

Swine Disease Global Surveillance Report

Worldwide pork production is highly interconnected by trade between countries and markets which could increase the risk of introduction of foreign pathogens into the US.

PROJECT

The aim of these reports is to have a system for near real-time identification of hazards that will contribute to the mission of assessing risks to the industry and ultimately, facilitate early detection and identification, or prevent occurrence of events, in partnership with official agencies, and with our international network of collaborators.

Monthly reports are created based on the systematic screening of multiple official data sources, such as government and international organization websites, and soft data sources like blogs, newspapers, and unstructured electronic information from around the world, that then are curated to build a raw repository. Afterward, a group of experts uses a multi-criteria rubric to score each event, based on novelty, potential direct and indirect financial impacts on the US market, credibility, scale and speed of the outbreak, connectedness, and local capacity to respond average is calculated. The output of the rubric is a final single score for each event which then it is published including an epidemiological interpretation of the context of the event.

These communications and the information contained therein are for general informational and educational purposes only and are not to be construed as recommending or advocating a specific course of action.



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Swine Disease Global Surveillance Report

Tuesday, December 1, 2019 – Monday, January 6, 2020

Report Highlights

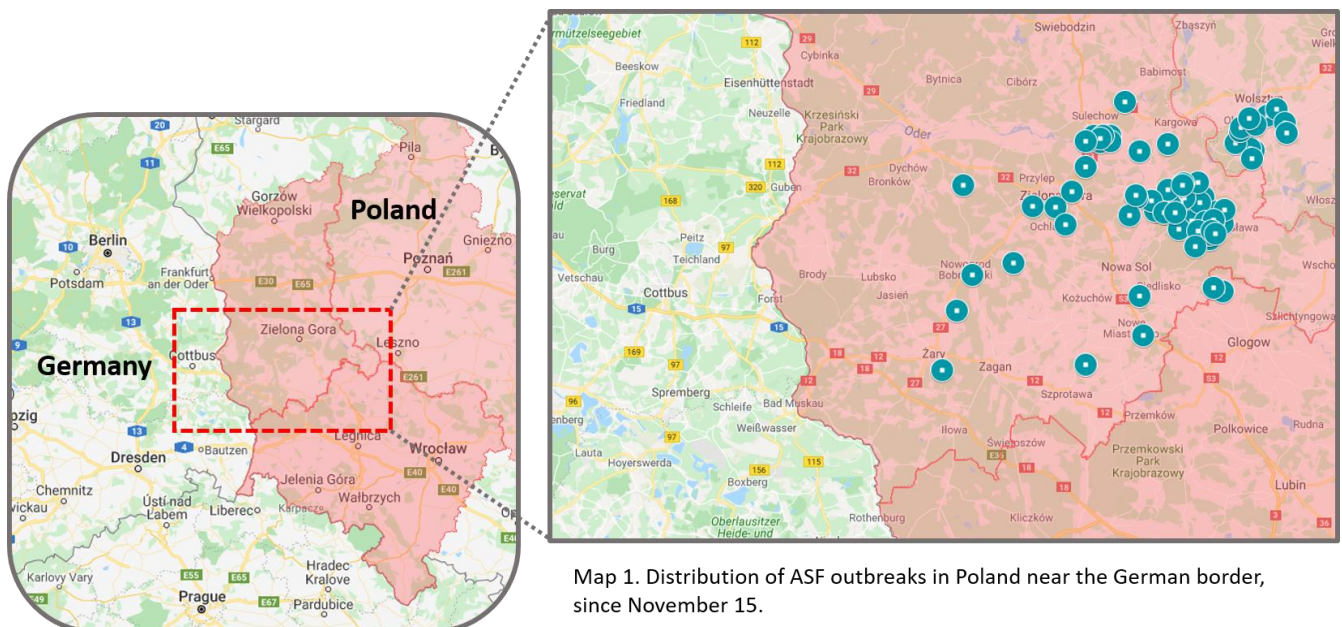
- **Indonesian authorities confirmed first African swine fever (ASF) outbreaks in North Sumatra:** this is the 11th country in the region that has reported the disease since August 2018
- **ASF in Belgium:** Remains from a wild boar were discovered outside the inner observation zone
- **ASF is getting closer to Germany:** Germany sets preparedness and early response protocols. A joint ASF task force with Poland has been established to coordinate control efforts around the border
- **CSF in Japan:** An outbreak in the prefecture of Okinawa has been reported for the first time in 33 years, triggering the expansion of the vaccination program underway.

