



# **US Swine Health Improvement Plan**

# **Resolutions**

Updated after 2nd House of Delegates Meeting  
September 6 - 8, 2022

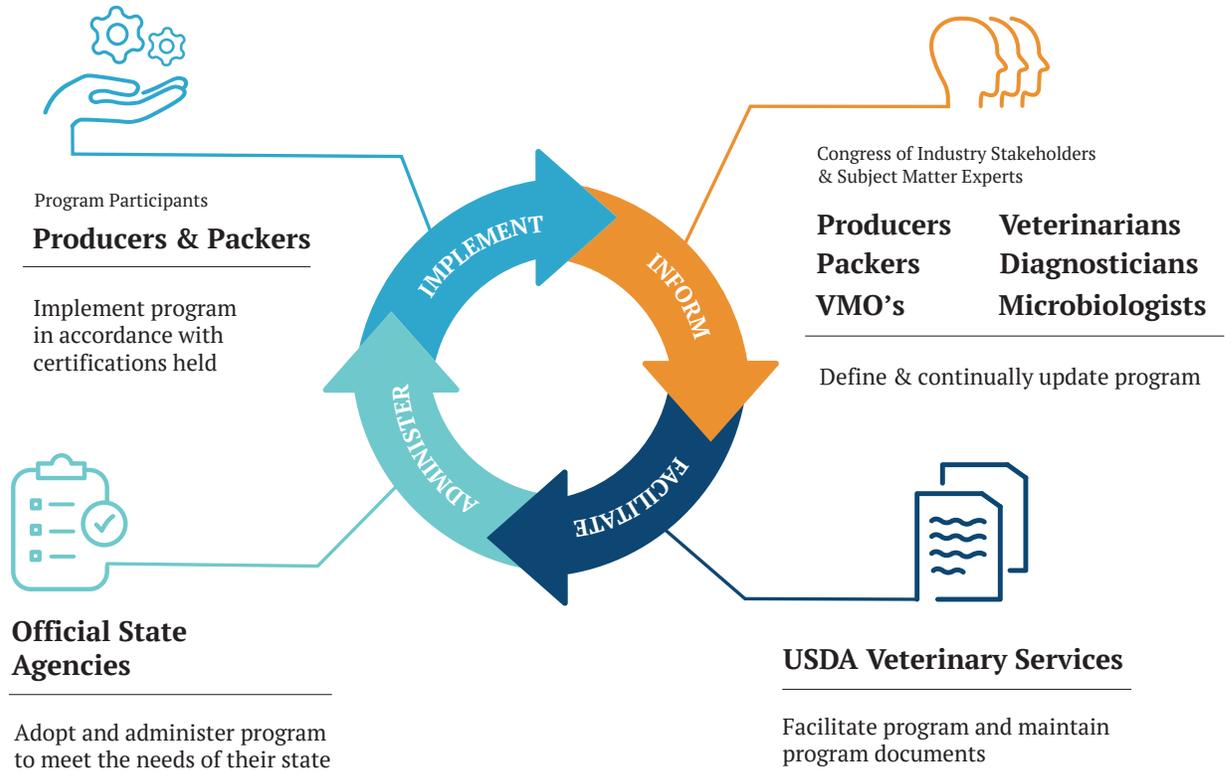


# US Swine Health Improvement Plan



## ASF-CSF Monitored Certification

“A proven platform for safeguarding, certifying, and bettering animal health”



## Industry, State, & Federal Partnership

Pathway for improving preparedness across US Pork Industry

US SHIP will establish a **National Playbook** of technical standards centering on **Prevention** and **Demonstration of Freedom of Disease** Outside of Control Areas in Support of Animal Health, Commerce, and Trade.

## Biosecurity, Traceability, and Disease Surveillance

# Resolutions

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**Definition: Resolutions:** Charges to pursue initiatives or further explore specific issues that aim to further inform US SHIP program content and direction.

Approval of Resolutions require majority vote by the US SHIP HOD.

