

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: After a Five-Month Hiatus African Swine Fever Outbreaks
Return in June

Country: Poland

Post: Warsaw

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products, Pest/Disease Occurrences,
Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

In June 2022, Poland reported four new outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) on hog farms, The outbreaks were located in ASF restricted areas that have a high concentration of ASF infections in wild boars. Additional outbreaks on farms are expected as the disease is more prevalent in the summer. With no new areas in Poland infected with ASF virus, the pork industry situation remains stable. Before the June reports, Poland's last outbreak was in December 2021.

General Information

ASF is a disease affecting porcine animals, both domestic and wild species, but it is harmless to humans. The disease poses a great economic risk as it results in almost total losses of the infected pig population. Additionally, ASF-free countries may impose trade restrictions on an ASF-affected country or its regions.

The European Union's regionalization approach, as provided in Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/605, limits trade in pigs and pork products from ASF-affected areas in a manner proportionate to the risk involved. In addition to the disease control measures laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/687, the regionalization approach provides for a listing of restricted zones in Member States affected by outbreaks of ASF or at risk due to their proximity to such outbreaks. Those restricted zones are differentiated by the ASF epidemiological situation and classified as restricted zones I (marked in blue), II (marked in pink) and III (marked in red). Restricted zone III are areas with the highest level of risk for the spread of disease.

ASF has been present in Poland since 2014, spreading from eastern Podlaskie province to the west of Poland, affecting both the wild boar and domestic pig population.

In 2021, Poland reported 124 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs, with 11 out of 16 Polish regions reporting outbreaks, mainly on smallholder farms. The last 2021 outbreak in hog farm was confirmed on December 17.

ASF Outbreaks in Hog Farms in 2022

From December 2021 to late-May 2022, there were no new ASF outbreaks in hog farms in Poland. However, as of June 22, 2022, Poland has reported four ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs.

ASF outbreak number 2022/1 (the first outbreak of the year) was designated on June 1, 2022, on a farm with 1,994 pigs (175 sows and gilts, 1,249 piglets and weaners, and 570 fattening pigs), located in the locality of Boguszyn, Włoszkowice municipality, Leszczyński district, Wielkopolskie province. This area is covered by restrictions II listed in annex I to the Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/605.

ASF outbreak number 2022/2 was designated on June 7, 2022, on a farm with 88 pigs (10 sows, 27 gilts, and 51 fattening pigs), located in the locality of Bieżyń, Krzywiń municipality, Kościański district, Wielkopolskie province, in the area covered by restrictions II listed in annex I to the Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/605.

ASF outbreak number 2022/3 was designated on June 15, 2022, on a farm with two pigs in the locality of Mycielin, Niegosławice municipality, Żagański district, Lubuskie province, in the area covered by restrictions III listed in annex I to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605.

