

## Introducing the Secure Pork Supply

Excerpted by Emily Geary from [www.securepork.org](http://www.securepork.org)

### Key Points

- In the event of a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak in the U.S., maintaining business continuity for the pork industry is critical for food security and animal health and well-being
- The goal of the Secure Pork Supply (SPS) Plan is to provide a workable business continuity plan
- Having the SPS Plan in place prior to an FAD outbreak will enhance coordination and communication between all parties and speed up a successful FAD response



The size, structure, efficiency and extensive movement inherent in the swine industry will present unprecedented challenges in the event of a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak. A Secure Pork Supply (SPS) Plan is being developed to enhance communication and coordination, accelerate a successful FAD response, and support continuity of operations for pork producers.

Foot and mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), and African swine fever (ASF), are highly contagious foreign animal diseases (FADs). FMD virus infects pigs and other cloven-hooved livestock, including cattle, sheep, goats and deer. CSF virus and ASF virus only infect pigs. FMD and CSF were eradicated from the United States many years ago and ASF has never infected pigs in this country. These diseases are present in many other countries and cause severe animal production losses. However, FMD, CSF, and ASF are not public health infectious disease or food safety concerns.

Industry, state and federal officials have worked collaboratively with swine disease experts to develop response plans should one of these FAD viruses infect susceptible animals in the United States. Response strategies for controlling and stopping the spread of these animal diseases will include stopping movement of susceptible animals and their products, rapid identification of infected animals, strategic depopulation with proper disposal, and vaccination.

The goal of the Secure Pork Supply (SPS) Plan is to provide a workable business continuity plan for pork premises with no evidence of the FAD infection and allied industries that is credible to Responsible Regulatory Officials (local, state, tribal, and federal officials, as appropriate). Continuity of business (COB) for the swine industry revolves around the ability to move animals to slaughter and processing facilities and between production premises. Participation is voluntary.

While participation is voluntary, having the SPS Plan implemented prior to an FAD outbreak enhances coordination and communication between all stakeholders, is intended to speed up a successful FAD response, and support COB for pork producers and allied industries. The SPS Plan is the result of a multi-year collaborative effort by industry, state, federal, and academic representatives. Funding for its development was provided by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the National Pork Board. The SPS Plan provides guidance only. In an actual outbreak, decisions will need to be made by the Responsible Regulatory Officials and the industry based on the unique characteristics of the outbreak.

Stay tuned to the MSHMP Science Page for more information on the Secure Pork Supply, or visit [www.securepork.org](http://www.securepork.org)