotype II into Georgia in 2007, it was thought to be present in Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Southern Tanzania.
- In 2021, South Africa reported 39 reports of ASF to the OIE which included 4 immediate notifications of outbreaks in previously uninfected areas of the country. ASF sequencing by South African Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Transboundary Animal Diseases laboratory has identified that both Genotype I and II are active

Advice for Travellers

- The ASF virus can survive for several months in pork and pork products such as sausages, cured meats, smoked meats (meat/meat products can also carry other animal diseases such as Foot & Mouth Disease)
- Do not bring meat products into Ireland from outside the EU, and never bring home pork or pork products if travelling abroad to regions affected by ASF
- Do not bring meat or meat products onto Irish pig farms
- Always use a secure bin to dispose of waste food, so that it cannot be accessed by farm animals, wild animals, or wild birds

Further Information

- Further biosecurity advice, ASF videos, posters and disease updates can be viewed and downloaded from the gov.ie website at:

www.gov.ie/asf

[African swine fever \(europa.eu\)](http://african-swine-fever.europa.eu)

[African swine fever - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

References:

[SGE ASF18 23rd of November 2021 - Teleconference](#)

[FAO ASF situation update - African Swine Fever \(ASF\) - FAO Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health \(EMPRES-AH\)](#)

European Commission's Animal Disease Information System (ADIS)

[SGE ASF18 23rd of November 2021 - Teleconference](#)

[USDA statement on confirmation of ASF in the Dominican Republic](#)

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