
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 APPROVED

SUBJECT MATTER: Stop Movement – Criteria for Implementing and Releasing

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2018 and 2019, at the request of the United States pork industry, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) National Training and Exercise Program (NTEP) hosted a series of four exercises to improve preparedness and response to African swine fever (ASF). The pork industry appreciates USDA, APHIS, VS prioritizing these exercises which were viewed by the industry as positive experiences that highlighted gaps to be addressed cooperatively by industry and state and federal animal health officials. One gap identified by these exercises is the need for specific criteria for implementing and releasing a national 72-hour stop movement ban. The United States pork industry is concerned that in the face of an ASF outbreak there is no agreed upon criteria for re-starting swine movements once a 72-hour movement ban is implemented. This lack of criteria will result in the extension of a national movement ban past 72 hours resulting in severe welfare and business ramifications over and above the impacts of the disease itself on production. For the swine industry that moves over a million pigs on any given day to harvest and for production purposes, it is important that industry, state and federal animal health officials undertake a cooperative approach to develop the criteria for releasing movement bans.

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 work with the United States pork industry and state animal health officials to develop criteria for implementing and releasing national movement standstills due to the occurrence of a trade and commerce limiting foreign animal disease of swine.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, VS recognizes the concerns of USAHA and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS is committed to continuing to work with the United States pork

industry and state animal health officials (SAHOs) to ensure business continuity should there be a foreign animal disease outbreak in swine and to develop goals and criteria for any movement standstills.

A key takeaway from the September 2019 Swine Fever Exercise for Agriculture Response (SFEAR) was that some states and industry sectors requested APHIS implement a standardized national movement standstill protocol, with uniform start and stop times, and other standard criteria in the event a national movement standstill is needed. Another lesson was that APHIS would use a National Movement Standstill in response to a detection of African swine fever (ASF) in commercial swine, and not necessarily for an ASF detection in feral swine or backyard swine. If a national movement standstill were to be implemented, APHIS would do so through a Federal Register order or similar administrative mechanism.

It is important to recognize a movement standstill can only be ordered by an individual State or Tribe at the intrastate or local level; therefore, this would require collaboration and mutual understanding by all parties.