



What Swine Growers Need to Know about Garbage Feeding



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works to protect the health of American agriculture. One way that APHIS does this is to enforce the Swine Health Protection Act. This program regulates garbage feeding. Garbage feeding is the practice of feeding human food waste to pigs. This feeding practice can spread diseases if contaminated meat products are fed to pigs. Garbage feeding has caused swine disease outbreaks in many countries around the world, which negatively impacted swine health and was costly to control. In response to these international outbreaks, Congress passed the Swine Health Protection Act in 1980 to better protect the U.S. swine herd.

Requirements

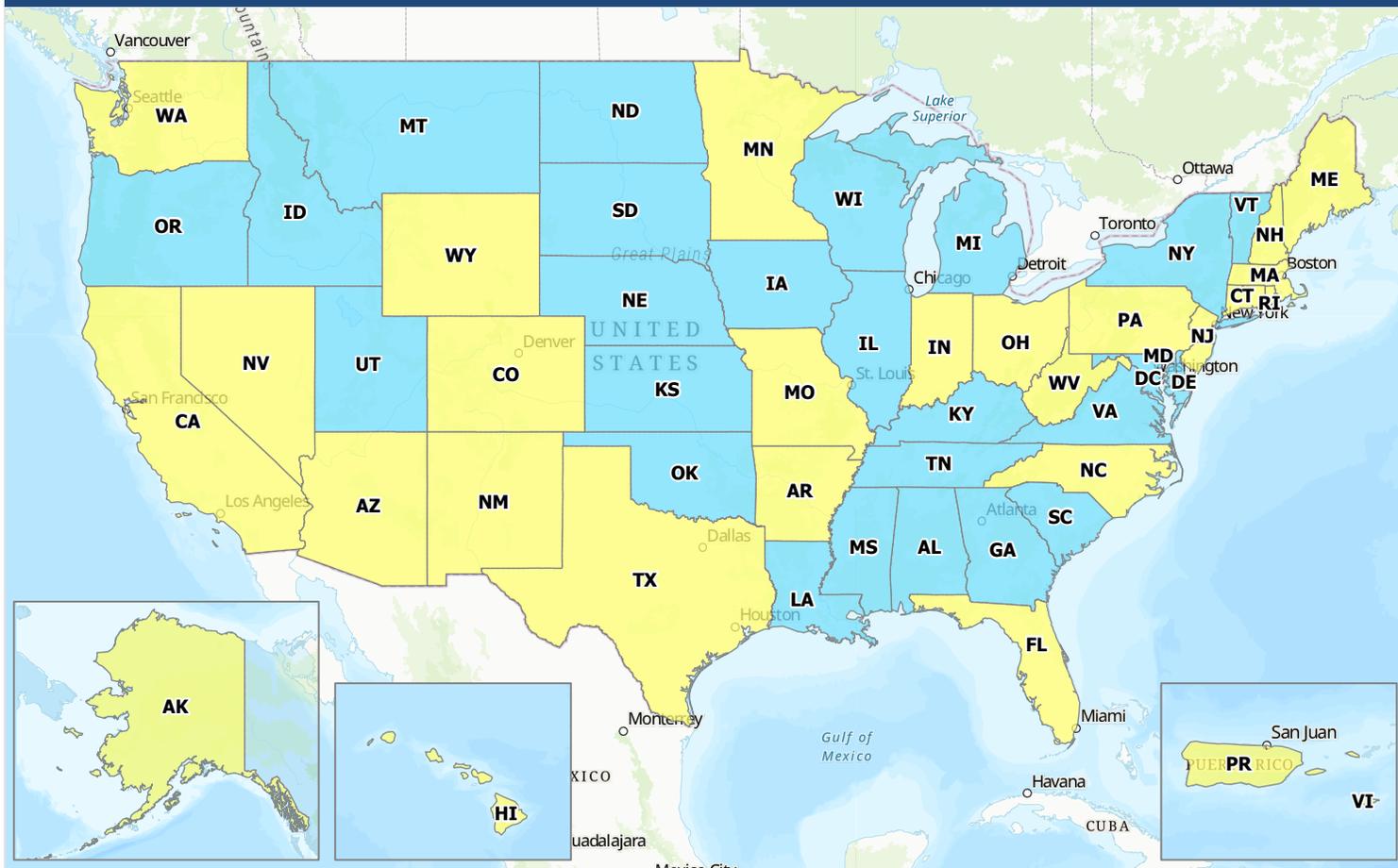
Under the Swine Health Protection Act, owners must be licensed to feed their pigs human food waste that contains or has had contact with meat, poultry, or fish. The requirement applies to all garbage collected

from food production establishments like restaurants, school cafeterias, and food processing plants.

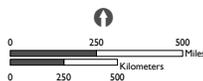
Food waste must be cooked to 212 degrees Fahrenheit (boiling) for 30 minutes before feeding it to the pigs. APHIS, State, and/or Territory government officials routinely inspect licensed producers to make sure that any garbage fed to swine is properly cooked and handled to prevent possible disease transmission.

Getting a License

The Swine Health Protection Act allows each State and Territory to determine whether garbage feeding is allowed within their boundaries. Today, 27 States and Territories allow garbage feeding. They include Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming.



Permitted States (25 States + PR & VI)
 Prohibited States (25 States)



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This map shows the States and Territories that permit or prohibit garbage feeding to swine.

In States and Territories that allow garbage feeding, each producer must obtain a license before feeding any human food waste to their pigs. The licensing process requires the pig producer to demonstrate appropriate cooking and handling of garbage feed for swine.

The State or Territory also determines the authority for enforcing the Swine Health Protection Act. In some cases, this is handled by State or Territory government employees. In others, State or Territory employees and APHIS employees work cooperatively and in others APHIS employees retain the authority to enforce the Swine Health Protection Act.

For More Information

To learn more about garbage feeding and the licensing process, contact your State animal health official or APHIS District Office.

Scan for APHIS District Offices



Scan for State Animal Health Officials

