

CEI Impact Worksheet African swine fever (ASF) in Georgia June 8, 2007 version

Summary: The country of Georgia reported African swine fever (ASF) to the OIE for the first time on June 5, 2007. The outbreaks involved 10 regions throughout the country (see Figure 1). The source of the outbreaks is unknown. Control measures are in place to prevent spread of the disease. Georgia's swine production is only 0.05% of the world's stocks of swine. Georgia is a net importer of pigs and pork products, but these imports represent less than 0.1% of world pig and pork product imports. The US, Canada, and Mexico did not import any live hogs or pork products directly from Georgia from January 2006 through March 2007.

Figure 1. African swine fever outbreaks in Georgia



Source: OIE

Current outbreak and status of African swine fever in the country of Georgia

Georgia reported ASF for the first time to the OIE on June 5, 2007. Swine illness in Georgia was originally attributed to postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome due to porcine circovirus type 2, and was reported to the OIE as such on May 22, 2007. On June 4, 2007, the OIE Reference Laboratory in Pirbright,

United Kingdom, confirmed the presence of African swine fever virus in received samples via ELISA, cell culture and RT-PCR. Georgia immediately notified the OIE.

African swine fever is a highly contagious, OIE-reportable viral disease of swine that is endemic in most of southern Africa. Eleven ASF outbreaks were identified in different locations throughout Georgia between April 22 and April 26, 2007. Applied control measures include stamping out, disinfection and quarantine, and movement control. The source of the outbreak is unknown, and a total of 20,000 pigs have been culled from private farms and villages, affecting 10 regions throughout the country.

Neither Georgia nor any of the country's bordering neighbors have reported ASF to the OIE in the past. Since the 1960s, ASF outbreaks outside of southern Africa have been reported in several countries in Europe and the Caribbean. As of 2005 (the latest annual OIE data available), Italy was the only European country that continued to have clinical ASF in limited zones on the Island of Sardinia. ASF has never been found in the United States. An unexpected outbreak of ASF is of concern because ASF is a known bioweapons agent and has been used in bioweapons programs in the past. The current status of some of these programs is unknown.

Sources:

1. OIE Handistatus II. WAHID. <www.oie.int>.
2. USDA:APHIS. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/pub_ahASF.pdf>.
3. U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/terrorism_weapons_mass_destruction_page005.html>.
4. Partnership for Global Security. <<http://www.partnershipforglobalsecurity.org/Publications/Reports%20and%20Publications/Other%20RANSAC%20Papers/624200331413PM.html>>.

Georgia's share of the international market for swine

In 2005, Georgia's swine production totaled almost 484 million head of swine, a slight increase from the 474.8 million head produced in 2004. Similarly, pig meat production increased by 10 thousand metric tons from 360 thousand tons in 2004 to 370 thousand metric tons in 2005. Georgia's live swine and pig meat production makes up only a small percent of world stocks and production at 0.05% and 0.03% respectively (Table 1).

Table 1: Animal stocks and production, Georgia, 2004 and 2005

	2004	2005	
	Stocks (head/1000s)	Stocks (head/1000s)	% of World Stocks
Swine	473,832	483,854	0.05%
	Production (Metric tons)	Production (Metric tons)	% of World Production
Pig Meat	360,000	370,000	0.03%

Source: United Nations FAO

Georgia did not export live pigs in 2004 and 2005. Exports of relevant pork products represented less than 0.1% of world exports of these products. Georgia exported 38.3 metric tons of fresh pork in 2004; this decreased to 23 metric tons in 2005 (Table 2). Cyprus and the Russian Federation received the largest portions of Georgia's pork product exports in 2005, with 8 metric tons to each country. Other countries that received pork products from Georgia in 2005 include Belize,

Cambodia, Cayman Islands, Marshall Islands, Moldova and Panama.

Georgia is a net importer of pigs and pork products, but these imports represent less than 0.1% of world pig and pork product imports (see Table 3). In 2004 and 2005, Georgia imported only 385 and 180 pigs, respectively. Georgia imported more pig fat than any other pig product with imports of 2,197 metric tons valued at nearly \$1.2 million in 2004 and 1,868 metric tons valued at slightly more than \$1.17 million in 2005. Georgia also imported 1,961 metric tons of fresh pig meat in 2004 and 3,113 metric tons in 2005. In addition, Georgia imported small amounts of edible pig offals both years.

In 2005, the majority of Georgia's imported pig products came from Austria, Brazil, Spain, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, the United States and Canada. It is also of possible interest that Georgia imported a small amount of unrendered pig fat and frozen pig meat from China in 2005. Although ASF has not been reported in China, pig die offs have been reported over the past two years. Georgia has also received unrendered pig fat from Italy.

Source: United Nations FAO

Table 2: Exports of relevant pork products from Georgia in 2004 and 2005

Exports	2004		2005		% of World in 2005	
	Quantity (mt)	Value (1000 \$)	Quantity (mt)	Value (1000 \$)	Quantity	Value
Products (metric tons)						
Fresh pig meat (mt)	38.3	16.3	23.0	6.3	<0.1%	<0.1%
Pig offals (mt)	-	5.4	-	2.7	<0.1%	<0.1%
Total Products	38.3	21.7	23.0	9.0		

Source: United Nations FAO

Table 3: Imports of live pigs and relevant pork products into Georgia in 2004 and 2005

Imports	2004		2005		% of World in 2005	
	Quantity (# head or mt)	Value (1000 \$)	Quantity (# head or mt)	Value (1000 \$)	Quantity	Value
Live (head/1000s)						
Pigs (head)	385	17	180	30	<0.1%	<0.1%
Products (metric tons)						
Fresh pig meat (mt)	1,961	1,469	3,113	2,837	<0.1%	<0.1%
Pig fat (mt)	2,197	1,197	1,868	1,172	<0.1%	0.26%
Pig offals (mt)	55	40	68	40	<0.1%	<0.1%
Total Products	4,213	2,706	5,049	4,049		

Source: United Nations FAO

United States, Canada and Mexico's imports of swine and related products from Georgia

The United States, Canada, and Mexico did not import any live hogs or pork products from Georgia between January 2006 and March 2007. The United States did, however, import swine and pork products from several EU member states in 2005 and 2006.

Source: *World Trade Atlas*

Level of passenger traffic arriving in the United States from Georgia

ASF can be transmitted via pork meat, including salted and dried pork products. There is a moderate risk of mechanical transmission of ASF virus via clothing, shoes, etc. In calendar year 2005, 125 air passengers arrived from Georgia on direct flights to the United States (Bureau of Transportation Statistics). This number includes passengers arriving from Georgia who are not necessarily residents of Georgia. Data from the U.S. Department of Commerce indicates that 2,811 residents of Georgia arrived in the United States on both direct and indirect flights in calendar year 2005. As part of the APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) agricultural quarantine inspection monitoring, 28 air passengers from Georgia were sampled for items of agricultural interest in fiscal year 2005. No passengers were found to be carrying items of interest.

Sources:

1. U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics.
2. U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries.
3. USDA:APHIS:PPQ, Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Monitoring database.
4. The Potential for International Travelers to Transmit Foreign Animal Diseases to US Livestock or Poultry. USDA:APHIS:VS, 1998.
<<http://permanent.access.gpo.gov/lps3025/travrisk.pdf>>.

CEI's plans for follow-up

CEI will continue to monitor the ASF situation in Georgia, but has no plans at this time to issue additional reports. If you would like more information or wish to provide comments on this impact worksheet, see contact information below.

For more information, contact:

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