The proposed Resolutions represent some portion of the work product and recommendations of US SHIP Technical Working Groups centering on topics related to Biosecurity, Traceability, and Sampling and Testing convened in the spring 2022. The principal charges provided to the various working groups stem back to the series of Resolutions passed at the inaugural US SHIP HOD meeting held in August 2021.

It should be understood that US SHIP is an industry, state, and federal partnership en-route to be a USDA Swine Health Program (modeled after NPIP's longstanding system of shared governance) that centers on certifying the health of US swine in accordance with well-defined program standards.

Any project-based work involving research, new system development, collaborative forums, outreach, education, and advocacy for US SHIP related efforts are only possible through the support and self-evident synergies working in partnership with the national pork producer, packer, and swine veterinary organizations (i.e., National Pork Board, National Pork Producers Council, Swine Health Information Center, North American Meat Institute, and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians).

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022 - 1  
SUBMITTED BY: US SHIP Traceability Working Group  
SUBJECT MATTER: Pathway to 21st century traceability of swine movements in the US pork industry

WHEREAS, The number of live swine being transported within or across one or many state lines for breeding, growing, exhibition, or to be harvested has increased exponentially in recent decades in lock-step with the wide-spread adoption of multi-site pig production,

WHEREAS, The US pork industry has become increasingly dependent on interstate pig movement and the ability to export high quality pork products globally over this same period,

WHEREAS, The ability to proficiently track and trace inter-premises movements of live swine across the breadth of US pork industry participants is a foundational element of foreign animal disease preparedness. Similarly, in the event of an animal health emergency, such proficiencies are critical in being able to competently represent the health status of pigs across supply chains, areas, states, and regions over an extended response and recovery period,

WHEREAS, Current capabilities to proficiently track and trace the masses of swine moving intra and interstate have been identified as a “mission critical foreign animal disease preparedness vulnerability” for the greater expanse of the US pork industry,

WHEREAS, Recent experience in piloting a more comprehensive approach for capturing and integrating quality assured inter-premises swine movement information in near real-time across a subset of highly capable pork producers of varied ownership and production system structure feeding a single packing facility has proven to be more challenging than initially anticipated,

WHEREAS, Scalable approaches for being able to capably track and trace inter-premises movement of live swine in near real-time (within 7-days of movement) have become commonplace in various shapes and forms in pork exporting countries throughout the world. Such capabilities have been developed over the course of time as an outcome of being routinely implemented as a market-driven or compulsory requirement within their respective countries (i.e., figured out what works by doing / implementing),

WHEREAS,

Establishing the ability to proficiently track and trace inter-premises movements of live swine across the breadth of US pork industry participants and states would create a substantive, multi-faceted, and sustainable step change in the state of foreign animal disease preparedness across the US pork industry.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED:

US SHIP House of Delegates supports moving forward with a series of initiatives necessary to enable the future consideration and implementation of a program standard requiring “inter-premises movements of swine to be deposited (reported) to an approved repository of inter-premises swine movement records within 7 days of delivery to the premises of destination.”

**Envisioned roles and responsibilities of implementing such a program standard:**

**Participating Producers/Packers:** Responsible for depositing (reporting) inter-premises movements of live swine to an approved repository of swine movement records.

**Approved Repository(s) of Inter-Premises Swine Movement Records:** Responsible for receiving and housing the inter-premises movement records and providing permissioned access of such records to the appropriate US SHIP Official State Agency for periodic compliance verification, and to the appropriate veterinary medical officials in times of an animal or public health (food safety) emergency.

National Pork Board’s investment in the AgView platform is an example of a software platform currently being developed and used to receive, house, and share swine movement records with the appropriate veterinary medical officials in a time of need.

**Note:** It is also envisioned that certification in US SHIP and the working systems established for maintaining compliance with a program standard associated with reporting inter-premises movements of swine could play a significant role in the future for streamlining and improving the current methods producers and states use when permitting the interstate movement of swine for breeding, growing, or exhibition.

