Business Continuity in Equine Disease Outbreaks

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Disclaimer:

- No Pharmaceutical money accepted for research.
- No support from Mule association accepted.
- Speaker is not presenting in any official capacity.
Business Continuity

• In the event of Disease outbreaks at equine events ..... 

• Is business continuity a part of the regulatory action????????

• Who Pays????
Avian Influenza, Depopulation Indemnity
New Mexico-2016 Estimated 20,000 cattle lost in Blizzards

• PROOF OF LOSS

Market value paid by USDA
Bovine Tuberculosis

- State Federal program
- Testing
- Necropsy
- Culls

- Indemnity

- Business Continuity

- MILK SALES

- STEERS
Rules of the Road
Before taking action

- Verify statutory authority,
- Conditions of Quarantine\restricted movement
- Conditions of Quarantine release
- BUSINESS CONTINUITY

- ALL INVOLVED PARTIES NEED TO AGREE AND UNDERSTAND.
THE RACEING INDUSTRY
EVERYONE WORKS
DAYLIGHT TO DARK
New Mexico Race Tracks

- Racinos
- Racing attached to a Casino
- 5 Active Racinos currently
- Sunland Park the premier race track
Sunland Park,
2016

1600 horses on
grounds
600-900 in
surrounding area
3000 registration
papers filed
TIMELINE

- Friday, January 14, 2016
  - Practicing veterinarian reports possible horse with neuro signs Sunland Park. EHM suspected
    - Euthanized, samples and carcass shipped to Albuquerque, VDS. (3 day weekend)
    - Gross samples consistent with EHM
    - January 19 PCR consistent with EHM
    - Samples sent to confirming lab (TVDL)
    - Jan 20 confirmed (index case)
Jan 20, Case #2 reported
- Neuro in another barn.
- Track closed to entrance exit by Sunland Park Management.
- Isolation barn established
  - Receiving barn established as quarantine
Bio-Security established on grounds JAN. 21

- POSITIVE BARNs RESTRICTED.
- LIMITED VEHICLE TRAFFIC.
- TRAINING CONTINUED
  - NON EXPOSED BARNs TRAIN IN EARLY AM
  - EXPOSED BARNs LATE PM
The Players—Who is in Charge??

- New Mexico Livestock Board
- New Mexico Racing Commission
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture
- Sunland Casino and Race track management
- Donna Ana County Sheriffs department
- New Mexico State Police
Track Closed /Biosecurity Established
Biosecurity on the Backside

- Vehicle entrance limited
- Training allowed
- Racing suspended
- Security posted on positive barns
Jan 22-NMRC COVERS DIAGNOSTIC TESTING COSTS

• Additional cases identified
• Twice Daily temperature recording of all horses mandated.
  – Track management purchased 400 digital thermometers.
  – INCREASED BIOSECURITY
    – FOOT BATHS
    – DISINFECTING GEAR
    – LIMITED ACCESS TO ALL BARNS (????)
Jan 23 racing suspended

- Further cases identified
- Out of state cases (Arizona) identified
- Cases in surrounding area identified
- Virus identified in several barns.
- Texas cases identified
The risk, goats, cats, birds??
EHV_to Test or Not to Test

- PCR
- nasal
- Buffy coat
- Virus Isolation the “gold standard”
- Shedders ????
- Who to test???? When to test????
  Frequency of testing ?
He Tested Positive? Maybe He Inhaled Some of My Smoke!!!
“Our Knowing is a whole lot better than our doing!”

J.D. Wheat
U.C. Davis
Professor Equine Medicine and Surgery
Which of these horses is an EHV carrier ???
Open air barns
Closed cell barns
JANUARY 22, 23, 24
January 25, 26, 27,
Resume Racing???
Who can be allowed to Race?

- Horses on grounds
- Only non exposed barns
- Barns that have had no cases in 14-21 days.

- Veterinarians on backside recommended that barns on countdown with no active cases be allowed to race with a negative rest (PCR) prior to race day (2-4 days) (NOT ALLOWED)
Dr. Peter Timoney
Visits with all Parties. Makes recommendations
Live with the virus
Let the veterinarians do their jobs.
LAST CASE 2/25 A MILD NEURO CASE
New Isolation established
Isolation
ISOLATION
The Numbers

- 1600 horses on the grounds
- 300 plus tested (PCR and/or Buffy Coat)
- 70 plus positive
- 6 serious neurologic (euthanized)
- 5 Transient neurologic cases
- All positives recovered
- Persistent shedders, up to 30 days and counting
Business Continuity in the face of Equine Disease Outbreaks

- Racing days lost 11
- The losses
- Betting handle for remaining season decreased.
- Sunland Derby cancelled
  - Graded Stakes, lost
  - Kentucky Derby points lost.
  - $800,000.00 purse reduced
- Sunland Oaks cancelled
  - Kentucky Derby points lost.
The losses

- Betting handle $150,000.00 to $500,000.00 plus daily
- Purses $150,000.00 to $800,000.00 plus daily
- Jockeys, Exercise riders unemployed
- Grooms, unemployed
- Farriers, decreased work load
- Veterinarians income decreased (10% of normal)
THE LOSSES

• TRAINERS
  – NO INCOME
  – OUTGO
    • FEED
    • LIMITED HELP
    • FARRIER
    • INCREASED VETERINARY COSTS
      – EMERGENCY VACINATION
      – TREATMENT OF SICK
THE OWNERS

- PAYING $1500.00-$2000.00 MONTHLY EXPENSES
- CANNOT RACE
- CANNOT MOVE HORSES
  - TO HOME
    - BREEDING
    - AWAY FROM AREA FOR SAFETY
THE FALLOUT

- OWNERS GIVING UP HORSES QUITTING RACING
- TRAINERS UNABLE TO SURVIVE, BANKRUPTCY
- TRACK MANAGEMENT LOSS OF IMAGE
- RACING IMAGE????
- NEXT YEAR PURSES DECREASED DUE TO DECREASE IN CURRENT BETTING HANDLE
The Fallout

- Veterinarians asked to euthanize horses because owners not believing horses are safe to take home!!!!!!
- Jockeys not allowed to race in other jurisdictions. Jockeys considered High risk for disease spread
- New Mexico show horses barred from out of state shows??
New Mexico horsemen establish emergency fund to feed horses.
1 MILLION DOLLARS A DAY LOSS
!!!!!!
Where do we go from here???

Can the industry afford to be protected???

Is the cure worse than the disease ????

-Going About It Ass Backwards-
Active Surveillance???

• Diagnosis primarily based on presence of Neurologic case!!

• Is some form of targeted surveillance in large equine populations advisable??

• What and when ?????
4-H Horse Projects
??WHAT NOW??

NO
TURN
AROUND
NEXT
5 MILES

DO NOT
BACK UP
THE END!