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# **African Swine Fever Update**

## **24<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**National Disease Control Centre**  
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## **African swine fever (ASF)**

- Ireland is currently free from African swine fever (ASF), the disease has never been reported here. **It is important that all measures are taken to prevent the disease entering Ireland.**
- African swine fever is a viral disease of pigs and wild boar that causes high mortality and severe clinical signs in affected animals.
- The virus does not affect humans or animal species other than pigs.
- Meat from pigs does not pose any food safety risks.
- ASF causes significant impacts on viability of farms and threatens food security in affected countries. An outbreak of the disease here would have devastating effects on the Irish pig industry and related agri-food sector.
- ASF is a notifiable disease under both National and European legislation.
  - If you suspect that your pigs are or may be affected by ASF, you must contact DAFM. local [Regional Veterinary Office \(RVO\)](#) or contact the DAFM disease hotline on 01 492 8026 (outside office hours).

## **Diseases don't respect borders**

### **The risks of African swine fever entering Ireland**

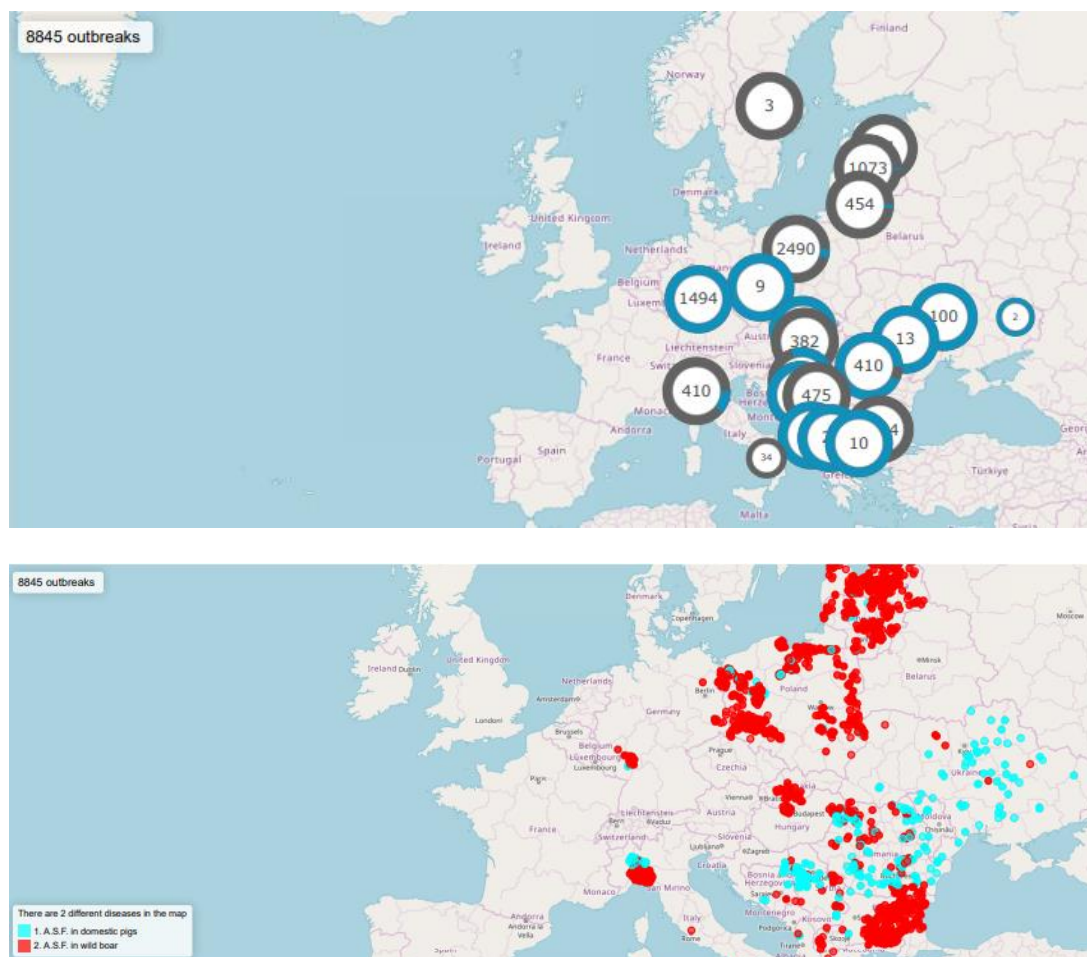
- ASF continues to be reported in many countries across Europe with spread through wild boar in recent months to previously unaffected areas.
- Wild boar and feral pigs play an important role in the spread of the disease worldwide.
- Ireland does not have a permanent, sustained wild boar or feral pig population. It is an offence to release pigs into the wild in Ireland.
- **Humans can play an important role in spreading ASF to new regions.**
- **Travellers coming back from ASF affected regions must be vigilant to avoid inadvertently bringing ASF into Ireland.**
- **Food waste infected with the ASF virus being consumed by pigs represents the most significant risk pathway for a disease incursion into Ireland.**
- Other risk factors include clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment contaminated with ASF virus.

