African swine fever in wild boar in the Czech Republic
First occurrence of ASF

First ASF positive carcass location: Příluky, Zlín district
Date: 26th June 2017

Way of ASF introduction?
First ASF case in the Czech Republic

- Zlín city - inhabited area
- 1\textsuperscript{st} WB carcasses found nearby the local hospital
From the first case on 26/06, 2017 to the last case on 8/02, 2018
9 months – 228 days

A total 230 cases of African swine fever have been detected in the wild boar population
• The total number of positive cases in found dead wild boar: 212 (last positive cases 15. 04. 2018)
• The total number of positive cases in hunted wild boar: 18 (last positive cases 8. 2. 2018)

All positive cases have been detected only in part of district of Zlín.

NO OUTBREAK IN DOMESTIC PIGS!
Motto:

Hunting is not a method for eradication of ASF in wild boar population because:

- the main source of infection are cadavers that remain infectious for a long time
- the stock of wild boar in the infected area is not precisely known, however relatively high
- lethality of the virus high: 95%,
- contagiosiy is low: 10%,
- persistence of the virus in the environment is very long
Strategy:

STOP – ALL HUNTING, KEEP CALM THE AREA

SEARCH – CADAVERS

UNDERSTAND – EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION AND INFECTED AREA

MAKE – MEASURES

- TO KEEP ANIMALS AT ONE PLACE – VIRUS WORKS
- DEPOPULATION AT THE FINAL STAGE
Collection and disposal of carcasses
one of the most important step in ASF control and eradication

Collection of WB carcasses with financial motivation (1€ - 25 CZK)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finder reward</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Reward in CZK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>2 000,-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area with intensive hunting</td>
<td>3 000,-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infected area – higher risk zone</td>
<td>5 000,-</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ASF measures for domestic pigs in infected area

- ban on keeping of pigs in backyard farms
- enhanced passive surveillance in pig farms - farmers must report all sick/dead pigs in the infected area (all cases are tested for ASF)
- movement of pigs only with authorisation issued by the RVA for Region Zlín.
- ban on feeding with fresh grass, ban on straw bedding
- official controls in pig farms in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU. Targeted for BIOSECURITY.

- information campaign

Density of domestic pigs in the Czech Republic (per 100 km²)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>farms</th>
<th>pigs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>2 160</td>
<td>1 353 935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zlín region</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>74 088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infected area (district Zlín)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Timeline of hunting regulations

26 June 2017
ASF confirmation

27 June 2017
Ban on hunting in the infected area

21 July 2017
Hunting in the low risk zone in infected area

24 August 2017
Trapping of wild boar in the high risk zone in infected area

11 September 2017
Individual hunting in the high risk zone in the infected area

16 October 2017
Hunting in collaboration with Police
Hunting in the infected area

— Hunting of wild boar is allowed **only for selected and trained hunters**, motivated by financial compensation.

— **Biosecurity** measures of hunters during + after hunt.

— **Identification** of hunted WB

— All hunted and found dead wild boar **must be disposed in the rendering plant**

— **Sampling at rendering plant**, not in the hunting ground

— Hunters associations are compensated for the lost of venison
Disposal of hunted wild boars from the infected area to determined rendering plant

Samples taken in rendering plant by official veterinarian
Hunting by police snipers in the infected area

**task:** as fast as possible total depopulation inside the fenced area - quickly, silently, efficiently and with high biosecurity

- individual hunting by Police snipers (Elite Squad, Police Special Unit, Airport snipers)
- started from **16 October 2017** (3 days a week during 10 weeks)
- in total **157 WB hunted** - **8 positive for ASF**
- snipers trained for hunting **biosecurity**
- organization and coordination by RVA and by regional hunters

- over night hunting (18:00 – 6:00)
- **mobile thermovision** used
- snipers with **silencers, especial ammunition**

ALL hunted WB collected + rendered !!!
Summary: What we learned from our „small“ outbreak?

The best rated measures (effectiveness and practicality):

• motivated and active passive surveillance – fast systematic removal of carcasses
• ban on hunting (despite public/hunters opposition and political pressure)
• Hunting in infected area is possible only under strict biosecurity conditions
• disposal of hunted wild boars from the infected area - ALL WB to rendering plant from Infected area.
• hunters motivation (financial rewards and compensation)
• hunting in the infected area by professionals to depopulate WB (snipers)
• unharvested fields in infected area (shelter, feed)
Conclusions

✓ indirect transmission by a human activity seems to be the most probable way of introduction to the Czech Republic

✓ the uniqueness of the Czech outbreak is the local occurrence in a small solitary area without direct connection to the affected localities in the neighbouring countries

✓ by implementing strict measures in a small isolated area the human factor (regarding to spreading of infection) has been substantially eliminated

✓ responsible authorities took both pioneering and alternative measures

✓ Key point is collaboration of all stakeholders !!!
Thank you !!!