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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

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National Disease Control Centre

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GERMANY

On 10th September, Germany confirmed its first case of African swine fever (ASF) in a decomposed wild boar carcass found in the Spree-Neisse region of Brandenburg. The carcass which was found close to a road within 6km of the Polish border appeared to have died a number of weeks earlier. Wild boar in western Poland have been affected by ASF since November 2019 with the nearest positive ASF cases found approximately 30km from the German border. German authorities had erected fencing along the border to prevent natural migration of wild boar. A comprehensive surveillance programme had also been implemented in Germany with mandatory searches for dead wild boar and all carcasses found required to be tested for ASF in this region. Hunting of wild boar has also been intensified in Germany to reduce the risk of spread of the disease.

Investigations into the exact cause and extent of the disease incursion are ongoing and safeguard regionalisation is being introduced today with control measures implemented within a demarcated infected area in accordance with Article 15 of the Council Directive 2002/60/EC.

Germany has the second largest pig industry in the EU following Spain with a pig population in excess of 26 million according to Eurostat figures for 2019 and if an outbreak were to occur in the domestic pig population there it could have severe consequences for the sector.

Figure 1: ASF in a wild boar in Germany (Animal Disease Notification System 10th September 2020)



REST OF EU

The case in Germany brings to twelve the total number of Member States affected by ASF in the EU in 2020.

Domestic pig outbreaks have continued to be reported from Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia. However, there have been no further outbreaks in Greece since the single ASF outbreak reported in a pig holding in February of this year.

Hungary and Estonia continue to report ASF cases found in wild boar but there have no outbreaks in domestic pig farms in either country. Belgium confirmed its last case of ASF in a wild boar in March in a carcass that was determined to have died several months earlier.

Chronology of ASF affected EU Member States affected with ASF Genotype II virus in 2020*

Country	Year 1 st detected	Domestic pig outbreaks in 2020	Wild boar cases in 2020
Lithuania (1 st incursion into EU)	2014	Yes	Yes
Latvia	2014	Yes	Yes
Estonia	2014	No	Yes
Poland	2014	Yes	Yes
Romania	2017	Yes	Yes
Hungary	2018	No	Yes
Bulgaria	2018	Yes	Yes
Belgium	2018	No	Yes
Slovakia	2019	Yes	Yes
Greece	2020	Yes	No
Germany	2020	No	Yes

**Island of Sardinia is also currently affected with a ASF Genotype I virus which was introduced in the 1980's*

CONCLUSION

The outbreak of ASF in Germany serves as a warning signal that ASF remains a constant threat to Ireland. Vigilance is key to preventing an outbreak here and biosecurity measures must continue to be implemented. Pigs should never be fed or have access to food waste. Anyone coming from an ASF affected area of the world should observe a pig free period of 72 hours before coming into contact with pigs in Ireland. Pig owners should also ensure that biosecurity measures are implemented to prevent pigs coming into contact with contaminated vehicles, equipment, clothing and footwear. Further information regarding ASF and biosecurity measures is available on the DAFM website at www.agriculture.gov.ie/