

MORROW COUNTY ANIMAL DISASTER RESPONSE AND PROTECTION PLAN

I. PURPOSE

This plan will provide direction and assignment of responsibility for animal issues before, during, and after a disaster affecting animals, to facilitate overall coordination of animal protection and care. The goal of this plan is to protect domesticated animals (including pets and livestock), the public health, the public food supply, the environment, and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals in the event of a major disaster.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. There is little doubt that local governments in the County, and its surrounding municipalities, recognize a pro-active need for disaster planning throughout its agencies and employees. This plan is intended as guidance for use by local governments to take immediate action in providing a means of care and control to minimize animal suffering in the event of a major disaster or emergency.
2. The County Emergency Management Director or designee may place established plans and procedures into effect, and direct both the response and recovery aspects of a major disaster or emergency involving animals. The plan may deviate from these procedures when it is assessed that immediate and direct action is necessary to protect the public safety.

B. Assumptions

1. Natural or manmade disasters could affect the well being of domestic or non-domestic animals.
2. The owners of pets or livestock, when notified of an upcoming emergency will take reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their care and/or control.
3. During disaster evacuation many people will not evacuate without their animals, or will delay their own evacuation in an attempt to make preparation for their animals left behind to their own detriment.
4. The County should plan for responding to emergency situations involving animals utilizing local resources. Through identifying hazards and resources in the county in advance of a disaster, relief efforts will be more efficient and expedient. A Hazards and Resources worksheet are found in Appendix 2.
5. Animal protection planning should ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency. These plans may include measures to identify housing and shelter for animals, communicating information to the public and proper animal release.

6. A major disaster or emergency in the County may warrant immediate response from state and local personnel, agencies, and organizations. Emergency situations may also require activation of additional specialized agencies through mutual aid.
7. Public information statements will be issued through the various media outlets. This information will include locations where domestic and non-domestic animals may be accepted during emergency situations.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

1. The basic responsibility for animal care and shelter is the owner of the animal.
2. During a major disaster or emergency the overall responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with the Incident Commander.
3. The primary and support agencies will manage and coordinate local animal protection activities during major disasters or emergencies.
4. Requests for assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter material, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary medical professionals beyond the ability of the county to provide will be transmitted to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Should the need for Federal resources exist, the State Emergency Operations Center will coordinate the requests.
5. Animal protection and rescue operations shall be managed under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS).
6. Animals included under the plan
 - a. For the purposes of responding to animal issues during disasters, “animals” is defined as, “affected commercial livestock, companion animals, exhibition animals, captive wildlife, and exotic non-native pets.” This definition excludes non-captive wildlife.
 - b. The sheltering and protection of animals is the responsibility of their owners.
 - c. Animals that are lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, or in danger to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the Morrow County Animal Control Officer and/or other identified agencies. These animals will be sheltered, fed, and, if possible, returned to their owners. If the animals cannot be returned to their owners, their disposition will follow state law.
 - d. Wild animals should be left to their own survival instincts. Wild animals that are a danger to the public are the responsibility of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife; the Department will address such incidents using the guidelines and protocols set forth in its "Administrative Policy Regarding Nuisance Wildlife which is on file at each of the Department's administrative offices.

Notification

1. This plan and implementing procedures will be activated in the event of a major emergency causing a significant need for animal protection.
2. The *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, other* will decide when the *procedures* in this plan should be implemented and notify the appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies upon the activation of this plan.
3. The *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, other* will develop and maintain an appropriate emergency notification system of support and agencies personnel (with updated contact information). He/she will also develop and maintain an Animal-CERT.

Response

1. Shelter for:

Evacuated Pets

Use of Existing Boarding Facilities

Citizens that are evacuated to human shelters will normally place their animals in private boarding kennels or veterinary hospitals as close to the human shelters as possible.

In advance of a disaster, the *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Animal-CERT, other* will periodically obtain an up-to-date list from the Ohio Department of Agriculture of animal boarding facilities and veterinary hospitals, respectively, to promote co-location of human and animal sheltering when possible.

Emergency Animal Shelters

- (a) An Emergency Animal Shelter is defined as an *ad hoc* facility created during or following a disaster for the purpose of providing shelter to animals displaced by the disaster.
- (b) In advance of a disaster, the *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief, Animal-CERT, other* should develop MOUs with facilities that could be converted to Emergency Animal Shelters. If the need arises during a disaster, the County may sponsor and/or open emergency animal shelters at these sites.
- (c) In the event that animals are relinquished to emergency animal shelters, the owner will be required to sign a release form, and provide proof of vaccinations. In the absence of the records, the animals will be screened by

a veterinarian to determine whether the animal may enter the shelter or be transported to a veterinary hospital.

(3) Transportation/Movement of Pets

- (a) If necessary, the *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Animal-CERT, other*) will provide for the transport to animal shelters of small animals that are brought to citizens' evacuation shelters by their owners or rescue personnel.
- (b) The *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Animal-CERT, other*) will be responsible for providing transport for evacuated animals to either an animal evacuation shelter or other appropriate boarding/medical facility and ensure that a tracking system is in place to unite sheltered pets with their rightful owners after the emergency.
- (c) In the rare event that locally established shelters are destroyed or incapable of functioning due, animals may be moved outside the County for care and protection.

(4) Pets of Evacuated Citizens with Special Needs

- (a) Citizens with special needs (individuals with mental or physical handicaps) may require assistance in evacuating their pets.
- (b) If citizens with special needs are unwilling or unable to make the required arrangements for sheltering their pets, then the individuals and their pets will be transported to the human shelter together. Upon arrival at the shelter, animals not trained specifically to assist the individual (e.g. Seeing Eye dogs) will be transported to an animal shelter.
- (c) In the event that the individual and the pet cannot be separated due to the individual's handicap, the pet will be sheltered in the same facility in a separate room or area.

