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Veterinary Service
Republic of Latvia

ASF control in domestic pigs: Latvian experience

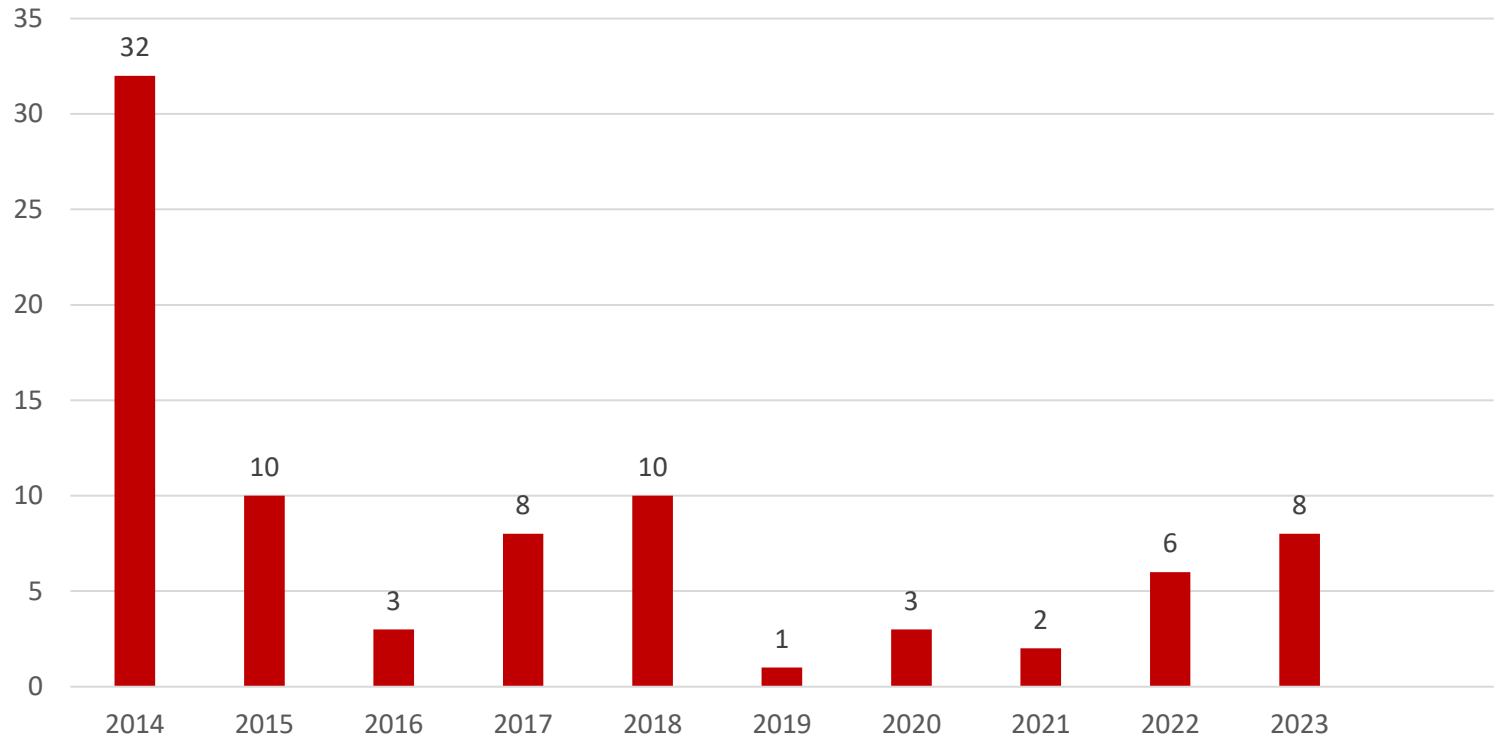
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Brussels
31.08.2023



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ASF outbreaks in Latvia (2014-2023)

