

Farmer perceptions and actions following the first outbreak of African Swine Fever in Sweden

CONCLUSIONS

The responding farmers expressed widespread concern about new African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreaks. Costs appeared to be the main hurdle for joining the ASF certification programme. While many farmers consulted veterinarians for advice on biosecurity, the suggested measures were not always implemented, possibly due to a perceived lack of specific guidance suitable for their farms.

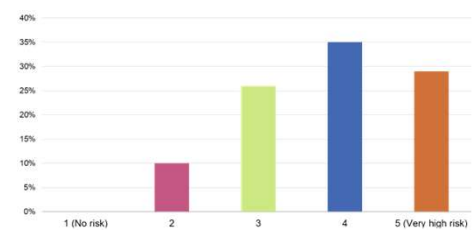
METHODS

Two online surveys were distributed via the Swedish Pig Farmers Organisation, shortly after the outbreak of ASF, and almost half a year later.

QR-codes to publications:



Photo: Valeria Ladyzhina, SLU



Swedish pigs farmers risk perception of ASF reappearing in Sweden while the farmers are still active pig producers (n=155)

RESULTS

Survey 1: 4 weeks post outbreak

Most farmers had received information on ASF and how to protect their farms. If given resources, 58% would implement biosecurity measures like fencing. Two-thirds were optimistic about the future, and 89% did not alter their plans after the ASF outbreak.

Survey 2: 6 months post outbreak

Farmers identified cost as a major barrier to joining the ASF certification program. While many sought biosecurity advice, 43% had not implemented the suggested measures, and >1/3 lacked tailored advice from veterinarians. Discussions highlighted concerns about ASF, stressing the need for communication. Wild boar populations and poor food waste management were cited as key risk factors.



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