

## REPORT OF THE USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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The Committee met from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 5, 2005, with 31 members and approximately 130 guests in attendance. Powerpoints for all Committee presentations are available at [www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org) under Committees – Animal Emergency Management (<http://www.usaha.org/committees/aem.shtml>).

Dr. Larry Granger, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), reported on the developments of the National Veterinary Stockpile, its mission, structure, current status, priorities and future plans. This was followed by his presentation on “Foreign Animal Disease: Mechanism of Response,” which highlighted the difficulty in using a single response option for all scenarios because agriculture is a complex adaptive system. Scenario exercises and proposed responses are continuously added to the bank of scenarios to increase effectiveness of decision making. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is an hierarchical command and control system for field operations and is not the method of choice for emergency response options.

Dr. Sebastian Heath, USDA-APHIS-VS, presented an update on Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-8, including the Animal Health Target Capabilities (TCL) that were developed in response to the national preparedness goal. Over 100 people across all areas of agriculture participated in its development. On December 2, the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) will publish the '06 Homeland Security Grant Program guidelines. On March 2 the applications are due. On May 31, ODP will issue awards. APHIS will continue providing outreach to states on ODP initiatives, deadlines and guidance.

Panel discussions on Hurricane Katrina (HK):

- a) Dr. Joseph Anelli, USDA-APHIS-VS provided an overview of APHIS' roles, response structure and activities during HK and the relation to National Response Plan (NRP) and Emergency Support Function (ESF)-11, for which USDA is the lead agency.

Lessons learned:

- APHIS networks move quicker than Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA)
- FEMA does not understand new ESF11
- Agriculture priorities are not immediate or always of priority to FEMA
- Need to craft action request form to cover all potential needs in an emergency response
- Use the system but don't let it slow you down

- b) Dr. Martha Littlefield, Assistant State Veterinarian, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, provided an overview of the activities, the challenges, successes, lessons learned, and resources both traditional and unique that were utilized. A synopsis of this presentation will be available on the associations website.
- c) Dr. Stephanie Ostrowski, U.S. Public Health Service, presented information on the human-animal bond and how it presented challenges to evacuation and rescue.
- d) Dr. Paul Williams, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, covered seven areas of lessons learned:
- Emergency Management Action Compacts (EMAC) agreements need point of contact in each state that can complete the necessary forms in a timely fashion.
  - Governor's executive orders should be reviewed in each state to ensure they provide sufficient authority to respond to all hazard emergencies including all aspects involving animals and agriculture.
  - ESF at state level need to be rewritten to bring them into line with National Response Plan (NRP) and its annexes and to accommodate recovery agencies and functions like Farm Services Agency.
  - Support agencies need to meet and exercise together using Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) on how they will support the ESF.
  - Resource management – state need to review and update their resource lists and location and type of each resource that might be needed in an all hazards event.
  - States need to identify adequate space for state Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) to operate as well as space for FEMA. FEMA was unclear where their responsibility ended and states' began.
  - Manpower needs have to include the back fill staffing for incident management positions at all levels in state, regional and local level. Incident management teams on large events need to include documentation staff. Incident teams need to keep the media informed of what they are doing via updates to the incident command (IC) public affairs officers.
- e) Dr. Lisa Murphy, University of Pennsylvania, representing Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT), provided an overview of their activities. Lessons learned included:
- A better understanding and more consistent use of the System is needed at all levels
  - Have a plan in place ahead of time that all parties are familiar with, then use it
  - A better understanding of what various groups and agencies can offer is needed ahead of time:
    - \* What can each group best contribute to the mission based on their areas of expertise and degrees of experience and training?
    - \* How much can each group realistically commit to the mission in terms of personnel and resources?
  - Continued coordination of mental health, medical, veterinary, and security personnel should be encouraged
  - Better communication will ensure a clear message regarding overall mission and goals and minimize rumor, misunderstanding, and conflict
  - Caches of complete supplies required for each team need to be ready in advance.

Dr. Barrett Slenning, North Carolina State University, presented an excellent and thought-provoking Committee Time-Specific Paper on "Emergency Response: Industry economics approach." The full paper is included in the proceedings.

Dr. Lee Myers, Georgia State Veterinarian, provided a brochure and training manual for the Georgia Agricultural Awareness Program, including the program goals, participants and materials.

