

Current situation on African swine fever

(24/01) A wild boar has tested positive for African Swine Fever (ASF) for the first time in Hesse. This was confirmed by the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI), the German Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, on Saturday, 15 June. The animal was found in the district of Groß-Gerau south of Rüsselsheim near a country road.

Since then, measures have been in place to protect against the spread of ASF in the region. The Ministry of Agriculture immediately set up an ASF coordination group and an animal disease team. The primary aim is to contain the animal disease to as small an area as possible. This is to prevent the disease from spreading or spreading to domestic pigs. A so-called restriction zone has been established within a radius of around 15 kilometres around the location where the disease was found. Districts within this radius are currently working on general orders regulating the movement and keeping of pigs, the handling of animal products and the spreading of manure, among other things. A general ban on hunting in the zone in question is intended to prevent wild boar from being scared off. In addition to the district of Groß-Gerau, the Main-Taunus district, Darmstadt-Dieburg, Offenbach-Land and the cities of Frankfurt and Wiesbaden are affected by the restriction zone. In Rhineland-Palatinate, the district of Mainz-Bingen and the city of Mainz are also within a radius of 15 kilometres.

Cultivated poultry meat in the frozen food aisle

(24/02) The US company Eat Just is a pioneer in the field of artificially produced poultry meat. It has marketed the in vitro poultry meat it produces under the name Good Meat in Singapore and the USA to date. Now the company has launched a new product in Singapore under the name Good Meat 3, which is available for the first time in the frozen food section of a meat and delicacies shop in Singapore.

According to the company, however, only 3% of the artificially produced poultry meat in the new product is made from cultured meat, with the rest being made from plant-based ingredients. This is explained by the fact that it enables greater availability of cultured meat. The company intends to continue working on the scalability of in-vitro poultry meat. The Californian company's goal is to be able to offer cultured chicken at the same price as conventional chicken. Whether this will succeed remains to be seen. So far, it has not been possible to produce large quantities of artificially produced poultry meat at a favourable price.

Tesco gives chickens more space

(24/03) Tesco, the UK's largest retailer, is raising its animal welfare standards. By the end of the first half of 2025, all fresh broiler chickens sold by Tesco will be given at least 20% more space in the barn. Accordingly, the stocking density will be reduced to a maximum of 30 kilograms live weight per square metre; the current industry standard is 38 kilograms live weight per square metre. In Germany, the maximum permissible stocking density in chicken fattening is 35 kilograms live weight per square metre according to the Animal Welfare Livestock Farming Ordinance, and 39 kilograms live weight per square metre for extended rearing.

According to the company, the higher animal welfare standards are intended for broiler chickens that are sold fresh in the core range. Tesco emphasises that it currently sources all of its fresh chicken from farm-

ers in the UK. The company has already pledged the equivalent of €14.2 million in additional financial support to domestic poultry farmers and suppliers for the period 2024/25 - independent of its support for the transition to more species-appropriate animal husbandry. The stricter requirements for poultry suppliers are justified with the fulfilment of customer wishes.

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