

UPDATE ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

7TH February 2020

Greece

African swine fever (ASF) was confirmed for the first time in Greece on 5th February 2020 in a smallholding of 32 pigs following the investigation of a fattening pig that had died. There were 32 pigs on the farm all of which have been culled by Greek authorities. ASF has been circulating in wild boar in Southern Bulgaria for several months but surveillance carried out by the Greek authorities has not reported any evidence of the disease in the wild boar population.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) produced a risk assessment on the potential further spread of ASF in Europe in September 2019¹. It concluded that given the prevalence of the disease in Serbia and Southern Bulgaria, there was a very high probability (66-100%) that ASF will spread to other Balkan countries within the following 12 months. The report identified nine countries in that region at high risk including Croatia, Macedonia, North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Slovenia and Greece.

The EFSA risk assessment also examined the potential for the spread of ASF from the Balkan region to the rest of the EU and concluded that the risk is very low to low (0-15%).

Figure 1: First confirmed outbreak of African Swine Fever in Greece on 5th February 2020



Rest of European Union

The outbreak in domestic pigs in Greece brings the total number of ASF affected EU Member States to 11. Since 1st January 2020, Bulgaria and Romania have reported ASF in both domestic pigs and wild boar and Greece have reported ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs only. The remaining 8 Member States have confirmed ASF cases in wild boar only (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: African swine fever in the European Union (1st January - 7th February 2020)

Country	Date of last outbreak in domestic pigs	ASF Domestic Pigs No. outbreaks	Date of last cases in wild boar	No. of ASF positive wild boar events (involving 1 or more animals)
Belgium	N/A	0	07/01/2020	1
Bulgaria	20/01/2020	6	15/01/2020	71
Estonia	N/A	0	29/01/2020	7
Greece	05/02/2020	1	N/A	0
Hungary	N/A	0	26/01/2020	365
Latvia	N/A	0	29/01/2020	45
Lithuania	N/A	0	30/01/2020	38
Poland	N/A	0	30/01/2020	428
Romania	31/01/2020	91	31/01/2020	161
Sardinia	N/A	0	30/01/2020	19
Slovakia	N/A	11	31/01/2020	12
TOTAL	-	109	-	1147

Source: Animal Disease Notification System

Asia

ASF currently affects 10 countries in Southeast Asia including China, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Timor-Leste (East Timor), The Philippines and Indonesia.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) in China published a 3 year plan on 4th December to co-ordinate the recovery of pork production and the stabilisation of the pig meat market. The National Bureau of Statistics in China reported that pork output had declined by 21.3% in 2019 compared with 2018 (source FAO).

Conclusion

Although live pigs and germinal products are not imported from ASF affected regions of the EU or ASF affected countries worldwide, pig owners are advised to remain vigilant and implement biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of an outbreak of the disease. Pigs should not be allowed to come into contact with contaminated clothing, vehicles or equipment and they should never be fed or have access to food waste.

It is illegal for people travelling from countries outside of the EU to bring meat or dairy products into Ireland (with minor exceptions for EEA countries). People travelling to Ireland from ASF affected areas of the EU are advised not to bring back pork or pork products such as salami, cured hams, pates, ham sandwiches, wild boar products etc.

Further information regarding measures that can be taken to prevent ASF along with all of the ASF updates are available on the [African swine fever](#) page of the DAFM website.

1. EFSA(2019): <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/african-swine-fever-early-detection-key-controlling-spread>