



## Belgium : example of successful eradication of African Swine Fever



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# Overview

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# 1. Belgian context & preparedness

## Competences & Stakeholders in Belgium

**Federal level** : Food chain safety (incl. An & PI Health) => **Domestic animal health**



Exports (sanitary aspects - SPS) - EU and third country relations

CVO & OIE delegate

**Regional level** : Hunting, Nature and Forests => **Wild animal health**



Agriculture other than sanitary (Economy etc.) - Animal welfare

Tourism

**Other Partners** : Labs (Ref. Labs & First line Labs)



Professional agricultural organisations, veterinarians, hunters, etc ...

**Before the outbreak : strong preparedness & network between ASF (potential) partners  
-> national taskforce ASF, working group Wildlife etc.**

**=> RAPID DETECTION => RAPID – ADEQUATE – EFFICIENT RESPONSE**



## 2. Outbreak ASF in wild boar & Regionalisation (EU Rules & OIE Principles)

First outbreak ASF in wild boar in Belgium (*Walloon Region*) on 13 September 2018  
=> **Rapid detection** (mandatory notification of cadavers) => **rapid response**



**First** (days) a provisional “infected zone”  
(63.000 ha – 630 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Immediate actions/measure**s in the zone

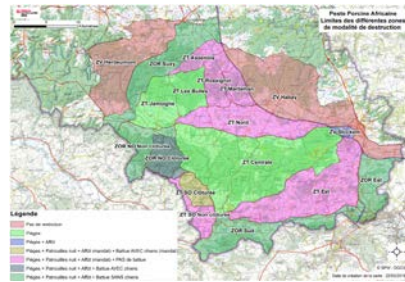
**Later** (November) replaced by Zone I (Buffer) and Zone II (Infected) (*as Part I and II of Annex of the Commission Implementing Decision 2010/709/EU*) - 4 times adapted during the 2 years (+ 100.000 ha – 1000 km<sup>2</sup>)

# 3. Measures ASF in wild boar

## Principles

- ✓ **Standstill** of all activities in the infected Zone (hunting, forestry work and tourism)  
=> avoid the spread of the disease
- ✓ **Intensive search for dead wild boar and the removal** out of the forest
- ✓ **All dead and hunted wild boar in ASF zones are sampled, analyzed** by the national reference lab and **destroyed**
- ✓ **Quick and complete depopulation in the area surrounding the infected zone** + containment of the virus by a **network of wild boar-proof fences** (more than 300km!)
- ✓ **After few months : Progressive and controlled reauthorization of certain activities & Full Depopulation in the area (By Authorities, Traps,...)**

Goal and only political & operational priority :  
**Eradication**



Operational zones for measures in wild boar established by the Walloon authorities



## 4. Measures ASF in domestic pigs



1. **Preventive & Surveillance measures already in place by legislation before the crisis**

Such as biosecurity measures on the farm (prevent contact with wild boar, ...)

+ “passive” surveillance + enhanced awareness



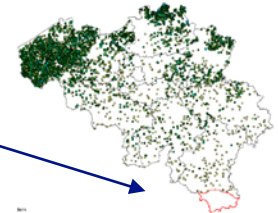
2. **Outbreak => 2 weeks => Preventive culling of all the pigs in the provisional infected zone + ban on repopulation** -> after this : risk of introduction of ASF in pig farms very low

Compensation for culled animals

+ compensation for absence of activity

=> Acceptance by farmers

*NB : region with very few, and only small pig farms*



3. **New general measures since outbreak** : assembly forbidden, restrictions on movements + **when any clinical symptom -> sampling for ASF + Restrictions in the zone (EU Regul.)**

