

Swine Committee Report

2010 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2010



The Swine Committee met on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm during the 2010 NIAA Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri with 34 people present. Dr. Harry Snelson served as Chair and Dr. Butch Baker as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on business continuity in an animal health emergency. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to business continuity following an animal health emergency tabletop exercise:

Dr. Patrick Webb, National Pork Board

The group participated in an actual tabletop exercise demonstrating the challenges associated with maintaining business continuity in animal agriculture during and following an FMD outbreak. The exercise is unique in that it requires active participation among the assembled group with immediate feedback.

Entire exercise is located in the buffer zone. Animals in this zone are often subject to stamping out. Today's exercise moves beyond this zone to look at what happens to farms located outside the infected zone. These herds are possibly negative and potentially subject to continued production and access to market channels.

Premises identification is critical to the speed and efficiency of the response activities and facilitates assurance for trading partners that we know where the affected and unaffected farms are located and how the susceptible animals move around the country. Electronic records further facilitate response efforts.

This exercise emphasizes vaccination and minimizes stamping out.

Bruce Spence, National Pork Board

Response system relies on the ICS system:

- Incident commander: in charge of the operation
- Public Information Officer: Liaisons with the media
- Safety officer: Makes sure everyone operates safely
- Liaison: Interacts with incoming responders to familiarize them with the incident
- Direct reports to the IC include:
 - Operations
 - Planning
 - Logistics
 - Finance

The ICS system functions at all levels from the federal level all the way down the on-farm response. Requires a lot of people. Therefore we need to partner with industry to maximize the response capability.

The scenario:

FMD has been confirmed in swine on premises in MO, OK, AR and KS. 2200 sow farm in MO. Moving pigs into KS facilities on Mon & Thurs (1100 head). 80,000 head feedlot in MO and a dairy shipping milk. Feedmill supplying feed to both cattle and swine. Slaughter plant processing 2000 head/day. Closest infected herd is 20 miles away. Auction barn is in Kansas.

Questions:

1. 1st assignment: Discuss how your industry can support rapid identification of premises and industry assets in the buffer zone.
 - a. Pork: local resources, local vets, C&D stations, local officials
 - b. Dairy: premises id list of voluntary registrants, cross referenced with assoc. lists, founding rendering, local school is additional contact point. Can continue to use the milk in a surveillance zone?
 - c. Beef: farm bureau, industry support, local media, ask neighbors who else might have animals. Set up phone bank to address movement requests.
 - d. Packers: coolers for dead animals, lots of records (sale barns, feed lots), transportation assets.
2. What resources are needed:
 - a. People
 - b. Accessibility to USDA database
 - c. Phone banks (call arounds) – through ICS
3. How do we get access to the needed resources:
 - a. County emergency mgt is a good resource
 - b. Phone companies can provide access to multiple cell phones and phone banks
 - c. NVS – resource to SAHO & AVICs can collaborate and requests NVS assets (pre-staged throughout the country).
4. 2nd assignment:
 - a. Discuss how your industry can support rapid communication of premises and industry assets in the buffer zone
 - i. Communication infrastructure in advance: govt response, academia, industry, internet, press release, etc. Key: in advance
 - b. What info should be delivered to producers
 - i. Sit report, reassurance, maintain COB, biosecurity measures specific to FMD, clinical signs and report methods
 - ii. Be extra vigilant, PR regarding product safety, packing plant offers its resources as an asset.
 - iii. FMD doesn't affect humans – products are safe for human consumption. Liaison is important in this role.
 - c. What info should be gathered from producers
 - i. Movement data (30 days), visitors, who did you sell milk to and when, where do they get their feed, when do they need to move animals or milk again. Direct fill tankers, C&D on-farm, list of biosecurity measures, how long can you keep everything on-site, set up egress points
 - ii. Have you visited auction barn or received animals from there, are you continuing to breed sows
 - iii. How long until bulk tank is full, when will manure facility be full
 - iv. Will packers accept product in the face of questionable consumer perception? Packers will need info regarding where the products are coming from. Product will not be eligible for export.
5. 3rd assignment: Biosecurity

