



US Swine Health Improvement Plan

Piloting a proven platform for safeguarding, certifying, and bettering animal health

US Swine Health Improvement Plan
2630 Veterinary Medicine
1800 Christensen Drive
Ames, IA 50011

Frequently Asked Questions Producers

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1) What is my commitment as a producer to participate in the US SHIP pilot program?

Response: Your commitment to the US SHIP pilot program is fourfold:

1. The first responsibility is to complete the 5-question interest [survey](#) which will allow the US SHIP pilot program staff to know you are interested in having your state represented in the program.
2. Your second responsibility is to follow-up with your state pork producer association to encourage your state's participation in the US SHIP pilot program. Each state will need to know that there are producers and packers from their state interested in participating.
3. Once you and your state have confirmed your interest in the US SHIP pilot program, your state will confirm it is participating in the inaugural House of Delegates.
4. Finally, once the initial ASF-CSF certification requirements for biosecurity, traceability, and sampling/testing are approved at the House of Delegates (August 23-24, 2021), you can then choose to enroll some or all of your production sites to participate in the US SHIP pilot program.

2) Once this program starts, what specifically will I need to do for my farm sites to become certified?

Response: Participants will need to enroll their farm site(s) with the US SHIP Official State Agency in which the farm site(s) is(are) located, meet or exceed the requirements for certification, and be able to verify compliance with the program standards on an as-needed basis.

3) How much will it cost me to participate?

Response: Producers will be responsible for the costs incurred associated with meeting or exceeding the requirements for certification. Requirements for certification are anticipated to include maintaining a valid client patient relationship with a licensed (accredited) veterinarian and meeting or exceeding program standards that center on biosecurity, traceability, and disease surveillance. The requirements for biosecurity and traceability are anticipated to be aligned with common standards of practice. It is anticipated that sampling and testing at an individual site level will be very minimal (e.g., 1 targeted pooled sample/site/year from commercial scale farms) as long as the US is free of ASF and CSF.

4) How will participation and becoming certified benefit me as an individual pork producer?

Response: Certified producers participating in the US SHIP pilot program will benefit by being recognized for complying with the ASF-CSF Monitored Certification Program standards for biosecurity, traceability, and disease surveillance. These standards will leverage existing programs and processes (i.e. Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) and Secure Pork Supply (SPS)) and establish precedent for their use across all participating states and regions of the US.

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The US SHIP ASF-CSF Monitored Certification Program aims to play a primary role in helping support the responsible movement of swine and continuity of business and trade outside of ASF-CSF control areas. Implementing uniform and effective systems for early detection and demonstrating evidence of freedom of disease are foundational elements needed to support ongoing interstate and international commerce over the course of a response and recovery period.

5) What if my state does not participate in the US SHIP pilot program, can I still participate?

Response: No, only producers located in states that have committed to participating in the US SHIP pilot program and have established an Official State Agency to oversee the program for their state can participate. Additional states and their producers can join the US SHIP pilot at any time.

6) Can non-commercial (small holding, exhibition, and backyard) swine producers participate in this program and if so, are the requirements the same?

Response: Yes, non-commercial swine producers such as show pig or hobby farms can and are encouraged to participate in the US SHIP pilot program. It is anticipated that there will be a non-commercial classification within the program which may have different certification requirements.

7) I already comply with the Secure Pork Supply (SPS) plan, will there be additional biosecurity requirements that I have to meet to achieve US SHIP ASF-CSF Monitored Certification?

Response: A basic tenet of the US SHIP pilot program is to leverage existing efforts, programs, and tools in the US swine industry today, to avoid “recreating the wheel”. The SPS plan is being considered in the draft biosecurity standards. It is anticipated that producers currently complying with SPS will meet the US SHIP pilot program requirements for certification.

8) Will I be audited for the US SHIP pilot program requirements and if so, by whom?

Response: The US SHIP Official State Agencies (OSAs) will be expected to periodically audit (verify) the program participant records for certification. Such periodic auditing is a foundational element to ensure program participant information, compliance with program standards, and their associated US SHIP certification(s) status remain current. For the pilot phase, the US SHIP program administrators are purposely not attempting to be overly prescriptive as to the frequency of audits.

9) How much does my (licensed and accredited) veterinarian need to be involved in this program?

Response: Herd veterinarians will play a vital role in helping facilitate their producer clients’ participation and certification in the US SHIP pilot program, consistent with the roles and responsibilities they are routinely playing in supporting the herd health related needs of their clientele. Maintaining a VCPR with a herd veterinarian of record is a requirement for farm sites to participate and be certified in the US SHIP pilot program.