UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2025 Resolution
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Denver, CO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: Task force - Use of Aggregate Samples in African Swine Fever/Classical Swine Fever Control Area surveillance Testing Algorithms

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RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, establish a task force composed of industry, state, and federal partners. The specific purpose of this task force is to develop additional options for African swine fever and classical swine fever Control Area surveillance testing algorithms, including the incorporation of aggregate samples.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The ability to effectively respond to a large-scale (multifocal) outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) or classical swine fever (CSF) in the United States (US) is critically important to the US pork industry stakeholders, dependent communities, and the overall security of the national food supply chain.

Current ASF/CSF Control Area testing algorithms—which require collecting samples from 31 individual animals per barn on a recurring basis—are not realistically implementable in the event of a large-scale (multifocal) outbreak in pig-dense regions of the US.

The practical, operational, and fiscal challenges associated with collecting, preparing, and processing 31 individual animal samples per barn were widely recognized as constraints during the comprehensive “Swine Fever Exercise for Agriculture and Response” conducted in 2019.

The use of aggregate samples for detecting ASF and CSF is well-supported by scientific literature. Aggregate samples—most notably oral fluids and processing fluids—have a long-standing record of success in herd-level detection of high-consequence endemic viruses within the US pork industry.

US pork producers and swine veterinarians are proficient in collecting and submitting aggregate samples to the United States Department of Agriculture National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratories for large-scale testing.

Proactively leveraging the expertise of US pork industry participants to help inform alternative Control Area testing algorithm options—beyond the current primary method of 31 individual animal samples per barn—would be a prudent and responsible step forward. Such efforts would contribute meaningfully to the ongoing enhancement of ASF/CSF preparedness and response plans in the United States.