

Emergency Support Function 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

Animal Welfare

Primary Agency: Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA)

Support Agencies: Illinois State Police (ISP)

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)

Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)

Illinois Department of Military Affairs (IDMA)

Illinois Department of Transportation - Aeronautics (IDOT- A)

Illinois Department of Transportation - Highways (IDOT- H)

Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)

Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS)

Illinois Commerce Commission – Transportation (ICC-T)

Illinois Commerce Commission - Utility (ICC-U)

University of Illinois (Uof I)

American Red Cross (ARC)

Federal: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services
(USDA/APHIS)
Veterinary Services (VS)
USDA Farm Service Agency (USDA FSA)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA)
American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
Illinois Beef Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)
Illinois Horse Council
Illinois Milk Producers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Coalition for Animal Agriculture
Illinois Animal Control Association
Noah's Wish

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Annex is to coordinate the initial, as well as ongoing, response of State and Federal agencies, and private organizations and entities to provide all animals affected by the disaster with emergency medical care; evacuation; rescue; temporary confinement, shelter, food and water; and identification for return to the owner. This Annex will also coordinate the response to and recovery from an outbreak of an emergency animal disease or other animal related disaster (EAD/AD). In as much as some EAD's are zoonotic, this coordination may also involve the identification and control of diseases of public health significance. Issues of major concern in preparedness and response to an EAD/AD outbreak or disaster include: prevention of introduction; disease surveillance; rapid identification; initiation of steps to reduce the further spread of the disease; and disposal of infected, exposed, and dead animals during an outbreak; provide for adequate housing and care of animals displaced during a disaster.

B. Scope

This Annex provides technical advice and assistance to State, county and local governments, professional animal health organizations, and industry during an EAD/AD. The Annex includes procedures for the identification, containment, and elimination of an EAD as well as a response to a natural disaster. This Annex is applicable to all Federal and State agencies identified in the Primary and Supporting Government Agency outline. It is anticipated that the remainder of the “Other Supporting Organizations” identified in this Annex will participate to the fullest extent possible.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Several serious animal disease outbreaks have occurred outside the United States recently. Foot and Mouth Disease in Taiwan’s swine population in 1997 resulted in the slaughter of more than five million hogs. The recent Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera) epidemics in the United Kingdom, Mexico, and the Netherlands have resulted in the slaughter of more than 10 million hogs. Ongoing problems with this disease in Haiti, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic continue to be a threat to the U.S. swine industry. The occurrence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Great Britain has resulted in a large number of beef and dairy cattle destroyed and the disease continues to be identified. The importation of animal products from foreign countries, the ease of travel throughout the world, the lifting of restrictions on animal health movement as a result of Free Trade Agreements, and the presence of international airports underscore Illinois’ vulnerability to an outbreak of an EAD.
2. Although concerns about animal diseases are increasing, the public gives it little attention. Protecting animal agriculture in the United States requires cooperation, participation and

partnership. While the USDA has assumed leadership in combating the EAD problem, they do not have the resources nor the desire to assume these responsibilities alone. Consideration must be given to the fact that an outbreak of an EAD within the State of Illinois could be devastating to the economy. The State/local response is the first line of defense in an animal health disaster, the quality of which likely will determine the final economic impact to the State.

3. Natural and man-made disasters have been occurring with increasing frequency worldwide. With the advent of large animal production facilities and an ever-increasing pet population, the need for a disaster response plan is imperative. Local response to a disaster is limited and Federal response will be secondary or non-existent.

B. Assumptions

1. Livestock producers likely will be the first to notice an unusual condition/disease in their animals. The concerned producer should make contact with one of four entities: 1) local private accredited veterinarian, 2) IDA (State Veterinarian, field veterinarian, or livestock investigator), 3) the Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories, or 4) the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA/APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) or the Area Veterinarian-In-Charge (AVIC), Field veterinarian, or livestock field investigator.

If the disease situation is unexpected with high death loss, or if the symptoms are unusual, and especially if an EAD is suspected, a private accredited veterinarian must report immediately his or her findings to the State Veterinarian and/or USDA-AVIC.

2. When notified, the State Veterinarian, or the USDA-AVIC, will in turn contact the other person to determine what steps, if any, are necessary to further characterize the disease occurrence. This may

include the dispatching of a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) to the location and requesting assistance from the USDA Early Response Team (USDA-ERT).

If the FADD determines that the differential diagnosis includes an EAD, the USDA-AVIC will notify IEMA, USDA-Emergency Programs and other appropriate Federal government officials. The FADD will obtain a Foreign Animal Disease Investigation case number from the USDA-AVIC. In addition, the USDA-AVIC and State Veterinarian, depending on the likelihood of an EAD, will take steps to isolate the disease to as small an area as possible. This may necessitate the involvement of local, county, and State law enforcement agencies to assist in securing the area.

