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Date: 1/25/2018

GAIN Report Number: RO1802

Romania

Post: Bucharest

New Romanian African Swine Fever Detection

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

Romania's Veterinary Authority confirmed a second detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in a backyard herd of domestic pigs. Subsequent laboratory results confirmed that 34 pigs were affected by the disease. The Romanian Veterinary Service immediately implemented disease control measures.

General Information:

On January 11, 2018, Romania's Institute for Diagnostics and Animal Health detected ASF in a backyard holding in Romania's northwestern Micula locality. The detection site is located about 30 km from the town of Satu-Mare, where Romania's first ASF detection was confirmed in August 2017, near the Hungarian and Ukrainian borders. The Romanian Veterinary Service culled 13 pigs from the affected backyard holding. Since mid-December, 21 additional pigs from this herd also died from ASF-related symptoms.

The primary vector of ASF in the region is wild boars, whose cross-border movements are difficult to control. Contaminated food is another potential source of infection. To date, the Romanian Veterinary Service has not made any public statements about the source of infection for this particular outbreak and an epidemiological investigation is currently underway.

In response to this disease confirmation, the Romanian Veterinary Service took the following actions:

- Collected samples for laboratory analysis,
- Restricted movements of infected animals,
- Culled infected animals and incinerated the remains,
- Disinfected all pig barns, alleys, fenced perimeters, feeders, and any other potentially contaminated objects in the holding areas,
- Surveyed all swine herds within proximity of the detection site, and
- Established protection and surveillance programs in the vicinity around the detection site.

The informal swine sector continues to be a remains a significant part of Romania's rural economy. According to a December 2017 Agricultural Survey published by the National Institute of Statistics, about 55 percent of all Romanian hogs, as of the end of 2016, were held by back-yard producers. This marks a decline of only one-percentage from three years ago. Out of the total swine inventory of 4.143 million hogs, 1.865 million hogs (45 percent) belong to commercial farms.