Stray/Lost Pets

- (1) All stray/lost animals recovered during a major disaster or emergency by will be sheltered at an Emergency Animal Shelter, or a humane shelter or boarding/veterinary facility that has agreed to accept these animals.
- (2) Any pets whose owners cannot care for their pets or domestic pets found by citizens will also be sheltered at these locations.
- (3) Unclaimed dogs may be handled according to state law regarding stray and abandoned dogs (O.R.C. 951.02).

Evacuated and Stray/Lost Livestock and Horses

Due to the size of most livestock and horses and the inability to transport large numbers of farm animals, owners are expected to

develop shelter and/or evacuation plans for their own animals.

Private farms, stables and fairgrounds located throughout the County may be used as shelter facilities for livestock and horses. In a disaster situation, the *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Animal-CERT, other* will contact farms, fairgrounds and stables to request their assistance in the sheltering operation. These facilities should be identified in advance with an MOU.

Wild Animals

(1) The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife will respond to animal disaster events involving wildlife that are endangering the public health or safety using the guidelines and protocols set forth in its "Administrative Policy Regarding Nuisance Wildlife which is on file at each of the Department's administrative offices.

2. Staff/Supplies of Animal Shelters

a. Staff

- (1) Private boarding kennels and private veterinary facilities will be responsible for their own staffing and will be compensated by the citizens who use the animal shelter according to the established policies of the individual facility.
- (2) *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Animal-CERT, other* will develop and routinely update lists of available veterinary and non-veterinary volunteers to staff Emergency Animal Shelters.
- (3) Each Emergency Animal Shelter should have a volunteer veterinarian on the premises to evaluate the pets of evacuated citizens. Pets with significant injuries or illnesses will be transported to a veterinary facility for treatment; others may be permitted to remain in the animal shelter.
- (4) Depending on the extent of the emergency situation, the Humane Society of the United States may be requested by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to assist in the sheltering of domestic and non-domestic animals.
- (5) Each individual animal shelter and medical facility will be responsible for developing its own work schedules for employees and volunteers.
- (6) If necessary a Veterinary Triage Center will be set up and staffed by veterinary volunteers, including possibly a Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT).

b. Supplies

- (1) The *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Animal-CERT, County Animal Control Officer, other* will arrange for sources of potable water, food, medical, cleaning, shelter supplies, and communications equipment in advance of an emergency situation.

- (2) A delivery point to receive supplies through donations, mutual aid and purchase should be established once shelters are activated. This will serve as a storage and distribution center for the various shelters and hospitals. If the need arises, domestic and non-domestic animal food companies, and medical, water and cleaning product suppliers may be contacted to request donations of cages and other various shelter supplies. In anticipation of need, ***Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Animal-CERT, other*** should procure or identify location of necessary shelter supplies.

4. Search and Rescue of Animals

- a. Domestic Pets - The coordination of stray domestic pets or those in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of ***Morrow County Animal Control Officers, Animal-CERT, other.***
- b. Livestock - The coordination of stray livestock or those in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of the ***Morrow County Humane Society (Ohio Department of Agriculture, County Cooperative Extension, Animal-CERT, County Animal Control Officer, other).***
- c. Wild Animals – Wild animals out of their natural habitat that are endangering the human population are the responsibility of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Fish and Wildlife.
- d. Stranded Animals – In the event that animals cannot be rescued due to the emergency situation, food and medical assistance may be delivered to the animals when possible.
- e. Additional Aid - In the event that County resources cannot meet the requirements for animal search and rescue, the County Emergency Management Director will request outside assistance through the EOC from Ohio Emergency Management Agency who can coordinate volunteers from other counties.

5. Disease Control

- a. The Ohio Department of Agriculture will be called for any suspicion of Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) in livestock or poultry. Appropriate protocols will be followed in these circumstances (O.R.C. 941.7).

2. Recovery

1. Release/Disposition

- a. Domestic Pets/Livestock
 - (1) ***Morrow County Animal Control Officers, Animal-CERT*** will support efforts to identify owners of stray/lost animals.
- b. Wild Animals

- (1) The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife will respond to animal disaster events involving wildlife that are endangering the public health or safety using the guidelines and protocols set forth in its "Administrative Policy Regarding Nuisance Wildlife, " which is on file at each of the Department's administrative offices.

2. Disposal of Animal Carcasses

- a. Emergency disposal of all domestic animal carcasses including pets, livestock and poultry should follow Rules for the Disposal of Animal Carcasses (O.R.C. 941.14)

AGENCIES AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Matrix of Primary Agencies and Responsibilities

Local Fire Chief	County Emergency	Animal-CERT	Municipal Animal Control Officer	Other	Other	
						Be the lead coordinating agency on this plan.
						Notify appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies, when this plan is activated.
						Activate the Emergency Operations Center
						Provide for the overall direction and coordination of emergency situations impacting on the County.
						Activate and direct Animal-CERT.
						Develop a process to deliver instructions to the general public on how to prepare pet animals and livestock for an impending emergency
						Assist in notifying the public of animal shelters.

						Develop generic press releases concerning animal care and shelter to be published prior to, during, and in the aftermath of a major disaster or emergency.
						Provide for and coordinate personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to protect domestic and non-domestic animals and sick and/or injured animals.
						Coordinate the disposal of deceased (domesticated) animals that may impact the public health.
						Provide services to control diseases related to the protection of animals.
						Develop and maintain an appropriate emergency notification system of Animal Control Officer support personnel and agencies.
						Plan and prearrange for transporting animals from citizen evacuation shelters in the County to nearby animal shelters or boarding/medical facilities.

						Develop a system to track sheltered pets, and a method to direct inquiries concerning lost pets.
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B. Local Support Agencies and Responsibilities

A. County Cooperative Extension

- a. Assist the County in the protection of livestock during a major disaster or emergency.

B. American Red Cross

- a. Assist the County Emergency Management Director in coordinating co-location of human and animal evacuation shelters in the County.

