Swine Health Information Center

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CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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 generated through a systematic process that involves screening various official data sources, including government and international organization websites, as well as softer sources such as blogs, newspapers, and unstructured electronic information from around the world. These data are then curated to create a raw repository.

Subsequently, a multi-criteria rubric is applied to evaluate each event. This rubric assesses factors like novelty and the potential direct and indirect financial impacts on the US market. The outcome of this rubric application is a final score assigned to each event.

These final scores, along with an epidemiological interpretation of the event's context, are published.

The interpretation encompasses details like the credibility of the information, the scale and speed of the outbreak, its connectedness to other factors, and the local capacity to respond.

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.

CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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SPONTANEOUS REPORTING TOOL

SEE CURRENT AND PREVIOUS REPORTS

Swine Disease Global Surveillance Report

Tuesday, February 4, to Monday, March 3, 2025

Report Highlights

- **African Swine Fever in the Philippines**: The Department of Agriculture announced plans to seek commercial approval for Vietnamese AVAC vaccines in the Philippines, with the government-run vaccine initiative ongoing.
- **Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Germany**: Restrictions eased as no new cases were reported. If no further outbreaks occur, Germany could regain its FMD-free status after three months, allowing the removal of trade restrictions on meat and dairy products.
- **Japanese Encephalitis in Australia**: first outbreaks confirmed in swine since July 2022 in South Queensland.

Surveillance at the Point of Entry

- **United Kingdom:** German imports of meat and dairy products entered the UK despite a ban due to the FMD outbreak in Germany.

MARCH 2025 - OUTBREAKS BRIEF

R	Location	Report Date	Dx	Impact
2	Queensland, Australia	2/17	JEV	Outbreaks confirmed in two piggeries
2	Two districts in Selangor, Malaysia	2/6	ASF	56 farms affected - over 76,000 pigs targeted to be culled
2	Multiple locations, Moldova	2/20	ASF	Nine new outbreaks (all smallholders)
2	Timis County, Romania	2/28	ASF	Commercial farm - over 29,000 pigs will be culled
2	Saxony, Germany	2/10	ASF	First report in wild boar after six months
2	Boa Vista Island, Cape Verde	2/17	ASF	First outbreak since 2015
1	Vukovar-Srijem County (near the border with Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), Croatia	2/18	ASF	97 pigs were culled
1	Central Region, India	2/15	Unknown	41 pigs found dead - preliminary results have ruled out ASF, Influenza, and JEV
1	KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa	2/27	FMD SAT2	Six new outbreaks confirmed - over 3500 susceptible animals

Outbreaks described in the table above are colored according to an assigned significance score. The score is based on the identified hazard and potential 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.

African Swine Fever

THE AMERICAS

Dominican Republic

Current Status: Surveillance Activities 2023–2024 Update

A new report, prepared in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Minnesota, DIGEGA (the Dominican Republic's local veterinary authority), and the USDA, presents the results of the analysis of surveillance data from 2023–2024 in the Dominican Republic.

The majority of ASF detections in the DR originate from passive surveillance, with 43% of reports confirming ASF, compared to only 0.76% positivity in active surveillance, which targets clinically healthy farms. These findings confirm that passive surveillance is more effective for early ASF detection. While active surveillance provides a comprehensive national overview, it is not recommended for long-term monitoring.

Regions like North and Northcentral exhibit lower ASF incidence, likely due to stronger biosecurity practices among commercial farms. Notably, provinces such as Peravia remain ASF-free, underscoring the potential impact of localized control measures.

ASF's ecological behavior in the DR suggests an endemic state, with infected farms often spreading the disease before detection. The overall diagnostic testing positivity rate dropped from 40% in 2022 to 2.45% by early 2024. Outbreaks are geographically widespread and seasonal, with passive reporting surging during periods of higher indemnity payments or increased holiday pig movements.

