



US Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP)

Official State Agency (OSA)

Reference Document

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Background and Objectives of Program

What is US SHIP?

US Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) is a national pilot program for certifying, safeguarding, and bettering the health of U.S. swine and the longer-term competitiveness of the U.S. pork industry.

US SHIP is being modelled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), a long-standing collaborative effort involving industry, state, and federal partners providing standards for certifying the health status of greater than 99% of commercial scale poultry and egg operations across the US.

US SHIP aims to establish a similar platform for safeguarding, improving, and representing the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, states, and regions. Such a working system is needed to support the current and future health assurance needs of the 21st century U.S. pork industry.

US SHIP is designed to be applicable across the full spectrum of U.S. pork industry participants from the small show pig farmer to the large commercial producers and slaughter facilities.

U.S. pork producers, live animal marketing operations, and slaughter facilities in participating States that have an interest in participating in this voluntary program should contact the US SHIP Official State Agency (OSA) in the state in which their operation is located to enroll and subsequently pursue certification in the US SHIP.

Objectives:

The initial and principal objectives are to develop and implement African Swine Fever (ASF)-Classical Swine Fever (CSF) Monitored certification of U.S. pork production operations (farm sites, live animal marketing operations, and slaughter facilities) modelled after the NPIP's H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored certification of U.S. commercial poultry operations.

The US SHIP ASF-CSF Monitored certification aims to mitigate risks of disease introduction and provide a practical means for supporting freedom of disease (outside of foreign animal disease control areas) to aid ongoing interstate

commerce and a potential pathway towards the resumption of international trade over the course of a trade impacting disease response and recovery period.

Requirements for US SHIP certification center on biosecurity, traceability, surveillance. The biosecurity standards aim to mitigate the risks of disease introduction into and between farm sites. Traceability provides state and federal animal health officials the information they need to effectively respond and contain a disease outbreak. The disease surveillance allows for rapid detection and a means for supporting freedom of disease.

In total, US SHIP will establish a national playbook of technical standards and associated certification recognized across participating states that centers on disease prevention and demonstration of freedom of disease outside of control areas in support of animal health, commerce, and trade.

In closing, albeit the initial focus of US SHIP centers on foreign animal disease prevention and preparedness related endeavors, pending U.S. pork industry stakeholder interest, this national platform being established could readily be expanded to include developing certifications for endemic diseases of high production and economic consequence (e.g., *PEDV*, *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, etc.) to the U.S. pork industry in the future.

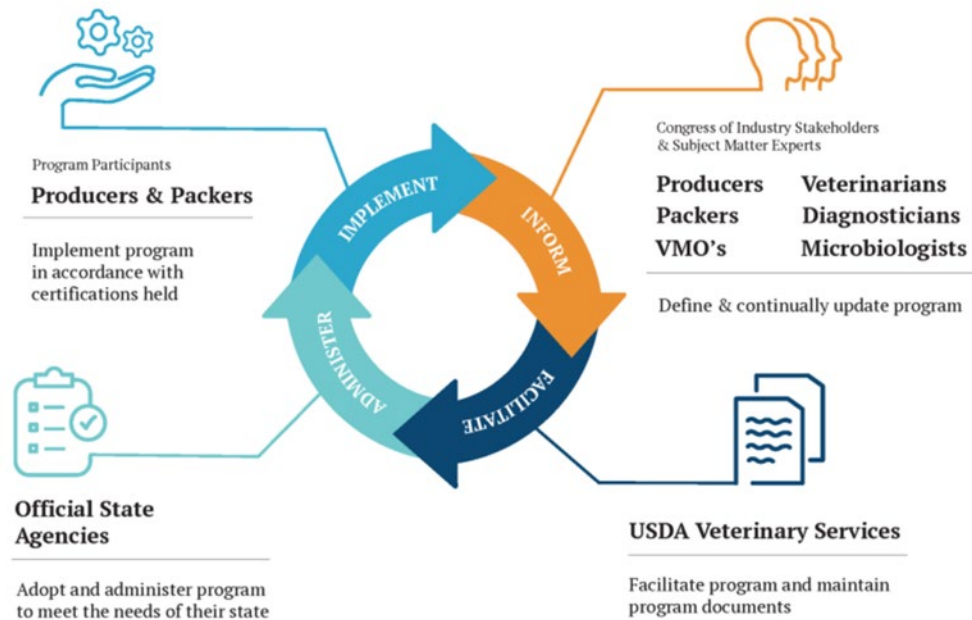
US SHIP Structure:

US SHIP is an industry, state, and federal partnership intended to become a USDA Swine Health Program that centers on certifying the health of U.S. swine in accordance with well-defined program standards.

US SHIP's system of operations and governance is modeled after the basic tenets of the long-standing NPIP. As with NPIP, US SHIP's system of governance is very unique in that the system provides a national platform wherein industry stakeholders convene annually in a democratic forum (US SHIP House of Delegates) in partnership with state and federal representatives to review the content and direction of the program over the course of time.