African Swine Fever

EUROPE

Germany

Reports of ASF infected wild boars and domestic pigs have not yet occurred in Germany despite cases near the border in neighboring Poland and Belgium. As of January 6, three provinces in Poland - Lubusz, Lower Silesia, and Greater Poland - have reported 87 cases of ASF in wild boar carcasses. The majority of those cases were found within 59 sites in the Lubusz province, followed by 10 sites in Greater Poland, and Lower Silesia had 2 infected carcasses (Map 1).



Map 1. Distribution of ASF outbreaks in Poland near the German border, since November 15.

The German federal ministry of agriculture has increased the ASF threat level. Due to relatively warm weather, nut trees are plentiful, helping piglets survive winter and supporting the wild boar population.

Wild boar management -- hunting quotas and carcasses searching strategies

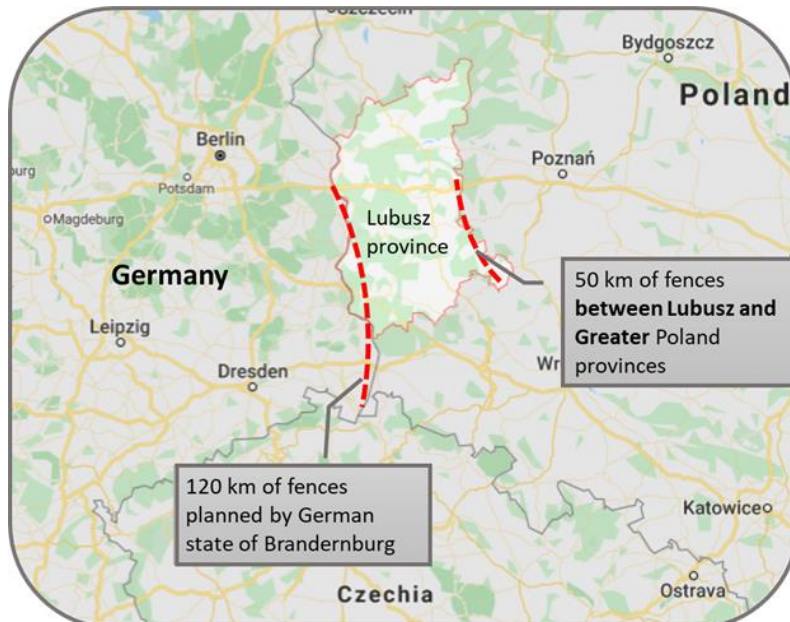
Nearly 26 million German hogs are raised and slaughtered indoors and measures have been put in place to prevent disease transmission from wild boars, such as:

- Non-traditional hunting equipment is increasingly becoming legalized to keep pace with wild boar kill quotas including the use of night vision tools. Additionally, hunting restrictions will be further relaxed if infected wild boars are identified.
- Programs for locating wild boar carcasses have intensified including training dogs for carcass detection and searching areas for wild boar roadkill within 15 km of the Poland border.

Preparedness -- biosecurity set outs and early report incentives

Key elements in action:

- In the domestic pig sector, supplies of disinfectants and hygiene sets have been increased and can be immediately deployed for delivery should an outbreak occur.
- In the State of Brandenburg, remuneration for reporting and testing wild boar carcasses has increased from \$33.60 to \$56.01.
- Like Denmark, France, and Poland, Germany is building fences. Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania stocked up on 50 km of electric fencing and Bradenburg is building a fence on the Oder River on the border with Poland near Guban, covering the entire border between *Frankfurt an der Oder* South until reaching the Czech Republic border. This fence is 35 km away from the recent outbreak in the Lubusz province and will cost nearly \$180,000. In Poland, a 120 km fence has been built between the Lubusz Province and Greater Poland, about 150 km from the German border (Map 2).



The agricultural organization Landvolk and the pig producers union in Germany's Lower Saxony state have called on authorities in Poland to build a fence in ASF infected areas in western Poland versus building feral pig fences at the borders as it has been done in Belgium and the Czech Republic with success. According to these organizations, border fences may not be as effective as fencing around risk areas in Germany since Polish authorities may not react quick enough to prevent ASF spread.

Map 2. Locations of fences to be built between Poland and Germany

Critical tool: public awareness

Additionally, training and educational campaigns are occurring for groups from tourists to farmers on ways to prevent ASF. Leaflets, posters and social media messages are being issued urging people not to litter food waste in border areas. Authorities are practicing movement restrictions and disease confinement strategies should an outbreak occur.

