

# OPERATING PLAN

For

## Foreign Animal Disease

A *Glossary* of boldfaced terms used in this Operating Plan can be found on [Page 16](#).

**1. Implement the necessary plans and federal procedures, in coordination with other state agencies, to effectively prevent, detect, contain, and eradicate the disease among susceptible domestic and wildlife animals.**

The primary contact in the Division of Animal and Food Industry Services (DAFIS) for a suspected or confirmed **Foreign Animal Disease (FAD)** in the Commonwealth of Virginia will be the State Veterinarian, or his designee.

In the event of a potential FAD in the Commonwealth, all personnel in DAFIS will adhere to the procedures as established and outlined in the *Standard Operating Procedure: Animal Health Emergency Initial Response* published by the State Veterinarian's Office, and the appropriate National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) Guidelines, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS).

VDACS personnel will also follow guidelines as outlined in the Commonwealth of Virginia's, *Emergency Action Plan for Foreign Animal Disease* (when published), prepared and distributed in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). (Tab 1)

A *Flow Chart of Events* can be found at [Appendix A](#) of this Plan. As noted on the chart, the State Veterinarian will receive a report of a potential FAD either directly from a producer, private veterinarian, slaughter plant inspector, livestock market operator, individual, etc. or through VDACS regional personnel. In turn, the State Veterinarian will contact the USDA, APHIS, VS, Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC), and a **Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD)** will be dispatched to initiate an epidemiological investigation, and collect and submit the appropriate samples to either the USDA's Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) at Plum Island, New York or the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), Ames, Iowa.

If, in the opinion of the FADD handling the case, the investigation is classified as "unlikely" or "possible", the FADD will so notify the AVIC and the State Veterinarian. The investigation will continue and appropriate samples will be taken and submitted for laboratory testing. Instructions will be provided to the premises owner on recommended disinfection procedures and restrictions on the movement of animals, personnel, and supplies until receipt of laboratory results, usually within 48 hours. A formal quarantine of the premises may be written depending upon the situation and the preliminary results of the investigation.

Upon receipt of negative laboratory results, the State Veterinarian and AVIC will close the case. The State Veterinarian will also notify the Commissioner/Deputy Commissioner of VDACS of the case disposition.

If, in the opinion of the FADD handling the case, the investigation is classified as "highly likely", the FADD will notify the State Veterinarian and AVIC. The premises will be

immediately quarantined, and the area within a six-mile radius will be designated as the **Infected Zone**. The State Veterinarian will, in turn, notify the:

- a. Commissioner/Deputy Commissioner of VDACS, who will notify the Secretary of Commerce and Trade (SCT), Office of Communication and Promotions (OCP), and Strategic Management Team (SMT) members;
- b. State or Deputy Coordinator, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM);
- c. State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF);
- d. State Public Health Veterinarian, especially if the disease has zoonotic potential; and
- e. Constituents potentially impacted by the developing situation.

**NOTE: The State Veterinarian will consult and coordinate with the Commissioner on any decision to issue a statewide or general quarantine, to include issues of animal movement.**

Upon receipt of laboratory confirmation of positive results for a FAD, especially one that is highly contagious, the State Veterinarian will immediately notify the:

- a. Commissioner/Deputy Commissioner of VDACS who will notify the SCT, OCP, and SMT;
- b. State or Deputy Coordinator, VDEM with the request to activate the Commonwealth's Emergency Action Plan;
- c. State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer, VDGIF;
- d. State Public Health Veterinarian; and
- e. All other State Veterinarians.

**NOTE: Because the presence of a FAD in the US will have an impact on national livestock markets and international trade, the first confirmed case will be announced by USDA.**

**2. Develop and disseminate public information guidance designed to educate the public and the agricultural and wildlife sector on the nature and characteristics of the disease, how to prevent its spread, and who to contact in the event animals exhibit symptoms.**

The Office of Communication and Promotions (OCP) will provide the media and the public with accurate and timely information about the FAD as it affects Virginia citizens and commerce in order to help prevent its introduction or spread; or to help eradicate it. Responsible personnel will include the Director, OCP, the Media Coordinator, the Public Relations Coordinator, the Web Manager, and the Web Assistant.

The following procedures for the OCP reflect the levels of activity and involvement dictated by four possible stages of a FAD as it impacts the Commonwealth. The goal at every level is to provide accurate information on a timely basis. The four stages and the communication focus for each is indicated below.

The threat of a FAD in Virginia or elsewhere in the United States:

The main focus of the OCP will be to educate the public and the agriculture community about the disease and its symptoms, how to prevent its introduction and spread, what to do if symptoms appear; and what state and federal officials are doing to keep it out of Virginia and the U.S. This will be accomplished by creating and distributing brochures, fliers, news releases, and media advisories; responding to media inquiries; updating the VDACS Web site; and assisting with design and production of signs, exhibits, and collateral materials for informational displays.

The OCP will develop and disseminate public information guidance designed to educate the public and the agricultural and wildlife sector on the nature and characteristics of the disease, how to prevent its spread and whom to contact in the event animals exhibit symptoms. The *Office of Communication and Promotions Contact Chart* at [Appendix B](#) provides detailed information on the areas of responsibility and the position(s) responsible for anticipated actions.

FAD suspected in Virginia or other state:

It will be imperative to maintain public calm by quickly disseminating accurate information about any suspected FAD in Virginia or any other state. OCP staff will accomplish this objective through activities in support of, and in coordination with, the Joint Information Center (JIC), once established. They will strive to anticipate possible effects, and suggested responses, while at the same time continuing the initial education efforts about the disease and its prevention. Again, this will be accomplished by creating and distributing brochures, fliers, news releases, and media advisories; responding to media inquiries; updating the VDACS Web site; and working to organize one or more press conferences as an effective, efficient and speedy way to get the same message to many reporters at the same time and allow them the opportunity to ask questions.

As rapidly and accurately as possible, the OCP will provide information to the media and to the public, and respond to the increased volume of media inquiries through the Commissioner as the designated spokesperson.

If a FAD is suspected in Virginia or another state, the media will want to know, among other things, has the diagnosis been confirmed, when will test results be confirmed, what will it mean if the results are positive, where did animal(s) originate, what were the symptoms, what precautions are being taken at the site until the results are returned, and Virginia's involvement. [Appendix B](#) provides information on the area of responsibility and the position(s) responsible for anticipated actions.

