African swine fever in wild boar in Latvia

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Minsk, Belarus
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ASF cases in Latvia  (up to 27 November)
Restricted areas (according to Decision 2014/709/EU) (28 November, 2014)
1. Wild boar population distribution (numbers and the methodology used to calculate / estimate such a population).

- Competent authority – State Forest Service (under supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture)

- Total number of wild boar population – 55 354 animals

- Methodology used – estimation – information collected from forest rangers from all regions in Latvia on observations, footprints etc.,

- Data are collected on the 1st of April annually
Wild boar population dynamic in Latvia

![Graph showing the population dynamic of wild boars in Latvia from 1991/92 to 2014/15. The graph includes data points for population numbers and highlights the trends over the years.](image-url)
Wild boar population density 2014/2015 (animals to 10 000 ha)

- <5.0 (1398944.9 ha, 22.4%)
- 5.0 - 10.0 (2894350.5 ha, 46.3%)
- >10.0 (1956121.3 ha, 31.3%)
Hunted wild boar 2013/2014 (animals per 10 000 ha)
2. Research/surveys carried out in the country to better understand the dynamics of wildlife populations.

- No information on projects / research activities ongoing / done in this area
4. ASF surveillance in wild boar

- **Passive surveillance** in a whole country
- **Active surveillance** (all hunted wild boar must be tested to ASF virus and Ab) – in areas restricted as Part II and Part III

**ASF surveillance results in 2014 (January-October)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wild boar</th>
<th>PCR tests</th>
<th>Positive results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Found dead</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunted animals</td>
<td>3163</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3402</strong></td>
<td><strong>149</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Estimation of ASF prevalence in wild boars

- Estimated ASF prevalence in wildboar (on 1st November, 2014):
  - In total: 4.48 %
  - In dead wild boar: 44.7 %
  - In hunted wild boar: 1.3 %

Estimated seroprevalence: 0.75 %
5. National diagnostic capacities

- **PCR** capacity:
  - 180 samples per day

- **ELISA** capacity:
  - 800 samples per day

- Confirmation of antibodies – **Imunobloting**
  - 50 samples per day

- Confirmation of antibodies – **Imunoperoxidase**
  - 50 samples per day
6. Likely sources of contamination of wild boars with ASF

Most common sources of the infection of wild boar:

- Dead wild boar in the forest
- Offals left in the forest
- Hunters (equipment, clothing etc.,)
- Illeagal movement of wild boar meat form infected areas (hunters)
7. Any form of official cooperation between the Veterinary Services and national bodies and organisations responsible for hunting and wildlife management in activities related to the detection, surveillance, reporting, control and eradication of ASF (and other wildlife diseases).

- Representatives from State Forest Service, Hunters Associations and wildlife biologist are members of ASF Expert group
- Regular official meetings
- Unofficial exchange of information on new cases found and need to establish hunting restrictions (e-mail, phone)
- Common activities on awareness campaigns
- Common activities dealing with media
8. Awareness and training programmes directed at hunters and other persons related to game and wildlife management receive in the fields of ASF (and other wildlife diseases) early detection, carcass inspection, viscera disposal, etc.

- Leaflets
- Educational video clips
- Training for hunters
- Dedicated info area in website of FVS
- Regular information in newspapers, TV, Radio etc.,
- Joint company «Latvian Forests» contributed awareness campaigns
Awearnes campaigns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54aeXCPm2-E&list=UUxynf6Wxae4CPOxOmdudvtw
Leaflet for hunters on correct sampling procedure
9. Wild boar management strategy in view of controlling ASF.

- No increased hunting activity
- Increased awearnes campaigns for hunters
- Increased passive surveillance
- Restrictions on winter feeding
- No hunting restrictions in ASF free areas
10. Is a complete depopulation of wild boars a possible option for ASF control strategy? If yes, it is carried out based on a comprehensive risk assessment to fully recognize any potentially negative impact?

- No activities done in Latvia with regard to wild boar depopulation
- Strategy should be based on scientific arguments or good (transparent) practical experiences
11. Changes in hunting policies following the appearance of ASF.

- No increased hunting activity

- No driven hunting allowed in the ASF infected areas (Part II and Part III) including use of dogs

- No hunting restrictions in ASF free areas
Current hunting restrictions in Latvia
12. Feeding of wild boar (amount per hunting ground, seasonal patterns).

- Construction of feeder ensures dosage of the feed
- Restricted amount to be used for feeding (400 litres to 1000 ha)
- Feed for deers, elks... must be put at least 1m above ground level (unreachable for wild boar)
- Restrictions are set for the period of 4 years (by the end of 2018)
13. Relations with VS of neighboring countries in order to coordinate actions.

- In general, good collaboration with Veterinary services of neighboring countries
- Regular official and unofficial communication
- Sometimes difficulties experienced on the agreement of common strategy to be used (disinfection activities on the borders, wild boar hunting etc.,)
14. Main challenges with regards to ASF control in wild boar

• Collection of dead wild boar from forests;

• Lack of appropriate transport, equipment;

• Collection and destruction of by-products from wild boar;

• Storage of carcases of the hunted animals;

• Restrictions on hunting activities;

• Restrictions on winter feeding.
15. How could the international community provide any support to ASF control in the region (if needed)?

- Expert assistance

- Increased scientific activities to facilitate ASF control and eradication

- Financial contribution for the implementation of ASF control measures

- Discussions on common activities and strategy to be applied by all countries affected by ASF
Dealing with dead wild boar
Acknowledgements:

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Thank you for your attention