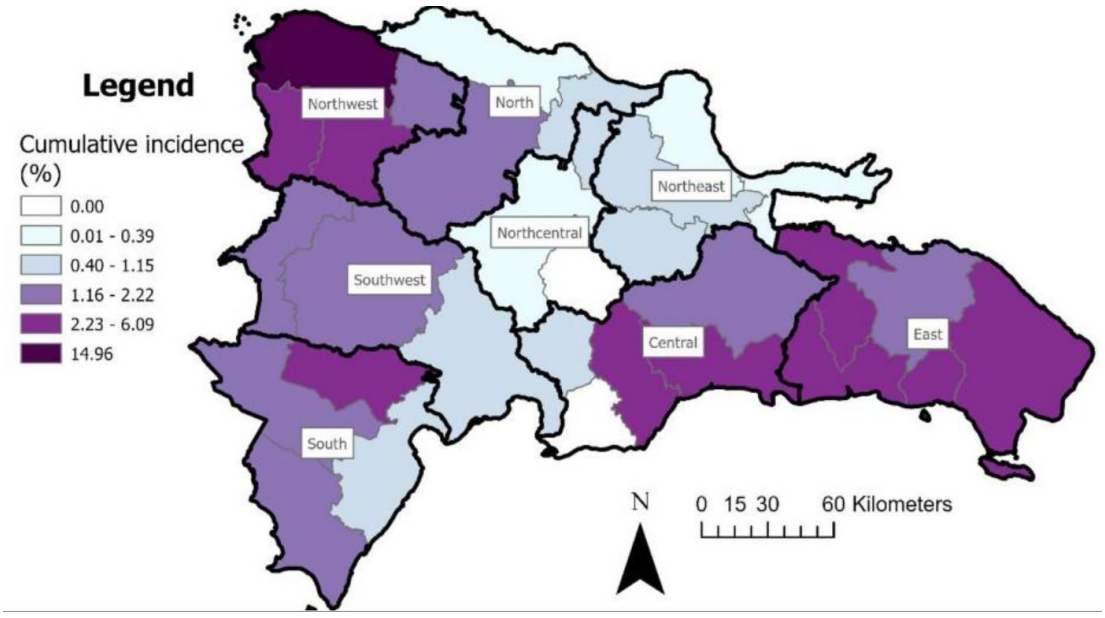

Figure 1. Cumulative incidence (%) for provinces in the Dominican Republic considering outbreaks of African swine fever from January 2023 to March 2024. (Source: Nature Scientific Report LINK).

Key challenges include inconsistent surveillance, limited resources, and inadequate biosecurity among backyard and free-ranging farms. Drawing on experiences from Sardinia and Southeast Asia, the report recommends progressive control strategies. These include:

- Registration of swine farms and live pig identification.
- Awareness campaigns and education for producers.
- Improved biosecurity measures and public-private partnerships.
- Zoning and compartmentalization to protect ASF-free regions.

Enhanced training for veterinarians and producers is essential, alongside incentives for compliance with control strategies. While ASF vaccines are not yet approved in the DR, their potential use remains an important future consideration.

Change of policy

As of November 2024, ASF authorities have communicated that the disease has become endemic in the Dominican Republic, with outbreaks showing an upward trend throughout the country. Since then, local authorities have adopted policies and interventions to align with ASF's endemic status, focusing on efficacy and sustainability. However, the suspension of compensation for smallholders at the end of 2025 has sparked debate about the sustainability of current policies and their effectiveness in disease control.

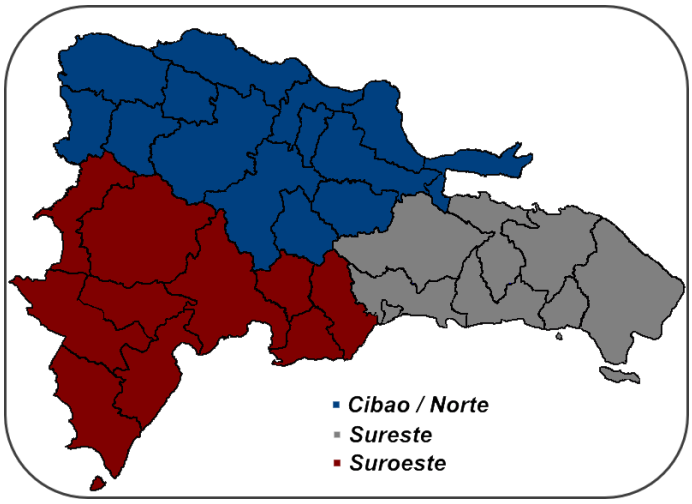

Figure 2. Dominican Republic regionalization

Recent outbreaks in the northern Cibao region—home to the majority of swine production—are attributed to increased pig movement during the holiday season and reduced farmer incentives to report cases. Veterinary services warn of a high risk of the outbreak spreading to the southeast, where most slaughterhouses are located. Challenges include controlling animal movement, the lack of farmer incentives, and the existence of informal markets that enable the sale of diseased animals.

EUROPE

The number of outbreaks in both domestic pigs and wild boars across the region has remained relatively consistent. Thus, in February (01/30/2025 - 02/26/2025), **six European Countries (**Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, and Ukraine) **reported a total of 58 outbreaks in domestic pigs** through the EU ADIS. This figure reflects a similar trend to the previous month, which recorded 66 outbreaks. Notably, the disease re-emerged in Croatia and affected a large industrial farm in Romania. A detailed distribution of the ASF outbreaks is presented in Figure 3.

During the same period, **16 European countries** (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine) **reported 1477 outbreaks in wild boar populations**, which is consistent with the numbers reported in January (n=1,475). Poland (n=513), Germany (n=355), Hungary (n=155), and Latvia (n=142) reported the highest number of outbreaks.

