

Preparing for African swine fever incursion in Scotland: risk-based licensing for live pig movement



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ASF threat to Scotland

The risk of ASF entry into the UK from an EU member state remains at **MEDIUM** (“likely”). Although Scotland’s pig industry is relatively small, an ASF incursion would have significant economic impact. This underscores the urgent need for a robust ASF-specific planning and preparedness tailored to the value chain to ensure that response efforts balance the goal of disease freedom with high animal welfare standards and limited economic impact during an outbreak. Here we explore Scotland’s legislation on ASF control to highlight key activities that can be derogated from control measures following veterinary risk assessments.

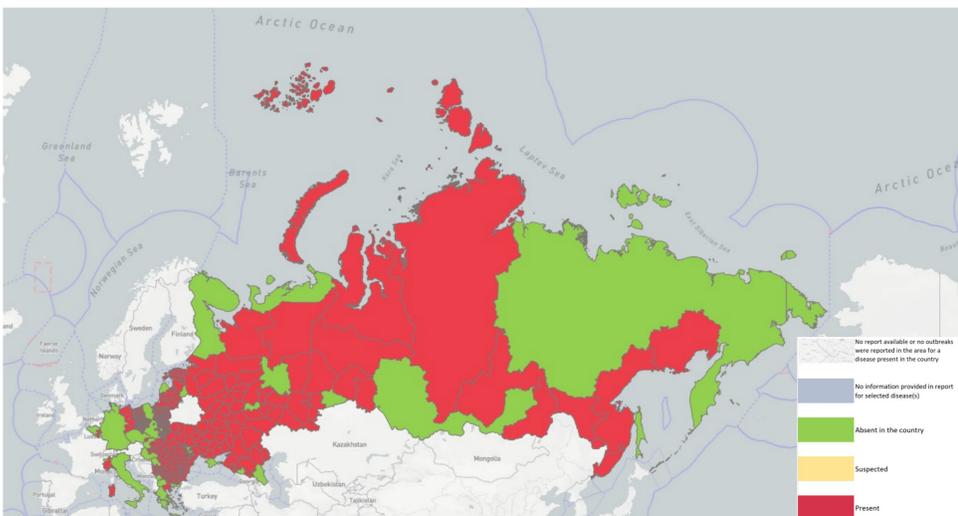


Figure 1. Map of Europe showing ASF notifications by Administrative regions between (2014 – 24/02/22)

The Scottish Pig Industry¹

- An estimated total pig herd of 341,214 of which 32,773 are breeding sows producing about 1.2 million pigs each year
- Only 40% are raised and slaughtered in Scotland with the remaining transported for slaughter or finish in England
- Production is concentrated in the North and South East (59.3% and 29.7% of total sows respectively) but only few holdings (46 of 445) holds about 90.4% of total sows
- 6,850 pigs are slaughtered each week in 11 abattoirs (98.2% in 5 largest abattoirs) supplied by small producers, market cooperatives, and a large vertically integrated producer
- Most live pigs are moved directly to slaughter but there is high interconnectivity between premises and producers

