

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary _ Public

Date: 6/21/2018

GAIN Report Number: RO1805

Romania

Post: Bucharest

ASF Hits a New Romanian County

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Approved By:

Jonn Slette

Prepared By:

Monica Dobrescu

Report Highlights:

Romania's Veterinary Authority confirmed that in June 2018, African swine fever (ASF) was detected in a backyard swine herd in Tulcea County in the southeastern region of the country. The Romanian Veterinary Authority applied immediate disease control measures in response. Romania's first ASF cases were first detected in August 2017 in backyard holdings and among wild boars in the northwestern region of the country. To date, no commercial operations have been affected.

General Information:

In early June 2018, ASF was detected in the samples collected from smallholder swine farms in several villages, in Tulcea County (see diagram below), about half a kilometer from the Ukrainian border.

Romania's Institute for Diagnostics and Animal Health confirmed ASF on June 10, 2018, prompting the Romanian Veterinary Authorities to implement immediate control measures. Six total detections were reported in Tulcea County, resulting in five disease-related deaths and 21 cullings by Veterinary Service officials.

While the vector(s) of these most recent ASF detections remains unknown, ASF-contaminated food products shipped from Ukraine are blamed for earlier Romanian detections, notably in Satu-Mare County near the borders with Hungary and Ukraine. Following confirmation of ASF, the European Commission approves specific regionalization measures for trading partners to adopt a regionalization approach. Some countries, notably China, impose blanket national bans on pork products regardless of the outbreak's location. For Romania, pork meat exports fell during the first quarter of 2018 by almost half (5,526 MT) from the same timeframe in 2017, mostly because of Chinese restrictions. To date, ASF in Romania is still limited to smallholder backyard herds or wild boars and no commercial operations have been affected.