First meeting -- German-Polish ASF Task Force

The first German-Polish meeting to fight ASF took place on December 13, 2019. Representatives of the authorities responsible for animal disease control and hunting from the border region of Poland as well as from Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, and Saxony took part in it. The scope of the bilateral meeting was to come to a bilateral agreement about the technical coordination of ASF-prevention, control, and eradication.

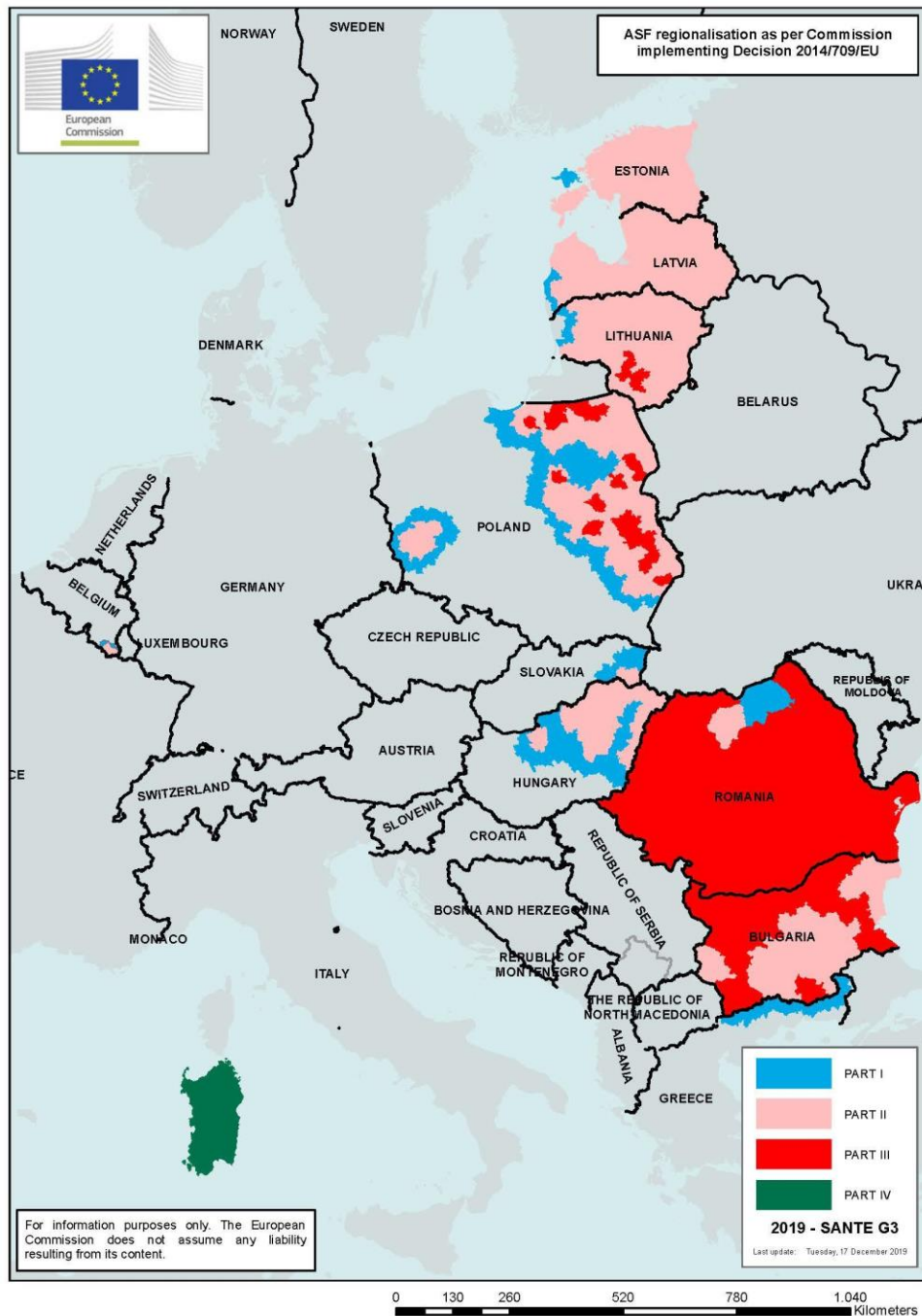
The bilateral team agreed on the following points:

- Risk zones of at least 8 to 15 km are set up on both sides of the border, in which the hunt should be carried out in such a way that the wild boar movements are not intensified (e.g. trap hunting, hide hunting would be suitable).
- An intensification of the exchange of data between the Friedrich Loeffler Institute - Federal Institute for Animal Health and the National Veterinary Institute in Pulawy was agreed.
- Documents for the exchange of information (one for wild boar and one for domestic pigs) about outbreaks between the local authorities before the official notification to ADNS were presented. These are to be finalized by the next meeting in January.
- Aspects of a common hunting strategy on both sides of the border were discussed. However, these should be further processed in consideration of the national legal requirements and conditions.
- The working group recommends that the hunting organizations of both countries work even more closely together on wild boar management in the risk areas.

