

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3      APPROVED SOURCE:**

**COMMITTEE ON SWINE**

**SUBJECT MATTER:      Policy Regarding the Allowance of Facilities Associated with Licensed Swine Dealers, Including but not Limited to Buying Stations, to Continue Business in a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The United States swine industry provides a safe and wholesome food supply to the world in an extremely efficient process. The efficiency is based on different processes, including but not limited to buying stations, and facilities associated with licensed swine dealers. Licensed swine dealers and buying stations provide an efficient process to facilitate the movement of certain swine to the appropriate harvest facilities.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services adopt the following policy before a high consequence foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak, including but not limited to African swine fever, classical swine fever, or foot and mouth disease, occurs: "Facilities associated with licensed swine dealers, including but not limited to buying stations, can continue business during the FAD outbreak provided that they are able to implement and comply with all necessary measures set forth during the outbreak to prevent the spread of disease. Swine shipped by licensed swine dealers must go directly to a harvest facility."

**FINAL RESPONSE:**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

APHIS recognizes the importance of restoring movement and providing pathways to support business continuity during a high-consequence foreign animal disease outbreak.

APHIS will continue to work with the USAHA Swine Committee, state animal health officials, and other stakeholders to update and enhance policies and guidance regarding swine movement practices, including from swine dealers and buying stations, in the event of a high-consequence FAD outbreak. APHIS acknowledges the collaboratively drafted “Standardized Permitting Guidance for Facilities Associated with Licensed Swine Dealers, including but not Limited to Buying Stations,” as referenced in USAHA 2024 Resolution 5 as a part of this effort. APHIS will work to better understand how it can promote and verify biosecurity practices and other safeguards of licensed swine dealers before adopting policies that allow for this flexibility in an outbreak.

APHIS encourages industry to continue engaging in these discussions to ensure that the risks of disease spread can be mitigated through movement controls and that the confidence of its trading partners can be maintained through sound response policies. APHIS-supported efforts, such as the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan pilot program and the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response program can provide a forum for discussion, opportunities to achieve consistent application of standards, and additions to the body of information that APHIS considers as it establishes foreign animal disease response policies.