



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Czech Republic

APHIS report on the review of African swine fever, classical swine fever,
foot-and-mouth disease, and swine vesicular disease statuses

Veterinary Services
April 2020

1. Executive summary

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), with collaboration of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), has conducted a review of the European Union (EU) animal health statuses for four transboundary animal diseases that affect swine: African swine fever (ASF), classical swine fever (CSF), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and swine vesicular disease (SVD). APHIS currently recognizes the Czech Republic (Czechia) as free of FMD and SVD, and as low risk for CSF as part of the APHIS-defined European CSF region. While APHIS considers ASF to exist in parts of the EU, at the time of this report, it does not consider ASF to be present in Czechia. APHIS recognizes EU zoning decisions for ASF rather than the ASF status of individual EU Member States, including Czechia. APHIS concurrently reviewed the status of the EU ASF zoning and reported its findings in a separate overarching review of the European Commission (EC) emergency response framework for zoning decisions for ASF. ASF is discussed in this report in reference to swine health disease programs, the control and prevention of foreign animal diseases in Czechia, and the EU regionalization (zoning) decisions for the control of ASF. The last reported detection of ASF occurred in Czechia on April 15, 2018. Currently, Czechia is free from ASF in both domestic swine and wild boar.

The objective of this review is to determine whether or not conditions in Czechia justify maintaining its animal health statuses for the above diseases. The review consisted of a document review and a site visit in Czechia conducted September 9 to 12, 2019 to verify and complement information relevant to the factors APHIS considers when recognizing the animal health status of a region.

For this review, APHIS analyzed information provided by Czechia's Ministry of Agriculture, State Veterinary Administration (SVA); information and data gathered during the site visit, along with observations by the APHIS site visit team; information available the websites of the EC and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); and other publicly available information.

The official veterinary services of Czechia have sufficient legal authority and resources to carry out animal health activities efficiently and effectively. The services are hierarchically organized and have clear lines of command and reporting. Roles and responsibilities are well defined. Export certification responsibilities and procedures are clearly documented. Animal health controls on trade from other EU Member States and imports from third countries are well developed, organized, and implemented, and are supported by Czechia's legislative authority and infrastructure. Czechia has robust systems in place for animal identification, premises registration, and livestock movement controls. These systems allow rapid tracing of animals in the event of disease detection. Animal disease control and emergency response measures are well developed and documented at the EU and national levels.

Based on this review, APHIS found no evidence that ASF, CSF, FMD, and SVD are present in Czechia. We conclude that Czechia conducts sufficient control measures to prevent entry of hazards under review, and, in the event of a hazard incursion, Czechia is capable of detecting the hazard and containing its spread as it demonstrated in its response to ASF entry in 2017. In addition, Czechia has demonstrated a history of promptly reporting disease events and taking appropriate measures to prevent their export to third countries.

In consideration of the favorable review of Czechia's animal health statuses, APHIS concludes that current conferred statuses and import mitigations for CSF, FMD and SVD are appropriate. APHIS recommends that recognition of these statuses be maintained until the next APHIS review or until a change in Czechia's animal health status is reported. APHIS' conclusions about EU ASF zoning are discussed in a separate overarching EU ASF report.

2. Table of contents

1. Executive summary.....	1
2. Table of contents.....	3
3. Abbreviations	4
4. Introduction	5
5. Scope of the review.....	6
6. Status of hazards under review in Czechia.....	6
7. Likelihood of hazard entry into Czechia.....	7
7.1 Veterinary authority and infrastructure.....	8
7.2 Livestock demographics and traceability	11
7.3 Movement of animals and animal products	14
8. Hazard detection, response and notification	20
8.1 Disease detection and diagnostic laboratory support	20
8.2 Disease response	24
8.3 Reporting history.....	31
8.4 Export controls.....	31
9. Conclusions and recommendations.....	32
10. References	33
11. Appendix A - Organizational chart of the State Veterinary Administration	35
12. Appendix B - ASF zoning in Czechia, 2017 – 2019	36
13. Appendix C - Time period of eradication plan	39

3. Abbreviations

ADNS	Animal Disease Notification System of the European Union
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ASF	African swine fever
BIP	border inspection post
CCA	central competent authority for animal health
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CSF	classical swine fever
CVA	Central Veterinary Administration
CVED	Common Veterinary Entry Document
CZK	Czech crown (currency)
EFTA	European Free Trade Agreement
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EURL	EU Reference Laboratory
FMD	foot and mouth disease
ILCT	Inter-Laboratory Comparison Test
MVA	Municipal Veterinary Administration
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
RVA	Regional Veterinary Administration
SVA	State Veterinary Administration
SVD	swine vesicular disease
TAD	transboundary animal disease
TRACES	Trade Control and Expert System
WAHIS	OIE's World Animal Health Information System

4. Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates the importation of animals and animal products into the United States to guard against the introduction and spread of transboundary animal diseases. In support of this goal, APHIS prohibits or otherwise restricts the importation of animals and animal products from regions that APHIS either does not recognize as free of classical swine fever (CSF), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and swine vesicular disease (SVD), among other diseases, or recognizes as affected with African swine fever (ASF). These four highly contagious viral diseases are exotic to the United States, and CSF, FMD and ASF are among the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) listed diseases of concern for international trade [1-4].

Currently, APHIS recognizes the Czech Republic (Czechia) as free of FMD and SVD. APHIS also includes Czechia in the APHIS-defined European CSF region, a region considered by APHIS to be low risk for CSF and composed of twenty-five EU Member States (all except Bulgaria and Romania), the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein. While APHIS currently considers ASF to exist in parts of the EU and to have existed in Czechia during the period of June 26, 2017 to March 12, 2019, at the time this review concluded, APHIS does not consider ASF to be present in Czechia [5, 6]. Czechia does not export live swine or porcine semen to the United States, nor does it have an establishment approved to export pork or pork products to the United States and Canada [7].

Periodically, APHIS reviews the APHIS-recognized animal health statuses of foreign regions to determine whether the conditions in the region support the continuation of APHIS' recognition of those statuses [8]. Consistent with regulations in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 92 (9 CFR 92) [9], APHIS conducted a review of the EU's animal health statuses for four transboundary animal diseases that affect swine: CSF, FMD, SVD and ASF. APHIS conducted this review with the collaboration of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). As part of this EU review, APHIS selected Czechia as one of 13 representative Member States included in the review. This document is the report of findings and conclusions specific to Czechia; findings and conclusions specific to the other 12 Member States are provided in individual reports and overall findings and conclusions regarding recognition of the CSF status of EU Member States representative of the APHIS-defined European CSF region and EU zoning decisions for ASF are provided in separate APHIS review reports for those two animal health statuses.

In order to evaluate whether conditions in Czechia continue to support its recognitions by APHIS for ASF, CSF, FMD and SVD, APHIS collected and analyzed information relevant to the factors used to conduct evaluations to establish initial animal health statuses as described in 9 CFR Section 92.2 [10]. These factors allow APHIS to establish a comprehensive representation of Czechia's veterinary infrastructure, livestock demographics, livestock movement, surveillance programs, disease control capabilities, and emergency response systems for the specified hazards. APHIS evaluated the information in order to determine that Czechia meets the following overarching standards:

- The hazards are unlikely to be present in Czechia at the time of the review;
- The hazards are unlikely to infect or contaminate the commodity being exported from Czechia to the United States due to countermeasures taken by the country's veterinary authorities; and,

- If Czechia has an incursion, the United States and/or the OIE will be promptly notified, and all necessary actions will be taken to prevent the introduction of the hazards into the United States through exportation of commodities infected with or contaminated by the hazards.

The review consisted of a document review and a site visit in Czechia from September 9 to 12, 2019, to verify and complement all information APHIS collected and analyzed relevant to the factors used to conduct evaluations to establish initial animal health statuses. APHIS collected information from Czechia through use of a standardized questionnaire developed for APHIS animal health status reviews. All information was collected from records of the State Veterinary Administration (SVA); the European Commission (EC); the OIE; and other publicly available information. All information and data gathered during the site visit, along with observations by the APHIS site visit team are incorporated into this review report.

The results of this review are expected to inform APHIS management decisions regarding the CSF, FMD and SVD statuses of Czechia; the status of EU zoning for ASF; and whether to amend restrictions on the importation of relevant commodities from Czechia.

5. Scope of the review

The scope of this review of Czechia covers ASF, CSF, FMD and SVD. All four diseases affect swine. Acknowledging that FMD affects other cloven-hoofed mammals such as cattle, sheep, and goats; this review is focused on swine, as part of a larger APHIS evaluation of the swine health statuses of EU Member States. The hazards under consideration in this review are the viruses that cause ASF, CSF, FMD and SVD.

6. Status of hazards under review in Czechia

APHIS maintains a list of the animal health statuses of regions on the [APHIS website](#). APHIS considers Czechia to be free of ASF, FMD and SVD. APHIS considers Czechia to be low risk for CSF as part of the APHIS-defined European CSF region.¹ Czechia last detected ASF on April 15, 2018, when samples from a wild boar carcass tested positive. The wild boar was estimated to have died several months prior to sampling. This detection culminated a ten-month period in which a total of 230 ASF cases had been detected in wild boar in the country [7, 11-12]. During the site visit, APHIS reviewed Czechia's ASF zoning requirements, which were considered in the APHIS' separate overarching review of the EC emergency response framework for zoning decisions for ASF. At the conclusion of the review, Czechia did not have any restricted zones established due to detection of ASF [6]. The last outbreak of FMD in Czechia occurred in 1975; CSF last occurred in 1997 in domestic swine and 1999 in wild boar; and SVD

¹ APHIS-defined European CSF region includes: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Ireland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. The importation of pork, pork products, and swine from the APHIS-defined European CSF region is subject to restrictions specified in 9 CFR 94.31. In addition, swine semen imported from the APHIS-defined European CSF region is subject to restrictions specified in 9 CFR 98.38.

has never been reported [7]. The OIE recognizes Czechia as CSF free and FMD free where vaccination is not practiced [1].

Routine vaccination for CSF, FMD and SVD is prohibited in Czechia and no vaccine is available for ASF [7]. Emergency vaccination for FMD and CSF is permitted only under exceptional circumstances to prevent disease spread and only in accordance with established official disease eradication rules.

7. Likelihood of hazard entry into Czechia

Czechia is a landlocked country located in Central Europe and covers an area of 78,866 square kilometers (30,450 sq. mi.) [7]. It is completely surrounded by four other EU Member States, strategically located along some of oldest and most significant land routes in Europe. It shares land borders with Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Poland (see **Figure 1**).



Figure 1: Location of Czechia and its national borders in Europe

There are no manmade barriers such as fences or netting and no buffer zones that would be separating Czechia from adjacent regions [7].

Czechia is exposed to potential entry of transboundary animal disease agents through international trade of animals and animal products through both legal and illegal pathways and international movement of passengers. In addition, there is potential entry exposure through intra-

community movement of commodities and passengers, as well as movement of wildlife whenever disease agents are present in neighboring countries or other EU Member States. Poland and Slovakia currently report outbreaks of ASF in both wild boar and domestic swine although the affected areas are not adjacent to Czechia [6]. Thus, APHIS collected information on Czechia's veterinary infrastructure, including legal authority for the animal health activities and organizational structure of the veterinary services; livestock demographics and traceability; and movement controls for animals and animal products to determine the effectiveness of measures to prevent incursions of the hazards under evaluation.

7.1 Veterinary authority and infrastructure

Legal authority for animal health activities

The main legal authority for the animal health activities of the official veterinary services in Czechia resides in *Act No. 166/1999 concerning veterinary care and amending certain related laws, as amended* (the Veterinary Act) [7]. Provisions of the Veterinary Act are implemented by secondary legislation in the form of Decrees of the Ministry of Agriculture, SVA.

The Veterinary Act stipulates the authority and obligations of the official veterinary services with regard to animal transportation and movement control; veterinary controls on import, export, transit, and intra-community trade of live animals and animal products; disease surveillance; compulsory notification of reportable diseases including ASF, FMD, CSF and SVD; control and eradication of infectious diseases; and seizure, depopulation, and compensation in outbreak situations. The Veterinary Act also stipulates the obligations of animal keepers and private veterinarians with regard to reporting of animal infectious diseases and ensures access by government officials to private property.

