

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: African Swine Fever Situation in Poland

Country: Poland

Post: Warsaw

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Livestock and Products, Pest/Disease Occurrences

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Report Highlights:

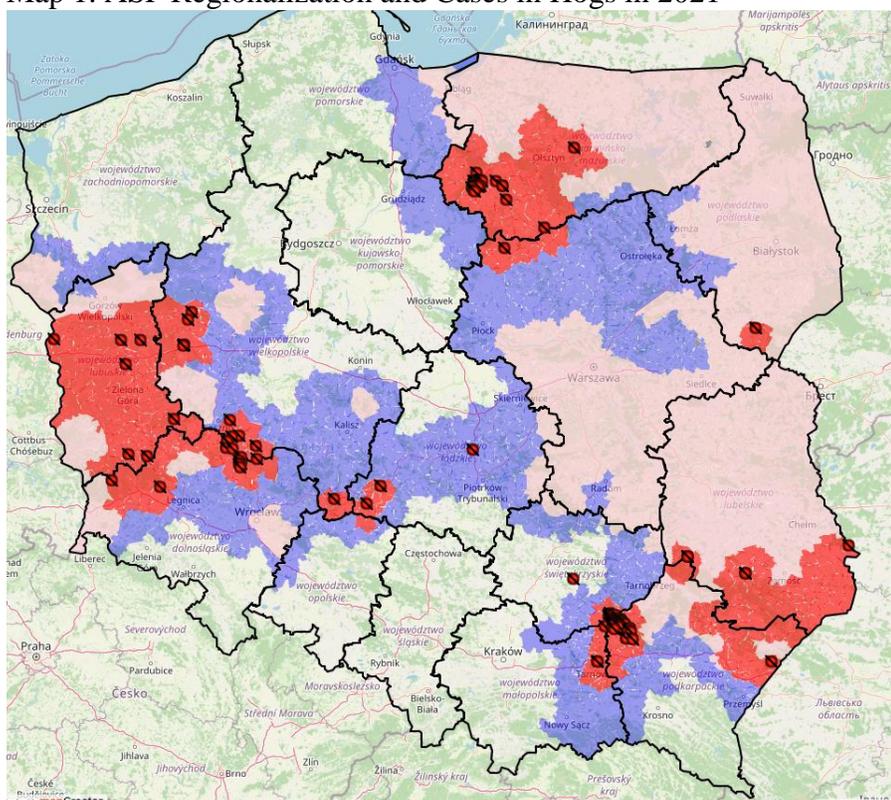
From January 1, 2021, through October 29, Poland's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) officially notified 119 African swine fever (ASF) outbreaks on hog farms and 2,278 cases among wild boars. In 2021, the virus has affected mainly smallholder hog farms located in the Podkarpackie and in the Warmia-Mazury Provinces in eastern Poland. Polish veterinary authorities implemented the recommended protection and surveillance protocols to contain the outbreaks.

General Information

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

From January 1, 2021, through October 29, Poland's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) officially notified 119 African swine fever (ASF) outbreaks on hog farms and 2,278 cases among wild boars. As in previous years, the summer months saw a significant uptick in ASF outbreaks, mainly on smallholder hog farms located in the Podkarpackie and in the Warmia-Mazury provinces in eastern Poland (Map 1). These confirmed cases were mostly on farms in areas already listed as implementing special control measures for ASF in the Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605. However, in 2021 to date, three new provinces, Małopolskie, Łódzkie, and Świętokrzyskie, were covered by ASF restrictions due to virus detections on hog farms. Veterinary authorities implemented all recommended protocols to contain and control the disease by establishing protection and surveillance zones around the farms and in the immediate area.

Map 1. ASF Regionalization and Cases in Hogs in 2021

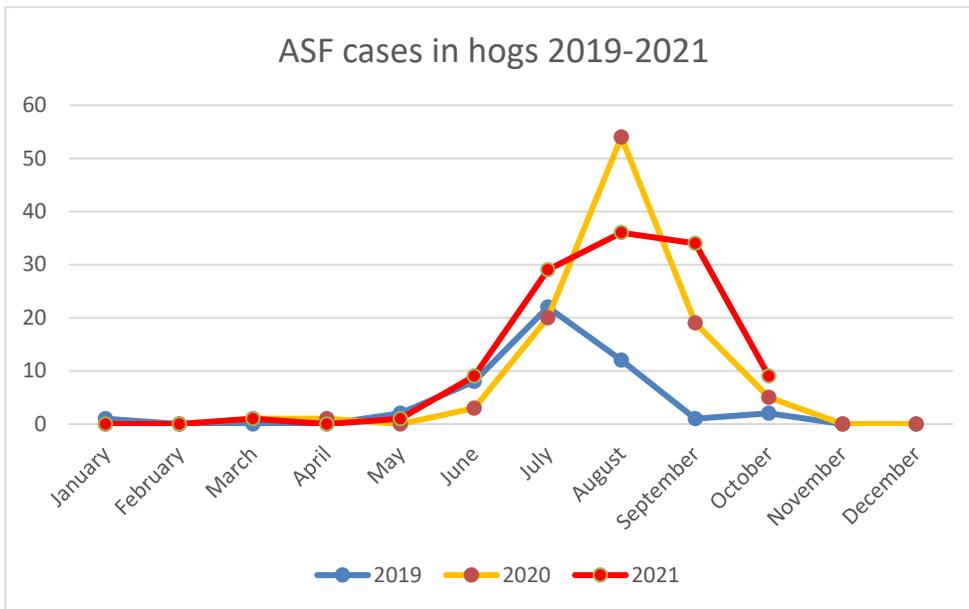


Source: Interactive map published by the GVI, as of October 29, 2021

ASF Cases in Hogs

ASF cases in hogs usually increase during the summer months, but in 2021, to date, the virus has persisted longer on farms as significantly more cases have been confirmed in September and October (Graph 1).