3. If the suspected disease has potential wildlife impacts, the State Veterinarian will contact IDNR, who in cooperation with IDA, will determine the appropriate response to protect wildlife or conduct surveillance activities of wildlife to determine their disease status.
4. Suspected EAD's in or potentially affecting wildlife or fish will be reported to IDNR, who in turn will report this information to the State Veterinarian. If the disease has potential livestock impacts, IDA will determine the appropriate response in cooperation with IDNR.
5. If the suspected disease has potential public health impacts, the State Veterinarian will contact IDPH. IDPH, in cooperation with IDA, will determine the appropriate response to protect human health and welfare.
6. In the event of animals being displaced in a natural or man made disaster, the State Veterinarian, in cooperation with State and local authorities, will determine the appropriate response to protect animal health and welfare.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. In the event of an EAD or animal disaster, the State Veterinarian and/or USDA-AVIC, will contact IEMA and the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP) will be implemented.
- B. The State Veterinarian and/or USDA-AVIC, along with IEMA will make the determination as to:
 - 1. when to request activation of a USDA-APHIS,
 - 2. procedures necessary to isolate the affected area,
 - 3. when to request activation of the SEOC,
 - 4. the procedures to be utilized to combat the outbreak once it is identified as an EAD.
- C. IDA will send a liaison to the SEOC when the SEOC is activated.
- D. IDA and if possible, IDA's other Supporting Organizations will activate and staff the IDA Emergency Action Facility.
- E. Key functions to be performed in the event of an EAD/AD will include:
 - 1. Appraisal of fair market value of livestock and poultry involved in affected area.
 - 2. Biosecurity and surveillance to contain and prevent the spread of disease.
 - 3. Cleaning and disinfection (C&D) of infected premises after depopulation has been completed.
 - 4. Depopulation and disposal of infected and exposed animals,

animal products, bedding and feedstuffs.

5. Epidemiological investigations to determine the source and possible spread of the disease.
6. Regulatory enforcement of quarantines.
7. Vaccination programs, if warranted to help control the spread of the disease.
8. Controlling vectors that may be involved in the spread of disease.
9. Help to coordinate needed shelter, food, water, and veterinary care to displaced animals.
10. Provide assistance in reuniting owners with their animals.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Primary Agency - Illinois Department of Agriculture
 1. functions as the primary decision maker and co-decision maker with USDA-APHIS and functions as the lead State agency,
 2. issues quarantines, stop movement orders and oversees the implementation and enforcement of restricted or quarantined areas, with the assistance of the other State and Federal supporting agencies. Because time is of the essence in an animal health emergency, quarantines may initially be issued verbally but will be documented in writing as soon as practical,
 3. determines the extent to which IDA personnel will respond to an animal health emergency. Duties in support of this Annex will take priority over all other

duties of IDA,

- 4 coordinates with Noah's Wish, other animal welfare support organizations and the local animal control officer to ensure all animal welfare issues are being addressed.

B. Support Agencies

1. Illinois State Police

- a. is the lead State Law Enforcement Agency for security in and around the impacted area,
- b. restricts movement in and around the quarantine zone to prevent the movement of animals and animal related products in order to stop the spread of the disease,
- c. provides traffic and access control.

2. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

- a. provides expertise regarding the disposal of contaminated animal carcasses, bedding, feedstuffs and equipment in a way that is environmentally sound and does not further the spread of disease,
- b. provides expertise regarding the cleaning and disinfection of infected areas using environmentally sound procedures and chemicals,
- c. expedites the process of obtaining necessary permits for the above.

3. Illinois Emergency Management Agency

- a. determines the need for a Gubernatorial Proclamation

of a Disaster or Emergency,

- b. coordinates assistance from support agencies,
- c. activates the SIRC when determined necessary,
- d. coordinates supplemental Federal assistance with FEMA,
- e. coordinates the providing of communications equipment,
- f. provides expertise regarding the handling of contaminated substances,
- g. provides protective clothing and decontamination equipment for use in infected areas.

4. Illinois Department of Military Affairs

- a. provides support to ISP for security in and around the impacted area,
- b. provides traffic and access control,
- c. provides emergency communications equipment and personnel,
- d. assists IDA with euthanasia and proper disposal of infected animals,
- e. assists IDA and other responding agencies with the transportation of necessary equipment, personnel, and livestock,
- f. assists IDA with the decontamination of vehicles, equipment, and facilities,

- g. provides aircraft and aircrews to conduct assessment and surveillance operations,
 - h. provides heavy equipment, trucks, other vehicles and manpower for animal carcass removal and disposal.
5. Illinois Department of Transportation - Aeronautics
- a. provides aircraft and aircrews to conduct assessment and surveillance activities,
 - b. provides air transportation for emergency workers and other key personnel, when required.
6. Illinois Department of Transportation - Highways
- a. coordinates with district offices, county and township commissioners to determine which roads, if any, could be closed around the periphery of the quarantined zones to aid in biosecurity and traffic control,
 - b. provides personnel, heavy equipment, trucks and other vehicles for animal carcass removal and disposal,
 - c. IDOT provides equipment and personnel to assist in vehicle decontamination,
 - d. IDOT provides barricades and/or signs to be used in and around the quarantined zones.
7. Office of the State Fire Marshall
- a. coordinates the use of local fire department personnel and equipment when requested,
 - b. provides expertise in fire safety when burning is used

for carcass and materials disposal,

- c. provides expertise on the use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and other Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).