The legal authority for animal identification and registration in Czechia is provided by *Act No 154/2000 which concerns pedigree breeding and breeding and registration of farm animals* (Breeding Act). The Breeding Act is complemented by Decree No. 136/2004 which details the requirements for identification and registration of animals and registration of holdings and persons defined by the Breeding Act [7].

Czechia is an EU Member State and Czech legislation concerning veterinary matters are harmonized with EU legislation. EC Decisions and Regulations are directly applicable in all Member States without the need for national implementing legislation, although some Member States choose to do so. In contrast, Council Directives bind Member States to the objectives to be achieved and leave the means to the national authorities. Council Directives must be implemented in the Czech national legislation. The primary EC legislation pertaining to control of CSF, SVD, FMD and ASF are listed in **Table 1** with the corresponding transposition into Czech legislation.

Table 1: EC and Czech legislation pertaining to control of CSF, SVD, FMD and ASF [7, 13]

Disease	EC legislation	Czech legislation
All	Council Directive 82/894/EEC on the notification of animal diseases within the Community	(1) Veterinary Act

CSF	Council Directive 2001/89/EC on Community measures for CSF control (last amended)	(1) Veterinary Act (2) Decree No. 299/2003 on measures for prevention and eradication of contagious diseases and diseases communicable from animals to man
	Commission Decision 2002/106/EC Diagnostic Manual for CSF testing and confirmation (as last amended)	Directly applicable to Member States
SVD	Council Directive 92/119/EEC on control of certain animal diseases and specific SVD measures (as last amended)	(1) Veterinary Act (2) Decree No. 299/2003 on measures for prevention and eradication of contagious diseases and diseases communicable from animals to man
	Commission Decision 2000/428/EC diagnostic procedures for SVD testing, confirmation & differential diagnosis	Directly applicable to Member States
FMD	Council Directive 2003/85/EC on Community measures for the control of FMD	(1) Veterinary Act (2) Decree No. 389/2004 on measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease and its prevention
	Commission Decision 91/42/EEC criteria applied for drafting FMD contingency plans	Directly applicable to Member States
ASF	Council Directive 2002/60/EC on specific provisions for the control of ASF	(1) Veterinary Act (2) Decree No.202/2004 on measures for the control of African swine fever and its prevention
	Commission Decision 2014/709/EU concerning ASF control measures in certain Member States (as latest amended)	Directly applicable to Member States
	Commission Decision 2003/422/EC approving an African swine fever diagnostic manual	Directly applicable to Member States
	SANTE/7112/2015/Rev. 2 WORKING DOCUMENT Principles and criteria for geographically defining ASF regionalization	Directly applicable to Member States
	SANCO/7138/2013 WORKING DOCUMENT Guidelines on surveillance and control of African swine fever in feral pigs and preventive measures for pig holdings	Directly applicable to Member States

Organizational structure of the veterinary services

The Veterinary Act establishes the SVA under the Ministry of Agriculture as the nationwide veterinary administration [7]. The SVA is managed by the Director General who serves as the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of Czechia. The Minister of Agriculture appoints the CVO. The SVA consists of the Central Veterinary Administration (CVA), 13 Regional Veterinary Administrations (RVAs), and 1 Municipal Veterinary Administration in Prague (MVA) (*see Figure 2*). The SVA organization chart can be found in **Appendix A**. The division of responsibility between the CVA and the RVAs/MVA are detailed in the Veterinary Act. The SVA operates with a staff of 1,325 employees [14].



Figure 2: Map of administrative regions in Czechia [7]

The CVA is composed of two sections, the Veterinary Section and the Economic and Administrative Section. The Veterinary Section is organized into four departments, the Departments of Animal Health Protection and Welfare; Veterinary Hygiene and Public Health Protection; External Affairs, Import and Export Controls; and EU Affairs. In general, the CVA performs administrative and supervisory functions necessary to protect animal health and welfare, ensure veterinary hygiene and public health, and implement veterinary border controls. Headquarters personnel are also responsible for managing legal and budgetary affairs, as well as performing internal auditing functions [7].

The professional competencies required to become an official veterinarian are specified in the Veterinary Act. This includes successful completion of a specialized education program offered by the SVA in cooperation with the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Brno. There are two levels in this education program. The basic level covers general areas of official responsibilities and is compulsory for all official veterinarians. The second level course is more advanced and covers four areas of specialization, food hygiene, epidemiology, laboratory diagnostics and ecology. One year of veterinary practice is a pre-requisite for taking the basic course and three years of veterinary practice is the pre-requisite for the second level courses. Successful completion of a final examination is required to qualify for the basic level. A final exam with a dissertation is required for second level specialties. Only official veterinarians who

have passed second level examinations can be appointed as directors or heads of professional departments/divisions of the SVA or SVI. There is also an additional civil service examination required of all official veterinarians. All officials are obliged to take part in lifelong learning, so individual training programs are established for each employee of SVA to maintain their competencies [7].

The Department of Animal Health and Welfare is responsible for disease monitoring, prevention, control, and eradication; animal welfare activities; and crisis management in outbreak situations. The Department of Veterinary Hygiene and Public Health Production is responsible for ensuring the food safety, conducting veterinary inspections at slaughter, and monitoring rendering and food processing establishments. The Department of External Affairs, Import and Export Controls is responsible for import controls and for negotiation of veterinary conditions for export of animals and animal products from Czechia to third countries. Whereas the Department of the EU Affairs is responsible for intra-community animal health issues and ensuring compliance and implementation of EU legislation. Czechia is an inland country surrounded by other EU Member States and has only one EU border inspection post (BIP) located at the Prague airport [7].

Each of the 13 RVAs and the MVA have separate departments for animal health protection and welfare, and veterinary hygiene and public health protection. In general, the RVAs and MVA are responsible for implementation of animal health programs, control activities, and disease monitoring at the regional level. Official veterinarians in the RVAs and MVA are responsible for conducting veterinary checks and issuing veterinary certificates. In the event of an animal disease outbreak, an RVA/MVA is empowered to take the actions necessary to control and/or eradicate the disease in compliance with national contingency plans and laws.

Czechia has approximately 4,000 private veterinarians in clinical practice. Some private veterinarians have been approved and contracted by an RVA/MVA to perform certain official duties under official supervision and may revoke this approval for non-compliance. The Veterinary Act authorizes performing examinations, health tests and compulsory preventative actions, among others. Annually RVAs/MVA provide training to the private veterinarians authorized to perform official duties which includes information on the current animal disease situation and changes to animal health control policies [13]. Only official veterinarians are authorized to make veterinary health certifications for exportation and to conduct slaughterhouse inspection. Official inspection is required before meat is allowed to be marketed in Czechia. In addition, RVAs and MVA train individuals to exam hunted wild boar carcasses [14].

The SVA is fully funded from the state budget. The annual budget of the SVA was CZK 1,202 million in 2017, CZK 1.285 million in 2018 and the approved budget for 2019 was CZK 1.237 million.

7.2 Livestock demographics and traceability

Livestock demographics

In 2019 there were 1,353,935 domestic pigs on 2,160 swine holdings in Czechia (*see Figure 3*) [14]. Czechia produced approximately 141,882 pigs for slaughter in the first half of 2019 [7, 15]. The Zlín Region, where ASF was detected in wild boar, has a low domestic swine density with 74,088 pigs on 83 swine holdings (*see Section 8.2* for additional information) [7, 14].

Density of domestic pigs in the Czech Republic

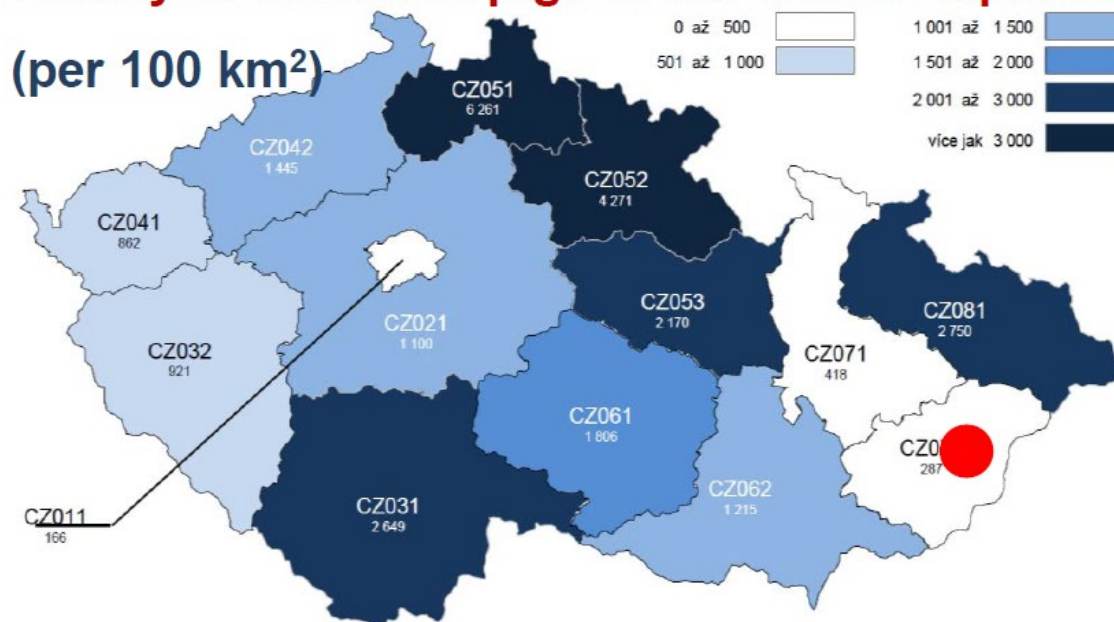


Figure 3: Density of domestic swine in Czechia by districts (head/100km²), the red dot indicates the location of the Zlín district where ASF was detected in wild boar [14]

Wild boar are dispersed throughout Czechia (see **Figure 4**). The total number of wild boar killed annually in the country are listed in **Table 2** [14]. The number of wild boar killed annually is often used to estimate the relative size of the wild boar population in an area.

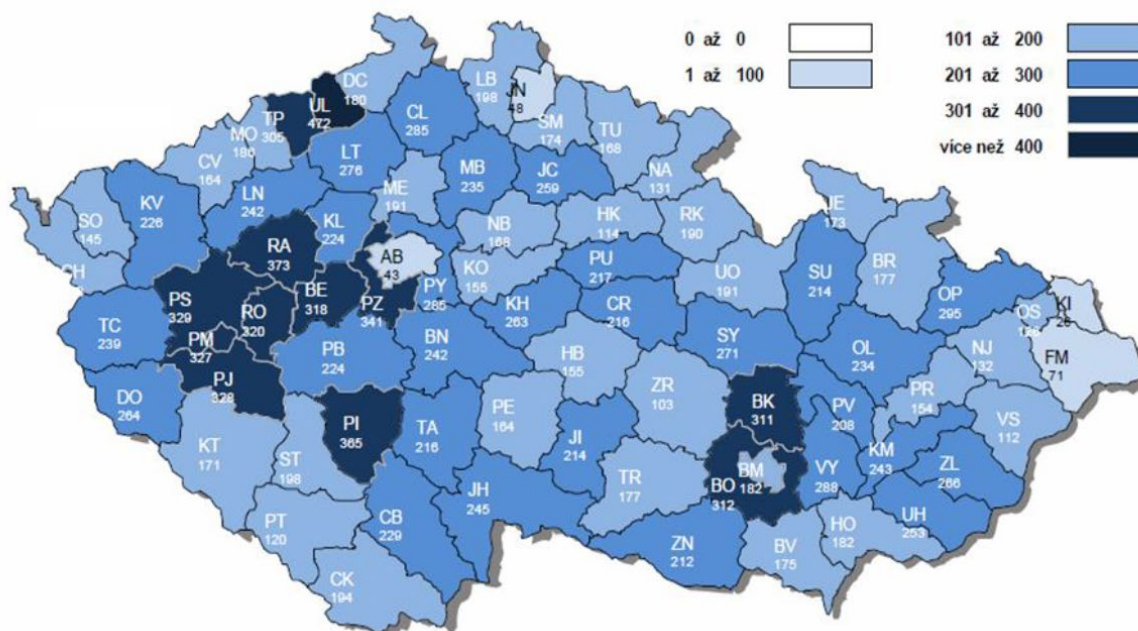


Figure 4: Wild boar numbers in Czechia by districts (head/100km²) [14]

Table 2: Numbers of wild boar killed annually in Czechia, 2015-2017 [14]

Year	Annual total number of wild boar killed annually
2015	186,148
2016	160,164
2017	225,000

Holding registration and animal identification

In Czechia, the Breeding Act requires that all livestock holdings be registered. A keeper is obligated to submit information to register the holding in which they will keep registered animals. A unique identification registration number shall be allocated to the holding and this information is maintained in an official central database. Only after registration can animals be moved to the holding. The obligation to register applies also to the operators of slaughterhouses, operators of assembly centers, dealers, experimental facilities and rendering plants.

