EU measures for surveillance and control of ASF in feral pigs

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This presentation does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission
Topics

1. EU situation for ASF
2. Surveillance of wild boar in the EU
3. The role of wild animals
4. EU tools for ASF control
5. ASF Legislation in the EU
6. Guidelines on ASF in feral pigs
7. Conclusions
EU situation for ASF

Eradicated from

• France (1974)
• Mainland Italy (1993)
• Belgium (1985)
• Netherlands (1986)
• Spain (1994)
• Portugal (1999)

EU approach effective in eradicating ASF from mainland and containing it to Sardinia

2014 ADNS data (update 12/6/2014)
Surveillance of wild boar in the EU

• In place for many years
• Surveillance not only for ASF, but also for CSF
• Important data available from the EURL CSF-DB
  • 12 participating member states
  • 647,518 official data records since 2002
  • 164 defined restriction zones and vaccination areas
EURL CSF Wild Boar Surveillance database

Veterinary authorities / Laboratories

Local PC

CSV file upload

Web form

CSF-DB DataProvider

Vaccination

Age

Serology

Virology

@ http://www...

EC, EURL

Laboratories

Ministries

Veterinary authorities
Number of investigated wild boar in the EURL CSF-DB from 2002 until 2013

Active surveillance

Passive surveillance
EURL CSF-DB density maps from 2002 until 2013
EURL CSF-DB example data of Slovakia in 2011
The role of wild animals

Role of wild boar

1. **Low risk of maintaining** ASF in the wild boar population
2. Wild boar play a **secondary epidemiological role** in the persistence of the infection
3. Contacts between **free-range pigs** and the wild boar population seem capable of maintaining the viral circulation in wild boars **BUT** there is **no evidence** that the ASFV infection is directly transmissible to other wild boar meta populations
4. Wild boar **do not play** a major role as virus reservoir in the absence of free-ranging or infected domestic pigs
5. **The risk of spread of ASF through wild boar movement** is therefore very limited
The role of wild animals

Type of rearing
1. Higher risk of infection in free range farming
2. Free range rearing farms present higher risk of maintaining viral circulation

Risks to consider when increasing hunting
1. Interference of the establishment of herd immunity
2. Induces long distance animal movements
3. Virus spread related to evisceration and use of meat
4. To be considered only after epidemic peak has been reached

Wild boar movement
1. Range assessed between 2-5 km (radio-collared animals)
2. Sardinian data show that the maximum distance of related cases in wild boars is 25 km
The role of wild animals

**EFSA (1)**

1. **Wild boar do not migrate**
2. **Small seasonal movements** are registered but always inside the usual individual home range that varies from 20-100 km²
3. Factors that influence the **population density** of any wild boar population are:
   - average winter temperature
   - the length of time during which the average temperature is below 0°C
4. Hunting and trapping has never achieved a drastic reduction in a wild boar population in Europe
The role of wild animals

EFSA (2)

1. Depopulation efforts can lead to **adaptive behaviour** of the hunted wild boar, compensatory growth of the population and the influx of wild boar from adjacent areas.

2. Depopulation efforts not advisable as wild boar density **thresholds** for introduction, spread and persistence of ASFV in the wild boar populations are **impossible to establish**.

3. Depopulation can even increase transmission and facilitate progressive geographical spread of ASFV (dispersal of groups and individuals).

4. **Artificial feeding** of wild boar might rather increase than reduce the risk of ASFV spread.
EU tools for ASF control

Legislation
- Contingency plans
- The EU Reference Laboratory for ASF
- The EU co-financed eradication programme
- The missions of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team - CVET
- Better training for safer food – BTSF
- Scientific advice - EFSA
- EU research projects - RTD
The EU main strategies for ASF control and eradication

- Identification and registration
- Surveillance
- Animal movement control
- Zoning and regionalization
- **Stamping out policy**
- Cleansing and disinfection
- Farm bio-security
ASF Legislation in the EU

**Council Directive 2002/60/EC:** which lays down specific provisions for the control of ASF (including those on contingency plans)

