SITUATION ASSESSMENT 04 · 12 NOVEMBER 2026

African swine fever in Europe: the summer wave ends and the winter rise begins

This assessment sets out what has changed since Defra's outbreak assessment of 20 August 2026, country by country, together with the controls in force and the official risk to Great Britain. The data run to 10 November 2026.

Summary

Since Defra's last outbreak assessment on 20 August 2026, African swine fever (ASF) has continued to circulate in wild boar and domestic pigs across Europe. The most notable developments are set out below.

- **The summer wave in domestic pigs has ended.** Outbreaks peaked in the middle of July and have fallen since. No more than 10 a week have begun since late September.
- **Serbia's October notifications were late reports of summer outbreaks.** Serbia notified about 800 outbreaks in domestic pigs last month, but the start dates show that four in five of its outbreaks this year began in June or July. Only 3 began in October.
- **The winter rise in wild boar has begun.** The number of outbreaks beginning each week reached its lowest point of the year in early September and has more than doubled since then.
- **ASF has reached new areas, each time in wild boar.** Finland has now confirmed 93 cases in four municipalities. The virus has also been found north of Rome, in the Barnim district of Brandenburg and in the Baja district of southern Hungary.

Defra has not changed its assessment of the risk to Great Britain since August. The risk levels are set out near the end of this assessment.

Outbreak data

The country totals in this assessment come from the European Union's Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) and run to 4 November 2026. ADIS counts each notification as one outbreak, and in wild boar a single outbreak can be one carcass or several animals found together.

To show when outbreaks happened, we use the outbreak lists that countries file with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Each outbreak in those lists carries the date it began, which lets us count outbreaks in the week they started rather than the week they were announced. The two systems agree closely. For the period from 1 January to 4 November, the WOAH lists hold 1,560 outbreaks in domestic pigs against 1,566 in ADIS, and 7,036 in wild boar against 7,247. Slovakia, which has 138 outbreaks in wild boar in ADIS, does not appear in the WOAH lists.

Reports take time to arrive. Half of all outbreaks in wild boar reach WOAH within 11 days of starting and 94% within four weeks, so the counts for the most recent four weeks will still rise. Outbreaks in domestic pigs are usually reported faster, and outside Serbia nine in ten

reached WOAH within two weeks. Serbia was the exception this summer, and we return to it below.

Situation in Europe

Eighteen European countries have notified ASF to ADIS this year. Between 1 January and 4 November they recorded 7,247 outbreaks in wild boar and 1,566 in domestic pigs (Table 1). In the latest reporting week, from 29 October to 4 November, 12 countries notified 170 outbreaks in wild boar, and Romania notified the only 5 in domestic pigs.

Table 1: ASF outbreaks notified to ADIS from 1 January to 4 November 2026, with the date of the last confirmed outbreak. Source: European Commission, ADIS, report created 5 November 2026.

Country	Wild boar	Last confirmed	Domestic pigs	Last confirmed
Poland	1,839	2 Nov	10	17 Sep
Italy	1,128	3 Nov	3	9 Jul
Serbia	65	9 Jun	1,021	22 Oct
Lithuania	867	3 Nov	0	None this year
Germany	745	2 Nov	0	None this year
Latvia	703	3 Nov	1	20 Jan
Hungary	685	30 Oct	6	18 Aug
Romania	302	30 Oct	341	2 Nov
Bulgaria	387	26 Oct	1	7 Aug
Croatia	111	28 Oct	130	4 Aug
Slovakia	138	2 Nov	3	18 May
Estonia	89	3 Nov	0	None this year
Finland	80	30 Oct	0	None this year
Spain	67	27 Oct	0	None this year
Moldova	23	1 Jul	28	19 Oct
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	4 Sep	13	7 Aug
Ukraine	7	2 Jun	9	14 Sep
Greece	1	23 Jan	0	None this year
Total	**7,247**		**1,566**	

An outbreak is one notification. In wild boar it can cover more than one animal.

Figure 1 shows where outbreaks have begun since Defra's assessment. Those in wild boar form a band from Finland and the Baltic states through Poland to Hungary and Bulgaria, with separate clusters in western Germany, northern Italy, Catalonia and the province of Rome. Those in domestic pigs are concentrated in Romania and Serbia.

To summarise, outbreaks in domestic pigs with a start date since 20 August have been reported in Romania (76), Serbia (52), Moldova (8), Poland (5) and Ukraine (1). Outbreaks in wild boar have been reported in Poland (223), Latvia (215), Bulgaria (105), Hungary (79),

Italy (60), Finland (56), Germany (53), Lithuania (13), Spain (12), Estonia (11), Croatia (9), Romania (8) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2). These counts come from WOAH data only and run to 4 November.

