

Idaho Emergency Operations Plan

Idaho Animal Health Emergency Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purposes of the Animal Health Emergency Management Plan (AHEMP) are:

To protect the public health and animal population of Idaho

To respond quickly to a highly contagious, infectious disease, or a natural or man-made disaster that can cause significant morbidity or mortality to animals, possibly impacting public health and safety or causing significant economic loss to Idaho citizens

SCOPE

Idaho's AHEMP provides planning and operational guidelines to state and federal animal health officials, licensed veterinarians, and allied agencies and industries for prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from the incursion of an animal disease or agent that could cause significant morbidity or mortality to Idaho livestock, other animals or the general public, or significant economic losses to Idaho's citizens. The plan could also be activated as part of a state response to natural or technological disasters involving animals.

The AHEMP identifies roles and responsibilities of state and federal agencies, local government, organizations, and industries in the event of an animal disease threat or outbreak, whether intentional or unintentional, that exceeds the capabilities of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to respond and recover from the event. The plan also identifies legal authorities and possible fiscal resources.

SITUATION

An animal health emergency would occur when a highly contagious, infectious, or economically devastating animal disease or agent is identified in Idaho, other states (especially an adjacent state), or a country adjacent to the United States (especially the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta). A new, "emerging disease" might also cause an emergency situation. Animal diseases categorized as "Foreign Animal Diseases" have either never existed in, or have been eradicated from the United States. Sources of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) include, but are not limited to, live animals, insects, animal products, people, or contaminated inanimate objects. The introduction of a FAD could be accidental or intentional (bioterrorism or agri-terrorism).

An emergency may also occur when a natural or man-made disaster causes mass animal destruction, necessitates large numbers of animal rescue and sheltering, or could cause transmission of animal disease to people. Any disease, agent, or disaster event necessitating a large number of animals be managed and treated or destroyed and disposed of would overwhelm the capabilities and resources of ISDA.

Any factor causing a substantial impact on the safety and stability of the food supply from animal sources may be categorized as an animal health emergency.

ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Agencies, organizations, and individuals identified in the plan are familiar with it, and will execute their assigned responsibilities, including the timely reporting of disease.
- B. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) is the coordinator for assistance to local jurisdictions by state and federal agencies in case of a disaster or animal health emergency.
- C. ISDA will utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage the response to a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) or other highly contagious disease threat or outbreak within the state.
- D. The Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA, APHIS, VS) will have a cooperative role to assist the State Veterinarian as appropriate in case of any animal health emergency.
- E. Identification of a FAD in Idaho, the United States or surrounding countries will significantly restrict the intrastate, interstate, and international movement of animals (especially livestock) and animal products.
- F. Utilities, water, roads, and veterinary medical supplies may be inaccessible after a disaster or in the event of a quarantine.
- G. Incursion of certain highly contagious diseases, such as FMD, will necessitate mass carcass removal and disposal.
- H. Animal carcasses and unused animal feed may create sanitation, pest, and vector control problems.
- I. Livestock disease emergencies may lead to long term economic impacts requiring long term federal and state assistance programs for recovery.
- J. Owners losing animals in a disaster or persons responsible for euthanasia and disposal of animals may require psychological counseling.
- K. In a multi-state outbreak of a highly contagious disease like FMD, USDA, APHIS will coordinate the national response and work with states as outlined in the *National Animal Health Emergency Response Plan For An Outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth-Disease or Other Highly Contagious Animal Diseases (NAHERP)*, draft 9/19/02.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

GENERAL

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Division of Animal Industries (Office of the State Veterinarian) is the lead agency in any animal health emergency. ISDA will notify the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) in the event that a highly contagious disease (HCD) may be present or if there exists an imminent threat of a HCD entering Idaho. The ISDA will communicate with its peer organizations in the USDA for assessment of the situation, and coordinate with Idaho BHS on responses to these assessments and activation of the plan. In case of a natural disaster involving animals, Idaho BHS will request the ISDA participate in the response to rescue and recover animals. If a state animal health emergency response and recovery operation is required, Idaho BHS will notify the appropriate agencies and organizations listed in this plan.

ORGANIZATION

The State Veterinarian, in consultation with the AVIC, will direct all animal disease investigation, surveillance, diagnostic, biosecurity, and animal depopulation and disposal activities. Primary and support agencies will coordinate through the State Veterinarian and Idaho BHS. In the event of activation of the plan, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) will be implemented. A Joint Incident Command will likely be instituted at the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and an Incident Command Team will be established at the outbreak area(s) to ensure the most effective response and use of personnel and equipment. See Appendix A for the Idaho AHEMP Incident Command Organization Chart.

