

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 systematically 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, August 3, 2021 – Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Report Highlights

- **ASF in the Americas:** Dominican authorities confirmed the detection of ASF outbreaks in at least 18 provinces. More than 31,000 animals have been destroyed so far to control the spread of the disease.
- **Protection Zone in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands:** USDA-APHIS started the process for getting OIE recognition to protect pork export continuity.
- **Pork products seized by CBP:** Over 300 pounds of smuggled pork have been confiscated by CBP agents in El Paso, Texas.

MAY OUTBREAKS BRIEF

R	Location	Date	Disease	Impact
3	Multiple locations, Dominican Republic	8/31	ASF	Outbreaks have been confirmed in 18 provinces throughout the country.
2	Brandenburg state, Germany	7/16	ASF	First case in wild boar in the northern district of Uckermark.
2	Multiple locations, Poland	Aug	ASF	Eight new outbreaks in pig farms were reported throughout August.
1	Goseong-gun/Gangwon-do provinces, South Korea	8/8-16	ASF	Two new outbreaks in pig farms were reported. Over 2,400 pigs were affected.
1	Ilocos Norte and Sur, The Philippines	8/29	ASF	New outbreaks were reported in both regions. 644 pigs were culled.
	Ventspils and Ludza, Latvia	7/29	ASF	First two outbreaks in pigs in 2021. 2,108 animals were destroyed.
1	Pazardzhik region, Bulgaria	8/18	ASF	First three outbreaks reported in pig farms in 2021. One is a commercial farm with over 13,000 pigs.
1	Multiple locations, Taiwan	8/25	ASF	ASF was detected in food items seized recently in a random check of nationwide grocery stores and food stands.

	Arunachal Pradesh, India	8/29	FMD	Over 14,000 animals were affected. At least 800 mithunds have died thus far.
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Outbreaks described in the table above are colored according to an assigned significance score. The score is based on the identified hazard and potential it has to affect the US swine industry. Rank (R) Blue: 1 - no change in status; Red: 2 - needs extra attention as the situation is dynamic; Black: 3 - requires consideration or change in practices to reduce exposure to the US swine industry. Map with the location of the events reported is available at the end of this report.

African Swine Fever

America

The Dominican Republic

Outbreaks spreading like wildfire

By August 31, the Dominican Government confirmed the spread of ASF across 18 of the country's 32 provinces, including Altagracia, Puerto Plata, Barahona, Sánchez Ramírez, Duarte, Santiago, Hermanas Mirabal, La Vega, Espaillat, Monte Cristi, Dajabón, Santiago. Rodríguez, San Pedro de Macorís, Elías Piña, San Juan, Monte Plata, Distrito Nacional y Barahona. (Map 1). In the communication, authorities also referenced at least another four regions that are under current investigation after suspicious cases were reported.



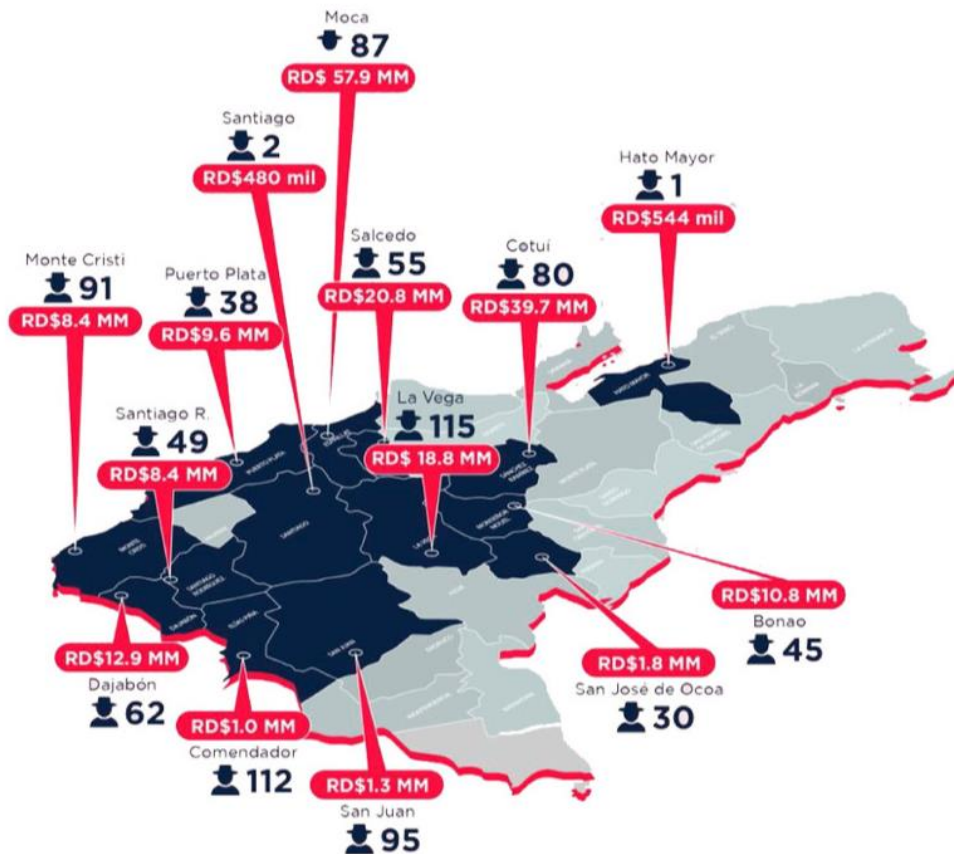
Map 1. Dominican provinces where ASF outbreaks have been reported

