



United States Animal Health Association

2019 Resolution

123rd Annual Meeting

Oct. 24-30, 2019

Providence, RI

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED

SUBJECT MATTER: Evaluating and Recognizing Compartments

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In April 2018 the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA), Animal and Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) notified stakeholders that the agency is proposing criteria that will be used to evaluate and recognize livestock compartments in other countries. In this announcement APHIS proposes that the evaluation criteria for compartmentalization will be similar to what the agency already uses for regionalization requests with a few differences. The information gathered from the evaluation of the proposed criteria, combined with site visits from agency personnel, would allow *"APHIS to determine whether the animals within the compartment are managed in a way that keeps them distinct and separate from other animal populations within the country"*.

Prior to China's report of African swine fever (ASF) in August 2018, the United States (US) pork industry had been heavily engaged in the development of the Secure Pork Supply (SPS) Plan, a business continuity plan for pork producers. The plan incorporates principles specific to compartmentalization and could serve as a mechanism for implementing compartmentalization plans for the pork industry in the event of an outbreak of a foreign animal disease. Since August 2018, the US pork industry has stood up multiple groups that are addressing ASF prevention, response and business continuity. Better understanding of compartmentalization has been a common theme among these groups. An open frank dialogue between industry and federal animal health officials regarding compartmentalization, the proposed criteria, and how compartments are evaluated and recognized would be beneficial.

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 host a meeting with the United States pork industry and State Animal Health Officials to discuss the proposed criteria that will be used to evaluate and recognize livestock/livestock products compartments domestically and internationally.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, VS recognizes the concerns of USAHA and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS welcomes the opportunity to lead discussions among swine stakeholders in a public forum regarding development and implementation of compartmentalization in the swine sector in the United States.

International compartmentalization requirements are based on an internationally recognized set of audited processes and standards to assure safe trade in live animals and products in the face of trade-restricting disease outbreaks, such as ASF. The compartmentalization Final Rule is currently in the publication process; once finalized, APHIS will evaluate submissions from international stakeholders for approval of foreign compartments.

APHIS proposes the swine industry and Secure Pork Supply leadership join with leaders of the National Association of State Animal Health Officers (NASAHO) to establish a compartmentalization planning conference in summer 2020. APHIS will develop an agenda tailored for the U.S. swine industry to employ compartmentalization (via the Secure Pork Supply or similar approach) to restore markets in response to a catastrophic domestic ASF outbreak. The planned outcomes of this meeting will include actionable “next steps” in a conceptual strategic plan for utilizing compartmentalization as a viable market enhancement for pork industry participants wishing to pursue it.

FINAL RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, VS thanks the USAHA for seeking to collaboratively address compartmentalization concepts in a proactive manner. Compartments are intended to promote safe trade by mitigating the risk of animal disease transmission while allowing impacted markets to recover from animal disease outbreaks. Thus, APHIS welcomes the opportunity to continue discussions with swine stakeholders regarding development and implementation of compartmentalization in the swine sector in the United States. APHIS personnel continue to engage in conversations with industry representatives regarding compartmentalization, which is based on an internationally recognized set of audited processes and standards to assure safe trade in live animals and products in the face of trade-restricting disease outbreaks, such as African Swine Fever (ASF). APHIS also continues to engage in additional continuity of business discussions with swine industry representatives.

APHIS will schedule a meeting (in a virtual format due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns) to discuss with the U.S. swine industry opportunities for compartmentalization prior to an outbreak to facilitate trade in response to a domestic ASF outbreak. The planned outcomes of this meeting will include actionable “next steps” for utilizing compartmentalization as a viable market enhancement for pork industry stakeholders wishing to pursue it.