



# African Swine Fever in Belgium

The African swine fever outbreak 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.

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

On the 13th of 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 swine farms are located in the northern part of Belgium).

There are no outbreaks in domestic swine and strict measures have been taken to prevent contamination of domestic swine. An infected zone is established (see inside). All new cases in wild boars were found in the same region.

The Federal minister of Agriculture has decided **to eradicate all domestic swine in the infected zone by 2 October 2018**.

It must be made very clear that this is merely a preventive eradication to prevent the contamination of domestic swine and to protect animal health and the commercial interests of the Belgian pork industry. It is certain that products of these eradicated swine will not enter the food chain or be used for the feed industry. Compensation for the destructed domestic swine of all affected farmers will be provided by the Sanitary Fund (Belgian) and European funds, reserved for animals disease outbreaks. Other economic compensation will be provided by the Walloon Region.

# LOCATION OF DOMESTIC SWINES IN BELGIUM AND THE INFECTED ZONE

The majority of domestic pigs is kept in the northern part of Belgium. The infected zone is situated in a small southern part, with only few domestic pigs. An infected zone was established (630 km<sup>2</sup>) on 14 September 2018. In this zone, all domestic and captive wild pigs were killed pre-emptively.

## Europe



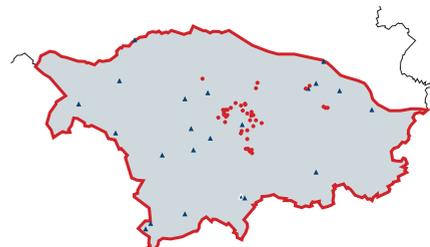
## Belgium



### DETAIL OF THE INFECTED ZONE, INDICATING THE LOCATION OF DEAD WILD BOAR -

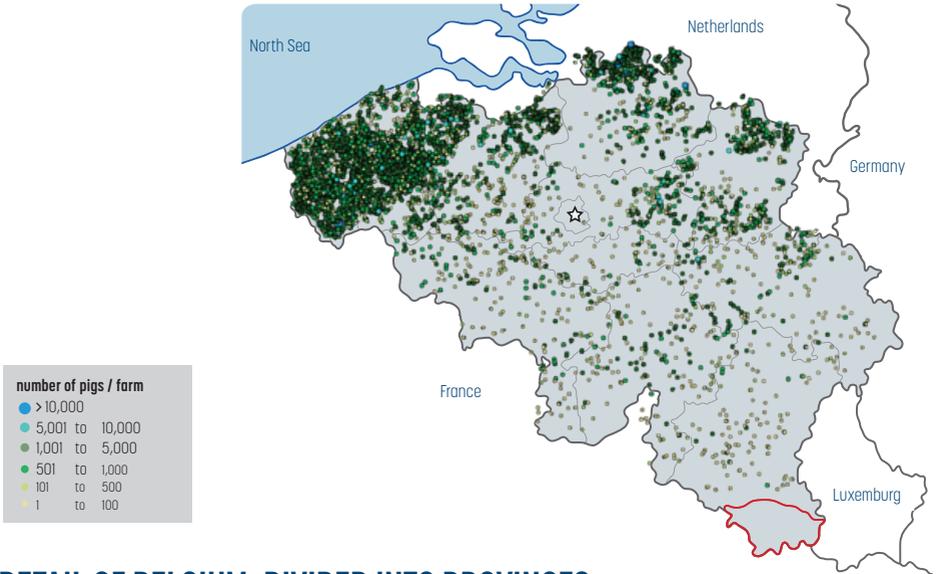
situation on 11 October 2018

Infected zone

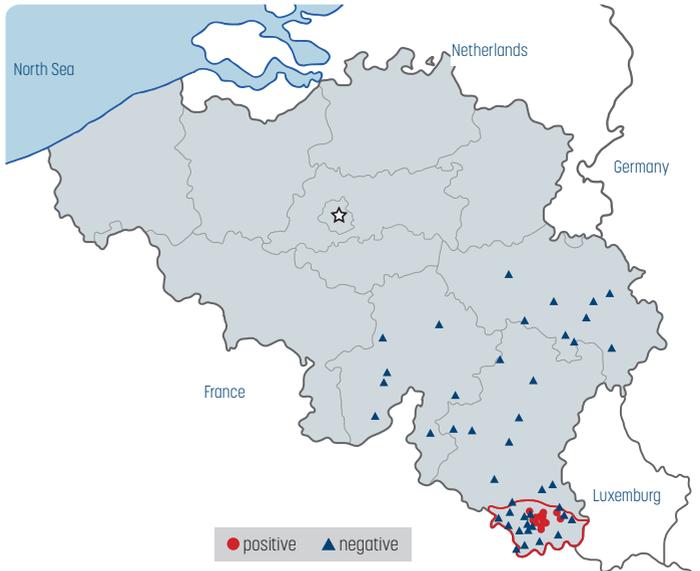


● positive ▲ negative

**MAP OF PIG HOLDINGS IN BELGIUM AFTER THE PREVENTIVE KILLING, BETWEEN 27 SEPTEMBER 2018 AND 2 OCTOBER 2018 OF ALL DOMESTIC PIGS AND CAPTIVE WILD PIGS IN THE INFECTED ZONE.**



**DETAIL OF BELGIUM, DIVIDED INTO PROVINCES, INDICATING THE LOCATION OF DEAD WILD BOAR INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE INFECTED ZONE - situation on 11 October 2018**



## Attestation of the CVO



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### 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, 8 October 2018.



**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/santeanimale/pesteporcineafricane/>

**Belgium  
currently still  
has a ASF-  
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, hemorrhages 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

It should be emphasized that the potential risk lies in the spreading from wild boars to domestic and captive wild pigs, but that this risk is very limited since the necessary measures are taken.

