

# African Swine Fever detected in wild boars in Sweden



Maria Cedersmyg  
SGE ASF 21

# Background

- Sweden - and all Nordic countries - previously free of African Swine Fever (ASF)
- First case in Sweden of ASF was confirmed in a wild boar 6 September 2023
- Case detected as part of passive surveillance of wild boars found dead

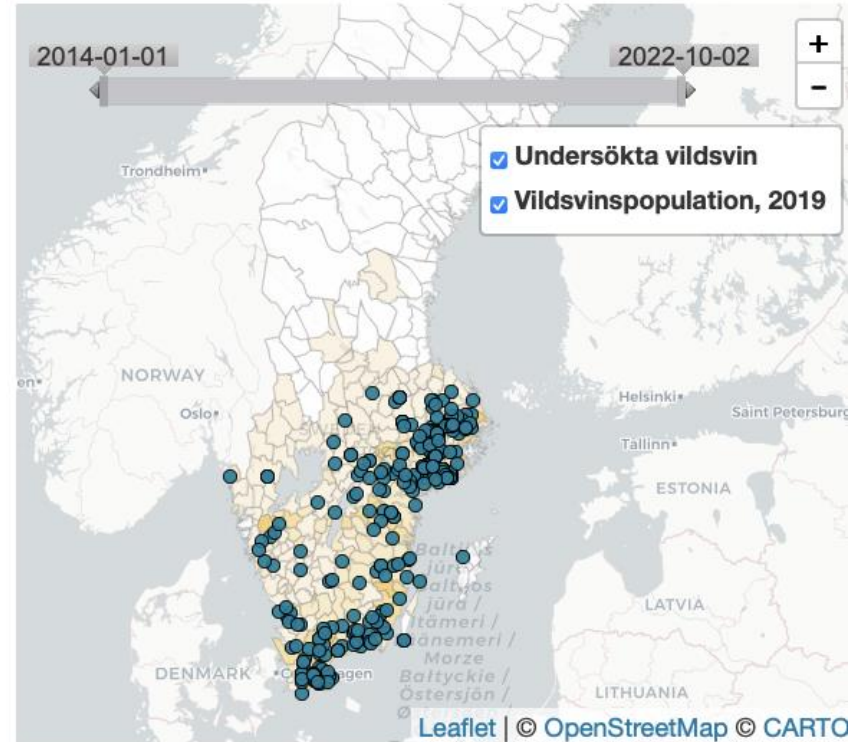




# ASF surveillance in Sweden

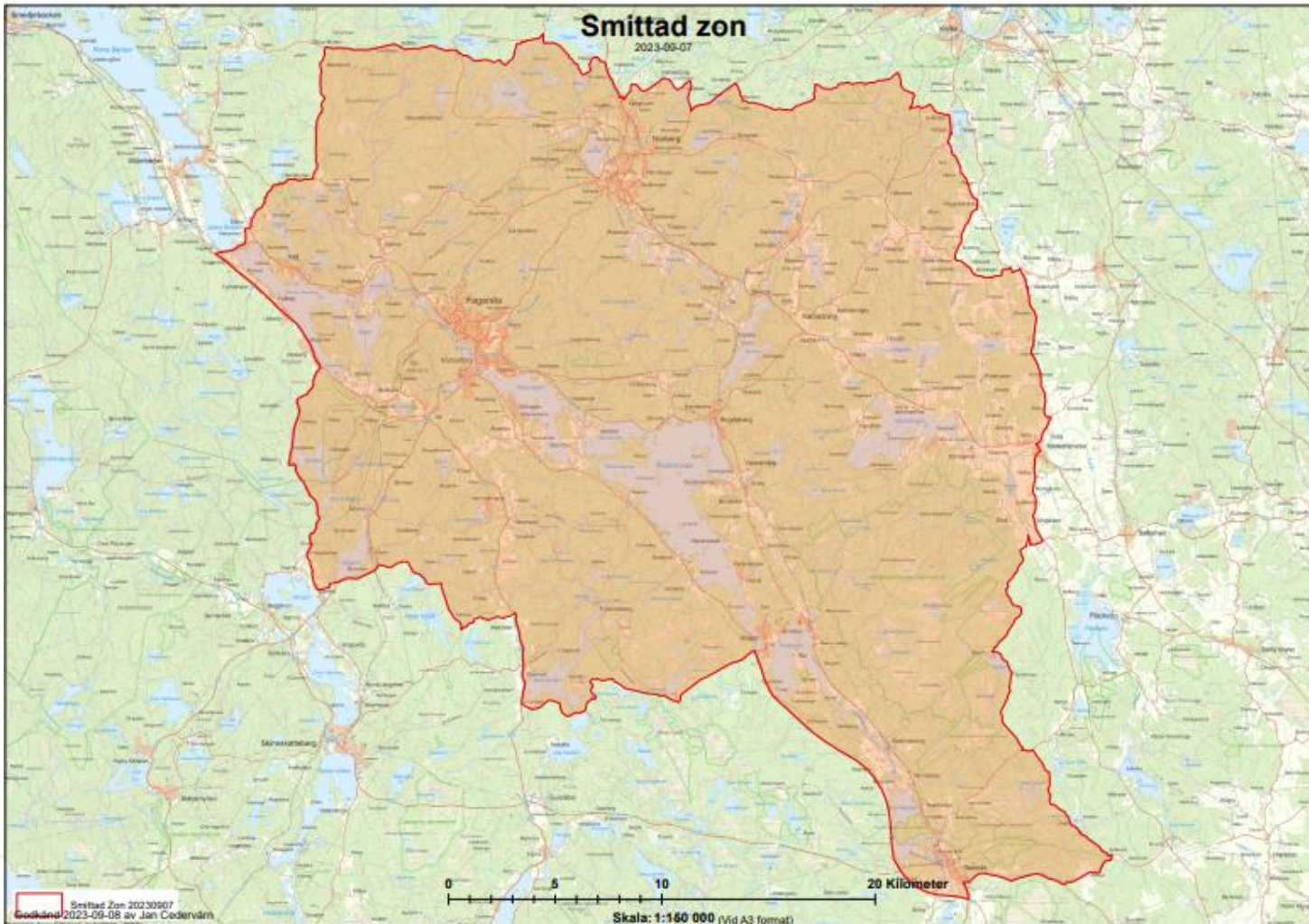
The National Veterinary Institute, Uppsala

- Passive surveillance
- Aiming for early detection
- Focus on wild boar
- Based on carcass detection
- Dependent on hunters and the public
- Rapportravilt.sva.se



År	Totalt antal undersökta	Saknar koordinater
2014	5	0
2015	17	0
2016	18	3
2017	17	4
2018	13	2
2019	37	1
2020	69	1
2021	62	0
2022	53	1

# Infected zone $\approx$ 1000km<sup>2</sup>, established 7 Sept



**Based on assessment from the national expert group, including local experts:**

- ASF epidemiology
- Wild boar population size, density, behaviour
- Wild boar habitat
- Carcass findings
- Natural borders
- Administrative borders

**Favourable local conditions:**  
Limited WB population  
Very limited pig population  
( $\approx$  60 animals in 6 establishments)

# Restrictions in the infected zone

- Ban on all hunting
- No access to forests and areas beside constructed roads and established arenas.

## Restrictions including

- Forestry
- Sports events (except on arenas)
- Mushroom and berry picking, hiking, riding, tourism...



