

REPORT OF THE USAHA/ AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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The Committee met on October 20, 2007 at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, Reno, Nevada, from 8:00am – 4:50pm. There were 29 Committee members and approximately 121 guests present. The presentations will be posted on United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) website under Committee header.

Lee Myers presented the Update on the Food and Agriculture Government Coordinating Council (GCC). Myers presented overview of structure and functions of GCC. 2007 activities completed and in progress and requested input for 2008 goals. Myers requested input from states on the following: current state projects, state issues or concerns that should be addressed by GCC, notable success stories, suggestions on how GCC can better assist states and how can states enhance contribution to GCC.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Inspection (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Animal Health and Emergency Management (NCAHEM) was presented by José Diez. He provided an update on 2007 activities and priorities and future directions.

- USDA will be creating response plans that are more disease specific than the Highly Contagious Disease Response Plan and that will integrate continuity of business issues.
- USDA will be revising plan for suspicion of highly infectious diseases when they occur in slaughter establishments and similar points of concentration.
- USDA will provide guidance to states in writing highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) response plans – developing templates for them to use if they do not already have a plan.
- There was discussion on availability of table top and test exercises- unknown schedule at this time but exercises will continue to be available.

Sebastian Heath, Program Specialist, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Preparedness Directorate (NPD), gave the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-USDA liaison and credentialing update. Heath discussed the following: Resource Typing and Credentialing of Animal Emergency Responders; Continuity of Community Planning White Paper; Table Top Exercise on Recovery Options (a puzzle vs. a mystery); National Preparedness System (NPS); and carcass decontamination. He then reviewed his new position within the NPD within DHS and where it fits in their organizational chart.

- Resource Typing and Credentialing of Animal Emergency Responders - the animal emergency response working group Task 1 was to link resource typing to target capabilities list which involved a functions analysis of animal specific operations. Task 2 was to determine the minimal criteria and prerequisites for each animal responder title needed to complete the animal specific operations.
- Continuity of Community Planning White Paper - response and recovery planning needs to be addressed in the context of a community rather than at the livestock production level as emergencies have impact on the entire rural community.
- The NPS is a collaborative planning and assessment process supported by an online tool designed to facilitate integrated capabilities planning for large-scale incidents across levels of government and with nongovernmental organizations and the private sector. The NPS guides users through a capability assessment process that helps answer key questions.

Department of Homeland Security Update was given by Tom McGinn, DHS, Director Office of Health Affairs (OHA), Food, Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV) Defense. McGinn reviewed the structure, organization and responsibilities of the DHS–OHA-FAV.

Mission: Serve as the principal agent for managing DHS FAV defense missions and programs. Manage OHA-FAV defense resources to accomplish DHS medical priorities. Working with federal, state and local agencies, and with the private sector, the Directorate leads department activities in communicating and coordinating FAV defense programs to ensure the safety of the Nation's food, agriculture, and veterinary sector.

Strategic Goals: Actualize food, agriculture, and veterinary sectors as critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) through the identification of critical nodes, risks and consequences of loss, and the adequacy of federal, state, and local funding requirements; Measure public confidence in food protection through determination of the factors that contribute to that confidence, what will alleviate fears, and ways to enhance confidence in food protection; Ensure food, agriculture, and veterinary federal, state, local, and private sector programs are functionally aligned; Ensure DHS-FAV defense programs are sustainable through the use of strategic plans, supporting budgets, and personnel. The FAV Defense planned outcomes include: focus appropriate veterinary expertise to the Secretary of DHS; Develop subject matter expertise for International, Education and Plant/Wildlife arenas; Continue expansion of the intelligence community engagement; Expand the infrastructure specific business outreach efforts; facilitate the deployment and adoption of newly developed sector asset vulnerability assessment tools; promote HSPD-9 metrics; complete the integration and alignment of Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Defense Education curricula; fund a liaison program to other agencies; establish mechanisms for a state program to establish and fulfill homeland security state requirements; and finalize strategic plan for FAV defense for the nation.

Greg Christy, Florida Department of Agriculture presented the DHS State Liaison Perspective. Christy discussed:

- The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS) and that it was funded via Category B within FEMA Public Assistance Grant Programs which provides assistance to states, local governments, and certain non-profit organizations to alleviate suffering and hardship resulting from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. It reimburses not less than 75 percent of eligible costs.
- Public Security Advisors (PSAs) which is a Federally-funded resource that assists industry efforts in protection of CI/KR; assists States to identify and support CI/KR and during incidents they serve as CI/KR subject matter experts.
- DHS 2008 grants and training funds are similar to 2007. It focuses the bulk of its available grant dollars on risk-based investments and there is support for regional collaborative projects (Bonus Points), however regional funding mechanism is still state based making regional projects difficult to complete.
- The national response framework replaces the national response plan and is shorter and intended for senior elected and appointed leaders. It is not an operations or con op plan. The review period ended for the main document and supplemental annexes review period ends 60 days from September 10. Comment form and instructions for submission online are at www.fema.gov/nrf
- DHS Criticality Project will be used to identify state CI/KR to establish state's risk and should lead to funding.
- Homeland Security Information System (HSIN) provides: alerts, warnings, advisories, bulletins; incident reporting; sector collaboration and information sharing; contact information for government and industry; CI/KR monitoring and reporting; as resource library. Contact Greg Christy to sign up.
- The process on how Florida established state level response teams.

