

## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION # 11 - AGRICULTURE**

### **PRIMARY**

ESF 11 Coordinator – Henderson County Cooperative Extension Agent

### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

Henderson County Judge Executive's Office  
Henderson County Animal Control  
Henderson County Road Department  
Henderson County Health Department  
Henderson County Veterinary Personnel  
Henderson County Fish and Wildlife Officer

### **LOCAL RESOURCE**

Henderson County Sheriff's Department  
Henderson City Police Department  
Henderson County Fiscal Court Finance Officer  
Henderson County HAZMAT Team  
American Red Cross – Cardinal Chapter  
Henderson County Animal Control

### **STATE RESOURCE**

Ky. State Veterinarian  
American Red Cross, Kentucky Chapter's  
Kentucky Department of Military Affairs (Kentucky National Guard)  
Kentucky Division of Emergency Management  
Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster  
Ky. SART (Kentucky State Agriculture Response Team)  
Kentucky EPPC EPA  
Kentucky Fish & Wildlife  
Kentucky State Police  
Kentucky Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement

### **PURPOSE**

To establish the basic roles and responsibilities for Emergency Support Function 11 – Agriculture (ESF 11) for the control and eradication of an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, highly infective exotic

plant disease, or economically devastating plant pest infestation and/or natural disaster.

## **SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

### **Common Activities**

- Coordinate with State Veterinarian
- The direct impact on productivity, exporting animal products, feeding of animals (pets, livestock, and wildlife), sheltering of animals and medical care for domestic animals could be such that outside assistance will need to be requested.
- Located within Henderson County are several veterinary resources, and/or animal care providers who can assist in the care of injured animals.
- Care of domestic animals shall be a joint governmental and non-governmental effort.
- Wildlife emergencies will be handled by Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife.
- It is possible that response procedures will extend across county lines, (counties that border other states) requiring intrastate/interstate coordination.
- Response efforts could encompass the culling of livestock and wildlife.
- Chemicals stored for crop or livestock or vegetable production. Need to be accounted for and secured.

### **Disaster**

- Large-scale disasters, such as severe droughts, floods, ice, and snowstorms, could injure, kill, and displace animals. These animals may be pets, livestock, and wildlife.
- Crop productivity, harvesting, monitoring, and exporting could be directly impacted by large-scale disasters.
- Acts of terrorism may be directed at the nation's food supply, livestock herds, or poultry flocks, either as the target or as a vehicle for weapons of mass destruction.

- Animals that are displaced due to severe flooding, ice/snowstorms, animal, and plant diseases and cut off from food supplies could be of such number that euthanizing, and disposal procedures may become necessary.
- Chemical accidents present features that differ from emergencies, such as drought, floods, etc.

### **Disease**

- The agricultural industry in Henderson County is a major contributor to the economy of the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world. An outbreak of a disease that impacts the agricultural community could result in economic losses of unprecedented scale.
- Corn, soybeans, wheat, and vegetables as well as many other crops, are grown within the County. These crops are all vulnerable and potential targets of disease or contamination, either through natural or accidental introduction, or through terrorist attack.
- Henderson County must be ready to effectively respond and control an outbreak of communicable disease or other conditions affecting crop, livestock, wildlife, exotic, and companion animals, including but not limited to environmental emergencies or natural disasters.
- People, animals, or materials can bring pathogens into contact with a susceptible host and spread the disease. The pathogen must be quickly and effectively controlled. Prevention measures at all levels must be addressed.
- Animal Disease Emergency detected anywhere in the United States puts the country's entire agricultural community at risk unless areas of isolation can be established.
- There is the potential for animal pathogens and the threat of disease to be used for terrorism.
- Response efforts could encompass the culling of livestock and wildlife.
- Effective eradication requires extraordinary resources and cooperation of all local and state agencies, to minimize the impact on the agricultural industry and commerce. Eradication will require proper sanitary and disposal procedures for carcasses.

- Vector control could include discarding organic and inorganic matter, in any form, that is located on the site of positive detection.
- Suspected infected facilities and transport vehicles will need to be cleaned and disinfected.
- Areas where suspected or confirmed cases originate will require special operational procedures and quarantine areas.

## **MISSION**

To ensure the safety and security of Henderson County's agricultural market (crop, livestock production, transportation, and processing) and ensure that animal and veterinary issues in natural disasters are supported. To provide guidance for dealing with animals impacted by disaster or disease.