C. Private Boarding Kennels, Stables, Dog Clubs, and Horse Clubs

- a. On a volunteer basis, provide personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to protect and care for pets from evacuated citizens and in cases when established animal shelters are filled or destroyed.

D. Private Farms and State Agricultural Fairgrounds

- a. On a volunteer basis, provide shelter and supplies to care for displaced livestock.

C. Outside Animal Support Agencies and Responsibilities

1. Ohio Department of Agriculture

- a. The Ohio Department of Agriculture will be responsible for the enforcement of state regulations concerning livestock health and the movements of animals affected by those regulations. Ohio Department of Agriculture will also assist in providing information and direction whenever possible with regard to the general health of livestock in these areas.

2. State of Ohio Animal Response Team

- a. Assist the County with locating personnel, equipment, and shelter resources as required to protect and care for pets of evacuated citizens.
- b. Develop and maintain a database of trained volunteers that are capable and willing to aid in the protection, and medical care of animals during a major disaster or emergency.

- c. Coordinate training of Animal-CERTs and other volunteers in advance of a disaster to ensure adequate trained personnel for assist in technical large animal rescue, search and rescue, and emergency animal sheltering.

3. *Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife*

- a. Provides personnel and equipment as required to protect the public health and safety in incidents involving wildlife.

D. Local and Outside Assistance

Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Support requests for aid to other states, coordinate county requests for assistance.

Ohio Veterinary Medical Association

A source of information for animal medical problems.

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Activates the regional Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT), when assistance is requested and warranted.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Provides assistance during major animal health events.

Assists in the disposal of poultry and livestock.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Staffs a 24-hour animal poison control center for emergency information concerning poisoned animals.

PetFinder.org

Maintains list of lost and found animals

The American Veterinary Medical Association

Manages Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) and provides animal medical care assistance during a major disaster or emergency

IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A.** This plan and implementing procedures will be activated in the event of a major disaster or emergency causing a significant need for animal protection.

- B.** The County Emergency Management Director will determine when these procedures will be implemented and notify the appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Communications

1. Communications between the primary and support agencies will occur primarily through two-way radios, cell phones, telephone, and facsimile.
2. Amateur radio will be used as a backup system if other communication is impossible due to the nature of the emergency situation. Volunteer amateur radio may also be set up at the County's designated animal shelters.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A.** The primary responsibility for coordinating the Animal Disaster Response and Protection Plan development and maintenance rests with the *Morrow County Emergency Management Director, Animal-CERT, other*)
- B.** A periodic review will be conducted on this plan for revalidation and necessary changes. Revisions to this plan will be identified by appropriate signatures and approval dates. The revision process will include incorporation of necessary changes based upon periodic tests, drills and exercises as appropriate.
- C.** Frequent (recommended every 6 months) download to disk or make hard copy of SMART Animal Response Resource System to have in case computer systems are down.
- D.** All departments and organizations within the County providing animal protection or control will develop and maintain their own updated SOP's, personnel rosters with 24-hour emergency contact numbers, and appropriate mutual aid agreements that are supportive of the County plan. This information will be coordinated with and provided to the County Emergency Management Director.

**APPENDIX 1
COUNTY
DISASTER PLANNING TIPS
For**

PETS and LIVESTOCK

Domestic Pets

- If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND**. Pets most likely cannot survive on their own, and if by chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.
- For public health reasons, many citizen emergency evacuation shelters cannot accept pets.
- Arrange ahead of a major disaster or emergency, to shelter your pet at a local animal shelter or out of the area.
- Include local animal shelter's numbers in your list of emergency numbers.
- Find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets.
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- Make sure you have a secure pet carrier and leash or harness for your pet so that if the animal panics, it cannot escape.
- Take pet food, bottled water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter / pan, can opener, food dishes, first aid kit and other supplies with you in case they are not available later.
- Make sure you have a copy of your pet's medical records. If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Most boarding kennels, veterinary shelters, and animal shelters require that your pet's vaccinations are current.
- Contact friends, family, veterinarians, or boarding kennels to arrange for emergency care of your animals, in case emergency animal sheltering is unavailable locally. Make sure medical and feeding information, food, medicine and other supplies accompany your pet to its foster home.

Livestock

- Evacuate livestock whenever possible. The evacuation sites should have or be able to readily obtain food, water, veterinary care, handling equipment and facilities.

- If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be determined based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter.
- All animals should have some form of identification that will help facilitate their return.

Further Assistance

- If you see any injured or stranded animal in need of assistance, during a major emergency situation, contact your local Animal Control Officer or County Emergency Management Director.

APPENDIX 2

RESOURCES (Indicate those that apply)

Acadia Zoological Park
AARP, Ohio Chapter
Boer Goat Breeders of Ohio
Breeding and Boarding Kennels
Central Ohio Harness Horseman's Association
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Humane Society of the United States
IDEXX
Ohio Alpaca Association
Ohio Poultry Association
Ohio Animal Control Officers
Ohio Aquaculture Association
Ohio Association of Agricultural Fairs
Ohio Association of Broadcasters
Ohio Association of Site Evaluators
Ohio Beef Producers Association
Ohio Boer Goats Association
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Dairy Industry Association
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Ohio Equine Advisory Council
Ohio Farm Bureau
Ohio Federation of Humane Societies
Ohio Harness Racing Association
Ohio Llama Association
Ohio Municipal Association
Ohio Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assn.
Ohio Sheep Breeders Association
Ohio Standardbred Breeders and Owners Assn.
Ohio State Citizen Corps Council
Ohio State Society of the Protection of Animals
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
Ohio Warden Service
Marine Animal Lifeline
Natl. Voluntary Orgs. Active in Disaster (VOAD)
Pet shops
Red Cross
University of Ohio Cooperative Extension
USDA APHIS Veterinary Services
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Wildlife Services, Ohio Office

ANIMAL DISASTER PLAN

For

MORROW COUNTY

Introduction:

It is vital that animal facilities prepare for disasters, not only for the animals housed inside, but so that the facility will be viable in the aftermath. These facilities will include animal shelters, kennels, veterinary clinics and hospitals, pet shops, horse stables and other facilities where animals are routinely housed. The following guidelines are appropriate for all and will help determine which disasters and dangers a facility may be vulnerable to, and what plans they can make now to mitigate damage and downtime.