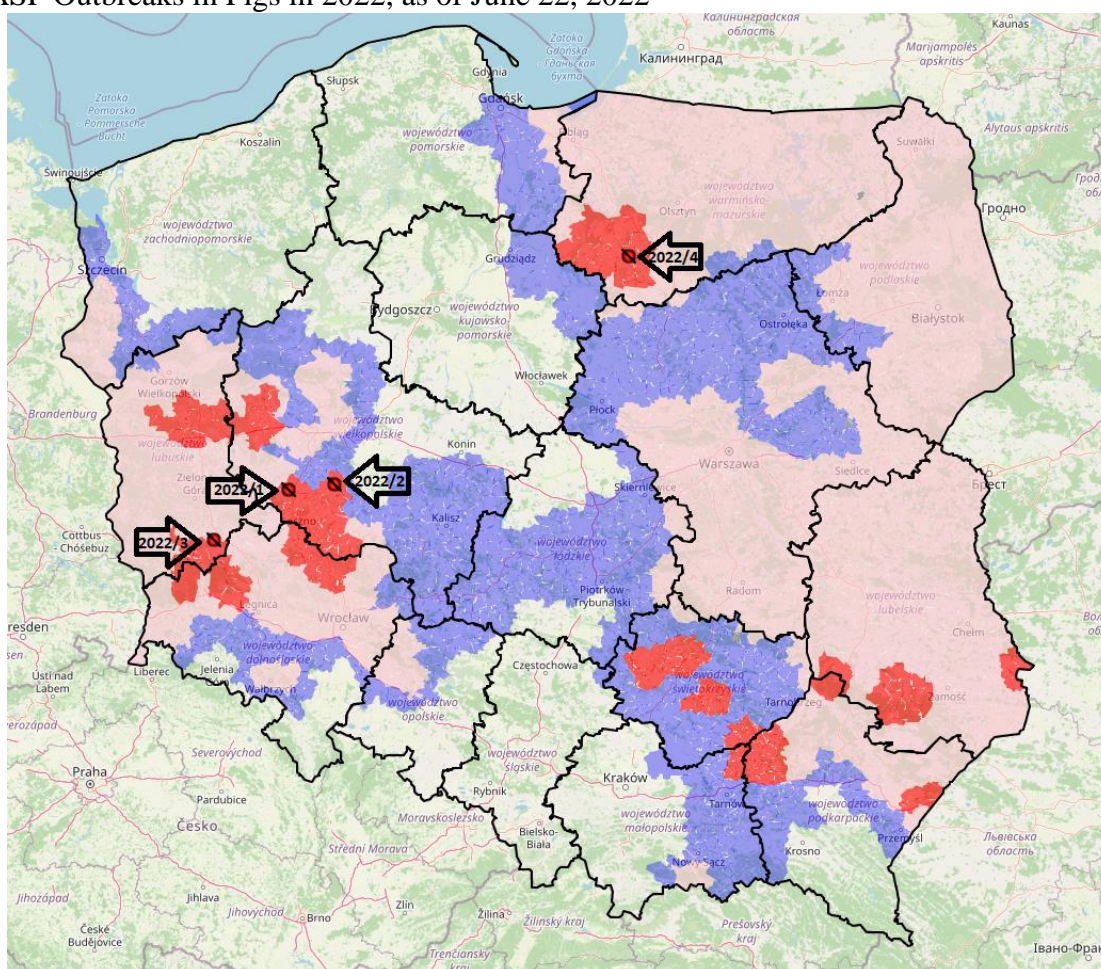
ASF outbreak number 2022/4 was designated on June 16, 2022, on a farm with 74 pigs located in the locality of Naguszewo, Rybno municipality, Działdowski district, Warmińsko-mazurskie province. This

area is covered by restrictions III listed in annex I to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605.

The Polish authorities implemented all measures to eradicate the disease on farms with outbreaks in accordance with procedures and with the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, including inter alia, killing and disposal of pigs, cleaning and disinfection, and designation of the protection and surveillance zones.

The map below indicates the location of the 2022 outbreaks in pig farms and also the EU's regionalization, as specified in the EU Commission's Implementing Regulation 2022/946 from June 17, 2022.

