



For Immediate Release
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US Swine Health Improvement Plan Project Seeks Input from Texas Pork Producers and Packers

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) invites all Texas pork producers and packers to provide their interest in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) sponsored pilot project aimed to develop and implement a US Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP).

Through the US SHIP, an African Swine Fever (ASF)-Classical Swine Fever (CSF) Monitored Certification Program for the United States pork industry would be established, should there be interest. Modelled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) program, US SHIP aims at playing a central role in safeguarding, certifying, and bettering the health of United States swine and longer-term competitiveness of the United States pork industry.

A project team of swine interest veterinarians from four land grant universities is spearheading this USDA sponsored pilot project. The team hopes to present an opportunity to create an officially recognized and proven platform for making progress in addressing animal health related issues of high consequence that extend beyond the immediate influence of an individual state, producer or packer's farm gate.

Texas pork producers and packers that would like to have their interests represented in the US SHIP project are invited to take the five-question online interest survey, https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dhbZr9rsmuchO18, on or before July 1, 2021.

"Responses received through the survey will serve to provide the TAHC and other animal health officials the foundational information needed to determine the participation level of the Texas swine industry in this new opportunity," said Dr. Angela Lackie, TAHC Assistant Executive Director of Animal Health Programs. "We look forward to hearing from Texas swine producers and continuing to safeguard the health and marketability of the Texas swine herd."

Participation in the survey is not a commitment to join the ASF-CSF Certification Program. One survey response per entity (producer/affiliated pork producer entity or packer) is preferred.

For more information about the US Swine Health Improvement Plan and the ASF-CSF Monitored Certification Program pilot project, please visit <https://usswinehealthimprovementplan.com/>.

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.