**Series of Initiatives Proposed:**

1. Formation of a multidisciplinary (Industry, State, & Federal) working group to fully vet:
  - a. Alternative approaches (options/structure/strategy) that could be taken towards scalably meeting a prescribed standard requiring reporting of inter-premises movements of swine to an approved repository within 7 days.
  - b. Clearly defining the requirements, functionality, and operational covenants necessary for entities to be recognized as an “approved repository of inter-premises swine movement records”.

2. Complete a more in-depth study and review of the various approaches and systems being implemented in the various pork exporting countries around the world that are currently meeting this prescribed inter-premises movement of swine reporting standard of practice.
3. Complete further study of the various approaches and systems US pork producers and packers are using to capably capture the inter-premises swine movement information that is inclusive of the US SHIP program standard requirements (i.e., date, PIN of origin, state of origin, PIN of destination, state of destination, animal type in movement, and number of head in movement).
4. Advocate for the development, further development, and/or adoption of built for purpose applications that could be used by a broad range of US pork industry participants to facilitate user-friendly and quality-assured compliance with the prescribed inter-premises swine movement reporting standard.
5. Expand proof of concept pilot projects that center on the entirety of supply chains to slaughter facilities demonstrating competence in successfully and sustainably achieving the prescribed program standard for reporting quality assured swine movement records within 7 days of movement.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022 - 2  
SUBMITTED BY: US SHIP Feed Biosafety Working Group  
SUBJECT MATTER: Establishment of Standing Feed Biosafety Committee and Plan of Work

WHEREAS, The US Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) is a collaborative effort involving industry, state, and federal officials tasked with establishing a “national playbook” of technical standards associated with biosecurity, traceability, and sampling/testing,

WHEREAS, US SHIP presents as a platform for incorporating broadly applicable standards of practice related to mitigating the risks of disease introduction through feedstuffs into a swine health certification program that is national in its scope and recognition,

WHEREAS, Knowledge, recommendations, and best practices are expected to evolve and improve over time necessitating an organizational structure to facilitate discussion of the latest research findings and provide up-to-date recommendations for consideration by the US SHIP House of Delegates.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED:

The US SHIP House of Delegates requests the commissioning of a coordinated, standing committee (Feed Biosafety Committee) to discuss the latest scientific findings related to feed biosafety and provide recommendations for consideration by the US SHIP House of Delegates.

This working group will include a broad range of stakeholders representing US SHIP stakeholders, swine producers, feed ingredient suppliers and feed industry representation, state, and federal partners. Their charge will be to periodically review the latest information and provide recommendations for consideration by the US SHIP House of Delegates.

Topics for consideration by the Feed Biosafety Committee include:

1. Consider recommendations concerning the potential for incorporating program standards into US SHIP associated with mitigating the risks of introduction of ASF/CSF via imported feed ingredients. These recommendations are to be inclusive of the methodology of how any such standards would be communicated, monitored, and/or periodically verified.
2. Consider recommendations and next steps to the US SHIP program to reduce risk of disease transmission in domestically sourced feedstuffs.
3. Coordinate discussion of practices and standards for consideration to reduce the risk of pathogen transmission through transport of swine feed and ingredients.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022 - 3  
SUBMITTED BY: US SHIP Feed Biosafety Working Group  
SUBJECT MATTER: Pilot demonstration of a broadly applicable Responsible Imports program across a substantive subset of US pork industry participants and feed industry stakeholders.

WHEREAS, The US Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) is a collaborative effort involving industry, state, and federal officials tasked with establishing a “national playbook” of technical standards associated with biosecurity, traceability, and sampling/testing,

WHEREAS, There is a recognized risk of disease transmission from both feed ingredients and whole feed and research and risk assessments continue to be conducted to assess the risks associated with importing feed ingredients from ASF-CSF positive regions and potential mitigation strategies to reduce or eliminate those risks,

WHEREAS, US SHIP presents as a platform for incorporating broadly applicable standards of practice related to mitigating the risks of disease introduction via imported feedstuffs into a swine health certification program that is national in its scope and recognition.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED:

The US SHIP House of Delegates requests the pursuit of a demonstration project across a substantive subset of US SHIP pork industry participants and feed industry stakeholders.

