

THE DANGERS OF “GARBAGE FEEDING”

Anti-garbage feeding laws are designed to minimize threats to public health, including the heightened risk from zoonotic diseases — which need only a human-animal interaction to arise, the health of the animals, and food safety. The federal Swine Health Protection Act (SHPA) provides rules for feeding “garbage” and human food waste to pigs.

“Garbage” is defined as “all waste material derived in whole or in part from the meat of any animal” and any refuse that has come in contact with it. “Garbage” is fed to pigs to offset the cost of pig production and reduce feed costs, but cannot replace a complete, nutritionally balanced diet.



“Garbage feeding” has caused disease breakouts in many countries around the world, which impacted animals’ health, resulted in the deaths of countless animals to contain the disease, and was costly to control.

FEDERAL SWINE HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Garbage Defined: The federal Swine Health Protection Act (“SHPA”) defines “garbage” as *“all waste material derived in whole or in part from the meat of any animal [] or other animal material, and other refuse of any character whatsoever that has been associated with any such material, resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking, or consumption of food, except that such term shall not include waste from ordinary household operations which is fed directly to swine on the same premises where such household is located.”* 7 U.S.C. § 3802.

Requirements: The federal Swine Health Protection Act (“SHPA”) says that *“[n]o person shall feed or permit the feeding of garbage to swine except”* in limited circumstances. Federal SHPA regulations also state, *“[n]o person shall feed or permit the feeding of garbage to swine unless the garbage is treated to kill disease organisms, pursuant to [federal SHPA regulations], at a facility operated by a person holding a valid license for the treatment of garbage; except that the treatment and license requirements shall not apply to the feeding or the permitting of the feeding to swine of garbage only because the garbage consists of any of the following: Processed products; rendered products; [or other inapplicable types of garbage].”*



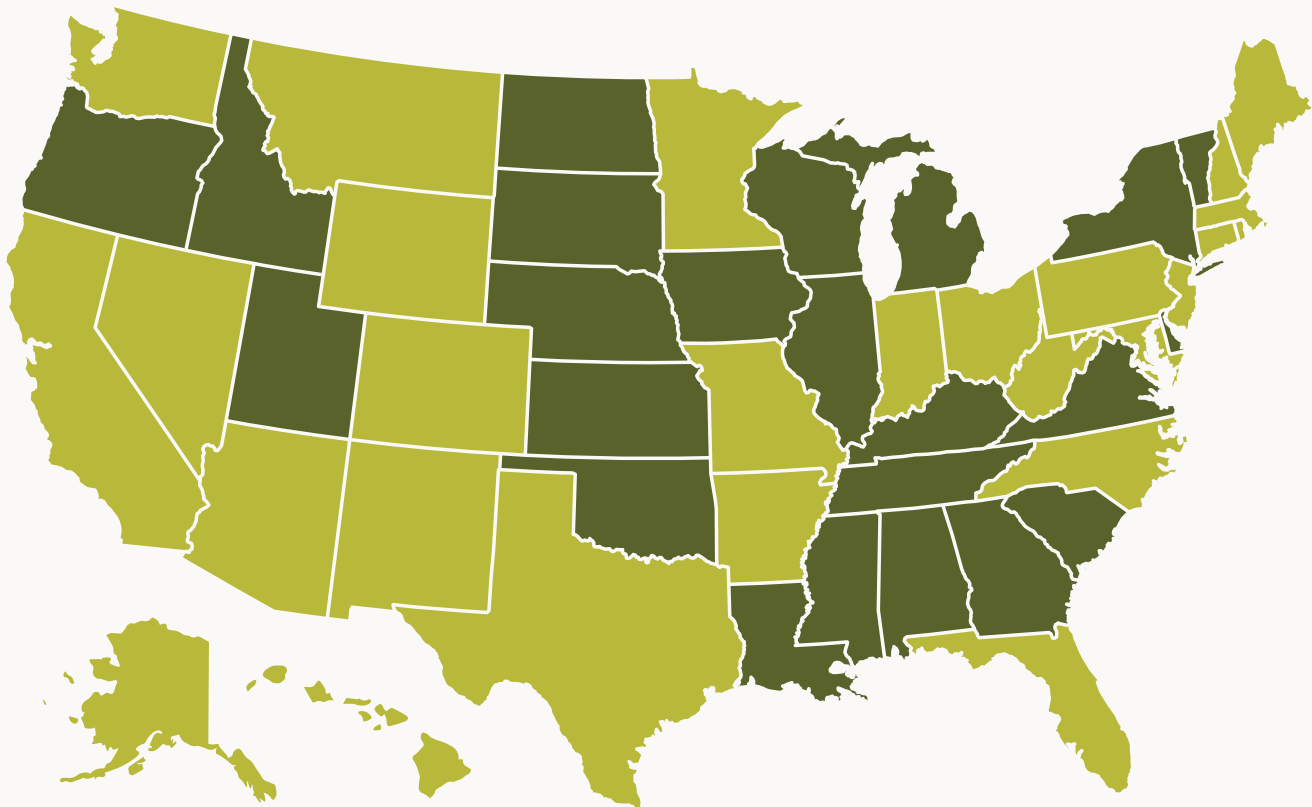
“Garbage feeding” is illegal under the SHPA, but the law does allow states to create regulated permitted programs if they choose to. If a state chooses to institute a program, the SHPA has requirements that must be met. These include:

- All “garbage” must be cooked to 212 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes before feeding it to pigs “to kill disease organisms.”
- A licensing process must be executed that requires pig producers to demonstrate appropriate cooking and handling of garbage fed to pigs.
- Regulations must be enforced, including licensed producers receiving routine inspections from APHIS or state employees to ensure proper heating procedures are being met to prevent disease.



The federal Swine Health Protection Act was passed in 1980 by Congress and is enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animals and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

SWINE HEALTH PROTECTION—GARBAGE FEEDING



● PERMITTED (27 States + PR & VI)

● PROHIBITED (23 States)

Source: USDA, November 2019



**ANIMAL LEGAL
DEFENSE FUND**

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