



# ASF

## Hunters' Experience

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# What is hunting?

There are around **7 MILLION** hunters just in the EU, not counting Russia, Belorussia, Moldova and other countries.



# Why not to use eyes and ears of hunters?



# TRAINING

- Every country has state defined hunting courses and exams
- Most hunting courses include information about biosecurity requirements
- Additionally each hunting club requires specially trained person to evaluate the health of the hunted animals

# SYSTEM

- Hunting club
- Responsibility for damages – agriculture and forestry (car accidents)
- Hunting rights cost quite a lot (depending on the country)



# Illegal Shooting is not Hunting!!!

Hunters are obliged to live according to the LAWS and REGULATIONS of each country

- Criminal and administrative responsibility



# Who are hunters

- Doctors, teachers, politicians, journalists, veterinaries etc
- Do it on voluntarily basis
- Hunting policy is regulated by the state and the EU on different levels



# Mednieka tēls – kuram pietiek drosmes?







# Characteristics of Hunters



Closed group that has been attacked for years, so the hunters become very protective in dealing with authorities:

- Groundless bans
- Accusations in illegal shooting, though hunters condemn all illegal activities
- The necessity constantly prove the legitimacy of the practices



# Characteristics of Hunters



FIRST REACTION to African Swine Fever:

- Disbelief
- Different unrealistic theories
- Underestimation of the risks, ignoring the facts
- Hiding evidence
- Even anger



## More QUESTIONS, no ANSWERS

- No idea how to stop it
- Contradictory solutions
- Blaming each other

**Scientists admit they were mistaken  
(Dr Sandra Blome at the EP, May  
2018)**



# Characteristics of Hunters



After Successful Implementation of Communication Strategies – ACTION

- Monitoring
- Collection of carcasses
- Helping authorities
- Wise hunting practices
- Hygiene, etc



# Monitoring





# Hunters – the Most Economical Solution



## Hunters vs Veterinary service inspectors

- Have ready infrastructure and means
- In LV – 21k hunters vs around 120 veterinaries
- Know the terrain, behavior of animals, has the means, resources and will









# Motivation

Restrictions have negative impact – they may backfire!

*People will not report, if there is a chance hunting or business will be banned due to the information they give!*

Good example

Payment for females - 50 euro



# Good examples

- Training courses
- New and better laws and regulations
- Solving many problems  
(communication)
- Payment for analysis/found carcasses
- Cooler project – 1 million euro



**Every action has consequences**



**Driven Hunt Ban**

**Increase to forest damage by 200%**



# Wild Boar Important Part of a System



- What will happen with large carnivores – protected species in the EU, as 60% of wolf menu have been wild boar – increase in damages done to sheep farmers



# Wild Boar Important Part of a System



- Shooting females – against long traditions

Suggestions  
have to come at  
the right time





# Hunters are partners





# Hunters are partners



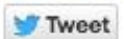
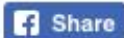


# Please, get the data right!

## Dozens of Belarusian wild boars move to Lithuania



2018.07.20  
10:21



# Get the science right!

Hunters have numerous observations about wild boar behavior that are not reflected in any report, as EFSA has said that they need data, not opinion.

- Migration due to ASF
- Need for understanding how wild boar behave in infected population etc – 4 years and no conclusions

Everyone in affected areas  
**WAIT FOR THE SOLUTION!**



# Conclusions

- Recommendations have to be logical, understandable and real
- Sit down with the hunters and look for solutions that will work in real life situations
- Consider hunters as partners not enemy
- Work together, not against each other – hunters are great force to be used effectively



# Thank you!