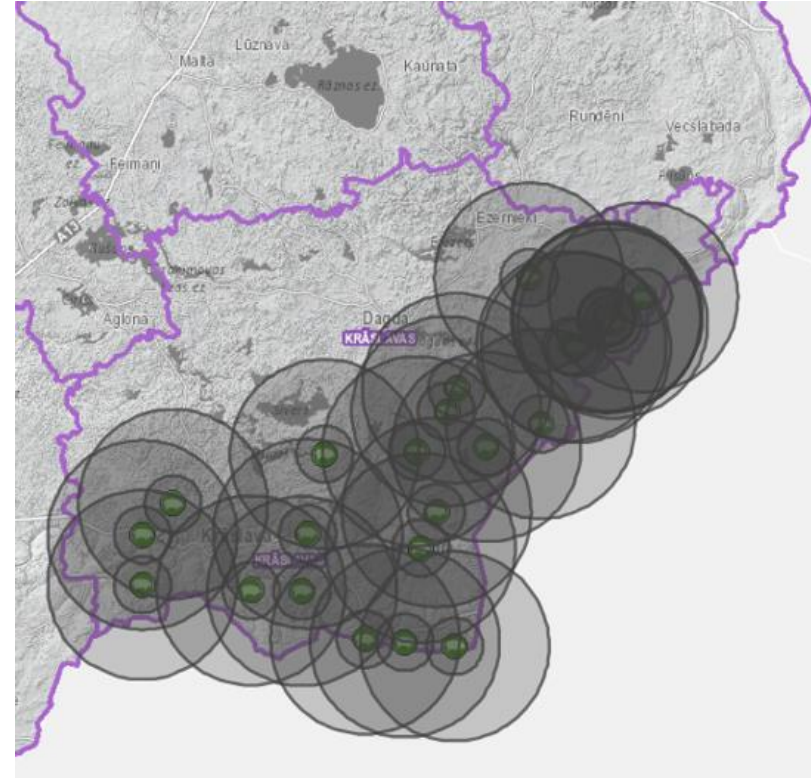
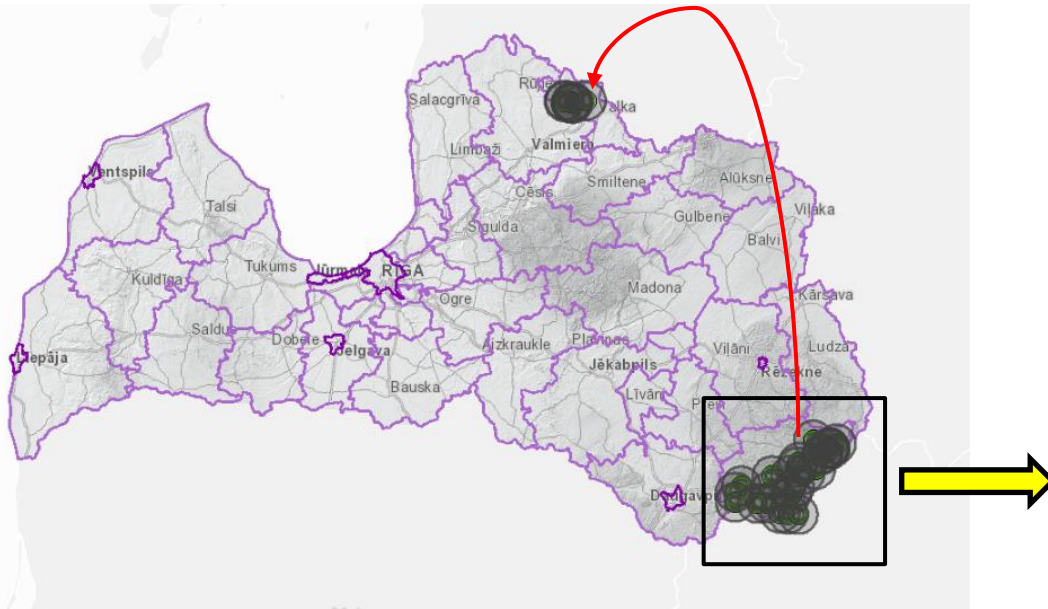


- 81 outbreaks in domestic pigs
- About 53 000 pigs culled and disposed
- Almost all outbreaks detected in areas with ASF infected wild boars



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Beginning: ASF outbreaks in 2014



- 32 outbreaks (incl. 4 secondary) in domestic pigs in 11 weeks
- Mostly backyards and small farms - 564 pigs culled



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ASF outbreaks in 2014: Challenges

- No legal biosecurity requirements in place
- Large number of backyard pig farms
- Many outbreaks in domestic pigs in a short time / area
- Wild boar cases in same areas / carcass collection and disposal
- Human resources and management
- Financial resources for ASF control
- No rendering plant in the country



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ASF outbreaks in 2014: Initial actions

- Rapid work on biosecurity requirements (legislation)
- Immediate support from EU – EUVET expert mission
- Concentration of human resources (from other areas)
- Definition of «clean» and «dirty» official veterinarians
- State Emergency situation in the infected areas
- Additional financial / human resources
- Massive awareness campaign and biosecurity inspections
- Pre-emptive slaughter of pigs
- EU technical support and co-financing



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ASF outbreaks in 2014: Pre-emptive slaughter of pigs

- All pig farms that cannot implement biosecurity measures (within 30 days)
- The aim – quickly reduce unprotected susceptible population (pig farms) & therefore reduce the number of new outbreaks
- Home slaughter – veterinary control – owner keep the meat, get compensation and cannot keep new pigs at least 12 months
- As a result, ~6000 pigs were slaughtered within few months (in 1600 farms)



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First ASF outbreak in commercial farm: winter 2017



Breeding pig farm:

- In total ~ 5000 pigs
- Incl. ~ 2000 sows
- Suspicion 12 January
- 6 sows dead
- Confirmation 13 January
- all 6 positive to ASF virus

Is that early detection?

Epidemiological investigation (assisted by EUVET team) revealed:

- First dead sow was recorded 3 weeks before suspicion date
- 10 dead sows were recorded within 3 weeks period
- Testing of these 10 dead pigs were not performed (no suspicion)



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First ASF outbreak in commercial farm: winter in 2017

Open Access

Berl Münch Tierärztl Wochenschr
DOI 10.2376/0005-9366-18031

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Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
ISSN 0005-9366

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Eingegangen: 12.03.2018
Angenommen: 18.06.2018

Online first: 22.10.2018
[http://vetline.de/open-access/
158/3216/](http://vetline.de/open-access/158/3216/)

Case report/Fallbericht

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African swine fever outbreak investigations in a large commercial pig farm in Latvia: a case report

Untersuchungen eines Ausbruchs der Afrikanischen Schweinepest in einem großen kommerziellen Schweinebestand in Lettland: ein Fallbericht

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Recommendation to improve early detection - enhanced passive surveillance:

Breeding farms: every dead sow and boar must be tested (PCR)

Fattening farms: each week first 2 dead pigs must be tested (PCR)

Included in EU Guidelines and COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/594

How to ensure effective ASF control in pig farms in the infected country?

1. Pig farm registration, pig identification and movement control
2. Adequate biosecurity requirements in place (*national legislation*)
3. Regular inspections to pig farms
4. Good established surveillance system for ASF early detection:
 - a) Reporting suspected cases,
 - b) At least the first two dead kept porcine animals over the age of 60 days or, in the absence of such dead animals over the age of 60 days, on any dead kept porcine animals after weaning, in each epidemiological unit.
5. Regular awareness campaigns for pig keepers
6. Contingency plan & Effective outbreak eradication



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Thank you for your attention!