In accordance with the Veterinary Act, the Breeding Act and Decree No. 136/2004, all keepers of pigs in Czechia are obliged to ensure identification of their animals and keep a register of pigs in their holding. The holding pig register is used to record the number of pigs kept in the holding and any change in number due to births, deaths, movements, and losses. All operators of registered livestock holdings are obliged to submit complete and accurate data regarding animal identification, number of kept animals, animal movements and any other changes to animal inventory [7].

A central component of the livestock registration system in Czechia is the Central Livestock Register. The Central Livestock Register is a comprehensive database which includes data on the animals' origin, sex, identification numbers, movements, and changes in numbers of individual animals, herds or flocks for individual species of registered livestock. The Central Livestock Register also includes data on holdings, keepers, operators of slaughterhouses, operators of assembly centers, livestock dealers, livestock transporters, rendering plants, and experimental facilities using livestock.

The Central Livestock Register is administered by the SVA which has authorized the Czech-Moravian Breeders' Association, an authorized third-party entity, to collect and process the data in the Central Livestock Register and to maintain the database. Each keeper, dealer, operator of a slaughterhouse, rendering plant or assembly center must monthly transmit to the Central Register information on births, deaths, losses, destruction, or movement of pigs [7].

All domestic pigs in Czechia must be identified by a tattoo on the left ear or on the left side of the body or by an ear tag in the left ear. It must be identified before it is weaned or before it is moved with the sow to another holding. The identification indicates the registration number of the holding where the pig was born [7].

The Czech Breeding Inspectorate (CBI) is a third-party entity authorized by the SVA to monitor and enforce holding registration and animal identification requirements. CBI monitors and inspects a certain number of holdings each year to ensure compliance. The Breeding Act

provides for penalties and fines for operators who violate registration and identification requirements [7, 14].

Hunted wild boar are identified with tags issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and distributed to individual hunters by hunting associations. Records are maintained to identify which tags were assigned to which hunter to link wild boar carcasses to the hunter for traceability [14].

7.3 Movement of animals and animal products

Domestic and intra-community movement controls for animals and animal products

Information on movement of pigs within Czechia are recorded in the holding registers for all movements to and from the holding. As previously mentioned, this information must also be entered into the Central Livestock Register [7, 13].

A keeper is obliged to request a veterinary certificate for the movement of pigs within Czechia when animals are moved to an assembly center² or when animals are moved within a protection zone or a surveillance zone (zone with restrictions) or outside of those zones if that is allowed by veterinary regulations.

The veterinary certificate for the movement of animals is issued by an official veterinarian from the applicable RVA/MVA. A veterinary certificate may only be issued if the animal has received the required health checks and vaccinations, applicable conditions have been met, and the animal is properly identified. The certificate is valid for 72 hours. In justified cases, the RVA/MVA may modify the period of the certificate's validity. The veterinary certificate must accompany the animal to its destination and must be kept by the keeper for at least one year [7, 13].

As a member of the EU, Czechia is part of the European single market allowing, among other things, the free movement of commodities, including animals and animal products between Member States. Intra-community movements are not subject to additional movement controls or inspection requirements by the veterinary authority of other Member States at border checkpoints or elsewhere.

Intra-community movements of animals and animal products must be accompanied and certified by the Trade Control and Expert System or [TRACES](#) document issued by an official veterinarian of the holding of origin. TRACES is the EC's online management tool to record the movements of animals, products of animal and non-animal origin, feed and plants transiting EU countries or imported from outside the EU, in order to ensure for the safety of food and public health.

Commodities, in most cases, are accompanied by health certificates or commercial documents and the competent authorities may issue these documents online through TRACES. TRACES aims to facilitate trade, speed up administrative procedures and improve the management of health threat risks, as well as combat fraud and improve the safety of the food chain and animal health [16].

EU legislation for TRACES includes:

- Commission Decision 2003/623/EC of 19 August 2003 on the development of an integrated veterinary computer system called TRACES

² Assembly centers are approved facilities where animals are gathered for the purpose of assembling a group to be transported together. There are seven assembly centers approved for swine in Czechia [7].

- Commission Decision 2004/292/EC on the implementation of the TRACES system and amending Decision 92/486/EEC, the system became mandatory for all Member States from 1 January 2005
- Directive 90/425/EEC on veterinary and zootechnical controls applicable in intra-community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market
- Commission Regulation (EC) No. 599/2004 of 30 March 2004 on the adoption of a harmonized model of certificate and inspection minutes for intra-community trade in animals and products of animal origin

As part of the European single market, intra-community movement of animals and products are not subject to document or physical inspection at land border checkpoints, ports of entry, seaports, or airports when shipments move between two Member States. To decrease the likelihood of spread of highly contagious animal diseases among EU Member States, intra-community movement of animals and animal products is only authorized when animals or their products come from holdings that are in compliance with pertinent legislative requirements (both EU and Member State) and are authorized and registered by the competent authorities from the Member State of origin. In accordance to Council Directive 2008/73/EC, Member States must develop, update, and make available the list of authorized holdings, as well as national reference laboratories and other designated laboratories in compliance with EU legislative requirements. Livestock movements must also adhere to other EU legislation, namely, the Directives with specific animal health requirements for intra-community trade of cattle, sheep, goats, and swine. These include Directives 97/12/EC, 98/46/EC, 98/99/EC, 2000/15/EC, and 2000/20/EC.

The intra-community trade of animals and products to and from Member States (as well as non-EU trade) is summarized in the [TRACES annual reports](#).

Importation of animals and animal products from third countries

Czechia is an inland country surrounded by other EU Member States. The only direct entry point from third countries is the Prague airport, which is approved under Commission Decision 2001/881/EC for import of equidae and other live animals, but not for porcine species. This border inspection post (BIP) is also approved for traffic in swine products for human and non-human consumption. Official operation of the airport BIP is under the control of the CVA and the MVA [7, 13].

Czechia predominately trades live swine, pork and pork products with other EU Member States or member countries of the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA). For imports from countries outside of the European common market during the period 2016-2018, only a few small consignments of swine were imported from the United States and Canada, and fresh or frozen pork was imported primarily from Chile, some from the United States and a very small amount from the Dominican Republic [7, 17].³

³ APHIS considers Canada and Chile to be free of CSF, FMD and SVD, and the Dominican Republic to be free of FMD and SVD but affected with CSF. APHIS import certification requirements prohibit importation from Czechia of pork or pork products derived from swine that have been in regions considered to be CSF-affected or commingled with pork or pork products derived from swine from CSF-affected regions [18]

For importation of animals and animal products from third countries, Czechia follows [EU Directive 2004/68/EC](#) as well as [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No. 206/2010](#), which establishes a list of third countries or parts of third countries where sanitary and phytosanitary certification conditions are approved for imports into the EU of live animals and their products [7, 13]. To be authorized as an approved third country for imports, the interested third country must send an official request form and the required information to EC's [Directorate General for Health and Food Safety \(DG SANTE\)](#) – Directorate F (formally known as the Food and Veterinary Office, FVO). DG SANTE reviews the information and performs an audit inspection visit to the country. If the evaluation is satisfactory, the country will be listed as an approved third country partner for importation of the specified commodity.

The animal health requirements for importing animals and animal products are set out in specific EC Decisions. [Commission Decision 2007/275/EC](#) lists the animals and products to be subject to controls at BIPs under the main legislative import controls of [Council Directive 91/496/EEC](#) and [Council Directive 97/78/EC](#). These pieces of legislation set out the veterinary legislative requirements for consignments of live animals and animal-origin products to import into or transit through the EU Member States. For live pigs, additional requirements can be found [HERE](#). Import requirements for [bovines](#) and [sheep/goats](#) from third-countries are also laid out. For meat products, additional requirements can be found [HERE](#).

In general, imports of animals and animal products must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED)
- Export health certificate
- Other documents such as the commercial invoice, bill of lading or air waybill, and diagnostic laboratory reports

In Articles 3 and 5 of Council Directive 97/78/EC, it states the requirement for the official veterinary service to provide a certificate confirming that veterinary checks have been carried out. This certificate is known as a Common Veterinary Entry Document or CVED. The certificate is produced via the TRACES system. The certificates must only be signed by the official veterinary service - it is not acceptable for the certificate to be signed by other officers. Each certificate will be assigned a serial number by TRACES. The official veterinary service must retain copies of the CVEDs and original third country health certificates or health documents accompanying consignments for 3 years. The export health certificate must be signed by an official veterinarian of the competent authority of the exporting third country guaranteeing that the conditions for import into the EU have been met.

For importation of live animals, EU legislation does not require specially approved post-import quarantine facilities (except for birds). After importation the animals must be transported without delay to the holding of destination where they shall remain for a minimum period of 30 days before further movement outside the holding, except in the case of a dispatch to a slaughterhouse.

Upon arrival and entry to the European single market, animals and animal products with their accompanying certificates are verified and checked by official veterinarians at an EU border inspection post (BIP) at the Prague airport.

At designated BIPs, an official veterinarian performs an inspection consisting of:

- **Document checks** are performed on 100% of consignments by the official veterinarian. The official veterinarian verifies information on the export health certificate, including verifying the goods come from an authorized country and establishment, and other documentation per Commission Regulation (EU) No. 206/2010.
- **Identity checks** for cloven-hoofed animals and horses the official veterinarian confirms the individual identification of at least 10% of the animals or at least 10 animals representative of the shipment. For products, the official veterinarian verifies proper identification of the transport vehicle (e.g., seal on shipping container) as well as visually inspecting labeling and number of packages and/or containers. The identity check confirms the mechanism for traceability to the exporting country and the holding of origin.
- **Physical checks** are performed on a percentage of consignments per national sampling plans, Council Directives 97/78/EC and 91/496/EEC, suspicion/non-conformities/animal health or welfare concerns, or notifications via TRACES. For products, the official veterinarian verifies the integrity of goods via sensory examination, labeling, testing of temperature or pH, and other laboratory diagnostic tests for residues, pathogenic agents, and contaminants. Laboratory examinations of products are conducted based on risk analysis of previous diagnostic testing results, product type, volume and frequency imported at the BIP, and any relevant EU legislation. Live animals are examined for clinical signs of disease, animal welfare compliance, and, for a certain percentage, blood sampling for diagnostic testing.

Animals and animal products are refused if the shipment does not pass the above inspection or is not in compliance with [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No. 206/2010](#). After a positive laboratory result for animal products, in accordance with Council Directive 97/78/EC, the next 10 consignments from the establishment are subject to 100% mandatory examination and testing; this continues until 10 consecutive negative laboratory results are confirmed. Refused products are destroyed, treated/transformed or re-exported to the country of origin. Refused consignments are classified and treated as Category I animal by-products in accordance with the EU animal product and by products (ABP) legislation (EC) 1069/2009 and its implementing regulation (EC) 142/2011. Destruction or treatment of such products must be carried out at approved animal by-product establishments and arrive under sealed containment accompanied by the CVED and commercial import documentation. Live animals may be quarantined, destroyed, or re-exported to the country of origin. If refused, the CVED and other import documents are invalidated in TRACES. Notifications of refused shipments are recorded in TRACES to prevent attempts to re-enter at other BIPs in the EU. If considered necessary, an import ban against the country or importer could be issued.

A complete description of EU legislation and transposed Czech legislation regarding veterinary border control can be found [HERE](#).

Upon clearance through the BIP, imported commodities circulate throughout the EU usually without additional mandatory controls or inspections by the official veterinary services of other EU Member States. Member States may conduct official controls and checks are conducted randomly anywhere within their territory.

