

# PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



## African swine fever: responding to the global threat



# PERSPECTIVES

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*By 31 December 2019, 162 outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) had been reported in 31 provinces and in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps<sup>(1)</sup> (Fig. 1). These outbreaks killed 13,827 of 20,528 infected pigs, and more than 1.1 million pigs have been stamped out. The causative strain belonged to genotype II. The majority of outbreaks (73.4%) occurred in small- and mid-sized farms. As at April 2019, almost all of the reported outbreaks occurred in small- and mid-sized farms (91.4%).*

## Transmission routes

An analysis of the hypothesised means of introduction for 148 outbreaks in farms and slaughterhouses indicates that the main transmission routes included contact through vehicles and personnel (42%), swill feeding (39%), and movement of infected pigs and risky pig products (19%). The first outbreak reported in 14 provinces was associated with swill feeding. In addition, nine outbreaks occurred in vehicles transporting pigs, and five outbreaks were reported in wild pigs.

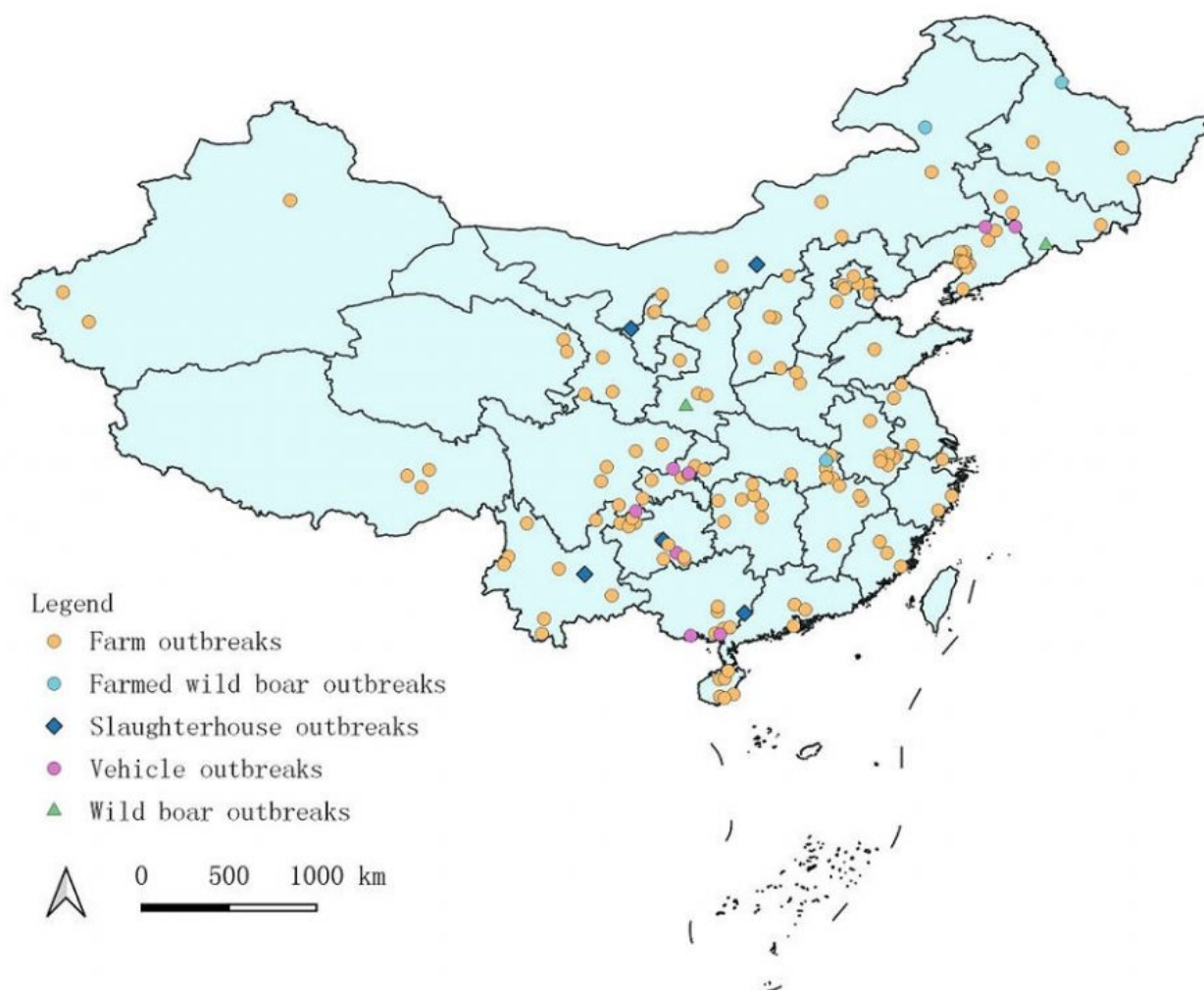


Fig. 1. Spatial distribution of African swine fever outbreaks in mainland China. Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

## Launch of targeted polices

Prevention and control policies were adjusted, based on the epidemic characteristics. These policies included ban on swill feeding, movement control, closing live pig markets, strengthening inspection at slaughterhouses, vehicle cleaning and disinfection, and improving farm-level biosecurity. According to a survey for the pig industry launched in November 2019, the overall implementation rate of prevention and control measures among respondents was 90%, and swill feeding almost disappeared. The awareness of prevention and control measures carried out by local governments, veterinary authorities and farmers has greatly improved over time. In addition, the proportion of positive samples collected from vehicles, slaughterhouses and markets has dramatically decreased. With the implementation of these measures, the severity of the epidemic has moderated (Fig. 2).