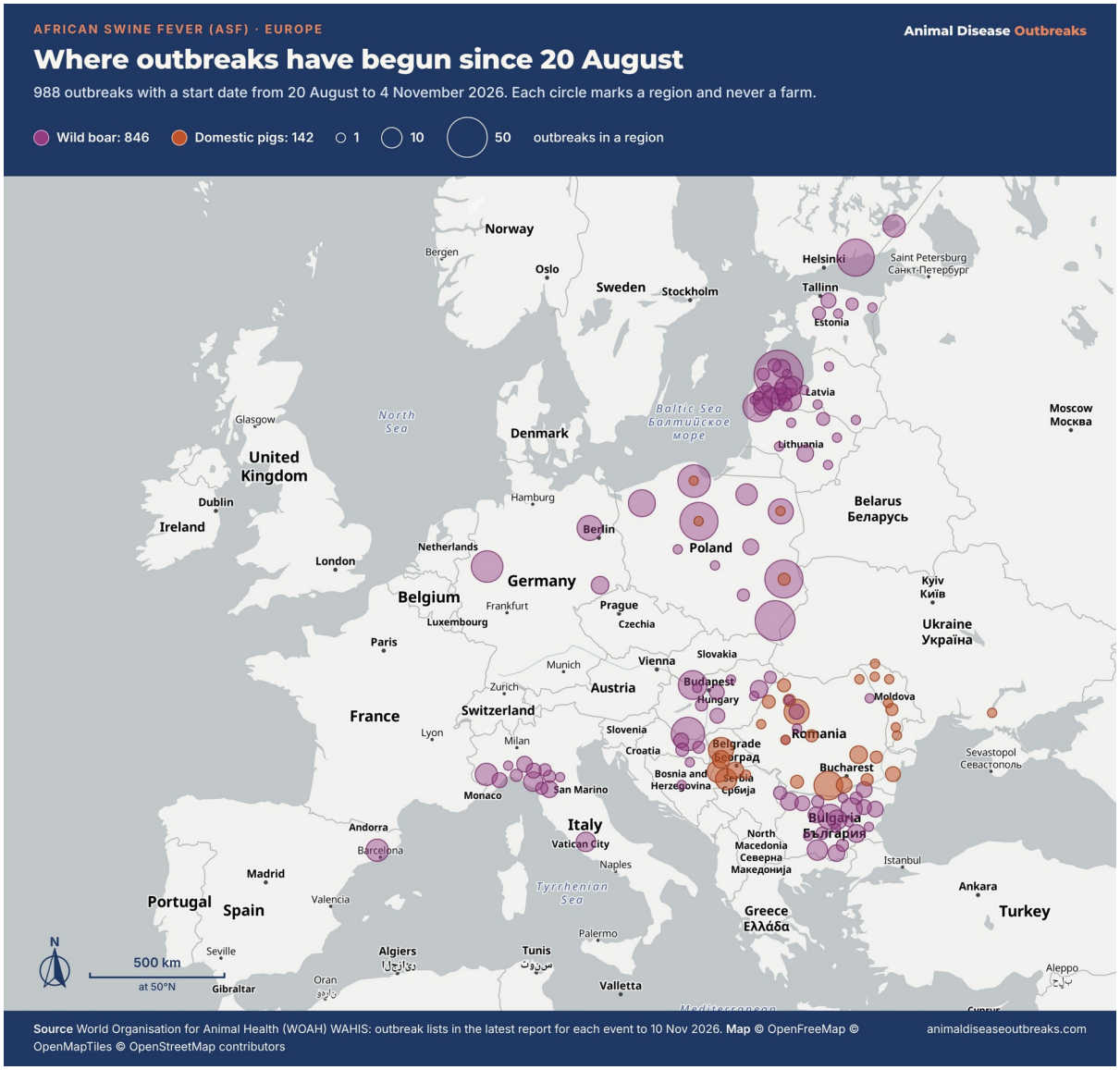


Figure 1: ASF outbreaks with a start date from 20 August to 4 November 2026, by region. Source: WOAH WAHIS, reports to 10 November 2026.

Seasonal pattern

Wild boar and domestic pigs follow different seasonal patterns (Figure 2). Outbreaks in wild boar were highest in the first full week of January, when 411 began. They stayed above 170 a week until early May and then fell through the summer to a low of 42 in the week of 7 September. Since then they have risen again and reached 123 in the week of 12 October, a figure that will increase as late reports arrive.

Outbreaks in domestic pigs followed the opposite course. Fewer than 15 a week began until late May, after which the number climbed to a peak of 194 in the week of 13 July before falling away through August and September. Of the 1,560 outbreaks in the WOAH lists, 1,309 began in June, July or August.

