

African Swine Fever only in wild boars in Belgium

There are no outbreaks in domestic swine.

Identification of African swine fever (ASF) in wild boars in Belgium

On 13 September 2018, African swine fever (ASF) virus was confirmed for the first time since 1985 in 2 wild boars in the municipality Etalle (province of Luxembourg). In this region very few domestic pigs are kept (most pig farms are located in the northern part of Belgium).

All domestic pigs in the infected zone were eradicated by 2 October 2018. This was a preventive eradication to avoid the contamination of domestic pigs and to

protect animal health and the commercial interests of the Belgian Pork industry. The products of these eradicated pigs did not enter the food chain or were used for the feed industry.

Compensation for the destructed domestic pigs of all affected farmers will be provided by the Sanitary Fund (Belgian) and European funds, reserved for animal disease outbreaks. Other economic compensation will be provided by the Walloon Region.

LOCATION OF THE INFECTED ZONE AND THE DOMESTIC PIGS IN BELGIUM

The majority of domestic pigs is kept in the northern part of Belgium. The infected zone is situated in a small southern part (see map: Zone II and Zone I South). All domestic pigs in this zone were preventively eradicated.

Europe



Belgium



DETAIL OF THE ZONES

situation on 14 January 2019

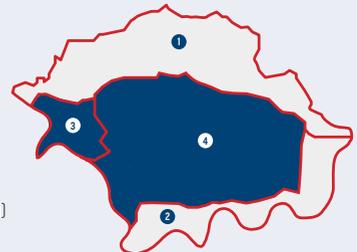
Zone I

- 1 Vigilance zone (zone I North)
- 2 Reinforced observation zone

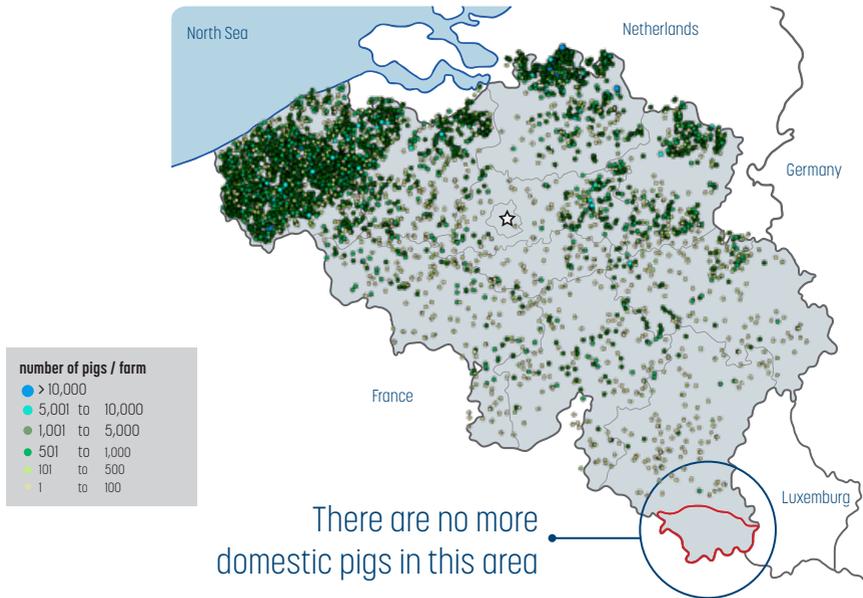
Zone II

- 3 Reinforced observation zone (within zone II)
- 4 Kernel and buffer zone

Zoning



MAP OF PIG HOLDINGS IN BELGIUM



Based on European legislation, and in close cooperation with the European Commission, Belgian authorities installed two zones: “Zone I” and “Zone II”, according to the identified risk.

“Zone II” (see map) is deemed a high-risk zone. It corresponds to the initial kernel and buffer zone.

“Zone I” (see map), where the risk is lower, corresponds to the initial “reinforced observation zone” in the south, extended towards the north with a new zone called the “vigilance zone”.

Attestation of the CVO (Weekly updated)


Federal Agency
for the Safety
of the Food Chain
DG Control Policy
Department of Animal Health and
Safety of Animal Products
c/o Belsanque
Food Safety Center
Bld du Jardin botanique, 55
1000 Brussels
Tel. 02 211.82 11
Fax 02 211.86 30
cvo.belgium@afscab.be
www.afsca.be
jean-francois.heyman@afsca.be
EN 0267.367.230

Kingdom of Belgium



To whom it may concern

I undersigned, Jean-François Heymans, Chief Veterinary Officer and Belgian delegate to the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) declare that domestic pigs and wild pigs kept in captivity in Belgium are free from African Swine Fever in accordance with Chapter 15 of the OIE Terrestrial Code.

