

REPORT OF THE USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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The Committee met on October 10, 2009 at the Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, Calif., from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.. There were 64 members and 83 guests present. In the combination session with National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO), an additional 40 guests were present. Therefore total attending joint session of the Committee and National Assembly was estimated at 175.

At the beginning of the Committee session, Dr. Roehr gave a quick review of the history and origin of the committee in 2004 from the National Animal Health Emergency Management System steering committee to a Joint AAVLD/ USAHA committee. Dr. Simunich briefly reviewed the updated United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) responses to the 2008 resolutions, and reminded the meeting attendees of the combined meeting with NASAHO from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The group moved to a larger room for the combined session to accommodate both groups.

Toxicology in the NAHLN Update

Stephen Hooser, Purdue University Animal Diagnostic Lab Director

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) toxicology group sent out two surveys on analytical toxicology capacity and capabilities to lab directors. The first of these was presented at AAVLD last year. The follow-up survey was distributed last spring. Dr. Poppenga has begun to prepare a manuscript of the results for publication.

Analytical toxicology sections of many veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the U.S. and Canada worked together to hold a small-scale round robin test. This was supported by NVSL.

A strategic plan for toxicology in the NAHLN has been drafted. There will be a meeting of the NAHLN Toxicology Working Group on Friday morning.

ALIRT (Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team) Program

Peder Cuneo, University of Arizona Extension Veterinarian

ALIRT is a program developed by Arizona Department of Agriculture and University of Arizona Extension to respond to acute incidents of livestock loss. Risk factors (producer, veterinary medical) that lead to the development of the ALIRT program were discussed.

Private practice veterinarians are trained in foreign and domestic disease response as well as the Incident Command System. They respond to producer livestock losses along with toxic plant specialists and state regulatory officials by investigating at the premises and taking samples for diagnostic evaluation at Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Lab within a short timeframe. A brief review of training, equipment and funding was presented.

New Mexico-Animal Livestock Incident Response Team (NM –ALIRT) Full Scale Rift Valley Fever Exercise Funded by DHS in SW New Mexico

John Wenzel, New Mexico State University Extension Veterinarian

The NM–ALIRT program was started in 2007 to provide an emergency response network of livestock veterinarians for the state of New Mexico. This program provides a mechanism for a quick veterinary response in the event of a large or suspicious livestock loss in New Mexico. NM-ALIRT is a multi-agency supported response team centered on veterinary practitioners geographically scattered around the state. It is designed to provide for the gathering of diagnostic specimens and the transport of these specimens to the New Mexico Veterinary Diagnostic Services Laboratory in Albuquerque. These specimens will be processed as quickly as possible to hopefully arrive at a quick and accurate diagnosis to minimize the loss for the livestock producer and to safeguard the livestock industry. NM-ALIRT veterinarians have undergone training in foreign animal disease recognition, necropsy technique, specimen processing, handling and shipment, agri-terrorism, personal protection equipment training, incident command system training, toxic plants, GPS unit usage and media interaction training. These veterinarians have been equipped with field diagnostician's kits and other support materials necessary to provide this response.

Along with the responsibility of emergency response, NM-ALIRT veterinarians also provide monthly syndromic surveillance data to a central database that provides statewide tabulation of cases so a baseline disease incidence can be established. Veterinarians report cases that fall into certain syndrome categories and these reports are tracked and trends monitored. The categories monitored are syndromes that may be of concern in foreign animal disease situations, or diseases that could potentially threaten the New Mexico livestock industry.

The NM-ALIRT program was able to participate in a Foreign Animal Disease Full Scale Exercise held in Playas, NM. The NM-ALIRT veterinarians were teamed with a NM livestock inspector and county extension agent to form response teams during the exercise. These teams were assigned tasks associated with the FAD response. The exercise included gathering, processing and packaging for shipment diagnostic specimens harvested at necropsy. These specimens were harvested under field conditions that mimicked an actual response to a potential zoonotic disease outbreak, including the use of PPE and hot/cold zone transition procedures. This exercise provided a chance for veterinarians to use their training and also magnified awareness of the value of these teams in an actual response. Our areas of weakness were brought to light and corrective measures will be implemented. The readiness of the NM-ALIRT veterinarians to respond was favorably evaluated. This exercise proved to be an invaluable training mechanism for emergency preparedness in New Mexico.

Florida State Rift Valley Fever Exercise and Laboratory Tactical Exercise

Greg Christy, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services

A multiagency state-level tabletop exercise and an associated animal disease laboratory tactical exercise for a simulated Rift Valley fever outbreak in Florida. Rift Valley fever has been identified as the third most potentially economically devastating animal disease that could impact the United States according to the USDA National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) Steering Committee. Rift Valley fever is a vector-borne zoonotic disease that presents multiple and unique challenges to human and animal disease response agencies.

