



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 State Animal Health Officials and Pork Associations

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

Response: The initial commitment is simply to participate in the inaugural House of Delegates (HOD) by selecting representatives of the state's producers and packers to serve as delegates. It is anticipated that each state's pork producer association in conjunction with the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) will nominate delegates, including the SAHO or their delegate.

Each state that chooses to participate in the US SHIP pilot program must establish an Official State Agency (OSA) to administer the program in their respective state.

2) Who can be an Official State Agency (OSA) to represent our state in the US SHIP pilot program?

Response: Using the NPIP as a model, the OSA may be the state board of animal health (i.e. state veterinarian), or the state pork producer association, or a state diagnostic laboratory or land-grant university. State pork producer associations are encouraged to engage their state board of animal health to assess the best option for their specific state.

3) What are the responsibilities of the Official State Agency (OSA) following the inaugural House of Delegates?

Response: The OSA will be responsible for administering the US SHIP pilot program in their respective state. Primary responsibilities will include:

- Communication and program specific education of participants.
- Maintaining an up-to-date list of the program participants and participant status.
- Conferring certification and verifying participant compliance on an as-needed basis.

4) What are the anticipated requirements for participants to become certified?

Response: While the specific requirements for certification will ultimately be determined by the US SHIP House of Delegates, the anticipated core requirements center on the following:

- Premises level enrollment with US SHIP Official State Agency.
- Having a primary herd veterinarian or veterinary clinic of record.
 - Herd veterinarians (clinics) need to be licensed and accredited.
- Meeting or exceeding program standards for biosecurity, traceability, and disease surveillance.

5) What types of information will the US SHIP Official State Agency (OSA) be expected to maintain or have access to confer and/or verify program participants are meeting or exceeding the requirements for certification?

Response: Records anticipated to be housed or maintained by the OSA include:

- Premise level information (Contact information, Premises Type, Premises ID, Location)
- Primary herd veterinarian (clinic) of record
- An affidavit of compliance with biosecurity requirements

Program participant capabilities needing to be verified by the OSA include:

- The ability to readily generate the past 30 days of swine or swine germplasm movement into or out of participating premises in a prescribed electronic format (CSV file) as needed.

6) What are the expectations of the US SHIP Official State Agency (OSA) to audit participants?

Response: The US SHIP OSAs will be expected to periodically audit (verify) the program participant records and capabilities that are required 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. However, it is anticipated that a subset of program participants would be audited on an annual basis.

For supply chains of live-hogs to be represented as being derived from US SHIP ASF-CSF Monitored farm sites, it will be the responsibility of the owners of the animals to ensure the farm sites housing their hogs keep current on the requirements for certification with the OSA in which the premises is located.

7) Are there specific software or database applications the Official State Agency (OSA) will be required to use to administer the US SHIP pilot program?

Response: The US SHIP program administrators do not intend to prescribe or mandate the use of any specific software or database applications to administer this pilot program. The intended approach is to establish clear program requirements and provide flexibility to the OSA for oversight.

The US SHIP program administrators recognize that the US SHIP OSAs may likely have varied preferences (e.g., existing systems, high or low-tech approaches, new applications, or combination thereof) in how they may wish to house, secure, and manage program participant information and maintain participant status.

However, as outlined in the grant proposal, should any US SHIP OSAs request support, the US SHIP program administrators at Iowa State University can provide the OSA access to the use of a secured web-based platform to maintain the baseline program participant information and participant status in their respective state.