

African swine fever spreading in EU and detected in Korea

Yoshiyasu Takefuji

Dennis Normile wrote an article entitled “Arrival of deadly pig disease could spell disaster for China” (1). There are no treatments and control relies on killing entire domestic pigs and wild boar affected with African swine fever (ASF) (2). Now, the ASF reaches EUROPE where the virus has contaminated the largest farm in Romania containing 135000 pigs taken by Danube river water (3). ASF has seriously affected by wild boar populations in Russia in 2017. Early in March 2017, an ASF outbreak was reported on 1 backyard farm in the Irkutsk region near the border with Mongolia. Hungary, Russia, Poland, Ukraine and Romania are among the countries affected (4). ASF was detected in Korea by two travelers who recently visited Shenyang, China (5). It does not affect humans nor does it affect other animal species other than pigs and wild boars (6).

References:

1. Dennis Normile, Arrival of deadly pig disease could spell disaster for China, Science 24 Aug 2018: Vol. 361, Issue 6404, pp. 741
2. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-19626-1>
3. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/7098344/african-swine-fever-europe-chinese-pig-farms/>
4. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-romania-swineflu-pigs/african-swine-fever-hits-romania-biggest-pig-farm-idUSKCN1LAOLR>
5. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2018/08/119_254476.html
6. https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en