The reports available in WAHIS (OIE) confirm that samples testing positive were taken at backyard farms in April, May, and June, confirming that the virus has been circulating in the local pig population at least since April. Informal reports suggested that the virus may have been circulating the island earlier in the year.

Early response actions

Over 31,000 pigs have been destroyed, seeking to mitigate the spread of the disease.

On August 10, after the culling started in the affected localities, the government announced the allocation of funds to support pig producers impacted by the outbreaks. Also, it was confirmed that current market prices would be paid for culled animals. Over 97.7million pesos (US\$ 1.71 million) have been already allocated for compensation across 14 of the affected provinces (Map 2).



Map 2. Number and distribution of farmers affected by current outbreaks that have received economic compensation after the destruction of their herds. (Source: [Banco Agrícola del a Republica Dominicana](#))

On August 13, the Minister of Agriculture received specialists in animal health emergencies from OIRSA and from APHIS, and also experts recommended by FAO and OIE, who arrived in the country to continue supporting the Government in implementing measures to eradicate the disease.

The mission is also working with Haitian authorities to assess the situation in the neighboring country.

Regional Risk Analysis

In June 2020, the regional agency OIRSA (International Regional Organization of Plant and Animal Health) released a report on the **Risk of entry and spread of ASF** in the pig population of OIRSA

member countries (Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and The Dominican Republic). Follow this [LINK](#) to access the full document in Spanish.

The executive summary of this report lists risk factors that could potentially favor the entry and spread of ASF in the region; the following stand out:

- **Lack of knowledge of the clinical disease in the field** or its confusion with endemic diseases similar to ASF prevalent in the country or region, especially if the viral strain involved is of moderate or low virulence.
- **Lack of timely notification of the suspicion in the field** and even confirmation of the outbreak, for fear of counter-epidemic measures, such as quarantine and depopulation of the affected production units, restrictions on the movement of pigs and their products, among others.
- **Sale and marketing of pigs, infected and/or sick** (mainly piglets and fattening piglets) by producers in the event of the clinical presentation of the disease, trying to avoid greater economic losses.
- Self-limited outbreaks in backyard farms (and in wild boars, where these populations exist) can maintain the disease without being detected in a timely manner.
- **Failure to establish a risk-based epidemiological surveillance program** through serological and virological sampling.
- **Lack of budget and human infrastructure** trained in the care of health emergencies.
- **Failures in the direction of emergency operations** that do not allow to identify risk factors by country/region to detect and contain in a timely manner infection and prevent its dissemination, due to poorly structured strategies and/or without technical and scientific support, which allow dissemination/release and the establishment of the disease, tending to its endemicity.
- **Failures in laboratory diagnostic support or the interpretation of results** and/or the availability of confirmatory tests of the disease (serological, virological, and molecular biology techniques).
- Infection of feral pigs and wild boars by the disease.

Follow the [LINK](#) to access the report and recommendations of the Emergency meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the GF-TADs of the Americas.

US

Preparedness actions to support pork export continuity

Traditionally, the OIE has not distinguished between territories and states for positive ASF status within an infected region. Consequently, the U.S. would be considered affected by trade partners if Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories were to have a confirmed case of ASF. However, the OIE has recently modified those regulations allowing for the identification of protection zones. Thus, the USDA-APHIS is preparing to establish a **Foreign Animal Disease protection zone** in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

While ASF has not been detected in either of these islands, the agency is taking this additional action to further safeguard the U.S. swine herd and continue trade because their designation as a protection zone, would allow continuity of business outside the protection zone, i.e., the mainland US.