The pictorial below attempts to succinctly describe US SHIP's core mission and operational structure being patterned after NPIP's well-established and time-honored record of success (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1. US SHIP, Partnering to Safeguard and Better Animal Health



US SHIP Program Administration (National)

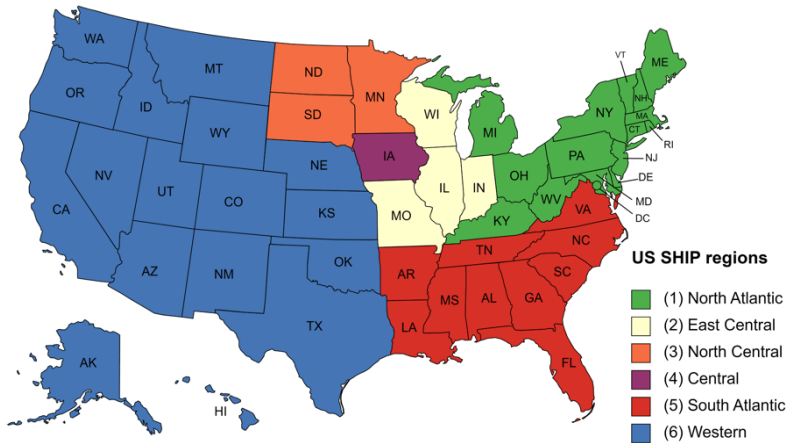
The development of US SHIP has been spearheaded by a team of swine interest colleagues from Iowa State University, Kansas State University, South Dakota State University, University of Illinois, and University of Minnesota working in partnership with a number of State Animal Health Officials and USDA Veterinary Services staff, and with advisement from an industry centered Advisory Board.

The US SHIP Program Administration is currently being funded by USDA but housed at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine during the start-up phase. The US SHIP Program Administration staff members will eventually be USDA employees as US SHIP moves forward to codification.

The US SHIP Senior Coordinator (the senior US SHIP administrator) provides leadership for and coordination of program activities at the national level.

The US SHIP General Conference Committee (GCC) consists of elected volunteers (**Figure 2**) who provide oversight and industry representation in the US SHIP Program Administration.

Figure 2. US SHIP General Conference Committee (GCC)



- 6 regional members elected by their respective regions
- 3 At-large members elected by the entire HOD voting delegation
 - Exhibition Member (At-large)
 - Packer Member (At-large)
 - Unspecified (At-large)

The US SHIP GCC represents the cooperating state agencies and pork industry members in serving as a liaison between the swine industry and USDA APHIS. They maintain and ensure industry involvement with the intent to advise the US SHIP Program Administrator and US Secretary of Agriculture on matters related to swine health and the administration of the US SHIP upon establishment of a Federal Advisory Committee.

State Administration, US SHIP Official State Agency (OSA)

Patterned after NPPI, US SHIP is national in scope, but administered at the state level. Each State participating in US SHIP is responsible for maintaining a US OSA. US SHIP OSAs are the entities responsible for administering US SHIP to meet the needs of the participants located in their state.

The OSA is the State authority recognized by APHIS to cooperate in the administration of the US SHIP. Each OSA is to implement the US SHIP in accordance with relevant US SHIP Program Standards, US SHIP policy documentation and guidance provided on the US SHIP official website, and the terms of any Cooperative Agreements the US SHIP OSAs may have with the USDA for serving as the US SHIP OSA in their respective state.

US SHIP OSAs are responsible for enrolling, certifying, and maintaining the status of the US SHIP participants in their state. Participant inquiries and questions

concerning US SHIP enrollment and certification are best directed to the US SHIP OSA in their respective state.

The overarching responsibility of the OSAs is to administer US SHIP in their respective state; this includes:

- Managing resources required to administer US SHIP in their state
- Serving as primary source of US SHIP education to participants in their state
- Serving as primary point of contact for participants in their state
- Enrolling program participants and their respective participating premises
- House participant and premises specific demographic information
- Initiate the process of certification with participants and confer certifications.
- Maintain the current status of US SHIP program participants
- Providing aggregate level summary of participation statistics to US SHIP Administration
- Organizing their state's participation in US SHIP House of Delegates Meeting

US SHIP Technical Advisory Committee:

The US SHIP Technical Advisory Committee consists of subcommittees on Biosecurity, Traceability, and Surveillance (Sampling/Testing).

The US SHIP Technical Advisory Committee members serve to review, and, in some cases, craft suggested updates to Program Standards (requirements of certification) that are to be considered by the US SHIP House of Delegates. The US SHIP Technical Advisory Committee consists of a diverse group of subject matters experts, industry participants, and animal health officials.

The US SHIP Technical Advisory Committee members are volunteers solicited to serve in such a capacity by the US SHIP Program Administration.

The US SHIP GCC may set forth objective-specific working groups to be formed and move specified initiatives forward. Such working groups may or may not fall under the umbrella and guidance of one of the US SHIP Technical subcommittees depending on the specified subject matter. Working group leadership and participation may include but is not limited to US SHIP Technical Advisory Committee members.

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services:

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Staff participate in US SHIP Program Administration, Technical Advisory Committees, and the US SHIP House of Delegates. As mentioned earlier, US SHIP Program Administration staff members will eventually be USDA employees as US SHIP moves forward to codification. USDA APHIS provides the funding to support the work of the US SHIP Program Administration and to aid in the US SHIP OSAs' efforts to administer the US SHIP in their respective states. USDA APHIS provides guidance and the resources to facilitate US SHIP's pathway to an officially recognized USDA Swine Health Program. USDA APHIS is also responsible for providing a final review and approval of Program Standards derived from US House of Delegates meetings.

Enrollment

What is enrollment?

Enrollment is the two-part process of completing and submitting a US SHIP enrollment form to the respective OSA and completing the US SHIP biosecurity enrollment survey.

Who enrolls in US SHIP?