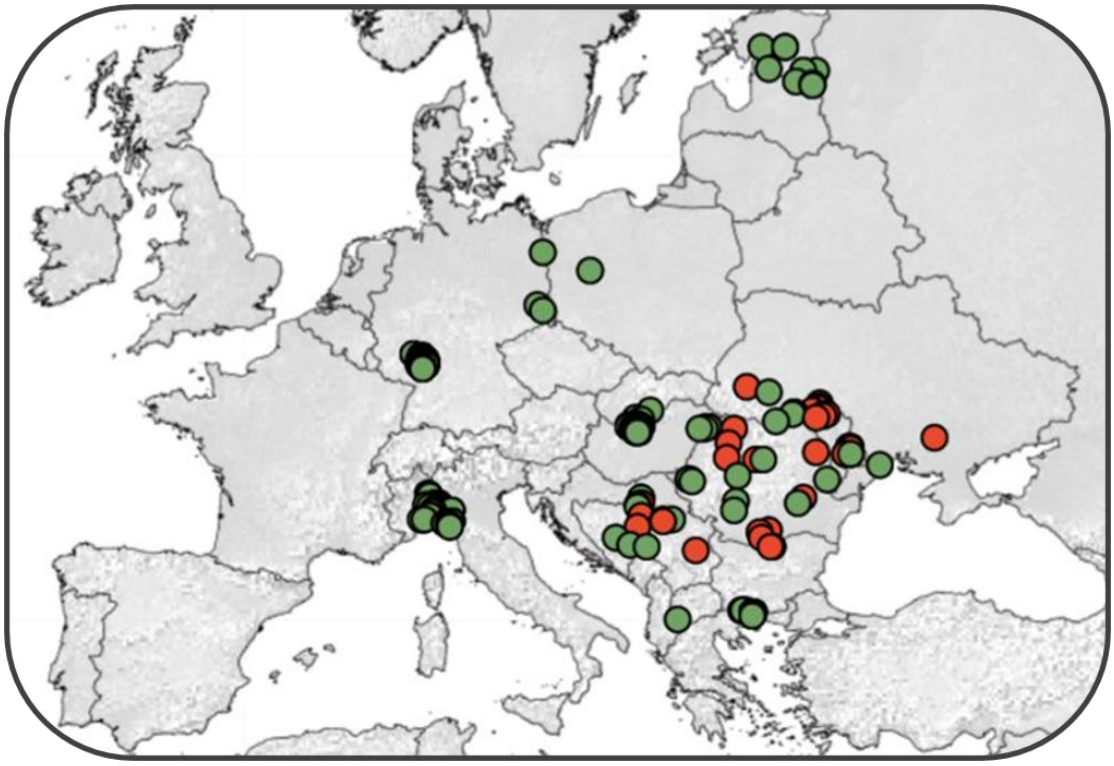

Figure 3. The distribution of African swine fever outbreaks in Europe from January 30 to February 26, 2025 (in red: domestic pigs; in green: wild boar; Source: FAO EMPRES-i).

Regional Highlights

- **Germany | February 10: A new case has been detected in Saxony after nearly six months without reported cases.** A wild boar shot in Königswartha, Bautzen district, tested positive for ASF on January 26, confirmed by the Saxony State Testing Institute (LUA). Authorities are conducting drone-assisted searches to assess the epidemiological situation. This case has halted plans to reduce restriction zones in April 2025. Since the area falls within Restriction Zone 2, existing protective measures remain in place. The German Swine Industry Association (ISN) is urging policy revisions to reduce the economic burden on farmers. The outbreak highlights ongoing challenges for disease control and market stability.

- **Croatia | February 18: The first ASF outbreak of the year was confirmed on a pig farm in Nijemci, Vukovar-Srijem County, near the borders with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the disease has also been reported.** The outbreak led to the culling of 97 pigs and raised concerns within the pig farming industry. The incident has intensified discussions among farmers, veterinarians, and policymakers about the ongoing ASF threat and its economic impact. A major concern is the role of wild boars in disease transmission, prompting calls for stronger population control measures to mitigate the risk. Experts stress the need for cross-border collaboration between Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve disease monitoring, biosecurity enforcement, and response coordination. Farmers have also voiced concerns over the effectiveness of current ASF containment strategies and

are urging the government to enhance support measures to prevent further outbreaks and economic losses.

- **Moldova | February 20: nine new outbreaks were confirmed in 10 days, affecting both domestic pigs and wild boars.** Cases were detected in multiple districts, including Drochia, Dondușeni, Ialoveni, Ocnita, Criuleni, Edineț, Briceni, and Anenii Noi, primarily affecting backyard farms.

  Since the beginning of 2025, Moldova has recorded 26 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and two in wild boars, with 23 outbreaks still active. In total, 144 pigs have been culled to prevent further spread. The National Food Safety Agency (ANSA) continues to emphasize biosecurity compliance, monitoring farms and markets, and reinforcing disease control efforts. Concerns over wild boar involvement in transmission and damage to agricultural crops have also been raised, prompting discussions on population control measures.