- a. Discuss farm level biosecurity protocols to be implemented
 - i. No non-essential personnel, sign in/out log, C&D for trucks in/out, enact feral pig eradication program, PPE, shower in/out, downtime or no movement from site to site
 - ii. Hunters, atvs, no trespassing signs, shower in/out for dairies, permit feed/milk movements, single access to farms, C&D coming onto farms
 - iii. EM response system
 - iv. Packers: educate workers that may have their own animals at home, change of clothes, implement truck wash
 - b. Discuss how you coordinated with industry to implement biosecurity
 - i. Biosecurity info from producer groups,
 - ii. Work with feed dealers
 - c. How do communicate that info & assure compliance
 - i. Checklist/affidavit
 - ii. GPS stamped digital image
 - d. Short-term can use vol. fire depts. for truck washes (what do you do with the waste water?), power sprayers are usually available locally, private contractors can set up C&D stations (NOTE: centralized C&D stations are risky and may contribute to spread). Some discussion regarding should you actually C&D trucks or are you safer to use dedicated truck movements and not worry about washing the truck.
6. 4th assignment:
- a. Discuss what “proof of negative” means.
 - i. Packers: whatever SAHO/AVIC requires for surveillance, may change if consumer perception warrants. May have to slow down operations to accommodate FSIS or USDA inspectors to collect additional samples. What about excess export product?
 - ii. Dairy: PCR at trailer level coming into the plant (if positive, track back to farms),
 - iii. Pork: high degree of confidence that the animals are FMD free
 - iv. Beef: require CVI on movements, SAHO would determine testing requirements necessary.
 - b. Discuss what surveillance protocols should be implemented at the farm level to demonstrate to State and Fed. Animal health officials your definition of “proof of negative”
 - i. milk test will pick up infection prior to clinical signs
 - ii. pork: epi tests looking for clinical signs, blood samples, oral samples (when validated), monitoring feed intake and random samples (concerns about who would actually take the samples)
 - c. Discuss how you coordinated with industry to accomplish disease surveillance.
 - i. Could you get plant labs trained to conduct testing?
7. 5th assignment:
- a. Discuss what components need to be addressed in order to support controlled movements of animals or animal products
 - i. Beef: local movement protocol with local vet/county agents, criteria from the state, issue a certificate
 - ii. Dairy: producer has incentives to move product if they are confident the herds ahead of them are neg. Movements wouldn't start until the tracebacks verify negative
 - iii. Packer: copy of movement certification, as long as they can sell
 - iv. Pork: confidence and trust, permits developed for movement (who signs off?), training for biosecurity of employees, enhanced record-keeping. (What about

enforcement? Color coded decal dependent on level of risk, needs to be simplified).

8. 6th assignment:
 - a. The role of vaccination
 - i. Dairy: start vaccinating immediately even known infected herds. If you can protect animals they don't have to be depop'ed, DIVA vaccines are available, use of multivalent vaccines initially, who will be giving the vaccines (very labor intensive)
 - ii. Beef: producer will want to vaccinate to protect his herd ASAP, national perspective may want to use vaccine in another area to minimize spread. (NOTE: NVS is the delivery vehicle for the vaccine NVS holds vaccine antigen concentrate and would have to be agreed to release by U.S., Mexico, and Canada, sent over seas for manufacture and then back. Process would take days (import barriers, vial size, etc.) 7 serotypes and 60 subtypes.
 - iii. Packers: will accept vaccinated animals for domestic market, have to follow withdrawal periods
 - iv. Pork: initially depop followed by outer circle vaccination followed by movement to slaughter. May need to separate species.
 - b. How do you coordinate with industry to get it done
9. 7th assignment:
 - a. 3 biggest obstacles to why we haven't moved forward with business continuity planning
 - i. Pork: different agendas for supply chain parts, OIE standards result in lost markets if vaccinated, will consumers buy product from vaccinates, lack of testing protocol, need risk assessment,
 - ii. Packers: complacency, stat analysis, RTI, acceptable to consumer via communication (social media)
 - iii. Beef: will be an international event, define the market (i.e. international and domestic).
 - iv. Dairy: what will response authorities decide to do, most law makers are urban, inadequate resources, need rules from the regulators
 - b. What can we do to move it forward?
 - i. Pork, need people & money, test approval, perhaps NIAA could be the lead group to move the issue forward
 - ii. Beef: Dark website ready to go live with factual information.
 - iii. Dairy: move beyond protecting specific issues, engage all stakeholders to enhance continuity of business

Final points:

Goal is to eradicate the disease, but eradication may be contradictory to continuity of business. Consumer confidence is key. There is uncertainty as to what the response authorities may choose to do and what role politics may play to influence decisions. Industry needs to come to the table to discuss continuity of business and create a continuity of business operational plan.

Old Business:

Existing resolutions were considered and no modifications were considered.

New Business: None

Committee Session adjourned at 5:35 pm.