US swine producers, exhibitors, live animal marketing operations, and packers (slaughter facilities) can enroll premises that house, market, or slaughter live pigs in US SHIP. There are no operational size requirements or restrictions for participating premises. US SHIP is intentionally being developed to encourage participation via the full breadth (commercial, exhibition, or niche) of US pork industry participants.

Who is the US SHIP participant?

The US SHIP participant is either the swine owner or an entity that has a managerial responsibility for the swine or the premises being enrolled in US SHIP. There are many different business models (structure/working relationships) for how swine and pork production facilities are owned or managed the US. Such diversity in ownership and managerial responsibilities can vary greatly within and across different states and regions of the country. As such, the US SHIP OSAs are provided the latitude to determine who can be identified as the US SHIP participant for each premises being enrolled.

The US SHIP participant should be an entity that is the preferred point of contact in being able to attest to and/or otherwise provide the information necessary to demonstrate that the participating premises is compliant with the requirements of the US SHIP certification(s) the participating premises elects to pursue and maintain.

While US SHIP participants can have one or many participating premises, each participating premises can only be under the umbrella of one US SHIP participant at any given time. It is the responsibility of the US SHIP participant to work directly with the appropriate US SHIP OSA to keep their list of participating premises current and to reconcile situations where a given participating premises may no longer be affiliated with a given participant or needs to be transition from one US SHIP participant to another. A premises no longer affiliated with or working under the umbrella of a US SHIP participant that can demonstrate the participating premises' ongoing compliance with the US SHIP certifications held will be dropped from the program. Any premises that lose their status can be re-enrolled by a US SHIP participant that has an interest in re-enrolling the premises and obtaining the specified US SHIP health status certifications the participant aims to pursue for the given premises.

The US SHIP OSAs are responsible for identifying and reconciling premises that are associated with more than one US SHIP participant.

What is a “premises” for US SHIP?

A premises is the geographic parcel of land where swine are raised, housed, or pass-through during commerce. All facilities on the parcel of land are part of the premises (i.e., barns are not enrolled separately in US SHIP).

Premises Identification Numbers (PINs) are assigned to premises that, in the judgement of the State, Tribal, or Federal animal health authority, are a geographically distinct location from other premises. All premises are required to obtain a PIN to enroll in US SHIP. PINs are a unique 7-digit alphanumeric identifier that can be provided by the State Animal Health Official (SAHO).

US SHIP health status certifications are administered and maintained at the level of each individual premises and corresponding PIN. The PIN is the officially recognized and unique premises-level identifier used for enrollment and ongoing certification in US SHIP.

Broad scale pork industry participation in US SHIP aims to provide a very clear and sustainable means to help each participating state keep the premises level demographic information associated with each PIN current and accurate over the course of time. Premises level demographic information includes the PIN, premises type, location, and contact information of the responsible parties. Keeping the livestock premises level demographic information current and accurate in each of the respective states' official animal health management database of record is a foundational aspect of each state's and our nation's emergency and foreign animal disease preparedness.

The US SHIP OSAs ongoing efforts to validate the PINs and update the demographic information associated with the PINs of participating premises during the enrollment and maintenance of participation in US SHIP aims to provide a sustainable and stepwise improvement in our systems of traceability and foreign animal disease preparedness across the US pork industry.

What are the US SHIP Production Site Types?

US SHIP currently includes seven production site types:

- *Boar Stud* - production site with mature boars that distribute semen to other production sites.
- *Breeding Herd* - production site with breeding females and house \geq 1,000 breeding females. (e.g., breed-to-wean, breeding/gestation or farrowing only, with or without on-site gilt isolation/grow-out).
- *Growing Pig* - production site with \geq 1,000 feeder swine (nursery, grower, or finisher).
- *Farrow to Feeder/Finish* - production site with breeding females and grow feeder swine for purposes other than breeding stock replacement for this particular farm site, and house \geq 1,000 breeder or feeder swine.
- *Small Holding* - production sites with \geq 100 and $<$ 1,000 total breeder or feeder swine.
- *Non-Commercial* - production sites with $<$ 100 pigs (e.g., exhibition, niche, hobby)
- *Slaughter Facility* - a facility that slaughters pigs.
- *Live Animal Marketing Operation* - a dealer with a livestock yard/buying station (facility) that markets $>$ 100 swine/week for resale of such swine to slaughter facilities.

How do interested individuals or companies enroll in US SHIP?

Interested individuals or companies should first contact the OSA in the state where the animals are located to obtain a US SHIP enrollment form. Once the interested individual or company has completed and submitted an enrollment form to their respective OSA, they should complete a US SHIP biosecurity enrollment survey for

the premises (linked [here](#)). A list of OSAs and their contact information is available [here](#).

Who can submit enrollment documentation for premises?

The US SHIP participant (entity) is responsible for submitting documentation necessary for enrolling the premises they are enrolling to the US SHIP OSA. Participating premises are to be enrolled with the US SHIP OSA in the state where each the premises is located. The US SHIP participant submitting the enrollment documentation is responsible for ensuring the information presented is accurate.

As mentioned earlier, the US SHIP participant is the preferred point of contact for the premises being enrolled. The US SHIP participant needs to be able to attest to and/or otherwise provide the information necessary to demonstrate the participating premises is compliant with meeting the requirements of the US SHIP certification(s) being pursued.

Can OSAs create their own enrollment form?

Yes, although the enrollment form must contain the required enrollment information, as listed in the US SHIP website and Program Standards documents. The OSA is able to use the enrollment templates available on the US SHIP website or use their state-specific US SHIP enrollment form or a corresponding means for capturing the participant enrollment information electronically. The US SHIP enrollment templates for enrolling a singular premises or multiple premises are available [here](#).

