CONSIDERATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND EMERGENCY MANAGERS DURING A FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE RESPONSE

A foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak will negatively impact animal health, producer livelihood, the U.S. economy, and international trade status. During an 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.

The response to an FAD is different than natural or man-made disasters that are managed at the local level. This document highlights the key roles for local governments and emergency managers to consider fulfilling during a FAD response.

RESPONSE TEAM ROLES

- During a FAD response, Unified Command will be established between IDALS and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Joint responsibilities include policies, execution, and coordination of response efforts. IDALS also has the authority to implement quarantine and permitting. USDA is responsible for federal funding requests.
- County Emergency Managers will not serve as the Incident Commander during an FAD outbreak. Instead, they will serve as a supporter to the Incident Commander and disease mitigation efforts. Emergency Managers can provide many resources such as accommodations, equipment, and relationships with local authorities and agencies, such as extension and environmental personnel.
- 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.
- As the response progresses, a website may be created to give updates on the number of animals, farms, and counties impacted throughout Iowa

INFORMATION SHARING

- In the case of a FAD response, information will be passed through a Joint Information Center. Infected premises will be identified only by county name and serial case number to preserve producer and farm confidentiality. Confidentiality is critical to enable the FAD response group to focus on the infected site, keep it secure, and keep the investigation process moving at a consistent pace. County Emergency Managers will be informed if the Infected Premises is in their respective county.
- External communication about the FAD investigation will only include the county in which the Infected Premises was identified. IDALS and USDA will hold daily briefings to inform stakeholders and media during the initial days of the investigation. These may transition to weekly briefings as the investigation continues. IDALS will work with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) as well as the county Department of Health if the FAD is zoonotic.

RESPONSE COMPARISON: NATURAL DISASTER VS. FAD

	NATURAL DISASTER (All-Hazards)	**FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE**
Lead Agency	Local/County government	USDA, IDALS
Support	State, FEMA, NGOs: have authority and funding	Local/County, Industry: no authority, no funding
Response speed	Rapid	Rapid
Private industry	Not supported	Supported
Stafford Act	Large-scale	Does not apply

FAD RESPONSE STEPS

1. **Contain**
   a. Setting up a Cleaning and Disinfection station is important for biocontainment on an infected farm. Follow this link to find the "How to Set up a Cleaning and Disinfection Corridor" video.
   https://iowaagriculture.gov/animal-industry-bureau/biosecurity
2. **Control**
   a. State officials have the authority to quarantine farms
   b. Contact tracing is performed using Premises Identification Numbers (PIN) assigned by IDALS
3. **Eliminate**
   a. Carcass disposal is conducted in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources

STANDSTILL

- 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 areas 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 they would then be allowed to continue to their destination or return to their point of origin.
- Abandoned animals or loads may result due to a standstill. The Iowa Code has been updated to improve the process of obtaining a court order for abandoned loads.
  - Refer to Iowa Code Chapter §163.3D and §163.3E for abandoned loads
  - Refer to Iowa Code Chapter §163.33 for feral swine

MENTAL HEALTH

- The loss of animals, property, and/or finances during an 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. Some resources are:
  - Iowa Concern Hotline: 1-800-447-1985
  - Free Comprehensive Information Referral Line: dial 211
  - Personal Assistance Coaches (PAS): 1-800-999-FARM (3276)

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.