Map 1. ASF Outbreaks in Pigs in 2022, as of June 22, 2022

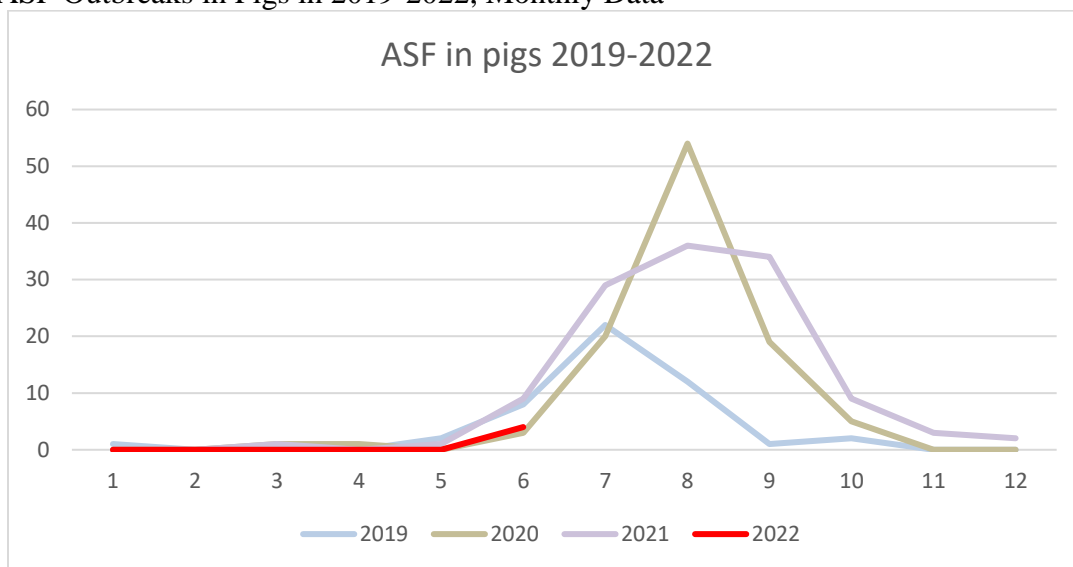


Source: General Veterinary Inspectorate website

Comparative Analysis

The first ASF outbreak in pigs in 2022 occurred relatively late in the year. In the past, by June there had already been several outbreaks on farms. As in previous years, outbreaks are expected to peak during the summer.

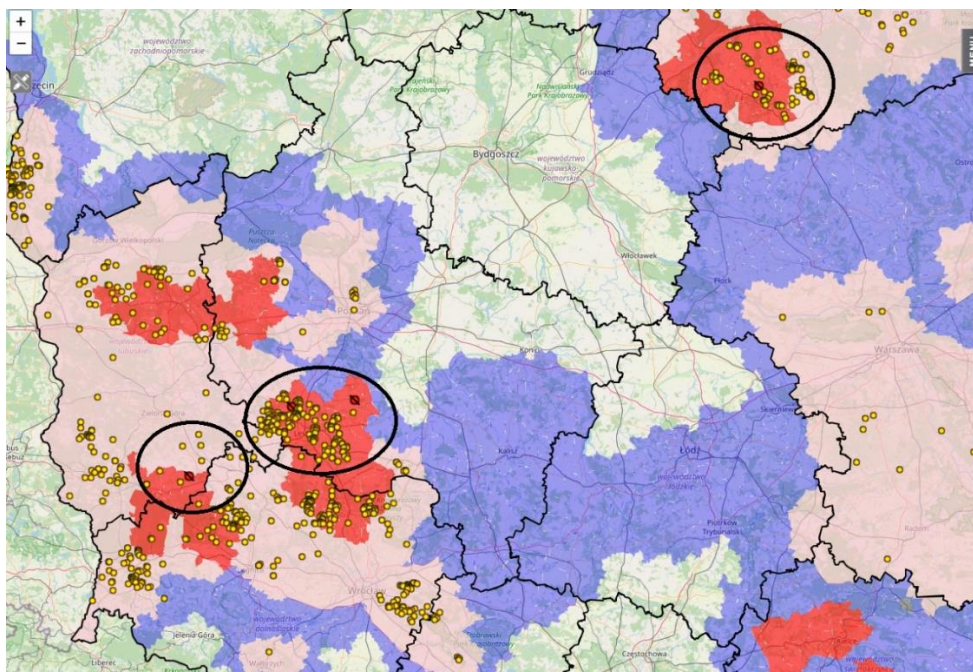
Graph 1. ASF Outbreaks in Pigs in 2019-2022, Monthly Data



Source: General Veterinary Inspectorate's data

For outbreak number 2022/1, the local veterinary service reported that several ASF-infected wild boars were found in the vicinity of the hog farm. Therefore, infection from wildlife cannot be ruled out. The other outbreaks were also located in the proximity of detected ASF-positive wild boars.

Map. 2. Location of ASF Outbreaks in Pigs and ASF Outbreaks in Wild Boars Confirmed in 2022, as of June 22, 2022



Red dots – ASF Outbreaks in Pigs

Yellow dots – ASF Outbreaks in Wild Boars

Source: General Veterinary Inspectorate website

ASF Outbreaks in Wild Boars in 2022

In 2022, the Polish Chief Veterinary Office reported 1,045 cases in wild boars through May 31, 2022. Almost 70 percent of the confirmed cases were in the western provinces, bordering with Germany, with the highest number in southwestern Dolnoslaskie province.