Evaluate your Animal Facility

A. Know the dangers of the facility's location. Are you:

- in a storm surge area for hurricanes of any category?
- in a flood plain for nearby lakes, creeks or rivers?
- located near any hazardous waste plants or disposal sites?
- near any railroad tracks with trains carrying hazardous wastes?
- near any interstates that have trucks carrying hazardous wastes?
- near any fuel depots?
- in an area prone to wildfire?
- near any area with earthquake faults?
- in an area that a power outage could create a heat or cold emergency?
- Fire: we all run the risk - our most common and deadliest single disaster. Check with your local emergency management department or fire department for assistance in assessing the potential disasters in your area.

B. Know the dangers of the actual structure:

- What is the building made of (wood, concrete, brick, etc.). Is it solid enough to withstand hurricane force winds?
- Does it have sliding glass doors, large windows or a large number of windows? Do these have hurricane shutters or appropriate coverings for heat or cold emergencies?
- If the facility has kennels, are they indoor/outdoor runs or all indoor?
- What areas of the facility would be safe in a hurricane or tornado? Are there interior areas that would be protected?
- Is the roof secure? Is it hurricane clipped or strapped? Is it capable of water loading from heavy rains, snow or ice?
- Do you have exposed, overloaded, or old electrical wiring that could start a fire?
- Does the facility have a number of fire extinguishers, and are they in convenient and easy to locate?

- Do you have smoke detectors throughout the facility, and are the batteries checked at least twice a year? (An alert system and sprinklers are preferred.)
- Do you allow smoking in or around the building? If so, is a proper smoking policy in effect?
- Is the area around the facility cleared of underbrush and trees to prevent wildfire from spreading to the building?

It would be advisable to have the building properly evaluated by an engineer or another professional experienced with the requirements necessary for a facility to withstand a major disaster. Check with your emergency management department to see if this is a service it provides or if it can recommend a professional.

Insurance

Is your insurance adequate to cover all losses? You need to properly evaluate your coverage at least once a year.

A. Identify your facility on the flood plain and or storm surge map located at your local Emergency Management Department.

B. Make a complete inventory of the property, including photographs of each room. Store this written or videotaped inventory with insurance papers in a safe place, keeping a duplicate inventory file off-premises.

Set Priorities

A. Identify the most expensive or irreplaceable items (the animals in the facility will be your top priority) and create plans to preserve and protect them.

B. Identify what items are most necessary to get the facility operating again. (i.e. records, equipment, etc.)

C. Movable Inventory (i.e. animal control trucks, cars, etc.) - make arrangements now for a safe location where these items can be moved well in advance of the storm. Make sure your vehicles are not moved to a location where they can be immobilized, such as by falling trees, flying debris, or flood waters. Tie them down if appropriate.

D. Move important inside equipment to the center of the room as high as possible (upstairs if available) and wrap it with waterproof tarps or plastic. Secure with a rope or tape. Anchor downstairs furniture.

E. If you are in a floodplain, make arrangements to move as much as possible from this location well in advance.

F. Glass - Shutter or board all glass to prevent it from flying around doing additional damage or injury. Whenever possible, large windows or sliding glass doors should be covered with commercial hurricane shutters, since it is difficult for them to be properly boarded. In case of wildfire, remove drapes when one threatens to prevent them from catching fire as the glass becomes heated.

G. Contact your local fire service and ask them to do a fire drill at your facility so they are familiar with where the animals are housed. Also ask them to do a walk through to point out situations which might be fire or chemical hazardous.

H. Install a fire alarm system, if you do not already have one. Have it connected directly into the fire department. By the time an internal alarm is heard, it could be too late.

I. Have fire extinguishers readily available throughout the facility and make sure all employees know how to operate one.

J. Install a lightning suppression system.

K. If in a wildfire prone area, keep hoses attached on all sides of the building with lawn sprinklers for wetting down roofs.

Create a Pyramid of Employee Release

A. Release all non-essential personnel as soon as possible so they can assist their families in making preparations. See that all employees have written personal disaster plans covering their home, family and pets - if they are prepared; they are better able to concentrate on assisting in getting the facility prepared effectively.

B. Release second level of employees as soon as they have completed their assigned disaster preparation duties.

C. Remaining employees leave as soon as premises are prepared and secured. Always start well in advance - the key to minimize damage and injury is evacuate as quickly as possible. All employees should be released in time for them to reach safe shelter. In the case of hurricanes, this should be before sustained winds reach 45 mph.

D. Explain:

- Watch: generally issued 72 hours prior to an expected event - preparations should begin at that time. The radio should be monitored constantly.
- Warning: generally issued when the expected event is imminent within the next 24 hours or sooner. Depending on when the Warning is issued (day, night, weekend) your plan may change dramatically. Depending on your operating hours you may have to plan to call in key employees to prepare the facility. Home phone numbers should be kept with the manager or director at all times. Also call non-essential employees and tell them not to report to work until further notice. Have a plan to re-contact employees if telephone lines are inoperable.

E. It is not recommended that you demand participation of employees in responding to the aftermath of a disaster. Your disaster plan could fall apart if you depend on certain people who are not available because of family concerns.

F. Recognize in developing the personnel section of your disaster plan that even those employees who make a commitment to assist before or after a disaster may not be able, for reasons beyond their control. Cross train employees in disaster duties.