The next meeting on CVO-level will take place in Warsaw in January.

Due to the recurrent updates in regionalization, the European Commission has made accessible an interactive tool displaying the EU regionalization for ASF. The map is an indicative representation of the areas covered by Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU as latest amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2169 of December 17, 2019). -- [LINK](#)

Current ASF regionalization -- European Commission -- December 17, 2019.



Belgium

The department of agriculture of Wallonia has confirmed the most recent case of ASF in wild boar (December 9) in the Neufchâteau commune bringing the affected animal count to 830 since 2018. Bones from a wild boar were discovered in an outer fenced observation zone, about 2 km outside the inner observation zone, in an area with low wild boar density, 18km from the France border. This was the first case reported for this commune.

Authorities estimate the animal has been dead for between three and six months and it was possibly overlooked during a summertime search due to thick vegetation. Due to this recent finding, additional

searches for bones belonging to wild boar are planned but authorities are not too worried about this finding since the bones were found in a low-density area with low activity.

No reports of ASF in wild boar have been identified in neighboring France but protective measures are in place including building a 132 km fence in the north, increasing ASF observation zones and forbidding all forest traffic in the French departments of Ardennes, Meuse, and Meurthe et Moselle.

Hungary

Hungary continues to report a high number of cases in wild boar (more than 850 cases reported since June 2019). Two additional ASF cases in wild boar have been identified, expanding areas with disease near Budapest in Fejér and Komárom-Esztergom Counties. Previously, the area affected by the outbreak occurred only outside the capital in an area fenced off for hunting. To date, no domestic pigs have been affected.

ASIA

Indonesia

North Sumatra Province of Indonesia confirms the first outbreak of ASF; the statement reports that the outbreak started on September 4, as many unofficial reports had communicated during this period, concerns regarding the delay in the report were brought up by authorities of neighboring countries.

With this outbreak, Indonesia has become the 11th Asian country to become infected with ASF. Since late September, increased pig mortality has been reported in North Sumatra and some other provinces. Earlier reports suggested the mortality was due to ASF, but it was not confirmed. Nearly 30,000 pigs have died from the disease, causing millions of dollars of economic losses as authorities try to quarantine the areas affected, officials said on December 18.

Fadjar Sumping Tjatur Rassa, director of animal health at the Agriculture Ministry, said that ASF has been found in 16 areas in North Sumatra, including the provincial capital Medan, and that authorities were trying to make sure the virus was not being transported out. In the province there are about 1.2 million pigs. Meat and meat products were not allowed to leave the 16 areas affected, and people who have been in contact with infected animals must go through bio-security screening. Trade traffic was temporarily closed for the infected areas.

The Director of Animal Health requested FAO provide recommendations on containment and control of ASF in the event that the disease is confirmed as present in the country. According to the OIE there have been nearly 400 outbreaks in Southeast Asian countries since the disease was suspected in early September.

Japan

On December 30, the Government of Japan announced it will seek revision of the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control to allow preventative culls in case of an outbreak of ASF. Japan does not have any confirmed cases of ASF though the disease continues to spread elsewhere in East Asia. Since October 2018, Japanese animal quarantine officers at ports of entry had seized 86 illegal meat products testing positive for the ASF virus (as of December 26, 2019).

China

Gangs worsened ASF crisis -- using drones to intentionally infect pigs

Apparently, gangs were intentionally spreading the disease in Chinese pigs farms, so that those impacted farmers were forced to sell their pigs at a low price. Meanwhile, in extreme cases, some offenders were leaving feed infected with ASF in pig barns and were even using drones to spread

contamination, according to an investigation by the magazine China Comment. They have even been known to leave dead hogs along roadways to make farmers believe that the infection has been expanding.

Gangs purchased the pigs and then smuggled the animals or the meat to other areas where prices were higher, even though transporting pork or pigs between provinces had been banned. Police believed that one gang smuggled 4,000 pigs from the province in one day. Smugglers were also bribing inspectors and faking quarantine certificates to smuggle the pigs across provincial borders. Some said the profit margin could be as much as \$143 per pig.