Transit controls

Transit across EU Member States of products moving between third countries is allowed under EC legislation, provided that there are no import restrictions on the source country and the EU animal health requirements are met. The conveyances are sealed at the point of origin in the third country, although officials at the point of departure from that country can break and replace the seal for inspection purposes. Customs officers, from the EU Member State where the BIP is located, record the seal number, and break the seal upon arrival at the BIP point of entry. While Czechia does not have land borders with non-EU Member States, products intended for transit through the EU to a third country may enter the EU through the Prague-Vaclav Havel airport BIP although very little meat enters the EU here. The products in transit undergo the same checks as imported consignments, but no further unloading or alteration of the cargo is allowed while in the EU. A veterinary inspection seal and customs seal are applied at the entry BIP for transit, a route plan is approved, and a specific exit point is designated. The BIP at the point of exit is notified of the transit shipment, records the exit, and sends confirmation back to the BIP at the point of entry when the vehicle leaves the country [7, 13, 19].

Live-haul trucks, personal vehicles and baggage, swill feeding and international catering waste

In addition to the movement of animals and animal products, other vulnerable entry pathways for the diseases under review include contaminated livestock vehicles, animal-origin commodities carried into the country in passenger baggage, feeding improperly cooked food waste to swine, and improper disposal of international catering waste. The EU and Czechia have prevention mechanisms in place for these entry pathways.

As mentioned previously, Czechia does not have land border crossings with third countries as it is completely surrounded by other EU Member States and therefore does not operate BIPs at land border crossings. As such, Czechia benefits from the implementation and enforcement by other EU Member States vehicle cleaning and disinfection (C&D) control measures.

The EU has established legislation on the cleaning and disinfection (C&D) of empty livestock transport vehicles returning from third countries and regions of third countries with ASF. The requirements are described in [Commission Implementing Decision 2013/426/EU](#) (and subsequent amendments). All the returning empty livestock transporting vehicles from ASF-affected regions in Annex I of the Decision are checked at the BIP by the official competent authority. Member States must require that drivers of livestock vehicles from third countries provide verification to the official competent authority of the Member State at the BIP that the interior of the vehicle and any equipment in contact with animals as well as the driver's protective clothes/boots used during unloading have been cleaned and disinfected after the last unloading of animals. If the cleaning and disinfection is deemed satisfactory by the official authority at the BIP, the official issues a C&D certificate and the vehicle may proceed to customs control and clearance. If deemed unsatisfactory, the official authority may refuse entry of the livestock vehicle and/or send the vehicle to a place designated by the official authority to undergo C&D.

For empty livestock transporting vehicles returning from regions that are not ASF-affected, there are general EU standards for C&D but currently no EU-level requirements for C&D certification for livestock vehicles entering the EU from third countries. Livestock vehicles from third countries must be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading animals in an EU Member State. In lieu of an official certification system, trucks must arrive cleaned and disinfected and, if

requested, the truck driver must produce the C&D invoice from the washing station to the producer and/or regional official veterinarian to confirm C&D was performed. The disinfectant is typically noted on the invoice as well as date and location of the washing station. Although truck drivers are registered and receive required training about livestock hauling, including proper C&D procedures, this is a self-regulatory system with no official certification or regulatory oversight.

For in-country movement of livestock vehicles, transport vehicles, including feed delivery trucks, are expected to be cleaned and disinfected immediately after every transport of animals or of any product which could affect animal health [7]. Again, there is no official certification system; however, the transporter must ensure that each vehicle used for the transport of animals has a register containing information about the date and place of C&D. This register must be kept for a minimum period of three years. If the truck does not appear clean, the producer or the official veterinarian can refuse entry and require the truck to be cleaned and disinfected before returning for loading. Prior to entering, many holdings enforce biosecurity measures for vehicles. Trucks must drive through spray stations and/or tire baths before entering the clean zone of the holding. Trucks enter and exit through specified gates; drivers wear appropriate personal protective equipment; and direct contact with the animals is limited or prohibited. On some holdings, the producer does not allow livestock vehicles to enter the holding; rather, the producer uses his own truck to transport animals from the holding to the livestock vehicle parked at the main road.

For non-commercial goods from third countries carried in personal vehicles and passenger baggage, the official veterinary services follow procedures in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) 206/2009](#). This regulation lays down rules concerning the introduction of personal consignments of animal-origin products in personal luggage, personal vehicles, or items sent to private persons ordered via mail, telephone, or internet. Personal consignments of meat, meat products, milk and milk products are not permitted from outside the EU other than Andorra, the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino, and Switzerland. Thus, personal consignments of animal-origin products are subject to inspection and seizure by the official veterinary services or other enforcement officials of the BIP. Veterinary officials of the MVA are in a close collaboration with Czechia customs authorities who are responsible for the inspection of personal luggage. Transport officials at airports, seaports, travel agencies and postal services make travelers and customers aware of the prohibited materials in the Regulation by providing the information (posters) in Annexes III and IV of Commission Regulation (EC) 206/2009 [7].

To further prevent introduction and spread of animal diseases, the ban on feeding food waste to swine in the EU and disposal of international catering waste from cruise ships, airports, etc. is regulated by the [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 1069/2009](#) and [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 142/2011](#). Swill feeding or garbage feeding to swine is prohibited in Czechia. International catering waste from the airport is destroyed as Category I materials. The regulation of international catering waste is the responsibility of the MVA. International catering waste is stored in dedicated, covered, leak-proof containers and prominently labeled as “Category I – for disposal only”. Waste is disposed of by burial in authorized landfills or by incineration in approved plants. Typically, private companies are contracted to handle the waste and seized goods in accordance to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 and Commission Regulation (EU) 142/2011. It is the responsibility of the RVA/MVA to audit and inspect disposal

documentation, incineration plants, and waste handling procedures of the private companies that handle the waste [14].

Collectively, the measures described in this section are in place to control and prevent incursions and spread of animal diseases that can be transmitted through animal-origin products.

8. Hazard detection, response, and notification

8.1 Disease detection and diagnostic laboratory support

Each year, the SVA approves a document titled the Methodology of Animal Health Control and Ordered Vaccination (the Methodology) which includes the annual plan for animal disease monitoring in Czechia. It provides the strategy to monitor animal diseases for which Czechia is free and other selected diseases, such as those with zoonotic potential or diseases that are important for Czechia's animal health or agricultural economy. For each disease, the specific scope of monitoring is prescribed and specifies the diagnostic methodology to be used [7].

Czechia has been free of FMD since 1975, free of CSF in domestic swine since 1997, free of CSF in wild boar since 1999; and has never detected SVD. Czechia first detected ASF in 2017, eventually detecting 230 cases in wild boar (no detections in domestic swine) culminating with the detection of the last ASF case on April 15, 2018.

Czechia conducts passive surveillance in order to detect introduction of the four diseases under review, ASF, CSF, FMD, and SVD. SVA credits early detection of ASF in Czechia by a nationwide passive ASF monitoring program implemented in 2014 after ASF was detected in the Baltic region of the EU. Through this program all wild boar found dead were virologically tested for ASF. In addition, Czechia conducts targeted active surveillance monitoring for introduction of CSF and SVD. Czechia does not conduct active surveillance for FMD.

Compulsory notification

In Czechia, it is compulsory for animal keepers, handlers, and transporters; meat slaughter and processing operators; game hunters; and both private and official veterinarians to immediately notify suspicion of FMD, CSF, SVD, and ASF to the RVA/MVA [7]. This is mandated by the Veterinary Act for all diseases under review (*see Section 7.1*), in accordance with [EU Directive 82/894/EEC](#). The RVA/MVA then notifies the CVA and conducts an investigation on the farm. If a notifiable disease is confirmed by a national reference laboratory, then the CVA notifies the OIE of any outbreak of CSF, FMD, SVD or ASF within 24 hours. In addition, CVA enters this information into the EU's Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) and notifies neighboring countries as well.

Surveillance

Passive surveillance is dependent upon prompt notification of suspicion or confirmation of disease. During the three-year period under APHIS review (2016-2018), there were no suspected cases of CSF, SVD or FMD reported and no positive test results obtained as a result of routine laboratory testing [7].

In domestic swine, ASF suspicion was only sporadically reported in the last three years. No suspect cases in 2016, three suspect cases in 2017, and one suspect case in 2018. Both

virological and serological samples were collected and tested in each case, and all diagnostic test results were negative [7].

In wild boar, passive surveillance has been conducted since 2014 to sample and test all carcasses of wild boar found dead throughout Czechia. All virological and serological test results had been negative until June 26, 2017, when ASF was first detected in Czechia (*see Table 3*) [7, 14].

Table 3: ASF passive surveillance of wild boar found dead throughout Czechia, 2014-2019 [14]

Year	No. of wild boar found dead and tested	No. of positive test results
2014	243	0
2015	348	0
2016	404	0
2017	1,622	191
2018	1,408	21
2019 (thru Aug. 20)	711	0

Nationwide surveillance continues after the ASF introduction and all samples collected outside of the infected area tested negative (*see Tables 4 and 5*). Within the affected zone, a total of 230 cases were detected in wild boar over a period of ten months culminating with the last detection of ASF on April 15, 2018. All positive cases were detected only in the District of Zlín, located in the eastern region of the country near the border with Slovakia. There were no detections of ASF in domestic swine [7, 14].

Table 4: ASF serological surveillance in Czechia, June 21, 2017 – June 30, 2019 [14]

ASF – number of serological samples tested (ELISA), 06/21/17 – 06/30/19									
	Zone	2017 (6/21 – 12/31)		2018		2019 (1/1 – 6/30)		Total	
		Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
Wild boar	Infected area	1,945	27	1,545	7	100	0	3,590	34
	Area of intensive hunting	4,477	0	5,451	0	783	0	10,711	0
	Remainder of Czechia	229	0	580	0	252	0	1,061	0
	SUBTOTAL	6,651	27	7,576	7	1,135	0	15,362	34
Domestic swine	Infected area	22	0	418	0	0	0	440	0
	Area of intensive hunting	29	0	1,429	0	34	0	1,492	0
	Remainder of Czechia	322	0	104	0	38	0	464	0
	SUBTOTAL	373	0	1,951	0	72	0	2,396	0
TOTAL		7,024	27	9,527	7	1,207	0	17,758	34

Table 5: ASF virological surveillance in Czechia, June 21, 2017 – June 30, 2019 [14]

ASF - number of virological samples tested (ELISA), 06/21/17 – 06/30/19									
	Zone	2017 (6/21 – 12/31)		2018		2019 (1/1 – 6/30)		Total	
		Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
Wild boar	Infected area	2,116	206	1,664	24	105	0	3,885	230
	Area of intensive hunting	11,884	0	11,385	0	2,148	0	25,417	0
	Remainder of Czechia	1,185	0	1,147	0	510	0	2,842	0
	SUBTOTAL	15,185	206	14,196	24	2,763	0	32,144	230
Domestic swine	Infected area	22	0	426	0	19	0	467	0
	Area of intensive hunting	29	0	1,487	0	271	0	1,787	0
	Remainder of Czechia	477	0	276	0	1,051	0	4,058	0
	SUBTOTAL	528	0	2,189	0	1,341	0	4,058	0
TOTAL		15,713	206	16,385	24	4,104	0	36,202	230

Czechia conducts targeted CSF surveillance in domestic swine by testing all breeding pigs imported from third countries; breeding boars before entry into semen collection centers and while housed there; sows after abortion; and 3% of slaughtered sows and all boars from individual pig holding lots consigned to a slaughterhouse. **Table 6** summarizes CSF active surveillance for the years 2015-2018 [7, 14].

Table 6: CSF testing in domestic swine in Czechia, 2015-2018 [7, 14]

Year	No. of serological samples (ELISA)	No. positive results	No. of virological samples (PCR)	No. positive results	No. of serological samples (ELISA) from sows that aborted	No. positive results
2015	5,861	0	7	0	1,467	0
2016	5,697	0	5	0	1,333	0
2017	5,173	0	5	0	1,301	0
2018	5,684	0	--	--	1,630	0

For wild boar, Czechia collected samples for serological testing in 5% of hunted wild boar until ASF was initially detected (surveillance after ASF detection is discussed in the next section). In addition, the carcasses of all wild boar found dead were serologically and virologically tested (the results are summarized in **Table 7**) [7, 14].

