IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP

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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Issues Guidance for Livestock Producers Located Near Planned U.S. Army Detonation Site

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) suggests livestock producers located near Middletown, Iowa, take the following steps to reduce potential risks to their animals, feed and water sources caused by the U.S. Army's planned detonation of degraded lead azide.

Suggested actions before the planned detonation:

- Contact the U.S. Army and ask for baseline soil and forage samples to be taken from your farm prior to the detonation. If the Army is unable to provide this service, consider collecting samples on your own.
- Talk with your veterinarian to determine if you should baseline test livestock for lead exposure prior to the detonation.
- Consider moving livestock to an alternate location or inside a barn, machine shed, or shelter, if possible.
- If housing animals indoors, shut the windows and doors if you can do so without compromising the animals' safety. This may not be feasible for all herds.
- Move livestock feed, hay bales and portable water tanks indoors to prevent possible contamination. If these livestock supplies cannot be moved, cover them with a tarp.
- Move livestock trailers, medical supplies, grooming supplies, and other farm equipment to an alternate location or inside a barn, machine shed, or shelter, if possible.

Suggested actions during the planned detonation:

- Keep livestock at an alternate location or indoors until the U.S. Army gives the "all clear" and the air plume has passed by your area. It may take several hours for the dust particles to settle, according to the U.S. Army.

Suggested actions after the planned detonation:

- Contact the U.S. Army and ask for soil and forage samples to be taken from your farm to determine if lead exposure occurred. If the Army is unable to provide this service, consider collecting and testing samples on your own.
- It is best practice to power wash the outside of barns and buildings, fencing, livestock feeders and portable water tanks, trailers, grooming supplies and other farm equipment after the dust particles settle. Wash your hands thoroughly after wiping down equipment.
- Work with your veterinarian to monitor your livestock for signs of acute or chronic lead poisoning.
    - Signs of **acute lead poisoning** may include: sudden death, rapid neurological and digestive signs within a few hours to several days after exposure. Sudden cortical blindness, abnormal head and facial movements, increased vocalization, movement and behavior changes, lethargy, weakness, seizures, and loss of appetite.
    - Signs of **chronic lead poisoning** may include: lack of appetite, gradual weight loss, poor performance, anemia, lethargy, visual impairment and reproductive issues. Neurologic signs may also persist or develop.
- Talk with your veterinarian to determine if you should test livestock for potential lead exposure.
- If you observe sudden changes in your livestock's appetite or behavior, contact your veterinarian immediately.

After Action Claims

If residents believe they sustained livestock health or property damage because of the lead azide detonation, they can file a claim with the U.S. Army by contacting the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 415 Custer Ave., Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2313, or by calling (913) 684-3564.

Additional questions or concerns about the U.S. Army's planned lead azide detonation should be directed to usarmy.ria.asc.list.pa@army.mil.