RESPONSE LEVELS

The AHEMP utilizes emergency response levels (ERLs) to designate which activities will take place in the event of imminent or actual hazards affecting the State of Idaho. The state veterinarian will, on a continuing basis, assimilate information relative to the presence of diseases in other countries, the United States, and Idaho, and shall activate an ERL as appropriate to address the threat. A level of preparedness will be maintained during the interim.

- A. **Emergency Response Level 1 (ERL 1)** – an emergency disease or an emerging threat has been identified in the United States, or contiguous countries, but has not been identified in Idaho or a contiguous state. ERL 1 activities will continue until the threat has been removed from the United States or until the threat has escalated to a threshold requiring greater response. In the event of an ERL 1, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture’s Office of the State Veterinarian will:
1. Notify the director of ISDA, the Office of the Governor and the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) that an emergency disease is present in the United States

2. Notify industry groups and animal agriculture businesses of the presence of an emergency disease in the U.S. and request their support to keep infected and exposed animals out of the state
3. Identify operational support needs and coordinate with Idaho BHS to provide operational and logistical support
4. As appropriate, impose animal movement restrictions by emergency order
5. Mobilize state and federal animal health emergency response team
6. Implement public information plan

ERL 1 level of response will continue until the threat has been eliminated or until ERL 2 is required.

- B. Emergency Response Level 2 (ERL 2)** – an emergency disease or a new emerging disease has been confirmed, or a highly-likely case has been discovered in Idaho or a contiguous state, or exposed animals have been imported into the state.

In the event of an ERL 2, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Office of the State Veterinarian will:

1. Accomplish objectives listed for ERL 1
2. State and federal animal health officials will notify the USDA, VS, Emergency Program Staff and request activation of the Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organization (READEO)
3. As appropriate, declare an animal disease emergency
4. Coordinate with Idaho BHS, a request for an emergency proclamation by the Governor

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industries (Office of the State Veterinarian) will:**
1. Assign the emergency response level to the incident
 2. In consultation with the AVIC, determine the scope and level of initial response
 3. In consultation with the AVIC, determine the location and size of quarantine areas
 4. Establish Quarantine Area
 5. In consultation with the AVIC, strategically assign duties and areas of responsibility to state and federal veterinarians, livestock inspectors, animal health technicians, and reserve corps veterinarians
 6. Determine appropriate movement restrictions for animals, people, equipment, feeds, commodities, and conveyances

7. Notify Idaho BHS when a livestock disease sample being sent to Plum Island for analysis is highly likely to be a highly contagious or infectious disease or agent
8. Assist Idaho BHS, USDA, Military Division, Idaho Transportation Department, and other state agencies as needed in cooperating in the location of a staging area(s) outside of the quarantined area
9. Conduct livestock disease assessments at the site of the event to determine needs and priorities
10. Coordinate state-level livestock disease emergency response and recovery
11. Prioritize activities and areas of greatest urgency for state response and recovery personnel in the field
12. Coordinate with federal USDA, APHIS, VS, Emergency Programs Staff and provide liaison between federal, state and local organizations when required
13. Direct disease investigations, epidemiological investigations and trace outs to determine source of disease and scope of disease outbreak
14. Identify contaminated feed, livestock, and agricultural products that must be destroyed and disposed of or decontaminated
15. Coordinate with appropriate organizations for the deployment of inspectors and veterinarians for agricultural response and recovery
16. Establish and/or coordinate appropriate regulatory controls
17. Provide advisories and related public information
18. Issue quarantine orders as needed
19. Coordinate with Idaho State Police (ISP), county and local law enforcement for site security and related issues
20. Maintain ongoing animal agriculture surveillance of affected communities in order to rapidly identify and address disease-related problems

B. Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security:

1. Support ISDA by providing statewide coordination for logistical support, security, biosecurity, support personnel, procurement of supplies, equipment, vehicles, food, lodging, and administrative support during livestock disease response and recovery emergencies
2. Coordinate public information and rumor control efforts throughout the emergency
3. Coordinate with ISDA for the provision of biosecurity training to support agencies and provide biosecurity training to agency personnel designated for operations in the affected area

C. National Guard may be called upon for support in the following areas:

1. Assist ISP with law enforcement

2. Assist with the decontamination of personnel working at the site based upon ISDA and USDA guidance

D. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG):

1. Provide legal advice to state and county organizations concerning livestock disease issues including animal movement restrictions, quarantine orders, livestock euthanasia and disposal, indemnification, and human resource issues
2. Provide a team of personnel to address legal challenges as needed
3. Address and coordinate legal issues with the Office of the Governor (OG) and USDA

E. Idaho Department of Administration (DOA):

1. Assist in the identification of resource providers and in purchasing of supplies, equipment and services needed during a state-level livestock disease emergency

F. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW):

