United States Animal Health Association
Committee on Animal Emergency Management

APHIS VS Readiness and Response Capabilities

Lee M. Myers, DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM, MEP
State Federal Liaison
National Veterinary Stockpile
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services

Safeguarding Animal Health
Emergency Management Outreach and Input Project

- Summer 2011 VS leadership launched the VS 2015 operational plan.
- The *Emergency Management Outreach and Input Project* is one of 30 projects centered around 18 implementation priorities that are important programmatically to the future of VS and its partners and stakeholders.
- This project is aligned with the VS Program Leadership Goal 4: support readiness and response, thus balancing the needs of animal agriculture with the interests of people and the environment.
Emergency Management Outreach and Input Project

- Over 20 team members on the project represent all VS units and select stakeholders external to VS, including AAVLD/USAHA CAEM.
- The purpose of the project is to initiate the provision of ideas, innovations, and resources (outreach) and to receive participation, contributions, and feedback (input) from APHIS VS employees (internal) and non-employees (external stakeholders) on the readiness and response capabilities of APHIS VS.
- The project was established August 2011 and will sunset December 2012.
Project Objectives

1. Use the VS Marketing and Communications plan to highlight the VS emergency management role and tools available to internal and external stakeholders.

2. Promote VS readiness and response tools and capabilities to internal and external stakeholders.

3. Develop a strategy for regular recurring meetings to discuss VS readiness and response with internal and external stakeholders.

4. Collect internal and external stakeholder input for the National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management (NCAHEM) list of damaging animal disease threats.

Safeguarding Animal Health
Progress Report

• NCAHEM list of damaging animal disease threats
Safeguarding Animal Health

Progress Report

- NCAHEM list of damaging animal disease threats
- VS readiness and response capabilities, and emergency management roles

Progress Report

- NCAHEM list of damaging animal disease threats
- VS readiness and response capabilities, and emergency management roles
- VS readiness and response conferences
Next Steps

• Complete project deliverables by December 31, 2012.
• Incorporate efforts into the Surveillance, Preparedness and Response (SPR) unit in the new VS structure.
• Continue to market and communicate about VS emergency management capabilities and roles.
• Continue to solicit input on how to improve VS emergency management capabilities.