U.S. Negligible Risk Compartment for Trichinella
Trichinella as a Trade Issue

• Many current or potential trade partners have requirements that U.S. pork be either tested or frozen to assure safety relative to Trichinella
  – E.U.
  – Russia
  – Singapore

• Modern pork production proven to mitigate risk for infection with Trichinella
  – Pig surveys and human reported data to CDC provides evidence
Cost of Testing or Freezing

• Freezing
  – $0.10 per pound and no longer “fresh pork”

• Testing
  – At least $2.00 per sample (100% of animals/carcasses need to be tested)

• Plus need to pay to maintain identity of entire carcass through processing
Trichinella: Importance of the Compartment

- International standard on trichinae (OIE and Codex) facilitates trade and ensures consumer health
- Multiple countries pose Trichinae mitigation requirements for fresh and frozen U.S. pork
- Overcoming existing restrictions could result in gaining additional exports valued at more than hundreds of millions annually to the U.S. pork industry (Hayes)
- Also protects current market access going forward
Recognition of Negligible Risk

• World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)
  – New international guidelines that provide options for documenting Trichinella-safe pork
• Also seeing parallel changes in EU legislation
• Provide for methods to establish a “compartment” of negligible risk
Actions to Establish a Compartment of Negligible Risk

• Establish a framework for controlled management pig herds
• Establish framework for negligible risk compartment
• Establish the compartment of negligible risk
• Develop ongoing verification of the status of the compartment
• Develop a response plan for deviations from negligible risk status
• Develop administrative oversight for each phase of the program
Controlled Management Pig Herds

• A process for meeting good production practices (GPPs) and a process for verifying that these requirements are met
  – OIE TAHC; ICT Guidelines; EU Regulations
    • Managed to prevent exposure of pigs to rodents and wildlife and rodent
    • Raw food waste not fed to pigs
    • Feed is produced and stored in a manner to prevent access by rodents and wildlife
    • Dead animals are promptly removed and properly disposed
    • Newly introduced pigs originate from controlled management herds
Framework for NR Compartment

- OIE:
  - Notifiable disease in swine
    - Would need to be initiated by USDA for the whole country
  - Veterinary Authority has knowledge of, and authority over, all domestic pigs
  - Veterinary Authority has knowledge of the distribution of susceptible species of wildlife
  - Animal identification and animal traceability system for domestic pigs
  - Veterinary Services capacity to assess the epidemiological situation, detect the presence of Trichinella infection in domestic pigs and identify exposure pathways
Framework for NR Compartment

• OIE:
  – Controlled management conditions have been complied with for at least 24 months
  – The absence of Trichinella infection in the compartment has been demonstrated by a surveillance program
    • Takes into account current and historical information, and slaughterhouse monitoring results
Ongoing Verification of the Status of the Compartment

- **OIE:**
  - “Once a compartment is established, a subsequent program of audits of all herds within the compartment is in place to ensure compliance”

- **Codex:**
  - Verifying conditions as described in OIE TAHC, or
  - Slaughter surveillance program demonstrating that prevalence of infection does not exceed 1/1,000,000 pigs with at least 95% confidence, or
  - Slaughter surveillance program demonstrating an equivalent level of public health protection, or
  - Combination of audits of the herds and a slaughter surveillance program that provide an equivalent level of public health protection
Slaughter Surveillance Program

- Negligible risk compartment – commercial swine
  - Total number of tests required is in the range of 4-5M/year
  - Same testing required by OIE to establish the compartment

- Testing over time would reduce the number of samples required to be tested each year
  - Building historical knowledge
  - Serology or Artificial Digestion Testing
Deviations from Negligible Risk Status

- OIE:
  - “If an audit identifies a lack of compliance and the Veterinary Authority determines this to be a significant breach of biosecurity, the herd(s) concerned should be removed from the compartment until compliance is re-established”
Administrative Oversight

• OIE:
  – The competent authority will “issue an international veterinary certificate attesting that the entire consignment of meat or meat products comes from domestic pigs originating from a compartment with a negligible risk for Trichinella infection”
  – USDA FSIS sign-off on the certificate for export
## Establishing the U.S. Compartment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>USDA changes <em>Trichinella</em> to a notifiable disease.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>USDA implements national surveillance program for <em>Trichinella</em>. Need 24 months worth of data.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>USDA and Industry implement program with collaboration of packers.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Packers opt into the compartment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Producers selling to participating packers opt into the compartment.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Producers sourcing the compartment are initially audited.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Conduct additional audits or satisfy the 1 in 1 million surveillance language to maintain the compartment.</td>
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