



## December 2023 GCC Meeting Summary Document



The U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) General Conference Committee (GCC) met in person on December 18th and 19th, 2023, in Ames, Iowa. The US SHIP GCC includes nine members representing the six districts and three at-large positions elected by producers at the 2023 US SHIP House of Delegates (HOD). Also in attendance were members of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), including Veterinary Services Associate Deputy Administrator Dr. Koren Custer, Dr. Dustin Oedekoven of the National Pork Board, and the US SHIP staff.

You can learn more about the elected GCC members at:  
<https://usswinehealthimprovementplan.com>

US SHIP is preparing to transition from the initial pilot phase started in 4Q2020 to a formal USDA codified program over the next 12-24 months. The newly elected (September 2023) GCC members established several high-priority deliverables last fall in preparation for this transition. The focus of this meeting was those key issues including:



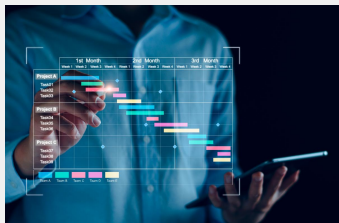
### **Establish formal bylaws on HOD processes and technical committee member selection:**

Proposed standards, resolutions, and changes to existing standards must be submitted in writing at least 100 days prior to the start of the HOD meeting and

- Any US SHIP participant, Official State Agency (OSA), USDA, or other interested person or industry organization can submit proposed resolutions/program standards and
- Proposed standards and resolutions will be publicly posted and distributed at least 45 days prior to the start of the HOD meeting to allow adequate time for states and delegates to review and discuss any proposed changes and

The US SHIP Senior Coordinator and GCC will work collectively to appoint and/or reaffirm a Chairperson and vice Chairperson for each of the 3 US SHIP technical subcommittees (biosecurity, traceability, surveillance) within 60 days after the HOD. They will also generate a list of 10 interested and capable candidates to serve on each of the 3 US SHIP technical subcommittees.

- The technical committee selections will then be reviewed, modified, and ratified by the US SHIP GCC.
- The minimum time commitment and term for serving on a subcommittee is one year, with the opportunity for re-appointment on an annual basis.
- A person can serve on more than one subcommittee if so appointed.



## Senior Program Coordinator desired skillset:

- The GCC recommends an individual with experience in animal health production and federal/state regulations who possesses good communication skills, administrative ability, industry connections, and passion for our swine industry.
- The GCC further recommends this position be based in the Midwest, preferably Iowa, with an in-person staff.
- Hiring for the position will be conducted by the USDA, with the opportunity for the GCC to provide input on the recruitment through outreach to the state animal health agencies, state pork associations, and producer groups.



## Expectations for program standards:

The GCC supports continued work in the areas of biosecurity, traceability, and surveillance which may result in new or amended standards for certification.

The current Program Standards will be re-formatted to the standardized USDA version and the GCC will be responsible for reviewing to ensure the proposed intent of each of the standards is maintained.

The GCC encourages OSAs to initiate and lead discussions on proposed standards and resolutions prior to the HOD meeting.



## Expectations for new certification programs:

The GCC supports the consideration of a new certification program for US SHIP for endemic diseases, using PEDv as a model for program expansion into other endemic disease certifications.

**The GCC will convene monthly via Zoom meetings, with another in-person meeting scheduled for June 7 in conjunction with the 2024 World Pork Expo.**