Specific Preparations

A. Hazardous Materials

- Make sure all hazardous materials are labeled - if they do get washed away or strewn about your local clean-up crews will know what they are dealing with.
- Attach all outside storage cylinders to the building (attach at top and bottom); if attached at only one place, cylinders can be battered against the building and possibly break valves. Remember, nothing is too heavy to worry about!
- If small quantities of hazardous materials are stored on open shelves, make sure the shelves have adequate lips to keep materials on the shelves. Make sure cupboards are fitted with positive latches.
- Separate all incompatible chemicals!
- Keep up-dated inventories of all hazardous materials - store this in a safe place off premises or take it with you upon evacuation.
- Shut down the valves on all tanks before leaving.

B. Records

- If possible, put vital records on hard disk to be taken along when leaving, or electronically transfer all important records to a location outside the expected disaster area.
- If records are not computer compatible, place them inside plastic bags and then pack in boxes.
- Seal the boxes with tape.
- Mark the outside of the box with pertinent information, such as department name and/or name of supervisor responsible for records.
- If records are confidential, indicate this on the outside of the box.
- Take boxes to a central location to receive an assigned number and to be inventoried.
- Remove boxes to a safer location outside of the disaster area - this location should be pre-determined.

C. Assign employees to clear outside area of all loose objects. Remove flags from poles as this substantially increases the ability of the flagpole to withstand wind.

D. If the shelter has any refrigerated inventory (drugs, medicines, etc.) immediately set all refrigerators to the lowest setting. However be aware that once the power is off refrigerated items generally will stay cold for approximately 48 hours. If the power outage is expected to be longer than this, or if the items will otherwise be lost, relocate them or donate them to relief efforts.

E. Drive any motor vehicles to a safe location, if there is none at the facility. Make sure the vehicles are fully fueled, since gas stations will be unable to operate due to lack of power.

F. Empty freezer of any dead carcasses and dispose of properly. Turn freezer on as cold as possible for holding of dead animal bodies immediately after the disaster.

Final Securing of Premises

A. Contact your alarm system company and local officials advising that you are shutting down operation of the facility.

B. Provide employees' with appropriate identification showing employment or relationship to the animal facility so that they will be able to return after the storm.

C. Unplug all equipment and turn off electricity at breakers before leaving - including air conditioning, water heaters, gas and water (this helps prevent contamination).

D. Recheck valves on hazardous materials tanks to make sure they are fully closed.

Returning after the Disaster

A. Avoid all metal as it may be energized. Wear rubber boots and rubber gloves.

B. Enter with extreme caution; check structural integrity. Always use a buddy system when entering the structure.

C. Don't strike matches, as gas leaks or leaks of other hazardous materials are common. Use flashlights only.

D. Make a written assessment of the building and its contents. Photograph as similarly to the original inventory photographs as possible, to expedite insurance processing.

E. Make any safety repairs immediately that are necessary to protect employees and minimize further damage.

F. If there has been flooding or rain damage, have an electrician inspect the premises before turning on the breakers.

G. DON'T connect emergency generators to the building wiring as unsuspecting repair crews may be injured or killed. Operate any necessary equipment directly off the generator. Use generators outside only as they expel carbon monoxide.

H. Continue to use communication systems only for emergencies.

- I. Remember that water will be contaminated, creating a health hazard.
- J. Employees should be instructed not to attempt to return to work until notified.
- K. Notify outside agencies, such as national or state humane and animal control organizations, of your status. If you need assistance of any kind, the faster you call, the faster it will arrive. It is generally much easier for you to call out of a disaster area than it is for others to call into one.

On-Going Planning

- A. Flood-Plain Map - Keep one posted at all times in employee and public lounges or waiting areas.
- B. Provide regular training for all employees in CPR, First Aid (for humans and animals) and disaster preparations, particularly in tornado, earthquake, and fire response (use of fire extinguishers and their locations in the facility).
- C. Hold quarterly fire, tornado, and earthquake drills.
- D. Review and update your disaster plan annually.
- E. Supplies needed at all times:
 - o Flashlights with batteries (refrigerated for longer life).
 - o Transistor Radio with batteries
 - o Fire Extinguisher
 - o Tarps and/or plastic
 - o Rope or cord
 - o Tape
 - o Tools necessary to shut down equipment, tanks, etc.
 - o First Aid Kits for human and animals
 - o Food and water to last for 1 -2 weeks
 - o Portable corrals for livestock
 - o Collapsible cages or crates
 - o Additional collars, leads, leashes, halters
 - o Additional office supplies of those items used frequently
 - o Weather Alert Radio
 - o Police Scanner
- F. Make sure personnel are up-to-date on protective shots such as rabies, tetanus, hepatitis, etc.
- G. Develop a telephone tree of employees and, possibly, volunteers to notify them of disasters or pending disasters. Make provisions, however, for communication in case telephone lines are down. Pre-arrange meeting sites with needs list in case communication is impossible.
- H. Obtain, or get a commitment for, a generator with the capacity to operate basic functions of the facility. If you have obtained a generator for permanent use, have the

hook-up to your electric pre-wired by a qualified electrician. Make sure staff knows how to properly operate after a disaster.

I. Keep a list of telephone numbers of local, state and national groups that could provide assistance.

J. Develop a communications system with flexibility. Do not depend on one form of communication after a disaster.

- Telephone tree - those whose telephones are working and who can relay information around and out of the disaster area.
- Make contacts with local ham radio operators. See if someone can relay messages for the facility after a disaster.
- Become part of your emergency management department's system.
- Portable CB's will work short distances if all other systems are down. Information can be relayed by CB until better systems are operating.
- Cellular phones may not work because of downed relaying towers or crowded airwaves, but are useful to have on hand.

K. Check electrical wiring regularly.

You must also plan for incidents such as tornadoes, earthquakes, or hazardous material releases for which you will have little or no advance warning.

1. Someone should be designated to make the decision on whether to evacuate or stay in the building.

2. If the decision is to remain in the building, safe areas should be identified in advance and employees should be regularly instructed as to the location of the safe areas.

You should also consider the impact of a disaster not just on your facility, but on the neighboring community or region. A disaster in your area may bring a flood of animals to your doorstep, creating a ripple disaster in your shelter.

