

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship



Consumer Protection & Regulatory Affairs Division

Animal Industry Bureau

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Animal Health Protection: State Level Preparation

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Animal Health Protection

- Iowa has always had an aggressive policy on protecting animal health.
- The Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the UK was responsible for reminding us how important it is to protect ourselves from Foreign Animal Diseases.

Animal Health Protection

- Iowa has always had the capability for surveillance and detection of Foreign Animal Diseases like FMD.
- However, it was quickly determined that a response and recovery plan for FMD was essential for preparedness.

Iowa's Response and Recovery Plan

- Why is a plan important?
 - Iowa did not have any plan that dealt with animal disease disasters resulting from highly infectious diseases like FMD.
 - The quicker Iowa could react to a Foreign Animal Disease the better. A comprehensive plan will decrease reaction time.

Who is Involved in Planning?

- Governors Office, IDALS, IEMD, IDNR, IDOT, IDPS, IDPH, DPD/Guard.
- Industry Groups
- Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine

Foot and Mouth Disease Response and Recovery Plan

- Defines the trigger points that would be used to determine the level of response to and FMD outbreak.
- The plan would eventually be rolled into an Infectious Animal Disease Disaster Plan.

Foot and Mouth Disease Response and Recovery Plan

- Describes who is responsible for what areas of the plan, for example:
 - DNR and DOT are responsible for burial of animals.
 - DOT and DPS are responsible for enforcing movement restrictions.
- Each agency involved had to come up with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for their responsibilities.

Past Years Efforts

- A year ago Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge received funding for a temporary veterinary position in the Department to work exclusively on disease planning.
- The goal of this position was to work on ways to meet IDALS responsibilities in the planning process.

FMD Operations Manual

- Contains the Protocols and SOPs that would be used by IDALS in an FMD outbreak, for example:
 - Quarantine protocols, euthanasia protocols, cleaning & disinfecting protocols, animal movement regulations, animal product regulations, communication pathways.
- Correlates to other agencies plans in the event of an outbreak.

Milk Industry Response Plan

- Plan was developed with the dairy industry to address the special problems that FMD would present to the industry.
- The plan describes SOPs and protocols that would come into play during an FMD outbreak to reduce the risk of spread of the FMD virus and continue to ensure milk safety.

Iowa's Rapid Veterinary Information Network (IRVIN)

- It was determined that IDALS needed a way to quickly communicate information to Iowa's veterinarians during an FMD outbreak.
- IRVIN uses burst e-mail technology to communicate with veterinarians who are on a list server maintained by IDALS on the ICN.

Appraisal and Indemnity Committee

- Members
 - IDALS, USDA, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Sheep Industry Association and Iowa Dairy Products Association.
- Met on several occasions to develop a plan to address appraisal and indemnity issues during an outbreak.

Appraisal and Indemnity

- The committee was devoted to establishing a method to ensure fair market value was paid to producers that had to depopulate animals.
- The next step is to make sure the committees recommendations can fit under current Iowa law.

Education

- IDALS has taken advantage of many opportunities to present information to producers, veterinarians, and producer groups on planning efforts and biosecurity concerns that have evolved from the planning process.

Current Efforts

- With the 9/11 tragedy, the focus on bio-terrorism has emphasized the importance of being prepared for the deliberate introduction of a Foreign Animal Disease.
- Currently IDALS is working on an Animal Disease Disaster Annex that would be part of the State Disaster Plan.

Regional Planning

- Iowa has participated in regional planning activities.
- Regional Planning is essential so we know how other states are going to react during a disease disaster.
- Regional planning provides an opportunity to share information and apply concepts on a regional basis.

Continuing Education

- IDALS is going to provide continuing education to veterinarians on the topic of Foreign Animal Diseases and the Response and Recovery plan.

Bio-Terrorism Involvement

- IDALS has been involved in efforts to identify possible bio-terrorism risks and helped identify ways to decrease those risks.
- Helped other agencies to understand how an Animal Disease Disaster could fit into a Weapons of Mass Destruction Scenario.

The Future

- With our involvement with other agencies within the state, federal, and region, we have determined some areas that need to be addressed.

Continued Planning

- The Animal Disease Disaster Annex will need to be supplemented with SOPs that deal with other Foreign Animal Diseases that could destroy our economy.
- There will be updates to the plan to incorporate research results and new diagnostic tools that are not yet available.

Veterinary Response Teams

- Veterinary Response Teams made up of private practitioners should be developed and trained.
- Teams would be trained in biosecurity, euthanasia, surveillance and inspection.
- These teams will decrease the response time to an animal disease disaster which will be essential for containment.

Training For Other Agencies

- Training modules must be developed to educate other state agencies that would respond to an infectious animal disease disaster.
- Key Areas: Instituting a quarantine zone, biosecurity measures, basic animal disease information, rules and regulations.

Utilize Technology

- Development of a ghost web site to be used in times of emergency to communicate important information to the public, producers, and veterinarians during an animal disease disaster.

Other Areas

- Regional Participation
 - Continue regional planning efforts which are essential to help mitigate the effect of an infectious animal disease disaster.
- Bio-terrorism/Biosecurity Education
 - Continue to educate producers and veterinarians on current topics especially biosecurity.

Thank You For Your
Time!

- Any Questions?