What are the expectations of the OSA for enrollment?

US SHIP OSAs are the principal point of contact for the SHIP participants in their state. The OSAs also serve as the primary source of information about the US SHIP program for the pork industry participants in their respective state. OSAs are responsible for managing the enrollment of pork producers, live animal marketing operations, and slaughter facilities within their state.

US SHIP participants are to submit the information necessary to enroll participating premises directly to the OSA and complete the online biosecurity survey.

OSAs are to access and verify the completion of the online biosecurity survey for the participants enrolling in their respective state. OSAs have permissioned access

to the biosecurity survey results of the participants in their respective state via a secured folder housed by the US SHIP Program Administration.

Please see the “Data Management – OSA Level” section below for guidance on how OSAs are to handle participant data. Keeping the premises level demographic information current and accurate in each of the respective OSAs’ database of record is a foundational aspect of each State’s and our nation’s emergency and foreign animal disease preparedness.

As the PINs of enrolled sites are directly tied to traceability, OSAs should validate participant PINs during the enrollment process. A reference document on premises validation can be found in **Appendix 1**.

In states where the US SHIP OSA is not housed within the respective State Department of Agriculture / State Animal Official’s Office / Board of Animal Health, these OSAs are encouraged to work closely with their respective State Animal Health Official to ensure the premises level demographic information being ascertained and maintained through the implementation of the US SHIP program (most notably PIN, site location, premises type, and contact information) is being used to help keep their respective state’s official animal health database of record up to date and accurate.

Data Management - OSA Level

What data will the OSAs be responsible for housing and managing?

OSAs are responsible for managing and maintaining the information necessary to administer the US SHIP in their respective state. This includes managing, maintaining, and/or having access to the information necessary to enroll, confer, and maintain US SHIP health-status certification to interested and qualifying premises.

Where are the results of the enrollment biosecurity survey maintained?

How are they accessed and who can see them?

The results of the electronic biosecurity survey are housed and secured centrally by the US SHIP Program Administration. US SHIP OSAs are provided permissioned access to review and confirm the completion of the survey by the participants enrolling in their respective state. OSAs obtain such access by contacting the US SHIP Program Administration. Provision of access to historical records to the OSA

are maintained and the results of participants completing the biosecurity survey at the time of enrollment are updated daily.

What is the monthly data reporting requirement for the OSA?

OSAs are currently expected to report the aggregate enrollment numbers to the US SHIP Program Administration on a monthly basis by e-mail. For each site type, the OSA should report the total number of sites enrolled, as well as the total capacity (sum of all enrolled sites) for each site type. For slaughter facilities, the site capacity should be the current total head per day capacity of the facility. For live animal marketing operations, the site capacity should be the approximate number of live swine moving through the facility on a weekly basis.

What resources are available to help manage US SHIP data?

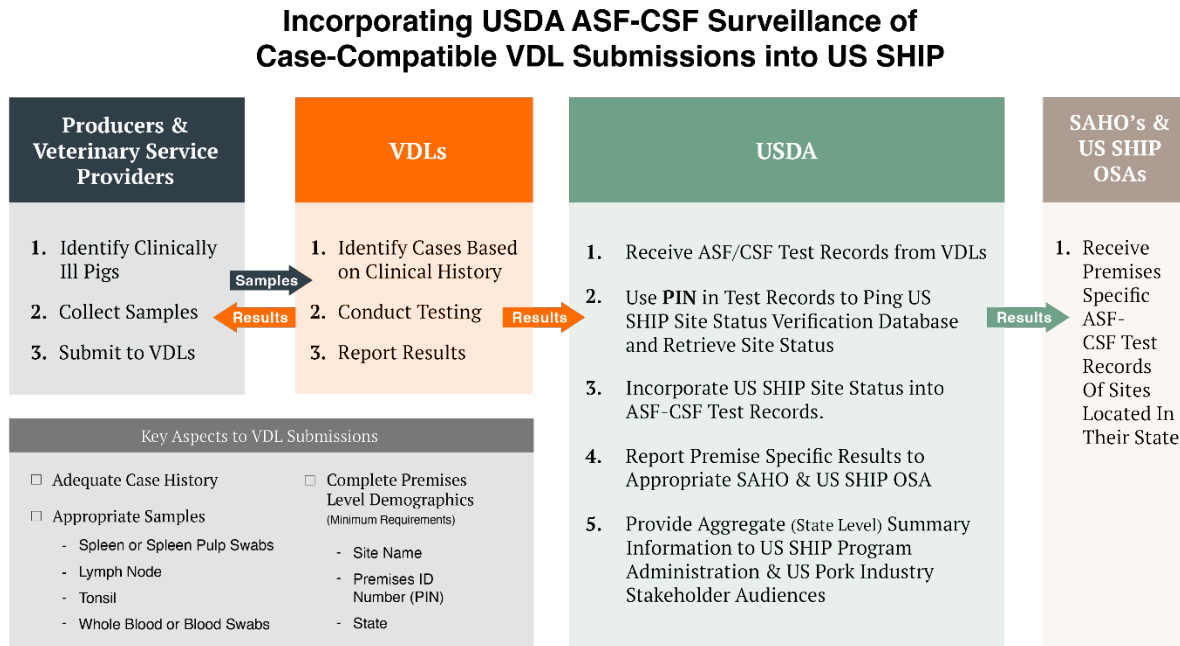
OSAs can choose the program(s) that they wish to use to manage the administration of the US SHIP OSA in their respective state. Available options include, but are not limited to: AgView, RABApp, USAHERDS, TraceFirst, EMRS, AHMES, state-specific animal health program disease management database applications, Excel files, or hard copy files. US SHIP does not stipulate which program(s) are used, as long as the data are managed appropriately.