## **NEVER FEED FOOD WASTE TO PIGS**

## Current ASF situation in Europe 2024-2025 (to date)

- The first case of ASF confirmed in the European Union occurred in 2014, the disease has now spread to 17 countries in Europe.
- For domestic pigs, 2023 saw the largest number of African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreaks since 2014, according to an [epidemiological report](#) published by EFSA.
  - **The number of outbreaks in wild boar increased by 10% compared to the previous year despite the spread in new areas.**
  - In 2023, there was a significant increase in outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs to a level not seen since 2019. The main areas of high rates of infection in domestic pigs were located in Croatia, near the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Romania, and these accounted for over 90% of the cases in EU member states in 2023 [EFSA ASF 2023 Report](#)
- There were 8,845 outbreaks of African swine fever in domestic pigs (758) and wild boar (8087) across Europe in 2024 (*Figures 1 & 2*). Germany, Poland and Albania all reported their first ASF outbreaks during 2024.

*Figures 1 & 2 detailing the ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and wild boar across Europe in 2024*

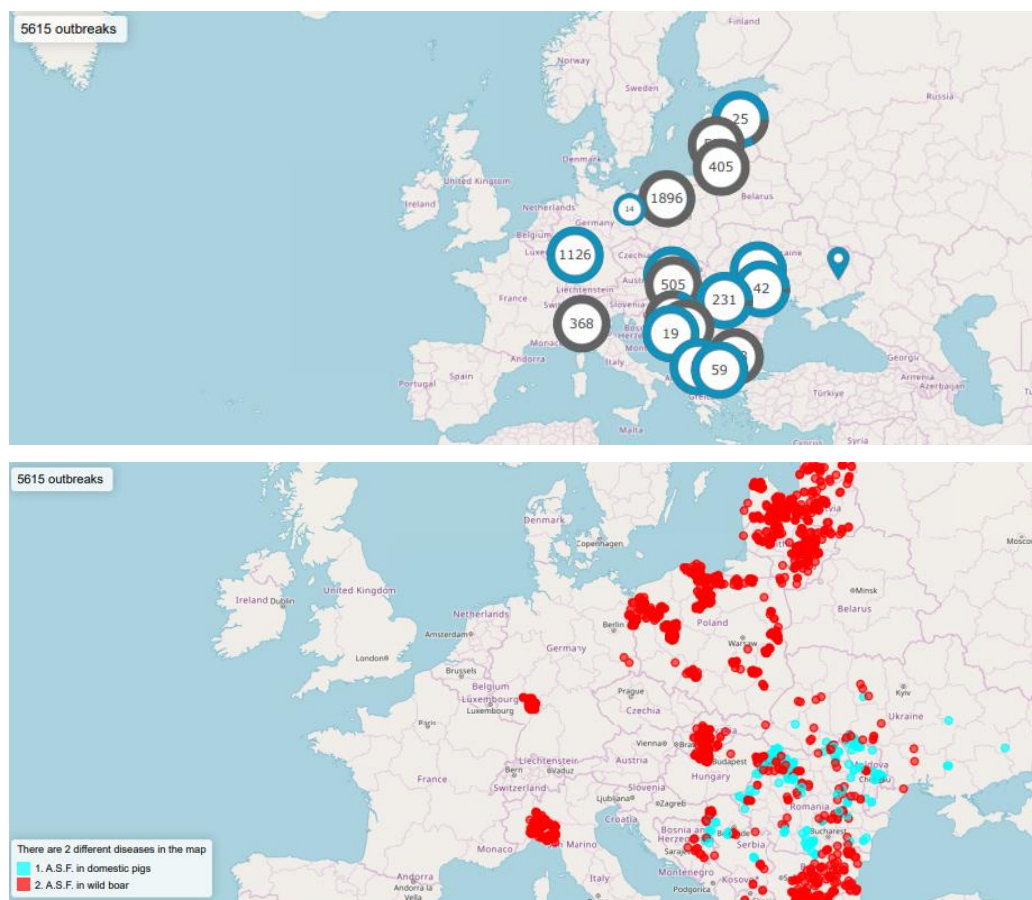


Source ADIS (Animal Disease Information System, European Commission)