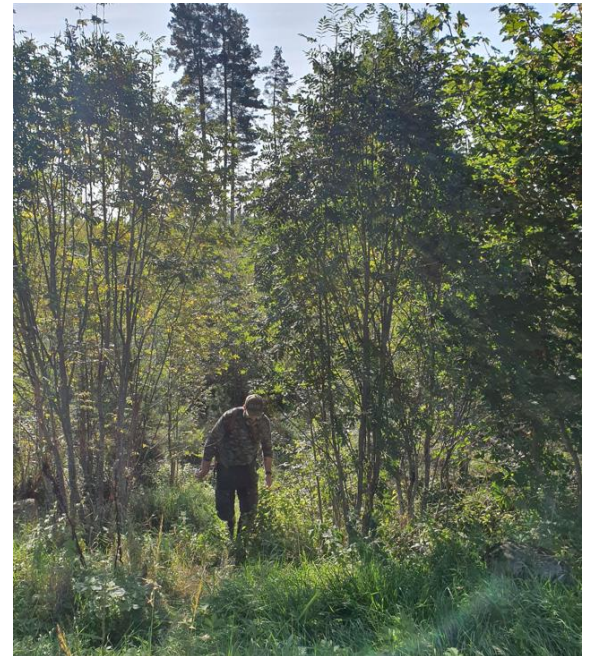
# Exemptions from prohibitions

## General exemption

- Farming

## Exemption with biosecurity education as prerequisite

- Hunters searching for cadavers or managing baiting spots or traps. Dogs on long lead permitted.
- Hunters managing traffic accident related blood tracking of wounded animals with dogs on long lead.
- Emergencies/rescue missions
- Maintenance of mobile network masts, electricity cables, railroad etc.



# Further actions taken



- Active search and testing of wild boar carcasses in infected zone – ongoing
- Local disease control center, sampling center and mobile incineration for WB carcasses established in Fagersta area
- Culling and destruction of all pigs on farms in infected zone as a precautionary measure, completed 13 September
- Regular meetings with all concerned parties such as hunters organisations, pig industry, farmers organisations, central and regional authorities etc.
- Communication – proactive, regular information meetings for the locals, every day press conferences, high interest in media.



