



ASF mission of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) to Poland (Remote mission)

(15-16 February 2022)



The TORs (as usual) and the TEAM

- The experts should provide scientific, technical, managerial and practical assistance on the spot on the refinement of the most suitable control and eradication measures for African swine fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards preparedness, surveillance and coordination efforts.
- The experts should report exclusively to the Commission services and the authorities of Italy. Continuous contact should be guaranteed between the team, the Commission services and authorities of Poland.
- The experts should provide a written report with conclusions and recommendations aimed to the competent authority. A report to the Commission and the Member States in the framework of the Standing Committee on Plant, Animal, Food and Feed should be delivered.
- The experts shall operate under the provisions laid down in Commission Decision 2007/142/EC and in particular based on the standard rules of procedure for groups of experts.
- **Team:** Sandra Blome (FLI); Martin Chudy (AHAW-SVFA)
Vittorio Guberti (ISPRA)

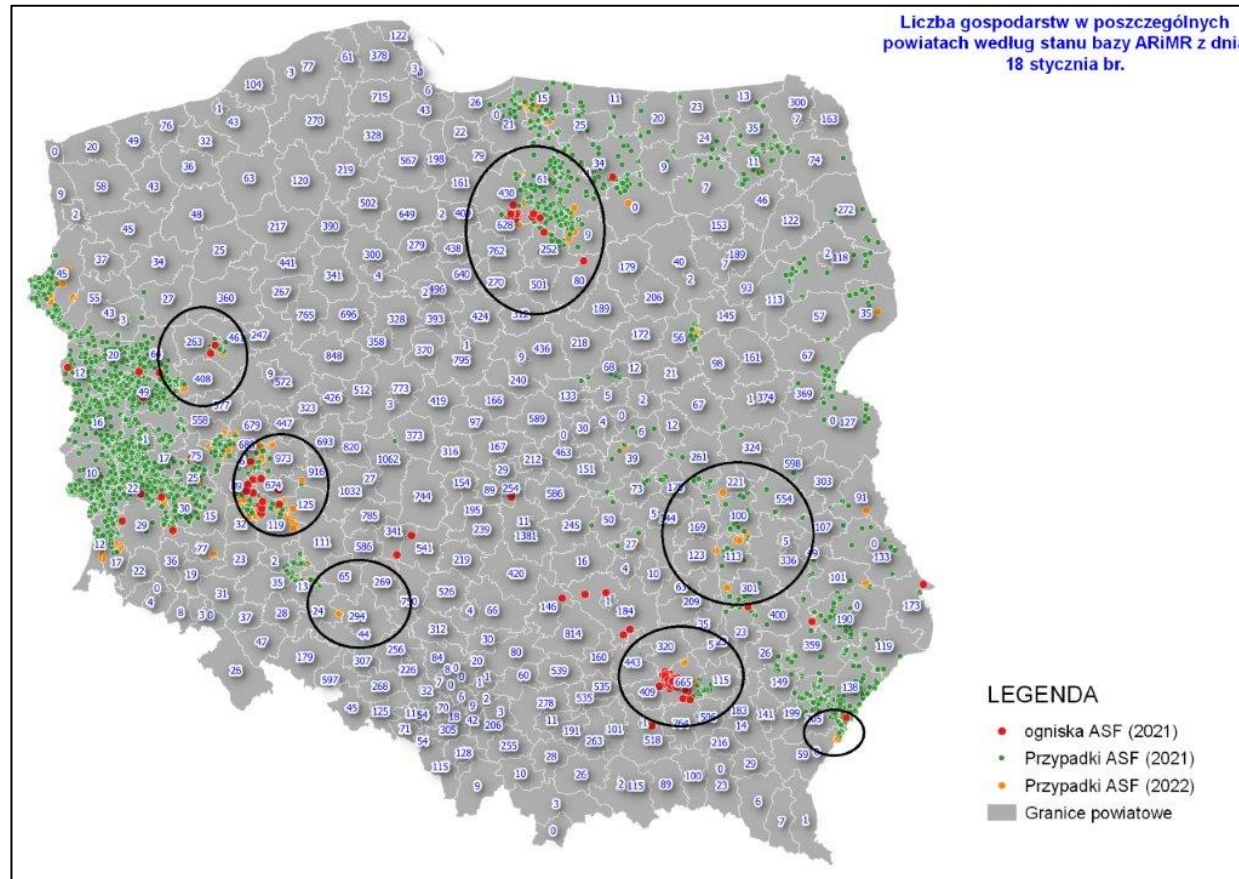


The ASF control strategy applied in Poland

- *Increasing hunting effort*
- *Active search and safe disposal of carcasses*
- *Opportunistic reporting of carcasses and their disposal*
- *Strict biosecurity measures in domestic pigs*
- *Strict biosecurity measures in wild boar*

