

Considerations for Local Governments and Emergency Managers during a Foreign Animal Disease Response



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

During a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) response the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) will work collaboratively with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to achieve the following goals: (1) detect, control, and contain the FAD as quickly as possible; (2) eradicate the FAD using strategies that seek to stabilize animal agriculture, food supplies, and the economy, while protecting public health and the environment; and (3) provide science- and risk-based approaches and systems to facilitate continuity-of-business for non-infected animals and non-contaminated animal products.

FAD outbreaks have repercussions on the entire U.S. economy and international trade status, impact multiple states simultaneously, and affect producers of all sizes and backgrounds. This would result in major response decisions in Iowa reached in collaboration between IDALS and USDA. This approach is unique compared to other response activities that are organized and managed at the local level. However there are still key roles for local governments and emergency managers to consider fulfilling during a FAD response. The purpose of this document is to highlight these roles and guide local planning and preparedness efforts. IDALS **does not recommend** that local governments stockpile anything listed in this document but instead consider identifying where animal producers could acquire resources during an outbreak. It will be the responsibility of each producer to implement their own premises biosecurity and dispose of depopulated animals during a FAD response.

Communications

IDALS will directly inform Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) of positive or suspect cases and their location(s). HSEMD will in turn communicate this information to local emergency managers and schedule conference calls/meetings between IDALS, HSEMD, and local governments as needed.

NOTE: Any media inquiries should be referred to IDALS' communications team.

Standstill Order

In the event of a FAD outbreak it may become necessary for IDALS to issue a Standstill Order for all animal species susceptible to the disease. This Order would mean that for a certain period of time no susceptible species would be allowed on Iowa roadways. This would slow further spread of disease and allow IDALS to identify those areas where disease is already present and those that have not been exposed, allowing resources to be focused on impacted areas in the state. The Order would be enforced with the assistance of all state peace officers in Iowa. Anyone found transporting susceptible species by law enforcement would not have their animals impounded. Instead their information would be recorded, reported to IDALS, and then allowed to continue to their destination or return to their point of origin.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

During any FAD response the need for workers or producers to utilize PPE may arise. In general the following PPE may be recommended:

- properly-fitted safety goggles
- disposable gloves
- washable boots or disposable boot covers
- NIOSH-certified respirator (e.g., N95)
- disposable fluid-resistant coveralls

During the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak both the USDA and Center's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the following recommendations that may be utilized for further guidance:

- [USDA Guidance](#)¹
- [CDC Guidance](#)²

NOTE: Specific PPE recommendations are disease dependent and additional guidance will be issued during a response.



Carcass Disposal

Animals that are depopulated or die during a FAD response must be disposed of properly to minimize the risk of disease transmission. The owner of the animals is responsible for disposing of their dead animals but before implemented, the disposal method chosen must be approved by both IDALS and Iowa DNR. Some disposal methods require a carbon source (organic material). Carbon sources include but are not limited to: wood chips or shavings, straw, chopped corn stover, dry bedding or manure, etc. Local governments and emergency managers may choose to work with producers prior to responses to identify carbon sources available in their region.

NOTE: Disposal methods are explained in great detail in the [USDA National Animal Health Emergency Management System Guidelines: Disposal](#)³ and [Iowa DNR webpage](#)⁴.

Mental Health

The loss of animals, property, and/or finances during a FAD response can have psychological impacts on communities, responders, and individual producers. As part of preparedness efforts local governments and emergency managers may want to consider identifying mental health resources that can be utilized by those impacted. One resource is the:

Iowa Concern Hotline
1-800-447-1985

Cleaning and Decontamination

During a FAD response all vehicles, equipment, supplies, and personnel entering an infected or high-risk premises will be required to move through a decontamination corridor. It will be the responsibility of the **owner of the premises** to establish this decontamination corridor. However, many of the supplies and principles utilized during hazmat decontamination are similar to FAD decontamination and prior to a response, local governments and emergency managers may choose to work with producers to identify where they can obtain the supplies needed to establish a decontamination corridor on their premises. In general the following may be needed to establish a decontamination corridor:

- water source
- wastewater containment
- tent or temporary shelter
- heat source during cold weather
- supplies such as tubs, scrub brushes, and sprayers

Furthermore, the following recourses can be utilized for additional guidance:

- [Center for Food Security and Public Health](#)⁵
- [USDA Guidance](#)⁶
- [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\) of the United Nations \(UN\)](#)⁷

NOTE: Additional and more specific decontamination disease dependent recommendations will be issued during a response.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship **does not recommend** that local governments stockpile anything listed in this document but instead consider identifying where animal producers could acquire resources during an outbreak if needed.

Hyperlinks used throughout this document:

1. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/hpai/ppe_recommendations.pdf
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/worker-protection-ppe.htm>
3. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/naheims_guidelines/disposal_nahems.pdf
4. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/about-dnr/social-media-press-room/disaster-assistance#305799-foreign-animal-disease-outbreaks>
5. <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Emergency-Response/Just-in-Time/05-Cleaning-and-Disinfection-Vehicles-JIT-HANDOUT.pdf>
6. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/naheims_guidelines/cleaning_disfection.pdf
7. <http://www.fao.org/3/Y0660E/Y0660E04.htm>