



Swine Health Information Center

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**Swine Health Information Center
2025 Annual Progress Report
To the National Pork Board**

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Executive Summary of SHIC and 2025 Activities

Mission and Scope of Work

The mission of the Swine Health Information Center (SHIC), launched in 2015 with Pork Checkoff funding, is to protect and enhance the health of the US swine herd by minimizing the impact of emerging disease threats through preparedness, coordinated communications, global disease monitoring, analysis of swine health data, and targeted research investments. SHIC began operation as a 501(c)(3) corporation on July 4, 2015.

When SHIC was formed in 2015 by a grant of Checkoff funds from the National Pork Board (NPB), it was with the understanding that it was a five-year project. The proposal language surrounding the Center's formation stated, "Funding of the Center past its five-year life will depend on it being able to demonstrate a sufficient return on the investment to justify keeping it running." In 2021, the NPB Board of Directors voted to provide \$15M to continue to fund SHIC's work through the end of 2027. In 2025, SHIC celebrated a decade of existence working to mitigate emerging swine disease threats on behalf of US pork producers.

As outlined in the NPB grant, the scope of work to be performed by SHIC includes global swine health and issues identification, targeted swine disease research, and swine health data analysis and monitoring for trends. To fulfill SHIC's mission and scope of work, the annual plan of work and progress report are developed around five strategic priorities:

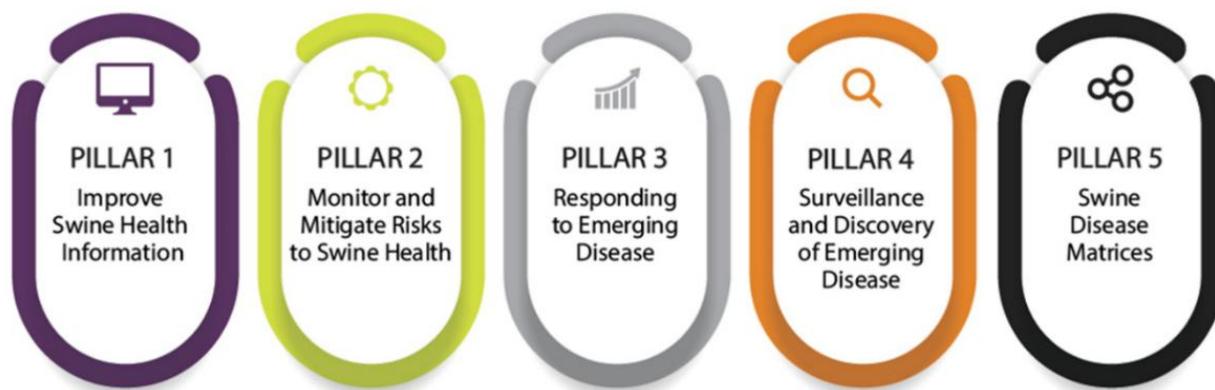


Figure 1. Strategic priorities of SHIC.

Board of Directors, Working Groups and Staff

SHIC is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members, of which six directors are appointed, and three directors are elected. The NPB, National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) have each appointed two members to the SHIC Board of Directors. Three directors are elected by the appointed directors and must be active pork producers or representatives of producing companies that have an interest in the mission of SHIC. The Board approved a 2025 operating budget, a 2025 Plan of Work and a plan for FDIC insured investments, that is modeled after that of the NPB.

Two directors initiated their terms on the SHIC Board of Directors during the summer of 2025, including Alayne Johnson (NPB appointed) and Sarah Pillen (elected) while two directors concluded their terms, including founding board member Mark Schwartz (elected) and Gene Noem (NPB appointed). In June 2025, the new SHIC Board of Directors held an election of officers with Dr. Paul Ruen, EHF Consulting, chosen to lead the SHIC Board as its chair, Joseph Dykhuis, Dykhuis Farms, elected to be the vice chair for the organization, and Kent Bang, Bang Ag Consulting, selected to again serve as secretary/treasurer.

