

## Critical Partnerships

The success of CAHFSE depends on government partnership with industry and other stakeholders.

- CAHFSE has been presented to and sanctioned by several committees of the National Pork Board, and has the support of the National Pork Producers Council and American Association of Swine Veterinarians.
- Involvement of private practitioners and enrollment of producers are vital to the CAHFSE program.
- Producer participation is essential to the success of CAHFSE. Operations of various size and type from at least 5 States\* are participating.

\* Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas

## A Combined Effort of Three USDA Agencies

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- On-farm coordination
- Dr. Nora Wineland (970) 494-7230

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

- Lab coordination
- Dr. Robert Kraeling (706) 546-3676
- Dr. Paula Fedorka-Cray (706) 546-3685

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

- Slaughter plant coordination
- Dr. Alice Thaler (202) 690-6566
- Dr. Neena Anandaraman (202) 690-6566

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April 2003/Revised September 2004

# CAHFSE



## Protecting the Health of America's Livestock and Ensuring the Safety of America's Food



United States Department  
of Agriculture

Stage 1: Swine

## About CAHFSE

CAHFSE is a joint effort among three agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture: the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); Agricultural Research Service (ARS); and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The mission of this important surveillance effort is twofold: to enhance overall understanding of bacteria that pose a food-safety risk by monitoring these bacteria on-farm and in-plant over time; and to provide a means to routinely monitor critical diseases in food-animal production. A particular emphasis of CAHFSE is to address issues related to bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. Swine is the first commodity of the CAHFSE program.

## Benefits to Pork Producers

By participating in CAHFSE, you'll be helping to improve the quality and safety of U.S. pork and the health of the U.S. swine herd. Benefits to CAHFSE participants include:

- Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome quarterly monitoring of up to 15 weaned pigs.
- Providing industry with an objective assessment of food-safety risks pertaining to antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
- Facilitating research on the relationships between management practices, pathogens, and antibiotic resistance.
- Quarterly summary of test results for ileitis and clinical report of ileitis in your herd.

- Information your practitioner can use to develop strategies to control ileitis.
- Facilitating research on ileitis that may help identify risk factors associated with ileitis outbreaks.

## CAHFSE's Objectives

### Animal Health

- Assess the presence of bacteria that cause ileitis (*Lawsonia intracellularis*) in multiple age groups of weaned market pigs.
- Provide an epidemiological description of ileitis, including monitoring disease and death rates on affected farms.
- Relate onset and duration of infection with antibiotic-use patterns.

### Food Safety

- Describe on-farm and in-plant trends in the prevalence of *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, generic *E. coli*, and *Enterococcus* spp. isolated from feces.
- Characterize isolates with particular emphasis on their susceptibility to antibiotics and genetic relatedness.
- Relate findings to management practices, including patterns of antibiotic use in market swine.

## On-Farm Collection

- Collect 60 blood samples from pigs of various ages.
- Complete questionnaire describing clinical signs consistent with ileitis.
- Compile and provide quarterly serological results.
- Collect 40 fecal samples from pens containing late finisher pigs.
- Complete questionnaire describing on-site production practices and use of antibiotics.
- Create quarterly reports of summarized results.
- Sampling was initiated in July 2003.

## In-Plant Collection

- Plans call for collecting samples at slaughter and evaluating them for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Enterococcus* spp., and generic *E. coli*.
- In-plant findings will be linked with on-farm questionnaire data and laboratory results.

## Confidentiality

Questionnaire data and test results will be managed by APHIS staff responsible for the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), which has a proven track record for maintaining producer confidences. To ensure confidentiality, only summarized results will be released. No individual operations will ever be identified.