4. **BIOSECURITY enforcement** : yearly mandatory evaluation



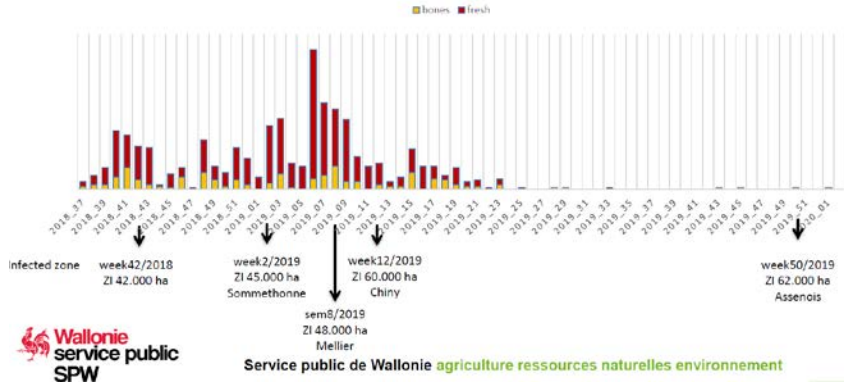
**No cases in domestic pigs !**

OIE Self-declaration "**free status of ASF for domestic and wild pigs kept in captivity**" approved & published  
<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/self-declared-disease-status/>



# 5. Last ASF cases in wild boar

## Stabilization of the situation since beginning of August 2019



Since beginning of August 2019 (last fresh carcass positive) only 6 other positive cases (old bones)  
-> last “case” (old bones) on 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 dates back from a dead wild boar 6 months ago  
-> since end of September 2019 no virus circulation anymore in wild boar population in Belgium

⇒ **GOAL REACHED : ERADICATION of ASF in WILD BOARS + NEVER INFECTION IN DOMESTIC PIGS + No “export” of the disease by applying regionalization principles/rules**

*Costs authorities (Without counting already existing FTE used) : > 20 Million Euros (> 24 Million US Dollars)*

*“Costs” pig Sector : > 160 Million euros*



## 6. Eradication of ASF in Belgium : free status EU + OIE

**In short period of time, 1 year, Belgium succesfully eradicated this disease from its territory**

**=> 1 year after eradication, 2 years after the 1st case : Free Status**



**European Commission lifted the restricted ASF zones in Belgium on the 20th of November 2020, decision published on the 23th of November 2020**

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32020D1741&from=EN>



**Free status OIE in all suidae recovered on the 1st of October 2020, approved by the OIE on the 22nd of December 2020**

<https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/self-declared-disease-status/>

[https://www.fasfc.be/sites/default/files/content/explorer/Animals/ASF/OIE/2020\\_12\\_Belgium\\_ASF\\_self-declaration\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.fasfc.be/sites/default/files/content/explorer/Animals/ASF/OIE/2020_12_Belgium_ASF_self-declaration_ENG.pdf)





## 7. Post-crisis measures in wild boar and domestic pigs

In wild boar measures will be maintained (at least until March 2022):

- fence network
- reduction of wild boar population
- (enhanced) passive + active surveillance
- awareness campaigns for hunters, forestry workers etc.



In domestic pigs:

- **restocking of pig farms is possible again** since Ministerial Decree of 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 -> only under strict application of biosecurity measures!
- assembly of pigs still forbidden but restrictions on movements are lifted
- **enhanced passive surveillance in pig farms is maintained !**
- in addition : active surveillance
- awareness campaigns for pig farmers, veterinarians etc.
- enforced biosecurity measures in place



# Information – Links to websites

- **AFSCA/FASFC FR – ENG**

<http://www.afsca.be/ppa/>

<http://www.afsca.be/businesssectors/animalproduction/animalhealth/africanswinefever/>

- **Walloon Region**

<http://www.wallonie.be/fr/actualites/mesures-de-lutte-contre-la-peste-porcine-africaine>

- **EU Commission**

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en)

Educational film : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyQ4t1wHl2M&feature=youtu.be>

- **OIE**

<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/>

- **Scientific Committee's opinions (Belgium)**

<http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/ppa/publications/avis/>





Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain  
(FASFC)

**Thank you for your attention !**



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