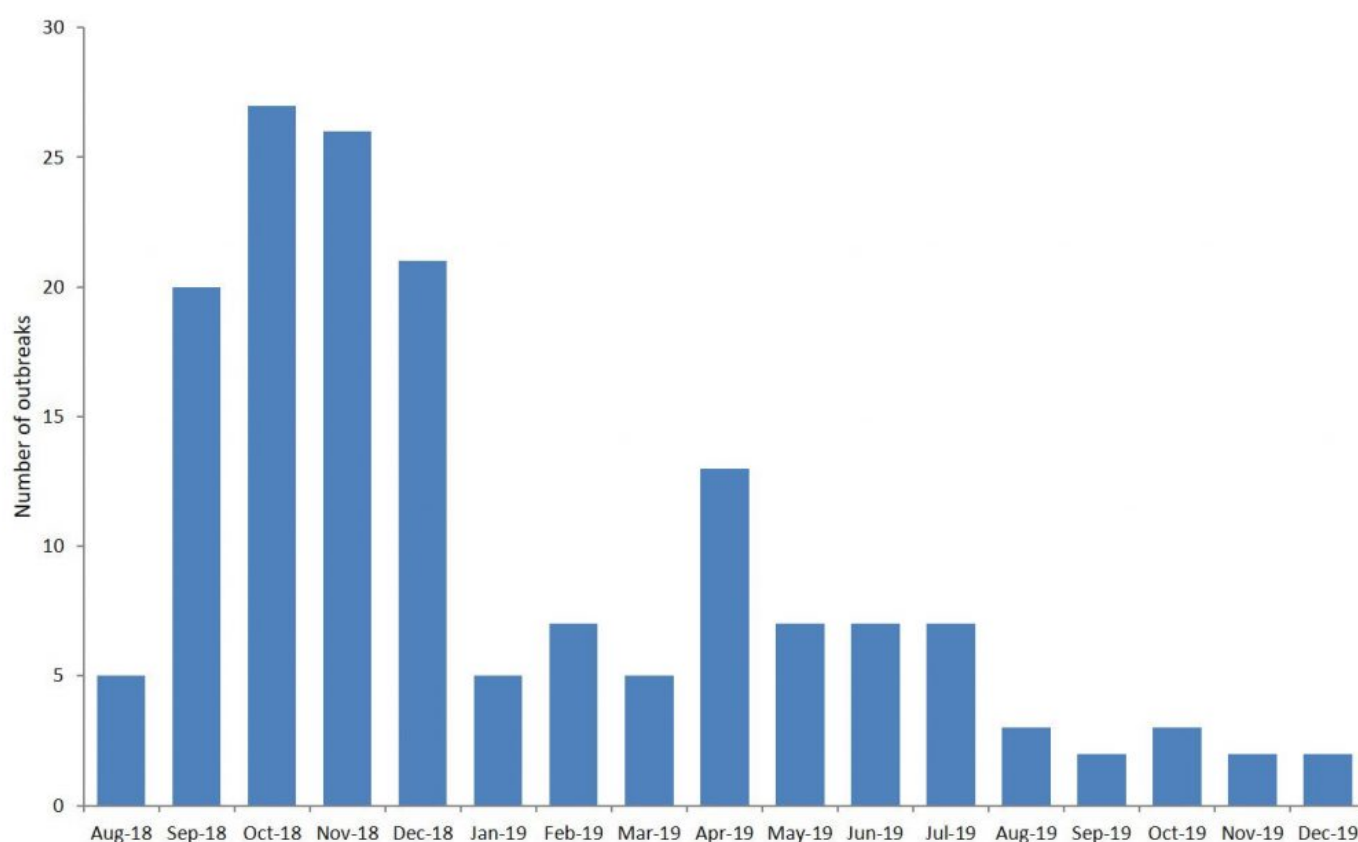


Fig. 2. Temporal distribution of African swine fever outbreaks in mainland China. Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

(1) The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps is an administrative authority in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China.

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## DOSSIER



# Epidemic situation and practices for ASF in China

## KEYWORDS

#African swine fever (ASF), #China (People's Rep. of), #disease control.

## AUTHORS

Yang H.<sup>(1)</sup>, Gao L.<sup>(1)</sup>, Wang Y.<sup>(1)\*</sup> & Huang B.<sup>(1)</sup>

(1) China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC), Qingdao, People's Republic of China.

\* Corresponding author: [wangyouming@cahec.cn](mailto:wangyouming@cahec.cn).

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*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

12, rue de Prony - 75017 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88 - Fax: +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87 - [oie@oie.int](mailto:oie@oie.int)