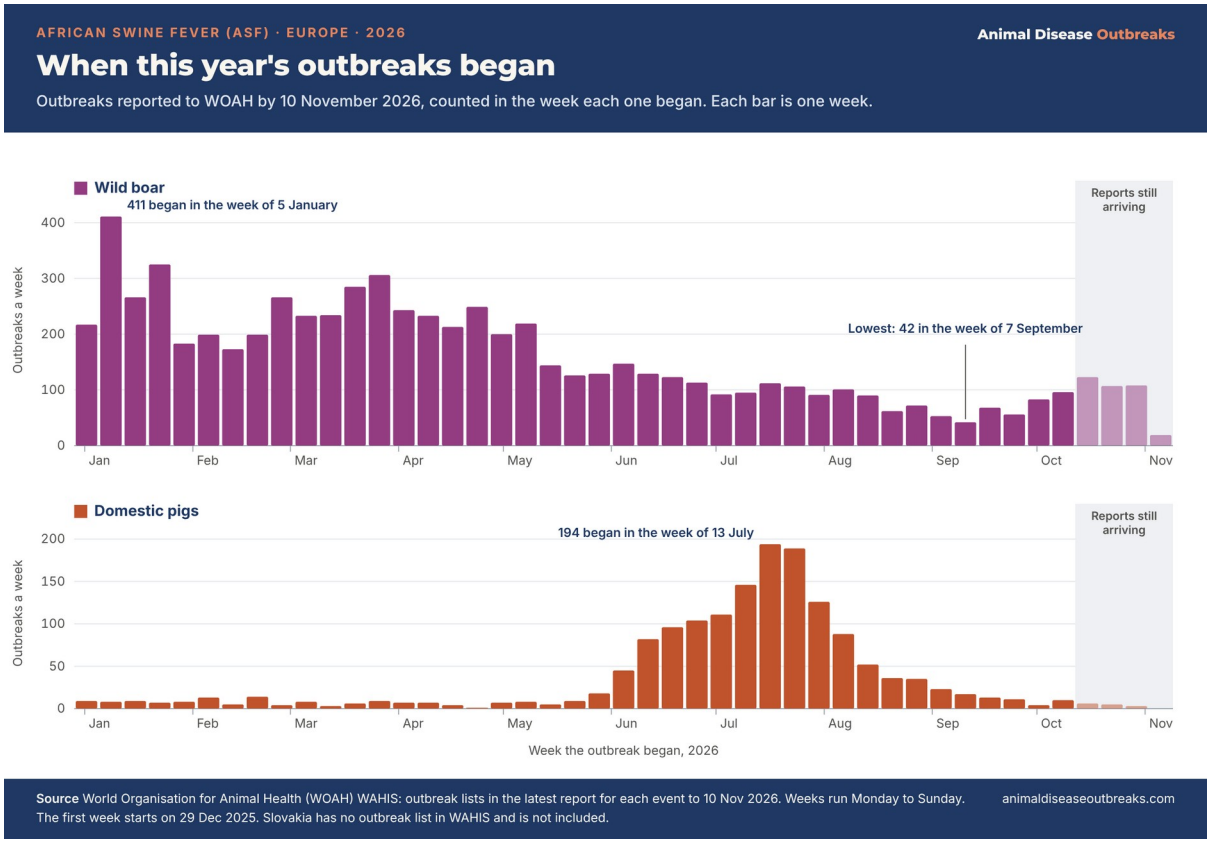


Figure 2: ASF outbreaks in wild boar (top) and domestic pigs (bottom) in Europe by the week they began, 29 December 2025 to 8 November 2026. The shaded weeks are incomplete. Source: WOAH WAHIS, reports to 10 November 2026.

This is the pattern that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) described in its review of 2025, with a summer peak in domestic pigs and a winter peak in wild boar in several countries. WOAH has also reported that more outbreaks in wild boar were recorded in January 2026 than in any other month since January 2022.

Wild boar by country

The European curve hides large differences between countries (Figure 3). Poland, Lithuania and Hungary recorded their highest months between January and March, while Germany peaked in April. Italy held at about 145 outbreaks a month until July and then fell sharply. Latvia is now rising faster than any other country, with 116 outbreaks beginning there in October, more than in any month since January.

Bulgaria needs to be read differently. It reported 1 outbreak with a start date in September and 104 with start dates in October, and the same step occurred last year. Bulgaria's group hunting season for wild boar opened on 3 October, and the first large batch of outbreaks carries a start date of 8 October. The step therefore appears to reflect when wild boar are shot and tested, and not a sudden change in infection.