1. Coordinate with ISDA if a zoonotic condition exists
2. Support public information and rumor control efforts
3. Support biosecurity training for personnel at the site based upon training provided by ISDA / USDA
4. Provide veterinary and epidemiologic support to ISDA as requested during the emergency
5. Assist ISDA and DAS in obtaining biosecurity supplies when requested

G. Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG):

1. Provide disease surveillance in free-ranging wildlife and wildlife in zoos, parks, and other natural areas
2. Survey for and/or dispose of contaminated items and wild animals
3. Conduct wild animal inventories in the area of a disease event to identify susceptible species
4. In collaboration with the State Veterinarian, collect animals, specimens, and samples for disease testing to determine presence of disease or impact of disease on wildlife
5. In consultation and cooperation with the State Veterinarian, conduct disease control and elimination activities in wildlife
6. Support public information and rumor control efforts throughout the emergency

7. Provide biosecurity training to personnel designated for operations in the affected area based upon training provided by ISDA and USDA
8. Support animal movement restrictions in Idaho throughout the emergency
9. Assist ISDA with law enforcement support as requested
10. Assist with euthanasia procedures for infected livestock or wild animals
11. Assist with the disposal of infected livestock or wild animals

H. Idaho State Police (ISP):

1. Provide law enforcement support to conduct traffic checkpoints and roadblocks, and, secure quarantined areas and related sites during livestock disease emergencies
2. Coordinate with local law enforcement throughout response and recovery
3. Provide law enforcement support as requested

I. Idaho Brand Department (BD):

1. Provide law enforcement support
2. Serve as members of the Appraisal teams to verify ownership of indemnified animals
3. Support animal movement restrictions in Idaho throughout the emergency

J. Idaho Transportation Department (ITD):

1. Assist in the movement of state resources during livestock disease emergencies
2. Provide traffic control and routing assistance, barricades, and road monitoring
3. Provide equipment and operators to assist with animal disposal

K. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):

1. Identify and approve animal burial sites
2. Identify and approve sites for burning animal carcasses, contaminated feed, or other items that are contaminated
3. Identify and approve temporary waste disposal sites for effluent from cleaning and disinfecting stations
4. Liaison with Environmental Protection Agency to address issues that may arise

L. Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR):

1. Identify and approve animal burial sites

2. Identify and approve temporary waste disposal sites for effluent from cleaning and disinfecting stations
- M. The Idaho Livestock Industry Groups (Appendix B) will, upon request from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture:
1. Act as liaison on matters relating to livestock industries affected by an animal disease outbreak
 2. Provide assistance to families affected by quarantine, euthanasia, and disposal activities during the emergency
 3. Provide support for disease control and eradication activities
 4. Provide appropriate information for dissemination to industries and the public
 5. Identify individuals who may be qualified to assist with disease control efforts
 6. Develop a list of qualified appraisers
- N. Idaho Agricultural Research and Development Center will provide support throughout the emergency as requested by ISDA
- O. The University of Idaho, Caine Veterinary Teaching Center will provide veterinary support throughout the emergency as requested by ISDA
- P. The USDA, State Emergency Board (SEB), Farm Services Agency (FSA) will maintain liaison and coordination with state government agency officials on emergency programs
- Q. The University of Idaho, Cooperative Extension Service will provide reliable coordination, communication, and information dissemination between the Idaho EOC, the local Emergency Medical Offices (EMO's), and the communities during emergencies
- R. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organizations (READEOs) will follow the responsibilities for livestock disease response and recovery as addressed in their internal plans and procedures:
1. National Animal Health Emergency Response Plan for An Outbreak of Foot-And-Mouth-Disease or Other Highly Contagious Animal Diseases (NAHERP), draft September 19, 2002
 2. The READEO Manual

AUTHORITIES

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture, in accordance with Sections 22-103, 25-204, 25-210 and 25-212, Idaho Code, has the authority to:

