

3 Results

4

85% free



6

Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance (GARA)

Roma | 28-30 April 2025

ASF passive surveillance standardized protocol

5

88% free

1) Introduction

African swine fever virus (ASFV) is the etiological agent of the devastating disease African swine fever (ASF), for which there is currently no licensed vaccine or treatment available. On the Italian island of Sardinia, the disease has been endemic since 1978. The virus has been absent from circulation since April 2019 and in 2024 the Island completed the ASF genotype I eradication from all the involved populations (domestic pigs, wild boar and illegal free ranging pigs). Considering the illegal free-ranging pigs as the key populations for disease transmission, several control measures were put in place against these animals and to



2 Methods

A total of 159 culling actions were put in place against illegal free-ranging pigs and 5,645 animals were culled between 2017 and 2022. In addition to these measures, a robust control network was established on domestic pig farms to improve compliance with the requirements for pig identification and registration. In particular, proper record-keeping in the holding registers for all newborn piglets, along with timely notification to the competent authority, was enforced. Ultimately, the main eradication goal was achieved by applying the EFSA exit strategy for the wild boar population. Targeted passive surveillance, involving the active search for carcasses within a specific timeframe and in high-risk areas, was implemented to provide timely evidence of virus eradication. A specific protocol for passive surveillance was developed, outlining different strategies depending on the type of terrain, the number and experience of people involved, the presence of dogs (trained or untrained), and the prevailing climate.





nters have had a key role in the eradication of ASF

4



N of Culling actions against illegal free ranging pigs

The eradication of a disease is a complex process which requires a sensitive surveillance system. Otherwise, the design of a sufficiently sensitive surveillance system requires a solid understanding of the epidemiology related to the local eco-social context, especially in the absence of virus detection. A fruitful collaboration between politics and healthcare is absolutely necessary to achieve the main goal.

References & Aknowledgements

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