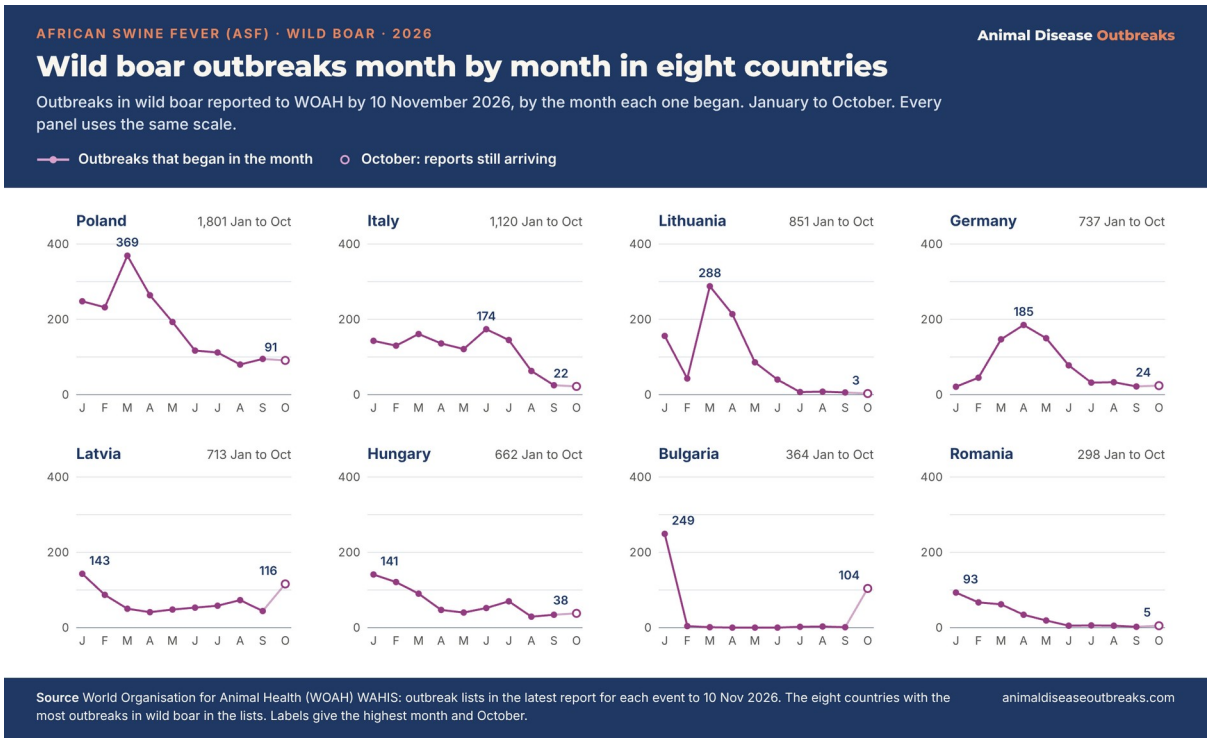


Figure 3: ASF outbreaks in wild boar by the month they began, January to October 2026, in the eight countries with the most. Source: WOAH WAHIS, reports to 10 November 2026.

Country by country

Serbia

Serbia has recorded 1,021 outbreaks in domestic pigs this year, almost two thirds of the European total. About 800 of them were notified to ADIS during October, and the Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) reported that it was unclear whether this reflected recent disease, delayed reporting or both.

The start dates of the outbreaks answer that question (Figure 4). Of the 1,021 outbreaks, 825 began in June or July and only 3 began in October. The epidemic peaked in the week of 13 July and had largely subsided by the middle of September.

Reporting fell behind as the epidemic grew. Half of Serbia's outbreaks were reported to WOAH more than 62 days after they began, compared with 7 days for Romania and 6 for Croatia, and ADIS received most of them later still. Serbia then worked through the backlog in date order. Its report of 5 October brought the list up to outbreaks that began on 25 September, and it has reported three outbreaks since then, each within two weeks of its start. The notifications made in October therefore describe the summer epidemic, and the low figure for October itself is unlikely to be a gap in reporting.

Almost all of the outbreaks (998) were in backyard holdings. They were concentrated in five adjoining districts in the north-west of the country, namely Srem, Mačva, Kolubara, South Bačka and the City of Belgrade, which together account for 994 of the 1,021.