FAD confirmed in a state other than Virginia:

The effect on Virginia will be influenced by the Commonwealth's proximity to and connection with the affected state. The focus remains the same as if the case were suspected in Virginia; however, because of the intensity and gravity of the situation, there will certainly be a significant increase in public and media interest, with a consequent increase in the need to keep current information flowing. The time frame for this stage could be very lengthy. The previously mentioned OCP activities will continue.

As rapidly and accurately as possible, the OCP will provide information to the media and to the public – especially the agricultural sector – about the disease, its prevention, symptoms and consequences. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of appropriate biosecurity measures and contacting state or federal officials if animals show signs of the disease. Staff assignments in the event of a confirmed case of a FAD in another state will be handled as shown at [Appendix B](#).

FAD confirmed in Virginia:

If a FAD is confirmed in Virginia, OCP's main purpose will be to provide correct information to the public and the media as quickly as possible, gain and maintain public trust and confidence, gather information about the disease and its effects on the impacted areas, and assist the news media. OCP will accomplish this objective through activities in support of, and in coordination with, the established Joint Information Center (JIC). They will use news releases, press conferences, news briefings, updated information on VDACS' website and educational materials to reinforce best practices, especially those involving biosecurity, for the agriculture industry and provide information to the public including additional precautions, continuing tourism opportunities, and other messages. The Commissioner would continue to be the spokesperson for the agency.

Staff assignments in the event of a confirmed case of a FAD in Virginia will be handled as shown at [Appendix B](#).

**3. Implement the necessary procedures, protocols, and capabilities to assess the extent of disease through sampling of susceptible domestic and wildlife animals once an outbreak is reported.**

The USDA, APHIS, VS personnel assigned to Virginia, and **certain** VDACS-DAFIS personnel shown at Tab 2, have received the required training at the USDA, FADDL in Plum Island, New York, and may be contacted for epidemiological investigations associated with a FAD.

**Comment [JFO1]:** Page: 4  
I don't see where we have distinguished these individuals from other veterinarians listed. Tab 9 information needs to be updated.

The memorandum entitled, *Procedures for Investigating a Suspected Foreign Animal Disease/Emerging Disease Incident (FAD)*, Veterinary Services Memorandum 580.4, May 9, 2001 is included at Tab 3. It outlines initial sampling procedures for the investigation conducted by the FADD.

Additional guidance on sampling protocols in the established Infected Zone and **Buffer-Surveillance Zone** is contained in the NAHEMS Guidelines, *Quarantine and Movement Control: Highly Contagious Diseases*, USDA, APHIS, VS.

The State Veterinarian, under the provision of the Code of Virginia, §3.1-723, may deputize Virginia-licensed veterinarians to perform the duties of an assistant veterinarian employed by the Commissioner of VDACS (Tab 4, Sheet 1).

See Tab 5 for mobilization and demobilization procedures for the Virginia Veterinary Reserve Corps.

**4. Coordinate the epidemiological investigations that will determine the possible cause and potential scope of the FAD outbreak.**

See the *Flow Chart of Events* at [Appendix A](#) of this plan.

The State Veterinarian and all assigned DAFIS personnel will follow the procedures and protocols as established in Veterinary Services Memorandum No. 580.4, *Procedures for Investigating a Suspected Foreign Animal Disease/Emerging Disease Incident (FAD)*. These procedures specify the methods to be used to assess and sample affected domestic animals, and report findings during an outbreak of a FAD.

**5. Implement the necessary protective measures (e.g., quarantine) to contain the disease.**

In the event an FAD investigation is classified as "possible" or "highly likely", the State Veterinarian or his designee will issue a *Notice of Quarantine*, VDACS-03021 (3-01) for the affected premises (Tab 4, Sheet 2). This form will be distributed as follows: Original – To Owner/Representative of animals; Duplicate – To issuing official. This quarantine will restrict the movement of personnel and animals on the stated premises or area as specified in the quarantine order.

In the event of a **Presumptive or Confirmed Positive Case** of disease, the State Veterinarian may, after consultation and coordination with the Commissioner, issue a **General Quarantine Order** (Tab 4, Sheet 3). The extent of such quarantine will be made on a case-by-case basis unless mandated by the USDA.

The Commissioner, VDACS, will designate a Site Manager for each **Infected Premises**. The Site Manager will be responsible for coordinating and ensuring the following events have occurred since the FAD was diagnosed on the farm:

- a. Appropriate and effective biosecurity measures are implemented and maintained.
- b. Livestock, poultry, and property appraisals conducted prior to disposal.
- c. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) recommendations and permits for disposal have been acquired for on-site burial, burning or composting.
- d. Humane slaughter of animals is conducted in accordance with approved protocols.
- e. Disposal is conducted in accordance with c. above.
- f. Cleaning and disinfection of infected farm/premises conducted according to authorized protocol.

**Comment [FO2]:** Recommend we remove this concept from our plan. I don't think it is feasible to assign an individual to each infected site. We will have someone managing these responsibilities at the Incident Command Post.

For livestock or poultry that must be moved within the Control Area, the USDA's VS Form 1-27, included at Tab 4, Sheet 4, will be used. This form/permit identifies restricted animals moved for quarantine/slaughter purposes. The information included on this form will identify disease infected/exposed animals that are moved to specific locations in order to control and prevent the spread of the disease in accordance with 9 CFR, Parts 71 through 85 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

For those animals that must be destroyed, the State Veterinarian or his designee will execute a *Destruction and Disposal Order* (Form VDACS-03025, Tab 4, Sheet 5). This form will also be distributed as follows: Original – To Owner/Representative of animals; Duplicate – To issuing official.

Personnel in the VDACS-DAFIS central and regional offices will maintain, to the extent possible, a listing of agricultural events scheduled throughout the Commonwealth (Tab 6). This list will include, but not be limited to, fairs, shows, livestock market activities, special sales, and rodeos. In the event of a confirmed case of a FAD, an Event/Activity suspension letter will be sent to the organizers of these events informing them of the extent of the cancellation and restrictions on all livestock movement and activity within the state.

**Comment [JFO3]:** Page: 6  
I wonder if this should be a central database that could be managed by multiple users. For instance, them a mail merge document (suspension letter) could be prepared for a mass mailing.

**Comment [JFO4]:** Page: 6  
The listing template needs revision.

**Comment [JFO5]:** Page: 6  
A form letter needs to be developed for this. Ideally, it will be a mail merge document utilizing the database mentioned above.

