State of Iowa Agencies, Plans and Programs
For Animal Health Emergencies

What State agencies are involved in an animal disease emergency response?

In the event of an animal disease emergency, the lead State agency is the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). Directed by the State Veterinarian, the agency is responsible for animal health and disease control issues as well as determining actions and the scope of a response to an animal disease emergency, overseeing field operations and tracking animal movement.

Many other State agencies may provide support to IDALS in a response situation including:

- The Office of the Governor
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Department of Public Safety
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Iowa National Guard

What plans does the State of Iowa have in place for animal disease emergencies?

There is a State plan developed for the response to an animal disease emergency. The Iowa Emergency Response Plan, part of the Iowa Comprehensive Plan, is outlined in the Iowa Code, Section 605, Chapter 9. The plan describes the roles, responsibilities and actions needed for a variety of emergencies or disaster events. Annex W: Infectious Animal Disease of the Plan contains information on response to an animal disease emergency.

What response resources are available in the State of Iowa?

The State Veterinarian and six District Veterinarians are responsible for conducting investigations for high consequence animal diseases. These individuals are specially trained as Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) for this task.

IDALS, also houses the Center for Agriculture Security, which coordinates and trains the Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Team (IVRRT). This group of over 330 veterinary and animal health professionals is trained to respond and assist with an animal disease emergency in their community, county or in the state.

IDALS also coordinates the Iowa Premises Identification Program, as part of the USDA’s National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Locations involved in livestock commerce or the movement of animals or poultry should register with the State for a Premise Identification Number (PINs). A national animal identification program is also in development. These measures will help animal health authorities trace exposed and at-risk animals in the event an animal disease emergency.

For More Information

Iowa Code, Section 605, Chapter 9. www.legis.state.ia.us/Rules/Current/iac/605iac/6059/6059.pdf
The Center for Agriculture Security www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgSec/index.asp
Iowa Premises Identification Program www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry/premiseIdentificationProgram.asp