John Adams, National Milk Producers Federation, updated the committee on Bioshield II legislation, which is intended to codify into law the concepts in the Homeland Security Presidential Directives. A copy of the Animal Agriculture Coalition (AAC) comments to the Senate committee was provided.

Dr. Carol Tuszynski, USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAH, reported on the insights from an animal health foresight exercise. She reviewed the process of developing future scenarios for 2020. The two key drivers selected for the exercise were the public anxiety and the level of optimization of animal production for their intended use during an animal emergency response. She provided a list of potential actions that could encourage movement in a more positive future direction.

Dr. Dorothy Geale, New Zealand, presented on The New Zealand Exercise Taurus and Carcass Disposal projects.

Dr. Ron Wilson, Tennessee State Veterinarian, provided information on the current Southern Animal Health Association (SAHA) credentialing project, which is intended to meet the following objectives:

- Create a pool of qualified and reliable persons to assist in the response to an incident across state lines
- FEMA March 4, 2004 memo lists four goals for pre-incident credentialing:
  - Standardizes roles and responsibilities of first responders
  - Ensures that responders to an incident are properly trained and qualified
  - Provides uniform certification programs allowing first responders to provide mutual aid nationwide
  - Allows proper identification to first responder personnel and tasks assignments reflecting qualifications and experience

Bob Ehart, National Association of State Department of Agricultures (NASDA), provided a presentation on message mapping, a management tool for public media response. He provided information on what it is, how it is done, why it works and future plans in developing this tool for animal emergencies. NASDA will be working with federal and state partners. Research has shown that 95 percent of all questions can be predicted and responses can be prewritten.

Dr. Gary Weber, National Cattleman's Beef Association, presented "Risk Analysis, Action and Communication." He emphasized that evaluation, planning, preparation and timing are critical in managing risk communication. His presentation included the results of consumer surveys on public attitudes and perceptions and how they relate to risk communication.

Dr. Dee Griffin, Great Plains Veterinary Education Center, gave a presentation on "Biosecurity in Practice." This is an awareness and action program designed for producers to become active in identifying their biosecurity risks and taking action to minimize them. He provided CD's and brochures and encouraged anyone to feel free to borrow and use slides or materials from his PowerPoint presentation and the brochures for species groups, which will be posted on the USAHA website under this committee.

Dr. Kimothy Smith, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate (STD), presented information on DHS research activities and missions on Plum Island as well as the ongoing effort to address the need for BSL-4Ag facilities.

Dr. Tom McGinn, DHS, Protection Directorate Infrastructure Coordinating Division, provided updates on the DHS activities related to several DHS Presidential Directives.

- HSPD-5: On-going NIMS- ICS training efforts. The SAHA credentialing effort ties into this as it requires NIMS training for all credential individuals.
- HSPD-7: The National Infrastructure Protection Plan updated version was posted on the web last week. The sector-specific annexes that are not already included will be updated and posted in the next six months. A vulnerability assessment template is under development but DHS is encouraging stakeholders to continue to perform vulnerability assessments with their current tools. The government and sector coordinating councils are actively meeting.

- HSPD-8: The targeted capabilities list development was reviewed earlier by Dr. Heath. Individual states should develop similar capabilities and capacity needs based on their own high-risk animal emergency event.
- HSPD-9: This directive outlines 21 tasks, of which DHS is responsible for seven related to intelligence and analysis. The National Biosurveillance Integration System is off to a slower start than anticipated. They anticipate activation soon. FEMA will be offering their first agriculture-oriented course for both classic and agriculture-related first responders soon. Travel and lodging may be funded for some individuals. The Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) is deployed and in use. It anticipates 5,000 users. This provides situation report updates on challenges to critical infrastructures and is password accessible only.

Lt. Colonel Brian Noland, Northcom, presented highlights of a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) exercise they had with one goal of increasing awareness of military personnel about animal emergency responses and DOD roles. He reviewed the roles of the National Guard and Department of Defense (DOD) in an emergency relative to law enforcement and civilian support. DOD cannot provide law enforcement but the National Guard can when functioning under state authority within the United States. He also discussed civil support teams that are trained for CBRNE response. Relative to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, DOD provided support for a number of different functions. In the aftermath of these events, DOD will be reviewing the mechanism response to civilian requests for DOD resources. They will also make changes in their entry force structure to include veterinary related assets. He noted that, unlike civilian resource requests, DOD requires a request for a capability such as evacuate 500 people from point A to B in 6 hours and they determine the resources needed rather than a request for five helicopters.