Current members of the SHIC Board of Directors:

- A. NPB Appointed
 1. Dr. Seth Krantz, Veterinarian, Tosh Pork, Tennessee
 2. Alayne Johnson, Pork Producer, Shady Grove Farms, Indiana
- B. NPPC Appointed
 3. Joseph Dykhuis, Pork Producer, President of Dykhuis Farms, Inc., Michigan
 4. Dr. Jeremy Pittman, Senior Director, US Vet Services, Smithfield, Virginia
- C. AASV Appointed
 5. Dr. Jay Miller, President and CEO, The Maschhoffs, LLC, Illinois
 6. Dr. Paul Ruen, EHF Consulting and AASV past-president, Minnesota
- D. Elected Directors
 7. Kent Bang, Bang Ag Consulting/Compeer Financial – retired, Nebraska
 8. Dr. Pete Thomas, Director of Health Services, Iowa Select Farms, Iowa
 9. Sarah Pillen, Co-CEO, Pillen Family Farms and DNA Genetics, Nebraska

Two Working Groups are active in providing program oversight and assisting in decision-making to fulfill the SHIC mission, including the Monitoring and Analysis Working Group and the Preparedness and Response Working Group. Working Groups are comprised of practitioners, allied industry partners, pork producers, academic researchers, diagnosticians, federal and state animal health officials, packer/processors, and industry association veterinarians from AASV, NPPC and NPB. Each Working Group meets regularly through virtual calls to fulfill their respective objectives by reviewing and selecting research projects and engaging in SHIC programming activities to carry out the Plan of Work.

The Monitoring and Analysis Working Group is responsible for assessing domestic and foreign or transboundary production disease risk using information from a variety of sources. The outcome of this assessment is the on-going prioritization of the Swine Viral Disease Matrix and the Swine Bacterial Disease Matrix. It is also responsible for monitoring and advising the use of diagnostic technologies to improve the health of the nation's swine herd, development and oversight of on-going projects to monitor diseases affecting swine health, and analysis of swine health data to support on-farm, prospective producer decision making.

The Preparedness and Response Working Group is responsible for oversight of research to assist in US prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response to priority swine diseases outlined in the Swine Viral and Bacterial Disease Matrices. It helps advise on research investment needs and SHIC's role in the response to an emerging swine disease. That includes identifying the appropriate SHIC response to help provide the information and analysis necessary to support the proportional pork producer and pork industry response to these emerging swine diseases.

Three Task Forces convened for meetings in 2025 with specific objectives to review, prioritize and recommend proposals for funding in the Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Research Program, the 2025 Plan of Work Research Program, and the H5N1 Risk to Swine Research Program. Task Forces are comprised of SHIC Working Group Members, SHIC Board of Directors Members, funding partner representatives from FFAR and NPB, and other subject matter experts.

In 2025, Megan Niederwerder, DVM, PhD continued her role as SHIC Executive Director with Lisa Becton, DVM, MS, DACVPM continuing to serve as SHIC Associate Director. Rhea Schirm was selected by the SHIC Board of Directors to fill the position of SHIC Grant and Contract Administrator effective April 22, 2025, after previously serving as consultant to AASV.

Plan of Work and Operating Budget Projection

The 2025 Plan of Work process was initiated in Fall 2024 to identify research priorities and topic areas that align with the SHIC mission. Milestones of the process include inviting feedback via online survey across the five strategic priorities (**Figure 1**), conducting a series of stakeholder listening sessions to request input on topic areas, soliciting Working Group prioritization of project ideas, estimating a budget projection for each proposed topic, and SHIC Board of Director review, revision and approval of the 2025 Plan of Work. Publication of the 2025 Plan of Work was completed in January 2025 for stakeholder awareness of upcoming activities. Although the 2025 Plan of Work guides SHIC's activities throughout the year, SHIC adapted to continuous input, striving to be nimble and responsive to emerging priorities as they arose.

