African swine fever (ASF) has spread throughout Europe, Russia, and Asia since 2007 despite ongoing efforts by numerous countries to control the disease. Most recently, ASF has been diagnosed in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the first occurrences in the Western Hemisphere since the 1980s. Should a case be diagnosed on a swine farm in the United States (US) a 72-hour standstill will occur to allow for a clear understanding of where the disease is and what high risk contacts have occurred. The data needed for this standstill is pig movement data, which may include date of movement, origin of pigs, destination of pigs, and number of pigs moved. This data is not currently compiled in such a format by producers, and they are attempting to determine how to prepare data so it is available should a case be diagnosed.

There are numerous databases that can be used to collect and organize data today. State animal health officials (SAHOs) may use Emergency Management Response System (United States Department of Agriculture), CoreOne, USAHerds, or other systems for outbreak response, and producers have an option to use AgView, Rapid Access Biosecurity application (RABapp), or internal data management methods to provide SAHOs and federal veterinarians needed information to allow them to quickly assess the scope and scale of the outbreak.

It is unclear to producers how state and federal officials can receive data, what data is needed and in what format, as well as what is the most efficient way data can be received by the state, even if there are multiple methods in which the state will receive information. This lack of clarity hinders the ability of producers to be prepared to share data for an ASF outbreak. This is likely a concern for all livestock producers for any foreign animal disease detection in the US.

RESOLUTION:
The United States Animal Health Association requests the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services’ Strategy and Policy’s National Preparedness Incident and Coordination Group work with industry and state animal health officials (SAHOs) in the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials’ African Swine Fever Working Group:

1. To develop clear guidance that is uniform across states for producers that details what movement data will be needed at the start of an incident that requires a state or federal response and for an ongoing outbreak situation;
2. To determine what data submission formats would be acceptable; and
3. To determine in what manner data should be shared with SAHOs to be most efficient.

This information should be posted on a publicly facing website that is easily accessible to all producers.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

APHIS will work with the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials’ African Swine Fever Working Group to identify the movement data elements needed from producers in a foreign animal disease outbreak and determine how to submit the information. APHIS will post any guidance developed on the FAD PReP website.

APHIS is currently engaged with several third-party providers to develop multiple options for data submission, as well as methods of moving data between State and Federal entities. Progress on the project includes development and testing of automated movement messages from VS Enterprise Message Service (EMS) to the Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) and a process to submit, approve, and validate movement against permits requests in EMS. As progress continues, producers will have opportunities to work with third-party providers to electronically format their movement data for messaging. APHIS will also continue to adjust the project based on input from the USAHA Subcommittee on Information Standards—Permit Data Standards Working Group as it develops permit data standards in a separate effort.