

Animal Health Emergency Management Committee Report

2010 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2010



The Animal Health and Emergency Management Committee met on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm during the NIAA 2010 Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri with 34 people present. Dr. Patrick Webb served as the Chair, and Dr. Leah Dorman served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on business continuity during an animal disease incident. The following people facilitated an exercise titled “Everything You Need to Know about Animal Disease Disaster But Didn’t Know to Ask!”

Dr. Patrick Webb, National Pork Board, reviewed the events leading up to a diagnosis of a foreign animal disease (FAD) and the importance of the producer as the first line of defense in FAD identification. Foot and Mouth disease signs, symptoms, routes of transmission, and affected species were also reviewed. Disease response zones were discussed. A new term/definition was introduced. A “monitored premises” is a farm that demonstrates appropriate disease surveillance in order to allow movement of livestock off the farm. Communications, identification of premises, tracing of animals, surveillance, and coordination during an FAD incident are important aspects to a rapid and effective response.

Bruce Spence, National Pork Board, presented the Incident Command System for farmers. The following command and general staff positions were reviewed: Incident Commander, Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Liaison Officer, Operations Chief, Planning Chief, Logistics Chief and Finance Chief. The ideal span of control is five (three to seven). ICS can expand and contract to fit any size incident. A geographical area can be divided by federal, region, state, branch, division, sector, area and farm in order to better manage the incident, including allocation of resources.

The scenario: Foot and Mouth Disease has been confirmed in swine held over from a Tuesday sale at a local sale barn in south east Missouri. State and Federal Animal Health Officials have set up the initial control area in order to focus response activities. The infected zone incorporates sections of 4 states: MO, OK, AR, and KS. The rest of each state not included in the infected zone has been designated as a buffer zone and the states surrounding those 4 states are included in the surveillance zone. All other states are currently considered free areas.

The table is divided in half with Kansas on one side and Missouri on the other. The entire table is within the buffer zone. In Missouri there is a 2200 sow farm – breed to wean, wean 600 head per day. The Finishing floors are in Kansas and have capacity of 1100-1200 head, go in on Mondays and Thursdays. It takes one week to fill a barn.

There is an 80,000 head cattle operation in Missouri. The beef packing plant is in Kansas and handles 2000 head per day.

There is a dairy in Kansas and a milk transfer station is in Missouri

The sale barn is in Kansas.

The feed mill provides feed to cattle and hogs and is located in Missouri. There is a lot of transportation in and out of the feed mill.

There is a poultry facility in Kansas that houses 1,000,000 birds.

The closest infected herd is 20 miles away.

1. 1st Assignment: Premises Identification

a. Discuss how your industry can support rapid identification of premises and industry assets in the buffer zone

- i. Use local officials, agencies, etc. to identify premises, for example:
 1. Vet clinic; premises ID list (voluntary list of old); dairy cooperatives; Extension; Farm
 2. Bureau; Soil and Water; ask farms who their neighbors are with livestock (call arounds); records at packing plant, feed mill and auction barn; fire department; sheriff; Dept. of natural resources; dairy cooperative; FSA; industry organizations;
- ii. Who keeps the master list of premises? The state veterinarian would handle it at the state level, and feed into their respective state EOC.
- iii. Industry assets: Auction barn, feed mill, packing plant
- iv. Needs: Personnel, communications, IT system, accessibility to USDA database, phone banks to call in to get farm premises number in order to move animals. Need to tap into the county emergency manager to get resources.
- v. What will be done with the milk at the plant? Need inspection system to allow milk to move.
- vi. The National Veterinary Stockpile can be requested and utilized.

2. 2nd Assignment: Communication

a. Discuss how your industry can support rapid communication of premises and industry assets in the buffer zone

- i. Need communication infrastructure created in advance, include: academia, extension, industry, . . .

b. Discuss what information should be delivered to producers

- i. List of biosecurity measures
- ii. Situation report with public information
- iii. Reassurance to producers that continuity of business is being kept in mind
- iv. Clinical signs and contact point if they see them
- v. Give talking points that food is still safe to eat
- vi. Public health message

c. Discuss what information should be gathered from producers

- i. Movement data
- ii. Where they sell milk
- iii. Where feed comes from
- iv. Who has been on the farm
- v. When do you need to move animals or milk again
- vi. Do you direct fill tankers
- vii. Do you have a location that you can C&D on farm
- viii. Animal movements
- ix. How long can you keep livestock on farm with no movement?
- x. Set up ingress/egress point
- xi. Any contact with the auction barn?

- xii. How full is bulk tank (milk)
 - xiii. How full is your lagoon or manure pit
 - d. Other issues/thoughts
 - i. Packing plant may shut down for fear no one will accept product due to fear and they will be left with product to dispose of.
 - ii. Need liaison from industry group
3. **3rd Assignment: Biosecurity**
- a. **Discuss what farm level bio security protocols should be implemented to demonstrate to Authorities that the level of protection has been increased**
 - i. Sign in/out log
 - ii. C&D station for trucks on entry to farm, departure may be a community station
 - iii. Permit
 - iv. Feral swine eradication program – shoot feral swine on sight
 - v. PPE
 - vi. Shower in/out (dairy, swine)
 - vii. Know your animal health status
 - viii. Personnel can only be on one site
 - ix. Keep media away
 - x. Feed and milk movements on permit, biosecurity protocol to be determined
 - xi. GPS stamped digital image
 - xii. Limit access
 - xiii. Leave clothes at slaughter plant
 - b. **Discuss how you coordinated with industry to implement the appropriate bio security**
 - i. PQA plus cert in advance
 - c. **Discuss how you communicate that information and assure compliance.**
 - i. Producers need checklist, possibly an affidavit
 - ii. Permit/health papers for movement
 - iii. Education program for workers that come in and out, regarding animals at home
 - d. Other thoughts:
 - 1. County Emergency manager has some resources:
 - 2. Short term can use volunteer fire dept for tanks and hoses for C&D
 - 3. Have contract for power washers and cleaning crews
 - e. *May be better off using dedicated equipment vs. washing trucks (will cross contaminate at truck wash)
 - f. NVS has 2 gallon sprayers, disinfect, PPE, brushes. Have private contractors that can set up C&D stations.
4. **4th Assignment: Surveillance**
- a. **Discuss what “proof negative” means to you.**
 - i. Buffer zone, so product should continue to move.
 - ii. FSIS may be doing surveillance at the harvest facility, so line may slow down.
 - iii. Dairy: PCR certified tester at milk plant
 - 1. Milk testing will be more efficient b/c will pick up positive before onset of clinical signs.
 - iv. Pork: High degree of confidence that animals did not have FMD