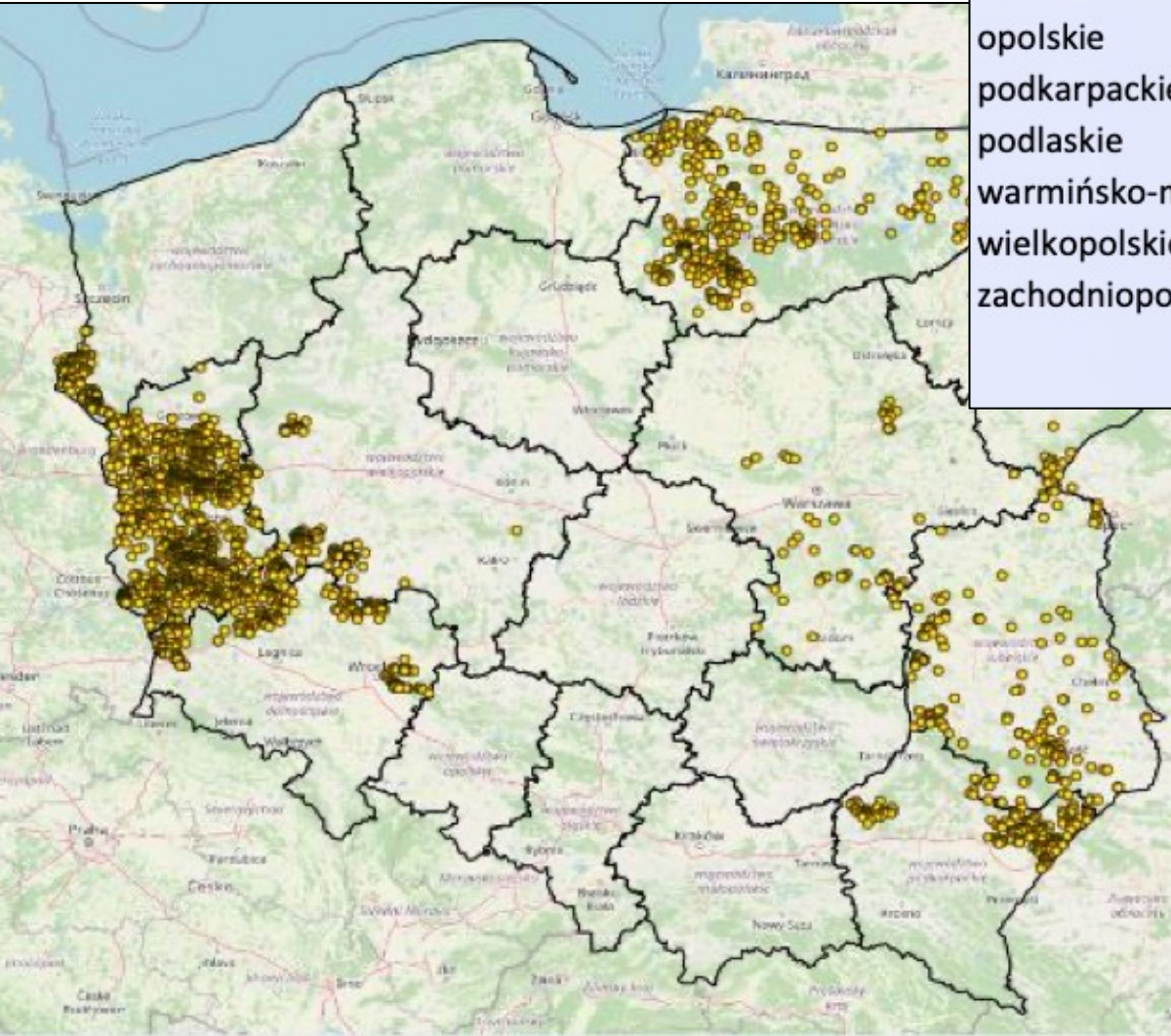


The wild boar is still the epidemiological reservoir





2021-31 January 2022



voivodeship	no. of outbreaks in WB	no. of WB positive
dolnośląskie	380	455
lubelskie	172	190
lubuskie	1496	2592
mazowieckie	64	89
opolskie	1	1
podkarpackie	201	309
podlaskie	57	67
warmińsko-mazurskie	442	548
wielkopolskie	234	234
zachodniopomorskie	167	220
summary	3214	4705

Hunting effort (all Poland)

Hunting Year	Hunted animals	Sanitary shooting	Effort	Efficency (wild boar/hunt)
2019-20	414822	62457	4594587	11,0
2020-21	380741	125491	5587750	14,7
2021-22	263004	131903	4394263	16,0

