

Campaign Background

EFSA African swine fever campaign

The pig sector

The EU is the **biggest exporter** of pork and pork products in the world, with around **5 million tonnes** exported annually, making it one of the **most important economic activities** within the farming sector in Europe. Pig farming generates 8.5% of the **total output** of the agricultural sector in the EU27. Global demand for pork is increasing, which could lead to increased production in Europe.

However, the pig farming industry continues to face the serious threat of African swine fever (ASF), which is causing significant economic damage nationally in Europe and beyond. This highly contagious disease is spreading in regions across Europe that were previously unaffected.

What is African swine fever?

African swine fever is a devastating disease that affects **domestic and wild pigs**. This virus is **harmless to humans**, but it causes significant socio-economic disruption in many countries. Areas affected by ASF suffer significant **financial losses** due to the loss of animals, restrictions on animals and meat exports, and cost of control measures. The disease can take several years to eradicate.

There are currently no approved vaccines for ASF in Europe, so an outbreak can result in the slaughter of a great number of farm-kept pigs in an affected area.

The disease is still present in many European Union countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia) and four neighbouring countries (Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia and North Macedonia), affecting domestic pigs and wild boar, although important differences are present between different areas.

Detect, Prevent, Report

Because an ASF outbreak can have such devastating effects, prevention, detection, and reporting are key to curbing this deadly disease.

The 'Stop African swine fever' campaign is now in its fourth year. It aims to raise awareness among pig farmers, veterinarians, and hunters by providing a general understanding of ASF that can be shared by national, regional and local animal health practitioners' organisations. The campaign also aims to increase the speed of reporting and move towards prevention of the spread of the disease.

This toolkit comprises a campaign rationale; an infographic; and ready-to-use social media posts that can be used to help inform about the signs of ASF, safety measures to adopt, and who to contact in suspected cases.

The campaign, run by the **European Food Safety Authority** works towards the eradication of African swine fever in Europe.

For more information:

European Food and Safety Authority: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/>