

Article

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ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF WILDLIFE AND DOMESTIC PIGS IN HEPATITIS E VIRUS TRANSMISSION AND ZOO NOTIC POTENTIAL IN EASTERN ROMANIA

Adriana ANIȚĂ¹, Dragoș ANIȚĂ¹,

Iași University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Regional Center of Advanced Research for Emerging Diseases Zoonoses and Food Safety
e-mail:danita@uaiasi.ro

Abstract

Hepatitis E virus (HEV) has been confirmed within the landscape of the European food industry, representing a significant factor in the dissemination of HEV among European citizens. Food-borne transmission of HEV appears to be a major route in Europe, with pigs and wild boars being the main source. The results of this study highlight an overall HEV seroprevalence of 12.8% (95%CI: 7.95-17.75) in wild boars and the detection of HEV RNA in all three fresh pig liver batches sampled from a slaughterhouse in Iași County. Given the prevalent dietary preferences in Romania, pork stands out as a highly favored food choice among the populace. However, the popularity of pork also raises concerns, as there exists the occasional risk of contamination with HEV, presenting a potential threat to consumer health. Ongoing surveillance, regulatory measures, and public awareness initiatives collectively may represent a comprehensive strategy to protect the consumers and ensure the safety of pork products in the market.

Keywords: hepatitis E virus, swine, wild boar
