

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: Swine Traceability Standards

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A foreign animal disease outbreak in the United States (U.S.), such as African swine fever or foot and mouth disease, would result in the immediate suspension of U.S. pork exports. The ability of the U.S. government to regionalize the outbreak and demonstrate to U.S. trading partners where the disease is present, and where it is not, is entirely dependent on having an effective, industry-wide mandatory preharvest traceability system. In 2022, the U.S. exported over 25 percent of production, totaling over \$7.7 billion in pork and pork products. Enhanced traceability standards will be imperative to resume international trade.

The mandatory swine traceability standards were developed by an industry-led task force representing all segments of the swine industry, including state animal health officials. The standards were approved by producer delegates representing forty-two states at the National Pork Industry Forum in March 2024. On March 18, 2024, the standards were submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for consideration along with a petition requesting they be adopted as part of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The referenced swine traceability standards can be accessed at the following link:
https://nppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Swine-Traceability-Standards_FINAL-DRAFT.pdf

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 industry developed Swine Traceability Standards as part of Code of Federal Regulations governing swine health.

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 and appreciates the significant work the industry-led task force accomplished during the meetings leading up to the National Pork Industry Forum. APHIS is currently evaluating the proposed traceability standards and will publish the conclusions of our evaluation in the Federal Register. In alignment with sections of the industry's proposed standards, APHIS is taking action to support access to and implementation of electronic identification. In fiscal year 2025, APHIS funded a \$1 million cooperative agreement with the National Pork Board to provide radio frequency identification (RFID) readers to cull sow and exhibition swine channels; this agreement has been renewed for fiscal year 2026. Additionally, in July 2025, APHIS awarded a contract that will supply up to \$20 million in RFID tags over five years to these same high-risk channels.

Under the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (U.S. SHIP) umbrella, the traceability working group has been collaborating with state animal health officials and industry software leaders to explore data standards and to test the current capabilities of producer, state, and federal software systems to efficiently and effectively share movement data in support of traceability.

APHIS will continue to work with swine industry representatives, the USAHA Swine Committee, state animal health officials, and other stakeholders to update and enhance regulations, policies, and guidance regarding swine traceability.