Disaster Plan Quick Check List

This plan developed

for: _____

Date: _____

I. EVALUATION OF FACILITY

A. Known dangers to facility in area

_____ Storm Surge area

- _____ Flood Plain
- _____ Hazardous material plants or disposal sites
- _____ Railroad tracks
- _____ Interstates
- _____ Fuel depots
- _____ Wildfires
- _____ Earthquake faults
- _____ Fire inside facility
- _____ Heat or cold emergencies
- _____ Emergency Management has assessed dangers to facility

B. Dangers of structure

Construction quality of building: _____Excellent _____Good _____Fair _____Poor

Glass: _____Sliding doors _____Large windows _____Large number of windows

Kennels: _____Indoor / outdoor _____Indoor only _____Outdoor only _____Other

- _____ Presence of interior "safe" areas
- _____ Roof hurricane strapped or clipped
- _____ Exposed, overloaded, or old electrical wiring
- _____ Professional evaluation of facility
- _____ Area cleared around structure

II. INSURANCE

- _____ Annual check for adequacy
- _____ Location identified on flood plain map
- _____ Inventory done

III. PRIORITIES

- _____ Identify vital property and protect
- _____ Movable inventory (i.e. vehicles)
- _____ Secure furniture

- _____ Glass secured
- _____ Fire drill conducted
- _____ Fire alarm installed
- _____ Fire extinguishers installed
- _____ Employees trained to use extinguishers
- _____ Lightning suppression system installed
- _____ Adequate hoses attached to building

IV. EMPLOYEES

- _____ Pyramid of release
- _____ Personal disaster plans
- _____ Non-business hours plan
- _____ Notification of return
- _____ Training in C.P.R.
- _____ Training in First Aid (human & animal)
- _____ Training in Disaster Planning
- _____ Cross training done
- _____ Up-to-date protective shots

V. SPECIFIC PREPARATIONS

- _____ Hazardous Materials - Labeled, secured
- _____ Outside tanks - secured and valves closed
- _____ Incompatible chemicals separated
- _____ Update inventories regularly
- _____ Vital business records protected and secured
- _____ Prepared for loss of power
- _____ Outside area clear of loose objects
- _____ Flags down
- _____ Refrigerated inventory protected

_____ Movable inventory, fueled and protected

_____ Freezer emptied of carcasses

_____ Generators available

VI. FINAL SECURING OF PREMISES

_____ Contact alarm companies

_____ Take identification

_____ Unplug equipment shut off breakers, gas and water

_____ Recheck hazardous material valves

VII. RETURNING AFTER THE DISASTER

_____ Rubber gloves and boots

_____ Enter with buddy

_____ Flashlights only

_____ Inventory

_____ Safety repairs

_____ Building checked by electrician

_____ Outside agencies notified of status

VIII. PLANNING

_____ Flood Plain Map posted

_____ Flashlights with batteries

_____ Transistor radio with batteries

_____ Weather alert radio

_____ Police scanner

_____ Fire Extinguishers

_____ Tarps and/or plastic

_____ Rope and tape

_____ Tools

_____ First Aid Kits (animal & human)

_____ Food/Water

_____ Extra cages and crates, halters

_____ Quarterly disaster drills - test smoke detector batteries

_____ Disaster plan updated annually

_____ Annually recharge fire extinguishers

_____ Identify safe areas from tornados, earthquakes, etc.

_____ Telephone tree created

_____ Electrical wiring checked

On _____ this plan should be re-evaluated and employees should be re-trained.

Signature & Date

Preparing the Farm and Farm Animals for Disasters

Introduction

Disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, severe winter weather, hazardous material spills or nuclear power plant accidents can occur any time. The event may occur suddenly or be anticipated for several days as with an approaching hurricane or flood. The time to prepare for these events is long before they occur. Even at the farm level, procedures should be written. They should be kept in a safe, fireproof, quickly accessible place with other important documents and taken along if it becomes necessary to evacuate the farm. Each member of the farm family and herd personnel should know of and practice the plan so that action may be taken even in the absence of key management personnel.

The first step in planning for a disaster is to determine what type of disaster could occur on the farm and with what frequency. It would be useless to spend time and money, for example, to plan for severe winter weather if the farm is located in a tropical environment. If the premises are near a nuclear power plant, even though the risk of an accident occurring is slim, the owners would want to consider how to protect their animals from radioactive fallout. If the farm is near a major highway, one might want to consider a hazardous material spill from a road accident in the planning. Living next to a river or stream would put planning for flooding or a barge accident in the forefront.

Only after farm owners have considered their risks can they prioritize the time, money, and other resources they wish to allocate to each potential hazard. An all-hazards plan is most desirable; however, plans should also be customized for specific situations. Once the risks are known, decisions can be made about what actions can be taken in advance and what actions would be required once the disaster occurs. Generally, the effects of a disaster on livestock are lessened by avoiding the disaster, mitigating its effect if it cannot be avoided, or sheltering the animals. The approach taken would depend upon the type of disaster anticipated. Sometimes only one approach may be appropriate such as sheltering. In some instances, combined approaches, such as mitigation and sheltering, may be required. In events such as floods or firestorms, sheltering may be the wrong thing to do.

Mitigation

Hazard mitigation is defined as any action taken to eliminate or reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological hazards. Some examples of hazard mitigation might be hurricane seeding to reduce the intensity of a storm, tying down homes or barns with ground anchors to withstand wind damage, redirecting the impact away from a vulnerable location by digging water

channels or planting vegetation to absorb water, establishing setback regulations so building is not allowed close to the water's edge, and constructing levees or permanent barriers to control flooding.

