



FFAR



SHIC Announces Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Program Round One Projects

For Immediate Release

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AMES, Iowa (March 2, 2023) - Ten research projects have been funded as part of the [Swine Health Information Center's Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Program](#) in collaboration with the [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) and the [Pork Checkoff](#). Each project is designed to achieve the objectives of cost-effective, innovative solutions for a significant biosecurity gap in U.S. swine production. Institutions receiving awards in this first round of funding are Iowa State University, Carthage Veterinary Service, North Carolina State University, the University of Minnesota, and Swine Vet Center. Real-time results of round one projects will be shared as quickly as they become available, and another planned proposal solicitation round will be coming soon to seek further projects addressing the research priorities identified by industry task forces.

The Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Program reflects SHIC's responsiveness to an identified health vulnerability and collaborative effort to stretch SHIC's producer Checkoff funds to safeguard the health of the U.S. swine herd. Proactively enhancing wean-to-harvest biosecurity will help control the next emerging disease in the U.S. pork industry, part of SHIC's mission.

Titles of round one Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Program projects awarded include:

Transportation Biosecurity

- Evaluating the effects of alternative livestock trailer cleaning methodologies on the relative risks of introducing diseases (PEDV) to farm sites when loading out hogs to terminal points of concentration
- Evaluation of readily available technologies for truck cabin decontamination
- Creating a truck automated sanitation classification (TASC) platform using multiple data recording approaches currently used in the swine industry – a pilot and scalable study
- Ensuring site and transportation biosecurity using bioluminescence
- Rerouting between-farm transportation vehicle movements to minimize the dissemination of endemic and emerging diseases in North America

Site Biosecurity

- Assessment of manure pumping effects on disease onset in wean-to-finish pig sites
- Evaluation of electrostatic precipitation for biocontainment of viral and bacterial pathogens emitted from finishing facilities

- Development and evaluation of an electrostatic precipitator (ESP) prototype to mitigate airborne spread of pathogens under farm conditions
- Evaluation of deployable fan coverings for biocontainment of airborne swine pathogens
- Industry-wide assessment of bioexclusion practices in wean-to-harvest sites, and development and validation of a rapid risk assessment bioexclusion tool

SHIC, FFAR and Pork Checkoff launched the two-year Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Program in the fall of 2022. The first call for research proposals was announced in October 2022 with the goal of investigating cost-effective, innovative technologies, protocols, or ideas to enhance biosecurity during the wean-to-harvest phases of swine production. Round one projects are expected to start March 2023.

Funding for the Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Program comes from SHIC, as well as FFAR and Pork Checkoff. A pool of approximately \$2.3 million is available for the program, with approximately \$1 million being awarded to the first round of projects.

A second call for research proposals will be announced soon with the goal of addressing a targeted set of research [priorities](#), all with the mission of improving an identified vulnerability to swine health. Information on the second call for proposals will be shared by SHIC and posted on its [website](#).

Swine Health Information Center

SHIC, launched by the National Pork Board in 2015 solely with Pork Checkoff funding, continues to focus efforts on prevention, preparedness, and response to novel and emerging swine disease for the benefit of US swine health. As a conduit of information and research, SHIC encourages sharing of its publications and research. Forward, reprint, and quote SHIC material freely. SHIC is funded by America's pork producers to fulfill its mission to protect and enhance the health of the US swine herd. For more information, visit <http://www.swinehealth.org> or contact Dr. Paul Sundberg at psundberg@swinehealth.org.

Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research

The [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR) builds public-private partnerships to fund bold research addressing big food and agriculture challenges. FFAR was established in the 2014 Farm Bill to increase public agriculture research investments, fill knowledge gaps and complement USDA's research agenda. FFAR's model matches federal funding from Congress with private funding, delivering a powerful return on taxpayer investment. Through collaboration and partnerships, FFAR advances actionable science benefiting farmers, consumers and the environment.

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