

Responding to Foreign Animal Diseases in the US (National Planning Scenario # 14)

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Recent Disease Outbreaks

- Foot and Mouth Disease in 2001 in the UK
 - 10 million sheep, goats, cattle and swine killed
 - \$13B lost for eradication or tourism
- Exotic Newcastle Disease in 2002 in the western US
 - 5 million birds killed
 - \$ 150 - 200 Million
- Avian Influenza Worldwide 2003- today
 - Millions of birds killed in multiple countries

Daily Movement Into the United States

- 1.3 million passengers
- 45,000 trucks/containers
- 550 vessels
- 2500 aircraft
- 341,000 vehicles
- 38,000 animals

Introduction of Disease

- Accidental
 - Live animals
 - Animal Products
- Intentional
 - Relatively easy



The Response Cascade for FADs

- Passive surveillance system
- Recognition and reporting
- Some screening tests now done at state labs
- Agriculture-only event until preliminary diagnosis is made



Disease Detection – Who are the 1st Detectors?

- Farmer/Owner
- Veterinary Practitioner
- Livestock market worker
- Slaughterhouse worker
- State diagnostic laboratory
- Animal control officials



Detection - Reporting

- Report is made to State Vet/ APHIS Area Veterinarian-in-Charge
- FADD-trained veterinarian is assigned to investigate



Detection - What

- Any abnormal event
- Animals with clinical signs of known FADs
- Symptoms not responsive to treatment
- Many farms or animals with similar symptoms
 - High morbidity
 - High mortality



Detection - Investigation

- FADD conducts investigation ASAP
 - 400 investigations per year
 - FADD is a MN BAH or USDA employee
 - 250 “active” FADDs nation-wide
- FADD makes field diagnosis and with AVIC and State Veterinarian sets case priority
 - Immediate actions based on field diagnosis
 - Unlikely
 - Possible
 - Highly Likely
 - Sample handling based on case priority

“Highly Likely” Field Diagnosis Response Actions

- Send samples with highest priority
- Quarantine the farm
- Gather information on contacts and other movements of animals, people and equipment on and off the farm
- Meet with county officials

Meeting with County Officials

- Inform county leaders on current situation
- Describe potential incident response requirements
- Discuss information management to minimize impact if diagnosis is negative
- Discuss available county resources
- Describe funding for the response
- Prepare for an Incident Management Team including establishing an Incident Command Post

Presumptive Positive Response Actions

- Mobilize Animal Health Incident Management Team
- Depopulate infected herd or flock
- Activate local, State and/or APHIS Operations Centers
- Initiate state response plan

Disease Eradication

Goal is to regain disease free status as soon as possible

- Stamping out alone is first option
- May include strategic vaccination for firebreak and later slaughter
- May include preemptive slaughter
- Carcass disposal is a major challenge
- Doesn't fit the Local → State → Federal model well



Local/Limited Response

- Limited to one disease complex
- State or Federal Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician is 1st responder (FADD)
- Done under authority of State Vet
- Local, state, federal and industry agricultural authorities manage
- Quarantine farm or farms
- Depopulation with existing funds by state and federal personnel
- Regional and national coordination needed because of trade issues



Examples:
HPAI in Texas
BSE (Mad Cow) in Washington

Regional Response

- State and federal agricultural authorities handle situation with or without state emergency management
- USDA APHIS Veterinary Services other agency and USDA resources used
- State and federal veterinary reserve corps may be activated
- Operational activities are conducted with mixture of state and federal contingency funds
- Regional and National coordination required

Multiple infected premises, limited geographically



Examples:
Exotic Newcastle Disease in CA, NV, TX
Low Path. (H7N2) Avian Influenza in VA

National Response

- State and federal agricultural authorities overwhelmed
- Local and State emergency management resources fully engaged
- State agencies, DHS(FEMA) and other federal agency's resources will be needed
- National and international coordination required

Multiple infected premises, wide spread geographically



Examples:
1914 U.S. FMD Outbreak
2001 U.K. FMD Outbreak

National Presumptive Positive Response Actions

- National and international communication
- Consider Secretary's emergency declaration
- Consider national movement hold on animals and conveyances
- Mobilize State, APHIS and USDA response resources

Confirmed Positive Response Actions

- Request National Response Framework resources
 - Possible Presidential declaration
- International notification
- Order vaccine if applicable



Response Resource Requirements

- UK
 - 10,000 personnel at a time for 9 months
 - 1000 veterinarians
 - Military and other agency assistance
- US
 - Multiple states
 - Save business as much as possible
 - 1100 personnel in a major livestock county



Source of Resources

- County response plan responders and contractors
- State Emergency Operations Plan
 - State Agencies
 - National Guard
 - Voluntary Agencies
 - Private industry
- Agencies of the National Response Framework
- DoD



Response Plans for Foreign Animal Diseases

- Limited plans and authorities at local level
- State-level plan is executed first
- National plan support incorporated into the National Response Framework
- Uses State and USDA authorities
- FBI and law enforcement work to catch perpetrator if foul play is suspected

Concept of Operations for Response

- Utilize ICS and a local Incident Command Post
- Unified Command at the local level utilizing state animal health authorities and USDA as the primary bill payer
 - Local Joint Information Center
 - Role of the township and county is determined by the affected jurisdiction
 - Work with county EOC for coordination of resources and policy



Activities at the Local Level

- Management of disease control activities
- Coordination with EOC
- Delivery of information
- Coordination of indemnity payments and GIS support
- Execution of State directed activities
- Information sharing with State
- Coordination with industry and health dept.



State Level

- State and federal coordination of disease response
 - Operate out of an agricultural coordination center
 - State Veterinarian (authorities)
 - USDA Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (funding)
 - Both have consequence management responsibilities
 - Coordinate with industry leadership
- State Emergency Manager
 - Operate out of State EOC
 - Coordination of state resources
 - Respond to County EOC and ICP requests
- Joint Information Center
 - Animal Health
 - Industry
 - Health

USDA National Foreign Animal Disease Responsibilities

- Minimize the impact of an real or perceived FAD event on the US
- Respond rapidly, appropriately, and efficiently
- Take strategic actions to minimize impact on US
 - Regionalization of unaffected areas
 - Vaccination if applicable
- National and international communication
- Congressional communication and liaison

Required FAD Response Functions

- Enhanced biosecurity
- Outreach and education
- Public information management
- Location and maps of farms/facilities
- Surveillance and investigation
- Quarantine and movement control/permitting
- Valuation and delivery of payments to farmers
- Depopulation and disposal
- Cleaning and disinfection of infected farms
- Vaccination
- Wildlife sampling
- Medical and mental health support

Other Points for Discussion

- What happens to affected agribusinesses?
- How do we minimize the impact on a community?
- Who can hire local laborers?
- Who can write contracts?
- Who is responsible for recovery activities?

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