Active search of carcasses 2021

Voivodship	Number of conducted actions	Approximate size of the searched area (ha)	Total number of people participating in the search for fallen wild boars	Number of wild boars found (including those in decomposition)	Number of buried carcasses of wild boars in hard-to-reach places (pcs.)
Dolnośląskie	623	533 084	9 404	87	10
Lubuskie	5 171	6 179 210	237 312	1 429	0
Wielkopolskie	856	831 728	11 464	124	0
Zachodniopomorskie	123	60 188	1 508	98	0
whole country	14 114	12 911 892	344 771	1 920	98

Active search of carcasses 2022

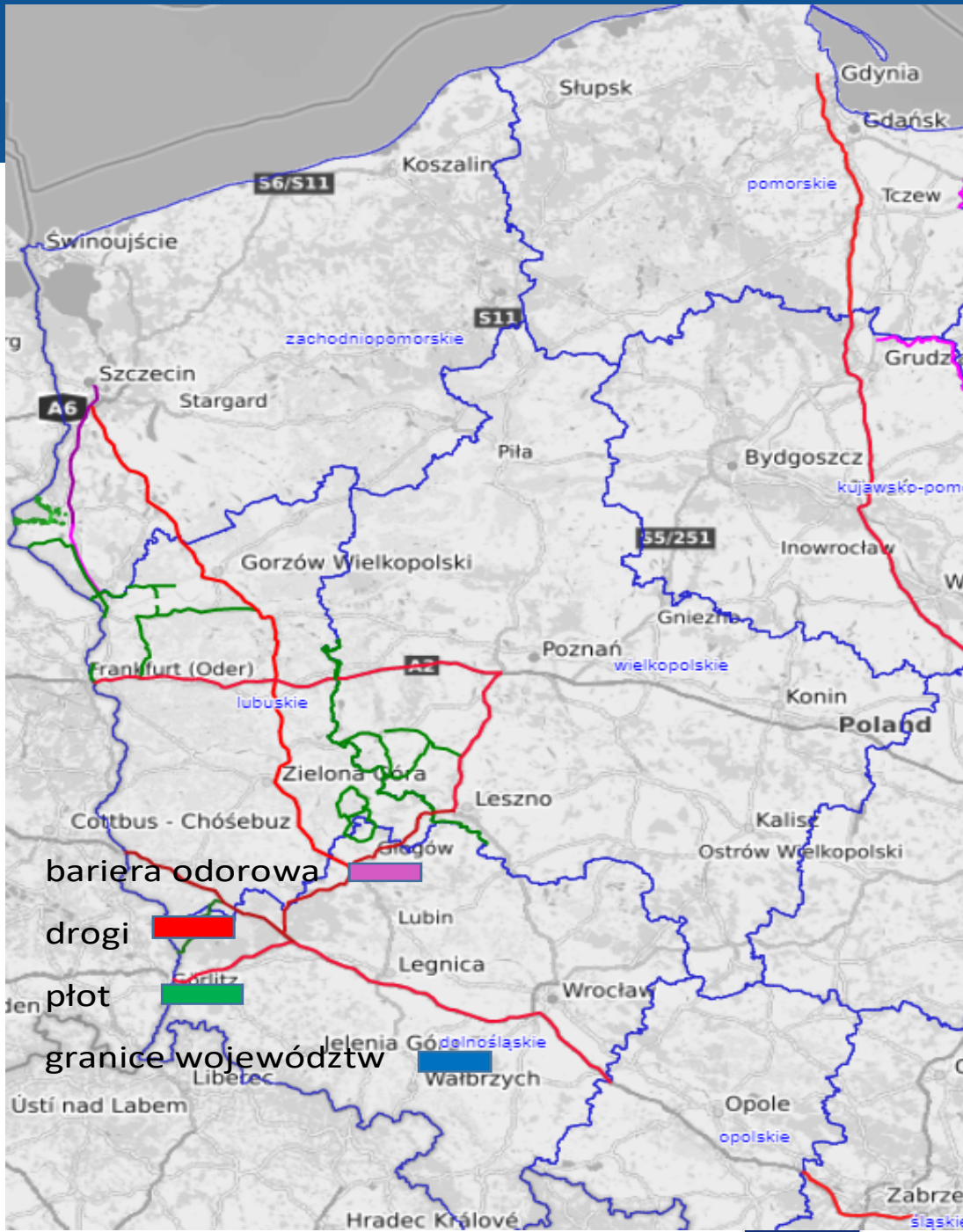
Voivodship	Number of conducted actions	Approximate size of the searched area (ha)	Total number of people participating in the search for fallen wild boars	Number of wild boars found (including those in decomposition)	Number of buried carcasses of wild boars in hard-to-reach places (pcs.)
Dolnośląskie	131	93 728	2 345	7	0
Lubuskie	579	527 945	20 679	20	0
Wielkopolskie	134	67 663	2 198	10	0
Zachodniopomorskie	4	254	48	0	0
whole country	1788	1 293 892	38 026	78	38

