IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP

MIKE NAIG
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Updates Guidance for Livestock Producers Located Near Middletown

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) suggests livestock producers located within a 20-mile radius of Middletown, Iowa, take the following steps to reduce potential risks to their animals, feed and water sources before and after 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.
- Track and record all relevant expenses incurred in case you need to file a damage claim with the U.S. Army.

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 soil and forage 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 chronic lead poisoning. 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.
- Track and record all relevant expenses incurred in case you need to file a damage claim with the U.S. Army.

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 information about the State of Iowa's coordinated response is available on Homeland Security and Emergency Management's website.

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