The farm and farm buildings should be surveyed to figure out what mitigation procedures should be followed based on the hazard risk. These procedures include:

- ! building or repairing barns and outbuildings so they exceed building codes;
- ! constructing or moving buildings to higher ground;
- ! replacing or covering glass windows and doors with sturdier materials;
- ! keeping drainage furrows sodded;
- ! cleaning or moving trash piles and burial sites (Many farms contain burial sites contaminated with lead-based paints, machinery grease, motor oil, lead-lined tanks, batteries, roofing nails, asphalt, shingles, caulking compounds, linoleum and plumbing lead. During flooding this material may leech into the crops or feed supply or be moved to a more accessible area where animals could consume them.);
- ! moving or storing toxic chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, and rodenticides in secured areas to prevent their washing onto pastures where animals may be exposed;
- ! securing loose items; and
- ! draining or building levees around ponds that could flood.

A list of resources and people should be developed by the farmer and kept with important papers. This list should contain emergency phone numbers, suppliers, truckers, and people that can help with the animals, especially if normal working conditions are disrupted.

Supplies that may be needed during or after the disaster should be obtained. Many of these items may not be readily available after the disaster. By obtaining them in advance, more reasonable prices will be paid. Unfortunately, disasters attract individuals who gouge and prey on the misfortunes of victims. Items that could be obtained are portable radios and TV's, extra batteries, flashlights, candles, portable generators, salt, gravel, litter, fuel, antifreeze, stored feed such as hay (the amount to store would depend on the hazard--after the Washington State flood, most producers vowed never to inventory large amounts of hay due to excessive flood damage and spoilage), ropes, halters and other animal restraint equipment, and medical supplies. Once obtained they should be stored in such a manner that they will be usable after the disaster. While in storage they should be checked at regular intervals--i.e., once a week--to assure that they do not spoil, and that electrical or mechanical appliances are still working. They should also be rechecked and evaluated after the event to assure they are still usable. A log should be kept to record when and how often the items were monitored. Animals should be kept current on all appropriate vaccinations and booster shots before the disaster. Keep a written record of the products given and the date of injection. Because the stress of the event and the disruption of the environment could cause an increase in infectious disease spread, proper vaccination could protect the animals.

Representation to Governmental Agency Managing the Disaster Response

As the disaster approaches or after it arrives, the most important thing the farmer needs is truthful, accurate, and current information. Government's response to most disasters is coordinated by a county, State, or Federal emergency management agency. Representation to this agency for the farmer is critical. In most instances, this is competently done by a member of the State or Federal Department of Agriculture. It is strongly suggested that farm organizations lobby for veterinary representation either through their State or Federal Department of Agriculture or separately to the emergency management agency. Often, the needs of animals during disasters are given low priority. Veterinarians, who are aware of these needs and can also verify the validity of requests for help, are most suited to bring animal problems to the forefront. In many instances, actions required to protect animals, such as sheltering or evacuation, must be done before a similar action is taken for people. This is because moving animals to shelter from pasture or evacuating them to other locations takes considerable time and many workers. However, governmental agencies will not issue such directives for animals before similar instructions are issued for people. They fear that a panic situation might occur and people might be critical about animals being protected before them. (Animals can always be released from the shelter or returned from their point of evacuation if the disaster does not materialize.) What they do not consider is that it must be done while it is still safe for people to do the task since animals cannot shelter or evacuate themselves. After the disaster, government usually limits access to the disaster area. However, animals have to be fed, watered, and milked. Who is better suited to do this than the owner? Designation of farmers as emergency workers by government solves the problem of who will be responsible for this task. A veterinarian located in the emergency operating center can get these messages across.

Evacuation

If evacuation of the animals is being considered, then evacuation procedures, places, and routes should be planned. Since all animals may not be able to be evacuated, owners should decide ahead of time which are the most important ones to save. Various decision criteria can be used such as sale value, breeding quality, stage of pregnancy, stage of production, or simply sentimental preference. These animals should be identified ahead of time and a written list kept. If the owner is not home when the disaster threatens, others would then know which animals to save.

Animal evacuation routes must not interfere with human evacuation routes. Alternate routes should be found in case the planned route is not accessible. Places where animals are to be taken should be decided in advance and arrangements made with the owners of these places to accept the animals. Trucks, trailers, and other vehicles should be obtained in advance and the animals acclimated to them so they are not frightened when they have to be used. Restraint equipment, feed and water supplies should be available to use and move with the animals and sufficient people should be on hand to help move them. The animals should be photographed and permanently identified by metal ear tag, tattoo, brand, registration papers, or microchip. A permanent record of the identification must be kept as this information is useful in resolving arguments of ownership in case animals get loose. Papers documenting the identification should be kept with other important papers. Ultimately, the decision to evacuate will depend on the distance to be traveled, the amount of time before the disaster will affect the farm, and whether there is any advantage to moving the animals to the place selected. Sometimes evacuation may be done after the disaster, provided the roads are passable and the equipment needed for travel usable. If this is the case, the accepting location must be contacted to find out its condition.

Sheltering

Whether to move farm animals to shelter or leave them outside will depend on the integrity and location of the shelter being used and the type of disaster. During Hurricane Andrew, some horses left outside suffered less injury than those placed in shelters. This was because some shelters selected did not withstand the high winds. Horses were injured by collapsing structures and flying objects that may have been avoided on the outside. Another reason for possibly leaving animals unsheltered is because flood waters that inundate a barn could trap animals inside, causing them to drown. During severe winter weather, shelter animals from icy wind, rain, and snow. Generally, if the structure is sound, the animals should be placed indoors. Once they are inside, secure all openings to the outside. As mentioned previously, the sheltering should be ordered and completed before similar action is taken for humans.

Farm cats and dogs should either be placed in a disaster-proof place or turned loose, as they generally will stay close to their home in the immediate period following a disaster. If they are loose, however, attempts must be made to immediately catch them after the threat is over to prevent these animals from becoming feral and a public health hazard. Some farm dogs are dangerously aggressive, and under normal circumstances should be kept chained. These dogs cannot be kept chained or turned loose during a disaster. If an inside shelter cannot be found, then the only safe and humane thing to do is to euthanize these dogs as a last measure before evacuation.