These exercises were prepared and hosted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine and the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The purpose of these exercises was to give participants an opportunity to plan, initiate, and evaluate current response concepts and capabilities in a simulated introduction and outbreak of Rift Valley fever. Over 130 people from 14 international, federal, state and professional agencies and organizations participated in the exercises. The structure of the exercises, lessons learned and participant recommendations will be discussed.

International Disposal Symposium Summary & Technologies - Lori P. Miller, USDA-APHIS-NCAHEM Senior Staff Officer, Environmental Engineer

International Disposal Symposium Summary and Technologies - a summary of new information and the latest technologies presented during the 3rd International Symposium on Management of Animal Carcasses, Tissue and Related Byproducts held July 21-23, 2009 at the University of California in Davis.

Topics include Emergency Response issues, depopulation and disposal technology advances, and policy barriers. The highlights and conclusions on the various topics will be presented briefly, and the next steps for carcass management will be discussed.

JOINT MEETING SESSION with NASAHO (National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials)

USDA/APHIS/VS Emergency Management & Diagnostics Update - Jose' R. Diez, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services, National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management

The progress in APHIS Emergency Management and Diagnostics, particularly within VS' National Center or Animal Health Emergency Management was discussed. The presentation followed the four cornerstones of Emergency Management: planning, preparedness, response, and recovery.

In the planning arena, Dr. Díez discussed actions bringing life to the VS 2015 vision introduced by Dr. John Clifford last year at USAHA. In the discussion, he addressed how VS is preparing its workforce for the future to ensure continued response readiness.

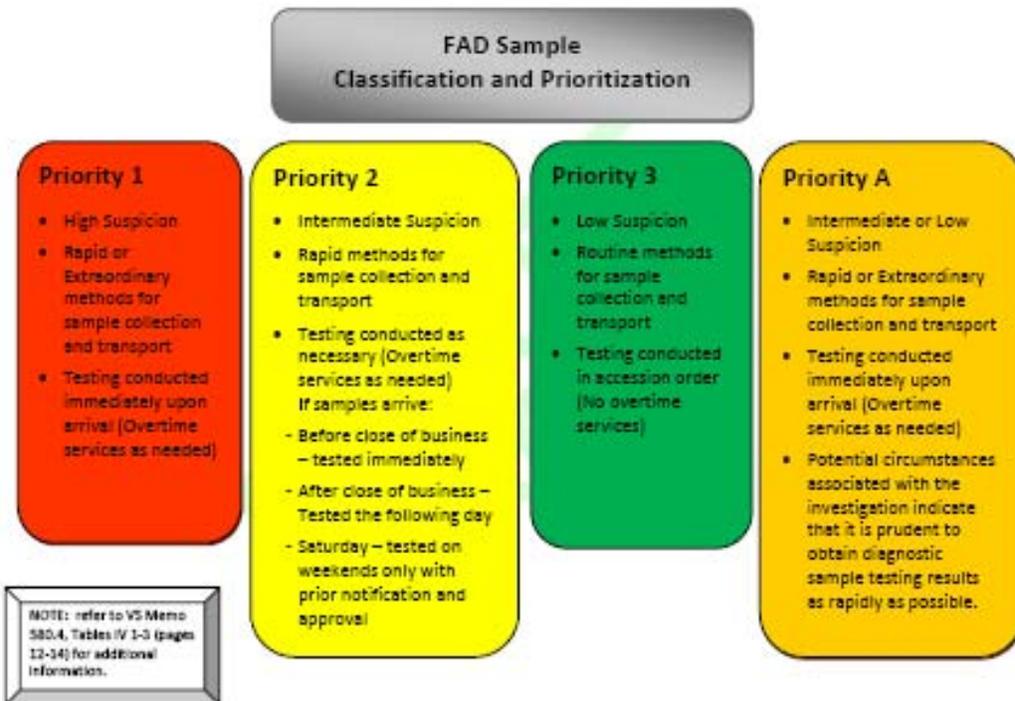
Preparations for a response to an animal disease have continued between APHIS and the Department of Homeland Security. Dr. Díez described preparations as well as the coordination among animal health, public health, and food safety officials to ensure a common approach to a potential finding of the novel H1N1 2009 virus in U.S. swine. The preparedness activities of the National Veterinary Stockpile and those related to 3D—depopulation, disposal, and decontamination were discussed.

NCAHEM's response guidance continues to evolve and is now available to the public. Participants will learn how to access and contribute to the latest iterations of various response documents in development. Dr. Díez reviewed the most recent foreign animal disease investigations undertaken by VS, with some emphasis on the ongoing contagious equine metritis investigation and response. He also described the increase in the National Animal Health Response Corps and its associated activities.