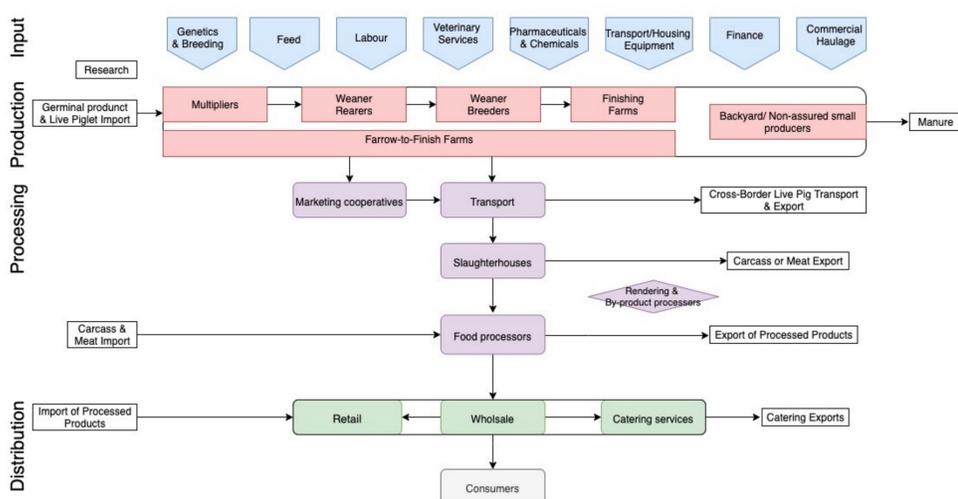


Figure 2. A representation of the Scottish Pork Value Chain

¹ QMS: The Scottish Red Meat Industry profile, 2021
[https://www.qmscotland.co.uk/sites/default/files/qms_red_meat_industry_profile_2021_use.pdf]

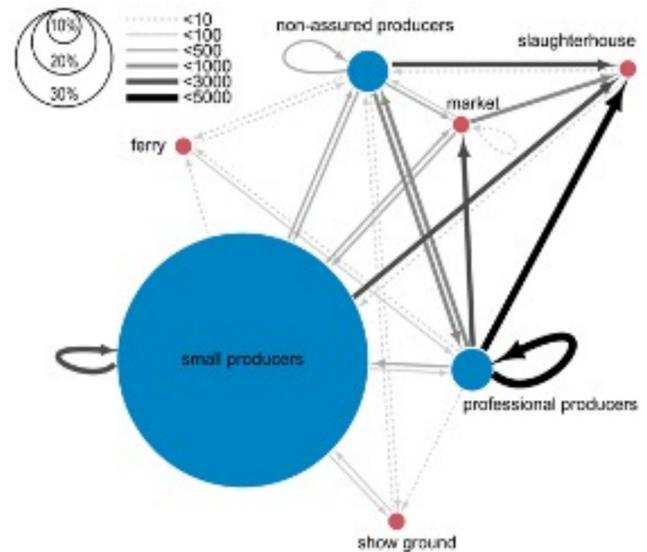


Figure 3. Live pig movement connections within and between premises in Scotland as recorded in ScotEID between January 2012 and May 2013. Source: Porphyre et al. BMC Veterinary Research 2014, 10:140

Priority risk questions for live pig movement licensing:

- What is the risk of causing a new ASF outbreak by moving live pigs from a premises to a designated slaughterhouse within a PZ/SZ?
- What is the risk of causing a new ASF outbreak by moving live pigs from a premises outside a PZ/SZ to a designated slaughterhouse within a PZ/SZ?
- What is the risk of causing a new ASF outbreak by moving live pigs across a private or public road from one premises to another on contiguous land within a PZ/SZ?

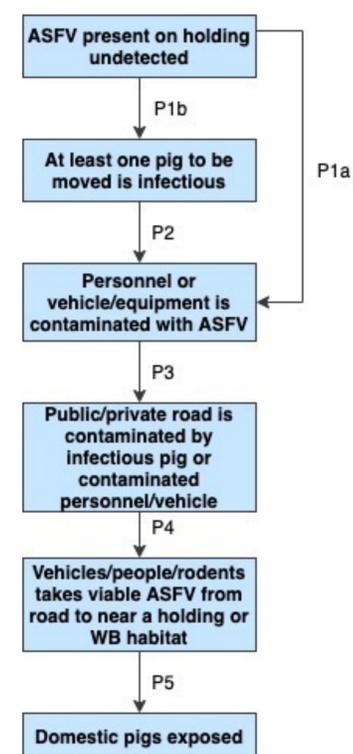


Figure 4 The Exposure pathway for the risk of causing a new outbreak by moving live pigs in a PZ/SZ

Proactive veterinary risk assessments for ASF preparedness – Milestone 1.1.1.44

Knowledge of Scotland’s ASF control strategy within the context of the local pig value chain is important for long-term preparedness for ASF. EPIC is using this knowledge to inform a portfolio of proactive ASF risk assessments covering a wider range of risk questions to limit the economic and welfare impact of ASF on Scottish pig industry in an outbreak.