**6. Conduct surveillance calls to all public livestock facilities within the Buffer-Surveillance Zone until it is determined by laboratory results that it is/is not a FAD outbreak.**

Pending receipt of laboratory results confirming a case of FAD, assigned VDACS-DAFIS field personnel will be observant for signs of the particular FAD at livestock markets, sales, and events within the established Buffer-Surveillance Zone. Suspicious cases will be traced to farms of origin and contacts observed and tested, as indicated.

Efforts will be undertaken to increase the awareness of producers and animal health professionals within the Buffer-Surveillance Zone for active case finding.

Personnel assigned to the USDA, APHIS, VS Virginia Area Office will also be involved in these investigations.

**7. Identify and coordinate with livestock appraisers that will determine the value of livestock, agricultural products, materials, and facilities that may need to be destroyed.**

The Program Manager of the Office of Livestock Marketing Services (LMS), Division of Marketing will act as team leader to coordinate and assign the livestock marketing staff to assist FAD teams as the appraisal coordination arm. This staff will identify appropriate appraisers for the livestock, facilities or related cattle/hog production materials that must be destroyed. They will identify and use all private and public resources available to VDACS for appraisal purposes.

**Comment [JFO6]:** Page: 6  
Is this still the designation?

**Comment [FO7]:** Leader of the Appraisal Unit, Site Support Branch

The LMS team will monitor federal appraisal schedules as they are conceived and updated, and will identify areas of possible controversy needing special attention as well

as potential legal or financial exposure involved in the valuation of assets. This team will coordinate their efforts with Virginia Cooperative Extension as needed.

**Comment [F08]:** What kind of coordination might need to be accomplished? This needs to be identified and developed as a cooperation point between VDACS and VCE.

The Office of Commodity Services, Division of Marketing will supply back-up personnel and resources should the Livestock Marketing group need such assistance.

The full Division of Marketing staff will supply further staff resources to assist as needed in the event of an outbreak.

## 8. Develop and implement strategies to safely handle and dispose of contaminated animals, both domestic and wildlife, as well as any associated agricultural products and materials.

Disposal procedures will be developed and implemented in close coordination with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ).

### Disposal of Animal Carcasses

The State Veterinarian, or his designee, will issue a *Destruction and Disposal Order* (Form VDACS-03025) to implement the depopulation and disposal of agricultural animals affected by, or exposed to, a FAD. Carcass disposal procedures will be accomplished in accordance with general guidance provided in the *Animal Carcass Disposal Plan (Tab 7)*. Detailed guidance is provided in the National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) Guidelines document entitled, *Operational Procedures Guidelines: Disposal*.

**Comment [JF09]:** Page: 7  
Needs to be updated.

Disposal may involve the burying, burning or rendering of the affected animals. The specific method utilized will depend upon many factors including, the disease agent involved, biosecurity considerations, proximity of mega-sanitary landfills and/or rendering facilities, geology of the affected premises, weather, and many others.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) will accomplish the euthanasia and disposal of wildlife species in accordance with established procedures and protocol within the Infected Zone.

### Disposal of Animal Feeds and Forage

The Office of Product and Industry Standard (OPIS) in the Division of Consumer Protection (DCP) will provide guidance for the disposal of animal feeds and forage to the State Veterinarian or his designee, and farm managers. The following paragraphs include some of the basic instructions that would need to be observed:

- a. Permission for the treatment or use of any feed, grain, hay, straw or silage already produced and stored on the premises will be given by the State Veterinarian or his designee.
- b. Consider all feed and forage a source of contamination for a given period. For foot-and-mouth disease virus this period may extend for up to 90 days. Do not remove feed or forage from a farm after disease agent confirmation, unless directed by the State Veterinarian or his designee.
- c. Any feed or hay remaining after confirmation of a FAD should be burned and the residue buried, unless acceptable alternatives are found and approved by the State Veterinarian or his designee. In some cases, the feed or hay may be used in the burying or burning of animal carcasses, or as a carbon source for composting.

**NOTE:** The OPIS Regional Supervisor is assigned the duty of conducting a trace-back of all feed and forage deliveries for at least one disease incubation period prior to the estimated date of infection. After this information is determined, the Regional Supervisor also conducts a trace-forward from the estimated date of infection to the

present date. This information determines potential sights for increased surveillance. Direct all collected data to the State Veterinarian or his designee.

#### Disposal of Manure and Slurries

The Office of Product and Industry Standards (OPIS), Division of Consumer Protection (DCP) will provide guidance for the disposal of manure and slurries to the State Veterinarian or his designee, and farm managers. Slurries are defined as a manure and water mixture.

- a. The State Veterinarian or his designee, in consultation with DEQ, will issue permission for the treatment and/or use of all manure and slurries stored on the premises.
- b. Consider manure and slurries a source of contamination for a given period. For the foot-and-mouth disease virus this period may be for up to six months (dry feces-14 days, urine-39 days, and slurry-180 days). Do not remove manure and slurries, after confirmation of a FAD, unless approved by the State Veterinarian or his designee.

#### Solid Waste

The preferred method of disposal for solid waste is to bury after treating with an alkali (removal of optimal pH level of 7.2-7.6). If this is not an option, solid waste mixed with an equal amount of straw can be stacked to allow build up of heat (composting). Turning the stack is required to ensure that temperatures in the center of stack are sufficient to destroy a particular FAD agent\*. Slurry "lagoons" i.e., large reservoirs containing mainly solid waste are not usually treated, but are sprayed with disinfectant and kept under restrictions for a minimum period of three months.

\*A "rule of thumb" for pathogen destruction is that that a compost pile should reach a temperature of 54°C (130°F) or higher for a period of at least three days. The temperatures required to kill certain FAD agents in a stack of solid manure may be added when those temperatures are determined.

#### Liquid Waste

To treat liquid waste, increase the pH for a sufficient time period to inactivate the agent. Increasing the pH with caustic soda (NaOH) or washing soda (Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) is usually the option of choice. Thoroughly mix slurry to ensure an even suspension, and then treat by adding caustic soda to increase the pH above 10, or acid solution to decrease the pH below 5, for a period of 7 days. As pH tends to return to neutral during treatment, recommend an initial pH of more than 11. Dispose of treated slurry by burying or spraying on lands not intended for, or adjacent to, grazing animals. If only small amounts of slurry are to be treated, thorough mixing of an inactivant with a pH >11.5 or <5 for 30 minutes is sufficient. Any "wash off" from the cleaning process must be adequately treated before entering the lagoon.