Step 1: The OIE codes provide guidelines for the establishment of a protection zone within an area free from disease as a temporary measure in response to an increased risk from a neighboring country or zone of different animal health status.

Step 2: Once the OIE recognizes the protection zone, APHIS will work to confirm that individual countries recognize and accept the zone. Their recognition will ensure the continued flow of U.S. pork and live swine exports from the mainland if the protection zone is affected by an incursion.

When the protection zone is established, APHIS will have processes in place in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to:

- restrict movement of live swine and products out of the protection zone;
- conduct appropriate surveillance within the protection zone to quickly detect introductions of disease;
- conduct a public education campaign relating to biosecurity on farms and other establishments;
- prohibitions on the movement of live swine and products outside the region;
- contacting authorities to report clinical cases.

Other regional supporting actions to mitigate the spread

Aid to the DR and neighboring countries: The USDA is providing continued testing support to the DR, setting up laboratory equipment and training laboratory personnel, providing personal protective equipment, and offering ongoing assistance on response and mitigation measures. In addition, surveillance and testing aid have been offered to Haiti.

Haiti Risk Mitigation: NPPC has reached out to the U.S. Department of State to ensure appropriate ASF-prevention protocols are followed by U.S. earthquake relief workers traveling to and from Haiti (e.g., making bleach solutions available to disinfect shoes). The State Department, USDA, and USAID are collaborating in this effort.

Enhanced mitigation efforts in Puerto Rico: CBP and USDA have taken several steps to guard against the spread of ASF to PR, including support for the U.S. Coast Guard to intercept illegal boat traffic from the DR and Haiti to Puerto Rico. **They have also prioritized the depopulation of urban feral pigs in PR over the next 12-18 months and are establishing a surveillance lab in PR.**

Collaboration with Mexico and Canada: The United States is working with Mexico and Canada to bolster ASF prevention efforts across North America, including:

- Tightening inspection at land and seaports since the DR outbreak.
- NPPC represents U.S. producers on the North American Swine Health Working Group, which was formed by the chief veterinary officers of Mexico, Canada, and the United States. The group's focus has been **biosecurity of the North American continent, laboratory harmonization, and developing criteria for recognition of regionalization.**

The United States, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, remain free from ASF. There is no commercial pork trade from Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands into the United States mainland.

EUROPE

In August, Bulgaria, Moldova, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Russia reported new ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs. In two of them, Latvia and Moldova, these outbreaks are the first reports in 2021. Meanwhile, nine countries, including Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, reported cases of ASF on wild boar (European Commission Animal Disease System (ADNS)).

The latest update from ADNS includes the total number of ASF outbreaks among European wild boar, which so far this year lies at 8,958 across 12 countries (as of August 28). Compared with the previous update on July 24, this figure represents an increase of 810 outbreaks. Since the

beginning of 2021, European countries have registered 1,250 outbreaks in domestic pigs, 524 of them in the month of August, across Poland, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine. (28/8_EC ADNS disease outbreaks report/).

Germany

Spreading northwards

After detecting ASF in domestic pigs last month, German authorities reported the first case in a wild boar in the northern district of Uckermark, in Brandenburg province.

The virus was found in a young wild boar southwest of Crieven in the area of the Lower Oder Valley National Park (Map 3). This area is located east of the first ASF protective fence, around 300 meters from the German-Polish border. Because the animal was shot inside the protective fence, no core area will initially be set up.

With this case, a total of 1488 wild boars taken or found as fallen game in Brandenburg have so far tested positive for ASF. Most of the findings so far have been made in Oder-Spree, Märkisch-Oderland, Spree-Neisse, and Dahme-Spreewald districts.

ASIA

In August, three countries - South Korea, The Philippines, and India - reported new ASF outbreaks.

Taiwan

On August 25, Taiwan authorities communicated that the African swine fever (ASF) virus was found in **four of 19 food items** they had seized recently in a random check of grocery stores, restaurants and food stands nationwide.

The four infected items were two pork-filled mooncakes and two raw sausages that had been illegally imported from Vietnam, according to the Council of Agriculture (COA).

