



# Better Training for Safer Food *Initiative*

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**Managing wild boar population...**

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# BTSEF

**Prague, Czech Republic 25-27 October 2017**

# Content

- Some aspects of wild boar biology / reproduction
- Factors affecting wild boar population size
- Effectiveness of targeted hunting
- Baiting vs supplementary feeding
- Effectiveness of feeding/ baiting controls

# Something about wild boar biology

- Female maturity ~ at 15 months of age
- In Nord Europe - usually one litter per year (5-7 piglets)
- Piglets born in April-May

# Impact of the supplementary feeding and global warming to the population

- Female maturity ~ even at 8-10 months of age
- Two litters per year!
- Piglets born in April-May and August-September

AND.....

Wild boar population is growing very fast!!!

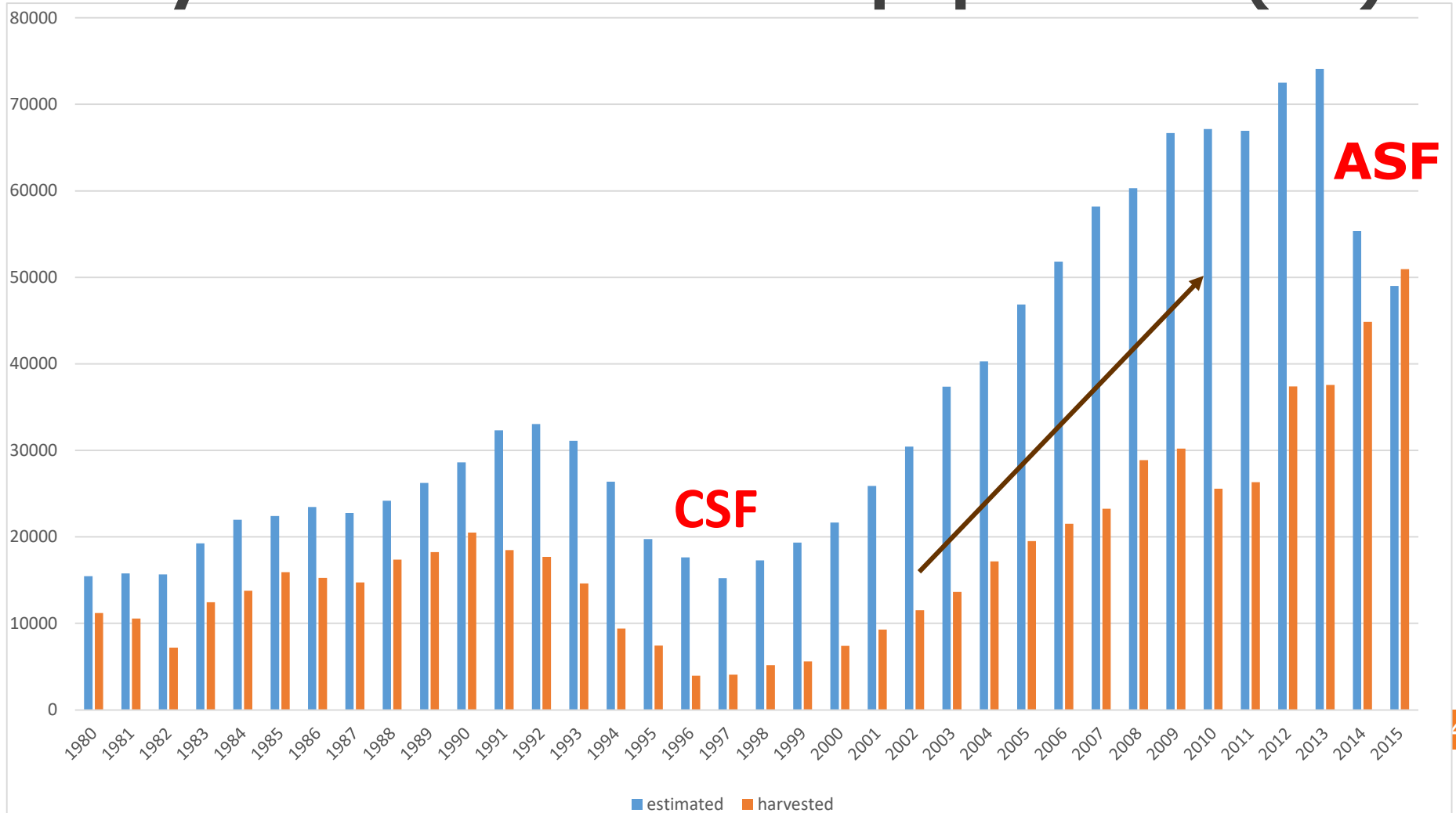
...even in Baltic region!!!