**NOTE:** A thorough trace-back of applications of manure and slurries as a fertilizer, for a period of at least 14 days prior the estimated date of infection will be conducted. A trace-forward of applications will be made from this same date to the present. The results of this activity will determine potential sights for increased surveillance. This task will be carried out as assigned by an OPIS Regional Manager. All data collected will be directed to the State Veterinarian or his designee.

#### Eggs

The Office of Dairy and Foods (ODF), DAFIS will provide guidance for the disposal of eggs to the State Veterinarian or his designee, and to consumers. Eggs may be a direct source of infection for certain highly contagious poultry diseases. However, eggs may present no more risk of spreading a FAD agent than the vehicle used to transport them. The risk increases if personnel handling eggs also work with other animals or associated products,

or if there is a rodent or wild bird control problem on the farm. Until the risk can be evaluated, eggs will not leave the farm within an Infected Zone.

In the United Kingdom, the Food Standards Agency has advised that citric acid may be used to disinfect eggs destined for human consumption (Citric acid BP in 0.2% solution: 20g of crystals dissolved in 10 liters of water.)\*\*. If a General Quarantine Order is issued, eggs will not be marketed outside the Control Area unless authorized by the State Veterinarian or their designee. Authorization for movement of eggs within the Control Area will also be granted by the State Veterinarian or his representatives based on acceptable biosecurity protocols developed by ODF.

**Comment [JFO10]:** Page: 8  
I can understand this for poultry diseases, but for diseases of cattle?  
Has guidance from USDA/APHIS been received?

#### Disposal of Milk

The ODF will provide guidance for the disposal of milk to the State Veterinarian or his designee, dairymen, milk haulers, managers of processing facilities and consumers. A FAD agent may be shed in the milk of infected animals, making milk a potential source for spreading the disease to other farms and animals. To prevent the spread of the disease, dairy herds within an Infected Zone may be prohibited from marketing their milk. If the pick up of milk continues from dairy farms within the Infected Zone, steps must be taken to prevent the disease-causing agent from being spread by trucks and drivers.

When the State Veterinarian determines that the following actions are necessary to control the spread of the FAD, inspection personnel in the ODF will be responsible for:

1. Identification of all dairy farms within the Infected Zone. Dairy inspectors responsible for the territories included in the infested zone will identify the individual dairy farms in the zone, produce and fax a list of the farms to the Richmond Office.
2. Notification to milk haulers to discontinue the pick-up of milk at the affected farms and not to drive through the Infected Zone. Dairy inspectors responsible for the territories included in the Infected Zone will identify each milk hauler who picks up milk from any of the dairy farms within the Infected Zone. Each dairy inspector will immediately call each milk hauler who picks up milk on a dairy in the Infected Zone and tell them to discontinue making milk pick-ups at those farms until further notice. Each dairy inspector will also inform each milk hauler to avoid traveling on any roads in the Infected Zone. Each Dairy inspector will supply their regional manager with a list of all affected milk haulers in their territory. The regional manager will compile a complete list of all milk haulers affected and fax this information into the Richmond Office.
3. Informing dairy farmers of how to dispose of milk on their farms to prevent the spread of a FAD. Dairy inspectors will contact each affected dairy farm and discuss the following measures to prevent the spread of a FAD:
  - a. Milk will be treated to inactivate any disease agents before disposal measures are implemented. This can be accomplished by reducing the pH of the milk to less than 5 or increasing it to more than 11 and holding the milk at this level for an hour.
  - b. Milk in bulk tanks should be emptied into manure pits where possible. Depending on the disease agent, the milk may be spread on pasture or cropland that has a good grass cover. If milk is to be spread on pasture or cropland, no livestock should have access to these areas for at least 30 days, depending on the agent, and the amount of milk spread should not exceed the amount the grass cover can absorb. Under no circumstance should milk be spread near any body of water or where the milk could run off the land into any body of water.
  - c. Milk from suspect or infected herds should not be fed to any other susceptible species on the farm.
  - d. Absolutely no milk from suspect or infected herds should be moved off the farm to another location or stored in containers of any type for future use.

Slaughter/Processing Operations in a FAD Infected Zone

Animals will not move from farms in the Infected Zone; therefore, slaughter/processing facilities within this established zone will not operate.

**Comment [FO11]:** Could susceptible and non-susceptible animals be moved into the Infected Zone if destined for slaughter?

Slaughter/Processing Operations in the Buffer-Surveillance Zone

The Office of Meat and Poultry Services (OMPS), DAFIS will provide guidance to managers of slaughter/processing plants under VDACS inspection. USDA personnel will notify those plants under USDA inspection.

1. Before any animals are slaughtered, a designated veterinarian will inspect all animals on the premises using specific antemortem techniques. Plant management will obtain a permit for slaughter valid for that day only. This permit will consist of the completed and signed antemortem pen card.
2. The Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) will ensure that only enough animals for one day's operations will be allowed on the establishment's premises. All animals on the premises must be slaughtered by the close of operations each day.
3. The IIC will ensure that animals from different origins are slaughtered as separate lots. Carcasses will be identified by origin.
4. The IIC will ensure that carcasses are chilled and not frozen and remain in the plant for a minimum of three (3) days. Slaughter operations may be limited for plants with minimal storage capacity.
5. Slaughter/processing plant employees and OMPS inspection personnel who own or have contact with livestock will have their herds placed under surveillance for a period appropriate for the particular FAD.
6. An appropriate cleaning and disinfecting system will be used by all personnel and on all equipment (including transport vehicles) leaving the plant. Plant management and the IIC will monitor this system.
7. The IIC will ensure that offal and waste products removed from the plant for rendering are moved in a closed leak-proof vehicle.
8. Products from any plant operating under a General Quarantine Order must be marketed within the Control Area unless otherwise approved by the State Veterinarian or his designee. OMPS and ODF personnel will coordinate a review of records within appropriate distribution facilities as needed to ensure compliance.