Do OSAs need to access or track any ASF/CSF testing data?

In the event of an incursion of ASF or CSF into the US (see testing requirements for ASF/CSF Level 2 or Level 3 in Program Standards), participating premises would be required to provide the OSA evidence of their compliance with the required testing upon request of the US SHIP OSA.

In peacetime (ASF/CSF Risk Level 1), per the resolution and program administrative standard concerning incorporating the ASF/CSF active surveillance of case-compatible (sick-pig) submissions to the veterinary diagnostic labs (USDA NAHLN Labs) into the US SHIP peacetime sampling that was passed at the 2023 US SHIP HOD (See Figure 3), looking forward in later calendar year 2024, the US SHIP OSAs will begin to be provided access to the total number and specific US SHIP participating premises being surveilled via this surveillance stream in their state.

Figure 3. Looking forward in later calendar year 2024, the US SHIP OSAs will begin to be provided access to the total number and specific US SHIP participating premises being surveilled via the sick pig surveillance stream in their state. Stemming from Resolution 2023-4 and Program Administrative Standard 2023-6 passed at the 2023 US SHIP HOD.



Certification

What is certification?

Certification is the process, initiated by the OSA, where US SHIP participants demonstrate that the premises enrolled meet or exceed the requirements for the US SHIP health status certifications being pursued.

The requirements for certification in US SHIP are kept current in the US SHIP Program Standards document that is housed and maintained on the US SHIP website. See link to current US SHIP Program Standards document [here](#).

OSAs are expected to contact and work through the certification process with the participants after the participants have enrolled their respective premises in US SHIP.

The US SHIP requirements for certification are specific to a given health status certification and production site type. OSAs are expected to keep current with a working knowledge of all the US SHIP Program Standards. US SHIP participants are to remain current for the US SHIP health status certifications being pursued or held by their specific premises.

The US SHIP health status certifications are conferred and held at the level of the premises.

What health-status certification programs exist within US SHIP?

Currently, the two certifications within US SHIP are ASF-Monitored and CSF-Monitored. The number of certifications may be expanded in the future.

What is required to become certified?

To become certified, US SHIP participants must be able to demonstrate the participating premises meet or exceed the requirements (as defined in the US SHIP Program Standards) of the US SHIP health status certifications being pursued or maintained.

As of January 2024, for the ASF/CSF Monitored Certification this includes:

For All Production Site Types:

- a. Premises pursuing certification have been successfully enrolled in US SHIP.
- b. Participant acknowledgment of their understanding of and the participating premises compliance with the full set of requirements for the certifications being pursued.
- c. Upon OSA request, participants must demonstrate their ability to provide at least 30 days of swine movement data electronically to the OSA in a timely manner (<72 hours). The movement data must include the minimum data points stipulated in the US SHIP Program Standards. The participants can provide such movement data to the OSA either via a CSV file or via a permissioned access-based database application housing the swine movement records of the premises being certified.

For commercial-scale pork producer participants (US SHIP Production Site Types: Boar Stud, Breeding Herd, Farrow to Feeder, Farrow to Finish, and Growing Pig sites):

- d. Upon OSA request, participants must also demonstrate their ability to provide the OSA with a completed Secure Pork Supply Biosecurity Plan for their premises.

Additional Notes of Clarification Concerning Certification:

- I. In the event of an introduction of either ASF or CSF into the US and the associated initiation of the testing requirements associated with ASF Risk Level 2 or 3, participating premises would need to demonstrate their compliance with the testing requirements. Participants would need to provide the US SHIP OSA access to the ASF and/or CSF testing records from the participating premises upon request of the OSA.
- II. When an individual US SHIP participant (entity) within a given state has a substantive number of premises that share a common ownership or managing entity, US SHIP OSAs are provided the latitude to select a representative sampling of such premises to complete the full rigor of the initial certification process. In total, the US SHIP OSA needs to feel comfortable that the US SHIP participant is capable of providing the information required for certification.

Once premises are certified, how do participating premises maintain their certification?

US SHIP participants are expected to stay abreast of and maintain or exceed the requirements of the US SHIP certifications held by their participating premises.

US SHIP participating premises need to be able to demonstrate their ongoing compliance with the US SHIP health status certifications held upon request of the US SHIP OSA.

How can OSAs document the key processes and activities associated with administering the US SHIP program?

Appendix 3 was created to help OSAs avoid loss of knowledge and/or access to documents during staffing changes or record-keeping glitches.

Appendix 3 is optional and intended to serve as a framework for an OSA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The document can be scaled up or down to be as detailed or basic as needed.

Each OSA can use this [link](#) to record and access their individual processes on the Biosecurity Survey Responses Box. The document will only be accessible to individuals who have state-specific access to the Box.

