

African Swine Fever Seven Critical Questions to Ask Your Feed Supplier

Industry experts have compiled [seven critical or key questions for pig farmers](#) to raise with their feed and feed ingredient suppliers. The objective is to start a dialog about feed ingredient safety. Below are United Animal Health's answers to these seven questions.

1. Describe the facility's biosecurity program to minimize the spread of pathogens from people, vehicles and ingredients.

United Animal Health's biosecurity program consists of:

- **Facility Security** – The focus is to protect ports of entrance, ensuring physical security of buildings, equipment and grounds.
- **Personnel Hygiene** – The objective is to mitigate contamination by human exposure with direct contact of feed and feed additives.
- **Visitors and Customers** – The scope of this section addresses individuals (e.g. customers, contractors, inspectors, etc.) arriving at the facility from unsecured locations.
- **Sales and Distribution** – The importance of biosecurity practices for on-farm stops is an important section and is a cooperative effort between customers and United Animal Health. Trucks, carts and employees are the main focal points to mitigate the spread of diseases.
- **Ingredient Integrity** – Ingredient procurement and receiving is an important component to ensure that all feed ingredients are properly purchased, identified, monitored and stored. All ingredients and raw materials are assessed for biological, chemical and physical hazards.

2. Describe the facility's employee training on feed safety.

Employees are trained and considered a "Qualified Individual"

A Qualified Individual is:

- A person who has the education, training or experience (or a combination thereof) necessary to manufacture, process, pack, or hold safe animal food as appropriate to the individual's assigned duties; and
- One who receives training in the principles of animal food hygiene and animal food safety, including the importance of employee health and personal hygiene, as appropriate to the animal food, the facility and the individual's assigned duties.

3. Describe the facility's pest control program.

United Animal Health facilities utilize an Integrated Pest Management process – a systematic, data-driven approach to pest management. This approach often requires the use of multiple methods to manage pests (e.g. rodents, insects, birds, etc.). These methods may include exclusion, guarding, sanitation, pesticides and/or trapping.

4. Describe the facility's traceability program.

United Animal Health's traceability system accounts for ingredients, raw materials and finished products. Records of receiving, manufacturing and distribution are identifiable, maintained and retrievable. This system is evaluated and regularly tested at each facility in order to ensure its effectiveness.

5. Describe the facility's supplier approval program.

All suppliers are approved and regularly monitored to ensure regulatory compliance, feed safety and the highest quality. The United Animal Health's Vendor Selection and Monitoring program contains processes for selecting vendors and monitoring vendor performance. This process applies to ingredients, raw materials, packaging and services that are incorporated in, or directly affecting the quality and safety of products sold to our customers.

6. Is the facility certified by a third-party certification body for food safety? Third-party certification programs may include the Feed Additives Manufacturers, the International Organization for Standardization, the Safe Quality Food, Safe Feed/Safe Food, etc.

All United Animal Health facilities are certified and adhere to and comply with the Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Program requirements.

The Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Program is a voluntary, independently-certified program designed for the total feed industry. It establishes comprehensive standards of excellence that go beyond existing regulations, to maximize feed and food safety.

The Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Program is administered by the Safe Quality Food Institute (SQFI). SQFI's mission is to deliver consistent, globally-recognized food safety and quality certification programs. These are based on sound scientific principles, consistently applied across all industry sectors, and valued by all stakeholders.

7. Does the facility utilize ingredients that were manufactured or packaged outside of the United States?

Yes. And, all of our China sourced vitamins come to us in their concentrated form with NO rice hulls. They are shipped in containers in bags, drums, or cartons – NO totes are used.

United Animal Health is continuing to monitor information from suppliers regarding mitigation steps for foreign animal diseases.