African Swine fever in wild boar in Belgium

PAFF Committee 19-20 November 2020
Short history

• First case in wild boar confirmed on 14 September 2018
• Immediate delimitation of a provisional infected zone
• Zones in Belgium added to part I and II of the annex of Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU on 27 November 2018
• Several extensions to the west and the north
• 15 May 2020: first reduction of the area in part II of the annex of CID 2014/709/EU
Areas in the annex of Decision 2014/709/EU
as modified by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/662 of 15 May 2020
Confirmed cases in wild boar in the restricted zones

On 16 November 2020:

- 5,141 wild boars sampled in the restricted zones
- 833 confirmed cases of ASF in wild boar
- 1,083 wild boar culled: 7 positive for ASF (last one 11/08/2019)
- 1,339 wild boar captured: 4 positive for ASF (last one 21/06/2019)
- 600 wild boar shot at night: 2 positive for ASF (last one 15/04/2019)
Confirmed cases in wild boar
Confirmed cases in wild boar since 1 October 2020
Weekly evolution of ASFV + → 30/04/2020

ZONE II (infected zone)

Cumulated Positive Cases

- Positive Culled
- Positive Found Dead

Last fresh ASFV + August 2019
Last bone ASFV + March 2020

A. Linden
Adaptation of control measures to the epidemiological situation and the zones

ZONE II (infected zone)

Early in the epidemic: ban on destruction.

Today: full destruction of the «last» WB in the areas in part II to avoid endemic situation.

Epidemic Phase

Post Epidemic Phase
Confirmed cases in wild boar since the 11th of August 2019
Confirmed cases in wild boar after the 11th of August 2019

6 cases:

• Dry bones
• qPCR ASFV were only slightly positive (Ct > 34)
• qPCR beta-actin (internal control) were negative (Ct > 45)
• Virus isolation negative at EURL
• Bones likely > 6 months old and no longer infectious

ASF virus has no longer been circulating in Belgium for the past 12 months
Main measures in the infected zone - Wild boar (Wal. Region)

- Avoid disturbance of wild boar
- Searching, collection, testing and safe removal of all wild boar found dead
- All wild boar carcasses are destroyed (not allowed for consumption or trophies)
- Limiting the movements of wild boar by fencing
- Depopulation after the epidemic phase: trapping and culling of wild boar (night shot)
- Objective: elimination of all wild boar: 100-150 wild boar left in part II: fewer than 0.2 wild boar/km²
Main measures in the infected zone Wild boar (Wal. Region)

Fences
Completed

>300 km!
No outbreaks in domestic pigs!
National measures - Pigs

• Additional measures following the introduction of ASF
  – All assemblies of pigs prohibited (except for pigs for slaughter)
  – Only 1-1 transports of pigs (except to the slaughterhouse)
  – No visitors allowed to pig farms if not needed
  – All introduced pigs must pass quarantine
  – Increased surveillance: no treatment of sick pigs without sampling for ASF tests: 22 840 pigs tested on 2 959 pig farms: all negative!
  – Additional biosecurity requirements for small pigs farms as of 19 June 2020
  – Yearly biosecurity check of all pig farms by farm veterinarian (soon)

• Raising awareness of farmers, hunters and vets
• Biosecurity: special action in 2020
National action plan on wild boar management (in preparation)

- Passive and if needed active surveillance all over the country
- Fence network will remain in place at least until end of March 2022
- Population reduction of wild boar over the whole of Belgium will be continued: intensified hunting
Conclusions

• Measures for the control and surveillance of ASF are in place
• All concerned partners are actively involved
• Close collaboration with neighboring countries
• No virus circulation > 12 months
• **ASF has been eradicated in wild boar**
• Increased surveillance in domestic pigs continued
• Prepared in case a new introduction would occur
Thank you for your attention