

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 45 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: MARKET SWINE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current market swine surveillance program provides a valuable infrastructure for sampling the United States (US) market swine population. Fourteen out of the top 35 swine slaughter plants that are currently collecting samples for market surveillance provide access to 50% of the US market swine population, or approximately 200,000 head out of the 405,000 head harvested daily.

Market swine surveillance has been recognized as a key component of the industry's move to an integrated and comprehensive swine disease surveillance program for the commercial compartment. Market swine surveillance provides access to samples using methods that are more economically feasible and less burdensome to the industry. In order to utilize this surveillance stream more effectively the swine industry has taken significant steps to expand surveillance objectives, enhance traceability, and take advantage of research opportunities to make market swine surveillance more cost-effective and valuable to the industry.

In late 2007, the swine industry prioritized and communicated national surveillance programming objectives to the National Surveillance Unit. This prioritization process yielded a number of economically important diseases that could be included in market swine surveillance as part of a comprehensive swine surveillance program. The list included Classical Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, Pseudorabies, Erysipelas, Swine Brucellosis, Trichina and Toxoplasmosis. Currently there are validated tests for detecting Pseudorabies, Toxoplasmosis, and Trichina at harvest. Antibody and antigen tests for detecting Classical Swine Fever are in the process of being validated by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

The program standards for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) for swine require reporting and recording of the Premises Identification Number (PIN) of the sending premises for all market swine arriving at the first point of concentration in the harvest chain. The program standards also require the use

of official NAIS tags bearing the source premises identification number or official animal identification number (AIN) in market breeding swine moving to the first point of concentration. These two requirements are being implemented by the swine industry as part of the Swine identification (ID) Plan under the NAIS and will support risk-based surveillance and statistically significant sampling from both market swine populations.

Market swine surveillance is being used in a two phase pilot study to determine the prevalence and distribution of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) in high risk swine populations in hog dense areas. PRRS is estimated to cost the pork industry \$540-\$700 million annually and the results from these studies will be important to the industry as it moves forward with strategies to mitigate the economic effects of this disease. Market swine surveillance can also be beneficial in determining prevalence and distribution of other important diseases to the industry including *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*, *Actinobacillus suis*, and *Mycoplasma hyopneumonia* in a rapid and cost effective manner. This information on these diseases will assist with decisions on how to deal with these diseases as an industry.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to maintain funding for market swine surveillance in Fiscal Year (FY) 08 and in FY 09 and in the long term increase funding in future years to expand and integrate market swine surveillance into the swine industry's comprehensive surveillance program.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS agrees that market swine surveillance is an important surveillance sampling stream that needs to be included in comprehensive swine surveillance program. Breeding herds and grow-finish swine have been functionally and geographically separated with the industry shift to high-health multisite production. Thus, a large percentage of finishing swine cannot be sampled effectively using breeding herd surveillance streams, since finishing sites no longer share close proximity and equal disease status with their source breeding herds.

Commercial abattoirs are a sampling point of interest because of the ability to identify and test large populations on a daily basis. Producers prefer the passive nature of this process compared to time-consuming and costly down-the-road or

first-point collection testing regimens. The abattoir is the first point of concentration for a large percentage of market swine under current industry structure. Packers have been willing to participate in sampling programs as they see this as an opportunity to improve the health status of their supplier herds. State and Federal regulatory agencies have also recognized the efficiency of this sampling stream versus other more traditional sample procurement systems.

VS will endeavor to include market swine surveillance as a component in the developing comprehensive swine surveillance program.