Human Evacuation

What can be done with the animals if there is a need to evacuate the premises and the animals have to be left unattended? There is always the risk that animals left unattended for extended periods could die or suffer injury. Sometimes, this may be the only option to protect human life. Protecting human life should always take priority in planning. Regardless, after the animals are secured in appropriate shelters, food and water should be left for them. The amount necessary for survival is considerably less than for other purposes. If the animals survive, then the decision can be made after the disaster whether it is worth the time and expense to bring them back to their previous condition.

Consult the table as a guide to the amount of food and water to leave. Every practical effort should be made to leave animals with sufficient food and water for their survival--enough for 48 hours should be left. Usually, within that time the initial effects of the disaster will be over. During the recovery phase, the decision can then be made as to the best way to mount a rescue effort.

Special Considerations

Some practices that may be followed in planning for disasters, especially during the winter, require a special alert. During winter weather it is common to use portable heaters, gritty substances on the floor to prevent slipping, and antifreeze. When using these heaters, be sure they are working properly and are located in an area where there is adequate ventilation. Heaters not working correctly could be a source of carbon monoxide, a deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Antifreeze used in vehicles is a deadly poison. Animals seem attracted to it and will readily consume it because of its sweet taste. Take care to properly label all containers. Do not use containers previously filled with antifreeze for other purposes, especially feed and water. Promptly clean up all leaks and spills. Water supplies should be checked for freezing. Many animals have died of thirst during the winter, even with abundant water sources, because they could not drink the water as it was frozen solid. If gritty material is spread on floors to prevent slipping, use only approved nontoxic materials. Recently, a farmer mistakenly used Furadan, a fungicide, for this purpose and several cows who licked it off the floor died.

Farms can be insured against catastrophic events. Insurance policies are available for replacement of damaged materials, repair work for recovery, boarding of evacuated occupants and animals, lost

production, and relocation. These should be investigated and purchased before the disaster threatens. For a farmer to claim compensation for lost production, which in many cases is the largest economic cost during a disaster, the farmer must have substantial records that document the level of production his/her herd has achieved in previous years. This is generally only successful in herds with recognized herd monitoring programs, such as Dairy Herd Improvement or other programs that are available for various species. To verify the validity of these records a herd health program, based on a valid veterinarian-client-animal relationship, should be in place. A copy of all production records should be kept in a secure place so that the details are not lost during the disaster. Many veterinarians are willing to keep copies of their clients' production records, if they are computerized and space efficient.

Conclusion

Depending upon the event, disaster preparation may or may not be successful. However, it is known that effects of disasters are lessened by proper planning. Economically, it is cheaper to prevent the problem or lessen its effect than to pay the costs of recovery. The time to do this is NOW, before the disaster occurs.

ANIMALS	WATER/DAY	FEED/DAY
DAIRY COWS		
IN PRODUCTION	9 GALLONS SUMMER	20 POUNDS HAY
	7 GALLONS WINTER	
DRY COWS	9 GALLONS SUMMER	20 POUNDS HAY
	7 GALLONS WINTER	
WEANING COWS	6 GALLONS SUMMER	8-12 POUNDS HAY
	3 GALLONS WINTER	
PREGNANT	7 GALLONS SUMMER	10-15 POUNDS LEGUME HAY
	6 GALLONS WINTER	
COW WITH CALF	9 GALLONS SUMMER	12-18 POUNDS LEGUME HAY
	8 GALLONS WINTER	

CALF (400 POUNDS)	6 GALLONS SUMMER	8-12 POUNDS LEGUME HAY
	4 GALLONS WINTER	
SWINE		
BROOD SOW WITH LITTER	4 GALLONS SUMMER	8 POUNDS GRAIN
	3 GALLONS WINTER	
BROOD SOW (PREGNANT)	1-2 GALLONS SUMMER	2 POUNDS GRAIN
	1 GALLON WINTER	
150 POUND GILT OR BOAR	1 GALLON	3 POUNDS GRAIN
SHEEP		
EWE WITH LAMB	1 GALLON	5 POUNDS HAY
EWE, DRY	3 QUARTS	3 POUNDS HAY
WEANING LAMB	2 QUARTS	3 POUNDS HAY
POULTRY		
LAYERS	5 GALLONS/100 BIRDS	17 POUNDS/100 BIRDS
BROILERS	5 GALLONS/100 BIRDS	10 POUNDS/100 BIRDS
TURKEYS	12 GALLONS/100 BIRDS	40 POUNDS/100 BIRDS
HORSES		
ALL BREEDS	5 GALLONS/1000 POUNDS	20 POUNDS HAY/1000 POUNDS
DOGS AND CATS		

ALL BREEDS	1 QUART/DAY/ANIMAL	AD LIBITUM DRY FOOD
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Ohio Emergency Operations Plan

Animal Disease Incident Annex

Appendix #3 List of Diseases Referenced in ORC 941

The following diseases are designated as dangerously contagious or infectious diseases for the purposes of Chapter 941 of the Ohio Revised Code

1. Anthrax
2. Bluetongue (ovine, caprine)
3. Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*, *brucella melitensis*, *brucella suis*)
4. Newcastle Disease
5. Foot and Mouth Disease
6. Hog Cholera
7. Psoroptic cattle scabies
8. Psoroptic sheep scabies
9. Vesicular exanthema
10. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
11. Fowl typhoid
12. High path avian influenza
13. *Salmonella pullorum*
14. Tuberculosis (*mycobacterium bovis*)
15. Pseudorabies (Aujeszky disease)
16. Equine infectious anemia
17. Contagious equine metritis
18. *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, turkeys
19. Scrapie
20. Rabies
21. Eastern equine encephalomyelitis
22. Poultry chlamydiosis-ornithosis
23. Poultry paramyxovirus (other than Newcastle)
24. Infectious encephalomyelitis (poultry)
25. Infectious laryngotracheitis (other than vaccine induced)
26. Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Chapter 941 Flow Chart