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# Dynamics of wild boar population (LV)



# Factors affecting population size

- **Natural mortality** – up to 20-30% (mostly piglets)
- **ASF, CSF or other epidemics...**
- **Hunting:**
  - Driven hunting (most efficient way to hunt wild boar)
  - Targeted (selective: sub-adult and adult female) hunting (most efficient way to reduce the population)
- **Supplementary feeding** – helps to sustain and increase the population

# What is stated by ASF strategy?

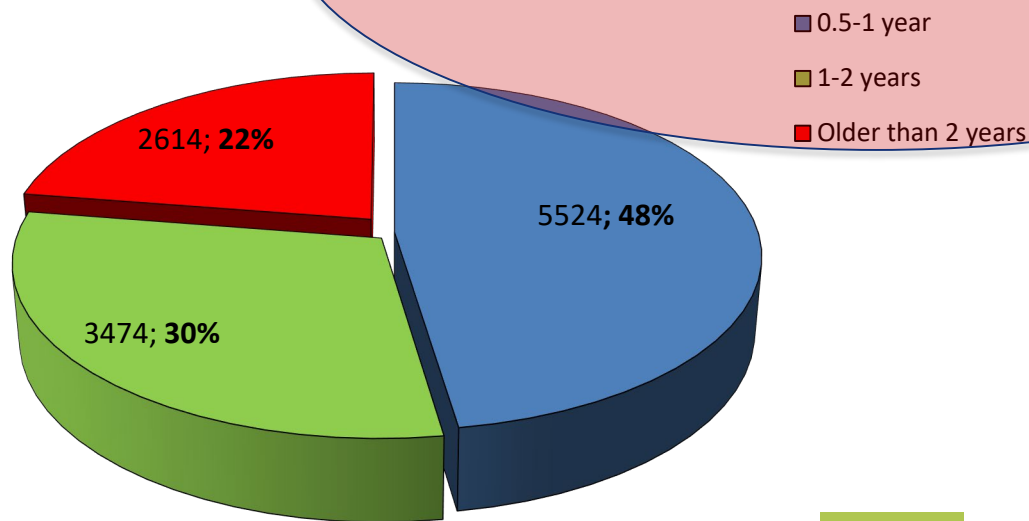
**ASF Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU** SANTE/7113/2015-Rev 7  
[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad\\_control\\_measures\\_asf\\_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control_measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf)

- Sustained feeding of wild boar is prohibited.
- Targeted hunting is encouraged in order to target adult and sub-adult females.
- The overall hunting bag should be balanced between male and females (50% each). Priority in reaching quotas should be given to adult and sub-adult females.

# Effectiveness of targeted hunting (initial results) LV

**Targeted female hunting** – 11 642 female wild boar hunted during the period of November 2015-March 2016

Compensation to hunters for each adult and sub-adult female wild boar hunted was 100 EUR



Program reactivated in September, 2016.

