



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

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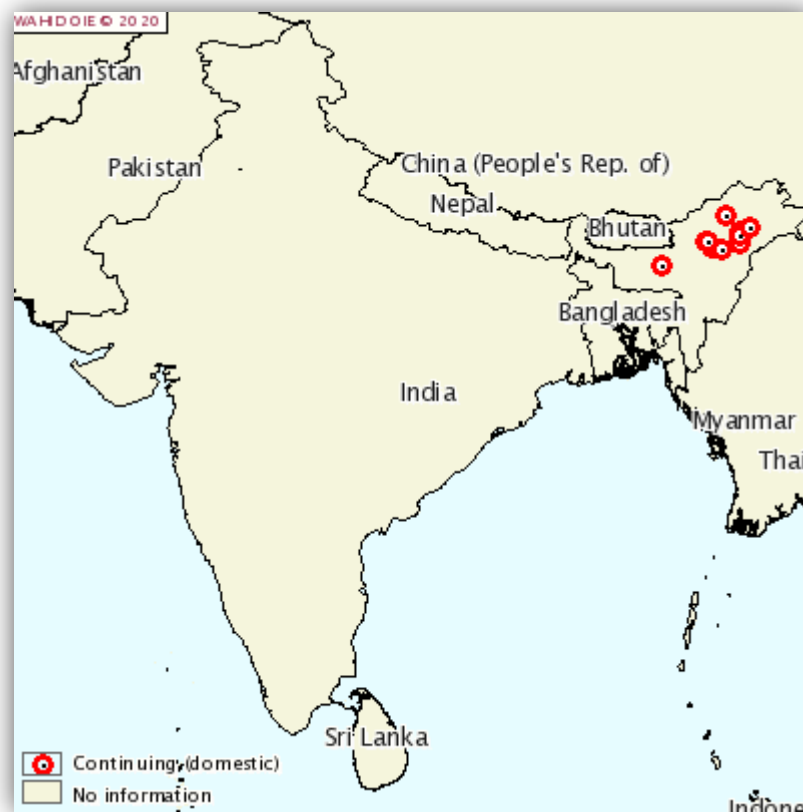
National Disease Control Centre

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INDIA

India reported its first outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 21st May 2020 (see figure 1 below). The affected Assam and Arunachal Pradesh regions are located in the Northeast of the country and border China and Myanmar where ASF Genotype II is already present. Indian authorities reported that the first outbreak is now believed to have started on 26th January this year in the Arunachal Pradesh province. However, ASF was not confirmed until 18th May in a domestic pig farm containing 419 pigs of which 156 pigs were affected. Since then, there have been 10 further ASF outbreaks confirmed in domestic pigs in these provinces.

Figure 1: ASF Outbreaks in India (courtesy of the OIE 27th May 2020)



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The first outbreak of ASF was confirmed in Papua New Guinea on 30th March following the deaths of a large number of free range pigs in villages in the Northern Highlands. Investigations are ongoing into the cause of the outbreak, but it is suspected that the pigs consumed ASF infected meat from a local dump.

REST OF ASIA

At least 60% of the world's pig population is believed to be found in Asia and the Pacific region according to the OIE. The confirmation of ASF in India brings the total number of Asian countries affected to fourteen including China, The Specialist Administrative Region of Hong Kong, Mongolia, Laos, North Korea, South Korea, Indonesia, The Philippines, Timor- Leste, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea and most recently India.

AFRICA

All known genotypes of the ASF virus are believed to be present on the continent including the ASF Genotype II virus which affects Europe and Asia. The disease is endemic in many countries and some feral pig species such as warthogs can act as unaffected carriers of the virus. During 2018 and 2019 the OIE received reports of ASF in pigs in 23 Sub-Saharan African countries. Most recently, Namibia and South Africa have confirmed cases of ASF in domestic pigs.

EUROPE

Belgium reported its third confirmed case of ASF this year on 10th March in a wild boar which was believed to have died more than six months previously. All 3 of the reported ASF cases in wild boar in Belgium to date this year have occurred in aged carcasses that have been discovered as a result of surveillance in the demarcated infected zone.

Germany is preparing to erect a solid chain-link fence along the border with ASF infected areas of Poland in addition to the mobile electric fences which they have been using since January in an attempt to prevent wild boar from crossing the border from ASF affected areas of Poland. German authorities have also increased hunting and surveillance in the border area for ASF in wild boar.

Figure 2: African swine fever in the European Union (1st January - 27th May 2020)				
Country	Date of last outbreak in domestic pigs	ASF Domestic Pigs No. outbreaks	Date of last cases in wild boar	No. of ASF positive wild boar events (involving 1 or more animals)
Belgium	N/A	0	10/03/2020	3
Bulgaria	23/04/2020	17	20/05/2020	320
Estonia	N/A	0	19/05/2020	22
Greece	05/02/2020	1	N/A	0
Hungary	N/A	0	24/05/2020	2544
Latvia	N/A	0	21/05/2020	114
Lithuania	14/04/2020	1	12/05/2020	96
Poland	05/04/2020	2	22/05/2020	2487
Romania	22/05/2020	258	23/05/2020	480
Sardinia	N/A	0	07/02/2020	32
Slovakia	N/A	0	22/05/2020	112
TOTAL	-	279	-	6210

Source: Animal Disease Notification System

CONCLUSION

ASF is continuing to spread to new countries and territories particularly in Asia. Pig owners in Ireland are advised to remain vigilant and to implement biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of an outbreak of the disease in Ireland. These measures include never allowing pigs access to food waste, implementing a pig free period of 72 hours for anyone coming from an ASF affected region and not allowing pigs to come into contact with contaminated clothing, vehicles or equipment.

Further biosecurity advice, ASF videos and posters and disease updates can be viewed and downloaded from the DAFM website at www.agriculture.gov.ie/