



**Fairs and Livestock Events  
Animal Disease Incident  
Tabletop Exercise**



# Steps to Complete the Exercise

1. Coordinate a date, time, and location for the exercise between members of your organization and other county and state officials to participate in the exercise.
2. Facilitate the exercise with planning committee, personnel, and additional parties. It should take you 2 and 3 hours to complete the exercise.
  - Invite members of the response community and agricultural community that would likely have a role to play in an animal disease incident located at your event.

# Tabletop Exercise Objectives

1. Evaluate the fairs and livestock events template for response measures and communications as it pertains to an animal disease incident.
2. Gauge attitudes toward participation and personnel commitments in supporting an animal disease response.
3. Identify gaps and challenges related to resource identification, acquisition, and accountability among planning activities.
4. Determine areas of future collaborative work between state, county, and academia groups to enhance prevention and response plans for an animal disease incident.

\*The goal for these objectives is to refer to the Biosecurity Toolkit for Fairs and Livestock Events to generate ideas and responses in this exercise.

# FEMA Core Capabilities

- A. Operational Coordination
- B. Operational Communications
- C. Public Information and Warning
- D. Situational Assessment
- E. Resource Management

# Exercise Assumptions

Assumptions constitute the implied factual foundation for the exercise and, as such, are assumed to be present before the exercise starts. The following assumptions apply to the exercise:

- The exercise is conducted in a no-fault learning environment wherein capabilities, plans, systems, and processes will be evaluated.
- The exercise scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented. Do not fight the scenario.
- Exercise simulation contains sufficient detail to allow players to react to information and situations as they are presented, as if the simulated incident were real.
- Participating individuals may need to balance exercise play with real-world emergencies. Real-world emergencies take priority.

# Exercise Artificialities

To facilitate exercise play and meet target exercise objectives in the designated timeframe, the following exercise artificialities will apply to the exercise:

- Location and type of livestock event is generalized, (i.e. county fair, horse show, etc.)
- Events will not occur in real-time but will be adjusted for exercise play purposes. Exercise participants will be notified when time jumps or adjustments occur.
- Exercise participants will all receive information at the same time and, therefore, will not reflect the true nature of information dissemination.
- Some response activities that are outside of the scope of this exercise, based on both U.S. and individual state response, have been simulated and do not necessarily reflect the exact policy decisions that will be made in a real-world incident.
- **Decisions made during the exercise are not policy setting.**

# Module #1

## First event planning meeting

The planning committee is meeting for the upcoming event. The plan is to review the Biosecurity Toolkit for Fairs and Livestock Events to discuss animal disease prevention and response strategies.

### Based on this scenario:

- After reviewing the HVA table, what have you identified as major disease of concern?
- What requirements are in place for animal entries to ensure the prevention of disease entry?
- Who is in charge of reviewing animal entry requirements and what is the process for evaluating animals on arrival?
- What system is in place to manage animal records?

# Module #2

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 6:30 AM**

During the morning walk-through of a live animal housing area at a local livestock event, an onsite staff member notices a steer is having difficulty eating and is drooling from the mouth. The staff member, who owns and has experience working with cattle, notices blisters in the mouth of the steer.

**Based on this scenario and the planning template:**

- What is the protocol for staff and attendees to notify management of a potential animal disease incident.
- Who is designated as an on-site/on-call animal health specialist to evaluate this steer?
- What animal records do you have or will you need for this animal?
- What biosecurity measures, including human interaction, are you taking at this point?
- What do you communicate to other animal owners in this barn, and on the premise?
- Do you inform the public at this point?



Photo credit: KDA



# Module #3

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 9:30 AM**

The state veterinarian has been notified and a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) is now on-site taking samples from the steer showing symptoms. Test results will not be available for 24 hours. No animals will be allowed in or out of the facility until results are finalized.