US SHIP Site Status Verification Database

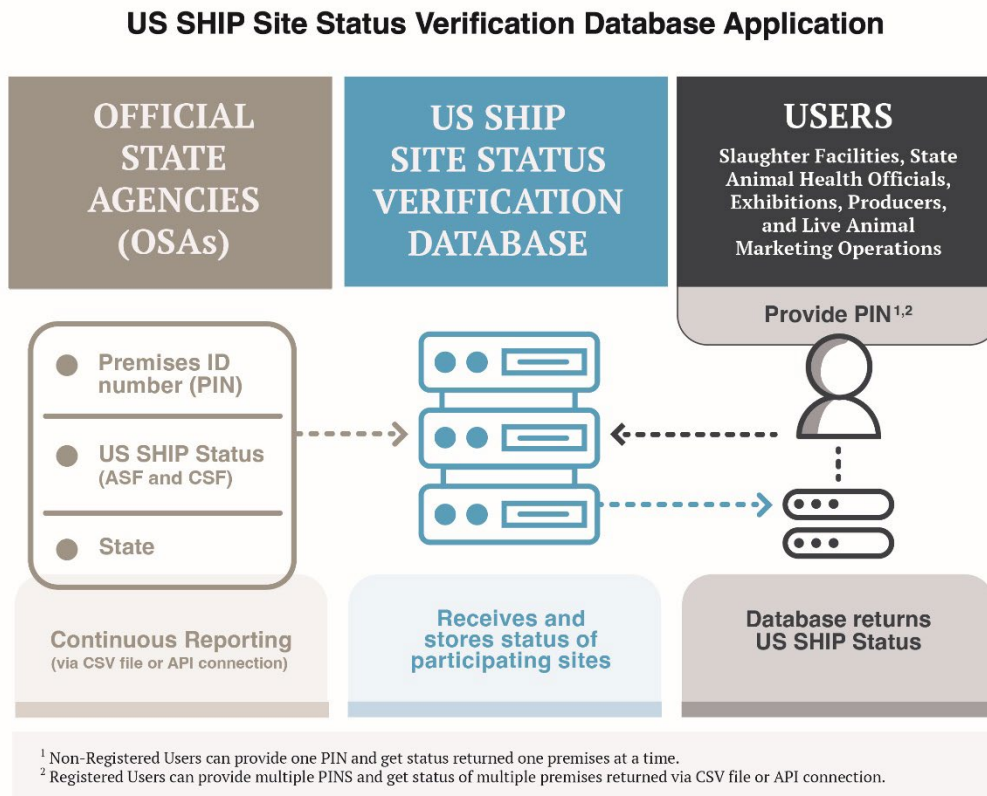
The US SHIP Site Status Verification Database was developed and on-boarded for use in 2023 in response to a resolution passed at the 2022 US SHIP HOD. The application is fully functional and approximately 22 US SHIP OSAs are currently able to share the US SHIP status of the participants in their respective state as intended. The use of a simplistic, scalable, and broadly applicable means for end-users to seamlessly verify the US SHIP Health Status Certification(s) held by the pigs they are receiving is a foundational need in creating an officially recognized USDA program for certifying the health of US swine. A resolution at the 2023 US SHIP HOD was passed that “requests the commissioning of a standing committee to explore how this could be executed by ALL US SHIP Official State Agencies (OSA)”. Most recently, one of large swine producing states that was having some challenges in being able to share the necessary information (due to state statute related to sharing of the PIN) was able to structure an agreement with the host of the US SHIP Site State Verification Database that will enable their state to move forward as envisioned. The US SHIP Program Administration plans to share this state specific agreement with the other states having similar state-statute specific based challenges to determine if the approach taken may have applicability elsewhere.

What is the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database?

The US SHIP Site Status Verification Database is a database application that provides a simplistic means for maintaining the current and officially recognized status of the US SHIP certifications held by participating sites.

It is envisioned that the US SHIP OSA will maintain and report the current status of the participant sites to the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database. Only a minimum set of data fields, including the premises identification number (PIN), corresponding US SHIP disease status, and the State in which the premises is located are to be reported to the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database. All of the more detailed participant and premises level-specific identifiers (e.g., names, addresses, locations, etc.) remain with the respective US SHIP OSA and are not reported to or contained in the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4. The basic workings and use of the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database.



End users and use cases of the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database include but are not limited to:

State Animal Health Officials can use it to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by premises moving pigs into their state for further breeding, growing, or exhibition.

Slaughter facilities can use it to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by the premises supplying pigs to their facility to be harvested.

Exhibitions can use it to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by the premises pigs being exhibited/shown.

Live animal marketing operations channels can use it to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by the premises supplying pigs to their facility.

Producers can use it to verify the status of the US SHIP certifications held by either their own premises or the premises of pigs of which they are purchasing or otherwise receiving pigs from third parties.

What are the statuses the participating sites can have in the US SHIP ASF/CSF Monitored certification program?

Once a site participates in the US SHIP, certification can be assigned as one of the three proposed disease statuses. The US SHIP disease status was structured to accommodate the different stages and levels of certification of participant sites using three proposed and the site Disease Status:

1. Monitored Free:

To be used for ASF or CSF US SHIP certified sites

2. Certification Expired:

For cases when the ASF or CSF-free certification is on hold for not complying with current program standards. It could affect either ASF, CSF, or both.

An example of a situation where “Certification Expired” would occur is when the US SHIP House of Delegates approves new standards and the site no longer meet the US SHIP program standards.

3. Inactive:

For US SHIP enrolled sites but not certified

Certified sites when the site is going through a change in ownership and waiting for re-statement of certification by the OSA.

Lost or revoked status (tested positive for ASF or CSF)

Sites that decide to drop out of US SHIP

Sites that never participated in US SHIP

Sites that participated in the US SHIP and went out of business

The site status verification database is a centrally maintained program that houses high-level US SHIP data (only premises ID, state, and certification status of participants). US SHIP premises can be classified as monitored free, certification expired, or inactive.