Figure 4. The distribution of ASF outbreaks in Moldova. (in circles: outbreaks in domestic; triangles: outbreaks in wild boar; In orange: Ongoing outbreaks; in green: resolved outbreaks)(Source: WAHIS site)

- **Romania | February 28: An outbreak was confirmed at a commercial pig farm owned by SC COMTIM ROMÂNIA SRL in Periam, Timiș County, leading to the planned culling of over 29,000 pigs (9,200 breeding sows and 20,000 piglets).** This outbreak marks the seventh ASF case in Comtim farms over the past five years and the largest recorded in Romania in 2025. The cause of infection remains under investigation, with authorities monitoring potential wild boar involvement and biosecurity breaches. The outbreak has raised industry concerns, especially as ASF continues to impact Romania's pig sector, with over 11,000 sows culled in January alone.

ASIA

Eight countries (Bhutan, Malaysia, Nepal, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam) reported ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs in January. South Korea reported new outbreaks in wild boar. The distribution of new outbreaks in the region is presented in Figure 4.

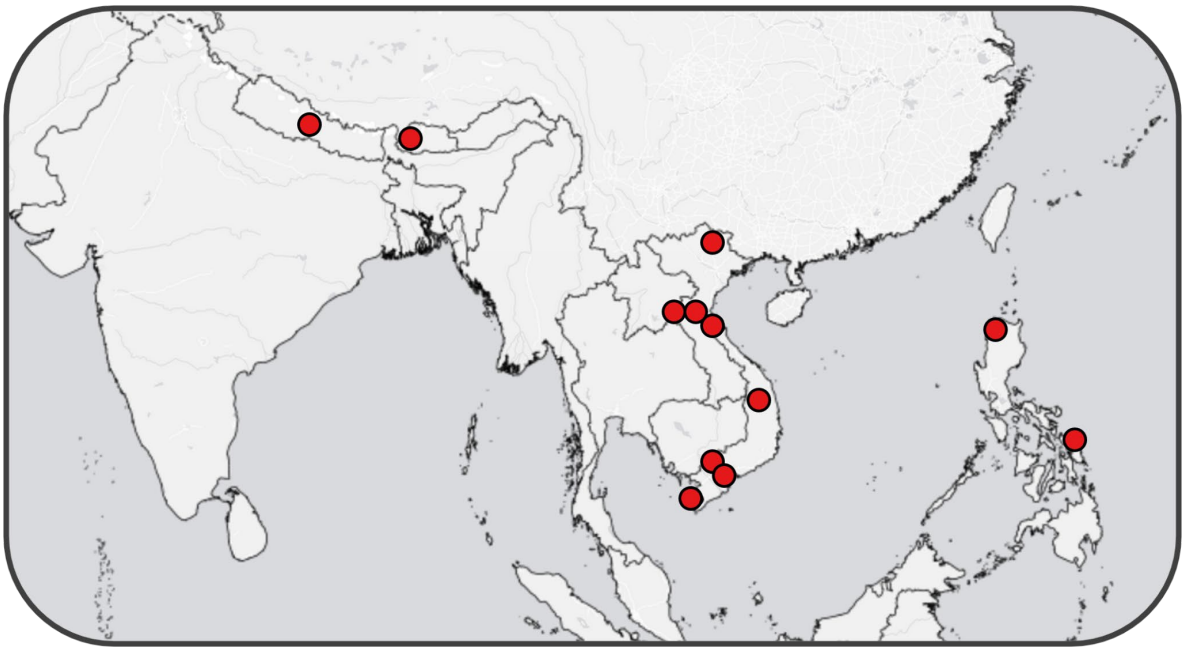

Figure 5. The distribution of ASF outbreaks in Asia from February 7, 2025, to March 03, 2025 (In red: domestic pigs. Source: FAO EMPRES-i—Data sources: Republic of Korea, Vietnam: WAHIS and media information, The Philippines: WAHIS and government websites, Indonesia: official database isikhnas.)

Regional Highlights

- **Malaysia | February 6: ASF has been confirmed on three pig farms in two districts in Selangor**. The Selangor Veterinary Services Department was notified on January 22 that pig farms may be infected with ASF, 29 farms in the two affected districts were placed under quarantine, and 25,000 pigs were tested for ASF. The cause is believed to be infected pigs from outside the state bringing the virus to Selangor. Two of the farms were shut down due to positive test results on January 28, and the third was shut down on February 5; across the three farms, approximately 2,220 pigs were affected. 920 pigs were disposed of by February 5, with culling and disposal efforts ongoing. Unaffected pig farms were instructed to maintain strict biosecurity in an effort to prevent further spread. Additionally, government authorities retroactively reported a positive ASF test in a wild boar in Selangor in August 2024. By **February 28,** 1,868 pigs had been disposed of, with 76,000 pigs total targeted for depopulation; a total of 56 farms have been confirmed to be infected with ASF. Six transport vehicles illegally carrying 68 pigs have been seized as part of the control measures. On the same day, the state of Sarawak instituted a ban on live pigs, pork, and pork products from peninsular Malaysia to protect against ASF; previously, pork and live swine had not been permitted due to peninsular Malaysia's FMD status.

