

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25**

**Approved as Amended**

**SOURCE:**

**COMMITTEE ON SWINE**

**SUBJECT MATTER:**

**Depopulation Response Time of an Infected Premises  
with African Swine Fever**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Depopulation of premises infected with African swine fever is one of the key foundational pieces to controlling the spread of the disease. Delayed response time to depopulation increases the number of animals on the premises that become infected, increases the risk of disease spreading to another site, and increases the amount of virus that needs to be eliminated from the facilities. Recent experiences with highly pathogenic avian influenza support that rapid depopulation is key in slowing the spread of disease.

Depopulation must balance the need to react rapidly, ensuring safety to all involved, and the method of depopulation is selected appropriately. Operational resources and the challenges of depopulation in domestic swine premises must all be considered.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to consider incorporating policy that domestic swine premises infected with African swine fever (ASF) be depopulated as soon as possible with depopulation being completed within 15 days of ASF\* detection. The allowance of up to 15 days recognizes that swine premises range in size from a few pigs to tens of thousands of pigs, depopulation needs to be done as humanely as possible with consideration for human health and safety, and legal disposal requirements may require depopulation to be extended.

\*ASF detection is defined as part of this policy consideration as either a USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmation of the first infected premises in a state or territory, or a National Animal Health Laboratory Network presumptive positive combined with clinical signs on subsequently infected premises in the same state or territory.

**USDA APHIS 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 notes that any depopulation response time goal is not an absolute requirement. Assessing possible depopulation and disposal of swine on any farm location will require proper planning and resources to ensure health and safety of the owner, grower and responders, and proper planning and resources will be needed to ensure animal welfare.