Slaughter Plant Operations - Discovery of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of a FAD within the Plant

1. If a suspected case of a FAD is discovered inside the slaughter plant, the IIC will immediately notify the Regional Supervisor. After verification of the suspect status by a regional veterinarian, the Regional Supervisor will notify the State Veterinarian who will dispatch a FADD to the site.
2. The OMPS veterinarian assigned to the slaughter plant will ensure that that this suspected case is isolated from other production along with any animals or carcasses from the associated lot, and are not to be moved until released by the Regional Supervisor. If a FADD classifies the investigation as "possible" or "highly-likely", the Regional Supervisor will immediately stop all operations at the establishment.
3. Plant personnel and all affected OMPS personnel will shower with soap and change clothing before leaving the premises. Clean clothing may have to be brought to the establishment from the employee's home. Work clothing should remain at the

- establishment for future use and may be laundered with 1 oz./gallon H<sub>2</sub>O of household bleach (5.25%).
4. Employees and OMPS inspection personnel who own or care for susceptible livestock will be identified (name, address, and telephone number) and arrangements will be made for veterinary inspection of animals on their premises.
  5. The IIC and Plant Management will identify any product shipped in commerce that may be contaminated and initiate recall procedures as directed. OMPS and ODF personnel will coordinate on oversight of recall activities at the wholesale and retail levels.
  6. IIC and Plant Management will coordinate the disposal of infected and exposed animals, carcasses, meat, and meat products to include, but not be limited to burial, burning, rendering, and salvage for human consumption. On-site disposal may be an option to consider. Special consideration must be given to the method in which these items are transported. Vehicles must be leak-proof, covered (ideally airtight), and able to be cleaned and disinfected between shipments and before leaving contaminated premises.
  7. With authorization from the State Veterinarian, the IIC may allow the slaughter establishment to resume operations after cleaning and disinfecting under the following conditions:
    - a. Operate under veterinary inspection only.
    - b. Use no pens that contained infected animals. Infected pens will remain under seal for a period appropriate for the FAD after cleaning and disinfecting, and should be completely cleaned and disinfected just prior to use. Slaughter operations may subsequently be limited for plants with minimal live animal holding facilities.
    - c. All other pens, after completion of cleaning and disinfecting, may be utilized to hold animals.
    - d. Permit only animals for one day's slaughter on the premises.
    - e. Slaughter all animals prior to the close of each day's operation.
    - f. Chill all carcasses and retain them for a minimum of 3 days. Do not freeze carcasses.

FAD in a livestock market or other public livestock concentration point

The Agricultural (Livestock) Inspector on duty from the Office of Veterinary Services (OVS) will initiate the activities listed below.

1. If a suspected case of a FAD is discovered on the market premises, the Livestock Inspector will immediately notify the Regional Supervisor. After verification of the suspect status by a regional veterinarian, the Regional Supervisor will notify the State Veterinarian who will dispatch a FADD to the site.
2. The regional veterinarian assigned to the market will ensure that this suspected case is isolated from other production along with any animals or carcasses from the associated lot, and are not to be moved until released by the Regional Supervisor. If a FADD classifies the investigation as "possible" or "highly-likely", the Regional Supervisor will immediately stop all activities at the market.
3. Market employees and all affected OVS personnel will shower with soap and change clothing before leaving the premises. Clean clothing may have to be brought to the establishment from the employee's home. Work clothing should remain at the establishment for future use and may be laundered with 1 oz./gallon H<sub>2</sub>O of household bleach (5.25%). Market participants

4. Market employees and OVS inspection personnel who own or care for susceptible livestock will be identified (name, address, and telephone number) and arrangements will be made for veterinary inspection of animals on their premises.
5. The Livestock Inspector and Market Manager will identify any animals shipped in commerce that may be contaminated and provide this information to the Regional Supervisor for coordination of the epidemiological investigation.
6. The Livestock Inspector and Market Manager will coordinate the depopulation and disposal of infected and exposed animals on the market premises. Disposal options may include burial, burning, rendering, and composting. On-site disposal may be an option to consider. Special consideration must be given to the method in which animal carcasses are transported. Vehicles must be leak-proof, covered (ideally airtight), and able to be cleaned and disinfected between shipments and before leaving contaminated premises.

**9. Develop the necessary biosecurity and sanitary measures and the capability to quickly implement them in and around the quarantine area.**

To aid in preventing the introduction and/or transmission of a FAD to Virginia livestock and poultry operations, all VDACS personnel routinely use the biosecurity procedures as outlined in Commissioner Courter's memorandum of June 15, 2001, found at Tab 8, Sheet 1. In addition, all VDACS personnel will follow strict sanitary procedures and disinfection procedures as outlined in the National Animal Health Emergency Management System Guidelines, *Biosecurity* (Tab 8, Sheet 2, Dealing With Visitor Risk, pages 22-29) when conducting response activities on affected premises.

**Comment [FO12]:** I think we issued updated guidance to the field.

**NOTE:** Development and implementation of specific biosecurity and sanitary measures during an outbreak will ultimately be the responsibility of the Biosecurity Unit Leader (BUL) and their associated teams. See *Biosecurity* (Chapter 2, Responsibilities of Biosecurity Personnel) for the roles and responsibilities of these critical personnel. This document will be used as a model for development of VDACS biosecurity teams and their leaders.

**10. Identify sources of uncontaminated food and water for animals that may be at risk, as required.**

The Market News Office will be the lead office for coordinating in-state and out-of-state sources of uncontaminated animal feed and water.

The movement of animal feed and/or water into or within the Control Area is subject to the guidelines established by the State Veterinarian.

The Domestic Marketing Office Staff will assist the Market News group by coordinating with local resources (individuals, companies, associations, etc.) within their respective regions to identify demand for and/or supplies of uncontaminated animal feed and water.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation will be enlisted to complement and supplement the staff resources of VDACS to identify supply and demand for uncontaminated animal feed and water.

A hot-line telephone service will be activated to receive supply and demand information directly from producers and/or suppliers.

All supply and demand information will be collected, organized and distributed by the Market News Office through mail, fax, E-mail, newspaper, and other appropriate communications.

Staff in the Market News Office will not provide transportation of uncontaminated animal feed and water, only the identification of potential feed and water resources.

All Division of Marketing staff will be enlisted to provide additional staff as needed by the Market News Office to accomplish this task.

**11. Develop and maintain resource lists that will be required to effectively carry out the prevention, detection, containment, and eradication strategies developed.**

In the event of an outbreak of a FAD, the VDEM will coordinate activities with the other government agencies as identified in the *Emergency Action Plan for a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak*, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, when developed.

Information on possible sources of biosecurity/sanitation products is included at Tab 8, Sheet 3.

All VDACS personnel involved with the detection, containment, and eradication strategies developed in this plan are to provide the contact information as stated in the *Emergency Action Plan for a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak*, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (when developed). This information is included at Tab 2.

VDACS-DAFIS personnel have been identified for the initial euthanasia of FAD affected animals at Tab 9. If an extensive outbreak occurs in the Commonwealth, additional resources will be required to humanely euthanize and dispose of all affected animals.