Table 7: CSF testing in wild boar in Czechia, 2015-2018 [7, 14]

Year	No. of serological samples (ELISA)	No. positive results	No. of virological samples (PCR)	No. positive results
2015	8,930	0	326	0
2016	6,924	0	271	0
2017	10,123	0	1,565	0
2018	7,132	0	1,432	0

Czechia also conducted targeted SVD surveillance in domestic pigs by serologically sampling 3% of slaughtered sows and all boars from individual pig holding lots consigned to a slaughterhouse. **Table 8** summarizes SVD active surveillance for the years 2015-2018 [7, 14].

Table 8: SVD testing (ELISA) in domestic swine in Czechia, 2015-2018 [7, 14]

Year	No. of serological samples from sows and boars	No. positive results
2015	4,698	0
2016	3,175	0
2017	2,735	0
2018	2,965	0

Diagnostic laboratory support

The State Veterinary Institutes (SVI) is the official diagnostic laboratory system of Czechia. SVI provides the diagnostic support for official control of animal health and hygiene of food, feed, water, and environment, including monitoring of residues and contaminants in food and feed. The SVIs employ approximately 370 employees. The three main diagnostic laboratories are SVI Prague, SVI Jihlava, and SVI Olomouc. Samples for notifiable animal diseases are sent to one of these three SVI laboratories for diagnostic testing. The director of each SVI reports directly to the CVO [7, 13, 14].

Laboratory testing for CSF and ASF may be carried out at all three laboratories. However confirmatory testing for CSF and ASF, as well as testing on all samples from ASF-affected areas, may only be conducted by the national reference laboratory (NRL) for CSF and the NRL for ASF which are both located at the SVI Jihlava. For FMD and SVD, both laboratory testing and confirmatory testing are exclusively carried out at the SVI Prague which is the designated NRL for vesicular diseases [7, 13, 14].

The EC designates and authorizes NRLs for animal diseases in the EU Member State, as well as EU reference laboratories (EURLs) for the entire EU. NRLs are in close contact with the EURLs. They annually participate in joint meetings focused on relevant issues and they undergo control tests aimed at verification of the examination quality. They regularly participate in proficiency testing organized by the EURLs. The staff of individual NRLs takes part in trainings

organized by EURLs, usually once or twice per year. The NRLs organize training within their respective areas of competence for the staff of the other official laboratories. Each laboratory has a training plan tailored to its area of competencies [14].

All SVI laboratories performing official diagnostic testing must follow procedures that meet requirements of CSN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certification. The accreditation process is performed by the Czech Accreditation Institute (CAI), an independent accreditation body established by the Czech Government [7, 14].

Simulations

Emergency response simulations are organized annually by the SVA in cooperation with the Army of the Czech Republic. Recent exercises include a 2016 simulation of suspicion of FMD and avian influenza (AI) in a holding; a 2017 simulation of an outbreak of FMD, AI, CSF and ASF, including practical exercises for on-farm biosecurity, necropsy and sample collection; and a 2018 demonstration of collection of samples from dead or infected animals and mobile decontamination techniques [7].

Outreach education activities

The CVA organizes regular meetings and trainings with official veterinarians regarding current animal health issues. The CVA conducted specific trainings on ASF for official veterinarians, six sessions in 2017 with 229 participants and four sessions in 2018 with 195 participants. Additional ASF trainings were conducted by the RVAs and MVA at the regional level targeting both official veterinarians as well as private veterinarians [7].

Following the detection of the first ASF case in Czechia, an expert group was set up at the national level, the National ASF Control Center (NDCC). Members of that group included all stakeholders representing the SVA, SVI, NRL for ASF and other government agencies; the Regional Authority of the Zlín region; veterinary schools and professional veterinary associations; the swine industry; hunting associations; the Agrarian Chamber of Czechia; a rendering establishment; and the Fire Rescue Service of Czechia. The NDCC met weekly during the summer of 2017 before being replaced by an ASF Working Group which met monthly through April 2018 [7].

In the affected area, an expert group was set up at the RVA level which included RVA representatives, epidemiologists, biologists, private veterinarians, representatives of local game-keeping associations, local pig farmers, fire rescue service, police, and local administrations.

The SVA organized trainings for 1,300 game keepers in the infected area, focusing on prevention of ASF spread, biosecurity during wild boar hunting, and disposal of wild boar carcasses. In addition, the SVA regularly distributed information to stakeholders via electronic communications, as well as posting updated information on the SVA website [7].

8.2 Disease response

In general, the Veterinary Act is the Czech legislation mandating compulsory notification of disease suspicion and granting the SVA authority to control and eradicate the animal diseases under review, ASF, CSF, FMD and SVD (*see Section 7.1*). Specific measures for controlling these diseases are further detailed in secondary legislation, Decree No. 202/2004 for ASF,

Decree No. 299/2003 for CSF and SVD, and Decree No. 389/2004 for FMD. These legislative acts are harmonized with the relevant EC legislation [7].

In response to ASF outbreaks in Europe, Czechia initiated passive surveillance in wild boars beginning in 2014 requiring that all wild boars found dead in Czechia be tested for ASF. Through this passive surveillance program, the SVA was able to quickly detect the first occurrence of ASF in the country [7, 13-14].

ASF detection

The first ever occurrence of ASF in Czechia was diagnosed at the NRL for ASF at SVI Jihlava on June 26, 2017. The positive sample was collected from a wild boar carcass which was found dead on June 21, 2017 in the Zlín district. Based on the condition of the carcass, SVA estimated that the probable date of ASF introduction to Czechia to be June 10-11, 2017 [7].

At the time the first ASF positive case was detected in Czechia, the nearest ASF cases were about 400 km away in Poland and the Ukraine. Subsequent ASF monitoring in Czechia detected a total of 230 ASF cases, all in wild boar (from 212 carcasses and 18 hunted wild boar) located in a single 89 km² area in Zlín district. The last positive ASF case in a hunted wild boar was detected on February 08, 2018 and the last positive carcass was found April 15, 2018 [7, 14].

ASF has never been detected in domestic swine in Czechia. No direct epidemiological link was made between these cases in Czechia and any known ASF case in another country. SVA deduced that ASF was not introduced to Czechia by natural spread through wild boar populations, but rather by human activity. A possible route of ASF introduction into Czechia was theorized to involve a food product derived from ASF-infected pigs being transported into Czechia from an ASF-infected region by foreign workers, or through international transport or tourism. The exact pathway of introduction has not been established [7, 14].

Immediately after ASF detection, the SVA adopted emergency veterinary measures, including defining the boundaries of the infected area and imposing a prohibition of wild boar hunting within that area. A final definition of the infected area was based on results of ASF surveillance, local natural conditions, and research on wild boar spatial activity in Czechia. Consequently, the whole district of Zlín (1,033 km²) was defined as an infected area [7].

Around the infected area, SVA established an area for intensive ASF monitoring in wild boar (8,500 km²) to serve as a buffer zone. Within the buffer zone, intensive hunting of wild boar was conducted. All wild boar found dead and hunted were tested for ASF (virologically by PCR and serologically by ELISA) [7].

The ASF virus found in wild boar in Czechia was sent to the EURL for ASF in Madrid, Spain. The EURL determined by gene typing that the virus was genetically identical with the ASF virus circulating in the Baltics (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), Poland, and Ukraine [7].

Epidemiological research in Czechia, as well as in other countries affected by ASF, has not identified or documented any specific ASF carrier. ASF spreads short distances in wild boar populations through mutual direct contact and through contact with carcasses of infected wild boar. The SVA concluded that the main source of ASF spread in Czechia resulted from contact with infected wild boar and, in particular, with carcasses of dead infected wild boar. Therefore, SVA adopted key measures to collect, sample and safely dispose of wild boar carcasses at

rendering plants in Czechia. The samples obtained from dead wild boar carcasses were tested for ASF, virologically by PCR and serologically by ELISA [7].

ASF zoning

In EU Member States affected by ASF, zoning is classified as follows:

- **Part I area:** areas with a higher risk of ASF, free of ASF outbreaks or cases, where a more intensive surveillance is taking place.
- **Part II area:** ASF cases detected only in feral pigs.
- **Part III area:** ASF detected in both domestic as well as feral pigs, the occurrence is not endemic.
- **Part IV area:** ASF detected in both domestic as well as feral pigs, endemic occurrence.

The legal basis for the zoning is Commission Decision 2014/709/EU *Concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States*. As ASF has been found in Czechia only in wild boar, only part I and part II areas were established [7, 14].

ASF zoning in Czechia developed as follows [7, 11]:

- Immediately after the occurrence of ASF in wild boar was confirmed for the first time in Czechia (June 26, 2017), an infected area was defined as a list of municipalities where positive cases were found. This was done by veterinary emergency measure on June 27, 2017.
- On July 13, the entire district of Zlín was declared as an infected area, in accordance with Commission implementing decision (EU) 2017/1162 and Commission implementing decision (EU) 2017/1437 (see **Figure 5, Appendix B**).
- Within the infected area, a higher risk area was defined – an area where the positive cases occurred (July 18, 2017).
- On October 11, 2017, Commission Implementing Decision 2017/709/EU was amended in order to establish ASF regionalization for Czechia as follows:
 - **Part I areas:** districts of Uherské Hradiště, Kroměříž and Vsetín (2,950 km²)
 - **Part II areas:** district of Zlín (1,030 km²)
 - For a map showing the regionalization see **Figure 5, Appendix B**.
- In view of its approved ASF eradication plan and epidemiological data, the ASF regionalization of Czechia was modified starting from February 1, 2018, reducing the size of the Part II areas (infected area) as follows:
 - **Part I areas:** districts of Uherské Hradiště, Kroměříž and Vsetín a part of the Zlín district (3,570 km²)
 - **Part II areas:** a part of the Zlín district (49 municipalities with a total area of 410 km²)
 - For a map of the part II area see **Figure 6, Appendix B**.
- Starting from February 22, 2018, the ASF regionalization was slightly adjusted as follows:
 - **Part I areas:** districts of Uherské Hradiště, Kroměříž and Vsetín a part of the Zlín district (3,450 km²)
 - **Part II areas:** a part of the Zlín district (66 municipalities with a total area of 530 km²)
 - For corresponding maps please see **Figures 7 and 8, Appendix B**.

- Starting from March 13, 2019, considering the effectiveness of the overall measures being applied in Czechia for ASF, all ASF regionalization, both **Part I** and **Part II areas**, was lifted from Czechia.
- In addition to the above regionalization, an area of intensive wild boar hunting was defined around the affected area (July 13, 2017). See **Figure 9, Appendix B** for a map of the area with intensive hunting.

ASF control measures

The principle measures SVA relied upon for ASF eradication include:

- Passive surveillance, which has been conducted since 2014, is considered to be the most important tool for early detection of ASF;
- Immediate demarcation of infected area with intensive sampling;
- Fencing to limit migration of wild boar outside the infected area;
- Hunting restrictions followed by designation of an area for intensive hunting efforts;
- Restricted migration of wild boar out of the infected area through use of fencing and feed baiting;
- Cooperation with police for hunting in an infected area;
- Restrictions also imposed on domestic pig farms including strict biosecurity, restricted animal movement, verification of farm inventory of pigs, restricted entry, and recordkeeping;
- Single pig holdings were banned during eradication efforts; and
- Amended the Breeding Act to require 100% animal identification.

Around 115 hectares of unharvested corn was left as food for wild boar to keep them in the infected area. A 57 km² area was designated as the high-risk zone within the infected area. To contain the wild boar in the infected area 2 types of fencing were used. Electric fencing lined up along the roads and consisted of 4 sections along the perimeter in areas that did not have a housing development.

Because the electric fencing couldn't be utilized in inhabited areas, SVA and RVA had concerns that it would restrict but not completely stop wild boar migration. So, the RVA developed "scented fencing" which consisted of polyurethane foam injected with 3-methylbutanoic acid (or isovaleric acid) which has an odor that repels wild boar. The early prototypes used Styrofoam coffee cups filled with a foam that was impregnated with scent. These were laid on the ground 5 meters apart in the perimeter of the area. In the winter, the scent cups were placed on wooden stacks around 1 meter high so they would not be covered by snow.

One RVA staff member drove around the fences daily to assure integrity of fences and to look for dead wild boar.