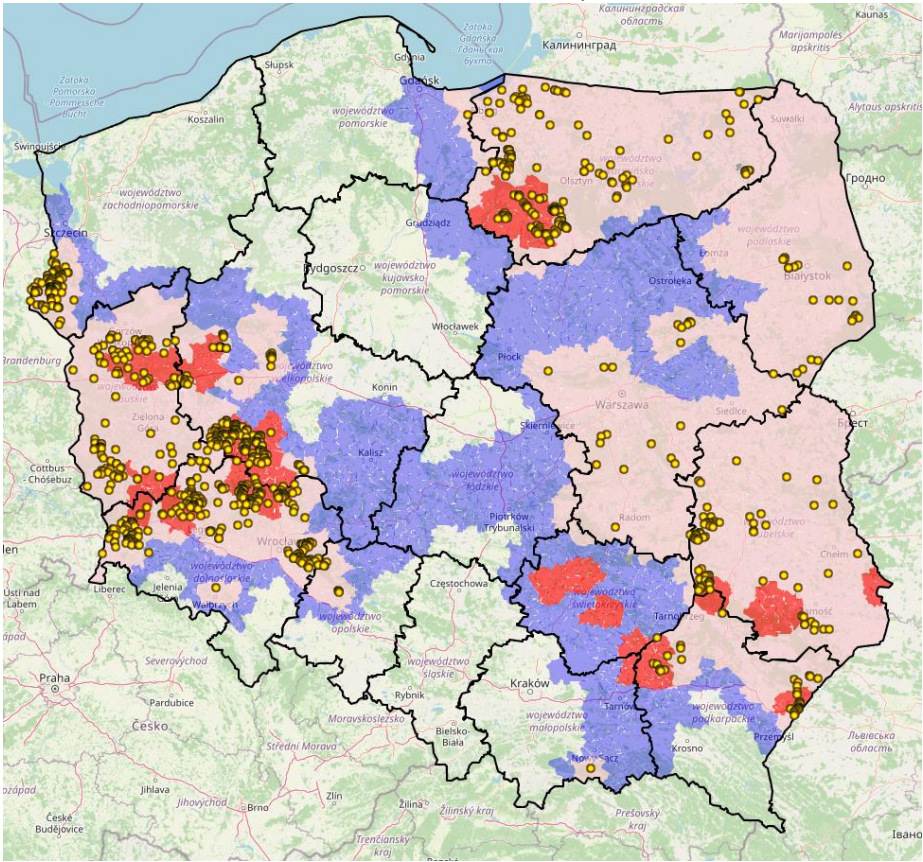
Table 1. ASF Outbreaks in Wild Boars in 2022, Broken Down by Polish Provinces

Province	Number of ASF outbreaks in wild boars	Number of ASF positive wild boars
TOTAL	1 045	1 396
dolnośląskie	308	379
kujawsko-pomorskie		
lubelskie	71	94
lubuskie	128	168
łódzkie		
małopolskie	1	1
mazowieckie	20	21
opolskie	8	15
podkarpackie	43	83
podlaskie	18	18
pomorskie	1	1
śląskie		
świętokrzyskie		
warmińsko-mazurskie	157	251
wielkopolskie	172	221
zachodniopomorskie	118	144

Source: General Veterinary Inspectorate

The map below shows EU regionalization and 2022 ASF outbreaks in wild boars, as of June 22, 2022.

