



**Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD)
Tabletop Exercise (TTX)
Modesto, CA
June 13 & 14, 2011
ESF 11 After Action Report (AAR)**



INCIDENT SUMMARY

APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) developed and conducted a FMD TTX exercise on June 13th & 14th to review existing response plans and electronic reporting systems with local, state, and federal partners. Approximately 100 people participated in the exercise which was held at the Stanislaus County Department of Agriculture facility in Modesto, California.

The exercise “kick-off” was via webinar on June 13th and provided an overview of the scenario (FMD-like symptoms detected simultaneously in two counties in the Central Valley) to the Players, Evaluators, and Controllers. The TTX started at 1000PDT on 14JUNE11 with an update of events that transpired overnight and the formation of a Unified Command (UC) and a Multi Agency Coordination (MAC) group. A total of seven (7) counties (Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Kings, Fresno, Tulare, Kern) in California and one (1) county (Lyon) in Nevada were affected within 24 hours of the initial report. By the end of the exercise, approximately 100,000 head of cattle were impacted. Exercise play ended (ENDEX) at 1600PDT June 14th. A hotwash (review) for all participants was conducted immediately after the exercise.

LESSONS LEARNED

Successful Area:

- (1) Involvement of the CA Highway Patrol (CHP) for livestock movement control and the County Agriculture Commissioner for ingress/egress routes for livestock ranches and dairies.
- (2) The scenario was well-developed and plausible. The formation of Unified Command and Incident Command System (ICS) structures were successful, including the development of a Vaccination Plan and related products (e.g., Incident Action Plans and Situation Reports).
- (3) Questions were asked regarding the role of FEMA, the National Response Framework (NRF) and Emergency Support Function 11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) during the exercise. Key players with California Emergency Management Agency, CDFA, and USDA were confident there would be both state Emergency Function 11 (EF 11) and federal ESF 11 involvement due to the severity of the incident. It is assumed there would also be multiple inquiries from Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. It was suggested that the State and APHIS would look to their state and federal ESF 11 staff as a support and coordinating resource.
- (4) Testing to demonstrate that vaccine may not be the best option for a number of reasons; including, but not limited to:
 - A. Large livestock population (~3.2M head) in the counties contained within the exercise scenario. Eight (8) of the ten (10) largest dairies in the U.S. are located in the Central Valley.
 - B. Long wait (at least seven days) before first batch of vaccine would be available.

C. Insufficient doses (~300,000) of vaccine in the first delivery relative to the population density.

- (5) Assignment of USDA/CDFA personnel to practice ICS roles and receive “hands-on” field experience.
- (6) Testing of CDFA’s California Animal Health Emergency Management (CAHEM) Tool Kit and Veterinary Services Emergency Management Reporting System (EMRS) electronic database systems.

IMPROVEMENT AREAS:

- (1) Post print outs (poster size) of the Incident Objectives, Affected Area, etc. in each work area/room (Planning Section, Operations Section, MAC, etc.) to remind Players, Evaluators, Controllers, and Observers of the “big picture” during the exercise.
- (2) Recommend the development of a Livestock Evacuation Plan to include types of documents (permits, manifests, etc.) livestock haulers and carriers would use and recommended training law enforcement (local and State Highway Patrol) would need regarding what to look for and what to do (return to origin, specified holding area, etc.) when livestock are seized.
- (3) Organizational structure and function of the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group could be reviewed and clarified as a “tool” to consider in the ICS structure. A MAC is defined as a “resource support” function to the incident. Whether assembled in the field or at a State EOC, the local Unified Command (UC) is the lead for making operational decisions and requesting resources through the State’s Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).
- (4) All participants should be familiar (e.g., resource request process, who’s in charge, reporting requirements, etc.) with how the State manages incidents and coordinates resources with the SEMS.
- (5) Participation from FEMA was recommended to provide FEMA with necessary background on such an incident and facilitate discussion regarding their potential role.
- (6) The USDA State Emergency Board (SEB) was identified in the “Hot Wash” as a valuable entity, but the SEB was not mentioned during the exercise. Involvement of the USDA SEB members who represent various USDA response and recovery programs should be considered, as their local knowledge and close working relationship with the agricultural community is invaluable.