

the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the main point of contact, both USDA and FDA are informed of the swine industry's interest in the potential import bans and development of a "Canada-like" program in the U.S. Both agencies discussed such a program in the Feed Risk Task Force, and reviewed the request received in February 2020. Previous discussions were primarily limited to soybeans (organic and traditional varieties). This resolution expanded that request and appears to be broader to "restrict the import of feed and/or feed ingredients" from ASF-positive countries.

USDA and FDA evaluated the feasibility of an import restriction program for soybeans using both agencies current authorities and resources. Based on the evaluation, neither agency is pursuing a program that focuses on soybean restrictions or additional feed or feed ingredients at this time. Such a ban is resource prohibitive for government agencies; requires significant start-up time; is cost prohibitive for both the animal food and pork industries, has potential immediate negative impacts on trade and in the future; and could result in unintended impacts to both the human and animal food supply chains if all ingredients were restricted by ASF-positive countries.

While we are not pursuing such a program at this time, USDA and FDA commends both the pork and animal food industries for their existing voluntary mitigation measures. Some examples of those measures are responsible importer programs and implementation of voluntary hold times for certain imported ingredients. We believe these are beneficial activities that continue to provide benefit to both the pork and animal food industries. USDA and FDA believe these voluntary programs provide greater flexibility than government-imposed restrictions as voluntary programs can change and adapt quickly with the pace of new science. We commend the pork and animal food industries for their continued cooperation to protect the US pork and animal food supplies.

FINAL RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, VS appreciates USAHA's concern regarding the import of feed and/or feed ingredients from countries that are positive for ASF and the opportunity to respond. While the

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