ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRODUCER
(OWNER/CUSTODIAN)

HANDBOOK

BRITISH COLUMBIA EQUINE SECTOR

HORSE COUNCIL BRITISH COLUMBIA

AHEM
Animal Health Emergency Management Project

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP | PARTENARIAT CANADIEN pour l'AGRICULTURE

Canada

Horse Council British Columbia
27336 Fraser Hwy
Aldergrove, BC
V4W 3N5

Phone: 604-856-4304
Email: industry@hcbc.ca
www.hcbc.ca

For information on the Animal Health Emergency Management project visit ***www.animalhealth.ca*** or email ***design@declercq.ca***

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INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgement

This handbook has been collaboratively developed with input and technical support from livestock commodity organizations across Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and several provincial governments including:

- Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- Manitoba Agriculture
- New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries
- Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs
- Le Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Overview

While emergencies are nearly impossible to predict, there are things you can do to minimize the impact. The **Animal Health Emergency Management PRODUCER HANDBOOK British Columbia Equine Sector** has been developed to help horse owners and custodians prepare for disease-related sector-wide emergencies. An effective and rapid response can play a vital role in:

- Reducing the risk to staff and family members
- Containing the incident
- Limiting the possible spread of disease
- Decreasing the impact on your business and the industry as a whole

We all have a role to play in protecting and strengthening our industry. There are three key sections in this handbook:

UNDERSTAND

- Provides background information on the phases of an emergency
- Valuable for individuals looking to gain a better understanding of government actions during an emergency, impacts of a serious animal disease, zoning, and more

PREPARE

- A collection of customizable tools and templates that can be used by producers looking to better prepare their operation for an emergency event

RESPOND

- Describes the actions you can take to protect your farm and limit further spread
- Know your role as a producer as well as specific protocols related to movement controls, zoning, vaccination, and other possible orders

How to Use This Handbook

You will be better prepared for a disease-related emergency if you have worked your way through this handbook. We encourage you to regularly review this document and the tools provided.

For convenience, a glossary explaining various terms and acronyms used throughout this document has been included in **Schedule 1**. We have also colour coded the individual sections to reflect the **UNDERSTAND**, **PREPARE** and **RESPOND** themes and to draw attention to owner/custodian **RESOURCES**.

Throughout the handbook, you will see various suggested PROTOCOLS. These items contain helpful step-by-step prompts that should be considered and implemented as appropriate. Owners/custodians will also want to look out for sections containing the TOOL symbol. If you see this sign, it means a customizable tool has been made available in the **RESOURCES** section. We encourage you to tailor these templates for your operation.

PROTOCOL/PROCESS

Protocol or processes have been highlighted with a YELLOW outline and an ORANGE clipboard icon.

CUSTOMIZABLE TOOL

Customizable Tools have been highlighted with a solid GRAY outline and a GRAY tool icon.

Protocols and customizable tools are available in the **RESOURCES** section where they can be printed, completed and stored in an easily accessible location in case of an emergency.

Best Results

The information contained in this document is only of use if it is kept current and shared with staff. With this in mind, owners/custodians are encouraged to:

- **Commit to reviewing this handbook annually**
  - Revisit the information and tools when you review and renew your insurance policies each year
- **Ensure that information provided here is available and understood by farm personnel**
  - The content in this handbook is easily incorporated into farm personnel training. Many of the elements can be customized, laminated and posted prominently, and/or inserted into your existing training material

In the event of a **disease-related sector-wide emergency**, necessary steps will be clearly communicated by **industry associations** and/or municipal, provincial and federal regulatory bodies. The information, protocols, and tools provided in this handbook are guidelines. Each disease emergency will be unique. While detailed needs of an actual event may differ from what's presented here, the concepts will be similar. To access the information and resources contained in this handbook online please visit ***www.animalhealth.ca***.

UNDERSTAND

We are in this Together

A serious animal disease outbreak will have significant impacts across the livestock industry. Some diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, will also affect multiple species and impact multiple commodity sectors across a number of provinces if not the whole country. Although equine might not be susceptible to the disease, such as the case with food-and-mouth disease, they could still be impacted by enforced restrictions. It is important that everyone in the livestock sectors work together in preparing and responding to serious animal disease outbreak emergencies.