Ongoing ASF control measures in Czechia include:

- Ban on feeding wild boar – restricted baiting of 20 kg per baiting site covering 50 hectares of hunting grounds
- Ban on waste feeding of domestic pigs – based on EU legislation but the ban was added to Czech emergency measures, so it was explicit in requirements
- Ban on imported wild boar trophies from countries with ASF
- Ban on using hay and straw from countries with ASF

- Mandatory recordkeeping requirement for backyard pigs including those sold for backyard slaughter
- Outreach is ongoing (flyers, public announcements using bullhorns in vehicles that drive through smaller towns, etc.). In addition to ASF, this outreach also includes information regarding SVD, CSF and FMD.

Different sets of measures have been taken depending on the area and target population concerned.

Measures concerning domestic pigs within the infected area:

- Official checks in domestic pig farms, especially in farms with free range pig keeping (organic farms).
- Testing of pigs over 60 days of age twice yearly on all pig farms within the infected area during the period lasting until 24 months after the last ASF case.
- Monitoring of all sick or dead pigs with requirements for reporting and sampling on holdings with unusual mortalities.
- A list of swine holdings in the infected area including backyard pig farms. The Breeding Act was amended to require registration of all holdings regardless of size and all animals must be identified (ear tag or tattoo). In 2017, an exemption was still in place allowing individuals to own only 1 pig. This practice was banned in the area and all single pig holdings had to slaughter their animals by a certain deadline. The RVA verifies compliance. No restocking was allowed until complete eradication was declared in 2018.
- Commercial producers had to maintain visitor logs including inseminators, feed, other service providers, etc.
- Biosecurity measures in all pig farms keeping pigs for domestic slaughter.
- Movement control (movements only with prior approval). Obligation to notify the RVA three days in advance before moving domestic pigs to slaughter.
- Entry/exit from area was also restricted as part of control.
- Increased fines for prohibition on feeding catering waste.
- Ban on feeding with fresh grass
- Ban on use of fresh hay/straw for bedding – monitored by RVA by checking stocks and records with operations
- Ban on entering the farms by persons who have come into contact with wild boar in the previous 48 hours

An “Expert group” (National Center for Disease Eradication) was formed to address continuing disease control. The group consists of individuals at the Central level along with Ministers and members of Parliament. Meetings continue to date and are held most Fridays. Updates are provided on hunted and dead wild boar, numbers sampled, in the infected area and across the country. The group recently met at SVA offices with producer groups, police, RVA, emergency center personnel to discuss measures throughout the country to prevent further ASF incursion.

Both the SVA and RVA recognized early on that eradication required cooperation across all stakeholder groups. Control of the wild boar population was one of the most critical discussions. It was determined that the use of poison was not viable due to Zlín being a highly industrialized area. A system of rewards and compensation for hunters was developed, with the highest

compensation being given for wild boar found in the high-risk area. Training was also provided to hunters including proper handling of carcasses at the veterinary institution. Carcasses were bagged and taken to a rendering plant for sampling and disposal. Sampling was done by an official veterinarian at the Mankovice rendering plant (which was visited by the APHIS site visit team). Pig carcasses were transported daily in dedicated vehicles. All dead and hunted pigs were sampled and disposed. Emergency veterinary services, the fire brigade, or police bagged diseased pigs and took them to the rendering plant for sampling.

At the time of the outbreak, an emergency plan for ASF was in place for domestic pigs but not for wild boar. The wild boar strategy focused on depopulation. At first, it was assumed that the ASF virus would result in 95% mortality, but as the wild boar population started declining, they recognized that they could not continue to rely on mortality due to ASF to sufficiently decrease the population. Diseased wild boar were difficult to find, so local hunters were recruited as the best resource for finding wild boar in their natural habitat and around water sources like swampy areas, ravines, ditches and creeks. A location fee was also offered which was higher than the hunting fee. Fees paid had to be high enough to entice hunters to shoot and report, but not sell or keep wild boar. Compensation included not just the fee for shooting wild boar but also compensation of the hunting association for loss of animals and meat.

Timely collection and disposal of carcasses was considered one of the most important components of ASF control and eradication. The finder's reward in the ASF area was 5000 Czech Crown (CZK) (US\$213) in the high-risk area. During the intensive hunt, a fee was paid for each wild boar hunted and ASF-tested amounting to 4,000 CZK (US\$170) for wild boar up to 50 kg and 8,000 CZK (US \$340) for wild boar over 50 kg in weight. Hunting grounds received compensations of 1,000 CZK (US\$43), 2,000 CZK (US\$85) and 3,200 CZK (US\$136) for wild boar piglets, yearlings, and adults respectively. Throughout Czechia, the finders reward for wild boar carcasses was 2,000 CZK (US\$85).

Eventually it was recognized that hobby hunters couldn't cover the area, so police were used for the intensive hunting efforts. Police sharpshooters had to be retrained to shoot animals and were trained to shoot through the head not the heart to allow best chances for good sample collection. A Dispatch Center at the RVA coordinated activities. The RVA selected specific areas in cooperation with local hunting associations designated for pick-up points for dead or shot wild boar. After an intensive hunt, hunters/police contacted the Dispatch Center notifying them of the location. The RVA came to the designated location, bagged, and removed the wild boar. The intensive hunt started October 2017 and continued through December 2017. All samples from the infected area were taken to the National Reference Laboratory.

Biosecurity safety checks were implemented on domestic pig holdings/operations. All domestic pig production in the Zlín area was banned, particularly because it was difficult to come up with a viable solution for biosecurity in small holdings.

Czech legislation for domestic swine does not require eradication of reportable diseases but provides the mechanisms for the SVA to do so, if the need arises. Thus, veterinary legislation in Czechia has broad authority and can make broad changes like modifying hunting rules. Hunting and forestry responsibilities fall under the Ministry of Agriculture while species and environmental protection falls under the Ministry of Environment. Czechia is also able to ban entry of humans or prevent corn harvest in certain areas. In the infected area, it was prohibited to harvest certain crops, in particular maize, so that the wild boar would have sufficient feed and

less incentive to move from the infected area. After winter, the crops were ploughed in and the plots in question were limed [20]. These types of activities were incorporated into the ASF eradication efforts.

During the site visit, the APHIS was informed by the DG SANTE representative that the EC had developed approaches for control of ASF in domestic pigs and assumed control in domestic pigs would result in control in wild boar populations. When this did not happen, the EC had to adjust their approach and recognize that Member States needed to have their own resources and flexibility to implement country-specific strategies for their eradication efforts. Czechia followed the EU regulations but added their own requirements and legislation for their specific situation. The EU is now incorporating some of these changes that Czechia implemented into the EU regulations for ASF eradication.

A ban was instituted to prevent entry of unauthorized people in the high-risk area. Movement of animals was also banned in the high-risk area. During the first month of the eradication effort, crisis management legislation allowed use of national budget funds as required by RVA in the emergency center. Extension of a 1-month time period was needed based on the SVA declaring an emergency. The hunting guard enforced the movement ban. If citizens did not comply, police were called to enforce the regulations.

The domestic pig population in the infected area of Zlín was estimated to be around 11,000-12,000, so it was not an intensive swine production area. Official checks were first initiated for the 3 large swine holdings, including biosecurity checks and sample collection. All registered producers were checked for biosecurity compliance. The rest of the holdings were required to register their farms. Cooperation with local authorities was high. During the site visit APHIS reviewers observed documentation containing data on the official veterinary inspections [14].

When the SVA decided to depopulate all domestic pigs in the area (around 3,000), producers were ready to send pigs to slaughter; local slaughter facilities initially refused to take pigs from the domestic producers despite testing negative for ASF. After some delay, they eventually agreed to accept pigs, however no compensation was provided to these farms.

Czechia has a few small holdings that use free ranging production system for domestic pigs. The regulation requires them to allow official checks. Free-range regulation requires that the facility have pig stalls and fencing to prevent contact with wild boar.

The SVA provides some farm subsidies to assist swine holdings to strengthen biosecurity. Biosecurity checks are the responsibility of the RVA, who uses a checklist during farm visits. Inspections include evaluating hygiene, fencing, carcass disposal, etc. The official veterinarian writes reports and protocols to address identified deficiencies and remedies. Reports are entered into the central information system.

For commercial farms, biosecurity checks for measures implemented included prevention of introduction of wild boar, disinfection at the entrance to premises, hygiene, employees not allowed to hunt, regular checks of pigs, regular sampling for ASF, etc. Biosecurity checks were done on large- and small-scale commercial breeders. One RVA employee was also placed in charge of checking backyard facilities to ensure biosecurity practices were in place.

Currently, all wild boar found dead or killed by road traffic are tested for ASF and CSF. The testing of hunted wild boar for ASF was discontinued on March 14, 2019 when emergency veterinary measures were lifted from the areas that had been restricted due to ASF. Regarding

domestic swine, all sows which abort are tested for ASF and CSF. ASF testing is also done in dead weaned domestic pigs when the cause of death is unclear or when increased mortalities occur. In the latter case, a representative sample of the dead pigs is tested for ASF [20].

The timetable for each measure is set out in the *Plan of the Eradication of African Swine Fever in the Population of Wild Boar*, as approved by the EC on Nov.17, 2017 (see **Appendix B**) [7].

8.3 Reporting history

Compulsory reporting to competent veterinary authorities for the diseases under review is mandatory in Czechia, as previously described. Disease reporting is the responsibility of animal keepers, handlers, and transporters; meat slaughter and processing operators; game hunters; and both private and official veterinarians in Czechia. Upon confirmation of a primary disease outbreak, CVA immediately notifies the EC and the other EU Member States (in accordance with EU Directive 82/894/EEC) and the notification is posted in the EC's ADNS.

Czechia is an active member of the OIE and immediately reports notifiable disease outbreaks to the OIE which then immediately makes information about the outbreak event immediately publicly available online through its World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). In addition to the immediate notifications, Czechia has a consistent history of submitting biannual reporting of hazards. Information in OIE's WAHIS indicates Czechia has promptly reported the animal health status of the country to OIE since at least 1996, the earliest available online reporting information [1].

8.4 Export controls

In accordance with [Commission Decision 93/444/EC](#), the export of live animals, animal products and by-products to third countries requires an export health certificate. The shipment is accompanied by a certificate conforming to the requirements of the third country of destination with data verified by the competent veterinary authority. In Czechia, export health certificates are issued by the official veterinarian of the RVA/MVA. The BIP is not involved in the export process. Approved or private veterinarians are not authorized to issue export certificates [7].

For the export of animals and animal products from Czechia, an official veterinarian of an RVA/MVA is responsible for certifying the animal health requirements of the third country of destination. All export certificates are signed and stamped by an official RVA/MVA veterinarian. The SVA is responsible for negotiating the veterinary conditions for export of live animals and animal products from Czechia to third countries. Once veterinary conditions are agreed upon by the SVA and third countries, sample model veterinary certificates for export of animals or animal products to the third countries are made publicly available on the SVA website. Access to actual export certificate forms are tightly controlled by the SVA to ensure authenticity and accountability, and copies of issued certificates are archived by the SVA for auditing and traceability. In some cases, export certificates are harmonized among and binding for all EU Member States. These certificates may be issued through TRACES [7].

The EC stipulates in [Commission Directive 96/93/EC](#) the required procedures for EU Member States to issue veterinary certificates for the exportation of live animals and animal products to

third countries (e.g. for swine commodities, including swine, swine semen, or pig meat, which are intended for the exportation to the United States). The competent authority of the Member State shall ensure that certifying officers (veterinary officers) have a satisfactory knowledge of the veterinary legislation as regards the animals or products to be certified and, in general, are informed as to the rules to be followed for drawing up and issuing the certificates and, if necessary, any tests or examinations which should be carried out before certification. Certifying officers must not certify data of which they have no personal knowledge, or which cannot be ascertained by them.

Certifying officers must not sign blank or incomplete certificates, or certificates relating to animals or products which they have not inspected, or which have passed out of their control. Where a certificate is signed based on another certificate or attestation, the certifying officer shall be in possession of that document before signing.

The Member State competent authorities shall also take all necessary steps to ensure the integrity of certification. In particular they shall ensure that certifying officers designated by them: have a status which ensures their impartiality and have no direct commercial interest in the animals or products being certified or in the holdings or establishments in which they originate; and are fully aware of the significance of the contents of each certificate which they sign.

Currently, Czechia does not export live swine or porcine semen to the United States, nor does it have any establishment approved to export pork or pork products to the United States [7].