- **Philippines | February 8: Outbreaks continue to decrease, with active outbreaks in only 130 barangays, down from 133 in January**. Despite this decrease, pork prices remain high. The provinces with the highest number of affected barangays include Ilocos Sur, Catanduanes, and North Cotabato. From **February 11-14**, indemnification was disbursed to hog farmers in the Oriental Mindoro region; the amount was based on the number of hogs each farmer voluntarily depopulated. On **February 18**, the Department of Agriculture stated

that they intend to obtain commercial approval for the Vietnamese AVAC vaccines in the Philippines; the government-run vaccine initiative is ongoing. The Department of Agriculture issued new guidelines for the use of ASF vaccines on **February 24**, making it easier for farmers to participate in the initiative. All farmers must comply with strict monitoring protocols after vaccination, and vaccinated pigs are tested to ensure they remain free of ASF. Two outbreaks were reported to EMPRES-i on **February 25** in Ilocos; one outbreak affected 300 pigs, case numbers were not reported for the other outbreak.

- **Bhutan | February 8:** An outbreak was reported to EMPRES-i in the Paro administrative district of Bhutan, affecting 11 swine in two households. The number of dead and destroyed pigs was not reported.

- **Vietnam | February 10: Samples taken from Gia Lai Livestock Joint Stock Co were not positive for ASF**; investigations had begun after 2,000 pigs purchased from the facility showed signs of ASF and died shortly after arrival at their new facility. Infection likely occurred during transport or at their destination, according to officials. From **January 31-February 28,** 22 outbreaks were reported to EMPRES-i Vietnam; reports did not include the number of animals affected or susceptible. Tien Giang and Kon Tum administrative districts each reported one outbreak; Nghe An reported two outbreaks; Ca Mau reported four outbreaks; Long An reported five outbreaks; and Ha Tinh reported nine outbreaks.

- **Nepal | February 11:** An outbreak was reported to EMPRES-i in Western Nepal, affecting 21 swine and causing 16 deaths.

- **Sri Lanka | February 11: Mahaweli waters contaminated with wild boar carcasses in Nawalapitiya.** Wild boar carcasses, believed to have died of swine fever (ASF OR classic swine fever), were floating in a tributary of the Mahaweli for about a month, prompting concern from the Nawalapitiya Urban Council.

- **India | February 15: Forty-one pigs have been found dead of unknown causes**. The pigs have been found dead in the Bharatnagar-Bhimale Tower Nullah locality. Necropsies were performed on three of the dead pigs, and samples were obtained from five living pigs in the area, which tested negative for ASF, influenza, and Japanese encephalitis. One pig had symptoms of jaundice, and another tested positive for carbonic poisoning.

- **Indonesia | February 15: Three pigs tested positive for ASF in two districts of the Nagekeo regency.** Local livestock markets were closed, and movement of pigs into and out of the area was prohibited. Pig farmers and handlers were advised to maintain strict biosecurity and clean feed and pens to prevent contamination with the virus. Also, on February 15, **the Papua Animal, Fish, and Plant Quarantine Center and the Ministry of Agriculture distributed 500 L of disinfectant to the Nabire regency.** The measure aims to prevent the spread of ASF on the island of Papua, which anticipates receiving 15,000 pigs this year.

AFRICA

- **Cape Verde | February 17: ASF outbreak confirmed on Boa Vista Island.** This is the first outbreak confirmed since 2015. In response, authorities have launched awareness campaigns and reinforced inspections to control the movement of pigs and related products. A health plan has been introduced to contain the outbreak, along with long-term measures aligned with international animal health standards to prevent further spread. Previously, ASF has been reported in Cape Verde, in 2015, in Boavista and Santiago Islands; in 2011, on Fogo Island; in

2000, on Santiago Island and in 1998, on Santiago/ Maio Islands. Genetic sequencing of samples from past outbreaks has shown the circulating virus to be ASFV genotype I.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

EUROPE

Germany | February 6: Restrictions eased as no new cases were reported. Following the initial outbreak in Germany on January 10, 2025, in a herd of water buffalo near Berlin, authorities report no additional cases. As a result, restrictions are gradually being eased, with the European Commission approving the lifting of the 3-km protection zone, now redesignated as an observation zone until April 11, 2025.

If no further outbreaks occur, Germany could regain its FMD-free status after three months, allowing the removal of trade restrictions on meat and dairy products. The regionalization principle remains in place, ensuring that only products from the affected area face export limitations.

German pig prices have remained stable at $1.80 USD/2.2 lb (1.72 euros/kg), slightly lower than pre-outbreak levels. The Brandenburg State Farmers' Association has called for the full removal of restrictions by February 11, estimating industry losses at 6 million euros. Meanwhile, the German agriculture ministry is preparing an application to WOAH to officially restore Germany's FMD-free status, which would help reopen international markets.

Poland | February 12: In response to the FMD outbreak detected in Germany, Poland has extended animal transport checks at its western border until February 24 as a precautionary measure. Veterinary services, border police, and transport inspectors continue strict disinfection procedures at key crossings, including Świecko, Gubinek, Olszyna, and Kołbaskowo.