8. Illinois Department of Public Health

- a. communicates with the local health departments, medical facilities and regulated entities in the event the EAD is zoonotic,
- b. determines public health risk and impact, if any, upon being informed that a suspected EAD has been detected within the State of Illinois,
- c. notifies the U.S. Centers for Disease Control that an outbreak of an EAD has occurred within the boundaries of the State of Illinois, inform them of the nature of the disease, its primary animal host, and if it is considered to be a health hazard to humans,
- d. assesses and advises regarding the public health risk associated with burial or burning of dead and affected animals,
- e. IDPH assists with epidemiological investigations.

9. Illinois Department of Natural Resources

- a. provides technical advice on the risks to wildlife and methods to mitigate these risks,
- b. supports the law enforcement aspect of the restricted or quarantine area, if applicable. IDNR will make available specialized equipment (e.g. boats, snowmobiles, ATVs and four-wheel drive vehicles)

and associated personnel, as needed,

- c. initiates a surveillance program in the immediate vicinity of the outbreak and determine if the disease has spread to wildlife if the EAD is one that has a history of affecting wildlife. In addition, the IDNR will initiate steps to prevent the spread of the disease to susceptible wildlife,
- d. identifies the potential for the disease to be spread by wildlife (e.g., infected animals, scavengers, intermediate hosts) outside of the affected areas,
- e. identifies hunting seasons and wildlife associated within affected areas and makes recommendation on closing seasons and restricting access to public sites. IDNR will enforce these restrictions and enlist the assistance of other law enforcement agencies as necessary,
- f. expedites collecting permits for personnel and assists in collections as necessary,
- g. provides expertise and data showing geographical information on soils, surface water and ground water.

10. Illinois Department of Corrections

- a. provides buses, vans, vehicles and any available staff to drive these vehicles.

11. Illinois Department of Central Management Services

- a. assists with the procurement of needed emergency supplies and equipment,
- b. provides vehicles, fuel, repairs and service needed to

carry out the emergency animal disease operation,

- c. assists with purchasing and/or contracting telecommunications equipment.

12. Illinois Commerce Commission - Transportation

- a. provides information and assistance in the Transportation Industry (highway and rail) under its jurisdiction in and around quarantined areas.

13. Illinois Commerce Commission – Utility

- a. provides information regarding regulated water, gas, electric and telephone companies and services under its jurisdiction in and around quarantined areas.

14. University of Illinois

- a. provides cooperative extension personnel (livestock specialists), faculty and staff, along with students on a voluntary basis, available to assist in EAD control and eradication,
- b. provides a wide range of expertise from College of Agriculture Consumer and Environmental Science and College of Veterinary Medicine regarding EAD control and eradication,
- c. activities are coordinated by the Dean's of the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture Consumer and Environmental Science.

15. American Red Cross

- a. ARC will provide mass care services for those in the impacted area,

- b. ARC will provide mental health services to those impacted, if required.

16. Other Agencies

- a. in addition to the responsibilities identified above, there are a number of State Agencies, State Colleges and Universities, and private voluntary agencies that can be expected to provide personnel and critical resources to support disaster operations. Responsibilities of many of these agencies are identified in the IEOP.

2. Federal Agencies

USDA/APHIS, VS Emergency Programs will assume a primary role for responding to an EAD within a few days of diagnosis. Initial response of the USDA will be through the USDA-APHIS for the Eastern Region. This Annex provides for response actions prior to the full involvement of USDA, and also provides a framework for supporting the USDA once they are fully engaged through their emergency response structure. USDA will use the State Veterinarian as the primary contact point for IDA. The State Veterinarian will serve as the IDA representative in the USDA response system.

3. Private Organizations

Private organizations have a great deal of interest in a response plan of this type since their livelihood may depend upon the outcome. In most cases a private entity, such as a local veterinarian, will be the first “on scene” and must make immediate decisions. A local veterinarian, as a veterinarian accredited by the USDA, APHIS, VS and the State Veterinarian, has the authority to verbally restrict movement of animals suspected of being affected with an EAD. The local veterinarian is then required to immediately notify the

State Veterinarian who, with the assistance of the USDA-AVIC, determines the next appropriate action(s) to confirm or rule-out the presence of an EAD and to restrict animal and, if necessary, people movement in and through the affected area.

Private enterprises such as producers, auction markets, slaughtering establishments, and renderers will be notified by IDA when an animal disease emergency exists. They will be encouraged to actively participate as an “Other Supporting Organization” in an emergency response.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. The primary point of contact for activation of this Annex is the State Veterinarian. The State Veterinarian will notify IEMA of an EAD/AD.
- B. When the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture declares an emergency or extraordinary emergency, the USDA-APHIS can be fully activated with funding made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation for indemnity.
- C. If and when the EAD/AD exceeds State and local capabilities, the Governor may request Federal emergency or disaster assistance.
- D. Listed “Other Supporting Organizations”, local veterinarians, animal control agencies, and Noah’s Wish will participate in an emergency operation on a voluntary basis.

VI. REFERENCES

- A. Illinois Diseased Animal Act
- B. Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act

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