

FAD Are We Ready?

Bill Mies
July 9, 2006

Today

- We live in a more dangerous era
- U.S. Agriculture is more vulnerable
- The economy is more vulnerable
- Terrorists are looking for ways to:
 - Cripple the American economy
 - Install fear
 - Cause a loss of confidence in U.S. food safety

Foot and Mouth Disease

- Most contagious animal virus
- One virus inhaled, ten ingested = infection
- 10 – 20 % mortality, up to 95 % morbidity
- Susceptible = cloven hoofed (cattle, swine, sheep, goats, deer, NOT humans)

Ramifications of an FMD Outbreak

- Routine Foreign Animal Investigation in Holton, KS- word leaks out – cattle futures, live prices, grain prices, stocks plummet
- Real outbreak costs = untold billions
- Recent exercise = 20 states affected = at day 30 = >700,000 personnel needed



Foreign Animal Disease

- Where can it come from?
 - Accidental introduction
 - Soil borne from people or equipment that have been in contact on sites of FAD.
 - Humans can be carriers in nasal secretions for a number of hours.
 - Wild life that become infected and pass it to domestic animals.
 - Airborne contamination

Foreign Animal Disease

- Where can it come from?
 - Intentional introduction
 - Terrorists who wish to strike at the economics of the U.S.
 - Employees who wish to retaliate against management.
 - Mentally unbalanced individuals

Foreign Animal Disease

- What is biosecurity and how do I protect myself?
 - Biosecurity is strengthening the resistance of your livestock operation to contamination with a FAD either by accidental or intentional means.
 - Biosecurity of livestock operations runs counter to the open door policy traditionally practiced by U.S. producers.

Biosecurity

- The security term for implementing biosecurity measures is "hardening" the production unit.
- The first change that must be made is to control access to the livestock operation. You must know who is on your site and who was on your site in the past.
 - **Logging in visitors is a first step in access control.**



Biosecurity

- Logging in visitors can prevent you from being caught up in quarantine situation if you can prove who has or has not been on your operation.
- The log book should ask for a contact number or address from each person.
- Positioning it as a guest book takes some of the sting out of requiring everyone to sign in.

Biosecurity

- Controlling access also means physical access. How many roads lead into your livestock operation?
- Restricting access may mean limiting traffic to only essential entrances that can be monitored by either human or remote observation.
- Driveway warning bells can be useful to monitor traffic in small operations.

Biosecurity

- Conversations with visitors may raise warning flags.
- Foreign visitors are always considered a risk if they have a FAD that is endemic to their country.
- Tourists who have been in foreign countries lately should also be considered high risk.

Biosecurity

- Fencing to restrict the movement of wild animals from ranch to ranch is a good way to improve biosecurity.
- Feral hogs are a problem in many parts of the country and fencing might slow them down but eradication is the only real biosecurity step that is meaningful.

Biosecurity

- Wild bird contamination is a concern in FADs like Avian Influenza.
- Livestock producers need to be aware of the bird populations that touch their premises so that if it becomes necessary to isolate certain operations, they know which species are local and which are transitory.

Biosecurity

- Most livestock producers do not wish to create prison compounds around their operations.
- However posting signs that indicate visitors are restricted and must sign in are effective deterrents.
- Signs that indicate that the premise is under a 24 hour watch are also effective.

Biosecurity

- While no system will defeat the committed terrorist or mentally unstable individual, they will tend to select sites that appear to be soft targets and unguarded.
- Regardless of their ideological zeal, most would rather not get caught. If they can escape detection, it gives the FAD a longer incubation period and better chance to spread.

Biosecurity

- What can I do?
 - Watch---Your facilities and your neighbors.
 - Notify both local law enforcement and the FBI if you think you have witnessed an attempt to introduce a biological weapon on a livestock premises.
 - Don't be afraid to be wrong. False alarms are good practice and act as a deterrent to anyone planning a deliberate introduction.

Biosecurity

- Helping protect your neighbors is not being nosy, it is being a good citizen.
- Have a call list of first responders near your phone so you can find it when you need it.
- Your state veterinarian and state animal health authority should be part of the list.

Biosecurity

- Summary
 - We need to "harden" our livestock operations in order to protect ourselves from the introduction of a FAD.
 - Restricting access and recording visitors can help.
 - Good fences are a powerful tool.
 - Posting signs and installing visitor warning devices can be affective.

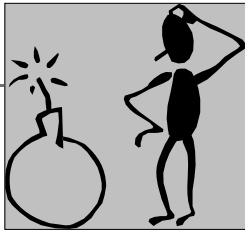
Biosecurity

- Summary
 - Have a list of appropriate officials next to your phone. Your state office of Emergency Preparedness can provide these to you.
 - Above all---Be alert---watch for unknown people or activities out of the ordinary.
 - Don't be afraid to let someone know what you saw.

Biosecurity

- Summary

- The most vulnerable operation is the one where the owner thinks that this could never happen to him.



**WILL YOU BE THE ONE WHO
WAS NOT PREPARED?**