The SHIC Board of Directors approved a projected budget for 2025 and regularly reviewed and modified the budget throughout the year to best meet the SHIC mission. The approved projected budget addressing the 2025 Plan of Work was \$4,064,400. An evaluation of funds needed for the operating budget was conducted monthly to guide investments in securities with Wells Fargo and modeled after NPB's investment plan. The investments are a series of FDIC insured Certificates of Deposit, laddered to provide on-going operating funds as the certificates reach maturity.

Targeted Research Investments

Across all SHIC research program areas in 2025, there were 116 proposals submitted to SHIC that underwent a competitive review process with a total request for funding of \$17,673,781. Overall in 2025, 32 research projects were awarded funding for a total of \$4,434,466 contracted (**Figure 2A**). Since SHIC's inception in 2015, this is the greatest number of proposals received by SHIC and the highest dollar amount contracted by SHIC for research projects in a single year.

From 2022 – 2025, SHIC was awarded \$5,041,094 in matching funds and external grants, equaling \$0.49 of Non-Checkoff funds for every \$1.00 of Checkoff funds received during this time (**Figure 2B**). By leveraging Pork Checkoff dollars with matching funds and external grants, SHIC expands the scientific network of research breadth, driving innovation in swine health and growing funding capacity to increase the return on investment for US pork producers.

In the fall of 2022, SHIC formed the “Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Research Program” in collaboration with the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) and the Pork Checkoff. The total dollar allocation of \$2.5M was comprised of \$1.1M contribution from SHIC, \$150K contribution from NPB, and \$1.2M contribution from FFAR. The final research project

was awarded in 2025 for \$157,414. From 2023 – 2025, a total of \$2.5M was awarded across 24 projects in the Wean-to-Harvest Biosecurity Research Program, including 13 site biosecurity projects focused on farm and 11 transportation biosecurity projects focused on pig movements.

In November 2024, SHIC announced the “H5N1 Risk to Swine Research Program” in partnership with FFAR and the Pork Checkoff. The total budget allocation for the Program is \$4M, with \$1.8M being contributed by SHIC, \$200K being contributed by NPB, and \$2M being contributed by FFAR. Since SHIC’s inception in 2015, this is the highest dollar amount committed to a SHIC-led research program. A total of 51 proposals were received by the deadline of December 31, 2024. In 2025, proposals underwent a competitive review process, and 10 projects were awarded funding in this Program for a total of \$2,169,621. A second RFP is planned for 2026 targeting H5N1 Risk to Swine research priorities not yet adequately addressed.

In March 2025, SHIC announced the “2025 Plan of Work Research Program” request for proposals, with a goal to address the research priorities and topics that had been identified through stakeholder engagement and published as the SHIC Board-approved 2025 Plan of Work. A total of 57 proposals were received in response to the RFP while an additional 7 proposals were received throughout the year in the general rolling call. In 2025, a total of 21 SHIC Plan of Work Research Projects were awarded funds for a total of \$2,107,431. Six of these 21 projects were co-funded by FFAR at a 1:1 match by SHIC with each organization contributing \$359,708.

