



African Swine fever. Experience

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What is Hunting? Just a Hobby?



What is hunting?

There are around **7 MILLION** hunters just in the EU, not counting Russia, Belorussia, Moldova and other countries.



What is hunting?

Hunters do it voluntarily – to lead a certain lifestyle.

They pay – taxes to the state, pay for hunting rights, pay for licenses etc



SYSTEM

- Hunting club
- Responsibility for damages – agriculture and forestry (car accidents)
- Hunting rights cost quite a lot (depending on the country – 500 euro to 50 000 euro)





Characteristics of Hunters



Closed group that has been attacked for years, so the hunters become very protective in dealing with authorities:

- Groundless bans
- Accusations in illegal shooting, though hunters condemn all illegal activities
- The necessity constantly prove the legitimacy of the practices



Characteristics of Hunters



FIRST REACTION to African Swine Fever:

- Disbelief
- Different unrealistic theories
- Underestimation of the risks, ignoring the facts
- Hiding evidence
- Even anger

Hunters Have to Change their Perspective



Photo: Linda Dombrovskā

Now They See This:

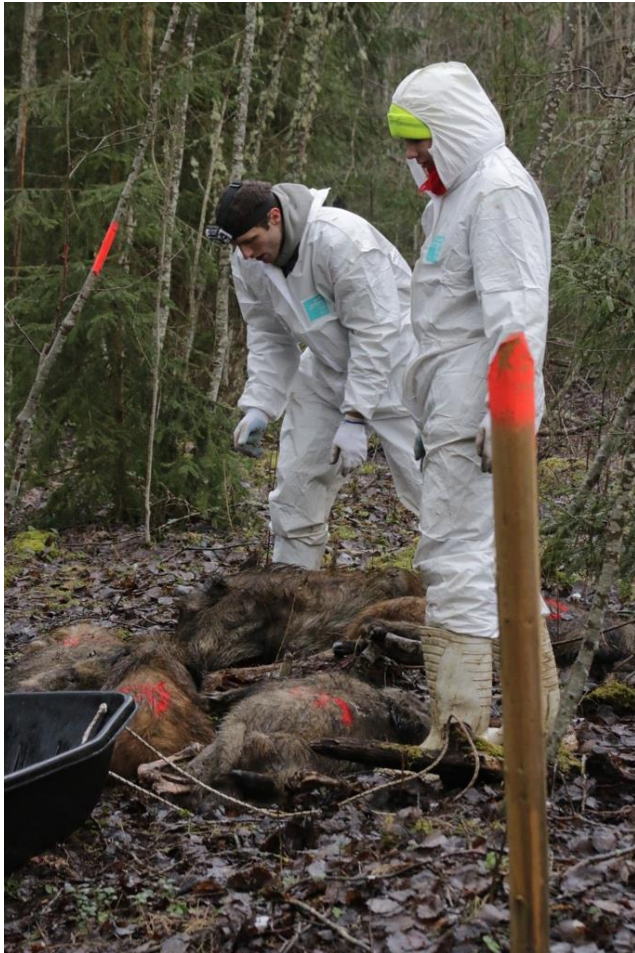




Driven Hunt Ban in 2014/2015 in ½ of Latvia caused by RED DEER and MOOSE. Due to lack of disturbance.

Increase to forest damage by 200%

We were not ready!



Photos: Linda Dombrovská



First Lesson – Working Together





Hunters ARE the Eyes and Ears in the Field





Hunting is Big Responsibility





Wild Boar Important Part of a System



Take out one part of the system – the whole system collapses and we face problems we could not even anticipate!



Since 2014 wild boar number have gone down 4x

From 74000 -> around 19000 now



Wild Boar Important Part of a System



- What will happen with large carnivores – protected species in the EU, as 60% of wolf menu have been wild boar
- Cases of poaching as wild boar have been a very available game

Real Face of ASF







Solving Problems

- Limited funds both for new research, for example, more understanding of behavior of wild boar in infected areas
- Financial motivation has worked very well in Latvia in certain situations
- Requirements throughout the EU should be understandable, logical and clear



Photo: Linda Dombrovska

Solving Problems

- Different hunting traditions, different laws, different priorities of hunting management
- NOT ONE SOLUTION FOR ALL SITUATIONS
- HUNTERS HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, TO HELP
- LISTEN TO HUNTERS' OBSERVATIONS – how do boar behave in infected areas???



Photo: Linda Dombrovskā



Thank you!

