



EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

Outcome of the EC/FACE ASF Conference: *“Preparing European hunters to eradicate ASF”*

12 March 2019

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

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EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

Si vis pacem, para bellum
If you want peace, prepare for war





African Swine Fever Virus

- Not highly Contagious but deadly viral disease
- Highly resistant
- Affects domestic and wild pigs
- Slowly spreading but jumps due to human interference
- No vaccine available

ASF affects:

- All age categories (no age dependency)
- Without gender predilection



- *It does not affect humans or other animal species*

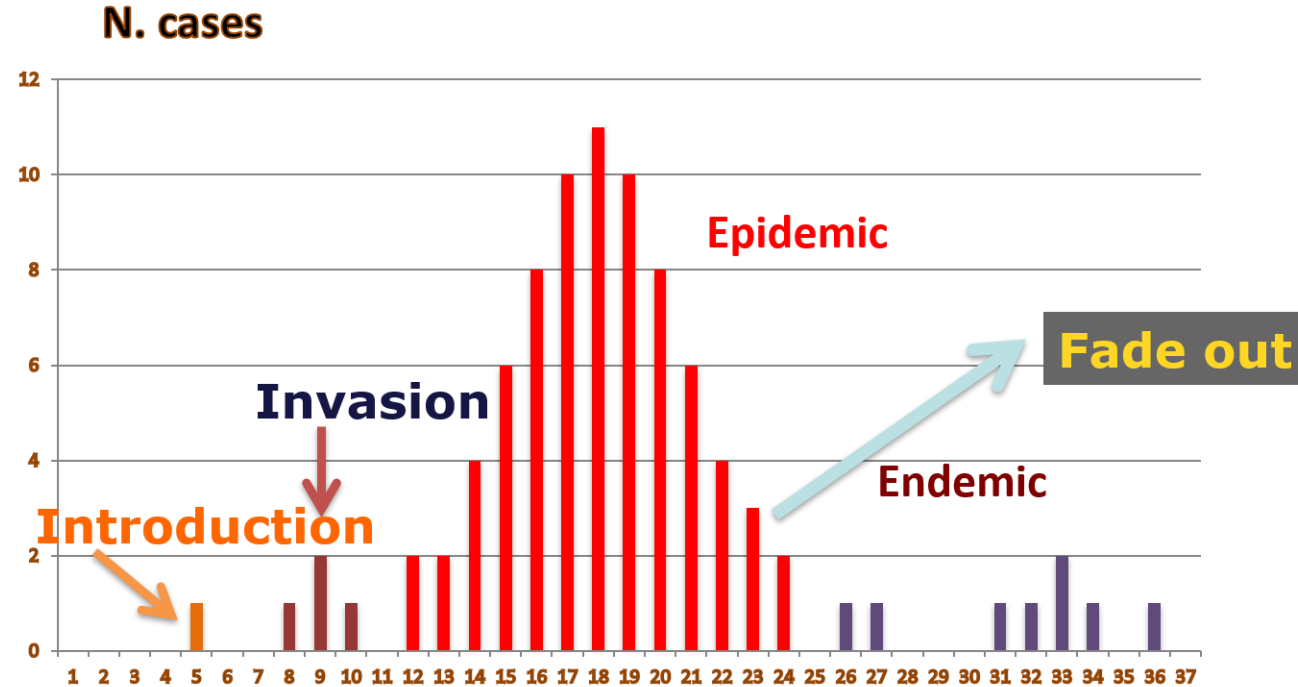


- Different phases
 - Introduction
 - Invasion
 - Epidemic
 - Endemic
- Summarize
- Key take away lessons
- Recommendations
 - To hunting associations
 - To hunters
 - To government



Different phases of ASF

- The 4 phases of a transmissible disease
 - Introduction
 - Invasion
 - Epidemic
 - Endemic



- BUT we also have a phase before the disease has even arrived!
→ Prevention + Detection
- + There will be a phase after the disease is “eradicated”



Prevention

- Threshold at which you can prevent ASF to spread
- But we don't know the exact number, still a lot not known about wild boar
 - need for research, good data, ...
- What to do:
 - Reduce the population
 - Inform everyone
 - Ban supplementary feeding
 - Early detection is important
 - Prepare (training, biosecurity,)





Introduction and invasion phase

- Skip these two phases as we usually only detect the disease when epidemic
- Invest in early detection





Epidemic Phase

- No threshold!
- The infection rate is always higher than any hunting rate
- Hunting will increase the number of cases and will increase the probability of spreading the disease in this phase
- The more infected animals you have, the more you need to kill of the total population to reach a high probability that you killed the last infected animal

Conclusion: Stop all hunting activities!