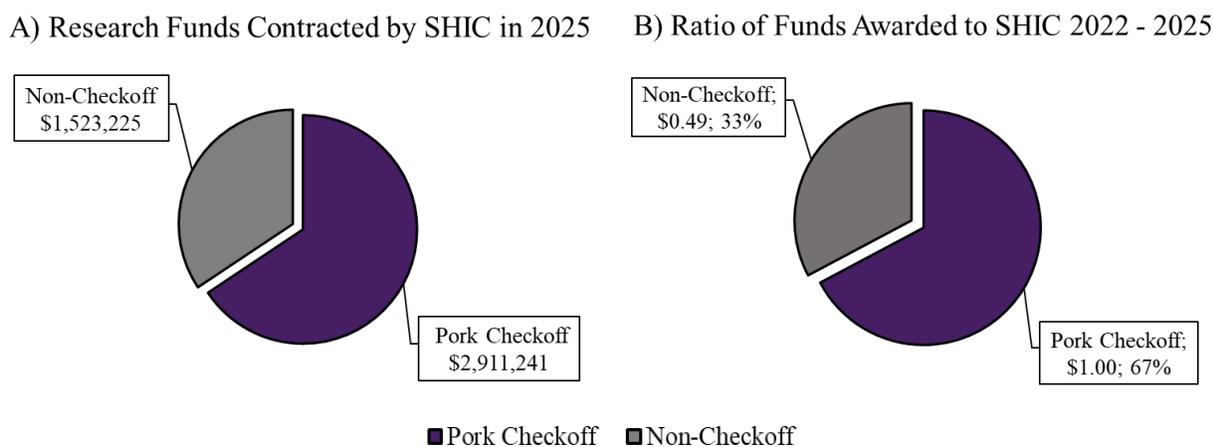


Figure 2. SHIC leverages Pork Checkoff funding with Non-Checkoff funds to increase the return on investment for pork producers, as shown through research projects contracted in 2025 (A) and the ratio of total dollars received between 2022 – 2025 (B).

Coordinated Outreach and Communications

There has been personal outreach to pork producers, veterinarians, academics, researchers, allied industry, state and federal animal health officials to foster collaboration, develop projects, increase understanding of SHIC’s mission and inform them about SHIC’s research and programs. Their feedback has helped focus and refine SHIC’s responsibilities, research, and programs. Presence and participation in national and international meetings as well as international organizations have helped to monitor swine diseases and issues around the world.

In 2025, listening sessions were conducted with diverse stakeholder groups to solicit input for the Plan of Work topic areas and research priorities. Stakeholders included state pork associations, pork producers, state swine health committees, national pork organization veterinarians, national packer/processor organizations, swine disease researchers, swine pathologists, veterinary diagnosticians, and swine veterinary practitioners.

SHIC had targeted outreach to all 42 state pork associations through two virtual calls in 2025 in which all 42 association leaders were invited to hear SHIC activity updates and provide SHIC with feedback. To amplify information sharing with producers across each state, SHIC offers to provide written swine health articles directly to state pork associations. In 2025, 27 individuals representing 14 state pork associations received 19 articles for reprinting in state publications.

Sharing swine health information with a diverse body of stakeholders requires a variety of tools and processes. Communication routes employed by SHIC to disseminate information include the SHIC website, monthly e-newsletters, timely e-blasts, weekly articles, news releases, media interviews with Drs. Niederwerder and Becton, social media, SHIC Talk podcast, SHIC sessions at industry meetings, and SHIC/AASV webinar series. SHIC also participates in industry events to provide access to information essential to the protection of US swine herd health. Google Analytics data of SHIC website traffic is used to measure the impact of media efforts.

SHIC Activities and Communication Channels	2025
Individual swinehealth.org Website Visitors	35,659 Visitors
Total Website Page Views	95,179 Views
Articles Prepared for Partners	63 Articles
SHIC Monthly E-Newsletters	12 E-Newsletters
SHIC Timely E-Blasts	4 E-Blasts
Number of Individuals Receiving SHIC E-Newsletter	3,359 Individuals
SHIC Talk Podcasts	5 Podcasts
SHIC Sponsored Webinars	3 Webinars
SHIC Research Proposals Received	116 Proposals
SHIC Research Projects Contracted	32 Projects
SHIC Research Dollars Contracted	\$4,434,466
SHIC Final Research Results Posted	22 Research Reports
Domestic Swine Disease Monitoring Reports	12 Domestic Reports
Global Swine Disease Monitoring Reports	12 Global Reports
Media Interviews	61 Interviews
WHO Radio Weekly Animal Health Updates	27 Episodes
Media Press Releases	5 Releases
SHIC Presentations at Industry Meetings	15 Presentations
Allied Media Publication of SHIC Information	439 Publications
Federal Grant Applications Submitted	2 Grants