**4111 female wild boar hunted during 4 months**

Compensation to hunters for each adult and sub-adult female wild boar – 50 EUR



# Effectiveness of targeted hunting (preliminary conclusions) LV

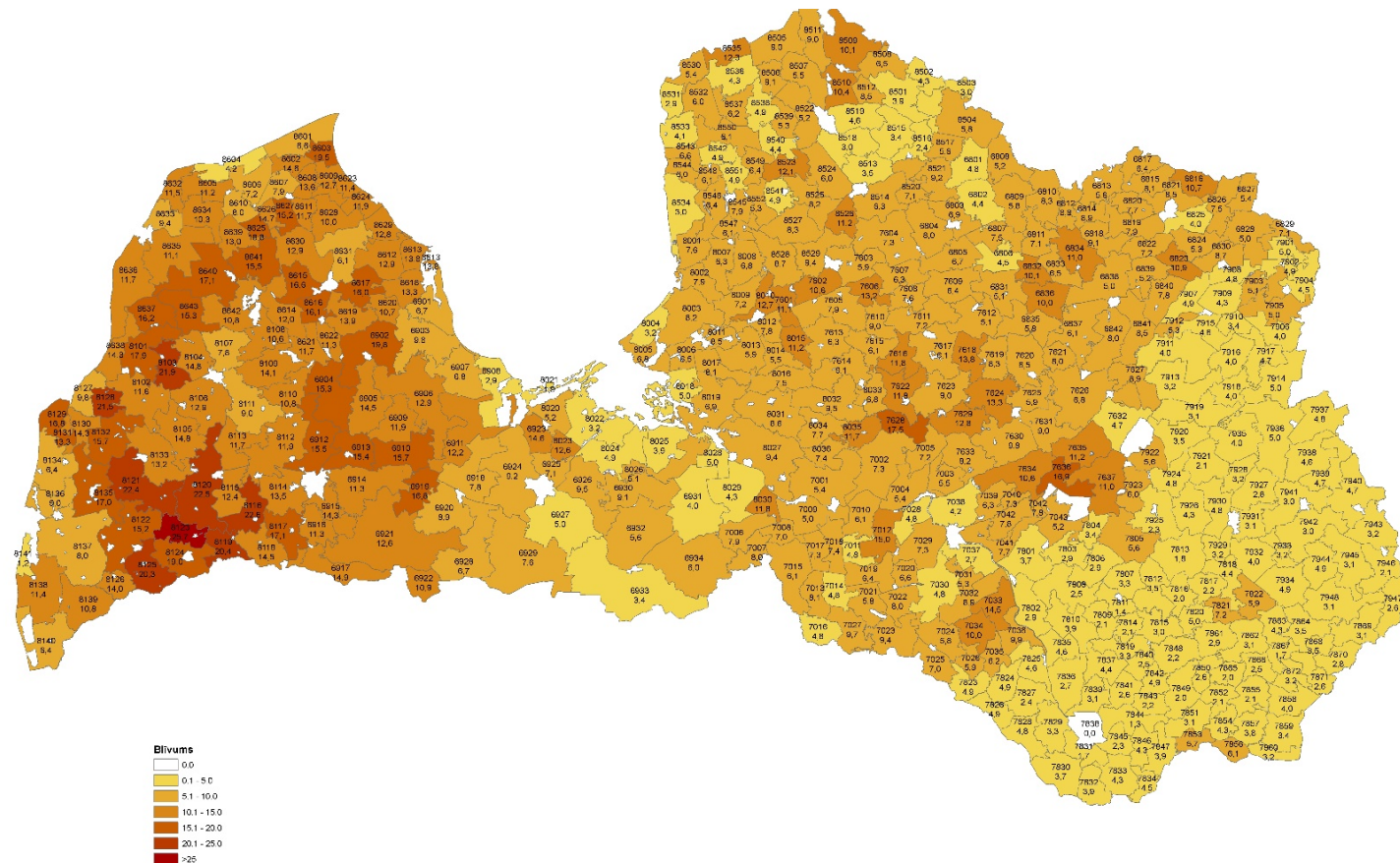
## Targeted female hunting:

- ✓ Hunters have to accept this measure!!!
- ✓ does not work without motivation;
- ✓ is very expensive measure;
- ✓ Cannot reach the effectiveness in a short term (one hunting season)
- ✓ Could be effective/cost effective in mid/long term (3-5 hunting seasons)
- ✓ Better to be done as a preventive measure!!!