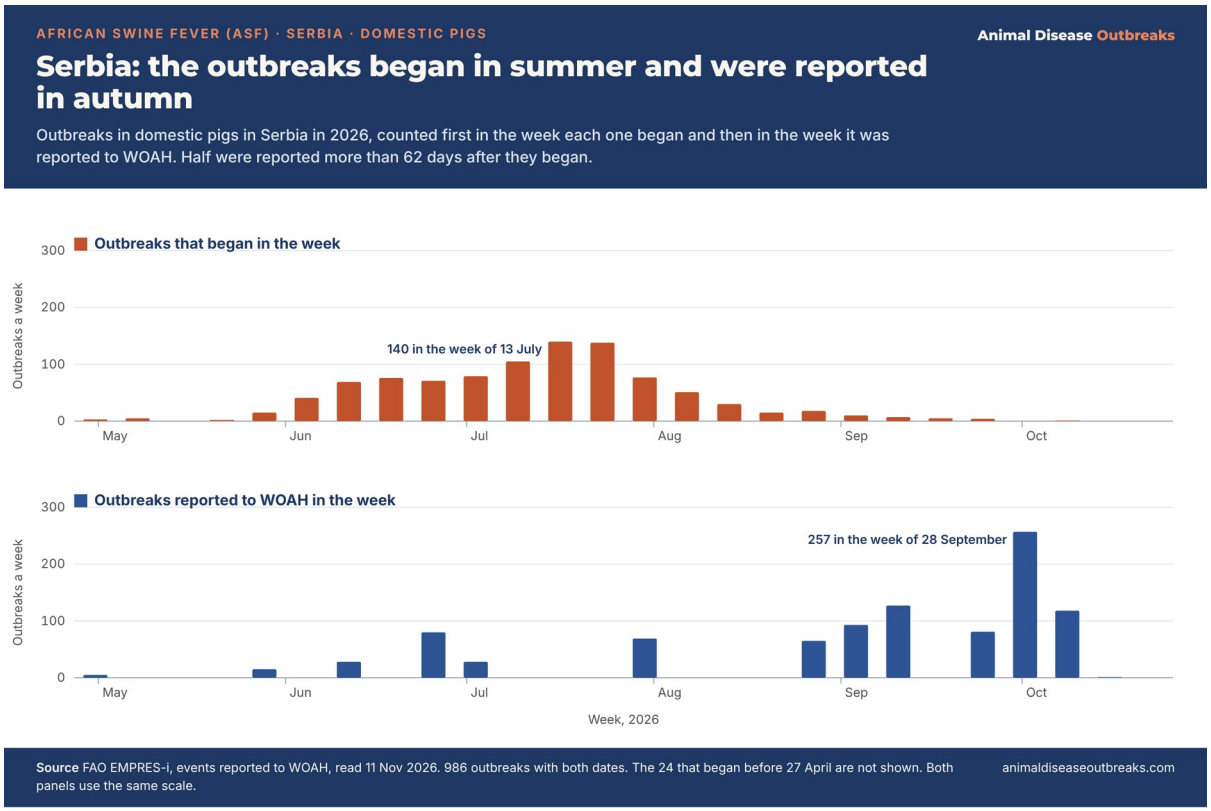


Figure 4: ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs in Serbia in 2026 by the week they began (top) and by the week they were reported to WOAH (bottom). Source: FAO EMPRES-i, read 11 November 2026.

Romania

Romania has recorded 341 outbreaks in domestic pigs this year, more than any other EU member state. It also accounts for 20 of the 25 outbreaks in domestic pigs that began anywhere in Europe in October, and for all 5 notified in the latest reporting week.

Unlike Serbia, Romania records outbreaks throughout the year and across most of the country. Between 13 and 25 began in each month from January to June, before a summer peak of 93 in July, and the number has since fallen to 32 in September and 20 in October. Outbreaks have occurred in 27 counties, and more than nine in ten were in backyard holdings. Teleorman county in the south has recorded the most, with 104.

Croatia

All but one of Croatia's 130 outbreaks in domestic pigs began between 3 June and 3 August, in three counties in the east of the country: Virovitica-Podravina, Brod-Posavina and Osijek-Baranja. No outbreak has begun there since. When APHA published its assessment on 20 August, the reports then available suggested that the epidemic was still intensifying. The start dates reported since show that the last outbreak began on 3 August. Wild boar in the same counties continue to test positive in small numbers, and on 5 November the EU increased part of Virovitica-Podravina from restricted zone 1 (RZ1) to restricted zone 2 (RZ2).

Finland

Finland confirmed its first case of ASF on 30 July, and by 10 November the Finnish Food Authority had confirmed 93 positive wild boar (Figure 5). No domestic pigs have been affected.

The outbreak has developed in two phases. During August every case but one was in Virolahti, on the Russian border, where 36 wild boar were confirmed in five weeks. After a quiet fortnight in early September, the virus was confirmed in Miehikkälä on 15 September and in Lappeenranta on 21 September. October then brought 34 cases, the highest monthly total so far.

The affected area has grown with each phase. A wild boar found dead in Pyhtää on 28 August lay to the west of the first infected zone, which was extended to include it. The Finnish Food Authority reports that the virus from this animal was almost identical to that of the first case, which supports the view that the cases share a single source of infection. On 5 October a further case was found about 15 km west of the boundary of the core area. The authority's changes to its zones are described under Controls below.