- African swine fever has continued to be reported in domestic pigs (195) and wild boar (5420) across Europe in 2025 to date (*Figures 3 & 4*).
  - In Germany in 2025 (to date), all 1,102 outbreaks of ASF have been reported in wild boar.
    - There have been no outbreaks in kept porcine animal establishments. The ASF situation in the southern part of Hesse is still dynamic, and eradication in the metropolitan region is challenging [African Swine Fever in Germany](#).
    - Surveillance in establishments keeping porcine animals, and in wild boar populations are in place.
  - In Italy in 2025 (to date), 340 outbreaks of ASF have been reported (339 in wild boar).
    - ASF surveillance in wild boar is ongoing.
    - A single outbreak in domestic pigs was confirmed on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025, in a unit in **Vigolzone** in the Northern Italian region Emilia-Romagna [African Swine Fever in Italy](#).
    - Italy reported 31 outbreaks in domestic pigs in 2024.
  - Poland continues to have high numbers of outbreaks (4,167) in 2025 (to date).
    - 44 outbreaks occurred in domestic pigs
    - There are several areas of regionalisation (control zones) in place across the country [Presentation: African swine fever in Poland – update](#).
  - High numbers of outbreaks in domestic pig establishments continue to be reported in 2025 (to date): Romania (122), Lithuania (8), Latvia (7).

*Figures 3 & 4 detailing Outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar across Europe in 2025*

*(01/01/2025-22/04/2025)*



Source ADIS (Animal Disease Information System, European Commission).

### **Advice for Travellers**

**ASF virus can survive for several months in pork and pork products such as sausages, cured meats, smoked meats (meat/meat products can also carry other animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease).**

- Do not bring meat products into Ireland from outside the EU, and never bring home pork or pork products if travelling abroad to regions affected by ASF.
- Do not bring meat or meat products onto Irish pig farms.
- Always use a secure bin to dispose of waste food, so that it cannot be accessed by farm animals, wild animals, or wild birds.

### **Advice for Hunters**

- Hunters who travel to ASF affected countries should take measures to ensure that they do not bring ASF into Ireland.
- Do not bring back untreated hunting trophies or souvenirs of wild boar or feral pigs into Ireland.
- Do not bring pork or pork products onto Irish farms where they may accidentally be eaten by pigs, e.g., ham sandwiches, salami, cured meat etc.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing and shoes used during hunting in ASF affected regions:
  - Remove all traces of dirt and visible contamination prior to washing and disinfecting.
  - Clothing should be washed at a high temperature (+60°C for a minimum of 30 minutes).
  - All footwear and equipment should be cleaned and treated with a disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, e.g., Virkon S, 2% Sodium hypochlorite.
- If hunting with dogs:
  - Wash the dog to ensure that the coat is clean
  - Wash and disinfect equipment (collars, leads, jackets, dog trailer) using [a DAFM registered disinfectant](#) according to the manufacturer's instructions, e.g., etc.
- Upon your return to Ireland avoid contact with pigs and pig farms for 72 hours upon where applicable.

### **Advice for Pig Owners and Staff**

- Food waste (swill) including kitchen waste, pork products and catering waste must be disposed of carefully away from livestock.
- Bins must be kept in a secure location and sealed to ensure that vermin, birds or other animals do not carry food waste into areas where pigs are kept.
- Pig owners in Ireland are advised to implement biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of an outbreak of ASF in Ireland, such as establishing disinfectant points and implementing a pig-free period of 72 hours for anyone (visitors, staff, seasonal workers) coming from an ASF affected region in Europe or other parts of the world. It is important to ensure visitors, staff and seasonal workers have not had any recent contact with pigs, pig products, pig premises, wild boar (including hunting) in ASF affected regions, to prevent the risk of contaminated clothing, footwear, vehicles or equipment coming into contact with pigs.
- Vigilance for any unexplained disease patterns or unusual presentations of disease should be maintained. Any suspicions of ASF must be reported to your [Regional Veterinary Office](#) during

normal office hours or the **National Disease Emergency Hotline at 01 4928026** (outside of normal office hours) without delay.

- A dedicated page of useful information including clinical signs of ASF and biosecurity information is available at [www.gov.ie/asf](http://www.gov.ie/asf).

### **Current Situation – Worldwide**

- ASF continues to represent a global threat, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) highlights the importance of implementing strict biosecurity, an early reporting and response system, and maintaining a high level of disease awareness among all stakeholders involved in pig production.
- During the time period between January 2022-February 2025, ASF has been reported in five different world regions in 64 countries, affecting more than 953,000 pigs and more than 33,700 wild boars, with more than 2,067,000 animal losses [asf-report-63-1-1.pdf](#).
- About 70% of the ASF outbreaks were reported in areas with a pig density of more than 10 pigs per square kilometre.

