

Are you prepared for an outbreak?

Q Do we really need to be concerned about a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak in the U.S.?

A The likelihood of an FAD is ever increasing and preparedness by all producers is the key to minimizing down time and economic impact on your operation and the pork industry.

Q Okay, so an FAD occurs, now what?

A In the event of an outbreak, all animal movements will be halted temporarily. State officials will then determine scope and consequently quarantine the high-risk area(s).

Q How does that affect me as a producer?

A Operations within the specific control area(s) will be charged with providing information to state vets who will assess the level of biosecurity risk.

Q What is Secure Pork Supply (SPS)?

A SPS is a business continuity plan producers may enroll in prior to an outbreak to prepare. The goal is to develop procedures that pork producers, processors, and federal and state officials all agree are feasible to allow for safe movement of animals from farms in an FAD control area, as long as there is no evidence of disease.

Q What does the SPS plan do?

A The SPS plan gives recommendations for preparedness including: SOPs, biosecurity, documents, etc. However, the state veterinarians will ultimately access the information and will control when and where movements resume.

Q What is the SecureReady™ program?

A MetaFarms is working closely with the industry to outline the required SPS information for each producer. Secure-Ready, is a new program designed to leverage MetaFarms robust information platform to create a “package of proof” and certify producer sites are aligned with the necessary information to reinstate the movement of hogs.

Q Do I need SecureReady if I’m enrolled in the SPS?

A No. However, MetaFarms producers have most of the needed information already contained in the platform including: Premise ID’s, movements, and audits. Our team can help producers prepare to get the right information in the right hands to keep pigs moving.

Q Do I choose between the SPS plan or SecureReady™?

A No. The SPS plan is an industry-wide initiative of the National Pork Board to prepare for an outbreak, mitigate risk and minimize potential economic impact. MetaFarms’ SecureReady program was approached to support the SPS plan and leverage its platform to expedite and simplify producer’s ability to plan and prepare.

Q Do I need to be on MetaFarms’ platform to use SecureReady?

A No. MetaFarms understands preparedness is the responsibility of the entire industry and all producers. We’ve created basic standardized versions of our SOW and FINISH programs for producers not currently utilizing our platform. We can set-up a system to track inventory and movements for producers and offer a trial audit through our ASSURANCE program.

Q Why is this important?

A The faster information is compiled, the quicker federal and state officials can reinstate the transportation and marketing of livestock—which minimizes the potential economic impact.

Q Why can't I just wait until an outbreak occurs?

A Preparedness is critical to minimize the impact to producers and the entire industry. Government agencies will be flooded with information. It also helps ensure your sites won't get lost in the shuffle.

Q Why should the producer participate?

A Participation by all producers reduces the potential economic impact for the industry as a whole. Our ability to contain the problem is paramount.

Q Can I just integrate with SPS/EMRS myself?

A Yes. MetaFarms is simply here to facilitate an action plan to help ensure preparedness.

Q What if my operation already uses MetaFarms?

A For existing MetaFarms customers we will do the heavy lifting. We have compiled a map of required information from SPS and discussed standards with state vet and federal officials to create a comprehensive preparedness program. We then cross reference the information within our database to identify gaps and work with producers to rectify and streamline the information to Ag View.

Q Can I work with my current data platform to prepare?

A Yes. This is an industry effort and we all need to do our part.

Q What if I don't want to share my information?

A Your information is just that—yours. Aside from Premise Information, MetaFarms will only share information with producer consent. In fact, both an outbreak would need to occur AND your producer sites would have to be within the control area in order to warrant a release. However, a producer can also elect to share production and movement data beforehand to ensure readiness.

Q Should I be concerned about conflicting data in multiple databases?

A Updating your data within MetaFarms (includes most required information needed by SPS) ensures multiple databases will be aligned.

Q What is the difference between USDA EMRS and Secure Pork Supply?

A USDA's EMRS system is essentially a repository for issuing and tracking movement permit requests—providing the who/what/when in the aftermath of a FAD outbreak.

Secure Pork Supply and their AgView portal provides a retrospective view to assess scope and risk. Historic movements will assist state vets establish scope of the outbreak while production (mortality) information and biosecurity checklists help assess risk. Both perspectives are essential when combatting an FAD.

Q Is there a cost for SecureReady for MetaFarms producers?

A No. SecureReady is a complementary program offered as a value-added service to current MetaFarms' customers.

Q Can I get more information about MetaFarms' SecureReady?

A Yes! Please contact Ben McDonald at (952) 641-4681 or bmcdonald@metafarms.com.

