ASF in Lithuania

Vidmantas Paulauskas, DVM, PhD, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Lithuania

Summary

On 24\textsuperscript{th} of January in 2014 Lithuania notified two primary cases of African swine fever (ASF) in wild boars: one male animal 12 months old was hunted on the 22\textsuperscript{nd} of January 5 km away from the border with Belarus and one female animal 3 years old was found dead on the 20\textsuperscript{th} of January in 2014 about 40 km to the north from the border with Belarus. The distance between the two animals was about 36 km. The animals were tested positive for the ASF virus (ASFV) genome by real time PCR at the National Reference Laboratory for ASF in Lithuania (NRL). The results were confirmed by the European Reference Laboratory for ASF (CISA-INIA, Madrid, Spain). Furthermore, the genotyping revealed that the Lithuanian isolates were identical with the ASFV isolates from Georgia (2007), Armenia (2007), Azerbaijan (2008), Russia (2008–2012), Ukraine (2012) and Belarus (2013). All wild boars being hunted and discovered dead in the infected area were sampled and tested for the presence of ASF antibodies and genome using ELISA and RT-PCR. In total, there were 45 cases in wild boars and 6 outbreaks were registered in 2014, also 111 cases in wild boars and 13 outbreaks were registered in 2015. It should be noted that only 1 outbreak was registered in a commercial farm and other outbreaks were registered in non-commercial farms with low biosecurity measures. Since 2011 Lithuania has prepared and confirmed biosecurity measures for commercial and non-commercial farms.

Based on the practice of 3 years it can be stated that the implementation of high biosecurity measures is one of the main requirements to prevent farms from ASF. Also, close cooperation in all countries which are affected by ASF and the common strategy is the main aim in order to control this disease.