Despite no new FMD cases in Germany or other EU countries, concerns remain over live pig imports from Brandenburg, Germany, where the outbreak occurred. Over 11,000 pigs have been imported into Poland, leading to criticism from the Agricultural Trade Union Korona, which demands a temporary import ban until the outbreak source is fully identified. However, the Polish government has not imposed trade restrictions, arguing that Germany's disease control measures and negative test results (over 7,000 tested animals) justify continued imports.

Industry representatives warn that Poland's reliance on document-based inspections rather than live animal testing poses a risk, as FMD has a two to 14 day incubation period. Critics argue that lessons from ASF mismanagement have not been learned and urge stricter biosecurity measures to prevent a potential outbreak. Despite calls for greater transparency and precautionary actions, the government has yet to publish detailed disinfection guidelines for transport and processing companies, raising further concerns within the livestock sector.

ASIA

Indonesia | February 7: A vaccination campaign for cattle is ongoing to prevent the spread of FMD in Jakarta. This campaign is performed every four months; by the end of February, 520 animals will have been vaccinated. In 2024, the campaign vaccinated 3,070 cattle. A similar campaign is happening in Nagan Raya Regency.

Philippines | February 12, 2025: The Philippines bans German animal product imports amid the threat of FMD. The move was made to protect FMD-susceptible livestock in the country and covers skeletal muscle, casings, tallow, hooves, horns, and live swine, bovines, and water buffaloes, including

their semen. Exempt from the ban are ultra-high temperature milk and derivatives, heat-treated meat products in a sealed container, protein meal, gelatin, in-vivo derived bovine embryos, limed hides, pickled pelts, and semi-processed leather.

India | February 13: India strengthens livestock health initiatives. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has streamlined vaccination initiatives for FMD, Brucellosis, peste de petits ruminants, and CSF, providing 100% assistance from the central government. Additionally, the government is ensuring an adequate supply of vaccines and is providing a public education campaign for stakeholders. Vaccination records and ear-tag registration will be uploaded to the same portal, allowing improved livestock management.

AFRICA

South Africa | February 27: Six new FMD outbreaks reported in KwaZulu-Natal province. This outbreak affected domestic cattle in four villages, with 79 cases and 3612 susceptible animals reported. The virus serotype was confirmed to be Serotype SAT2. This disease event in KwaZulu-Natal province started in May 2021 and has been ongoing since then. To date, 166 outbreaks have been reported, and 144 remain unresolved.

Zambia | February 12: Authorities plan to vaccinate 2 million cattle against FMD. The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock has vaccinated 1.9 million cattle against FMD, nearing its 2 million target in high-risk areas. Over 1.4 million animals have also been vaccinated against other diseases since January, just short of the 1.5 million goal. This progress was highlighted during a media briefing, where it was noted that the country has not experienced any major animal disease outbreaks. Zambia has an estimated cattle population of 5.1 million. In Zambia, FMD is mainly found in three high-risk areas: the southern border with Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia; Kafue flats; and the northern border with Tanzania, particularly in Nakonde and Mbala districts. Outbreaks have been reported in Western, Eastern, Southern, and Central Provinces, with SAT 1, SAT 2, and SAT 3 being the most common serotypes.

Kenya | January 30: Kenya launches mass vaccination against transboundary animal diseases. The nationwide livestock vaccination campaign aims to eliminate FMD and PPR over the next three years. The goal is to vaccinate 22 million cattle, 23 million sheep, 35 million goats, and an additional 4.3 million cattle to combat these trade-sensitive diseases. Achieving disease-free status will improve livestock health, expand market access, and help recover up to Ksh 62 billion in annual losses from market closures, treatment costs, and livestock deaths.

The campaign is part of Kenya's broader economic transformation plan, which aims to increase vaccination coverage from about 10% to 85%, which will as a result boost the livestock sector's GDP contribution from 12% to 20% by 2027. It also aligns with national disease control strategies, though past efforts have been hampered by inconsistent implementation. To ensure success, the government is using locally produced vaccines Fotivax™ for FMD and Pestevax™ for PPR, manufactured by KEVEVAPI, a state-run institute.

In 2024, more than 3 million sheep and goats and 570,000 cattle were vaccinated in several counties. Laikipia was chosen for the launch because of its central location, large livestock population, and mix of dairy and pastoral farming. The campaign aims to vaccinate 345,000 cattle and 936,000 sheep and goats in the county. Farmers are encouraged to take advantage of the free vaccinations to protect their herds and secure Kenya's place in global markets.