Participants in the demonstration project would affirm:

Feed biosafety risks associated with feed ingredients being imported (manufactured, grown, processed, or packed) from regions or countries known to have ASF/CSF actively circulating in their swine populations are being mitigated via one of the following risk mitigation procedures:

1. Excluded from use in swine diets; or
2. The imported ingredient or resulting finished feed is to be stored for a scientifically-based holding time and temperature conditions demonstrated to inactivate the respective virus; or
3. The ingredient or resulting finished feed is to be processed or treated using scientifically-based methods at conditions or with feed additives at a dose demonstrated to inactivate the respective virus.

Within strategies 2 and 3, practices are to be utilized to avoid cross-contamination by preventing contact of the product with any source of ASFV/CSFV.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022 - 4

SUBMITTED BY: US SHIP Market Haul Sanitation Working Group

SUBJECT MATTER: Market Haul Sanitation

WHEREAS, Livestock trailers returning from terminal points of concentration (slaughter facilities, buying stations, or cull markets) that have not been cleaned and disinfected present as a primary and well understood risk factor for indirectly recirculating, amplifying, and broadly distributing disease causing agents in US swine,

WHEREAS, Live-haul sanitary standards (practices) for cleaning and disinfecting livestock trailers returning from terminal points of concentration are widely variable,

WHEREAS, In the event of a trade-impacting disease introduction into US swine, in the absence of being cleaned and disinfected between loads, live-haul transport trailers returning from terminal points of concentration present as principal risk factor for recirculating, amplifying, and broadly distributing said disease throughout the US. Such live-haul transport related disease transmission risks would apply during the pre-identification phase and throughout the extended response and recovery period,

WHEREAS, The current lack of infrastructure and inability to clean and disinfect livestock trailers returning from terminal points of concentration is a well-understood industry level vulnerability of national importance to the longer-term sustainability and competitiveness of the US pork industry,

WHEREAS, Well-defined traceability and live-haul sanitary standards are commonly the two hallmark components of swine health control and improvement programs being implemented in other export centric countries globally,

WHEREAS, The 2021 US SHIP HOD put forth a charge to convene a working group on “market haul sanitation” and provide a summary of findings and recommendations concerning suggested next steps to the 2022 US SHIP HOD,

WHEREAS, The series of efforts proposed below are the principal recommended go forward actions (next steps) stemming from the US SHIP Working Group on Market Haul Sanitation convened in Spring 2022.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED:

US SHIP House of Delegates supports moving forward with a series of efforts leading towards the future consideration of a program standard requiring livestock trailers returning from terminal points of concentration (e.g., slaughter facilities, buying stations, or cull markets) to be cleaned and disinfected prior to returning to farm sites or farm site collection points (depots).

The initiatives proposed would serve to further inform:

- Current standards of practice and existing infrastructure
  - Infrastructure needs and the various options and approaches to fill existing deficits
  - Systems, tools, and alternative approaches that would be necessary to monitor compliance (auditable log of key events) within the context of a broadly applicable program
  - Operational costs and implications
  - Pace for phasing in a program standard into US SHIP related to requiring livestock trailers returning from terminal points of concentration be cleaned and disinfected prior to returning to farm sites or farm site collection points (depots)
1. Pilot a suite of compatible options that provide a scalable means for monitoring (measuring) the percentage of livestock trailers delivering pigs to commercial slaughter facilities that are meeting the prescribed market haul sanitation standard to be considered.
    - a. The systems/tools and alternative approaches explored, developed, and implemented in the pilot aim to provide a platform for scalably measuring the status-quo, monitoring progress being made over time, better understanding existing infrastructure and associated capabilities, and quantify infrastructure gaps.
    - b. Auditable log of key events (trailer washes and deliveries to commercial slaughter facilities)
    - c. The pilot project would serve to identify, develop, and use a suite of scalable tools, systems, or options that would be necessary to monitor the implementation of a program standard requiring livestock trailers returning from terminal points of concentration be cleaned and disinfected prior to returning to farm sites or farm site collection points (depots).
  2. Establish a working forum and associated educational materials for sharing of best practices and examples of the various systems, technologies, and approaches being implemented by:
    - a. Pork producers and swine slaughter facilities (domestically and abroad) currently achieving this standard of practice en-masse.
    - b. US poultry producers sustainably achieving this standard of practice.
  3. Explore educational, policy, or federal funding related opportunities associated with permitting and constructing such livestock truck-wash facilities in support of US animal agriculture and our nation's food supply.
  4. Advocate for applied research and development of engineering based improvements to reduce the labor and enhance the consistency, sustainability, and quality of high throughput market-haul washout procedures.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022 - 5  
SUBMITTED BY: Justin Brown, Swine Medicine Education Center,  
Iowa State University  
SUBJECT MATTER: Certified Swine Sample Collector (CSSC) Training Program

WHEREAS, The US Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) is a collaborative effort involving industry, state, and federal officials tasked with establishing a “national playbook” of technical standards associated with biosecurity, traceability, and sampling/testing,

WHEREAS, The USDA and National Pork Board (NPB) have recently funded the development of a Certified Swine Sample Collector (CSSC) training program,

WHEREAS, The principle purpose of the CSSC training program is to expand the number of well-trained individuals to assist animal health officials and category II accredited veterinarians in collecting diagnostic samples during an FAD response,

WHEREAS, The CSSC training program content and associated resources have been developed by collaborators at Iowa State University, the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, the Multistate Partnership for Security in Agriculture, and National Pork Board and are available on the Secure Pork Supply Plan website,

WHEREAS, State animal health officials are currently (2022) in the early stages of rolling out the CSSC training program within their respective states.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED:

The US SHIP House of Delegates acknowledges the rigors around which the CSSC training program was built and recognizes that CSSCs will be an important resource to collect samples identified within the US SHIP surveillance protocols.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022 - 6

SUBMITTED BY: US SHIP General Conference Committee (US SHIP GCC)

SUBJECT MATTER: Elected General Conference Committee & Governance

WHEREAS, the US Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) was initiated as a two-year pilot project funded by the USDA and led by a team of swine interest veterinarians across four Midwestern universities, and is being administered through Iowa State University,

WHEREAS, US SHIP is being modelled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), a 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,

WHEREAS, NPIP (established in 1935) has a well-tested model of operations and shared system of governance that is built upon leveraging industry participant know-how and leadership in deriving practical standards, definitions, and policies that serve to safeguard and better poultry health and the competitiveness of the US poultry and egg industries,

WHEREAS, NPIP's leadership includes a General Conference Committee (GCC) that consists of seven individuals (volunteers, US poultry and egg industry participants / subject matter experts) from across the US that are elected by the NPIP House of Delegates. The NPIP GCC is an officially recognized Federal Advisory Committee to the NPIP Program Administrative Staff (USDA APHIS employees) and the US Secretary of Agriculture on matters related to poultry health,

WHEREAS, the US SHIP pilot project investigators appointed seven GCC members to serve during this current start-up phase of US SHIP. The appointed GCC members include two principal investigators from the initial USDA grant, three members representing industry, one state animal health official, and one USDA representative which have served US SHIP since its inception,

WHEREAS, given the industry support and interest in US SHIP and further funding support from both the USDA and National Pork Board/Check-off, the US SHIP pilot is being extended two additional years to further develop and transition to a formal USDA program for certifying the health of US swine.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED:

The US SHIP House of Delegates requests the commissioning of a working group to further develop and clarify plans for the governance of US SHIP. This working group is to include the current US SHIP GCC, one individual appointed by each of the national pork industry associations (i.e. NPPC, NAMI, AASV and the show pig industry), and six representatives of pork producing entities appointed by state pork associations with preference to producers.

