
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.

FINAL 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.

On March 6, 2020, USDA's Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Greg Ibach, announced USDA's action plan if African Swine Fever (ASF) virus is detected in the United States. Upon ASF virus confirmation by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories the Secretary of Agriculture will, among other actions:

- Take immediate steps to declare an Extraordinary Emergency; and
- Issue a National Movement Standstill of at least 72 hours with a detection in domestic swine or feral pigs.

APHIS produced the *ASF Response Plan: The Red Book (April 2020)* reflecting these policies and describing the guidance stakeholders can expect from APHIS in the event of a movement standstill.

Specifications of issuance will at least be defined for:

- A specific geographical area or boundary (e.g., nationwide or other);
- A specific requirement that all live swine in transit at issuance must reach a destination;
- A specific time indicating the duration of a standstill (e.g., 72 hours);
- A specific list of what items are restricted from movement (e.g., live swine and germplasm); and
- A specific list of what items are exempt from movement restrictions

(e.g., negligible risk Food Safety and Inspection Service-

inspected products).

The Agency has also developed and distributed a concept of operations for the first 72 hours of an ASF outbreak. This document is under review with SAHOs and other stakeholders participating in weekly ASF Working Group meetings. The document, ASF Response: Chronology and State Checklist, is posted at www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep.

The ASF Response: Chronology and State Checklist specifies:

- Purpose for the National 72-hour Movement Standstill
- Specifications and standards for the Movement Standstill
- Options for “Hour 73 Decisions”
- Summary table of regulatory actions for ASF outbreak

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