# Compensation

## Hunters

- Compensation 300 SEK/hour for searching carcasses
- Compensation for leaving crops following decision by CA
- Preemptive culling = compensation to the pig farmers

## Forestry, tourism etc.

- New situation – analysis ongoing
- Big concern amongst the forestry companies
- People are used to walk in the forests – unique *public right of access*
- Principle: farmers directly affected by restrictions will normally be compensated  
– but now...?





# Challenges

- Aim to urgently contain and if possible eradicate ASF asap - urgent and long term strategy and action needed – requires a lot of resources & sustainability. Never had any situation like this...
- Problems on city dump(s) identified. Possible source  
Now (!) dumps are of national concern.



# City dump in the core area next to Fagersta



# Active searching for cadavers in infected zone



# Cadavers are wrapped/packed & transported to the sampling center



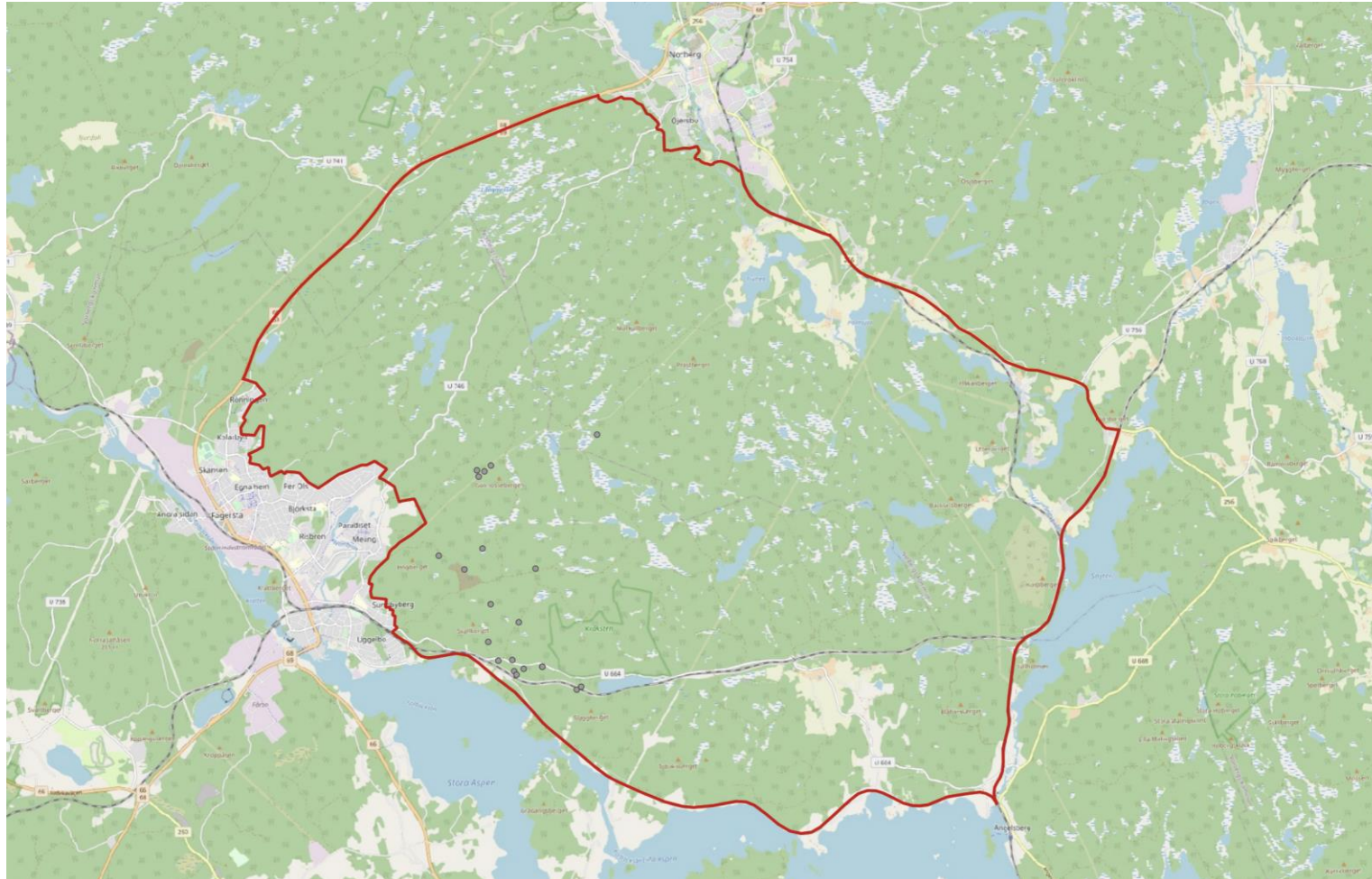
# Sampling center established at Fagersta city dump