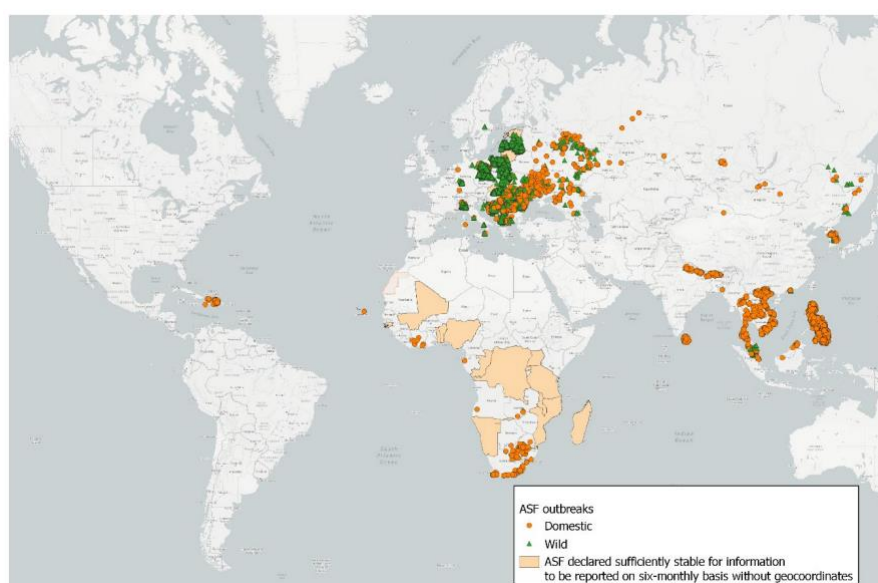
*Table 1 Summary of the number of outbreaks, cases and animal losses caused by ASF in the different world regions since January 2022-February 2025.*

	Outbreaks		Cases		Losses*
	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Domestic pigs
<b>Africa</b>	786	5	101,998		91,795
<b>Americas</b>	65	0	467		9,412
<b>Asia</b>	6,027	107	305,274	540	530,967
<b>Europe</b>	4,555	20,793	545,526	33,231	1,434,855
<b>Oceania</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	11,433	20,905	953,265	33,771	2,067,029

\*Losses (deaths + animals killed and disposed of): this figure refers to losses in the establishments affected by the outbreaks and it does not include the animals culled in areas around the outbreak for controlling the disease.

Source: [asf-report-63-1-1.pdf](#)

*Figure 5 Map of ASF outbreaks which started during 01/01/2022 – 28/02/2025 in domestic pigs and wild boar.*



Source: [asf-report-63-1-1.pdf](#)



## **African Swine Fever Vaccination Development**

**Although extensive research continues, there is no cure or commercially available ASF vaccine.**

- Development of a vaccine for ASF by research institutions across Europe is ongoing but could take years to achieve.
- The [EU-funded VAX4ASF project](#) aims to provide a definitive, effective and safe solution against the highly contagious, unpredictable and complex ASF virus.
- [The Pirbright Institute](#) is partnering with researchers at [The Vaccine Group \(TVG\)](#) in Plymouth on a new project that sets out to control African swine fever (ASF).

## **Further information regarding African Swine Fever**

Further information including biosecurity advice, ASF videos and disease updates are available at:

- [www.gov.ie/asf](http://www.gov.ie/asf)
- [African swine fever - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://europeancommission.eu/african-swine-fever)
- [African swine fever - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](http://www.woah.org/african-swine-fever)
- [European Food Safety Authority](http://efsa.europa.eu/en/food-safety/contaminants-and-substances/african-swine-fever)
- [Epidemiological analysis of African swine fever in the European Union during 2023 - - 2024 - EFSA Journal - Wiley Online Library](https://efsa.europa.eu/en/efsa-journal/2024/01/epidemiological-analysis-of-african-swine-fever-in-the-european-union-during-2023-2024)
- [Risk and protective factors for ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar in the EU, and mitigation measures for managing the disease in wild boar | EFSA](https://efsa.europa.eu/en/efsa-journal/2024/01/risk-and-protective-factors-for-asf-in-domestic-pigs-and-wild-boar-in-the-eu-and-mitigation-measures-for-managing-the-disease-in-wild-boar)
- <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2025/03/asf-report-62.pdf>

**National Disease Control Centre**

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2025**