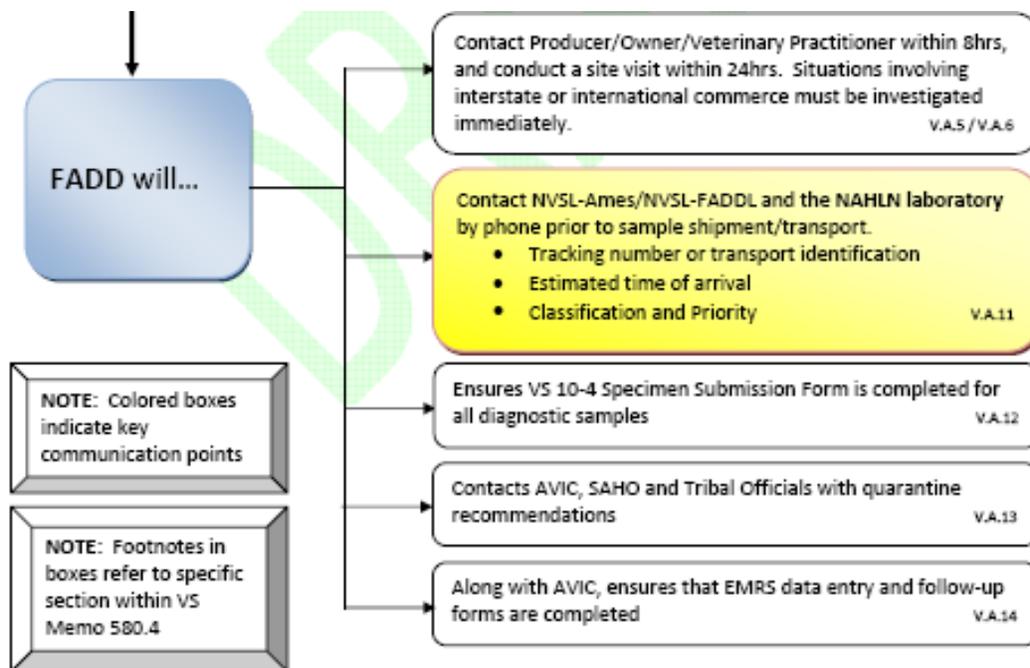
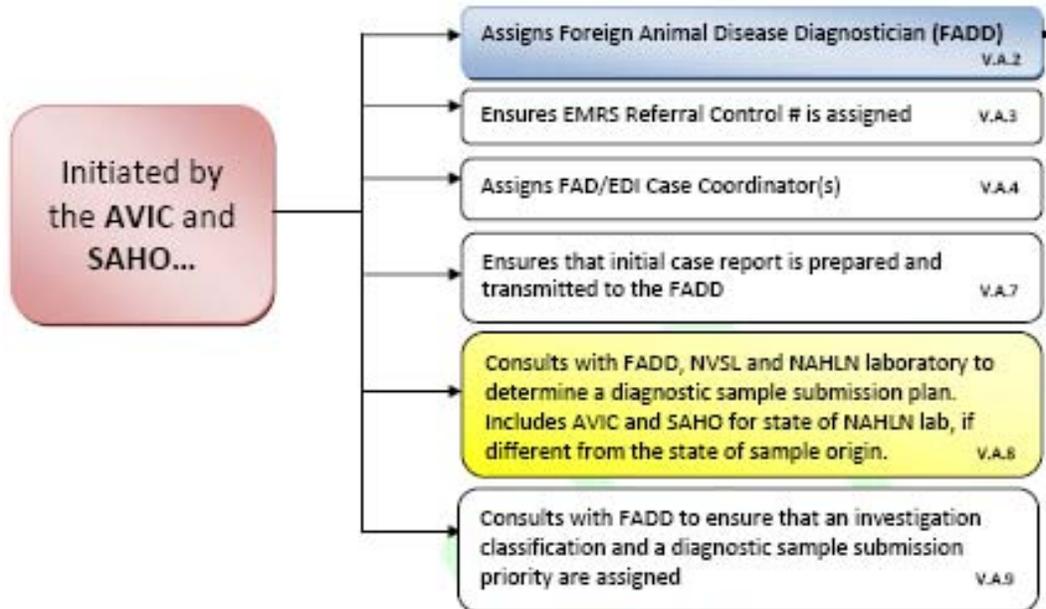
Finally, Dr. Díez discussed recovery activities. Continuity of business has taken an increasingly larger role in recent years, and he reviewed steps APHIS-VS is taking to maintain that trend within the egg sector and the dairy industry, and with respect to FMD planning.