Taking into account the definitions included in Chapter 15.1.3 of the OIE Terrestrial Code, Belgium lost its disease-free status for African swine fever in all suids. Belgium currently still has a free status for domestic and wild pigs kept in captivity. Measures are taken as provided in Article 15 of European Union Directive 2002/60/EC and supplementary national regulations and consist of the following:

**Measures are also enforced throughout the country to reduce the risk of spreading:**

- Ban on assembling of swines
- Avoid contact with wild boars
- Increased biosecurity for the entire sector
- Increased surveillance

**In the infected zone, the following measures are taken:**

**Zoning:**

- Permanent monitoring of wild boars
- Limiting hunting to avoid dissemination
- Limiting human activities in forest
- Increased biosecurity
- Analysis of all sickness/death
- Eradication of all domesticated swine by 2 October, 2018
- No repopulation of the swine farms

*Besides these measures, the FAFSC started an epidemiological investigation to identify the cause of the ASF virus introduction.*

# 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. An infected zone has been established to contain the infected wild boar population. Hence, **all pork exported from Belgium is free from ASF virus.**

Furthermore, on 26 September 2018, the Federal Minister of Agriculture has decided by Ministerial Decree to order the preventive killing of all domestic pigs and captive wild pigs in the infected zone. This is a preventive eradication to prevent the spreading from wild boar to domestic pigs and domestic wild pigs, to protect animal health and also to protect the commercial interests of the Belgian pork industry. The preventive eradication of domestic and captive wild pigs was concluded between 27 September and 2 October 2018.

All the pigs from the infected zone were humanely killed and rendered. Products of these pigs will therefore not enter the food chain and will not be used for the feed industry. 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 certification conditions laid down in the relevant protocols concluded between Belgium and the third countries.

*Additional information in English is available on the website of the FASFC (Federal Agency of the Safety of the Food Chain):*  
[www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/businesssectors/animalproduction/animalhealth/africanswinefever](http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/businesssectors/animalproduction/animalhealth/africanswinefever)

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



**For more information, please contact:**

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