

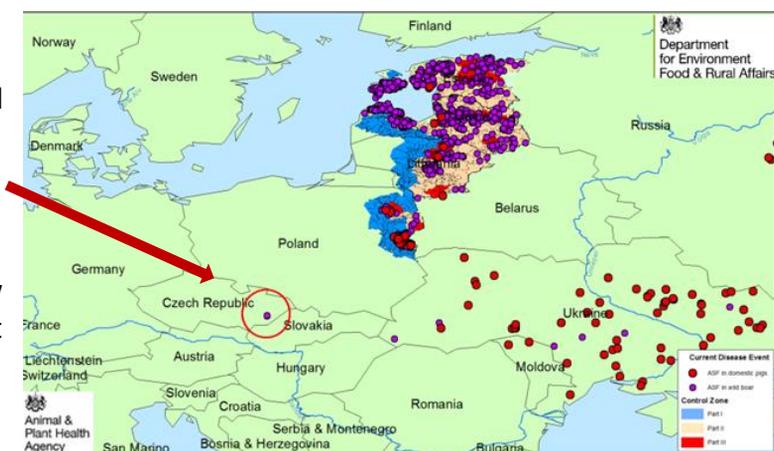
## African Swine Fever in Europe

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a notifiable disease that has been present in Europe for the last 2 years. The map below shows confirmation of ASF in domestic pigs (red dots) and confirmation of ASF in wild boar (purple dots) – these are outbreaks that have occurred in 2017.

ASF can result in the pigs having high temperatures, abortions, skin discolouration, bloody diarrhoea and high mortalities (up to 90-100% in those affected). It is transmitted by feeding pork products, or food scraps which have come into contact with pork products, to pigs. Meat, even when frozen, can remain infectious for months. Please [click here](#) to read our full article on ASF.

As you may have already heard, in early July ASF was confirmed in a dead wild boar in the Czech Republic. This outbreak is circled in red on the map.

This is concerning as it represents a significant geographic jump into a new region. The source of infection has not yet been confirmed, but when the disease appears for the first time at this distance from previously affected areas, it may be more likely due to illegal pig movements or by the feeding of contaminated products.



*Map showing recent outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar in 2017*

Map courtesy from APHA

Despite these cases, the risk of introduction to the UK remains low due to the low level of trade with the Czech Republic.

We would however like to remind our clients and their staff that this disease does continue to be a threat to the UK pig industry so active, effective, on-farm biosecurity protocols are essential. As pork products are a potential source of infection, they should not be brought onto a pig farm at all. Anyone that has recently visited a known ASF positive country should have a full discussion regarding pig freedom before returning to farm. They should wear a completely different set of clothes and shoes to come to the farm, and also fully change into farm clothing prior to entry.

Please review all biosecurity protocols for both staff, visitors and vehicles and please contact your vet with any questions that you may have.

## PEDv – Increase in cases in Canada

PED (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea) is caused by infection with a coronavirus, of which there are several strains. The disease spreads rapidly between farms and within them, with only a very small amount of the new virus strain needed to cause clinical disease. It is spread through infected faeces, along with contaminated vehicles, equipment, people and pig movement. Please [click here](#) to read our full article on this disease.

Back in May 2013 and the following months there was a large outbreak of cases in North America, but mainly affecting the USA. Prior to May of this year, only 10 cases had been confirmed in Manitoba, Canada. The number of cases has increased rapidly since May however, with the latest figures showing 65 confirmed cases. These cases have been confirmed in breeding, nursery and finisher herds. There are currently no details available as to how the infection has been spread between farms.

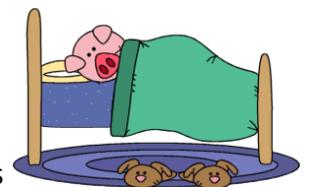
PEDv is a notifiable disease in England and Scotland. Clinical signs include watery diarrhoea, which can be explosive in naïve pigs, rapidly spreading between pigs over a few days. This can affect pigs of any age with spikes of high mortality at the initial outbreak. In sows, the main clinical signs include lethargy and loose faeces within a group.

The situation in Canada, as well as the situation occurring in Europe with ASF mentioned on the previous page, is a timely reminder to ensure optimal biosecurity principles are maintained.

## Current Clinical Trends – What are we seeing out there?...

At the moment we are seeing some small outbreaks of Erysipelas-like skin lesions, as well as some associated sudden deaths. Erysipelas is caused by infection with the bacterium *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*.

Infection is transmitted between pigs by contact with infected saliva, faeces and also nasal discharges. The bacteria lives for a long time in the environment, surviving in soil or muck for 6 months or longer. It is likely these cases have been due to older straw stacks being used up prior to using straw from the new harvest. The bacterium causes not only skin lesions, but can cause a septicaemia (a bacterial infection in the blood) resulting in sudden death, as well as more chronic long-term clinical issues include arthritis and vegetative endocarditis (inflammation of the heart valves) – this can also result in sudden deaths.



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Please speak to your vet about any concerns that you may have.

## Feedback

Please let us know if there is anything that you would like including, or more information on, in a future newsletter.

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