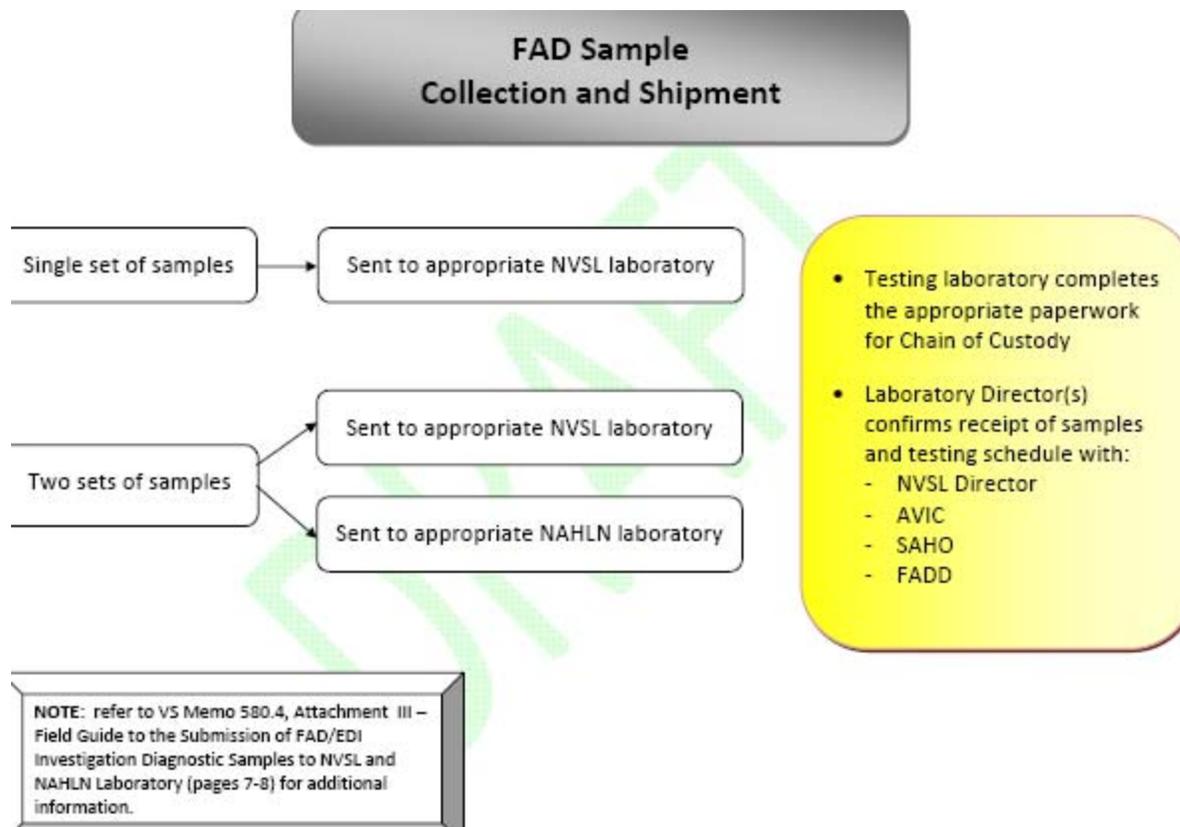
Implementation of VS Memo 580.4 ~ Procedures for the Investigation of Potential Foreign Animal Disease/ Emerging Disease Incidents (FAD/ EDI) - Barbara Martin, USDA-APHIS-National Veterinary Services Laboratory, National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Coordinator

The 580.4 memo has been utilized since being approved for FAD sample submission. New flowcharts describing 580.4 procedures have been developed to address communication and procedure glitches. Draft diagrams follow:



Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Investigation Is Initiated....





National Veterinary Stockpile Preparedness

Lee Myers, USDA-NVS State-Federal Liaison

Dr. Lee Myers, State Federal Liaison for the National Veterinary Stockpile, briefed the Committee about the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services. Dr. Myers (1) presented the new NVS countermeasures, (2) described the future NVS capabilities, (3) described the available NVS planning tools, and (4) reported on the status of State/Tribe/US Territory NVS preparedness.

New countermeasures the NVS program acquired during the last year include reconfigured 24-Hour Push Packs; Kifco® and the North Carolina nozzle poultry depopulation foaming units; CO2 poultry depopulation carts; enhanced services from NVS depopulation, disposal, and decontamination (3D) commercial services; and additional distribution centers across the nation to reduce deployment time. Capabilities the NVS staff hope to acquire in the future include self-refilling syringes to deliver vaccine; vaccine and test kits for appropriate threats, such as classical swine fever, Rift Valley fever, foot-and-mouth diseases, etc.; cold storage at east, central, and west NVS logistical centers; indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts for medical waste disposal; supply chain management system for NVS staff to coordinate deployments; continued contractor training; and large animal handling equipment.

Planning tools for State, Tribe, and U.S. Territory officials are posted on a password protected NVS website for planners <http://nvs.aphis.usda.gov>. Posted on the site is the following information: NVS Basics Brief (powerpoint presentation); NVS Template for State Plan v 1.2 October 2009; NVS Planning Guide v2 June 2009; NVS Business Plan v 3.1 October 2009; Illinois NVS Plan May 2009; and Kentucky NVS Guidelines Draft June 2009. Using the NVS Template for State Plan simplifies the planning process by “filling in the blanks” and customizing the plan for jurisdictional circumstances, and enhances regional preparedness by having consistent approaches across multiple States. NVS planners should contact the NVS State Federal Liaison to gain access to the secure site.

