

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: African Swine Fever Nears the Czech Border

Country: Czech Republic

Post: Prague

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Agriculture in the Economy, Policy and Program Announcements, Livestock and Products, Pest/Disease Occurrences, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

African Swine Fever, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and COVID-19 in mink outbreaks in Europe are edging closer to the Czech border. The Central Disease Control Commission of the Czech Republic responded by the introduction of new precautionary measures, including an establishment of an intensive hunting zone, a new reward payment for killing wild boar, and an increase of an already existing reward payment for reporting a finding of a dead wild boar. So far, the Czech Republic remains the first country in the EU to be officially declared free from African Swine Fever.

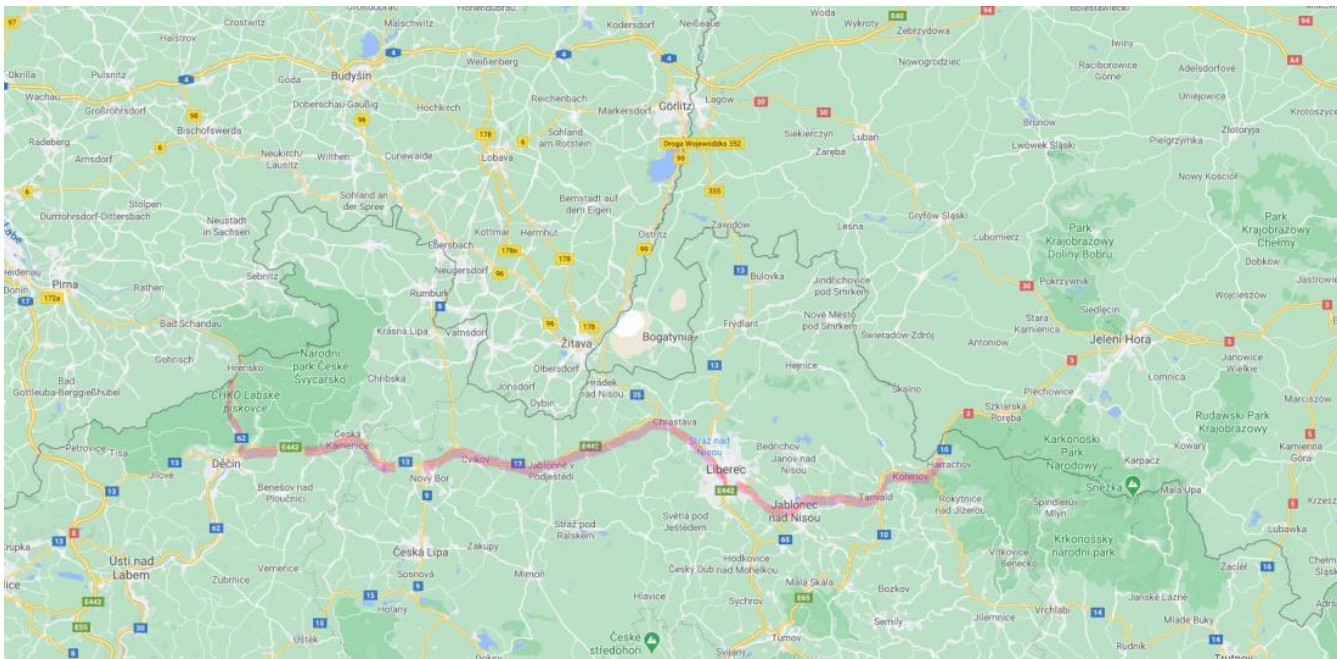
Abbreviations Used:

- ASF: African Swine Fever
- HPAI: High Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- OIE: World Organization for Animal Health
- SVA: State Veterinary Administration

On November 12, the Central Disease Control Commission of the Czech Republic met to discuss a number of disease outbreaks occurring throughout Europe that are edging closer to the Czech border, including African Swine Fever (ASF), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), and COVID-19 in mink populations. They introduced some new measures to address the situation and prevent the spread of the diseases.

African Swine Fever:

The Commission established a new zone of 1,500 square kilometers in the most at risk areas, which are in the north of the Czech Republic, connected to the border with Germany and Poland (see the map below). In this zone, intensive wild boar hunting is introduced, and the commission enacted a reward scheme to reduce the wild boar population as a control measure. Hunters will get a reward payment for killing a wild boar (2,000 CZK, \$86.4 per 1 animal). The Commission also increased an already existing reward payment for reporting a finding of a dead wild boar from 2,000 to 3,000 CZK (to \$130).



Source: Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

The State Veterinary Administration has a plan in place, should the ASF spread to the Czech Republic. The key points of it are intensive hunting and the reduction of the wild boar population in the affected areas, an immediate removal of the dead animals, and the use of odor carrying fences.

To date the Czech Republic remains the first country in the EU to be officially declared free from ASF. The last confirmed positive case of ASF in the Czech Republic was on April 15, 2018. There are currently no positive cases of ASF within the territory of the Czech Republic. The last outbreak of ASF was resolved on April 19, 2018.

Historically, according the State Veterinary Administration report to the OIE, the first occurrence of ASF in the Czech Republic was detected in two wild boars, which were found dead on June 21 and 22, 2017 near Zlin, in Zlin District, and Zlin Region. In total, there were 230 cases of ASF registered in wild boar involving 212 cases of wild boar found dead and 18 cases of hunted wild boar. The last ASF positive cases in wild boars were detected on February 8, 2018 in a hunted wild boar and on April 15, 2018 in a wild boar found dead. However, these carcasses were decomposed (3-6 months old). All positive cases were detected in a small area (only 89 km²) in the Zlin District. No outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs was detected in the Czech Republic.

COVID-19 in Mink:

The Central Disease Control Commission discussed the situation in the COVID-19 affected mink farms in Europe. There are no mink farms in the Czech Republic. Fur animal farming has been banned since January 2019.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza:

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was part of the discussion as well. The State Veterinary Administration encourage farmers to be vigilant and comply with all the biosafety rules. They pointed out that it is necessary to prevent any contact between wild birds and domestic poultry, their feed, and their water. Poultry must be housed or screened (using nets) and feed and water kept indoors (or under a roof). The last HPAI outbreak in commercial poultry in the Czech Republic occurred in February 2020.

Attachments:

No Attachments.