**12. Obtain available state and federal assistance for the agricultural sector.**

Federal assistance available to the agricultural sector through existing federal programs will be activated through declarations made by the President of the United States and/or the Secretary of Agriculture. Circumstances may require that additional aid be established and/or appropriated through Congressional action. State assistance made available to the agricultural sector will require the Governor's Declaration of Emergency. Special legislative action may also be necessary.

VDACS will formally recommend to VDEM that conditions warrant the issuance of a Declaration of Emergency from the Governor and will work with VDEM and the Office of the Attorney General to prepare this document for review by the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and approval and execution by the Governor.

VDACS will work with VDEM in preparing correspondence to the Secretary of Agriculture advising the USDA of Virginia's need for federal assistance to respond to the economic devastation of a FAD outbreak. The draft will be reviewed with the Secretary of Commerce and Trade (SCT), and presented by the Secretary to the Governor for review, approval and transmission. Even if a national emergency has already been declared because of an outbreak in neighboring states, Virginia's Governor should still notify the Secretary of Agriculture of the Commonwealth's immediate need for all available assistance the USDA can provide.

VDACS will confer with the VDEM and the Secretary of Agriculture on the advisability of having the Governor seek a Presidential Declaration of Emergency and the timing of that request if conditions worsen. Any request for a Presidential Declaration of Emergency will be reviewed with the SCT, and will be submitted by the SCT to the Governor for approval and transmission.

VDACS will assist the SCT in briefing the Governor on the availability of federal indemnity funds to cover potential losses and the projected need for state cost-share funds to help farmers cope with the economic loss of animals destroyed in the response to a FAD.

VDACS will meet periodically with representatives of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), USDA (including, but not limited to Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency), and VDEM to share information about the availability of state and federal assistance, identify and assess unmet needs and develop strategies for meeting those immediate and long-term needs.

VDACS will meet with representatives of Virginia agriculture periodically to brief them on the availability of federal and state assistance and to seek their input on the assessment of the immediate and long-term needs of the industry for recovering from the FAD losses.

VDACS will recommend to the SCT actions the Governor may take, including communicating with Congress and federal officials, to seek additional federal aid to help meet the immediate and long-term assistance needs of Virginia agriculture in recovering from the FAD outbreak. In development of such recommendations, VDACS will confer with the State Liaison Office, VCE, USDA, and VDEM.

VDACS will advise the SCT on the need for the Governor to call a special session of the General Assembly to appropriate funds or pass special emergency legislation relating to a FAD, including cost-share funds for the FAD response.

VDACS will work with the Office of the Attorney General in drafting any special legislation that may be identified to permit state agencies to provide emergency assistance to Virginia agriculture.

**13. Develop standards pertaining to the safety of agricultural and dairy products for consumption and to prevent the spread of a FAD. In cooperation with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), implement inspections to ensure food safety and to prevent the spread of a FAD.**

Delivery of Feed to Farms under FAD Restrictions:

The OPIS will provide guidance for the delivery of feed to farms in the Control Area to the State Veterinarian or his designee, as well as to farm and feed mill managers. Feed deliveries will be required to maintain both susceptible and non-susceptible species.

1. Under a General Quarantine Order for the Commonwealth, no feed will move into, within, or out of the Control Area except as permitted by the State Veterinarian or his designee. **No feed or ingredients are to be moved out of the Infected Zone.**
2. OPIS personnel will coordinate the provision of feed and ingredients to susceptible and non-susceptible species within the Infected Zone.
3. The State Veterinarian or his designee will permit feed movements from a farm within the Infected Zone only when the destination is also within the Infected Zone. Feed entering the Infected Zone, although it remains on the truck, may not go onto a farm outside the zone or back to depot. Extensive cleaning and disinfecting of all delivery vehicles before leaving each location is mandatory.
4. Wherever possible, deliveries to farms within the Infected Zone should be the last farms visited. However, due to some regional locations it may be extremely difficult to comply with this recommendation.
5. Unload all feed deliveries at the boundary of the farm for collection. This will avoid the need for the delivery vehicle to enter the farm premises. Delivery drivers should ensure that, when unloading, they disconnect the discharge pipes and eliminate feed from the assembly. This eliminates residual discharge at another location. Cleaning and disinfecting all delivery vehicles before leaving each location is mandatory.

**Comment [FO13]:** I don't think this should be an absolute. What if the feed mill is located in the Infected Zone?

6. In situations not allowing for boundary deliveries, direct deliveries to a farm will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Implementation of direct deliveries will only be considered as the last alternative. All movement, cleaning and disinfecting of delivery vehicles before leaving each location will be under the direct control and supervision of the State Veterinarian or his designee.

Milk

1. Milk from FAD-infected herds, depending on the disease agent, may pose a significant health risk to humans as the agent is sometimes shed in the milk of infected animals. In addition, milk from FAD-infected herds may spread the disease to other animals. Pasteurization and ultra-pasteurization may not inactivate the FAD agent. For example, temperatures of 298° F. are necessary to destroy the FMD virus. Commercial pasteurization in dairy processing plants seldom exceeds 167° F. For more information on FAD agents that may be shed in the milk see Tab 10.
2. To prevent the spread of a FAD, the following actions will be implemented as soon as any Infected Zone is established:\*\*\*
  - a. The Dairy Services Program Supervisor will ensure that each milk processing plant in Virginia is informed of the outbreak or suspected outbreak of FAD.
  - b. Each milk processing plant will be required to implement a farm pick-up and transport-tank sanitizing program for all milk trucks that enter their grounds. Each plant will designate a separate area of their parking lot away from the receiving area in which vehicles can be spray washed and sanitized prior to entering the receiving area of the milk plant. This area should also preclude sanitized trucks from traveling over any route previously traveled prior to sanitizing.
  - c. The Dairy Services Program Supervisor will coordinate with Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to arrange for VDH plant inspectors to visit each plant to approve their truck and trailer sanitizing program and to ensure that it has been implemented.
  - d. Equipment necessary to wash and sanitize the trucks and trailers consists of a high-pressure washer with chemical storage tank. An appropriate sanitizer will be added to the chemical storage tank so that the high-pressure washer siphons the chemical out of the tank when the washer is operating. Plant personnel will first wash all dirt and debris off the trucks and trailers and then sanitize the trucks and trailers. Once sanitized, the trucks and trailers may proceed to the unloading area of the plant.
  - e. Sanitizers shall be used at concentrations designed for heavily contaminated equipment. Recommended sanitizers and strengths are provided as follows:

Sanitizer	Solution
Chlorine (household bleach)	2 parts bleach to 3 parts water
Virkon-S	1.3 oz./gal. H <sub>2</sub> O

- f. Inspections: VDH personnel will visit each plant within 24 hours after an outbreak to determine if they are complying with the above requirements. Written reports will be forwarded by fax to the appropriate VDH and VDACS offices.
- g. In addition, any and all dairy products manufactured from milk received from within any Infected Zone prior to declaration will not be allowed to be sold unless it can be shown that those dairy products were manufactured from milk from herds that are found to be negative for the FAD, that the processing plant has implemented appropriate biosecurity control procedures, and that the products pose negligible

**Comment [JFO14]:** Page: 15  
 Are these already in place for the industry? Have programs been designed in advance?

risk for the spread of the FAD agent. Cheese, butter, cream, and other dairy products made from the milk of infected animals represent a source from which a FAD agent may be spread. Dairy inspectors will contact each dairy product processor in the Control Area to instruct the operators not to sell any product or allow product to be moved from the facility. A determination as to the disposition of these dairy products will be made based on whether a herd supplying any milk used to manufacture the dairy products is subsequently found to be positive for a FAD.

***\*\*\*This guidance will reduce the chance of FAD agent spread from trucks that left the Infected Zone shortly before that zone was established. It will also be useful if the decision is made that milk from non-infected herds within the Infected Zone may be picked-up.***

#### Meat and Poultry Products

During the period the Commonwealth is under a General Quarantine Order, products from plants must be marketed within the Control Area unless animal and public health authorities dictate otherwise. Disposition of these products will vary depending on the particular agent involved in the outbreak. OMPS personnel in consultation with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), State Veterinarian, and Department of Health officials will determine the risk associated with these items and their disposition or conditions of sale. OMPS and ODF personnel will coordinate a review of records within appropriate distribution facilities as needed to ensure compliance with these shipment requirements.

#### **14. Resources of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

In the event of a FAD outbreak in the U.S. and/or Virginia, the Commissioner will utilize the resources within the Agency to assist in the management and control of animal disease in the State. Accordingly, the Commissioner may utilize staff and resources from any VDACS Division/Office for various FAD responsibilities and tasks.

## GLOSSARY

“*Buffer-Surveillance Zone*” is a zone established within the Control Area and will surround the Infected Zone. Any Contact Premises located outside an Infected Zone will also be surrounded by a Buffer-Surveillance Zone.

Case Classifications:

- “*Suspect*” means an animal with clinical signs, which may be consistent with a foreign animal disease/emerging disease incident.
- “*Presumptive Positive (Index Case)*” means an animal with clinical signs consistent with a foreign animal disease/emerging disease incident plus the following: 1) sample is positive; 2) other epidemiological information is indicative of the foreign/emerging animal disease.
- “*Presumptive Positive (Secondary Case)*” means an animal with clinical signs consistent with a foreign animal disease/emerging disease incident plus one or both of the following: 1) sample is positive; 2) other epidemiological information is indicative of the foreign/emerging animal disease.
- “*Confirmed Positive*” means the disease agent is isolated and identified.

“*Contact Premises*” means a premises that has susceptible animals that have been exposed directly or indirectly to infected animals or contaminated people, products, or materials. A Contact Premises will be subjected to disease control measures (e.g., euthanasia, disposal, and cleaning and disinfection).

“*Control Area*” means the area consisting of an Infected Zone and a Buffer-Surveillance Zone established to ensure rapid and effective containment of disease. Movement of animals, animal products, and their means of conveyance is tightly controlled in this area.

“*Foreign Animal Disease (FAD)*” means an animal disease affecting livestock or poultry that it not endemic to the United States.

“*Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD)*” is a veterinarian who has successfully completed the foreign animal disease training course at Plum Island and receives continuing education in foreign animal diseases and animal health emergency management.

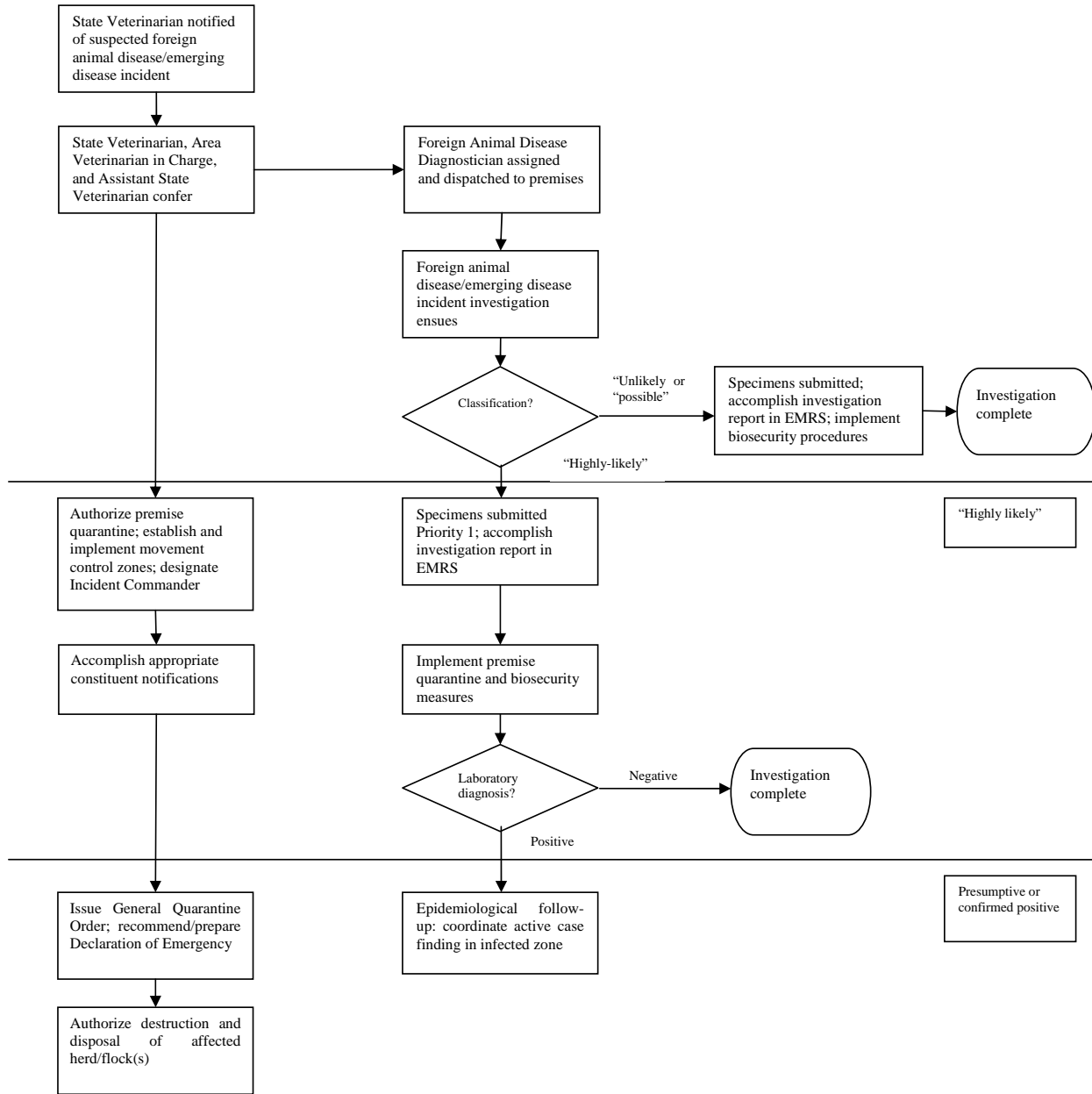
“*FAD Site Manager*” means an individual who will be responsible for coordinating FAD response activities on the Infected Premises.