The NVS outreach program actively engages State and Tribe officials in NVS preparedness efforts. The Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance member States will develop NVS plans in FY 2010, and operations-based logistics exercises are planned for the States of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi in April 2010. Looking ahead for FY 2011, the NVS program is soliciting approximately

three contiguous States or Tribes as partners who will commit to NVS preparedness, develop written NVS plans, exercise the plan, post the plan on the NVS website for planners, and help advise other States.

Rebirth of Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT)

Heather Case – American Veterinary Medical Association, Director of Scientific Activities Division

The American Veterinary Medical Association has re-launched the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team program as a private non governmental program. The teams are funded by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. There are currently four regional teams each with one 4-6 person unit on call at all times as of May 1, 2009.

States may request one of three offerings:

- 1) A 4-6 person early assessment team (of veterinarians and veterinary technicians) for 72 hours on the ground
- 2) A 4-6 person basic treatment team (of veterinarians and veterinary technicians) for 5 days on the ground
- 3) An individual VMAT volunteer to present a lecture (typically 60-90 minutes long) on a relevant emergency preparedness and response topic.

Before a VMAT can be deployed, a signed Memorandum of Understanding between the AVMA and the state animal health authority must be on file with the AVMA.

The AVMA VMAT program is not meant to replace state and local response teams. AVMA VMAT is intended to support local response efforts by filling gaps or providing surge capacity.

While many states have developed veterinary and animal response teams, many gaps remain.

- 1) The early assessment teams may be used as a resource by the state to determine which of their own state assets to deploy in a response.
- 2) The basic treatment teams may be used as surge capacity for state response teams or to fill gaps providing basic veterinary care at state run animal disaster operations.
- 3) The AVMA VMAT program has over 15 years of emergency preparedness and response experience, including deployments to the World Trade Center and the hurricanes of 2005. Team members have first hand knowledge of response to multiple events and have received extensive training in preparedness and response. In addition, several team members are board certified specialists and many members have extensive training and experience in areas such as safety, administration, mental health, and logistics.

AVMA VMAT members are volunteers and do not receive a salary. Travel, housing and per diem expenses are covered by the AVMA VMAT program through AVMF funding.

Additional information about the AVMA VMAT program can be found at www.avma.org/vmat or e-mail avmavmat@avma.org.

U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Health Affairs Update

Tom McGinn, Chief Veterinarian, DHS-Office of Health Affairs (OHA)

A discussion of U.S. agriculture importance and potential risk was discussed. The dependence on someone else to produce our food has changed the risk, and our growing dependency on other countries is changing our risk. We need to learn how to address these risks. The answer is being able to measure the impact of not having the resources to do what is needed to mitigate these risks.

An illustration was given regarding a FERN (Food Emergency Response Network) Exercise in Georgia where measurement of response time and mitigation of risk was documented in order to obtain more federal resources. We are much more effective at getting the resources we need if we can benchmark key capabilities and demonstrate what difference they make to the outcome.

Lessons Learned Information Sharing allows us to learn from each others' experiences. Success shared builds success. DHS has developed a partner page and are requesting after action reports like those shared this morning in CAEM meeting be entered into this website. Not only will this build success but it will also aid in the education of the emergency management community of our emergency issues and the need to form partnerships with them to meet challenges beyond our own capabilities.

This presentation concluded the joint session with National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials. Committee presentations followed.

Household Pet Support Task Force Plan and Emergency Issues for Zoos and other AWA Licensed Facilities

Kevin Dennison, Western Region Emergency Programs Manager, USDA-APHIS-Animal Care

USDA APHIS Animal Care (AC) has two critical emergency management roles for our 175+ staff nationwide, including approximately 110 field staff and supervisors, 5 Emergency Programs staff, and National/Regional Headquarters staff. AC's role via the National Response Framework is to support the safety and well-being of pets. This includes working with FEMA, other Federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations to support State and local response. AC also has a statutory role pertaining to licensees under the Animal Welfare Act, including exhibitors (zoos, sanctuaries, circuses, etc.), certain biomedical research facilities, commercial pet breeding kennels, and some animal transportation operations. During a disaster, AC veterinarians and inspectors will monitor the status of licensees and work through local or State emergency management to facilitate communication, identify resources, and provide technical assistance.

