

African Swine Fever 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 initial 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 (94%) 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). All domestic pigs in the initial infection zone were preventively eradicated.

Europe

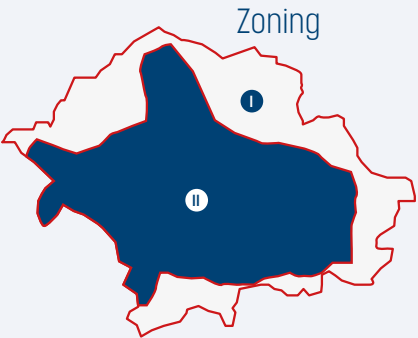


Belgium

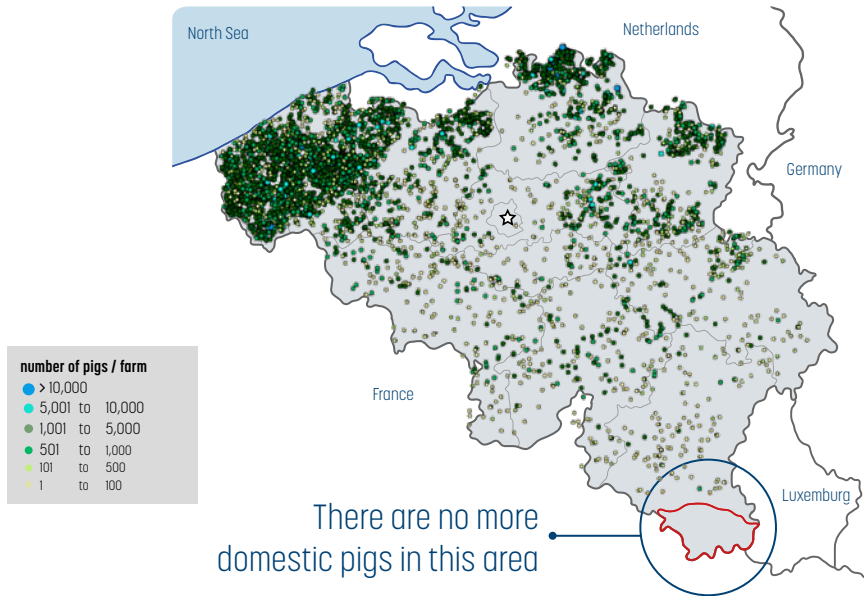


DETAIL OF THE ZONES

situation on 19 February 2019



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): eradication by culling and active search of dead wild boars. Analysis of all dead wild boars. Human circulation forbidden.

Zone I: active search, removal and analysis of all dead wild boar, eradication. Fence network on the border with Zone II (see map).

Attestation of the CVO (Weekly updated)

 <p>Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain DG Control Policy Department of Animal Health and Safety of Animal Products J.C. Bollen Food Safety Center Bot. du Jardin botanique, 95 1050 Brussels Tel. 02 211 82 11 Fax 02 211 86 30 coo.be@afsc.be afsc@afsc.be jean-francois.heymans@afsc.be EN 0207 387 230</p>	<h3>Kingdom of Belgium</h3>  <p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Brussels, 4 March 2019.</p>  <p>Dr. Jean-François HEYMANS Chief Veterinary Officer OIE Delegate for Belgium</p> <p><small>Our mission is to ensure the safety and the quality of our food chain in respect humans, animals and plants.</small></p> <p><small>*http://www.afsca.be/santeanimale/pasteporcineafricaine/</small></p>
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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.



Fence networks put in place:

Since the onset of African Swine Fever infection in Belgium, in addition to the highway/big traffic axes which serve as physical barriers, different fence networks have been put in place mainly on the border of and within the Zone II (see Map).

Outside the zones:

- Raising awareness of hunters and forest visitors.
- Passive surveillance: Any discovery of a dead wild boar has to be immediately notified to the competent regional authorities, by stating through public hotlines the precise location and absolutely avoiding any contact.
- Sampling and analysis of all found dead wild boars are performed.
- In Flanders, ASF analysis on 40% of the shot wild boar.

For domestic pigs:

- Active surveillance and reduction of the wild boar population.
- Enhanced passive surveillance: no treatment of sick pigs without sampling for ASF
- laboratory testing. Every pig holder has to consult a veterinarian when detecting clinical problems. The veterinarian can only start a treatment when he delivers cadavers for autopsy or samples to the first line regional animal health laboratories for testing on ASF.

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,
- on an enhanced passive surveillance in wild boar (active search for dead wild boar within Zone II),
- on a reduction in the number of wild boar through intensified hunting outside the high-risk zone and the installation of traps (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:

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