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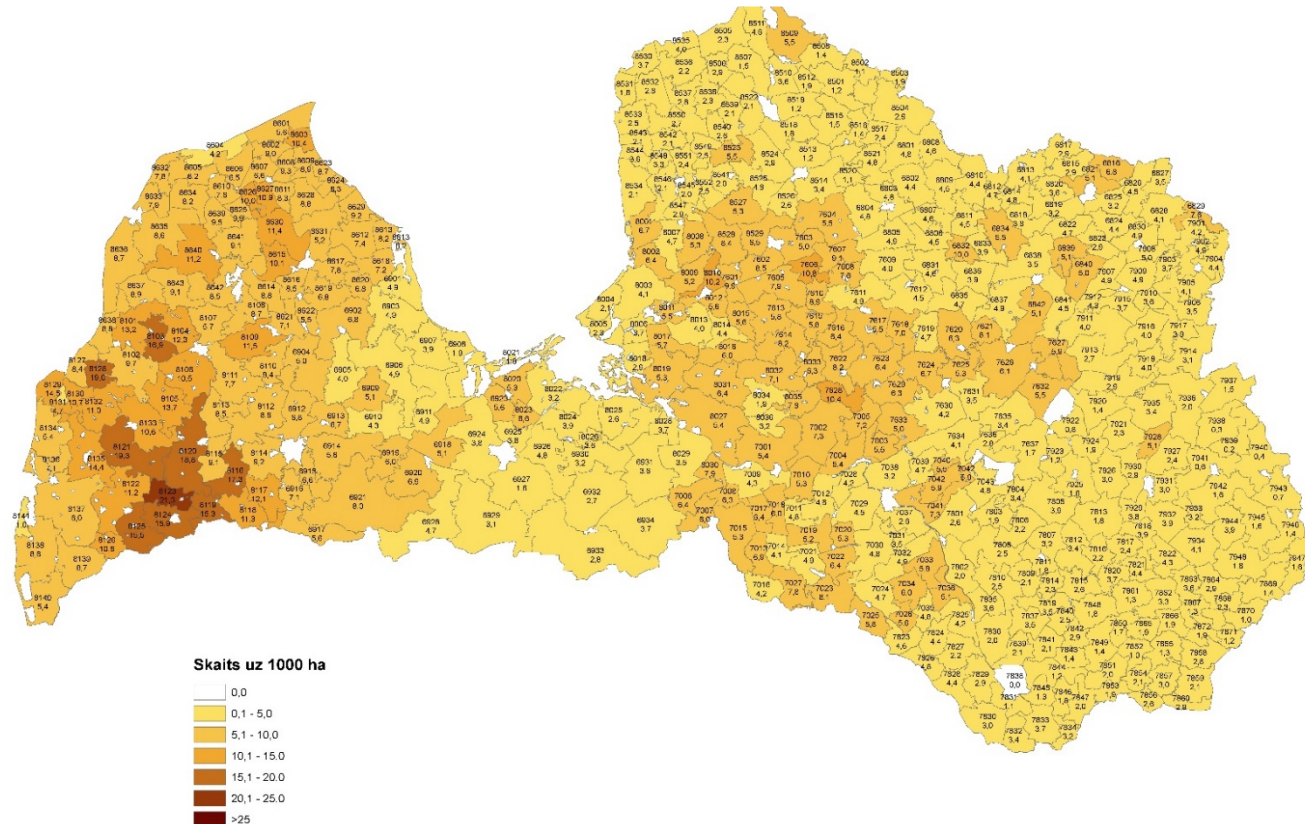
# Wild boar density 2014/2015 (LV)





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# Wild boar density 2015/2016 (LV)





# Baiting or supplementary feeding?



# Supplementary feeding: why not?

- «Free ranging farm in the forest»
- concentration of the large number of animals
- Could be the source of infectious agents and parasites
- Unnecessary increase of the susceptible population - hunters cannot hunt / manage so many animals...

# Baiting vs supplementary feeding

## ASF Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU

SANTE/7113/2015-Rev 7

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad\\_control-measures\\_asf\\_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf)

**Baiting:** (non-sustaining feeding of wild boar): Attracting of wild boar with limited food (e.g. maize) only for the purpose of hunting. The maximum amount of food should not exceed 10kg/km<sup>2</sup>/month. Baiting should not, in any case, represent a source of feeding wild boar for sustaining the population during winter.

# How do we understand the baiting?



Photo: Ivars Koloda (LV)



# Effectiveness of baiting controls

- The purpose of controls: to check whether the baiting is really baiting (amount of the **feed** used)!
- These are not veterinary controls but they are very important
- Clear competence and responsibilities (Competent authority defined)
- National legislation is essential
- Sanctions (penalty, restrictions on hunting, reduction of licenses given etc.) need to be foreseen



# Effectiveness of the baiting controls

How to organize these controls:

1. Planned controls (complex controls including other areas as hygiene, hunting etc.) – predefined frequency
2. Repeated controls (to check whether problem is solved)
3. Extraordinary controls – based on complaints, etc.

# Feeding places for other species

**Feeding places/devises for other species:** (e.g. wild ruminants): Such feeding places for wild ruminants should not be accessible for wild boar. If possible only food should be used which is not attractive for wild boar (e.g. hay).





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