

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: First Case of African Swine Fever Found in Wild Boars in Sweden

Country: Sweden

Post: The Hague

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Pest/Disease Occurrences

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Report Highlights:

The Swedish Veterinary Institute (SVA) announced it found African Swine Fever (ASF) in 13 dead wild boars. The Swedish swine sector is a minor exporter and holds only one percent of the swine herd in the European Union. The SVA is investigating how the virus spread to Sweden.

On September 7, 2023, the Swedish Veterinary Institute (SVA) announced the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in seven dead wild boars, the first ever in Sweden. On September 11, the SVA confirmed six new positive cases of ASF in wild boar carcasses. The positive samples were all found 145 km northwest of Stockholm. It's not clear how the ASF virus spread to Sweden. Currently, the SVA is searching a fenced area of about 1,000 km² for more dead wild boars and possible occurrences of ASF. Within this fenced area, all outdoor activities are prohibited, and all domestic pigs will have to be culled. So far, about 50 domestic swine of a local breed have been culled on a single farm. On the SVA website a [map](#) is available with the location of the SFA findings, which is updated daily.

The Swedish Swine Herd – Sweden is a Minor Player on the Global Market

The Swedish swine herd is estimated at about 1.4 million head (based on Eurostat December 2022 census), which is only one percent of the swine herd in the European Union (EU). With an export sales volume of 12,000 MT Carcass Weight Equivalent (CWE) of pork, only about five percent of the Swedish pork production is exported to third countries. New Zealand and South Korea are the main markets outside the EU. According the Swedish Meat Industry Association the following countries have banned pork imports from Sweden since the ASF outbreak: Armenia, Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Ukraine.

Situation in the EU – ASF is One of the Many Challenges

After its initial introduction in Poland and Lithuania in 2014, ASF continued its spread at a rate of about 1-2 km per month westwards (source SVA). In 2023, 14 EU MSs found ASF in wild boar and 10 MSs in domestic pigs, leaving little hope for the ASF situation in the EU to improve anytime soon. Backyard farming plays a significant role in the spread of ASF. More information about the current ASF situation in the EU is available in the latest [map](#) of the European Commission. So far, ASF has not been found in domestic swine in the main pork producing EU Member States in western Europe (Spain, France, the Netherlands, and Denmark), except for Germany. The spread of ASF is one of the many challenges swine farmers are facing in the EU. While carcass prices are currently at a record level, pork production is forecast to fall in 2023 and stagnate in 2024 due high input costs, dwindling domestic and export demand and an incessant flow of new requirements related to the Green Deal, the Veterinary Medicine Legislation, and the new EU Animal Welfare Legislative Roadmap. For more information see the upcoming [EU Livestock & Products Annual](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.