



# US SHIP Q4 Newsletter

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## USDA US SHIP Senior Coordinator Introduction:



We are very excited to welcome **Dr. Vienna Brown** to USDA APHIS as our inaugural USDA US SHIP Senior Coordinator!

Vienna has served as a Staff Biologist with the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services National Feral Swine Damage Management Program for the last six years. In that role, she oversaw national feral swine disease surveillance, coordinated research, and worked on African Swine Fever (ASF) preparedness and response planning. She has a PhD in Microbiology, a Master of Public Health, and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences. Outside of work, Vienna enjoys hiking, biking, baking, gardening, and spending time with her two and four-legged family.

## 2024 HOD Recap

Thank everyone who attended the 2024 US SHIP House of Delegates (HOD) meeting! We were excited to welcome over 300 attendees representing 32 states and their respective swine industries at the 4th annual meeting.

This year's meeting included expanded breakout sessions, allowing speakers and attendees to discuss traceability, surveillance, feed biosafety, site biosecurity/feral pig risk mitigation, the General Conference Committee, PEDV, swine exhibition, the site status verification database, and live-haul sanitation.



These breakouts helped update attendees on working group progress, facilitate discussion, and allow the pilot program to draw on the strengths of its diverse participants.

The banquet dinner, generously provided by the National Pork Board, was accompanied by an exceptional presentation from Jesse Heimer and Dr. Jennifer Martin on the exhibition swine industry.

The event was concluded with the business meeting, where voting delegates approved three program standards and passed seven resolutions to refine program requirements and direct future program focuses.

The Standards and Resolutions passed at the 2024 HOD meeting can be found [HERE!](#)

The 2025 HOD meeting will be held in **Bloomington, MN, from September 2 - 5, 2025.**

## November GCC Meeting Recap:

The US SHIP General Conference Committee (GCC) met in person in Ames, Iowa, on November 13th-14th, 2024.

The US SHIP GCC includes nine members representing the six districts and three at-large positions elected by delegates at the 2024 US SHIP HOD meeting. The GCC was joined by pilot team members, USDA, and representatives from the National Pork Board, National Pork Producers Council, and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians.

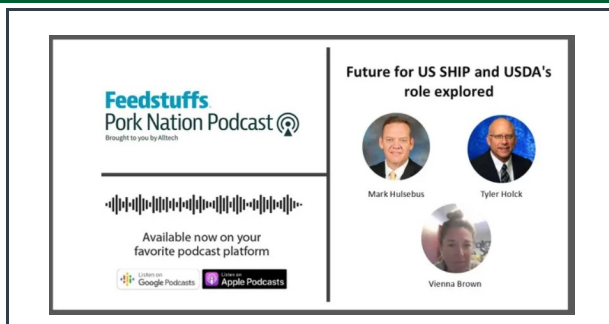
Stay tuned for a **“District Letter”** from your regional GCC representative with a readout of the meeting!

## 2025 US SHIP Working Group:

US SHIP Working Groups are open to all interested parties, and each group will begin meeting in the next few months. Working Group focuses include traceability, sampling/testing, feed biosafety, site biosecurity/feral pig risk mitigation, swine exhibition, and live-haul sanitation.

If you are interested in joining a Working Group, please email [aphis-us-ship@usda.gov](mailto:aphis-us-ship@usda.gov).

## US SHIP in the News:



US SHIP was featured in a recent Feedstuffs podcast focused on the impending transition of the US SHIP pilot to USDA and the program's bright future.

Check it out [HERE!](#)



**REMINDER!** In an effort to improve program awareness and participation, please send the US SHIP administrative team ([aphis-us-ship@usda.gov](mailto:aphis-us-ship@usda.gov)) suggestions for names of groups or organizations that might benefit from additional targeted outreach or meetings.

## Important dates:

**September 2nd to 5th:** US SHIP House of Delegates 2025 Meeting (Bloomington, MN)

