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African Swine Fever Situation in Georgia

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ASF outbreak in Georgia

- First outbreak of ASF was started in April 2007
- Outbreak started at the Poti harbor (Black Sea) due to direct contact of free roaming pig with ship waste
- ASF virus has rapidly spread almost all over the country



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ASF outbreak in Georgia

- **April 22, 2007** - ASF outbreaks were simultaneously reported in different locations of Georgia
 - ✓ The epidemiological data suggest that the outbreak started at the Poti harbor region, most probably due to direct contact of free roaming pig to insufficiently eliminated waste from the ships
 - ✓ Until 9 July, ASF virus has spread almost all over the country; 56 out of 61 districts were declared as infected
- **June 5, 2007** - ASF case confirmation by the OIE Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, UK
- **June 11, 2007** - LMA reconfirmed the same samples (after the appropriate reagents were received)



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Pig holding practice for 2007

- By 2006 Georgia had a total pig population of 517,000 animals
- No pig identification system was in place.
- Most pig holders (>90%) only had a very small number of animals (2-3 pigs)
- Free roaming was widely practiced
- A commercial pig production system was almost absent



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ASF outbreak in Georgia

- Out of 517,000 total pigs population
 - 70,000 (14%) - died
 - 30,000 (6%) – destroyed
 - Majority was slaughtered



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Pig holding practice to date

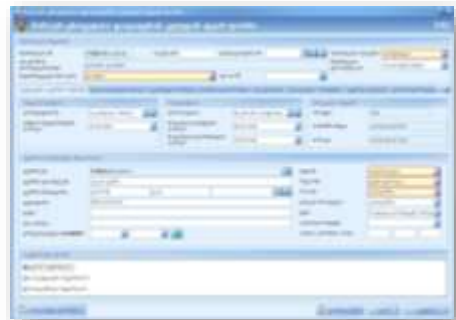
- After 2007 pig population has been dramatically decreased (134,000 animals)
- Legislation for pig identification registration elaborated based on directive [2002/60/EC](#)
- Farmer's behaviors has changed and majority of pigs are kept in closed holding
- Several big commercial farms and new slaughterhouses have been built
- Wild boars are present in Georgia, but the density is very low



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ASF surveillance to date

- ASF is notifiable diseases in Georgia
- Diagnostics are covered under the state budget.
- Surveillance is based on Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System
- ASF surveillance specific guidelines (SOP-s) are elaborated
- No Compensation policy budget is available





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Laboratory capacity

- Diagnostics for ASF are conducted in Laboratory of Ministry of Agriculture
- Laboratory network is presented by:
 - 3 Zonal Diagnostic Laboratories (ZDL)
 - 8 Laboratory Support Stations (LSS)
- Laboratory has capacity to conduct modern diagnostic tests (PCR, ELISA)



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Projects

- GG 22 - The project addressed issues related to animal health, possible mechanisms of transmission, reservoirs, detection, associated risk factors
- In total 1231 domestic pig serum/blood samples and 434 ticks were collected by traps and analyzed in laboratory. None of them was positive for ASF.





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Projects

- Tap 9 - Regional project (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine) with aim to develop regional network of knowledge, expertise, and know-how
 - 120 state and 340 up to private veterinarians were trained for ASF
 - Specific guidelines (SOP) for state and private veterinarians was developed
 - Informative meeting with pig farmers was conducted
 - 10,000 farmers receive ASF leaflets.



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Trainings

- During 2013-2015 was provided training series financed by DTRA. In mentioned program was include training regarding ASF for official veterinarians.
- National Food Agency organized simulation exercise for official veterinarians which took place in 2018.
 - 26-27 February in Kakheti and in 1-2 March in Racha-Lechkhumi kvemo svaneti region.



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Simulation Exercise - Trainings



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Existed problems

- Back yard (free roaming) Pigs
- Lack of State Veterinarians
- No Compensation policy
- No Registration – Identification



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Conclusion

ASF epidemiological situation is stable in country but due to increase of pig population risk of disease re-occur is still considered as high in Georgia



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Thank you for your attention!