Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Response Exercise (FAVRE) Workshop

Marvin Meinders, DVM, MPVM
DHS Office of Health Affairs
Food Agriculture and Veterinary Defense Branch
Overview

- Background
- Purpose and objective
- Findings
  - Strengths
  - Areas for Improvement
- Conclusion
- Next Steps
Purpose

• Improve Incident Management and Response to agro-terrorism incident
  – Across all levels of government and private sector
  – Facilitate participants’ ID of Federal resources to respond to FMD scenario

• Support the DHS Secretary’s Counterterrorism Advisory Board (CTAB) Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) TTX After-Action Report Improvement Plan (IP)
Background

• Counterterrorism Advisory Board (CTAB) Foot and Mouth Disease Tabletop exercise – December 2012
  – Need to clarify the coordination structure for FAVR
  – Need planned approach to address an FMD threat with regard to intelligence and information
  – FMD incident requires a public messaging effort that is fully coordinated across government, incorporates relevant stakeholders, and considers the impacts on the agriculture markets
  – Current supplies of FMD vaccine are limited, and there is a need to put formal processes in place to support prioritized resource allocation accordingly
FAVRE Workshop

- FEMA Region VII Chosen as site for Scenario and Workshop:
  - Large livestock population
  - Strong Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture organization
  - Region VII preparing to write their Food and Agriculture Annex to their All Hazard Plan
FAVRE Workshop

• Region VII has a Regional All Hazards Response Plan that could be a primary focus of the exercise
  – An agricultural annex to plan is scheduled for development in FY 14
  – Exercise was used to refine the content of the annex

• A workshop approach was used which supported a Whole of Community approach
  – Identify complexities of a Whole of Community response to an FAV threat.
FAVRE Workshop

• Improved understanding of the government roles and responsibilities to support a regional response,
  – Especially with regard to resources, and specifically addressing ESF 11: Agriculture and Natural Resources.
• Identification of demonstrated capabilities and potential gaps in planning, processes, and resource expectations related to the response requirements.
• Exercise discussion will support the development of the agricultural annex to the regional All Hazards Plan
• Exercise outcomes recorded and follow-up actions identified through an after-action report.
FAVRE Workshop

- Workshop limited to 1.5 days out of office for participants (~160 people in attendance)
- Pre-Workshop training provided:
  - FAD PReP
  - Emergency Management Response System (EMRS 2)
  - FAZD AgConnect Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
  - NC and CA Response Playbook
  - Federal Interagency Operational Plans (FIOP) and FEMA Region VII All-Hazards Plan
Federal Participants

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Office of Health Affairs
- FEMA National Exercise Division
- Infrastructure Protection
- FEMA Response
- FEMA Region VII

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration

U.S. Department of Defense U.S. Northern Command Defense Coordinating Element

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Food and Drug Administration

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Small Business Administration
State and Local Participants

**Iowa**
- Department of Agriculture
- Iowa State University (ISU) Extension
- Department of Homeland Security
- ISU Center for Food Security and Public Health
- Department of Natural Resources
- Buena Vista County Emergency Management Agency
- Story County Emergency Management Agency

**Kansas**
- Department of Agriculture
- Division of Emergency Management
- Department of Health and Environment

**Missouri**
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Health
- State Emergency Management Agency

**Nebraska**
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Emergency Management
- Department of Environmental Quality
- State Patrol
Private Sector and Other Participants

- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Safeguard Iowa Partnership
- Dairy Management Incorporated
- University of Minnesota
- National Milk Producers Federation
- Kansas State University
- Missouri Cattlemen’s Association
- American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- Midwest Dairy Association
- University of California - Davis
Workshop Findings Strengths

• State Dept of Ag in Region VII have well developed FAD communication plans
  – States, industry partners, and other stakeholders have developed strong relationships
  – Numerous communication resources available
    • Extension service hotline,
    • Internet pages with relevant info currently staged in offline environment
    • Broadcast over public radio, social media are widely accessible as communications mechanism
Workshop Findings Strengths

- FEMA region VII have conducted public information exercise
  - Included participants from multiple levels of government and non-agriculture entities.
  - Also identified non-agriculture entities that can provide surge support for public information activities.

- USDA, industry association, and other stakeholder have developed pre-scripted messages
Workshop Findings Areas for Improvement

• Existing State and regional communication plans will support critical information during FMD outbreak

  – Lack triggers for releasing pre-scripted messages

  – FMD outbreak messaging has not been coordinated with human public health

  – Info sharing processes between Fed, State - level agencies and, with unaffected States have not been fully defined

• Suggested ICS include disease +/- activities
Workshop Findings Areas for Improvement

- Addition of industry in overall planning and response is needed

- FMD vaccine is limited.
  - Process for vaccine prioritization and allocation is not clear.

- FMD recovery plans have not been developed
  - Recovery roles, responsibilities, and resources have not been well defined.
  - Recovery planning should commence at beginning of FMD response.

- Different support systems used to collect and report information (e.g. EMRS, Web EOC) often do not match

- Participants were concerned about understanding of potential response-funding mechanisms.
Outcome and Benefits

• Improved understanding of the government roles and responsibilities to support a regional response

• Development of the Food and Agricultural annex to the Region VII All Hazards Plan
  – Exercise of this annex is being planned now

• Region VII Agriculture Annex being elevated to National Response Framework to serve as a template for other regions

• Many of findings will serve as objectives for Interagency Exercise
Conclusion

• Beneficial exercise
  – Brought together all levels of responders from government to producers.
  – Developed a FEMA regional response approach
    • Included recovery
  – Developed FEMA Region VII Food and Agriculture Annex to All Hazard Plan.
Next Steps

If interested in conducting a FAVRE TTX in your region, request should be made to your FEMA region authorities.
Questions?

Contact information:

Marvin Meinders, DVM

Email:
marvin.meinders@dhs.gov

Telephone:
(O) 202-254-2218
(C) 202-309-6628