

Agenda point 6.3:

FACE recommendations for hunting associations and hunters in preparing for and dealing with African swine fever (ASF) in the field

Hunting associations: Before an outbreak

Knowledge base:

- Be familiar with (at least) the following documents: [Strategic approach to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU, OIE's handbook](#), GF-TADS recommendations on ASF and [CIC/FACE/OIE Recommendations](#).
- Delegate a national expert to take part in the FACE ASF Task Force that facilitates international and transboundary cooperation by sharing national updates and best practice.

Communication:

- Develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns for all stakeholders, including non-hunters.
- Focus your communication on certain key messages:
 - ASF is not dangerous for humans.
 - When there is no outbreak, the meat of wild boar is perfectly safe for human consumption.
 - Hunters have an important role to play in monitoring, preventing and eradicating ASF.
- Start or maintain a regular dialogue between all stakeholders, especially to increase preparedness on ASF.
 - With regards to a dialogue with authorities, communication should be open and two-sided.
- Use simple and clear language, especially when communicating the role of hunting in eradicating ASF towards the general public.
- Develop a best practice example of a fully prepared hunting ground that you can share.

Wild boar populations:

- Develop or maintain a science-based and tailor-made long-term strategy to manage wild boar populations.
 - Following international recommendations, this strategy should promote a reduction of wild boar populations, using effective management strategies.
- High animal welfare standards should remain in place.
- In view of population density reductions, ensure that hunters can use all relevant instruments and/or hunting techniques (e.g. night vision and suppressors),
- Ban supplementary feeding for wild boar, but still allowing baiting.

Biosecurity:

- Develop and implement a biosecurity strategy for hunters, based on the [OIE handbook](#).
 - Develop biosecurity training programmes/sessions.
 - Make sure hunters follow best practice bio-security measures and have the required equipment.
- Develop, together with relevant authorities, a logistical work plan on common actions when an outbreak occurs.
 - If possible, simulate such a plan, to make sure it works in practice.

Monitoring:

- Provide guidance towards hunters and others on monitoring ASF, with the aim of providing an early warning system:
 - How to recognise sick animals (clinical signs).
 - What to do when a sick or dead animal is observed.
 - Why it is important to monitor the disease.

Hunting associations: After an outbreak

Knowledge base:

- Keep your knowledge on ASF up-to-date; share relevant experiences and lessons learned with others, especially the FACE African Swine Fever Task Force.

Communication:

- Inform the general public, focussing on the key messages.
- Work together in a constructive way with all stakeholders.
- Maintain an open and two-way dialogue with all key stakeholders, especially authorities:
 - Transparency and trust are key, especially to motivate hunters in taking concrete actions.
- Prepare hunters and others of the long-term effects of ASF:
 - Endemic diseases threaten wild boar populations for a long time.
 - It is crucial to remain vigilant in monitoring, biosecurity measures and carcass removal.
- Follow any national/international obligations on discarding meat from harvested animals in certain areas, even that such meat is fit for human consumption. Wild boar meat from other areas is fit for consumption.

Wild boar populations:

- Support the implementation of the [Strategic approach to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU](#), the following recommendations are for the non-infected areas:
 - No sustained feeding, only baiting.
 - Hunting should prioritise adult and sub-adult females, while balancing males and females.
 - The minimum biosecurity requirements for hunters are applied.
- It is paramount that hunters understand the need for these measures and support them.

Biosecurity:

- As part of your communication, focus on giving guidance on how to implement biosecurity and carcass removal measures in a practical manner.
- Organise training sessions and information sessions for hunters on these topics.

Hunters: Before an outbreak

Knowledge base:

- Consult information provided by your national hunting association and/or authorities:
 - Clinical signs and other ways to monitor for ASF in wild boar.
 - On population management for ASF prevention.
 - On biosecurity measures, see also the [OIE handbook](#), chapter 4 and 5.

Communications:

- Ensure that other stakeholders in your hunting area are informed about the disease and engage with them on relevant actions:
 - Forestry: ASF can prevent hunting in areas where ungulates require management.
 - Farmers: the need for biosecurity measures.
 - Tourism: inform tourists on risks of ASF spreading.

Wild boar populations:

- Organise monitoring efforts, together with other stakeholders and/or authorities.
 - Contact relevant authorities when there is a suspicion of ASF infected animals.
- Implement strategies in line with national and international recommendations to reduce wild boar populations.

Biosecurity:

- Take the necessary biosecurity precautions when you are in contact with wild boar:
 - Do not visit a domestic pig farm within 48 hours.
 - Dressing area and all instruments used to dress animals are regularly cleaned.
- When traveling to or from infected areas, take the necessary biosecurity measures.
 - Do not bring wild boar products (e.g. meat, trophies) with you.
- Adapt your hunting operation/area for an outbreak:
 - Prepare to implement guidance/rules from your national hunting association/authority.
 - Make sure you have the necessary tools to implement biosecurity measures.

Hunters: After an outbreak

Knowledge:

- Keep your knowledge on ASF up-to-date, share relevant experiences and lessons learned with others, especially with your national hunting association/authorities.

Communication:

- Continue informing stakeholders of the dangers of ASF and how to prevent ASF from spreading.
- Inform others about the measures that you are implementing and seek partnerships to strengthen the impact of those measures.

Wild boar population:

- Implement measures to reduce wild boar populations in non-infected areas and support other measures, where possible, in infected areas:
 - Ascertain which measures have to be implemented from the authorities.
- Ongoing monitoring is important and carcass removal is essential as ASF remains in the environment for a long time:
 - Offer support to authorities in carrying out these tasks.

Biosecurity:

- Make sure you have the necessary training and all equipment in place to implement biosecurity measures.
- When hunting, apply all necessary bio security measures and point it out to all involved stakeholders.

Note that the trade in wild boar is banned due to Article 15(3) of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709.