# Destruction of carcasses in mobile incinerator Hurikan 750



# Core area identified by 2023-09-14 $\approx$ 98 km<sup>2</sup>



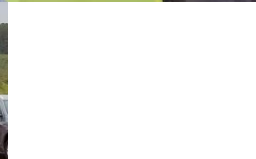
Measures to not scare the wild boars out of the area, including feeding spots

# Much appreciated fruitful international support...

- Dialogue with the Commission
- Digital meeting with the Belgian CVO + colleagues sharing experiences
- EUVet mission 20-22 September









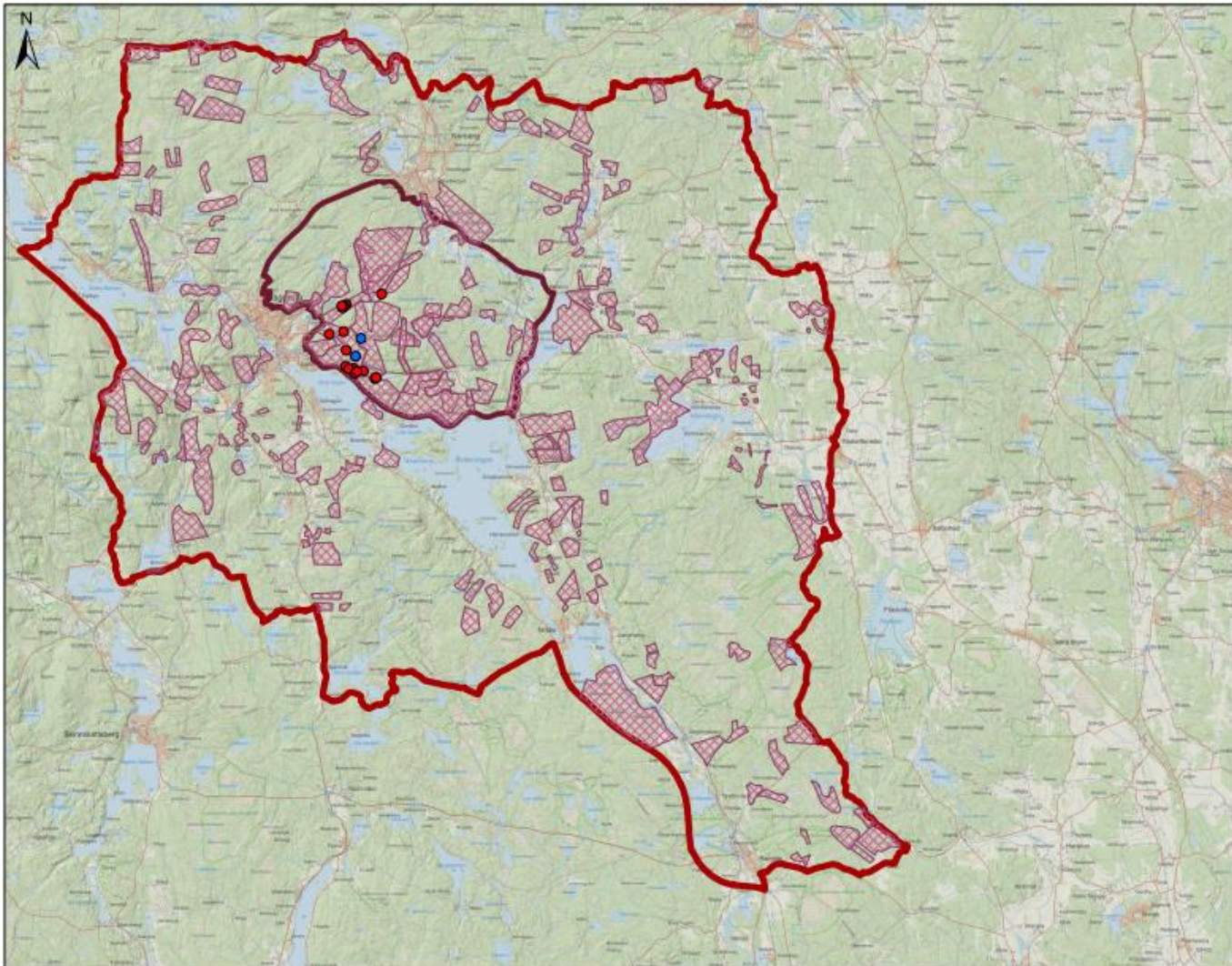
# Preliminary strategic areas



Blue = Core area  
Red = Established Infected Zone  
Grey = Suggested surveillance area, not yet established.

## Surveillance:

- Enhanced passive surveillance domestic pigs
- All wild boar found dead (treated with more urgency than in the rest of SE)
- Hunted wild boar
- Road killed wild boar