“*General Quarantine Order*” means a quarantine order issued through proclamation by the State Veterinarian’s Office that 1) establishes the reason for the quarantine, 2) identifies the animal species involved, and 3) defines the terms, conditions, and restrictions imposed, including the geographic area (Control Area) in the Commonwealth where movement of animals, animal products, and their means of conveyance are regulated for purposes of disease control.

“*Infected Premises*” means a premises upon which a highly contagious disease or highly contagious disease agent is presumed or confirmed to exist. Total movement control is imposed and all susceptible animals euthanized.

“*Infected Zone*” means a zone encompassing the perimeter of all Infected Premises and includes as many of the Contact Premises as is logistically or scientifically required. In considering the establishment of the Infected Zone, initially it should be at least 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) beyond the perimeters of the Infected Premises. The boundaries must be modified (either expanded or reduced) as new information becomes available.

# FLOW CHART OF EVENTS



## OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTIONS CONTACT CHART

### UNDER THREAT OF FAD IN VIRGINIA OR OTHER STATES

Responsibility	Assigned to
Serve as point of contact for media inquiries about FAD, referring all reporters to the Commissioner for response.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Keep the Secretary's Office informed about media queries and requests and the responses given if the Commissioner has not done so.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Based on information provided by the Division of Animal and Food Industry Services <u>or other reliable resource</u> , write, route for approval and distribute to news media statewide news releases that offer specific information about the disease and its characteristics as well as actions which will help prevent its introduction.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Using the same procedure, write and distribute news releases that inform the public about updates and changes in policy or procedure to assist in the prevention of FAD.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Write, design and print collateral materials such as fliers, signs, brochures, etc. as needed to amplify the message about FAD.	Director, OCP Web Manager FAD Media Coordinator
Establish a section on the Department's Web site devoted to FAD; update it with additional information as needed and provide links to news releases and other informative Web sites.	Web Manager Web Assistant
Maintain contact with, and update as needed, public information personnel at affected agencies including the Departments of Emergency Management, Game and Inland Fisheries, and Virginia Cooperative Extension.	FAD Media Coordinator

**Comment [FO15]:** Does APHIS, VS have fact sheets or prepared releases for various FADs? If so, include as a tab.

### CASE OF FAD SUSPECTED IN VIRGINIA OR OTHER STATE

Responsibility	Assigned to
Determine a designated source of reliable information – within VDACS or in the suspected FAD-infected state – so that there is no confusion about what is accurate and true; double check information with alternate source before acting on it. Continue to inform media and public, using fax service for immediate distribution.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator Public Relations Coordinator
Serve as point of contact for media inquiries about FAD, referring all reporters to the Commissioner for response.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Keep the Secretary's Office informed about media queries and requests and the responses given if the Commissioner has not done so.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Based on the level of interest, the volume of inquiries and the substance and amount of news, consider setting up a press conference. Determine who should deliver the news (Commissioner, Secretary, Governor?). Put together information packets for attendees, including fact sheets on the FAD, and actions to be taken. Set time for press conference as soon as possible after major incident or at least two hours before afternoon news deadlines.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator Web Assistant
Maintain contact with, and update as needed, public information personnel at affected agencies including the Departments of Emergency Management, Game and Inland Fisheries, and Virginia Cooperative Extension	FAD Media Coordinator

**CASE OF FAD CONFIRMED IN A STATE OTHER THAN VIRGINIA**

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
Closely monitor information from FAD-infected state(s); establish relationship with PR person there to ensure accurate information.	Director, OCP
Continue to issue releases and advisories about the disease, its prevention and clinical symptoms; emphasizing the importance of farmers' contacting officials if signs of the disease appear in livestock; and the importance of the public's following prevention strategies.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator Public Relations Coordinator
Serve as point of contact for media inquiries about FAD, referring calls to the Commissioner. Keep the Secretary's office informed about media queries.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator Public Relations Coordinator
Continue press conferences if news warrants them.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Continue to update the Web site with current information.	Web Manager Web Assistant
Maintain contact with, and update, as needed, public information personnel at other affected agencies.	FAD Media Coordinator

**CASE OF FAD CONFIRMED IN VIRGINIA**

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
As needed, assist the Governor's Press Office with the release and press conference announcing the disaster declaration. Distribute release to weekly papers and ag media.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Closely monitor information from FAD-infected area(s); set up briefings once or twice per day, as indicated by the volume and gravity of the news, to keep media sources in the Richmond area informed.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Summarize the information in the briefings and distribute it to weekly papers and ag media that do not have representation in Richmond.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator
Serve as point of contact for media inquiries about FAD, referring calls to the Commissioner. Keep the Secretary's office informed about media queries.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator Public Relations Coordinator
Continue to issue releases and advisories about the disease, its prevention and clinical symptoms; emphasizing the importance of farmers' contacting officials if signs of the disease appear in livestock; and the importance of the public's following prevention strategies.	Director, OCP FAD Media Coordinator Public Relations Coordinator
Continue to update the Web site with current information.	Web Manager Web Assistant
Maintain contact with, and update, as needed, public information personnel at other affected agencies.	FAD Media Coordinator