ASF has reduced the country's pig herd by more than 40% due to mass culls designed to stop it from spreading further. As desperation continued to rise, crime activities were also rising. As the herd has dwindled, pork prices have more than doubled, setting the stage for people to take advantage of the pork shortfall, and to turn a profit. That might even get worse before it gets better, at least in the short term, as pork demand is expected to peak until the Lunar New Year in late January.

Classical Swine Fever

Japan

First CSF outbreak in Okinawa in more than 30 years

The agriculture ministry confirmed on Wednesday the first CSF outbreak at a pig farm in the prefecture of Okinawa since the autumn of 1986.

In response, the Okinawa Prefectural Government plans to cull more than 1,800 pigs at the farm in the city of Uruma, and at another farm where the infection is suspected, following regulations.

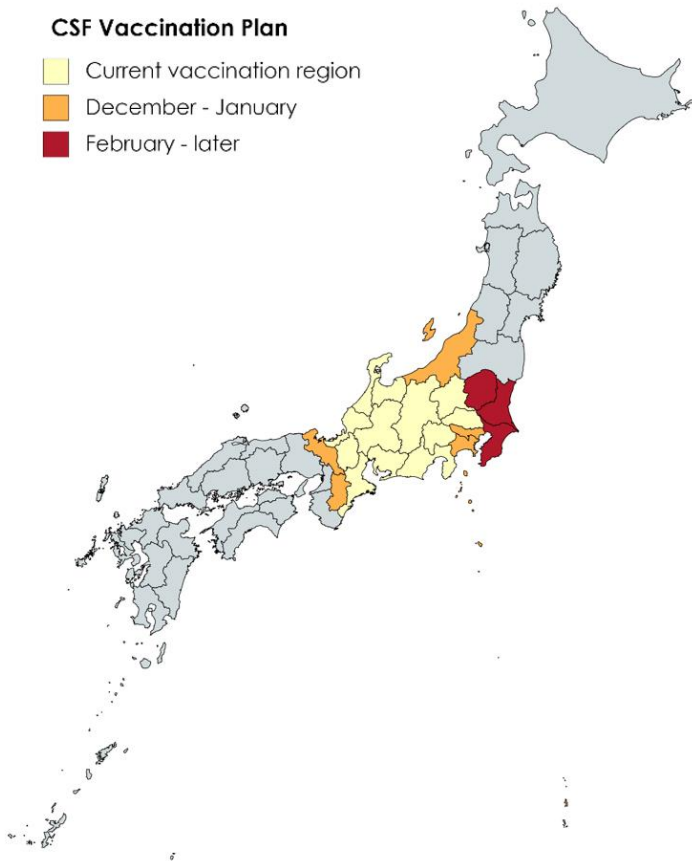
In September 2018, the first CSF outbreak in Japan in 26 years was identified at a pig farm in the central city of Gifu. Before the latest outbreak in Okinawa, CSF infections were confirmed in a total of 12 prefectures, mainly in the Chubu and Kanto regions, such as Aichi, Mie, and Saitama. The main hypothesized route of transmission so far has been through wild boars. Still, the ministry will carefully look into different infection routes for this particular case.

Japan expands CSF vaccine to 20 prefectures

The Japanese government is expanding the vaccination of pigs against classical swine fever (CSF) to cover Tokyo and seven prefectures adjacent to 12 prefectures with confirmed cases in the latest outbreak of the deadly virus.

CSF Vaccination Plan

- Current vaccination region
- December - January
- February - later



The vaccinations started later December in the capital (Tokyo) and Kanagawa, Niigata, Kyoto, and Nara, and in February or later in Ibaraki, Tochigi, and Chiba, the farm ministry said.

Japan began vaccinating against CSF last October for the first time in 13 years, more than a year after the country confirmed its first case of the disease in 26 years in Gifu Prefecture in September 2018. As of December 26, 2019, approximately 152,000 head have been culled, representing around 1% of Japan's annual hog production.

A dozen prefectures with confirmed cases, mostly in central Japan, have been designated as areas recommended for the vaccinations but adjacent prefectures have also called for inoculations.

The ministry initially limited vaccinations to the 12 prefectures due to a low stock of vaccines but decided to expand the areas after manufacturers' boosted production to make inoculations available for an additional 2.5 million pigs by the end of the year.

Map 3. Current CSF vaccination program in Japan

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