Graph 1. Monthly Number of ASF Cases in Hogs



Source: Reports on ASF outbreaks published by the General Veterinary Inspectorate (GVI)

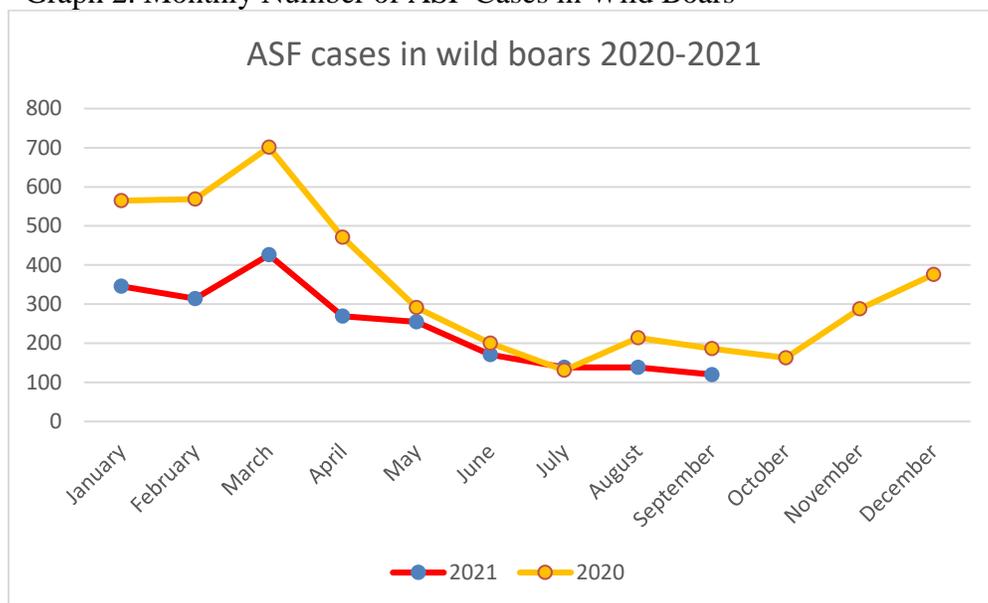
In 2021, to date, most outbreaks are noted in the Podkarpackie (55) and in the Warmia-Mazury (18) provinces in eastern Poland. Podkarpackie province (south-east of Poland) is not a significant pig production area, but it is characterized by small scale farms. According to the Regional Veterinary Officer in Krosno, by the end of September 2021, out of 44,000 animals kept in Podkarpackie region, almost 7,000 animals were culled to eliminate outbreaks and as preventive slaughter within 1 km from the outbreaks. The Veterinary Service explained that the spread of ASF in domestic hogs is naturally caused by the presence of the disease in the wild boar population, but the unfavorable structure of farms additionally increases the risk. Risk factors include keeping pigs in compact housing, ongoing intensive field work, and the increased movement of people.

According to the CVO, however, the general ASF situation is better than last year, despite the higher number of ASF outbreaks in hog farms (119 in 2021 so far, as compared to 103 in 2020). As noted by the CVO, in 2021 the disease has affected mostly smallholder farms, which generally practice minimal biosecurity measures. As per official data, 57.1 percent of outbreaks in 2021 were noted on farms keeping up to 50 pigs, while big farms, with over 1,000 pigs, constitute only 5.9 percent of all outbreaks. In 2020, in comparison, 7.8 percent of ASF outbreaks were on farms keeping over 1,000 pigs. Additionally, in 2020, a total of almost 57,000 hogs were culled in 103 ASF outbreaks, while in 2021, to date, a total of over 41,500 hogs were culled in 119 ASF outbreaks.

ASF Cases in Wild Boars

The monthly ASF rate among wild boars (Graph 2) also indicates a seasonal detection of the virus, with a peak in winter months, as opposed to ASF outbreaks on farms. In the first nine months of 2021, there were 31 percent less ASF cases in wild boars notes than in the same period of 2020.

Graph 2. Monthly Number of ASF Cases in Wild Boars



Source: Monthly report on notifiable animal diseases published by the GVI

As of October 29, 2021, the CVO reports confirmed 2,278 cases of ASF-positive wild boars, 69 percent of them in the western provinces bordering Germany.

Table 1. ASF Cases in Wild Boars in 2021, Regional Distribution

Province	No. of ASF cases in wild boars
TOTAL	2 278
dolnośląskie	155
kujawsko-pomorskie	
lubelskie	125
lubuskie	1 285
łódzkie	
małopolskie	
mazowieckie	48
opolskie	
podkarpackie	159
podlaskie	37
pomorskie	
śląskie	
świętokrzyskie	
warmińsko-mazurskie	306
wielkopolskie	41
zachodniopomorskie	122

Source: GVI data

According to the CVO, intensive hunting and searches for corpses of wild boars in Poland were hampered last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the 2021 campaign was more successful and led to a lower presence of the ASF virus in the environment. However, the wild boar population remains high and the intensive sanitary shootings need to be continued to gain control over ASF.

An interactive [map](#) of ASF cases in pigs and wild boars is available on the Polish General Veterinary Inspectorate's website. The most recent map is prepared based on EC Implementing Decision 2021/1850 of October 21, 2021.

Attachments:

No Attachments.