Key point of the functionality of the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database application for end users:

End users query the database by providing the PIN of the premises in question, and the database application simply returns the current status of the US SHIP certifications held by the premises (PIN) in question (Figure 1). The US SHIP Site Status Verification Database application is a database application that is readily compatible with, and independent of, whatever software/database application or other means the US SHIP OSAs from across the country are using to house the participant/premises specific information and manage the workings of the US SHIP OSA in their respective state.

The US SHIP OSAs are the only entities permissioned to report the status of the US SHIP certifications held by the participants in their respective state to the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database. The US SHIP Program Administration is responsible for managing the services provided by the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database.

The US SHIP Site Status Verification Database is currently being housed and maintained within the information technology infrastructure used to support the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Information on OSA user registration, data upload, data management, and data retrieval from the US SHIP Site Status Verification Database is available in a separate document, the Site Status Verification Database User Guide for OSAs.

The Site Status Verification Database User Guide for OSAs can be found in the US SHIP Box Folder "US-SHIP-OSA" for each specific State. Alternately, the OSA can request a copy of the User Guide document by emailing usship@iastate.edu.

Appendix 1

US SHIP Premises Validation Reference for Official State Agencies

Purpose:

This document is intended to serve as a reference for validating PINs and other US SHIP enrollment data.

Importance:

- Traceability and surveillance testing are two of the principal tenets of US SHIP and hinge on having accurate data. Erroneous PINs and addresses on enrollment and participant data, if not corrected, decrease the quality, usability, and creditability of US SHIP data. Consequences resulting from filing incorrect data include:
 - An incorrect PIN on traces will significantly delay identifying infected or exposed herds, potentially leading to increased spread of disease.
 - An incorrect PIN on surveillance testing lab results will link lab results to the incorrect premises for those laboratories utilizing the Laboratory Messaging System (LMS), which can make it appear as though producers are under or over-testing. Premises statuses will not be accurately represented if lab results are linked to incorrect PINs.
 - Incorrectly recorded PINs and premises addresses delay the response times of Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) and any emergency responders attempting to report to the premises for testing or disease control activities.
 - Incorrect PINs and addresses may result in incorrect establishment of Control Area zones. Premises that are physically outside of a Control Area may be incorrectly included in one (and thus restricted) if theirs or a neighboring premises' PIN or address are incorrect.
- During the 2014-2015 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak, 65-75% of PINs from companies that registered themselves were inaccurate, demonstrating a need for validation of producer-provided data.

- Should there be a swine Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) detection in your state, having premises information validated ahead of time will save a tremendous amount of time.

Key Points:

- Premises validation is the process of ensuring that the PIN and the 911 premises address provided correspond to the actual animal location.
- The PIN is the 7-digit alphanumeric identifier tied to a physical parcel of land, as established by the Animal Disease Traceability Information System (ADTIS).
- The premises address on file for US SHIP should be the physical location of the animals. The premises address should not be the address of the farmhouse (unless they are on the same parcel of land), the company office, etc.
- Only one PIN will be assigned for each address. All components of an operation (e.g., grower barn, finisher barn) that are on the same parcel of land will have the same PIN. The owner or business associated with a PIN can change but the address tied to the PIN will not.
- While US SHIP participants can have one or many participating premises, each participating premises (PIN) can only be under the umbrella of one US SHIP participant at any given time.

Steps:

1. Confirm that the PIN provided on the enrollment document matches the address provided in the “Premises (Site) Information” section.
2. There are four primary ways to verify this information: ADTIS, AIMS, EMRS, and a Pork Check-Off resource. The Pork Check-Off resource website does not require USDA eAuth access. Please note that, depending on your individual eAuth access, you may not have access to ATIS, AIMS, and/or EMRS.
 - a. *Pork Checkoff*: Navigate to the Pork Checkoff Premises Verification website (<https://lms.pork.org/Premises>). Under Step 1., enter the PIN in the “Premises” box then click “Lookup”. If the PIN and address provided on the enrollment match the information in the Pork Checkoff tool, please proceed to Step 3. If the PIN and address

- provided do not match, please reconcile the PIN/address with the applicant.
- b. *ADTIS*: Navigate to ADTIS (<https://adtis.aphis.usda.gov/home>) and under “Premises” select “Search for a Premises”. If the PIN and address provided on the enrollment match the information in ADTIS, please proceed to Step 3. If the PIN and address provided do not match, please reconcile the PIN/address with the applicant.
 - c. *AIMS*: Navigate to the AIMS website (<https://vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/aims/eAuthLogin.do>) and under “Action Items” select “Validate PIN/NPN/LID”. Enter the PIN and click “Validate Number”. If the PIN and address provided on the enrollment match the information in AIMS, please proceed to Step 3. If the PIN and address provided do not match, please reconcile the PIN/address with the applicant.
 - d. *EMRS*: Navigate to the EMRS website (<https://emrs2.aphis.usda.gov/main.aspx#136804271>) and click the drop-down carat next to “EMRS Home”. Select “Disease Management” then “Premises”. Enter the PIN in the search bar at the top of the screen. If the PIN and address provided on the enrollment match the information in EMRS, please proceed to Step 3. If the PIN and address provided do not match, please reconcile the PIN/address with the applicant.
3. The 911 address of site that is recorded in the “Premises (Site) Information” should then be verified to be the *physical location* of the animals. The address provided in the “Swine Owner Information (US SHIP Participant)” section does not need to be checked.
 4. The Premises address can be validated using various web resources, including but not limited to:
 - a. County records – most accurate and may be able to correlate the landowner with the “Premises (Site) Owner Information” on the SHIP enrollment document. Requires use individual county records.
 - b. Bing Maps – street view can be helpful.
 - i. <http://www.bing.com/mapspreview>
 - c. Google Maps – street view can be helpful.
 - i. <https://www.google.com/maps>
 - d. NETR Online (Public Records Online Directory)