The core projects for the safety and well-being of pets mission includes:

- Working in partnership with FEMA to develop the Household Pet Support Task Force CONOPS plan and a planning template for State, Tribal, or Territorial jurisdictions for multi-agency coordination pertaining to household pet and service animal issues. A draft Federal CONOPS is written and additional State stakeholders will be engaged in developing the template tool.
- A second Summit on Companion Animal Emergency Management will be held December 7-10 in Kansas City. APHIS is funding Iowa State University to plan the event and invite one person from each State to attend travel-paid. The meeting is hosted by the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs.
- 9 best-practice working groups are being set up to meet face to face at the KC meeting and provide ongoing national expertise in specific planning and response sectors for pets and other animals.
- AC is funding select State exercises (CA and NC this year, LA last year).
- AC, in partnership with ISU, is developing animal emergency management training and defining ROSS positions for AC staff.

For zoological emergency management issues, AC is doing the following:

- Proposed a contingency planning requirement for all AWA licensees. The proposed rule has received public input and is being reviewed within the Federal system.
- Has encouraged the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to submit a proposal for a zoological best-practice working group on emergency management.
- Has provided guidance to AC Staff on their responsibilities during disasters concerning AWA licensed facilities

PET Net – Pet Event Tracking Network to Monitor & Document Pet Food/ Animal Feed Contamination Events

Chris Melluso, FDA-Center for Veterinary Medicine

FDA reporting, surveillance, and notification systems have put into place a program to detect adulterated pet foods since the widespread contamination of pet foods with melamine and cyanuric acid which occurred in 2007.

Aligning Foreign Animal Disease Response Planning & A Just-In-Time Food Supply

Mac Farnham, Center for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Minnesota

The Center for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Minnesota is working with APHIS, producer groups and the food industry to facilitate industry, academic and government engagement in foreign animal disease (FAD) response planning. The goal of the collaboration is to develop effective response plans that successfully respond to the FAD while minimizing unintended consequences on the animal populations and food industries they are designed to protect. Many food companies have moved away from warehouses for long term storage and incorporated 'just in time' dynamic supply chains that take freshly prepared food directly from the processor to the point of sale. As a result, huge volumes of animals and animal products are in transit at any one given point in time with little stored inventory of food products available at any one point in the chain. Regulatory requirements to stop movement of all animals and animal-derived products may have serious deleterious effects on the whole supply chain even if it successfully eradicates the disease. Appreciating the challenges of controlling and eliminating the FAD, while at the same time maintaining the supply of product to the consumer and the viability of the food industry, represents an important step in addressing this complex and multifaceted problem. The overall goal of this project is to promote ongoing dialogue between and among the government, industry and academic sectors (stakeholders) affected by any potential FAD. Such a dialogue seeks not only to develop and strengthen relationships across boundaries between disciplines and institutions, but further

to involve a more complete cross section of vested stakeholders in the development of FAD response planning and subsequent policy decisions with far reaching implications for US agriculture.

The overall project comprises several parts;

- (1) Facilitating **communication** between stakeholders (government, academia, industry) involved in FAD planning and response
- (2) Engaging the various stakeholders in the **process** of FAD planning and response
- (3) Facilitating development of **proactive risk assessments** and a **movement control framework / permitting system** for continued movement of animals and animal products that present a negligible risk of spreading the FAD
- (4) Providing an **open and transparent system** for FAD response planning which builds on the strengths of the different sectors involved

To date the project has made some strong progress with “proactive risk assessments” to support business continuity for eggs in the context of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in eggs, and Foot-and-Mouth Disease in pork products and milk. Active collaborations between industry and government are critical to the success of these efforts.

If you or someone you know would be interested in contributing to this exciting process please feel free to contact us. We currently have two very active disease specific working groups for highly pathogenic avian influenza and foot-and-mouth disease. We welcome additional participation.

- For more information contact our project lead: **Dr. Tim Goldsmith** gold0188@umn.edu 612-625-0883
- HPAI Working Group: **Dr. Brendan Lee** leex3625@umn.edu 612-625-3921
- **Dr. Girum Ejigu** ejigu002@umn.edu 612-624-3837
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National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense Activities

Neville Clarke, Director National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense

- **Development of a Dashboard Approach for the Common Operating Picture for the National Biosurveillance Information System (NBIS)** – The FAZD Center developed a dashboard approach for a biological systems common operating picture (BCOP) for the NBIS that provides a new capability for analysts to aggregate data from multiple sources into a common framework for assessment of emerging and ongoing biological events at national and global scales with the objective of providing improved and enhanced awareness of events threatening human and animal health. The NBIS aggregates information from multiple sources and agencies for both analysis and presentation to senior decision makers. With the outbreak of H1N1 influenza, the FAZD Center was asked to participate with DHS in taking the BCOP to an immediate operational stage. This was accomplished in weeks rather than months as originally scheduled. The system is now in use by analysts from several participating agencies with the Center providing an access portal for the system at Texas A&M. The BCOP will continue to be improved by the FAZD Center and eventually located within DHS for long term use.
- **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) for Animal Disease Outbreaks** – Outbreaks of exotic animal disease present a complex challenge for decision makers at multiple levels of scale in modern incident command structures where responses to such outbreaks are managed. Incident commanders require immediate access to both historical information and emerging data about the outbreak in the form of statistics about the outbreak, weather, and geographic features of the surrounding areas in the form of databases, charts, maps, photos, and other information as well as the ability to assess the consequences of alternative response strategies in near real time. The ERSS employs a dashboard approach to provide a consolidated view of synchronized information from multiple sources. The dashboard may be populated with a variety of spatially explicit and other information presented in an integrated format so that interrelationships can be readily evaluated and the consequences of optional decisions portrayed. The ERSS is highly flexible and alternative displays can be provided for the incident commander and at regional and national levels of incident management. A working prototype of this system has been demonstrated to the APHIS Emergency Management System and the Department of Homeland Security Office of Health Affairs and plans are underway to develop an operational prototype of the system.
- **Databases and Models for Interstate Movement of Animals to Support Models of Animal Disease Spread** – Most epidemic models assume disease is spread by direct or indirect contact at

local levels without accounting for the long distance movement of animals across the country that occurs in commerce. The DHS has provided special funding to the FAZD Center and NCFPD to acquire the data to build a national transportation model to generate input for multiple epidemiologic modeling efforts. The initial effort focused on beef, dairy, and swine, with other commodities to be added in the future. Known as the Food and Agriculture System Transportation (FASTRANS) model, this project is providing the first quantitative estimates of interstate livestock movement effects on the spread of high-consequence animal diseases.

- **Study on Effectiveness of Animal Identification System in Reducing the Impact of a Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak** – A functional national animal identification system would substantially enhance the ability to trace the origin of an outbreak of exotic diseases as well as to determine its further distribution from the site of an outbreak. But critics suggest the cost of animal identification outweighs the benefits. A FAZD Center study assessed the potential benefits of using an animal identification system for tracing during a postulated FMD outbreak in the Texas High Plains. The study provided quantitative estimates of benefits and demonstrated that the savings resulting from reduction in cost of containment of the disease and loss of animals more than justify the cost of implementing a national animal identification system (particularly for feedlots).

Electronic “Tool Kits” for Positions Described in APHIS’ FMD and A.I. Response Plans

Annette Whiteford, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Director of Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division

CDFCA developed a CD to train (just-in-time) field veterinarians and animal health emergency responders in policy and procedure of California animal health emergency events. A video demonstration showed its components which included Incident Command System forms, state laws/ rules and animal handling procedures. Other states may use it if they would like to.

Program to Enhance Regional Collaboration and Utilize the National Credentialing Standards for Animal Emergency Responders

Ray Burden, Associate Director, Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness at the Univ. of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine

Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness, Univ. of TN College of Veterinary Medicine

The proposed national training program will address Focus Area 3: Regional Collaboration. Implementation of the National Credentialing Standards for Animal Emergency Responders (AER) will be supported through development and delivery of a collaborative national training program targeted towards state and local officials with a responsibility for management of all hazards disaster response and recovery. These standards were finalized in 2007 and are intended to be used to support collaboration and the utilization of regional, state, local, private sector, and academic resources to build capabilities for an effective response and recovery from an all hazards animal related disaster. This training program will be in compliance with the outcome of the DHS/FEMA AER Work Group Phase 2. No training currently exists to support adoption and effective utilization of these standards nationally.

A national credentialing system is mandated by HSPD 5 and is intended to improve the methods, capabilities and coordination of emergency responders to deal with response and recovery from all hazards domestic incidents. Credentials are baseline criteria representing the *minimum* requirement for response personnel to participate in the National Incident Management System Integration (NIMS) Division, National Emergency Responder Credentialing System. A credential provides for a quick and accurate verification of an individual’s identity and helps ensure that personnel representing various jurisdictional levels and functional disciplines possess a minimum common level of training, experience, and physical and medical fitness for any incident management or emergency responder position that they may be asked to fill. The AER credentialing standards can serve to prevent access to an incident by unauthorized personnel and help maintain perimeter control of an incident. These standards provide a flexible system for states and responder groups to build capacity, rather than expecting reliance on narrowly defined, prescribed resources. This flexibility is preferred because, although typed resources (teams, units, etc) are particularly helpful when needs and resources are similar from one incident to another and requests for these standardized resources are made frequently, these conditions rarely apply to animal-related disasters. For animal emergencies, that are rare and diverse, it is more helpful for a state to request individual resources (credentialed responders) that can then be assimilated into appropriate resources (teams) at the incident site.