9. Conclusions and recommendations

In this review, APHIS found no evidence that ASF, CSF, FMD, and SVD are present in Czechia. We conclude that Czechia conducts sufficient control measures to prevent the entry of hazards under review, and, in the event of a hazard incursion, Czechia is capable of detecting the hazard and containing its spread as it demonstrated in its response to ASF entry in 2017. In addition, Czechia has demonstrated a history of promptly reporting disease events and taking appropriate measures to prevent their export to third countries. We are confident in Czechia's ability to promptly notify its trading partners and the OIE of disease events, and response to the outbreak sufficiently to prevent introduction of the disease into the United States and Canada via imports of infected animals and/or contaminated animal products from Czechia.

In consideration of the favorable review of Czechia's animal health statuses, APHIS concludes that current conferred statuses and import mitigations for CSF, FMD and SVD are appropriate. APHIS recommends that recognition of these statuses be maintained until the next APHIS review or until a change in Czechia's animal health status is reported. APHIS' conclusions about EU ASF zoning are discussed in a separate overarching EU ASF report.

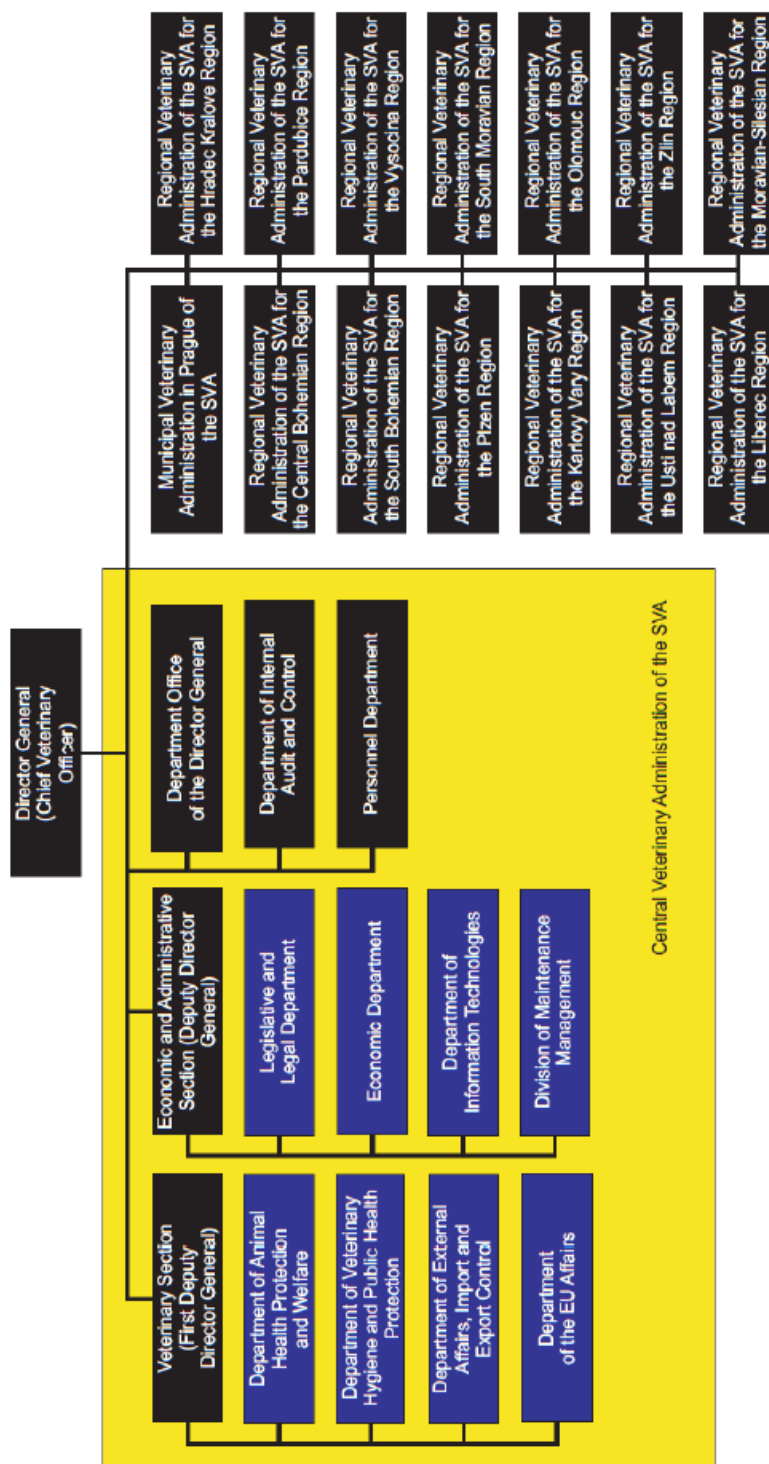
10. References

1. OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). *World Animal Health Information Database (WAHIS) 2020*. Accessed Jan. 28, 2020 at http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Wahidhome/Home. 2020.
2. OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). *Notification of diseases, infections and infestations, and provision of epidemiological information*, in *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. World Organization for Animal Health: Paris. 2019.
3. OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). *Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations on the OIE list*, in *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. World Organization for Animal Health: Paris. 2019.
4. OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). *Diseases, infections, and infestations listed by the OIE*, in *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. World Organization for Animal Health: Paris. 2019.
5. APHIS. *Animal health status of regions*. Accessed November 21, 2019 at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions>. 2019.
6. European Commission. *Indicative Map of EU ASF regionalization as per Decision 2014/709/EU and Decision (EU) 2019/1994*. Accessed Dec. 17, 2019 at <https://eu-commission.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3db65168d4ad4d829a38560d7f868ace>. 2019.
7. Government of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Agriculture, State Veterinary Administration. *Czechia's Technical Submission: Questionnaire Animal Health Status of the Czech Republic, 25 Feb 2019*. 2019.
8. APHIS. *Animal health status review information*. Accessed Aug. 18, 2019 at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/international-standard-setting-activities-oie/regionalization/ah-status-review>. 2019.
9. Code of Federal Regulations. *Title 9, Part 92 Importation of animal and animal products: procedures for requesting recognition of regions*. 2019 Accessed Nov. 21, 2019 at <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2fb611064cf45c5e3e570c1829f21a1e&mc=true&node=pt9.1.92&rgn=div5>. 2019.
10. Code of Federal Regulations. *Title 9 Part 92 Section 92.2 Application for recognition of the animal health status of a region*. 2019. Accessed Nov. 21, 2019 at https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2fb611064cf45c5e3e570c1829f21a1e&mc=true&node=pt9.1.92&rgn=div5#se9.1.92_12. 2019.
11. European Commission. *COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/404 of 12 March 2019 amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States*. Accessed Dec. 17, 2019 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019D0404&from=EN>. 2019.
12. Government of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Agriculture, State Veterinary Administration, SCoPAFF, Brussels, 25 Feb 2019. *Presentation: African swine fever in wild boar in the Czech Republic*. 2019.
13. Government of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Agriculture, State Veterinary Administration. *Czechia's Technical Submission: Review of the Status of Certain Swine Diseases in the Czech Republic: Additional Information, 12 Jun 2019*. 2019.
14. APHIS. *Information gathered on APHIS/CFIA site visit to the Czech Republic for the review of animal health statuses for swine diseases, September 9-12, 2019*. 2019.
15. Czech Statistical Office. *Number of pigs by weight and purpose of rearing*. Accessed January 28, 2020 at https://vdb.czso.cz/vdbvo2/faces/en/index.jspx?_af=VYSTUP-OBJEKT-parametry&z=T&f=TABULKA&sp=A&skupId=2704&katalog=30840&pvo=ZEMDPRAS01&c=v3~7__RP2019PP1. 2020.
16. European Commission – Health and Food Safety. *TRACES: TRade Control and Expert System*. Accessed Nov. 22, 2019 at https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/traces_en. 2019.
17. International Trade Center (ITC). *Trade statistics for international business development - Monthly, quarterly and yearly trade data. Import & export values, volumes, growth rates, market shares, etc.* Accessed January 28, 2020 at <https://www.trademap.org/Index.aspx>. 2020.
18. Code of Federal Regulations. *Title 9, Part 94.31 Restrictions on the importation of pork, pork products, and swine from the APHIS-defined European CSF region*. Accessed January 28, 2020 at https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=f1cee2b3cc7de8073d7850ebff5bebf&mc=true&node=se9.1.94_131&rgn=div8. 2020.
19. European Council. *Council Directive 97/78/EC of 18 December 1997 laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries*. Official Journal L 024, 30/01/1998 P. 0009 – 0030. Accessed January 28, 2020 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A31997L0078>. 2020.

20. Government of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Agriculture, State Veterinary Administration. *Email 2020_0403_DRAFT_FINAL_Czech Republic swine review report 2020.pdf*, April 3, 2020. 2020.

11. Appendix A

Organizational chart of the State Veterinary Administration [7]



12. Appendix B

ASF zoning in Czechia, 2017 – 2019

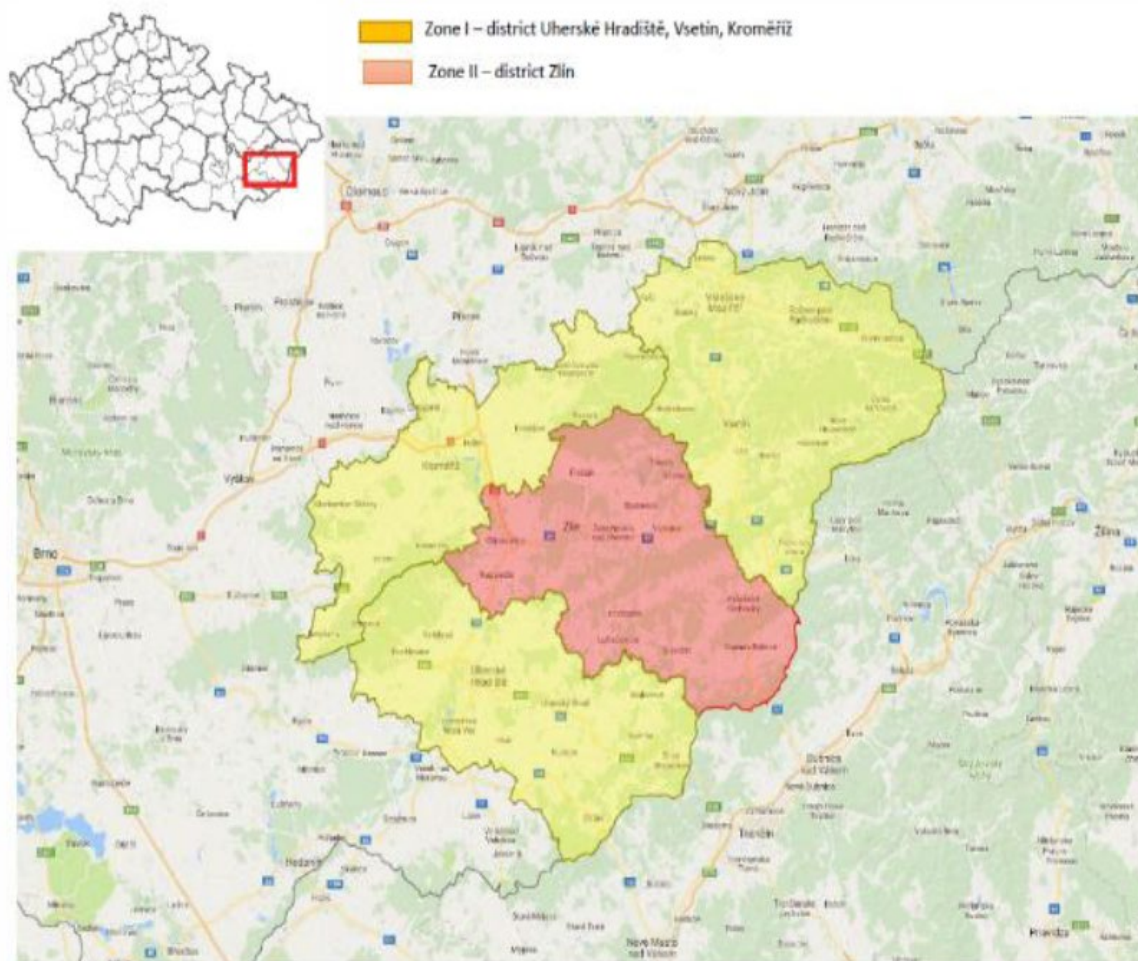


Figure 5: Original zoning of the ASF areas until 1 February 2018. Part II area is marked in red; Part I area is marked in yellow. In the left-hand corner, the location of those areas is shown on the map of Czechia