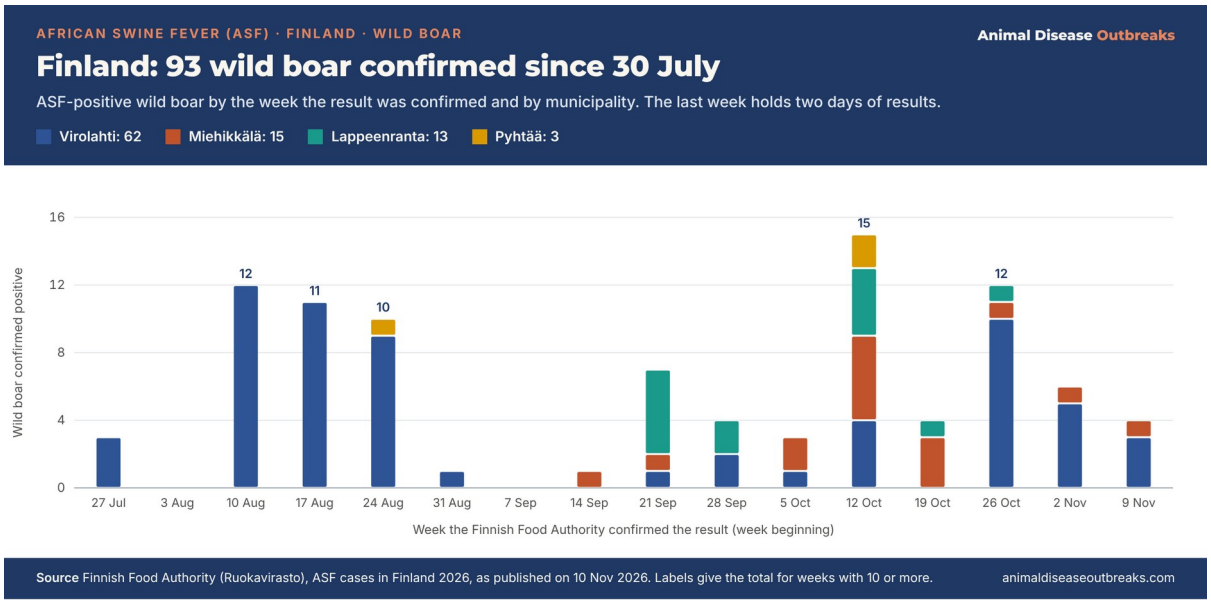


Figure 5: ASF-positive wild boar in Finland by the week of confirmation and by municipality, 30 July to 10 November 2026. Source: Finnish Food Authority.

Germany

Germany has recorded 745 outbreaks in wild boar this year and none in domestic pigs. Three quarters of them are in North Rhine-Westphalia, where the outbreak was at its height from March to May and has since fallen to between 11 and 15 outbreaks a month.

ASF returned to Brandenburg in July, after more than a year without an outbreak there. The WOAH list shows 48 outbreaks in Brandenburg since 6 July, and all but one are in the Uckermark district on the Polish border. The exception is in the neighbouring Barnim district, close to the River Oder, where the district administration says the national reference laboratory confirmed a case on 1 October. According to SHIC, Barnim had last recorded ASF in February 2022. On 22 October the EU increased part of Brandenburg from RZ1 to RZ2.

Italy

Italy has recorded 1,128 outbreaks in wild boar this year, the second highest total in Europe, and 3 in domestic pigs, the last of which was in July. Most of the outbreaks in wild boar are in the north, in the Tuscan provinces of Lucca and Massa-Carrara and along the Apennines into Emilia-Romagna and Liguria. Numbers there have fallen from about 145 a month in the first seven months of the year to 22 in October. On 22 October the EU reduced the restricted zones in parts of Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Piedmont and increased part of Tuscany from RZ1 to RZ2.

A separate cluster has appeared north of Rome. The WOAH list shows 9 outbreaks in wild boar in the province of Rome, with start dates between 27 August and 18 September. They are the first in that province in data going back to January 2025, and they lie about 250 km from the nearest other outbreak in Italy. The Commission's map shows an infected zone of about 570 square kilometres around them. No further outbreak has been listed there since 18 September, and we have not seen a published account of how the virus reached the area.

Spain

The outbreak in Catalonia remains confined to wild boar. By 5 November Spain's agriculture ministry had confirmed 424 positive wild boar in 79 outbreaks, spread across 13 municipalities in the province of Barcelona, with no case in domestic pigs. A further 14,689 wild boar had tested negative. New outbreaks have run at 5 or 6 a month since September, about half the rate seen in January and February.

Hungary

Hungary has recorded 685 outbreaks in wild boar and 6 in domestic pigs this year. The 6 were Hungary's first in domestic pigs, and none has begun since 17 August. Since then ASF in wild boar has been reported in the Baja district in the south of the country, which WOAH lists as a first occurrence in that zone. On 5 November the EU increased part of Fejér county from RZ1 to RZ2.

Poland and the Baltic states

Poland has recorded more outbreaks in wild boar than any other country in Europe (1,839), together with 10 in domestic pigs, the last of which was confirmed on 17 September. Outbreaks in wild boar fell from 369 in March to about 90 a month from August onwards. Lithuania (867) also peaked in March and has reported very few outbreaks since July.

Latvia (703) is moving in the opposite direction. In the last week of October 64 outbreaks began there, most of them in the west of the country, and in the latest reporting week Latvia notified more outbreaks in wild boar (50) than any other country. Estonia has recorded 89 outbreaks this year and remains at a low level.

Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine

Moldova (28), Bosnia and Herzegovina (13) and Ukraine (9) have also recorded outbreaks in domestic pigs this year. Moldova's most recent outbreak was confirmed on 19 October.

Conclusions

The figures for 2026 describe two epidemics that overlap on the map but behave differently. ASF in wild boar extends from Finland to Italy and Bulgaria and follows the seasons, falling in summer and rising again from October. ASF in domestic pigs is concentrated in south-east Europe, where Serbia, Romania and Croatia account for 1,492 of the 1,566 outbreaks, and it peaks in summer.

Widespread infection in wild boar does not always reach domestic pigs. Poland has recorded 1,839 outbreaks in wild boar and 10 in domestic pigs, Lithuania 867 and none, and Germany 745 and none. In Romania the two are almost level, at 302 and 341, while in Serbia outbreaks in domestic pigs outnumber those in wild boar by 1,021 to 65. The difference appears to follow the way domestic pigs are kept. Almost all of the outbreaks in Serbia and Romania were in backyard holdings, and EFSA found that 91% of the EU's outbreaks in domestic pigs in 2025 were on establishments with fewer than 100 animals.