This group's work will include:

1. Clearly defining the role and responsibilities of the elected US SHIP General Conference Committee and its membership,
2. Determining the formation of the GCC including the number of members and their representation,
3. Establishing the terms of service for a US SHIP GCC member,
4. Clarify the transition to formal Technical Advisory Committees and propose the core topics/ disciplines to be addressed to advance the technical content of US SHIP,
5. Further clarify the working relationship of the US SHIP GCC with the US SHIP Technical Advisory Committees and the US SHIP staff (pilot staff FY 2023/24 and USDA staff beginning October 2024),
6. Initiating steps necessary to establish the US SHIP GCC as Federal Advisory Committee,
7. Solicit and put forth nominations of well-qualified candidates with an interest in serving in the first-slate of elected US SHIP GCC members. Nominations would be put forth and voted upon at the US SHIP HOD in 2023.
8. Serve as the US SHIP GCC that includes providing guidance and counsel to the current US SHIP Program Administration and associated US SHIP operations until elections are completed at the US SHIP HOD in 2023.

The outcomes of this working group's efforts will be shared and brought forward to the US SHIP HOD in 2023.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022 - 7

SUBMITTED BY: State of Indiana Delegation

SUBJECT MATTER: Establishment of a sub-committee within the Sampling and Testing Committee to further evaluate peacetime surveillance opportunities and needs within the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan program.

WHEREAS, U.S. SHIP is a collaborative effort involving industry, state and federal officials tasked with establishing a “national playbook” of technical standards associated with biosecurity, traceability and sampling/testing,

WHEREAS, Knowledge, recommendations and best practices are expected to evolve and improve over time, necessitating an organizational structure to facilitate recommendations for consideration by the U.S. SHIP House of Delegates,

WHEREAS, U.S. SHIP aims to provide a means for demonstrating evidence of freedom of disease (outside foreign animal disease control areas) in support of ongoing interstate commerce and a pathway towards the resumption of international trade,

WHEREAS, U.S. SHIP presents as a platform for incorporating broadly applicable active surveillance standards to support industry efforts for early detection of ASF/CSF.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED:

The U.S. SHIP House of Delegates supports moving forward with efforts to determine the need for active surveillance within the program. The primary objectives of these efforts will be to further evaluate opportunities associated with the USDA-APHIS CSF/ASF case compatible submission program, explore a potential program standard where US SHIP enrolled sites will be required to include a premises identification number (PIN) on every lab submission, continue to evaluate opportunities to expand surveillance options, including oral fluids and others and explore options to initiate a pilot project to begin active surveillance. The sub-committee shall be producer-led with advisement by a practicing veterinarian, APHIS import/export staff, APHIS Swine Health Team, CEAH, state animal health official, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, and APHIS-FADDL staff.

The sub-committee will provide an update with recommendations for implementation of active surveillance at the 2023 House of Delegates Meeting.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2022 - 8  
SUBMITTED BY: US SHIP Working Group on Site Biosecurity  
SUBJECT MATTER: Mitigating Risks of Direct Contact with Feral Swine

**RESOLUTION:**

To further define mitigation measures for US SHIP participating sites from feral swine.

The US SHIP House of Delegates requests the commissioning of a coordinated, standing committee to provide recommendations for consideration by the US SHIP House of Delegates in 2023.

**Background/Reason:**

Segregating domestic pigs from having direct contact with feral swine is a fundamental principle toward protecting the health of US domestic swine and hallmark of foreign animal disease preparedness.

In the absence of intentional biosecurity measures and plans in place, pigs with access to the outdoors can be of substantively increased risk to have direct contact with feral pigs in such areas and regions where feral swine are present