## **DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

The Chief Elected Official has appointed an ESF 11 Coordinator, which is the Henderson County Extension agent acting in accordance with State Vet & University of Kentucky College of Ag. Specialist.

The ESF 11 Coordinator:

- Is responsible for reporting on and monitoring of crop and horticulture, livestock production, transportation, and processing in the county.
- Will be responsible for, but not limited to, coordinating assistance for the disposition of abandoned, diseased, disabled, or dead animals, animal protection, animal health emergency management and agro-terrorism.
- Will coordinate with and support ESF 8 in zoonotic disease or toxicosis where the public health may be affected and will support ESF 8 in acts of terrorism where animal industry and/or production agriculture is the vehicle for dissemination of a chemical or biological agent.
- Will coordinate the restriction of movement, detain in one location, or move to another, animals, equipment, products, and personnel for the purpose of control and eradication of disease.
- Will implement a response to an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease, or an economically devastating plant pest infestation.

- Will coordinate development of standard operating procedures (SOP) for surveillance and response to include, but not limited to, cattle, swine, dairy, sheep, goats, equine, and companion animal industries as well as wildlife and exotic animals.

SOPs will be developed for surveillance and response to pests of crops and horticulture. These procedures will relate to catastrophic incidents and disease that pose a significant impact on human life, property, or the economy.

## **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

There are three classes of Animal Disease Emergencies (ADE's):

**Foreign Animal Disease** – An important transmissible disease in livestock or poultry believed not to exist in the United States and its territories. The disease has the potential to significantly affect Kentucky's economy and animal health. The disease is listed in the Office of International Epizootics (OIE) Disease Code List.

**Reportable Disease** – A diagnosed disease in domestic animals or poultry that is reportable under state law to the KDA and State Veterinarian.

**Emerging Disease** – A new disease or new emergence of an old disease that manifests itself within the Commonwealth.

## **Phases of Management**

### **Preparedness**

#### **Common Activities**

- Develop mutual aid agreements with government agencies, professional associations and private agencies and organizations.
- Develop agricultural operating procedures, organizational structure and recruit needed personnel.
- Develop a system of determining availability and need of manpower, equipment and other resources and develop alternate sources of notification.
- Conduct a training program for the appropriate type of organization(s), such as County Agriculture Response Team (CART), if one is established in your county, and take part in tests and exercises.

- Refine and exercise preplanned protective measures relative to the county's crop, horticulture, livestock industry.

### **Disaster**

- Coordinate efforts to rescue and capture animals including relocation and sheltering before an incident/disaster. The County will need to identify available barns, pastures, kennels, etc., with local agencies and volunteer organizations.
- Coordinate with local agencies to establish a system to register identification data in an effort to reunite animals with their owners when separated during an incident/disaster.
- Coordinate the storage of emergency relief supplies and their distribution to animal caretakers/shelters.

### **Disease**

- Coordinate system for assignment of personnel and equipment to distribute supplies and equipment needed into infected areas.
- Coordinate location(s) to be confinement areas or areas to be quarantined due to infectious animal or plant diseases to help prevent the spread to other areas.
- Coordinate system for tracking of activities based on information provided by personnel located at confinement areas or quarantine locations.

## **Response**

### **Common Activities**

- Coordinate CART Teams for the care and disposal of domestic animals.
- Coordinate emergency medical care for all animals, including commercial livestock, poultry, fish, and exhibition (racing) animals; and domestic pets.
- Increase surveillance of critical locations (slaughter plants and free-range operations).
- Take additional precautions at public events where animals are displayed and or markets and consider alternate venues or cancellation.
- Keep records of workers available, work undertaken, and hours worked.

**Disaster**

- Track the activities of all available animal shelter facilities and confinement areas identified before, during and after the incident/disaster.
- Coordinate evacuation of livestock during a disaster/incident to emergency shelters and coordinate efforts to provide water, food and other physical needs to livestock/wildlife being sheltered.

**Disease**

- Coordinate animal care, euthanasia of injured animals and disposal of dead animals.
- Disposal methods for infected or potentially infected carcasses and plant host material are chosen for their minimal impact on the environment & disease control.

**Recovery****Common Activities**

- Coordinate CARTs and other local emergency response teams within the county, and with the statewide support network and the SART.
- Coordinate damage assessment and restore equipment and supplies to normal operational readiness as soon as feasible.