Surveillance at Point of Entry

February 4 | United Kingdom: German imports of meat and dairy products entered the UK despite a ban due to the FMD outbreak in Germany. The products were reported to continue to enter the country for six days after the ban was instituted through an auto-clear provision in the timed-out decision contingency feature (TODCOF). The TODCOF system was designed to reduce delays at ports by allowing shipments marked as low-risk by the shipper to avoid inspection by auto-clearing the system two hours prior to arrival. Additionally, goods entering the country at the Port of Dover do not undergo physical inspection at Dover; instead, the goods are transported by truck to Sevington, an inland facility 22 miles away. Critics of this system claim that many trucks bypass the inland inspection facility, avoiding physical examination of goods and allowing illegally import meat to become commonplace in local stores. This outsourcing of border control checks away from Dover has impacted the Dover Port Authority's funding, reducing it and restricting their inspections to spot inspections, which may have to cease in a few months if their funding is further reduced. Port authorities reported German whey products being found at some inland security points, having bypassed the ports through the auto-clear system.

A lack of communication from the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra) was also blamed for the failure to implement policy, according to statements made to the parliamentary committee, which is investigating the matter. The head of the Dover Port Authority stated that no direct communication from Defra had been made in the three weeks since the outbreak began. Environmental Health Practitioner Helen Buckingham informed Defra that while import regulations were changed on January 11, the notification system for the import of products, animals, food, and feed (IPAFFS) did not update the new regulations for another seven days. Defra stated that they implemented appropriate biosecurity measures on January 10, the day of the outbreak, and that port health authorities were instructed to hold suspected consignments; additionally, Defra contacted drivers that were carrying impacted loads, instructing them to visit border control points, communicated with traders regarding the new controls, and remained in contact with German authorities. Defra also claims that IPAFFS was updated on January 15. Dover Port Authorities stated that Defra has overstated the effectiveness of the current border control system, stating that it "is not working." On **February 7**, Defra additionally suspended commercial imports of hay and straw originating from Germany and released guidance for persons traveling with horses between the UK and Germany; while not susceptible to FMD, horses and their equipment can act as fomites for the disease.

On **February 13,** it was reported that 601 kg of smuggled meat was intercepted at Larne Harbour in Ireland, the third checkpoint in the UK the shipment had gone through, after traveling through England undetected. Industry stakeholders are concerned about the ability of illegal imports to evade biosecurity checks and the lack of government response. Nick Allen, chief executive of the British Meat Processors Association, highlighted that there are two distinct issues at play in the recent events – the ability of commercial shipments to bypass biosecurity checks at border control points and the illegal smuggling of smaller amounts of meat that, as they are not subject to the same biosecurity checks, can only be detected by intelligence and spot checks at ports. Also on February 13, Defra released a statement refuting claims that banned German products had made it into the country for six to seven days after the outbreak was announced, claiming that they "have taken the most stringent action possible to protect our farming sectors."

Japanese Encephalitis Resurfaces in Queensland: Fears Grow Over Spread via Feral Pigs

Japanese encephalitis virus has been confirmed at two piggeries in southern Queensland, marking the first detected cases in animals since July 2022. Recent detections in mosquito populations in Goondiwindi, Inglewood, and Monto, as well as in mosquito and feral pig populations in New South

Wales, have raised concerns about further spread, particularly with wet season conditions increasing mosquito activity.

Pigs act as amplifying hosts for JEV, with infections in breeding females causing abortions, stillbirths, and mummified piglets. While most adults recover and develop immunity, young piglets face high mortality due to neurological symptoms. Unlike other livestock diseases, culling is rarely needed, as pigs do not sustain long-term virus circulation. While JEV is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito and does not spread directly between humans or through pork consumption, it poses a serious health risk, with potential neurological complications and fatalities in severe cases. The first locally acquired human case since 2022 was detected in Queensland in January.

Biosecurity Queensland has issued alerts urging pig and horse owners to monitor their animals while health officials recommend vaccination and mosquito control for at-risk individuals. Efforts to develop a vaccine for pigs are underway, with Australian Pork Limited and the University of Queensland working toward regulatory approval.

Previously thought to be seasonally confined to northern Australia, JEV is now considered established on the mainland, emphasizing the need for continued surveillance, vector control, and strict biosecurity measures to prevent further outbreaks.

2022 JEV Outbreak in Australia: A Wake-Up Call for Biosecurity and Disease Surveillance

In early 2022, JEV emerged as a major outbreak in Australia, affecting both pig farms and humans across multiple states. The virus was first reported in February 2022, spreading rapidly across Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia. By April 1, 2022, over 50 pig farms had been infected, affecting over 400,000 susceptible animals.

The outbreak was unprecedented, as JEV had previously been detected only in the Torres Strait but had never established transmission on mainland Australia. Climatic conditions, including above-average rainfall and warmer temperatures, were believed to have contributed to the virus's spread.

By April 4, 2022, 35 human cases of JEV were confirmed, with three fatalities recorded in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. The outbreak led to the Australian Chief Medical Officer declaring JEV a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance (CDINS) on March 4, 2022.

2022 JEV Outbreak in Australia: Impact, Response, and Lessons Learned

Geographic Spread:

- Detected in Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia.
- Cases were reported in both pig farms and humans, spanning 930 miles (1,500 km) across the eastern seaboard.