- i. <http://publicrecords.netronline.com/>
 - e. MelissaDATA
 - i. <http://www.melissadata.com/Lookups/AddressVerify.asp>
 - f. Smarty Streets
 - i. <https://www.smarty.com/products/single-address>
- 5. Using the county records or your preferred online mapping service (Bing Maps, Google Maps, etc.), search for the premises address and review the satellite image of the property.
- 6. Verify that the address provided corresponds to an actual animal location (e.g., hog barns on property).
 - a. If using county record data, verify that hog barns are within the land parcel boundaries.
- 7. While not officially part of the validation process, US SHIP enrollment data can be compared to existing State animal health agency databases (USAHERDS, etc.) to cross-check information.
- 8. Any discrepancies identified with the PINs or addresses should be reconciled with the SHIP applicant.

Common Issues:

- 1. The “Premises (Site) Information” address provided is the address where the producer lives or receives mail, not the address of the animals.
 - Remind the applicant that the “Premises (Site) Information” should be the 911 address of the animal location.
- 2. Multiple US SHIP applications are received for the same PIN.
 - Remind the applicant that the PIN is tied to the parcel of land, not a specific structure or barn on the land.
 - Remind the applicant that a given PIN can only be enrolled under one US SHIP participant at any given time. This may require some reconciliation between the US SHIP OSA, and the US SHIP participants involved.
- 3. Enrollment information is incomplete.
 - Remind the participant that complete enrollment information is required before a site can be certified.

Appendix 2

*The Appendix 2 **provides a framework for an initial forward-looking discussion** amongst US SHIP OSAs concerning the approach to be taken for verifying participant ongoing participation and compliance with certifications held following the initial enrollment and certification.*

How frequently does the US SHIP OSA need to verify participant ongoing participation in US SHIP?

US SHIP OSAs are to reach out to the participants in their respective state on a regularly scheduled basis (e.g., annually, or biannually) to confirm the participants' ongoing participation in the US SHIP. The participants are to complete an "Agreement of Ongoing Participation" in which the participants acknowledge their ongoing participation and compliance with the US SHIP certifications.

Participants' engagement in signing off on the "Agreement of Ongoing Participation" will also provide the US SHIP OSAs an opportunity to verify that the participant data, premises enrolled, and certifications held are current and up to date.

Note: Specific timing and requirements of "Agreement of Ongoing Participation" TBD.

How frequently does the US SHIP OSA need to verify the ongoing compliance of the participating premises with the US SHIP certifications held?

US SHIP OSAs reserve the right to request evidence of ongoing compliance of participants at any time as specified needs or questions arise.

In addition to the participants signing the "Agreement of Ongoing Participation", the US SHIP OSAs need to verify the ongoing compliance of representative sampling of the participating premises in their respective state.

OSAs may choose to conduct this verification of compliance in conjunction with or separate from participants completing the "Agreement of Ongoing Participation". In total, care should be taken by the OSA to ensure the selection of this sampling of premises provides a broad coverage across of the US SHIP participants in their respective state.

It is recognized that such program level decisions need to be taken with significant care in keeping the overarching impacts on administrative burden, program

participation, program rigor, and the costs of implementing such a program across the masses of industry participants, premises, and US states in mind.

The responsibility of day-to-day compliance with the US SHIP certifications held is born upon the individual program participants. Should there be a health-status change on a given premise impacting the US SHIP health-status certification held, it is incumbent on the US SHIP participant to report such updates to the US SHIP OSA.

Participating premises no longer meeting the requirements of a specific US SHIP certification held will temporarily lose that specific US SHIP health status certification until such time they can effectively demonstrate they are back in compliance with meeting the requirements to hold that specific US SHIP health status certification. Similarly, premises no longer participating in US SHIP will temporarily lose the US SHIP health status certifications held until such time they can effectively demonstrate they are back in compliance with meeting the requirements to hold the specific US SHIP health status certification(s) being pursued.

In closing, it is thought that US SHIP OSA and US SHIP participant experience in implementing the program in the months and years ahead will serve as a sound means to further guide program development.

Appendix 3

1. Enrollment

- a. Name of individual responsible for tracking enrollment of new premises in US SHIP.
- b. System used to track enrollment data (e.g., USAHERDS, Excel, etc.)
- c. Brief explanation of the enrollment process. (Be specific about the template used and where the information is stored).
- d. Name of individual who submits monthly enrollment numbers to US SHIP Administrative Team.
- e. Brief explanation of how enrollment data is cross-checked against, or integrated with, existing State swine premises data.
- f. Name of individual responsible for checking Biosecurity Survey results
- g. Frequency that Biosecurity Survey results are checked.

2. Certification

- a. Name of individual responsible for initiating certification for enrolled premises.
- b. Brief explanation of steps taken to initiate certification, verify that certification requirements are met, and communicate certification status to participant.
- c. Location of certification data (movement data and Secure Pork Supply Biosecurity Plan) for each premise (if applicable).
- d. Individual responsible for uploading certification statuses into the Site Status Verification Database.