The high European total for domestic pigs this year is largely due to Serbia. EU member states had recorded 495 outbreaks by 4 November, compared with 585 in the whole of 2025, whereas Serbia alone has recorded 1,021. Serbia's notifications in October also show why the date an outbreak began is a better guide than the date it was reported. Counted by notification, the epidemic appeared to be accelerating in the autumn. Counted by start date, it had peaked in July.

Since August ASF has moved into new areas, each time in wild boar. In Finland the outbreak has spread from Kymenlaakso into South Karelia. The Barnim district of Brandenburg and the Baja district of Hungary both lie next to areas that were already affected. The cluster north of Rome is different, because it lies about 250 km from the nearest known outbreak.

If this winter follows the pattern of the last, outbreaks in wild boar will continue to rise into January. The areas to watch are western Latvia, where the rise is steepest, and south-east Finland, where the affected area is still growing.

Rest of the world

Outside Europe, WOAH's situation report for September recorded 4 new outbreaks in domestic pigs, 3 of them in Asia and the Pacific and 1 in Africa, compared with 61 in Europe. No country in the Americas reported an outbreak. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the nearest affected countries to North America remain Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

South Sudan reported ASF for the first time. The event began on 18 July in Yambio county, with 40 cases among 105 domestic pigs, and was notified to WOAH on 15 September. Bhutan notified a new event on 9 November, with 12 cases among 29 domestic pigs.

Controls

EU restricted zones

The EU controls ASF through restricted zones, which are listed in a regulation and amended as the situation changes. Restricted zone 1 (RZ1) borders an affected area but has no outbreak of its own. RZ2 is listed because of an outbreak in wild boar, and RZ3 because of an outbreak in domestic pigs. Movements of domestic pigs and pork products out of a restricted zone are controlled.

The zones in force from 6 November cover about 893,000 square kilometres of land in 14 countries (Figure 6 and Table 2). This figure is our own measurement of the Commission's map. RZ2 is the largest, at about 503,000 square kilometres. RZ3 covers about 262,000 square kilometres, nine tenths of which is in Romania, and RZ1 covers about 129,000. The map also shows an infected zone of about 570 square kilometres north of Rome.