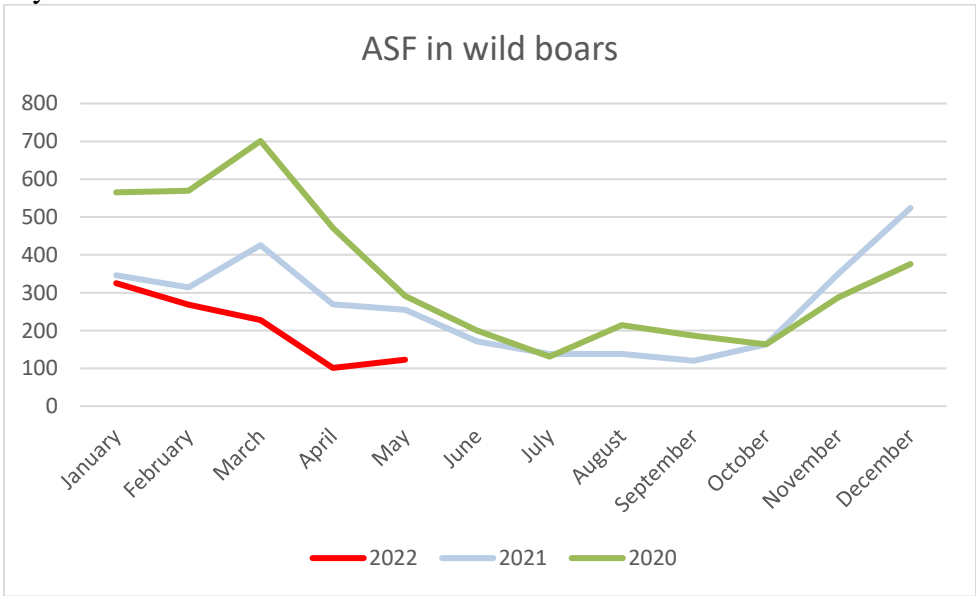
Map 3. ASF Outbreaks in Wild Boars in Poland as of June 22, 2022



Source: General Veterinary Inspectorate website

The number of 2022 ASF outbreaks in wild boars is lower than in the corresponding period (January-May) of 2021 and 2020.

Graph 2. Monthly ASF Outbreaks in Wild Boars in 2020-2022



Source: General Veterinary Inspectorate's monthly data on animal diseases; for May 2022 the data are preliminary and subject to change.

Impact on Pork Production

Wielkopolskie province is the largest pig producing region in Poland. In 2021, it accounted for 36.4 percent of the total Polish pig population. The province was first affected with ASF outbreaks in 2020, which led to a 12.8 percent reduction in the province's pig population in 2021 compared to 2020.

Lubuskie province and Warmińsko-mazurskie province are not major hog producing regions in Poland, accounting for one percent and 4.9 percent of the country's pig population, respectively.

However, it should be noted that the new outbreaks are located in the areas which had previously been restricted for porcine trade. With no new areas in Poland infected with the ASF virus, the pork industry situation remains stable.

Policy Measures

During the AGRIFISH Council held on June 13, 2022, the European Commission presented the "African swine fever: current situation and further actions" document. Member States agreed that (1) the disease should be considered a priority (2) joint and coordinated efforts should be made to limit its spread (3) work should continue on the development of an effective and safe vaccine against ASF, and (4) there should be further dialogue with stakeholders: the industry and hunters, as well as third countries, regarding recognition of the European policy on regionalization. Poland recommended that control measures emphasize the appropriate management of the wild boar population and high biosecurity on pig farms.

In order to incentivize biosecurity investments, the Polish government has proposed a new edition of the special assistance scheme to support farmers. From June 20-July 22, 2022, pig breeders may apply for a refund of up to 50 percent of expenditures incurred on biosecurity, including the following costs:

- purchase of disinfection mats;
- purchase of equipment to carry out disinfection, disinfestation, or deratization operations and of biocidal products, disinfestation, or deratization agents;
- purchase of protective clothing and footwear;
- protection of buildings where pigs are kept against access by pets;
- reconstruction or renovation of premises in order to keep pigs on a farm in separate enclosed premises with separate entrances and no direct passage to other premises where other ungulates are kept - in the case of farms where no more than 50 pigs are kept on average per year.

Since 2018, there have been several programs that have provided refunds for expenses incurred for biosecurity measures with total support reaching over PLN 72.3 million (\$16.2 million).

Attachments:

No Attachments.