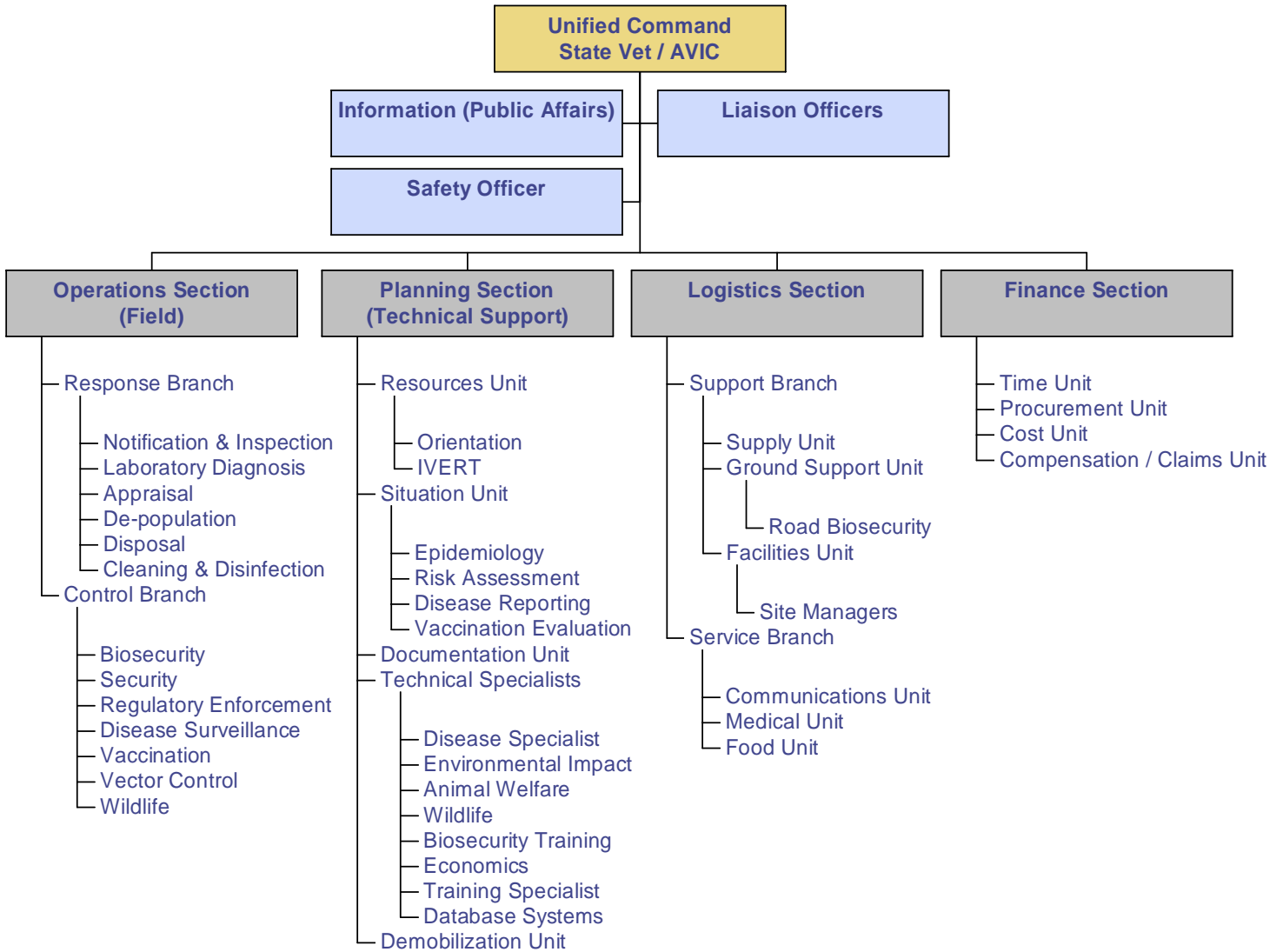
- A. Declare an animal health emergency
- B. Employ deputy state veterinarians and livestock inspectors
- C. Impose restrictions on importations of animals, articles, and means of conveyance
- D. Quarantine animals, herds, parts of the state, the entire state, and create quarantine areas
- E. Stop the movement of animals
- F. Require the destruction of animals, animal products, and materials
- G. Specify the method for destruction and disposal of animals, products and materials
- H. Indemnify owners for animals destroyed. State funds are obtained through the Board of Examiners
- I. Reimburse owners for direct costs incurred in disposal of diseased animals
- J. Request funds from the Board of Examiners for:
 - 1. Costs associated with disease investigation and control
 - 2. Costs of indemnity for animals destroyed
 - 3. Costs of destruction and disposal of animals

The Office of the Governor, in accordance with Section 46-1008 and 46-1011, Idaho Code, has the authority to:

- A. Declare a state of emergency
- B. Direct activation of the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- C. Make state funds available
- D. Request the declaration of emergency or extraordinary emergency by the United States Secretary of Agriculture
- E. Request a declaration of emergency by the President

APPENDIX A

Idaho Animal Health Emergency Management Incident Command Organization Chart



APPENDIX B: IDAHO LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY GROUPS

Idaho Association of County Agricultural Agents (IACAA)
Idaho Cattlemen's Association (ICA)
Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA)
Idaho Elk Breeders Association
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Livestock Auction Market Association
Idaho Pork Producers Association (IPPA)
Idaho Poultry Association
Idaho Sheep Commission
Idaho State Grange
Idaho Venison Council
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA)
Idaho Wheat Growers Association
Idaho Woolgrowers Association (IWGA)
Milk Producers of Idaho (MPI)
United Dairyman of Idaho (UDI)
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service