## Based on the scenario:

- Who is coordinating communication with local, state, and federal officials, as well as animal owners, vendors, and attendees of the event?
- Is the location of the steer open to the public or closed to all foot traffic? What about other animal areas at the event?
- What biosecurity measures do the event managers need to take at this point? What do you recommend to livestock owners in this barn?
- Does time of day change any decisions made? Are you in the beginning, middle, or end of the event?
- What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Cleaning and Disinfection (C&D) supplies will be needed?
- How have you prepared for the potential arrival of additional responders and overall management of the incident?



Photo credit: KDA

# Module #4

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 5:00 pm**

Another exhibitor has noticed lesions on their horses located in the equine area. A second FADD takes samples for testing. They recommend no animals in or out of the facility and no movement within the facility. The state agriculture department has sent a communications representative to your location to coordinate media response.

## Based on the scenario:

- What immediate biosecurity measures should happen within the equine area?
- Do you continue the event, and if so, what plans are in place to continue to operate?
- Who will be communicating with the state representative? The animal owners? The attendees? The media?
- How is messaging tailored and disseminated for each key audience?



Photo credit: AgView

# Module #5

**Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 AM**

The results from the laboratory confirmed both the steer and horses at the event have been diagnosed with Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV). Your state agriculture department has placed a 72 hour stop movement order on animals at your location. (Review next slide for VSV information)

## Based on the scenario:

- How will you separate animals with clinical signs from apparently health animals?
- How will biosecurity measures for healthy animals differ from infected animals?
- How will you restrict animal and human movement?
- Describe any necessary environmental controls (waste, weather, vector control, etc.)
- Describe a communication plan with the event attendees and the media. How is information given to each audience?

**VESICULAR STOMATITIS VIRUS**

**STOP THE SPREAD OF VSV: BIOSECURITY**

- Separate affected animals
- Control insects
- Handle healthy animals before sick animals
- Wash and disinfect hands, boots, equipment, stalls
- Don't share equipment (water buckets, brushes, etc.)
- Change clothes between healthy and sick animals

[www.agriculture.ks.gov/vsv](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/vsv)

Kansas Department of Agriculture  
DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH  
785-564-6601

Photo credit: Kansas Department of Agriculture

# Vesicular Stomatitis

- Vesicular Stomatitis (VSV) is a viral disease primarily affecting horses and cattle. It can occasionally affect swine, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, and people who handle affected animals.
- Outbreaks of VSV usually occur in warmer months in the southwestern and western United States.
- VSV does not normally kill affected animals, but can cause economic losses for livestock producers by preventing animal movements and international trade. VSV is a reportable disease that usually requires a quarantine of the location where affected animals reside. VSV has similar clinical signs to Foot and Mouth Disease.
- The virus is spread through insects, animal contact and movements, and movement of the virus on objects.
- Clinical signs of VSV include: excessive salivation, vesicles or blister-like lesions on the lips, gums, tongue, dental pad. Lesions can also occur on the coronary band, prepuce, vulva, and teats. Lesions are often painful and lead to severe weight loss and/or lameness.
- Any animal suspected of having VSV or any other vesicular disease should be immediately examined by a veterinarian. Veterinarians and livestock owners with suspect animals should immediately contact State or Federal animal health authorities.
- **Recent outbreaks of VSV in the U.S. have occurred in 2020, 2019, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2010, 2009, and 2004-2006.**
- A VSV outbreak is estimated to cause a mean loss of \$15,565 at any given infected farm (Rozo-Lopez, P., et al 2018).

Factsheet – Vesicular Stomatitis – [fs-vesicular-stomatitis.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/factsheets/fs-vesicular-stomatitis.pdf)

# Hot Wash and Participant Feedback

## Fairs and Livestock Events Template

- What are three things that you found helpful about the template?
- What are three things that need additional consideration or did not apply to your planning?
- What additional topics should have been covered?

## Tabletop Exercise

- How did the exercise help you evaluate the plans you made after reviewing the template?
- Do current plans need revisions following the exercise? If so, what areas need additional consideration? What areas did you successfully complete?