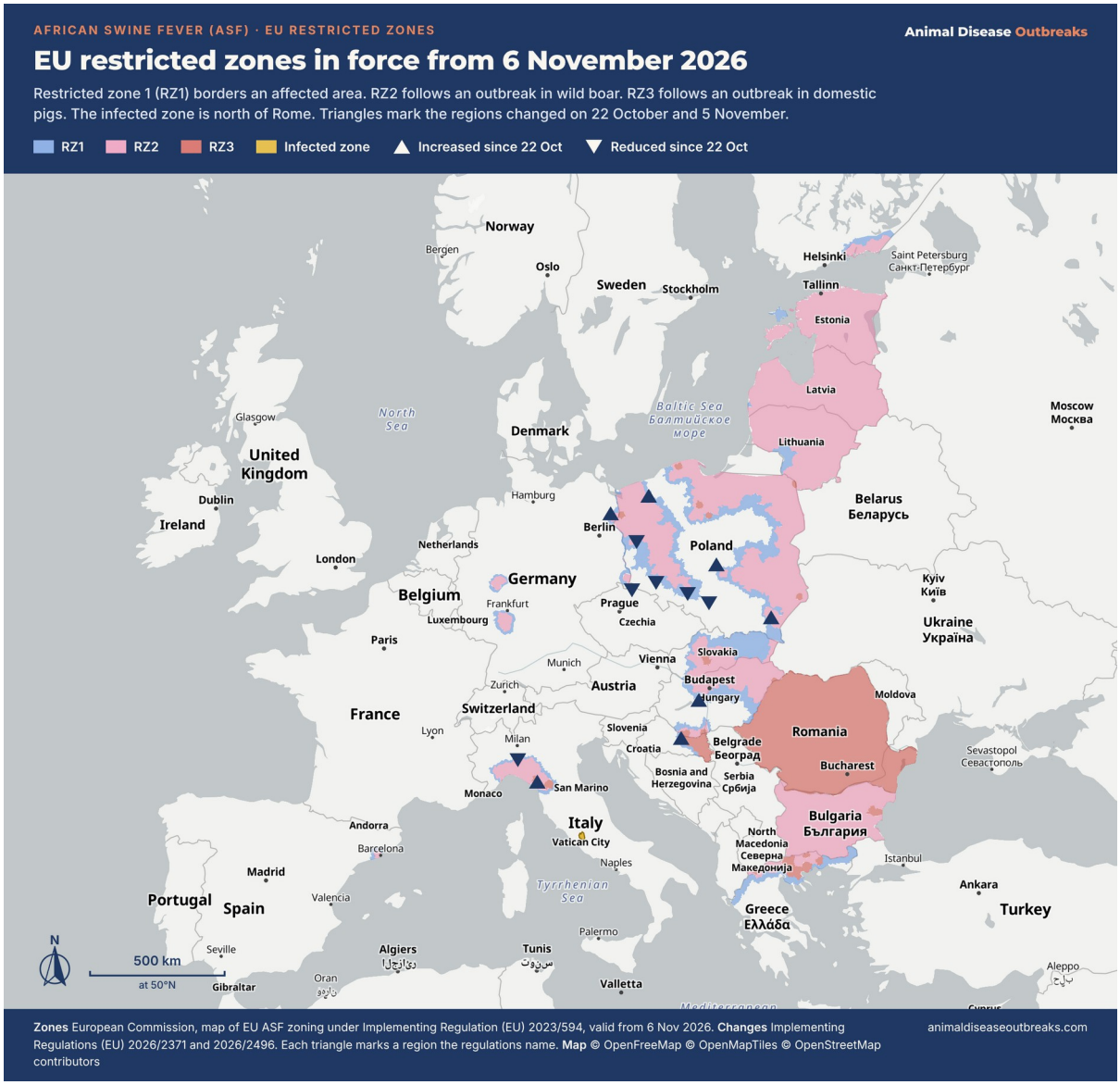


Figure 6: EU restricted zones for ASF in force from 6 November 2026 and the regions changed since 22 October. Source: European Commission.

Table 2: Land area in each EU restricted zone by country from 6 November 2026, in square kilometres, and the share of each country that is restricted. Our measurement of the Commission's map.

Country	RZ1	RZ2	RZ3	Share restricted
Romania	100	200	235,300	100%
Poland	55,000	137,900	2,500	62%
Bulgaria	0	108,800	3,200	99%
Lithuania	3,300	60,900	100	99%
Latvia	100	64,000	0	99%
Hungary	16,700	33,400	1,500	55%
Estonia	1,000	43,900	0	98%
Slovakia	19,700	18,600	1,500	82%
Greece	15,800	9,100	9,100	26%
Italy	5,200	15,500	1,600	7.6%
Germany	6,600	5,900	0	3.5%
Croatia	1,600	500	7,000	17%
Finland	2,200	3,200	0	1.6%
Spain	1,300	1,000	0	0.5%
All 14 countries	**128,800**	**502,900**	**261,700**	

Rounded to the nearest 100 square kilometres. Where the Commission's layers overlap we count the stricter zone. Small values along borders may come from the mapping. Italy's share includes the infected zone.

Two regulations have changed the zones in the last three weeks (Table 3).

Table 3: Changes to EU restricted zones for ASF since 22 October 2026. Source: Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2026/2371 and 2026/2496.

Date	Increased from RZ1 to RZ2	Reduced
22 Oct 2026	Germany: Brandenburg. Italy: Tuscany. Poland: Łódzkie, Podkarpackie and Zachodniopomorskie.	Czechia: Liberec removed. Italy: parts of Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Piedmont removed or reduced to RZ1. Poland: parts of Dolnośląskie and Śląskie removed, parts of Opolskie reduced to RZ1, parts of Zachodniopomorskie and Lubuskie reduced from RZ3 to RZ2.
5 Nov 2026	Croatia: Virovitica-Podravina. Hungary: Fejér. Poland: Podkarpackie.	None.

Regions are named as the regulations name them. Each change covers part of the region.

Every increase followed outbreaks in wild boar in October, and none followed an outbreak in domestic pigs. Only two of those outbreaks lay outside the area already known to be infected, in Brandenburg and in Virovitica-Podravina, and both were in RZ1. The others were inside RZ2 or RZ3 but close to the boundary, so the neighbouring RZ1 was increased to RZ2 as a precaution.

Every reduction followed 12 months without an outbreak, or 3 months without one in domestic pigs. As a result Czechia no longer has a restricted zone, while Poland and Italy gained restricted zones in some regions and lost them in others under the same regulation.

We have saved the zones as they stood on 6 November, so that the next ASF assessment can measure how much each one has grown or shrunk.

Finland

The Finnish Food Authority set up an additional restricted zone for wild boar on 10 September. It has since expanded the core area of its infected zone three times, to the north-east on 24 September and 15 October and to the west on 29 October.

Great Britain

Travellers cannot bring pork or other meat from domestic pigs into Great Britain from the EU for personal use. This rule has applied since 12 April 2025.

Risk to Great Britain

Defra and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) last assessed the risk to Great Britain on 20 August 2026 and have not published a new assessment since. They consider two routes of entry. The risk of ASF entering Great Britain in live animals and products of animal origin from affected countries is MEDIUM, which Defra defines as "occurs regularly". The risk from people bringing pork products into the country is HIGH, defined as "occurs very often". Both levels were unchanged from the previous assessment, and Defra found "no evidence of a substantial change in the risk posed to Great Britain".

In Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) says the risk of an incursion "continues to exist as the virus is still spreading across Europe".

Advice for keepers

Defra and APHA ask everyone who keeps domestic pigs, including pet pigs, to do three things.

- Never feed kitchen scraps, catering waste or pork products to domestic pigs. This is illegal.
- Check that visitors and seasonal workers have had no recent contact with domestic pigs, pork products or wild boar in affected regions.
- Know the signs of ASF and report any suspicion immediately. In England call 03000 200 301, in Wales call 0300 303 8268, and in Scotland contact your local APHA Field Services Office.

The official guidance is on GOV.UK under African swine fever: how to spot and report the disease.

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