Any change in the epidemiological situation will be immediately published on the FASFC's website* with an adaptation of this declaration, and will be notified to the OIE in accordance with its provisions.

Brussels, 14 January 2019.



Dr. Jean-François HEYMANS
Chief Veterinary Officer
OIE Delegate for Belgium

Our mission is to ensure the safety and the quality of our food in order to protect humans, animals and plants.

*<http://www.afsca.be/santearnimale/pesteporcineafraicaine/>

Belgium currently still has a free status for domestic and wild pigs kept in captivity.

WHAT IS AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious hemorrhagic disease of pigs, warthogs, European wild boar and American wild pigs. All age groups are equally susceptible. With high virulence forms of the virus, ASF is characterized by high fever, loss of appetite, haemorrhages in the skin and internal organs, and death in 2-10 days on average. Mortality rates may be as high as 100%.

ASF is not a human health threat.





MEASURES TAKEN

Additional information in English is available on the website of the FASFC (Federal Agency of the Safety of the Food Chain):

www.favv-afsc.fgov.be/businesssectors/animalproduction/animalhealth/africanswinefever

This page also provides the link to the immediate notification report to the OIE and follow-up reports.



- African swine fever is limited to wild boars in a small area of the southern part of Belgium (no outbreaks in domestic swine), and the necessary and preventive measures are taken to control and avoid dissemination of the disease.
- All domestic pigs in the initial infected zone have been eradicated under the supervision of the FASFC, and the repopulation of farms in this zone is forbidden. No products of these eradicated pigs entered the food chain or were used in the feed industry.
- Notwithstanding, the certification conditions laid down in the relevant protocols concluded between Belgium and the non-EU countries (third countries) will be scrupulously respected.
- Measures are taken as provided in Article 15 of European Union Directive 2002/60/EC and supplementary national regulations.

For the actual status of the number of positive cases in the wild population, please visit:

www.favv.be/businesssectors/animalproduction/animalhealth/africanswinefever

BELGIAN STRATEGY FOR ERADICATION OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VIRUS

The common goal of all Belgian parties concerned by ASF – veterinary authorities, approved veterinarians, wildlife authorities, farmers, hunters, meat industry... – is **the eradication of the ASF virus**, which is also in line with the harmonized EU veterinary law.

All competent Belgian authorities involved have since the onset of the ASF disease in Belgium elaborated a specific and common strategy for the eradication of the virus, taking into account the advice of the **European ASF experts**.

This common strategy focuses mainly

- on a complete standstill within the high-risk zone,
- an enhanced passive surveillance in wild boar (active search for dead wild boar within the high-risk zone),
- a reduction in the number of wild boar through intensified hunting outside the high-risk zone and an enhanced passive surveillance in domestic pigs (ASF laboratory testing of sick pigs regardless of the clinical symptoms).

The European ASF experts use the **Belgian approach as a good example of how to eradicate ASF disease**. In order to proceed to a transboundary and collaborative approach of the eradication of ASF, Belgium has initiated a closer collaboration with the neighbouring countries such as daily communication about the situation and technical meetings between wildlife experts of different countries. In addition to the broad, national collaboration, we believe that a total transparency towards our neighbouring countries, other EU Member States and “third countries” (Non-EU Members States) is essential for the management of ASF in Belgium, Europe and worldwide and to

ensure the necessary trust between Belgium and its commercial and other partners. Therefore, the Belgian Veterinary Authority – the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) – continues to inform about the situation and the measures taken through different platforms of communication.

Specific control measures applied to ensure that exported pork is free from ASF virus

There are no cases of ASF in domestic and captive wild pigs in Belgium, only the wild boar population is affected. **Hence, all pork exported from Belgium is free from ASF virus. Within the European Union, trade of Belgian pork is free.** By means of the SANITEL database of the FASFC, in which all pig holders, holdings and pig herds are registered as well as movement of pigs, and the identification of pigs by means of their ear tags, the origin of the pigs can be traced. Pigs receive a new, additional, ear tag every time they leave a holding to go to another holding. This allows **traceability** of all animals to the holdings of origin and residence. When issuing health certificates for export of pork or pork products from Belgium to third countries, the certifying officers of the FASFC **guarantee** the bilateral agreements laid down in the relevant protocols and certificates concluded between competent authorities of Belgium or the European Commission and the third countries.

For more information, please contact:

Belgian Meat Office - VLAM

Koning Albert II-laan 35 box 50 • B-1030 Brussels • Belgium
Tel: +32 2 552 81 20 • Email: meatinfo@vlam.be

www.belgianmeat.com



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