Just like there are agencies involved for disasters or other national emergencies, there are agencies at the state and federal level that work every day to prevent and are able to respond to animal health emergencies. Next we will discuss the State agencies involved in preventing and responding to animal disease emergencies, and the plans and programs that are in place for such an event.

In the event of an animal disease emergency, the lead agency involved is the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. There are several supporting agencies, those most commonly involved and are the Office of the Governor, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (resources) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (burial and environmental issues), Iowa Department of Public Health (human health issues).

The primary agency involved in the detection and response to an animal disease emergency in Iowa is the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). Directed by the State Veterinarian, Dr. David Schmitt, the agency is responsible for animal health and disease control issues as well as determining actions and the scope of the response, overseeing field operations, animal movement and tracking, and more. Working under the State Veterinarians are six District veterinarians. These individuals are all Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostics, or FADDs. This means that they have been specially trained to conduct investigations and collect samples for situations involving high consequence diseases, or foreign animal diseases (FAD). In Iowa, 25-50 suspected FAD are investigated each year. The Center for Agriculture Security is also part of IDALS. The Center trains and coordinates the Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Team (IVRRT). This cadre of over 330 veterinary and animal health professionals is trained and ready to respond to an animal disease emergency in their community, county or in the state. These individuals are activated and directed by the State Veterinarian and the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture to assist in surveillance, euthanasia, diagnostics, premise cleaning and disinfection operations. They can also assist counties with animal sheltering issues during other types of disasters.

This map shows the areas covered by the six District veterinarians for the state of Iowa. All of these veterinarians are FADDs. They run surveillance and prevention programs in the state for diseases such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, pseudorabies, and avian influenza.
Additional State Agencies Involved

- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)
  - Resource management
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
  - Animal disposal issues
  - Livestock burial maps
- Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)
  - Human health issues
  - State Public Health Veterinarian
  - Dr. Ann Garvey

Other state agencies may be involved in an animal disease emergency response and provide assistance and/or resources to IDALS. The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) would manage the needed resources for the emergency. In the event of depopulation on a farm(s), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would assist in animal disposal and environmental issues. An online livestock burial map database to determine safe and secure locations for burial of carcasses has been developed by the DNR. We will talk about this a bit later in the presentation. Some FADs can affect human health, including personnel on the farm. In these instances, the Iowa Department of Public Health would also be involved in an animal disease emergency. They may also be involved in assisting and addressing the mental health issues that could occur during or after an emergency response.

Additional Supporting Agencies

- Iowa Department of Public Safety
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Iowa National Guard
- Iowa State University Extension
- Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Additional State agencies may be involved depending on the degree and nature of the animal disease emergency. These include the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa National Guard. Additionally, support may come from Iowa State University Extension Service and Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Iowa Homeland Security Regions and Coordinators

During an animal disease emergency, members from these agencies would gather at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to work together in guiding the needed response to the event.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

Iowa Emergency Response Plan

- The State plan outlines who is responsible for what and when
  - Each state agency is assigned responsibilities
  - Each agency determines how to meet their responsibilities
- Iowa Comprehensive Plan
  - Iowa Emergency Response Plan
  - Annex W: Infectious Animal Disease
  - Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - Iowa Disaster Recovery Plan
  - Iowa Critical Asset Protection Plan

There is a State plan developed for the occurrence of an animal disease emergency. It describes the roles, responsibilities and actions needed for a variety of emergencies or disaster events. The Iowa Emergency Response Plan is part of the Iowa Comprehensive Plan, outlined in the Iowa Code, Section 605, Chapter 9 and Essential Support Function #11: The Agriculture and Natural Resources Plan, and Annex W: Infectious Animal Disease addresses the specifics for an animal disease emergency.
This shows the various Annexes of the State Emergency Response Plan. Annex W addresses issues with animal disease emergencies.

Annex W addresses Iowa’s ability to respond and eliminate infectious animal diseases which are a threat to the agriculture industry of the state. It is designed to provide the Governor, the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, and other key state government decision-makers with a prudent and well-reasoned course of action aimed at controlling and eradicating a serious infectious animal disease outbreak. This function is not activated for all animal disease outbreaks that occur in Iowa or that otherwise pose a threat to Iowa. Many such outbreaks are handled routinely by private practice veterinarians and/or the veterinarians employed by the State Veterinarian.

Annex W also addresses the significant functional interdependencies of the various State agencies, such as direction, control and coordination, law enforcement, logistics, public information, public works and engineering, resource management, human services and in the event of an intentional event, terrorism incident response.

The authorities for the response and control of animal disease situations and emergencies are listed in the Iowa Code, Chapter 163.

The Iowa Code, Section 163, grants IDALs broad powers to “control an infectious disease affecting animals within the state”. Actions needed may include control and eradication of animal disease, quarantine of diseased animals or premises, regulation or prohibition of animal movement in, out and within the state, entry to any premises where animals/carcasses are or have been in the past, condemnation and depopulation of animals and/or disinfection of farm operations. Iowa Code Chapter 163: Infectious and Contagious Diseases Among Animals at http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IACODE/2001/V.html.
If a major animal disease is reported in Iowa, movement restrictions could be put in place to minimize spread until more information is known. The State Veterinarian, under the authority of the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, may implement embargos, voluntary hold orders, or quarantines, depending on the needed response. Animals or their products may not be allowed to go to market or for further processing. People movement may also be limited initially until more is known about the disease and how it is spread. The only ones allowed on/off operations could be essential personnel or state authorities. Deliveries may be halted as well depending on the disease concern and how rapidly it can spread.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). This national program is being developed to identify animals and track them as they move from one location to another. The database created will allow a rapid traceback in the event of a disease of concern. When fully operational, the NAIS will be capable of tracking an animal or group of animals back to the original premises within 48 hours. The first step in the process is to identify and register premises that house animals. Premise Identification Numbers (PINs) are necessary for any location involved in livestock commerce or the movement of animals or poultry. Allied agricultural operations and non-producer participants can also be assigned PINs. The PIN process begins with the completion of a Premises Identification Number Application.

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