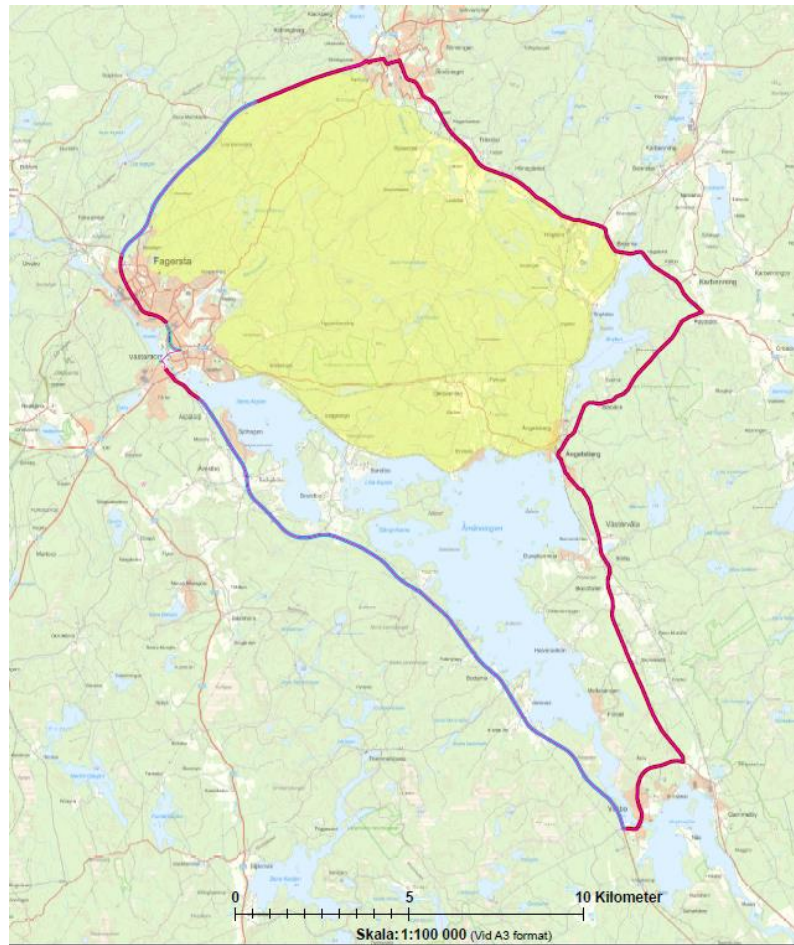


Teckenförklaring  
SVA Fyndplatser (Ej uppdaterad)

- Ej påvisad
- Påvisad
- ▨ LST ASF Avsokta områden
- ▭ Skyddsområde/Ytterområde
- ▭ SVA\_Karnomrade\_230918
- Terrängskuggning

**Top priority:  
continuing active  
search for carcasses**

Hunters  
Dogs on lead  
Drones, starting in Oct,



# Fencing of the core area



Approx. half of the distance already has barriers: roads with high game fence (moose) and railroads with fences. Remaining roads will be fenced with robust fence (BE type) where needed, incl. wildlife passage tunnels. Extension to big road in the south and east to stop swimming wild boars.

# Planning for depopulation

Outside in – core area not until fenced in and the situation is stabilised.

Close cooperation with the Swedish hunters organisation and the National Veterinary Institute

The hunt is planned by SE expert grp + "invasive species swat team"

- Baiting places w cameras
- Crops left unharvested
- Traps
- Night vision scopes (allowed in SE)
- Special permits; hunting from vehicle, hunting on other peoples grounds.

More intense hunting in SZ. All culled wild boars sampled.

