

April 5, 2022

Dear Pennsylvania Swine Producer/Packer,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services we would like to invite you to enroll in the US Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) program.

US SHIP is modeled after the very successful National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPPI) that has been in place since 1935. US SHIP is intended to provide a national program for certifying swine health status and is initially focused on African Swine Fever (ASF) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF). The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has committed to participating in US SHIP and we encourage all of our swine producers to enroll their production and packing site(s) in this unique program. Industry and Department representatives from the Commonwealth attended the inaugural US SHIP House of Delegates conference last August and approved the initial requirements for certification in the program. Please refer to the enclosed US SHIP program standards. More information about US SHIP can be found in the enclosed US SHIP informational brochure as well as online at www.usswinehealthimprovementplan.com.

The benefits of US SHIP enrollment include:

- A strengthened ASF/CSF preparedness (prevention, response and recovery) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- An established uniform biosecurity, traceability, sampling/testing approach across participating states in “peacetime” as well as “wartime”
- Participation in a collaborative industry (producers/packers), state, and federal program in which producers can help establish appropriate standards for health certification

Enrollment in US SHIP is by individual swine live production site and slaughter facility site, and requires only a few steps. The enrollment procedure includes the following:

1. Complete the enclosed enrollment form (using either the single premise or the multi-premise form) and return the completed form to usship@iastate.edu and cc Dr. Nan Hanshaw at nhanshaw@pa.gov; and
2. Complete the online SHIP biosecurity enrollment survey at the following link: [here](#). Participants are to complete a biosecurity survey at the time of enrollment for each state in which they have participating premises located. Paper versions of the survey will not be accepted; and
3. Upon request of the PA Department of Agriculture and after completing steps 1 and 2, provide an excel spreadsheet (template enclosed) of the past 30 days of movement information for the enrolled premises to complete your certification. Send the completed spreadsheet to usship@iastate.edu and cc Dr. Nan Hanshaw at nhanshaw@pa.gov.

Packers are not required to have 100% of their supply chain originating from ASF-CSF Monitored sites to participate in US SHIP, although it is recommended.

Please let us know if you have further questions. Again, more information on US SHIP can be found at www.usswinehealthimprovementplan.com.

Thank you for your support of Pennsylvania’s swine industry.

Sincerely,



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