

Animal Health Emergency Management Council Report

2015 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, March 24, 2015



The Animal Health Emergency Management Council met on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. during the 2015 NIAA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, with approximately 70 people present. Drs. Matt Cochran and Lindsey Holmstrom served as Co-Chairs.

The Animal Health Emergency Management Council session focused on animal health emergency management and response. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to:

T.R. Lansford, III, D.V.M (Assistant State Veterinarian) – “Bad Weather in Texas Animal Health Planning and Response – TAHC’s Perspective”

- TAHC – Maintain health and marketability of TX livestock
- TX Animal Health Commission
 - 6 regions – veterinarians serve as region directors
- TAHC is the lead agency in Natural Disaster Response
- Why is animal planning needed?
 - Animal issues are people issues
 - Animal issues draw media attention and consequently political attention
- ALL emergencies and natural disasters are ‘local’ problems first
 - County Animal Issues Committees
 - Examine and prepare for local vulnerabilities
 - TX A&M 4th year vet students – required to take emergency management course
- Industry Planning – at local, regional, and state levels
- Local Veterinarian – participate in local emergency management planning/exercises
- Hurricane Ike
 - Pre-impact
 - Activation of Animal Response Operation Center (AROC)
 - Post-Impact
 - Displaced Animals
 - Damage assessment
 - Carcass disposal
 - Animal health issues – dehydration, salt toxicity
- Small-scale events
 - Traffic accidents
- Larger events, not federally declared – help locals
 - Wildfires
- TAHC Emergency Horseback Response Team

Mr. Victor Velez – Animal Health and Food Safety Services, California Department of Food and Agriculture – “HPAI Response - Avian Influenza in CA”

- Response
 - Cooperation of CDFA and USDA
 - Detection
 - Surveillance - establish infected zone and buffer zone
 - Outreach and education
 - Disposal
- Jan. 2015 – detection of AI, testing, quarantine
- Movement controls – permit to move animals AND products on or off of quarantined area
- Health and safety of responders should be first priority
- Wildlife – migratory aquatic birds may have carried
- Education and Outreach
 - Door to door
 - Online
 - Feed stores
 - Live bird markets
- Depopulation – method on a case-to-case basis
 - Many considerations into composting
- Cleaning and Disinfection
 - Oversight by CDFA/USDA
- **Goal – prevent transmission to other operations**

Have to account for ALL aspects of preventing transmission

Mendel Miller, DVM – Assistant State Veterinarian of South Dakota – “Winter Storm Atlas Response and Recovery in South Dakota”

- October 3, 2013 – rain, temps dropped, high winds -> snow
 - 18-58” of snow, winds 60-70 mph (sustained at 49 mph)
 - Impassable roads, immobilized people
- Initial response – infrastructure
 - People out of power up to 14 days
- Initial response – ranchers (on their own)
 - Find animals who survived
 - Cattle moved anywhere from 10 to 12 miles
 - Animals who survived needed time to recover
- Contributing factors
 - Calves still on cows
 - No winter coats yet
 - Still on summer range
 - Ground was not frozen *
 - Causes of death:
 - Hypothermia, exhaustion, trampling, drowning, suffocation, etc.
- Voluntary Reporting of losses by 300 producers
- Rancher Relief Fund

- Estimated over 43,000 head lost
- State Level – Care of live animals first, then carcass disposal – Civil Air Patrol flights, regulations suspended on disposal
- Countries – community pits, hauling services
- Producers – rendering, burial pits, private contractors
- Recovery/Aid
 - Industry groups, SD Dept. of Agriculture – loans, SDSU extension – education
- Summary
 - Happened when government was shut down - little federal help
 - “Presidential Disaster Declaration” - 14 counties, 2 Native American Reservations
 - Neighbors helped each other
- Lessons learned
 - Emergencies are local
 - Communication with other agencies
 - People want to help
 - Face-to-face relationships help get things done

Deb Zoran, DVM, PhD, DACVIM-SAIM, Professor and Operations Chief at Texas A&M College of Vet Medicine, presented "The Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team-Beyond Academics with Integrated All-Hazards Response" (Matt Cochran, DVM, Assistant Agency Director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab presented in her stead as she was not able to attend)

- Bring medicine to animals in need from natural disasters
- History
 - Hurricane Rita – Vet hospital turned in to human hospital
 - Hurricane Ike – Vet school staffed emergency animal sheltering for small and large animals
 - 2011 – Texas Drought
- Impact of VET
 - Life changing
 - Value of selfless service
 - Career altering
 - Hope
- Location of city is helpful in being of assistance in disasters (Deployments and exercises)
- Prelude to a Disaster
 - 8/2010 – 7/2011 – driest period on record in TX
 - Initial fire started Sept. 4, 2011
 - 32,400 acres burned – 1.723 structures burned
 - Lasted until Oct. 9
 - 2 human lives lost and untold animals
 - Unpredictable and random
- TAMU VET mobilized Sept. 7
 - Treat/assess injured animals (companion and livestock)

- Canines – ready to deploy with leather booties and other foot protection – ground too hot
 - VET developed individualized booties for each canine + fluid therapy
- If you build it... they will come
- Integrated Response – many groups centered around helping with animal issues
- Impact
 - Change students views on their duties at a vet
- Clinical rotation
 - 1st and only to require rotation
 - Partner with counties
 - Perform risk assessments
 - Prepare standard operating guidelines
- 7 core competencies
 - Leadership
 - Collaboration
 - Team, self, and systems management
 - Communication
 - Diversity and multicultural awareness
 - Adapting to changing environments
 - Commitment to service and life-long learning
- Response trailer can be converted in to class rooms
- Dallas, Ebola, and Bentley
 - Owner contracted Ebola – could dog be a fomite?
 - Set up in quarantine
 - TAMU VET provided care for Bentley
 - 21 day quarantine
 - Most appropriately trained personnel chosen to help

New Business:

- No new resolutions were added, and no resolutions were amended or revised.
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) Emergency response to disease and natural disasters involving animals is expected of state animal health authorities
 - 2) Plans are necessary for preparedness and response, but personal and professional relationships across agencies and industry groups are key in actually managing a coherent and effective response
 - 3) Management of volunteers and donations is a critical parts of any effective response
 - 4) States and regions should continue to build their response plans and preparedness based on lessons-learned by colleagues across the country

Animal Health Emergency Management Council Session adjourned at 5:00 PM.