Wild Boar surveillance (Hunting year 2021-2022)

VOIVODESHIP	DEAD WILD BOARS		SHOT WILD BOARS		TRAPPED WILD BOARS	
	number of wild boars sampled	number of positive wild boars	with symptoms of the disease (passive monitoring)		with symptoms of the disease (passive monitoring)	
			number of shot wild boars sampled	number of positive wild boars	number of shot wild boars sampled	number of positive wild boars
dolnośląskie	1045	323	2	2	0	0
lubuskie	3169	2254	21	15	0	0
wielkopolskie	1240	198	2	1	0	0
zachodniopomorskie	797	183	1	1	0	0
Total	6251	2958	26	19	0	0

Lubuskie Calendar Year	ASF IN WILD BOAR		Zachodniopomorskie Rok	ASF u dzików	
	N. Outbreak in WILD BOAR	INVOLVEVED WILD BOAR		Liczba ognisk u dzików	Liczba dzików w ogniskach
2019	71	108	2020	7	8
2020	1251	2150	2021	167	220
2021	1496	2592	2022	49	62
2022	52	64	Razem	223	290
Razem	2870	4914			

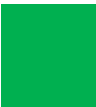
Wielkopolskie Rok	ASF u dzików		Dolnośląskie Rok	ASF u dzików	
	Liczba ognisk u dzików	Liczba dzików w ogniskach		Liczba ognisk u dzików	Liczba dzików w ogniskach
2019	11	32	2019	2	2
2020	167	408	2020	54	62
2021	234	234	2021	380	455
2022	79	92	2022	115	142
Razem	491	766	Razem	551	666



= Odour fence



= Fences along roads



= Fences



= Administrative boundaries

bariera odorowa

drogi

plot

granice województw

Findings

Huge effort done by Poland

A reduction of wild boar population through hobby hunting

Important financial incentives

Increased effort in active search of carcasses

An attempt to a more complex approach in controlling ASF in the western part of the Country (fences, odour fences etc.)

However

Poland registered an increased number of ASF cases in wild boar

The number of wild boar is still far from a possible threshold density that could determine the ASF eradication thorough a low wild boar density

The detected number of wild boar carcasses is 20% of expected one; hence too low to achieve eradication

Considerations

The actual size of the infected area in Poland is likely to prevent the eradication through a complex system of fences including white zones (areas $>20.000 \text{ km}^2$);

The epidemiological landscape appears determined by intermingling endemic areas where prevalence is not yet stabilised and areas still affected by epidemic waves;

This epidemiological landscape is undoubtedly determined by the long persistence of the virus and its large geographical spread.

Recommendation

Increasing the efficiency of the biosecurity measures applied both during wild boar hunting and in pig farming

Continuing to reduce the density of wild boar through sport hunting while financially subsidising the culling of certain age and sex groups;

It is important to follow the demographic evolution of the wild boar population, to check which age groups are most important in determining the final number as already done (young females become the major producers of young animals)

Maintain the existing system of fences in the western part of the Country and try to maximise its use in wild boar hunting programming;

The team considers that the effectiveness of odour fences is very low and therefore they should not play an important role in wild boar management programming;



To improve the effectiveness of passive surveillance, the team suggests that the active carcass search effort should be concentrated between the end of the winter hunting period and the start of new wild boar births;

From the point of view of African swine fever epidemiology, this is the period when infected carcasses play the most important epidemiological role in maintaining the endemicity of the virus;

Massive, concentrated disposal of carcasses during this period will be more feasible, sustainable and will also have a greater effect in reducing the probability of endemic persistence of the virus.



The team considers it essential that Poland cooperates with Germany in managing African swine fever on the border between the two states;

The team suggests that the two countries make every effort to take coordinated action to reduce the risk of further spread of African swine fever virus considering

1. the continuous flow of virus between the two countries;
2. the risk that African swine fever could increasingly spread to the west;

In such a context, the team recommends building a white zone on the border between the two states so that the geographical continuity of the wild boar population can be broken and thus facilitate the management of African swine fever.



Finally it is suggested that Germany and Poland, through their respective central laboratories, work towards a fruitful exchange of ASF viral isolates and methodologies in order to better understand the epidemiology of African swine fever both in the area and across Europe.



Thank you for your attention!

The working atmosphere during the whole mission was very good.

The colleagues from Poland gave all their support and assistance to facilitate a fruitful mission.

The EUVET rapporteurs wish to thank all colleagues for their support and help given during the whole remote mission.