**Disaster**

- Manage crisis response and resulting consequences, and cooperate with law enforcement officials in criminal investigations, if a terrorist act is suspected in connection with agricultural incidents.
- Coordinate the security of supplies, equipment, personnel, and other resources to conduct the recovery plans associated animal health emergency management and/or any act of agro-terrorism that may pose a substantial threat to the county.

**Disease**

- Coordinate decontamination and/or destruction of animals, plants, and their associated facilities as deemed necessary.

**ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The ESF 11 Coordinator will identify and coordinate local, state, and federal agencies for emergency animal/zoonotic disease care and treatment for the County.

## **GENERAL ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

Operational control remains the same during emergency situations as during normal activities; however, operations may require 24-hour coverage, and a central point of overall coordination. The ESF 11 Coordinator must be prepared to assist in lengthy operations that start in response, continue through recovery, and involve cleanup activities and return of resources.

## **SPECIFIC KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Primary – The ESF 11 Coordinator:**

- Ensure, in coordination with ESF 8, that animal and veterinary issues in an incident are supported.
- Coordinate surveillance for foreign animal disease or an animal disease, syndrome, chemical, poison or toxin that may pose a substantial threat to the animal industries, economy, or public health of the county.
- Coordinate for surveillance of plant pest of unknown or questionable origin which may pose a potential or substantial threat to agriculture, horticulture, economy, or public health of the county.
- Coordinate and direct evacuation of animals from risk areas and provide technical assistance to prevent animal injury and disease dissemination.
- Coordinate with appropriate agencies and organizations to ensure operational readiness.
- Assist in securing supplies, equipment, personnel and technical assistance from support agencies, organizations, and other resources to carry out the response plans associated with animal health emergency management or any act of agro-terrorism that may pose a substantial threat to the state.
- Assist in monitoring and reporting environmental hazards.
- Coordinate personnel and equipment available to support the emergency operations of other county departments and agencies consistent with capability.
- Provide assistance in preparation and dissemination of emergency public information.
- Assist in collecting information and compiling data for operational reports necessary to emergency operations.



- Support response and recovery activities as required.
- Return department activities to normal levels unless involved with recovery activities.

### **Support**

- All supporting agencies for this ESF will provide information and resources as required to ensure the proper functioning of ESF 11.
- Supporting Agencies will ensure their representatives to ESF 11 are trained and exercised on the plans and procedures relating to their work.
- When required, Supporting Agencies will assign ESF 11 Coordinators to the County EOC.
- The support agencies will develop and maintain standard operating procedures (SOP) for surveillance and response to include, but not limited to, cattle, swine, dairy, sheep, goats, equine, and companion animal industries as well as wildlife and exotic animals.
- Such SOPs will be developed for surveillance and response to pests of crops and horticulture. These procedures will relate to catastrophic disaster and disease that pose a significant impact on human life, property, or the economy.
- If requested, provide personnel to conduct product tracing to determine the source, destination, and disposition of adulterated and/or contaminated products.
- If requested, provide personnel to assist in delivering health care to injured or abandoned animals and conduct field investigations.
- When requested, the Kentucky State Agriculture Response Team (SART) can provide agriculture/animal relief response and recovery efforts. (The SART was developed to augment response and recovery efforts for incidents involving agriculture/animals in any part of the state.)

### **Specific Agency Duties:**

Henderson County Chief Elected Official's Office (Judge/Executive)

- Will make a Disaster Declaration if needed.

Henderson County Road Department

- Will provide manpower and equipment as requested through the EOC.

### Henderson County Animal Control

- Animal control officers shall have the authority to issue uniform citations, local citations, or local notices for the enforcement of the provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes relating to cruelty, mistreatment, or torture of animals, and animal control ordinances in their respective jurisdictions.
- Will assist the Local Henderson County Health Department as requested.

### Henderson County Health Department

- Will assist in monitoring for animal to human disease transmission.
- Will provide guidance for human treatment and services that will prevent and/or mitigate the spread of infectious diseases in humans.

### Local Henderson County Veterinary Services

- Will provide professional expertise as needed.
- Will provide guidance for animal treatment and services that will prevent and/or mitigate the spread of infectious diseases in animals.

## **REFERENCES**

KRS 39A-G

The National Response Framework

The National Incident Management System

Henderson County Emergency Operations Center, Standard Operating Procedures

4/8/2022: Reviewed