



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Resolution

114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010
Minneapolis, MN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: ANIMAL AGRICULTURE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Agriculture is essential to our nation's health and prosperity and has been designated as a critical infrastructure of this country. Animal agriculture is a major contributor to the economy of most states and is a key source of export income. The livestock and poultry business in the United States is a \$121 billion industry with agriculture accounting for approximately 13% of the nation's gross domestic product. Animal agriculture provides nutrient-dense protein products and many other vital commodities not only for Americans, but for nations throughout the world.

Living in a non-agrarian society makes it difficult for some states' emergency management and homeland security decision-makers to understand and acknowledge the importance of animal agriculture. As a result, state strategic plans, operational mandates and funding criteria may be established at the exclusion of agricultural interests. This has resulted in some states receiving little or no animal agriculture-related homeland security funding which has created a gap in their ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, or recover from animal emergencies that impact the state and the nation.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency and Infrastructure Protection develop efficient, dedicated funding streams in support of animal agricultural asset protection, whether such funds reside within the DHS Homeland Security Preparedness Grant Program as a sub-program specific for agriculture or within USDA-APHIS-VS for distribution to states via cooperative agreements. Funds should be distributed proportionately to states based on a formula which considers agricultural animal populations, international borders, value of animal agriculture to the state, and number of premises holding agricultural animals to assure that appropriate levels of funding are available for animal emergency management programs.

In order to strengthen homeland security preparedness and to enhance the ability of state, local, and tribal governments to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from agro-terrorist attacks and animal agriculture-related disasters, an assistance program specific for animal agriculture protection should be established and state and tribal agricultural officials granted latitude to decide the best use of such funds.

RESPONSE:

FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has worked closely with the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant and Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) for many years in the implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9, Defense of United States Agriculture and Food. As part of this collaboration FEMA typed animal health resources (https://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/5081_animal_health_resources.pdf), defined Incident Management Systems Job Titles for Animal Emergency Response (<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3024>), and most recently developed position task books for Animal Emergency Response Team to become fully qualified part of State and local incident response. FEMA is also currently collaborating with APHIS to revise Section 16 of the Authorized Equipment List so it reflects current understanding of equipment needs to address animal issues in disasters from all hazards. FEMA's National Exercise Division has developed and delivered numerous training programs, exercises and courses specifically related to animal agriculture and pets.

FEMA also works closely with DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate; Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) every year to complete the IP Data Call. The IP Data Call provides opportunities for States and territories to collaborate with DHS and its Federal partners in Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) protection. DHS, State and territorial Homeland Security Advisors, Sector Specific Agencies, and territories build their CIKR data using the IP Data Call application. The data collected is used to identify CIKR which should received priority for grant funding, such as the Buffer Zone Protection Program. IP also publishes the "Agriculture and Food, CIKR Sector-Specific Plan Report" as input to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. The 2010 report can be found at <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/nipp-ssp-food-ag-2010.pdf>. This report highlights many of the cooperative activities between DHS and USDA as well as other agencies.

Since 2006 FEMA has supported 42 States' applications for funding on projects related to food and agriculture protection. The total funding for these applications has been over \$760 million, of which nearly \$162 million was for projects with a primary mission to protect food and agriculture.

Most of the grant funding to protect critical infrastructure including Agriculture and food, has come from the State Homeland Security Grant Program and to a lesser extent from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

FEMA is bound by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act, P.L. 110-53). According to the 9/11 Act, grant funds are distributed to each State, which act as the fiduciary agent for grant funding. Grants under this program are made available to local and tribal governments, consistent with the applicable State homeland security strategy; in other words the priority for grant funding is set by the State Administrative Agency. The UASI program funding only supports certain designated high-risk urban areas. Unfortunately, FEMA is unable to establish dedicated funding streams for animal agriculture asset protection through these grant programs.

INTERIM:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

APHIS is committed to strengthening and increasing collaboration and coordination with stakeholders to enhance the nation's preparedness for responding to an animal health emergency. Historically, APHIS has invested in State, Tribal, and territorial animal health emergency management through a variety of programs and mechanisms. APHIS continues to provide critical emergency management resources and support through Area and Regional Office Area Emergency Coordinators, who work hand in hand with State animal health and emergency management officials on a daily basis.

At the Federal level, APHIS collaborates closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in developing tools to help States, Tribes, and territories identify response capabilities and develop plans to address gaps. APHIS also collaborates closely with

the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies on a host of projects that support State, Tribal, and territory animal health emergency management.

APHIS supports this resolution. With our partners at FEMA, APHIS is working to explore options and strategies to develop effective funding streams to support the protection of animal agriculture assets.

FINAL RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS worked with our partners at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Health Affairs (OHA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to explore options for developing a dedicated funding stream to support the protection of animal agricultural assets. The FEMA Homeland Security grant process does not allow directed funding for the protection of animal agriculture assets because FEMA is bound by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (911 Act). The 911 Act authorizes FEMA to distribute grant funds to State governments who in turn make these funds available to local and Tribal governments in accordance with each State's homeland security plan (i.e., the priority for grant funding is determined by the State).

The FEMA Homeland Security grant process does not specifically allocate funds for the protection of animal agricultural assets. Instead, funding is provided to the States for critical infrastructure protection activities, including the food and agriculture sector. Annually, FEMA works with the DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate, Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) to complete the IP data call. The IP data call provides opportunities for States and Territories to collaborate with DHS and its Federal partners in critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) protection. DHS, State and Territory Homeland Security Advisors, and sector specific agencies build their CIKR data using the IP data call application. The data collected is used to identify CIKR that should receive priority for grant funding, such as the Buffer Zone Protection Program.

OHA developed the online grants tutorial (https://foodshield.org/grants_tutorial/index.html) to assist State, local, and Territory stakeholders with all-hazards disaster preparedness and response. The tutorial is divided into three sections:

- Section 1: "Find" provides the basics for individuals who are beginning to explore Federal funding opportunities. This section helps those who are new to the grant writing process and want to learn more about the types of funding available and how to locate grants that match their needs.
- Section 2: "Apply" provides guidance to help evaluate the applicability of specific grants, describes the scope of information required in the application process, and provides information on how to write a successful investment justification. Additionally, this section helps people who want to learn more about evaluating which grant programs would work best for them (or their organization) and about the scope of information required in the application process.
- Section 3: "Manage" introduces post-award considerations, including the requirements for managing a grant.

APHIS also worked with FEMA to develop an animal health specific list of "Typed Resource Definitions" that are eligible for support through FEMA grants. The list is available online at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/508-1_animal_health_resources.pdf.

While dedicated funding to support the protection of animal agricultural assets is not an option at this time, use of the resources described above and participating in the IP data call should increase the likelihood for obtaining funding through Federal grant programs.