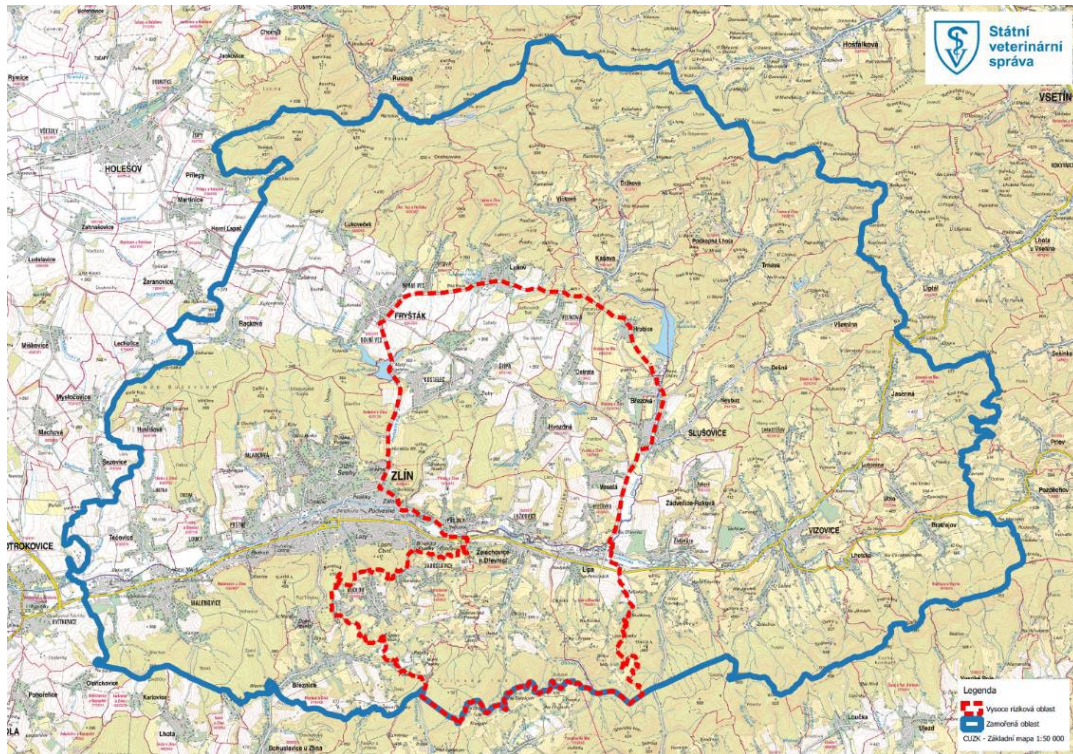


Figure 6: Map of the infected area (Part II area) as from 1 February 2018. The Part II area is marked out by the blue line, an area with higher ASF risk is marked out by the red line.

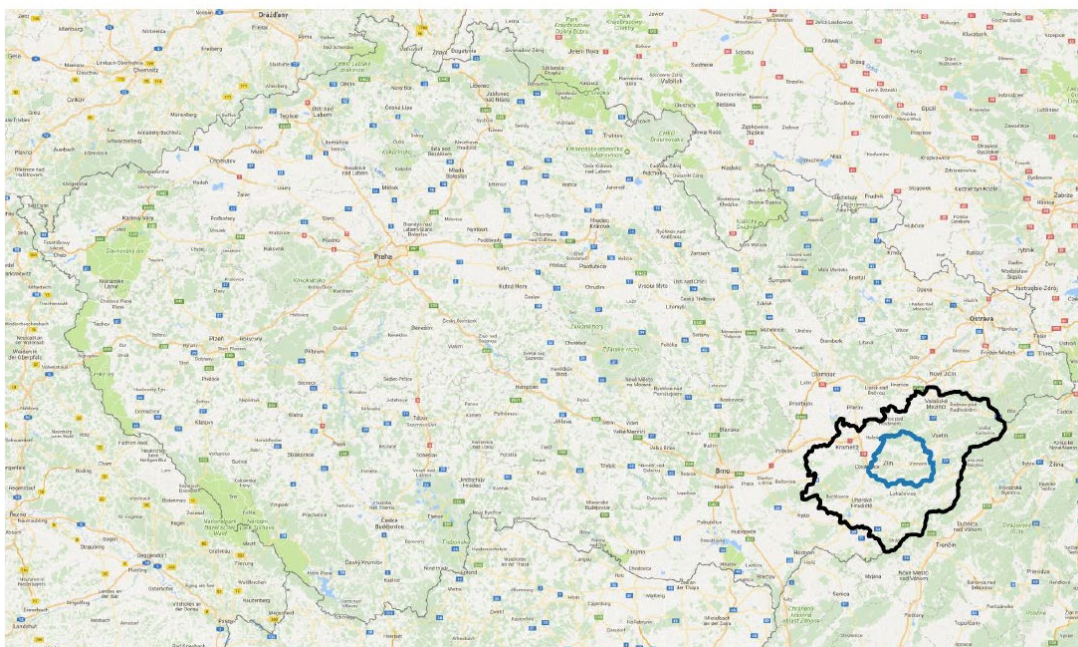


Figure 7: Map of Part I (black line) and Part II (blue line) areas as from 22 February 2018

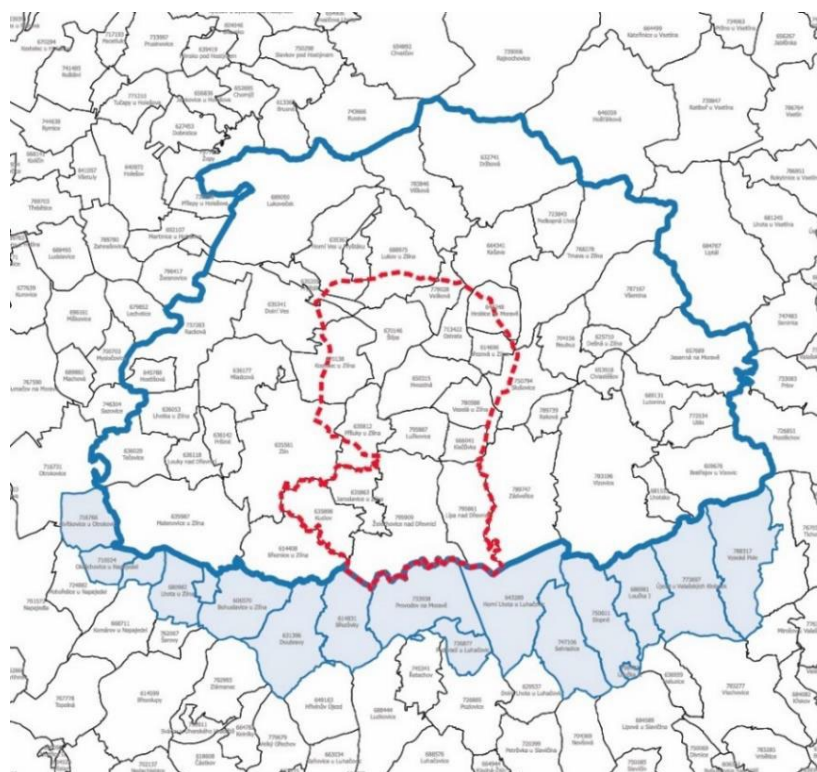


Figure 8: Map of the infected area (Part II area) as from 22 February 2018. The previous Part II area is marked out by the blue line, with additional cadastral municipalities added to the Part II area highlighted by light blue.

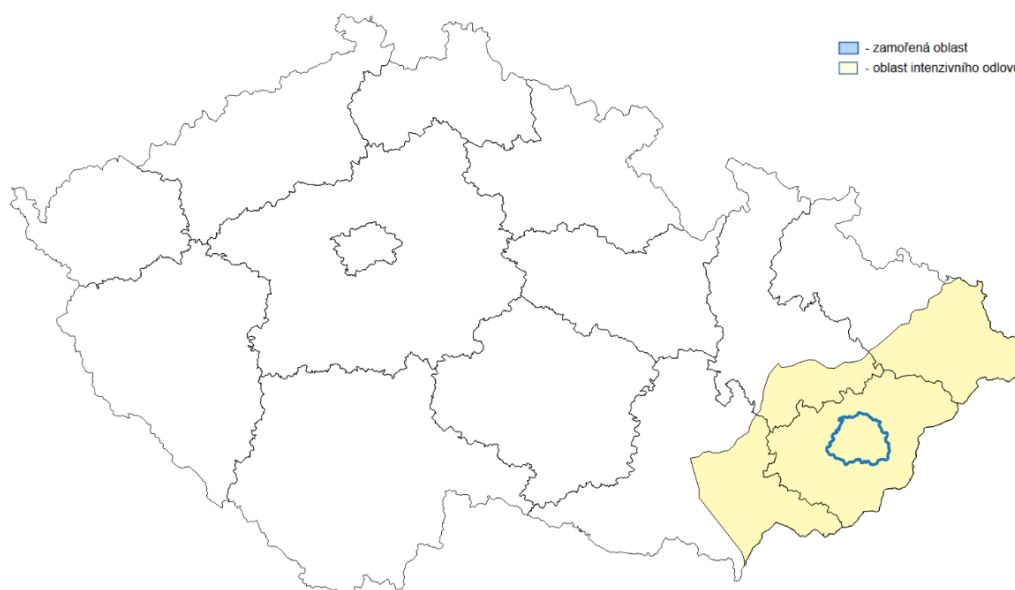


Figure 9: Area with intensive wild boar hunting

13. Appendix C

Time period of the implementation of the eradication plan in the infected area

		measure	period of the implementation
domestic pigs	surveillance	laboratory testing (serology + virology) in case of mass deaths, clinical symptoms (e.g. fever, haemorrhagic lesions, etc.), as well as in case of specific patho-anatomic lesions found at slaughtering	24 months after the last ASF case
		official checks in holdings in the infected area at least twice a year with an interval of at least 4 months (bio-security, records of the owner on mortality and treatment, list of animals, clinical examination and sampling and testing of pigs over the age of 60 days)	24 months after the last ASF case
		all dead or diseased domestic pigs with African swine fever symptoms (e.g. lack of appetite, fever, apathy, etc.) shall be notified to the RVA for the Zlín region	24 months after the last ASF case
	other measures	no pigs shall enter or leave the holding without authorisation by the RVA for the Zlín region	12 months after the last ASF case
		preventing contacts with wild boar; wild boar must not have access to any material, and in particular to feed, litter and water, which may subsequently come into contact with the pigs in the holding	12 months after the last ASF case
		appropriate disinfection means at the entrances and exits of buildings housing pigs and of the holding itself	12 months after the last ASF case
		ban on feeding green fodder	12 months after the last ASF case
		ban on the use of cereal crops harvested in the infected area in the year 2017 for feeding pigs shall be applied for at least 6 weeks after their harvesting ("quarantine of cereal crops");	only for cereal crops harvested in the infected area in the year 2017
		ban on the use of straw litter	12 months after the last ASF case
		keeping animals in closed premises without outside yards	12 months after the last ASF case
		hygiene measures to reduce the risk of African swine fever virus spreading shall be applied by pig keepers coming into contact with wild boar	12 months after the last ASF case
wild boars	surveillance	laboratory testing (serology + virology) of all found dead wild boar	24 months after the last ASF case
		laboratory testing (serology + virology) of all hunted wild boar	24 months after the last ASF case
	other measures	ban of feeding of wild boar except of baiting at baiting places	12 months after the last ASF case
		ban on hunting of wild boar except hunting and catching by using trapping facilities under defined conditions for low risk and high risk zone	12 months after the last ASF case
		disposal of wild boar hunted in high risk zone in a rendering plant	12 months after the last ASF case
		disposal of wild boar hunted in low risk zone in rendering plant or processing them in an approved establishment for the manufacture of meat products located in the territory of the Czech Republic and after testing for ASF with negative results	12 months after the last ASF case
		installation of electric fences	to the end of year 2017