Dr. Pat Blanchard, Committee Co-Chair, California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory, presented a summary of the activities of the Laboratory Emergency Management Subcommittee. The subcommittee met Friday, November 4, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. with 33 people in attendance. The committee decided on three objectives for the coming year:

- a. Develop a format for lessons learned/after action report for laboratories to share information regarding emergency response events and exercises.
- b. Develop a concept of operations high level task matrix as a template for laboratories.
- c. Co-sponsor with NAHLN a pre-meeting symposium in Minneapolis next year on Laboratory Emergency Management.
- d. Future item placed on hold: Develop resource typing for laboratories.

Dr. Bill Wagner made a motion to approve the final draft of the disinfectant recommendation, seconded by Dr. Bethany Grohs. The recommendation was approved by the unanimous vote of the committee members present. The approved recommendation recommends that:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA, DHS, Center of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and other appropriate Federal, State, public and private agencies and institutions work in cooperation for the purpose to:
  - Identify and expedite approval of deactivating agents involved in foreign animal diseases and develop protocols for their use to ensure the availability of scientifically proven, practical, preferably biodegradable, cost-effective and readily available disinfectants for use in a foreign animal disease event.
  - Include research and validation of products that can be used for the inactivation of the above agents on various surfaces, transportation vehicles, in water, milk and other effluents.
- A multi-agency agreement including USDA, EPA, DHS and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) be developed on scientifically sound validation protocols for the effectiveness of deactivating Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) agents on various surfaces and matrices to expedite future EPA approvals.
- EPA and USDA identify a mechanism for inexpensive and effective disinfectants to be EPA approved without the fees and requirements of corporate sponsorship.

- EPA, DHS and USDA identify a validated interagency list of surrogate pathogens used as a model for FAD agents to enable development and testing of antimicrobial products outside of biocontainment facilities.
- USDA conduct effective procedures for testing of new and existing animal pathogen disinfectants for which a new efficacy claim is requested against the actual agent after USDA has determined that the registrant has submitted acceptable data demonstrating efficacy against acceptable surrogate organisms.
- USDA consider potential adoption of cleaning and disinfection protocols that have been used successfully in foreign animal disease outbreaks in other countries.
- An interagency agreement between EPA and USDA be executed whereby USDA will develop the disinfectant protocols and data for its own use of unregistered disinfectants and off-label use of registered disinfectants under FIFRA Section 18.
- USDA, EPA, DHHS, DHS and other appropriate agencies work through a collaborative effort to identify and ensure adequate personnel and funding to accomplish the initiatives identified in this recommendation.

AAVLD's executive board also approved the recommendation and will co-sign the cover letter with USAHA. Dr. Dave Scarfe indicated the AVMA Committee on Biologics and Therapeutics would also like to be cited as in support of this recommendation. The CAEM committee recommended that the Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases be approached on their interest of supporting this recommendation. If they propose it goes forward as a resolution it will need to be formatted by the Resolutions Committee. AAVLD meeting will have ended by the time the FED meets and without a vote of the House of Delegates it would not be an AAVLD resolution.

A resolution was submitted by Dr. Jeff Hamer on behalf of New Jersey. As the committee had insufficient time to fully discuss and revise the resolution, and a number of issues in the resolution were proposed for discussion and further recommended actions by a subcommittee to be established to address issues related to companion and other animals in all hazards and natural disasters, it was the decision of the committee to postpone action. The subcommittee will be asked to consider the points in the resolution as well as current guidance in National Response Plan (NRP) and several Essential Support Function's (ESF) related to animal evacuation, sheltering and rescue. There was a suggestion that a new annex be proposed to pull together the various agencies that have a role or stake in this issue.

The All Hazards Emergency Management Subcommittee was established and 10 members volunteered to serve on this subcommittee. The subcommittee will address the issues related to all animals in all hazards and major disasters like hurricanes and provide recommendations to the committee.