- Define areas (core, buffer, intensive hunting areas) **adapt** to new information
- Core and buffer areas:
 - WB population undisturbed
 - **Carcass removal** with high biosecurity → involve hunters
- Intensive hunting area:
 - Drastic **reduction** in the WB population
- **Fences** help to slow down the disease in combination with other measures not on it's own.
- **Baiting** can be allowed to keep wild boar in the area
- Not cutting of all crops can be helpful
- Stop traffic in the core and buffer area by general public, involve hunters

Control strategy in wild boar





No hunt, then

- Be **patient** and wait until the end of the epidemic
- **PASSIVE surveillance (carcass removal)**
- **Do not get tired** of surveillance
- Be **accurate** when collecting data





Endemic phase

- Few infected animals
- Hunting can be allowed (not driven hunts)
- Biosecurity measures need to be in place
- Baiting is allowed but not feeding





Summarize

- Preventive stage: reduce wild boar numbers and prepare
- Epidemic and Endemic stage
 - Eradicate disease = remove last infectious animal
 - Probability is low during the epidemic phase → no hunting
 - Probability is high during the endemic phase → hunting can be allowed under circumstances
 - Conclusion: Wait until you reach the endemic phase
No driven hunts as it increases the home range of wild boar
- The virus **naturally reaches its minimum prevalence**
 - BUT carcasses play a role
 - → Important to try to remove carcasses to really eradicate all possible sources of ASF



Key take away

- Lots of human-mediated cases (jumps)
- → Biosecurity is important (to prevent and after outbreak)
- Before an outbreak there should be a threshold but we don't know enough about wild boar populations → Need for more knowledge
- ASF is not a truly density dependent infection.
 - The disease can linger on in carcasses for months/environment disease
- EPI/ENDemic phase → No threshold
- Passive surveillance = Important
- Stop artificial feeding → only helps the reproduction of wild boar
- Natural barriers = no effect on ASF spread.
- Fences help to slow down the disease in combination with other measures not on its own.



FACE Recommendations

- To hunting associations (before and after outbreak)
- To hunters (before and after outbreak)
- To government

➔ Still need to be approved by Members Meeting in April and or by the EC



Association before an outbreak

- Open, transparent and regular **communication**
- Inform hunters on **all aspects**
- Stress the **importance of surveillance** of wild boar
- Dialogue between **all stakeholders**
- Promote **reduction** of the wild boar population
- **Explain** why certain actions are required
- Request absolute **transparency** from the authorities
- **Biosecurity** training programmes
- **Advise** hunters on best practice bio-security measures and the necessary equipment required + How to report possible cases + logistics carcass removal

ASF kills pigs

African swine fever (ASF) is not a danger to humans but kills domestic and wild pigs. There is no vaccination. The virus is highly resistant in the environment and also in pork products. Human inattention can spread the disease.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER
Don't be the carrier of a deadly pig disease

Respect general SANITARY PRECAUTIONS

- Do not carry pigs or pork products. If you do, declare it to the authorities
- Do not visit pig farms unless it is necessary
- When working or visiting farms, respect biosecurity measures
- Declare any suspicious case (dead or alive)

SWINE PRODUCERS
Reinforce your biosecurity measures and declare early any suspect case of ASF.

PIG FARMERS
Take measures in your backyard and at the market, to protect your pigs and other pigs in your region from ASF risk.

HUNTERS
During hunting trips, especially in places considered at risk of ASF, make sure you disinfect your equipments before leaving the hunting area.

TRAVELLERS
Do not carry the ASF virus, by transporting pigs or carrying pork products.

TRANSPORT AUTHORITIES AND CHECK POINT STAFF
(airports, harbours, rail stations, highways)
Know the countries infected with ASF and systematically check for travellers carrying animals or animal products, in particular pigs or pork products.

www.oie.int/asf

OIE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future



EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION



European Commission

CONTROL OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE EU The key role of hunters

African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating, usually deadly, infectious disease of pigs and wild boar for which no vaccine exists.

The consequences of the disease affect:

1. Farms and the economy:

- the virus kills animals.
- economic losses for EU farmers are aggravated by disruption of international trade of animals and meat.
- economic losses for the hunters.

2. Wildlife and hunting:

- because of the disease wild boar populations can decrease significantly or even disappear.
- hunting may be restricted or even banned in some infected areas (including collection of carcasses and trophies).

The pig sector is one of the most economically significant farming sectors in the EU.

It represents **8.5%** of the total output of the EU agricultural industry, the highest when compared to other meat sectors.

Pigmeat accounts for **50%** of total EU meat production.

Pigmeat is the **most exported** of all meat produced in the EU: it represents **62%** of EU total meat exports.

Hunters can make the difference - for better or worse - as they may increase or reduce the spread of the disease.



Disease transmission and spread

Transmission can happen through direct contact of healthy pigs or wild boar with infected (dead or sick) pigs or wild boar. However, humans and especially hunters - while not being affected by the disease - can help spreading it by:

- Any contact with infected animals and dead bodies (carcasses).
- Contact with anything contaminated by the virus (e.g. clothing, vehicles, other equipment).
- Feeding the animals with meat or meat products from infected animals (e.g. sausages or uncooked meat) or garbage containing infected meat (e.g. kitchen waste, swill feed, including offal).