# Preparing for enlarged zone if needed...

## Slaughter houses

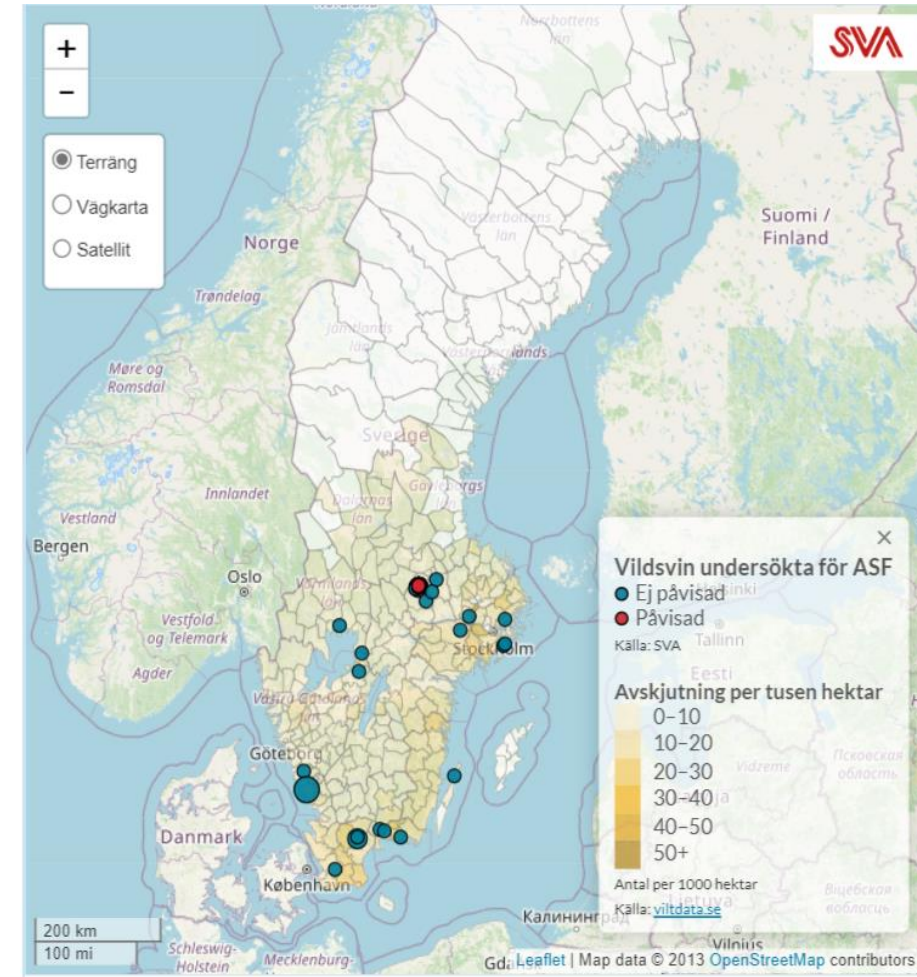
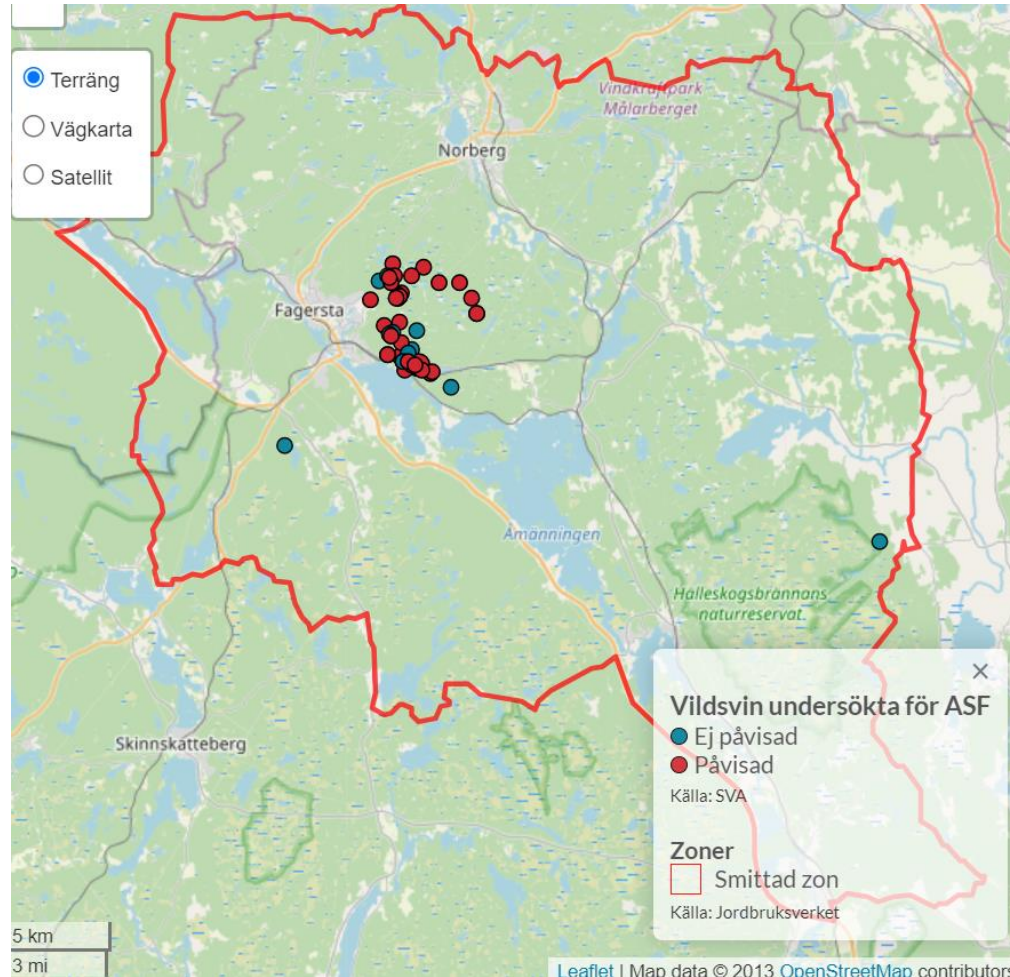
- approval
- re-direction of pigs

SSB gris = biosecurity program for commercial pig farms  
Wild boar module in process for approval

# ASF positive cases by 2023-09-27

6-27 September 2023

41 positive, 13 negative  
in the infected zone



Thank you!