Impact on Pig Farms:

- Over 50 infected pig farms, affecting 400,000 susceptible animals.
- Farms reported high rates of abortions, extended gestation, mummified fetuses, and stillbirths.
- Some piglets displayed neurological symptoms such as tremors, lack of a suckle reflex, and high mortality rates.

Impact on Humans:

- 35 confirmed human cases, with 24 confirmed through laboratory testing.
- Three fatalities were recorded in NSW, Victoria, and South Australia.
- Declared a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance on March 4, 2022.

Factors Contributing to the Outbreak:

- Climate conditions (heavy rainfall, warm temperatures) increased mosquito populations.
- Flooding in affected areas created ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes.
- Delayed detection—earlier farm cases in January 2022 tested positive only after retroactive testing in March.

Response Measures:

- Mosquito control programs and risk-based movement restrictions for pigs and semen.
- Vaccination campaigns for at-risk individuals, particularly farmworkers and rural residents.
- Surveillance of mosquito populations and infected premises.
- Adoption of a One Health approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health responses.

The April Global Disease Monitoring Report provided a detailed overview of the 2022 JEV outbreak and its impact.

For further details, please refer to the JEV fact sheet developed by SHIC, which provides comprehensive information on the disease.

References:

Recurrent reports reviewed
WOAH - WAHIS interface - Immediate notifications
WOAH - WOAH Asia Regional Office
FAO - ASF situation update in Asia & Pacific
DEFRA - Animal conditions international monitoring reports
CAHSS - CEZD Weekly Intelligence Report
European Commission - ADIS disease overview
EUROPE
United Kingdom
EFRA committee told products from Germany entered UK
Banned German meat imports 'entered the UK for a week'
Illegal meat on most UK high streets

DEFRA safeguarding measures to affected horses following FMD outbreak
600 kg of illegal meat detected at Northern Ireland port
600kg illegal meat haul adds to border security fears
Council highlights new rules on bringing food into UK
Pig producers urged to review biosecurity protocols

Germany

New case of African swine fever in Saxony
Setback in ASF Control in Saxony: New ASF Case in Wild Boars
Germany Relaxes More Foot-and-Mouth Restrictions, Hopes Disease Contained
German pig prices stable on hopes foot-and-mouth disease contained

Croatia

African swine fever confirmed, around a hundred pigs euthanized in Nijemci
African swine fever confirmed in Nijemci municipality

Moldova

African swine fever: Citizens and farmers urged to respect safety measures
In the last ten days, nine new outbreaks of African swine fever have been confirmed in Moldova

Romania

African swine fever (ASF) at COMTIM: Over 29,000 pigs will be killed!
African swine fever at a farm in Periam, Timişoara

Poland

Foot and mouth disease, or a conflict between ZZR KORONA and the Ministry of Agriculture?
Foot and Mouth Disease in Germany: Animal Transport Checks Extended at the Border with Poland

ASIA

Bhutan

Public Notification: ASF

India

India Strengthens Livestock Health Initiatives
Nagan Raya District Government has vaccinated 250 livestock against FMD
Stray pig deaths reach 41

Indonesia

Preventing FMD, 181 cattle in East Jakarta Vaccinated
Three pig samples in Nagekeo positive for ASF
Quarantine and Ministry of Ag Distribute 500 L of Disinfection

Malaysia

ASF detected at two farms in Sepang and Kuala Langat
ASF hits three pig farms in Selangor
920 pigs infected with ASF culled in Selangor
ASF outbreaks in pigs in Malaysia and Vietnam
Malaysia to cull 76,000 pigs
Sarawak imposes ban on pork imports from peninsular Malaysia

Myanmar

Cattle suffering from FMD, limited access to veterinary medicine

Philippines

Philippines bans commodities from Germany
Philippines bans German animal product imports amid threat of FMD
ASF outbreaks down, but pork prices still up
DA: Green light for commercial vaccination
752 hog raisers in Oriental Mindoro receive ASF indemnification
Guidelines to speed up use of vaccine

Sri Lanka

Mahaweli waters contaminated with wild boar carcasses

AFRICA

ASF in Cape Verde
FMD mass vaccination in Kenya
FMD mass vaccination in Zambia

OCEANIA

Australia

Japanese encephalitis virus – JEV – detected at two Queensland piggeries
Australian Officials Detect Japanese Encephalitis Virus in Two Pig Farms
Fears feral pigs will spread Japanese encephalitis virus in Queensland
Mosquito-Borne Virus "Is a Nightmare" For Australian Pig Farmers

SOUTH AMERICA

Abbreviations:

ASF - African swine fever
CSF - Classical swine fever
FMD - Foot-and-mouth disease
PRRS - Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome
SVV - Seneca Valley Virus
CCHF - Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever
PPV - Porcine parvoviral infection
WOAH - The World Organisation for Animal
EFSA - The European Food Safety Authority
PDCoV - Porcine Deltacoronavirus

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