



Preparing for a Foreign Animal Disease

ICA Fact Sheet
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Foreign Animal Disease

A foreign animal disease (FAD) is a disease caused by a transmissible infectious agent, currently exotic to the U.S., with the potential for rapid spread, and the introduction of which would seriously affect access of American animals and animal products to foreign markets. There are three tiers of foreign animal disease with each requiring a different response structure within state and federal agencies. Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) would be considered a Tier 1 disease relative to cattle.

Regardless, everyone is responsible for reporting a suspected FAD, including producers and veterinarians. Always contact your veterinarian first if you suspect a FAD.

Iowa's FAD Response

The state of Iowa has its own FMD Response and Recovery plan, developed in 2004. The plan defines state agency responsibilities as well as the federal interface during an FAD response. Iowa's plan establishes a framework for testing, quarantine, cleaning and disinfection of infected premises. During an FAD outbreak, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) will designate a control zone, where State and Federal officials will implement quarantines and specific actions to keep the FAD from spreading.

Communication during a FAD

Focused and timely communication will be important to maintain consumer confidence, both domestically and abroad. During an FAD, ICA and the Iowa Beef Industry Council staff will implement a communication strategy to both producers and consumers as a part of the state's response plan.

Know Your County Officials

During a FAD response, IDALS and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management will interact with the respective County Emergency Manager. To carry out the provisions of Iowa law, county boards of supervisors, city councils, and the sheriff in each county must appoint an emergency management coordinator. This individual will be responsible for linking state and federal agencies to local resources in light of an FAD response. County Emergency Managers are trained to respond to various disasters, including FAD.

Register Your Premise

The ICA strongly encourages all cattle producers to register their cattle operation premise with IDALS. Information regarding the state's premise identification program can be found on their website: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry/premiseIdentificationProgram.asp>. The application asks for contact information, operation type, and species operation. Capacity information is not

required. The Premise ID information is confidential and is not shared with other state or federal agencies for compliance purposes.

Registration is vital for a speedy response, quick notification to neighbors, and testing of adjacent livestock operations during an FAD outbreak. Once you have registered your premises you will receive a premise id card along with a letter from IDALS. It is recommended that operations update their premise information when changes occur, including expansion and retirement.

Vaccination as an Option

The United States collaborates with Canada and Mexico to generate a current FMD vaccination bank. In anything beyond a small, focal FMD outbreak, stamping-out may not be viable or sustainable due to various factors. However, per current U.S. law, no live FMD virus may be introduced into the U.S. therefore any and all vaccines must be made overseas. At this time, the U.S. maintains annual funding to produce FMD vaccines at \$1.9 million. However, a recent 2015 study by Iowa State University revealed that five years of funding at \$150 million would be needed to create an adequate vaccine supply for the U.S.

Consider a Depopulation Plan

If an FAD has been confirmed, the IDALS has the authority to condemn livestock to prevent the spread of the disease. The livestock owner/operator should be prepared to collaborate with government agencies to implement euthanasia activities. During depopulation, livestock are not allowed to leave the premise. All depopulation must occur on-site in a humane manner. The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program contains resources to help producers efficiently and effectively depopulate their herd in a humane manner, however the plan may be altered during a FAD event. To learn more, visit the BQA website at: www.bqa.org.

Have a Disposal Plan

If depopulation occurs on a site, producers in collaboration with IDALS and USDA, will have to properly dispose of the deceased animals according to state Iowa Department of Natural Resource (IDNR) rules. Producers should plan for onsite disposal if at all possible. Currently the IDNR allows: on-site burial, onsite composting, on and off-site incineration, landfilling, and rendering as means to dispose of deceased animals. However, during a mass depopulation, these options may change. Consult with your local IDNR office for disposal options.

Be Prepared

It is unlikely producers and the industry will ever be fully prepared for an FMD outbreak. But education and implementation of the points provided above are the first steps of being better prepared. Unfortunately livestock producers in Iowa have experienced devastating FAD outbreaks recently, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). When producers were prepared to take ownership of sites and operations, clean up occurred more swiftly, when compared to producers that were ill-equipped.

Stay Tuned

The Iowa Cattlemen's Association will continue to educate members on FAD preparation and response plans. The ICA also intends to work closely with other industry groups to update the state's FAD response plans.

Preparing for a Foreign Animal Disease ICA Fact Sheet prepared by ICA Staff. Sources include Advancing Animal Disease Traceability: Iowa Premise Identification Program and the State of Iowa Foot-and-Mouth Disease Response and Recovery Plan: September 2004.