

# European countries affected by ASF



Map of the areas where ASF is circulating in pigs and/or wild boars (situation on 26/06/2024).

Germany:  
 Last outbreak in pigs on 5 June 2024  
 Last outbreak in wild boars on 25 June 2024

For an updated list of the countries affected by ASF or for more information on ASF, visit:

- <https://www.fasfc.be/african-swine-fever/situation-in-belgium>
- <https://www.natuurenbos.be/afrikaansevarkenspest>
- <http://www.wallonie.be/fr/actualites/mesures-de-lutte-contre-la-peste-porcine-africaine>



# African swine fever continues to spread across Europe! Let's fight this disease together!

African swine fever (ASF) is a very contagious viral disease that affects pigs and wild boars.

In 2018 the disease made a geographical jump of more than 1,000 km and infected wild boars in southern Belgium. After 1 year of fighting this disease, and at the cost of enormous efforts and millions of euros, Belgium succeeded in the feat of eradicating ASF from its territory. However, the disease has since continued to spread across Europe and is currently only approximately 200 km from our borders! This risk of reappearance of the disease is thus very real and poses a real threat to Belgium!

**As a pig farmer it is your responsibility to take all the necessary precautions to avoid the introduction of this disease on your farm!**

**Action has to be taken across the entire country:**

1. Immediately report any suspicion of ASF to your veterinarian.
2. Apply very strict hygiene and biosecurity measures on your farm.
3. Check every person who works on your farm or who enters the farm premises.
4. Have your veterinarian carry out the mandatory annual biosecurity evaluation and implement your action plan.

All the measures you have to comply with can be found:  
<https://favv-afsca.be/fr/themes/animaux/sante-animale/maladies-animales/peste-porcine-africaine>



# The disease

African swine fever (ASF) is a very **contagious** viral disease that affects **pigs** and **wild boars**. There are no specific symptoms that occur with ASF. Every unusual death must be considered a possible case of ASF.

The disease can occur in three forms:

## an acute form:

- heavy **fever**, anorexia, diarrhoea;
- lethargy, **a tendency to gather close together**;
- blood disorders that are accompanied by **subcutaneous haemorrhages and jaundice**;
- a quick death (2 to 3 weeks) and a **mortality rate** that comes close to 100%.

**a subacute form:** less intense symptoms, a lower mortality rate with deadly consequences over a longer term.

**a chronic form:** diffuse symptoms that point to a disease developing over the course of several months, such as

- **abortions**, shorter pregnancies, growth retardation in piglets
- **little weight gain** when fattening up the animals



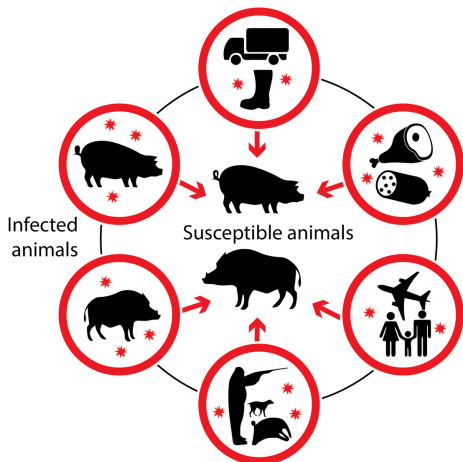
Source: FLI



Redness of the skin  
Source: JM Gourreau

# Most common ways of transmission

ASF can be transmitted through:



- **contact with infected pigs or wild boars (including carcasses or offal)**;
- **meat/meat products** from infected animals;
- **contaminated objects** such as shoes, clothing, vehicles, equipment;
- **people** who have come into contact with infected animals or who have recently visited ASF-affected areas.

The virus remains contagious for a long time on cadavers of animals, in the environment and in meat/meat products from infected animals (up to 105 days in the offal and blood and up to 300 days in dried meat!!!).

**ASF is not transmissible to humans, so there is no public health risk.**

# 3 ways to stop ASF

## Prevention

There is no vaccine (yet) for ASF. The only way to prevent the introduction of this disease on a farm is to implement the following hygiene and **biosecurity measures\***:

- use a hygiene barrier;
- have a pest control programme;
- apply the hygiene measures for every person who enters the farm;
- put new pigs in quarantine;
- do not feed the pigs kitchen waste;
- prevent contact between the pigs and wild boars;
- deny access to the farm to every person, every vehicle and all equipment that has been in contact with wild boars or that has been in a risk area in the previous 72 hours;
- it is particularly important to comply with these measures when you employ people who come from or have resided in risk areas (seasonal workers);
- for pigs that are kept outside:
  - put up double fences to prevent contact with wild boars;
  - place signs for passers-by that state that it is forbidden to feed the pigs.

\*Do not hesitate to consult the checklist of items identified for the biosecurity audit:

[https://favv-afsca.be/sites/default/files/2023-11/20210531\\_circ\\_instructionveterinairesanalyseederisque\\_FR\\_v1\\_.pdf](https://favv-afsca.be/sites/default/files/2023-11/20210531_circ_instructionveterinairesanalyseederisque_FR_v1_.pdf)

## Early detection

Always contact your veterinarian when you find symptoms that might point to ASF or in the case of unusual mortality.

**It is always better to analyze one sample too many than one too little!**

## Eradication

There is no treatment against ASF. Disease control takes place through measures such as the culling of pigs and restrictions on the movements of animals.

The applied measures are aimed at isolating the outbreak as soon as possible to prevent the disease from spreading and to eradicate the virus. These measures are laid down in the European legislation and are, among others:

- slaughtering all the pigs on the infected premises and destroying all the carcasses;
- cleaning and disinfecting the contaminated farm;
- establishing restriction zones around the outbreak where the movement of animals, goods and people is prohibited or limited.