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[translated from Dutch, edited]

## Classical swine fever outbreak in North Rhine-Westphalia

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Classical swine fever has been identified on a farm in Haltern in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. This was confirmed by the Minister of the Environment, Uhlenberg, to the news channel ARD.

Haltern is about 60 km east of Winterswijk [The Netherlands].

[A map of North Rhine-Westphalia, including Haltern, bordering the province Gelderland in the Netherlands, can be found at

<<http://www.supertravelnet.com/maps/index.php?>

action=showmap&country=164\_9011\_5&language=1>.]

Since the beginning of February 2006, 72 of the more than 300 pigs on the farm in Haltern have died. After the diagnosis of classical swine fever, all pigs in a radius of 3 km around the pig farm must be killed. All pigs in a radius of 10 km around the farm must be checked on a regular basis.

Uhlenberg said that 2 pig farms in the area of the affected farm have been identified as suspect. However, it has not been confirmed whether animals on those farms are infected with classical swine fever.

The German Ministry of Agriculture did not state how the animals were infected. At the end of last year [2005], the Product Boards for Livestock, Meat and Eggs (PVE) in the Netherlands indicated their concern about the possible infection of wild boars. Researchers had detected antibodies to classical swine fever virus in wild boars in The Netherlands and Germany. This meant that the animals [had been] ill, but no longer carried the virus.

Classical swine fever is not infectious for humans.

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