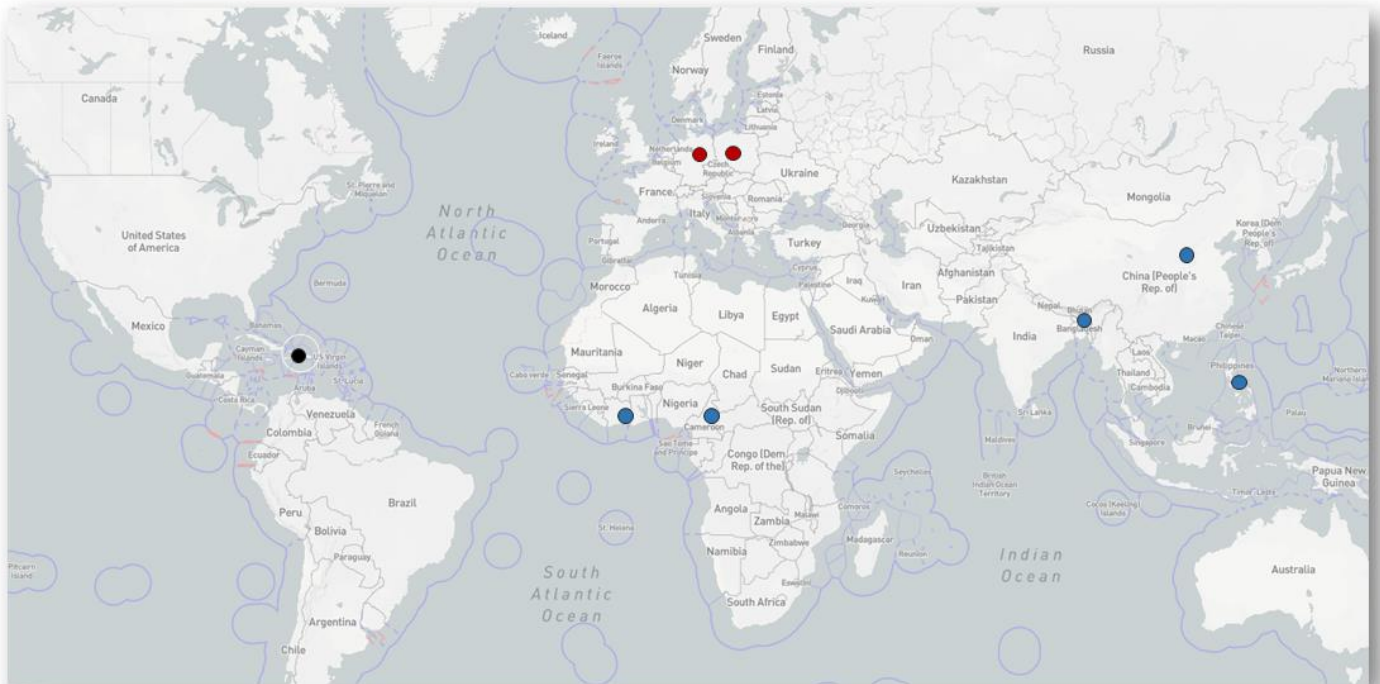
Since mid-August, Taiwan's National Police Agency, National Immigration Agency (NIA), and local governments have carried out random checks of grocery stores, restaurants, and other eateries that sell Southeast Asian meals and other food products.

The spot checks were launched after 71 kilograms of banned imported meat products from Vietnam were seized in New Taipei in early August and were later found to be ASF positive.

Meanwhile, authorities had visited 3,607 pig farms to check whether the food waste fed to the hogs contained Vietnamese pork products. In a statement, the COA spokesman said pig farmers are advised to cook any kitchen waste for at least an hour before feeding it to the animals, as that would kill off the ASF virus. There are about 6,400 pig farms in the country, 676 of which have been certified to use kitchen waste as feed for their 430,000 animals.

On the other hand, a total of 10 hog farms in the country were found to have violated rules on swine feed. In response, representatives of counties such as Yunlin, where farmers are not permitted to feed kitchen waste to their pigs, have called for the central government to adopt the same policy.

On August 27, the Central Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) for ASF announced that Taiwan would impose a one-month ban on using kitchen waste as swine feed in September. Hog farm operators will not be allowed to receive kitchen waste from suppliers starting August 30.



Map 4. Location of the outbreaks reported throughout December. Blue: 1 - no change in status; Red: 2 - needs extra attention as the situation is dynamic; Black: 3 - requires consideration or change in practices to reduce exposure to the US swine industry

References:

Recurrent reports reviewed and included

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OIE - [OIE Asia Regional office](#)

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The GSDMR team compiles information drawn from multiple national (Ministries of Agriculture or Livestock, Local governments, and international sources (FAO, OIE, DEFRA, EC, etc.), as well as peer-reviewed scientific articles. The team makes every effort to ensure but does not guarantee, accuracy, completeness, or authenticity of the information. The designation employed and the presentation of material on maps and graphics do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the GSDMR team concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory, or sea area or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

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