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) Update was provided by Glen Garris, USDA-APHIS-VS. Garris reviewed the structure, mission and goals of the NVS. The stockpile is continuing to develop and expand. They are identifying additional locations. He discussed current management of stockpile, deployables, response sets by species, 3D (depopulation, disposal and decontamination) contracts being set up with private contractors and NVS is developing training and certification materials for these contractors which will be available to states also. He also discussed future capabilities under consideration. The federal, state and local NVS responsibilities include being able to request, receive, store, stage, manage and distribute assets and recover unused reusable assets.

Overview of Seven Years of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Exercises and Progress was given by Rosemary Speers, CNA Corporation. The exercises over time have been building upon each other to test different areas of FMD response. Some outcomes include refining definitions in Tripartite doctrine; training for

state agriculture responders about tripartite doctrine and vaccine Bank; increasing awareness among other agencies about response issues during FMD outbreak; participating countries are using our analysis to refine their FMD strategy; analysis used for development of NVS. The next steps include: Continue to include the “presumptive phase” since many important decisions are made before the disease outbreak is announced to trading partners and most response plans begin at confirmation; Develop and disseminate planning factors as broad assumptions are used in the absence of information, and errors can result and we need to identify the initial factors for field vs. policy decision-making regarding restriction zones, vaccine, depopulation, disposal, personnel, etc.; and USDA and DHS integration to resolve possible tension between mission to eradicate disease and mission to protect infrastructure.

Dee Ellis, Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), presented Texas FMD Exercise Operation Palo Duro. Ellis reviewed lessons learned in each of the five focus areas of the exercise which included lab surge capacity, public information, euthanasia and disposal, vaccination, and movement control. His state planning suggestions included: write state and local basic plans focus on who more than how; incident command system (ICS) training critical and develop incident management teams (IMT); practice with state/federal/local/industry; stop/start/ permit movement policy; study USDA “Draft” guidelines i.e., highly contagious disease, disposal, etc... and policy starting points and resist the urge to write state/local policy on these topics; Assess Hub lab capacity/priority of samples; and endorse all hazard approach and clarify authority and roles.

From Farm to Fork: How to Feed Good Legislation was presented by Jennifer Bryning Alton, Public Health Preparedness Policy Director, Senator Richard Burr, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Bryning Alton covered the background and development of Senate 1804 National Agriculture and Food Defense Act including the breadth of federal and state agencies, academia and private sector organizations which were contacted for input in the issues prior to writing the bill. The six major areas addressed in the bill include: Identifies federal leadership; requires a national strategy; builds state capabilities; establishes public-private partnerships; implements early detection, rapid response; and requires decontamination and disposal standards and plans. She provided further details on the act which codifies many of the HSPD-9 responsibilities but also includes some new areas. She requested input on areas of concern or support and may be contacted at 202-224-0121.

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN); your land grant partner in preparedness and response education was presented by Julie Smith, University of Vermont. The role of EDEN is to share educational materials through the land grant system to reach a broad spectrum of users. These resources are inclusive of the four areas of emergency management—prevention mitigation, preparation, response and recovery—and provided with the intent of reducing the impact of natural and man-made disasters. The top-priority goals of the EDEN Agrosecurity Committee, formed in 2007, are to promote individual farm, agribusiness, and community planning; provide Extension personnel with guidance, lessons learned, and tools to enable assistance with county and state emergency management; promote regional planning activities; and promote preparedness and response exercises that bring together government, industry, and academia. State EDEN points of contact (POCs) can be found through the website: www.eden.lsu.edu.

USDA-APHIS-Animal Care (AC) emergency management update was provided by Chester Gipson, Deputy Administrator, AC. Gipson reviewed the outcome of the Harvard School of Public Health Project on the Public and Biological Security 2006 and 2007 surveys related to hurricane evacuation. Thirty one percent of individuals in an 8 state area bordering the coast indicated they would not evacuate; an increase from 23 percent in 2006. Of those people who indicated they would not evacuate 27 percent cited an unwillingness to leave a pet (of all respondents - 8.4 percent would not evacuate for pet reasons). Unwillingness to leave a pet was the fifth most frequently cited reason why people said they would not evacuate. The Post Katrina Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) places primary responsibility for the management of household pets in disaster to the FEMA mass care directorate. PKEMRA directs the FEMA Administrator: (1) in approving standards for state and local emergency preparedness plans, to ensure that such plans take into account the needs of individuals with special needs and individuals with pets; (2) to ensure that each state, in its Homeland Security Strategy or other homeland security plan, provides comprehensive pre-disaster and post-disaster plans for individuals with special needs; and (3) to ensure that state and local emergency preparedness, evacuation, and sheltering plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency. The act authorizes the FEMA Administrator to provide financial and technical support to states and local governments. Responsibility for coordination of a response effort for household pets is delegated from FEMA to APHIS through the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 annex of the National Response Framework (NRF). The ESF 11 annex adds the safety and well-being of pets as a fifth area of primary responsibility. APHIS is

working with FEMA to ensure that responsibilities for pets are clear and consistent throughout the National Response Framework. APHIS intends to establish a Multi-agency Coordination Committee (MAC) for pet issues. MAC membership would include all federal agencies and non-governmental organizations (including humane organizations) with resources available for household pets in a disaster. The function of the MAC is to fill gaps in state response resources. This MAC should address the issues raised related to a need for a national coalition of stakeholders requested in USAHA 2006 Resolution.

Business meeting

Keith Roehr announced the new American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Co-Chair will be Dr Marilyn Simunich from Idaho who is replacing Pat Blanchard. Two resolutions were passed by unanimous vote of the Committee and forwarded to the Committee on Nominations and Resolutions.

Marilyn Simunich reviewed the final report of the Subcommittee reviewing the sector specific plan of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. Report was handed out and sent via email to members.

The Committee recommended that carcass and product disposal/ decontamination be addressed by the GCC in 2008.