**Commission Decision 2003/422/EC:** diagnostic manual for ASF

**Commission Decision 2013/426/UE:** on measures to prevent the introduction of ASF from certain third countries

**Commission Decision 2014/178/EC:** concerning animal health protection measures against ASF in certain Member States

- **Disease notification**
- **Measures to be established when**:  
  - the presence of ASF on a **holding** is suspected  
  - The presence of ASF is confirmed  
- **Epidemiological Investigation**  
- **Measures in contact holdings**  
- **Establishment of protection and surveillance zones (3 – 10 Km), measures to be applied**

- Cleansing, disinfection and treatment with insecticides
- Repopulation of pig holdings following disease outbreaks
- Measures in cases where African swine fever is suspected or confirmed in a slaughterhouse or means of transport

• **Measures in cases where African swine fever is suspected or confirmed in feral pigs and plans for eradication**
  
  • establish an expert group including veterinarians, hunters, wild life biologists and epidemiologists and, inter alia, define the infected area
  
  • official surveillance in pig holdings in the defined infected area
  
  • surveillance in all feral pigs (shot or found dead) in the defined infected area
  
  • ASF virus isolate is subject to the laboratory procedure indicated in the diagnostic manual
  
  • cooperation among MS

- Measures to prevent the spread of ASFV by means of vectors
- Diagnostic procedures and bio-safety requirements
- EU controls
- Contingency plans
- Disease control centres and expert groups
Diagnostic manual for ASF

Lays down uniform diagnostic procedure, sampling methods and criteria for the evaluation of the results of lab tests:

- How to recognize ASF and principles for differential diagnosis
- Main criteria to be considered for the recognition of a suspect holding
- Checking and sampling procedures, samples collection and transport
- Virological tests and results evaluation
- Serological tests and results evaluation
- Safety requirements for Labs
Commission Decision 2013/426/UE

- Provides measures to prevent the introduction of ASF from certain third countries
- Vehicles which have transported pigs and which enter the Union from infected third countries are appropriately cleansed and disinfected
Commission Decision 2014/178/EC

3 zones by level of risk:

• higher risk (endemic disease in pigs and wild boar in Sardinia)
• infected area in Lithuania and Poland along borders with Belarus where the disease is present only in wild boar
• buffer zone adjacent the infected area in Poland and Lithuania to further prevent the spread of the disease
Restrictions applied depend on the level of risk:

- **very stringent** restrictions in Sardinia
- general restrictions in *live pigs, semen* and *pig meat* in the infected area in Poland and Lithuania with sustainable and safe derogations if risk mitigation measures (testing, bio-security) are applied
- light restrictions applicable only to *live animals* accompanied by surveillance in the buffer zone
Guidelines on ASF in feral pigs

- **Objective** is to provide guidance to the MS in controlling ASF when the disease is suspected or confirmed in feral pigs

- **Demarcation and surveillance in the infected area**
  - **Surveillance in feral pigs**
    - Veterinary inspection and test of all shot/dead feral pigs
    - Sample size related to the estimated number of living animals (and not as a function of the number of animals shot)
  - **Surveillance in domestic pigs**
    - Pig holdings should be kept under strict health monitoring
    - Pigs slaughtered for own-home consumption should be inspected by an official veterinarian
Guidelines on ASF in feral pigs

- **Preventive measures in the infected area**
  - Standstill and movement control for suspected/infected holdings
  - Live pigs markets under strict supervision
  - Carcasses of all domestic and feral pigs found dead in the infected areas shall be processed under official supervision and tested
  - Swill feeding ban
  - Enhance biosecurity in holdings
  - Tick control where relevant
  - Awareness campaign
  - Hunting?
Conclusions

- The measures in place are effective
- They are in line with OIE international standards
Conclusions

• **The approach taken by the EU is based on scientific evidence**

• **The EU is maintaining a high level of alertness in case the disease is re-introduced in the EU from neighbouring countries**
More resources:


Thank you