



African swine fever management in wild boar – Surveillance and prevention of transmission to/from domestic pigs

Venue: Veterinary Academy of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Tilžės str. 18, LT-47181, Kaunas, Lithuania

Organisers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Lithuanian State Food and Veterinary Service (SFVS), and Veterinary Academy of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences LUHS, under the umbrella of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)

Dates: 22-23 November 2017 (2 full days)

Language: English with simultaneous translation to Russian

Objectives:

- To discuss and learn up to date epidemiology of ASF in Europe
- To discuss learn the basis of animal health management in wild boar
- To discuss and learn in the field about hunting biosecurity, sampling and carcass disposal

Participants:

- FAO-sponsored*: Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine
- Self-sponsored*: Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, and Lithuania
- International organizations: FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), DG SANTE of the European Commission (EC) and Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) representatives

Two participants per country (one wild boar expert and an ASF expert from the veterinary services)

Background:

The ASF epidemic has been spreading throughout the Caucasus and Eastern Europe since its entry from Africa into Georgia in 2007. The disease spread quickly throughout the Caucasus and into the Russian Federation (2007). Over the past years, the disease has progressively spread westwards, entering Ukraine (2012), Belarus (2013), the European Union (Lithuania, Poland, Latvia and Estonia, 2014), Moldova (2016), the Czech Republic and Romania (2017), materializing the threat of ASF to the rest of Europe in what is probably the biggest animal health issue in the continent due to its trade disruption and significant damage on small-scale pig farmers. Particularly in the EU, wild boar have been proved to play the main role in ASF infection, spread and maintenance. Although not completely understood, transmission seems to depend largely on the population density of wild boar and their interaction with low-biosecurity pig production.

Veterinary services are usually not well prepared and experienced when dealing with diseases in wildlife. Therefore, proper understanding and coordination with wildlife/forestry authorities is one of the major factors for successful control of ASF. The workshop will bring together veterinary specialists (from state veterinary services) and wild boar specialists (from wildlife-responsible authorities) from affected and at risk countries. The workshop will be a combination of theoretical classes and group discussions with field activities to demonstrate some of the key operations related to AFS control in wild boar and to discuss and learn about how to best manage ASF in wild boar.

Agenda

21 November 2017 (Arrivals, transportation (provided by organisers) from airports)

19:00 Welcome dinner at the Kaunas Hotel (offered by FAO)

22 November 2017 - Theory

Moderator: Alvydas Malakauskas

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

09:00 - 09:30 Opening speech, presentation of the tutors and participants

09:30 - 09:50 Daniel Beltran-Alcrudo (FAO): **FAO activities on ASF in the region**

09:50 - 10:20 Marius Masiulis (Lithuanian SFVS): **ASF international legislation**

10:20 - 10:50 Olgirda Belova (Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry): **Wild boar biology and behaviour**

10:50 - 11:10 *Coffee break*

11:10 - 11:55 Vittorio Guberti (Institute for Environmental Protection and Research - ISPRA): **Epidemiology of ASF in wild boar in Europe**

11:55 - 12:25 Arūnas Stankevičius (Veterinary Academy, LUHS): **ASF in wild boar in Lithuania**

12:25-13:25 Marius Masiulis (Lithuanian SFVS): **Available tools for the prevention and control of diseases in wildlife, with focus on ASF in wild boar in infected country: hunting and feeding strategies**

13:25-14:25 *Lunch break*

Moderator: Daniel Beltrán-Alcrudo

14:25-14:55 General discussion facilitated by tutors

14:55-15:25 Marius Masiulis (Lithuanian SFVS): **How to prevent transmission to/from domestic pigs**

15:25-15:55 Vittorio Guberti (ISPRA): **Wild boar surveillance and how to improve reporting**

15:55-16:15 *Coffee break*

16:15-17:00 Marius Masiulis (Lithuanian SFVS): **Available tools for the prevention and control of diseases in wildlife, with focus on ASF in wild boar in infected country: hunting biosecurity and wild boar carcass disposal**

17:00-17:30 General discussion facilitated by tutors. Presentation of day 2: field activities.

19:00 Dinner (offered by FAO)

23 November 2017 – Field demonstration of hunting biosecurity*

- 8:00 Departure from the hotel to the hunting grounds by bus
8:45 Arrival to hunting grounds and demonstration of the following:

Hunting biosecurity:

- A. Presentation of the hunting ground including all the wild boar management related activities (Local Hunter or Local vet service in charge).
- B. How to organize a hunting lodge in terms of biosecurity
- C. Going to hunt and transport of the wild boar to the dressing facility
- D. How to handle the wild boar in the dressing facility
- E. Sampling and collecting appropriate data
- F. Management of samples, storage, dispatching to the Vet Service or laboratory
- G. Safe disposal of offal
- H. How to leave the dressing area, classing and disinfection of dressing tools
- I. Storage of animals while waiting ASF laboratory diagnosis

In the event of a suspected dead wild boar

- J. Different methods for safe carcass disposal
- K. Disinfection of the carcass site
- L. Information to be collected, to whom and what should be sent

- 14:00 Presentation of wild boar management approaches by countries & Discussion
17:00 Departure to the hotel

19:30 Dinner (offered by FAO)

During the day 2 coffee breaks and lunch will be served. In case of adverse weather conditions, there may be some changes to the agenda.

*Note to participants: Weather in Kaunas in November is cold and humid, so please ensure you bring warm clothes. For day 2, a pair of boots will be provided to each participant.

24 November 2017 - Departure

Departures, transportation (provided by organisers) to airports (also on 23 November if needed)