Don't bring it home!

Diseases such as African Swine Fever (ASF) are carried in pigmeat, which is harmful to humans.



- X DO NOT leave food in areas accessible to wild boar
- ✓ ENSURE leftover food is put in sealed waste containers
- X DO NOT bring meat or meat products back from non EU countries even for personal use
- ✓ PAY ATTENTION to information on what can and what cannot be introduced when travelling
- X DO NOT touch a dead or sick wild boar
- ✓ NOTIFY competent authorities with any suspicious signs or concerns

@Food_EU #AfricanSwineFever
<https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/>

Public awareness

http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/Regprog/en_ASF_depository.htm#ASFcampaignmaterial

For more information consult the EFSA website and story map on EFSAs website: <https://goo.gl/ok811>

For more on control measures visit the European Commission website, ASF section: <https://goo.gl/9Tp2N4>



KEEP ANIMAL DISEASES OUT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION!

TRAVELLERS MUST SURRENDER THESE PRODUCTS FOR OFFICIAL CONTROLS*

Products of animal origin may carry pathogens that cause infectious diseases in animals. There are strict procedures and veterinary controls on the introduction of products of animal origin into the European Union.

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Vorsicht!

Das Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland informiert: Seit 2014 breitet sich die hochansteckende Afrikanische Schweinepest in Europa aus und bedroht Millionen Haus- und Wildschweine. Lebensmittel können diese für den Menschen ungefährliche Krankheit übertragen. **Bitte werfen Sie daher Speisereste nur in verschlossene Müllbehälter!**

Pozor!

Spolkové ministerstvo pro výživu a zemědělství Spolkové republiky Německo informuje: Od roku 2014 se v Evropě rozšiřuje vysoce nakažlivý africký prasečí mor a ohrožuje milióny domácích i divokých prasat. Tato nemoc, která není pro lidi nebezpečná, se přenáší potravínami. **Odhazujte proto, prosím, zbytky potravin pouze do uzavíratelných nádob na odpadky!**

Внимание!

Информация Федерального министерства продовольствия и сельского хозяйства Федеративной Республики Германия: С 2014 года в Европе распространяется очень заразная африканская чума свиней, представляющая угрозу для миллионов домашних и диких свиней. Это не опасно для человека заболевание может передаваться через продукты питания. **Поэтому просим Вас выбрасывать остатки пищи только в закрытые мусорные контейнеры!**

Warning!

The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany hereby gives notice that: Highly contagious African Swine Fever has been spreading through Europe since 2014 and is now a threat for millions of domestic pigs and wild boar. This disease, which is not dangerous for humans, can be transmitted by food. **Please make sure that all leftover food is put in sealed waste containers!**

Atenție!

Ministerul Federal al Alimentației și Agriculturii al Republicii Federale Germania informează: Din anul 2014 se răspândește în Europa pesta porcină africană extrem de contagioasă care amenință milioane de porci domestici și mistreți. Prin alimente se poate transmite această boală care pentru om nu este periculoasă. **De aceea vă rugăm să aruncați resturile alimentare doar în recipiente de gunoie care pot fi închise!**

Uwaga!

Federalne Ministerstwo Żywności i Rolnictwa Republiki Federalnej Niemiec informuje: Od roku 2014 na terenie Europy rozprzestrzenia się w wysokim stopniu zakaźna choroba – afrykański pomór świń – stanowiąc zagrożenie dla milionów sztuk hodowlanej trzody chlewnej oraz pogłowia dzików. Ta niebezpieczna dla człowieka choroba może być przenoszona także przez żywność. **Dlatego prosimy wyrzucać resztki żywności wyłącznie do zamkniętych pojemników w śmieci i odpady!**



Hunters before an outbreak

- Be **informed** and Inform others
- Carry out **surveillance** of wild boar
- **Reduce** your wild boar population
- Take the necessary **biosecurity** precautions
- Follow procedure when you suspect case of ASF
- Don't bring meat from infected zone





Associations after an outbreak

- Organise **training sessions**
- Inform the general public
- Keep working with **all stakeholders**
- **Transparency** (with government)
- Implementation: [Strategic approach to the management of ASF](#)
- Keep hunters updated → importance to keep working long-term





Hunters after outbreak

- Follow training and acquire all equipment
- Support the implementation of the [Strategic approach to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU](#)
- Avoid any activity that may increase the movement of wild boar
- Keep surveilling
- Take out carcasses respecting biosecurity





To the Government/Veterinarians

- Hunters like wild boar
- Uniquely placed to make the difference and determine the outcome
- Have transparent/understandable communication, Hunters have to understand to help
- Use the knowledge hunters have
- Voluntary
- Make sure hunters have the means to manage ASF
- Listen to hunter's observations
how do boar behave in infected areas?
- **NOT ONE SOLUTION FOR ALL SITUATIONS!**





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Thank you for your attention
L'union fait la force!