The training program will describe the AER Resource Typing and Credentialing templates and how they can be used to support pre-incident capability based planning. Planners will be provided key

information and practical examples as to how to use the templates to identify which tasks their jurisdiction or organizations should or could perform and how resources can be shared regionally to effectively manage an incident through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). By training managers how to utilize this information during the preparedness phase of disasters, efficiency and effectiveness of a response and the establishment of regional collaboration for response and recovery can be greatly facilitated. Specific models of regional collaborative agreements for sharing resources through EMAC for animal disaster response, such as the Southern Animal Health Association (SAHA) model and others, will be discussed with course participants. Key elements from these models will be identified to support local and regional collaboration discussions. Regional and private sector participation at IL course deliveries will lay the groundwork for effective networking and collaboration. This training program can serve as a model for the implementation of national credentialing standards for other disciplines once developed, such as for public health, food response and others.

The training program will include two components: A) a 4 hour online course at the awareness/performance level; and B) a 1 ½ day instructor-led (IL) management level course that will be delivered in the local community. The online course will be a recommended pre-requisite for the IL course to minimize in person classroom time, but will also be open to those individuals who cannot attend the IL course. The online course will provide all necessary background information so that participants will be able to move rapidly into applying the knowledge in practical exercises during the IL phase of the training program. Final online course level and course objectives for both courses will be finalized during the development process. The IL course will be primarily exercise-based with scenarios and video injects to illustrate the process of resource typing and use of the credentialing standards to facilitate effective management of state and local resources and sharing of resources between the public-private sectors and across state lines. Over 3 years, the online course will be launched, and 54 deliveries of the IL course (51 deliveries + 3 pilots) will be offered nationwide. The training program will utilize a blended learning strategy incorporating online and in classroom delivery to reach the national audience and to ensure a cohesive training program. Collaborative planning to share resources between the public-private sector and between states in the event of an animal-related disaster will be one of the primary measurable outcomes of this training program.

Update on the Food & Agriculture Sector Protection Measures

John "Tony" Caver, State Liaison Food and Agriculture Sector, Partnership and Outreach Division, Office of Infrastructure Protection, Dept. of Homeland Security

The presentation will give a brief update of the Food and Agriculture Government Coordinating Council. It will focus on the Food and Agriculture Specialists responsibilities to provide subject matter expertise and information sharing on CIKR issues that impact the food and agriculture sector. Updates will be presented on the information sharing processes and the web-based platforms, HSIN-FA and FoodSHIELD and the critical assessment tool FASCAT.

We represent CAEM and want to provide your perspective on how we can improve our processes to protect the food and agriculture sector.

Multi-jurisdictional Response to an Anthrax Outbreak on a Domestic Bison Ranch

Jeanne Rankin, Assistant State Veterinarian, Montana Dept. of Livestock

An anthrax outbreak in bison on a very large ranch in Montana required an integrated multi-agency response to remove and dispose of carcasses. A public road crossing the ranch was blocked for large equipment operations and public information was distributed to outdoor enthusiasts wishing to use the area.

Livestock Issues in Hurricane Ike

Dee Ellis, Assistant State Veterinarian, Texas Animal Health Commission

The impact of Hurricane Ike on the upper Texas coast in September of 2008 resulted in the death of over 10,000 cattle and the displacement of over 15,000 more. The issues encountered by the Texas animal disaster response teams included accessibility, carcass disposal, animal identification, sheltering, evacuation, rescue, and relocation of the surviving livestock. The economic impact to the region was devastating and the cost to first responders was especially significant. As a result of the experience, Texas emergency response officials went back to the drawing board to refine the Texas response plan. Subsequently, the Texas Animal Response Plan was created to mitigate the effects of future large scale events and better respond to the same. This talk will cover the issues disclosed after Ike, and the plan

Texas responders forged through new and innovative partnerships between state, local, federal and non-governmental organizations, to deal with future livestock in disaster situations.

Low Path Avian Influenza (LPAI) H5N8 on an Idaho Commercial Gamebird Farm Response and Lessons Learned

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Difficult working conditions and multi-agency involvement made response to an low-pathogenic avian influenza outbreak on a large commercial gamebird farm challenging. The state had a USDA-approved LPAI Response & Containment Plan in place for protocol on the response, but owner-USDA agreement on indemnity and premises cleaning and disinfecting possibilities caused weeks to months delay in response time. Rather than USDA-purchased chickens, owner-purchased sentinel pheasants were monitored for recurrence of LPAI after cleaning and disinfection of the farm to enable the owner to resume business immediately at the end of the 1 month surveillance period.

Committee Business

One Resolution regarding multi-agency support for expanded research of disposal methods was finalized and voted on by the Committee to send to the Committee on Nominations and Resolutions for consideration.

Monthly conference calls are the last Thursday of each month with a few exceptions. There is no call in same month as AAVLD/ USAHA meeting. The November and December calls fall during holidays so they are often combined into an early December call. The 2009 Nov-Dec conference call will occur on Dec. 10th at the same time as usual.