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:

- 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
  o Industry groups, SD Dept. of Agriculture – loans, SDSU extension – education
• Summary
  o Happened when government was shut down - little federal help
  o “Presidential Disaster Declaration” - 14 counties, 2 Native American Reservations
  o Neighbors helped each other
• Lessons learned
  o Emergencies are local
  o Communication with other agencies
  o People want to help
  o 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
  o Hurricane Rita – Vet hospital turned in to human hospital
  o Hurricane Ike – Vet school staffed emergency animal sheltering for small and large animals
  o 2011 – Texas Drought
• Impact of VET
  o Life changing
  o Value of selfless service
  o Career altering
  o Hope
• Location of city is helpful in being of assistance in disasters (Deployments and exercises)
• Prelude to a Disaster
  o 8/2010 – 7/2011 – driest period on record in TX
  o Initial fire started Sept. 4, 2011
  o 32,400 acres burned – 1.723 structures burned
  o Lasted until Oct. 9
  o 2 human lives lost and untold animals
  o Unpredictable and random
• TAMU VET mobilized Sept. 7
  o 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.