This handbook has been designed to equip owners and their staff with up-to-date information and resources that can be used during the various phases of an emergency. Similar resources have been prepared for provincial and national livestock associations so that all key stakeholders can respond to a serious animal disease outbreak in a coordinated and effective manner that supports owners/custodians.

Industry Risks

Be it adverse weather, natural disasters, fluctuations in global markets, or even deliberate damage, owners/custodians must contend with challenging and unpredictable circumstances.

- **Terrorism –** deliberate introduction of disease or water/feed contamination
- **Border closure –** resulting from disease in either the importing or exporting region
- **Lost social license –** a change in consumer preferences of certain industry practices
- **Natural hazards –** extreme events such as forest/grass fires, overland flooding, earthquake, ice or severe hailstorms
- **Power loss –** including widespread grid failure

Relative to a major disease outbreak, the risks identified above are generally considered less likely to cause sector-wide emergencies. The most widely recognized and likely scenario that will cause a sector-wide emergency event in our industry is a serious animal disease outbreak.

Although this handbook focuses on responding to serious animal disease outbreaks many of the concepts and resources are transferrable to other industry risks. The **Other Hazards Resource** found in **Schedule 2** can help owners/custodians better prepare and respond to other emergency events such as fire, flood, or power failure.

Not only could a disease outbreak impact the equine industry, but it could also impact other livestock, such as beef, pork, and dairy sectors as well. Comingling events, such as horse shows, races, etc., are opportunities for disease transmission between horses and thereby other farms and facilities. Horses can act as a carrier of disease and transmit it to other locations and/or other livestock.

Disease-Related Sector-Wide Emergencies

Serious animal disease outbreaks are recognized as the industry's greatest vulnerability because they have the potential to lead to illness (and potentially death), financial costs, welfare concerns and potential risks to human health. These types of emergencies can negatively affect the reputation of the industry and can restrict Canada's trade and export capacity.

There are a number of serious animal diseases such as Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Vesicular Stomatitis or Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) that have the potential to significantly impact the industry. More information about these specific diseases can be found in **Schedule 3**.

QUICK FACT

In a 2016 national survey of livestock associations in Canada, 97% indicated that their sector was vulnerable to disease-related emergencies.
– Animal Health Emergency Management Project (2016)

A **zoonotic outbreak** (a disease affecting both humans and animals), **feed/water contamination**, or a **newly 'emerging' disease** could all be classified as disease-related sector-wide emergencies. This is due to the costly, widespread and prolonged impact on the market as well as the potential for border closure.

The diagram illustrates the relationship of an individual horse to the national and international horse industry. It emphasizes the impact that disease left uncontrolled from an individual horse can impact your herd, your farm or facility, provincial and national herds, international trade and movement agreements and the international herd.

Reportable and Notifiable Diseases

As an owner you know your operation inside out. When an animal is unwell, there will be signs and it is your responsibility to act on those cues. Livestock owners and custodians have a duty of care, but they also have a legal requirement to report all suspected cases of certain diseases.

Reporting a suspected disease not only helps to reduce animal and human health impacts, it is integral to protecting our industry and communities across Canada. Serious animal disease outbreaks require extensive resources and expert assistance to contain and eradicate the disease, so it is important to alert the appropriate authorities as early as possible.

The diseases included in this section are federally reportable, or provincially notifiable diseases. In fact, these are listed specifically in the regulations that accompany the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada) and its provincial counterpart, the *Animal Health Act* (BC).

Reportable diseases generally require immediate action for prevention, control or eradication. Animal owners/custodians and veterinarians are legally required to report all suspected cases of reportable diseases. In contrast, notifiable diseases require monitoring for trade purposes, or to help the industry detect or understand their presence. Confirmation of a provincially notifiable disease does not usually require action, although further steps may be taken at the discretion of the provincial chief veterinary officer.

FEDERALLY REPORTABLE DISEASES

- African Horse Sickness
- Anthrax
- Brucellosis
- Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)
- Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)
- Equine Piroplasmosis
- Rabies
- Trichinellosis
- Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis
- Vesicular Stomatitis

PROVINCIALLY IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

- Equine piroplasmosis
- Plague caused by Yersina pestis
- Pseudorabies
- Q Fever caused by Coxiella burnetti
- Tularaemia caused by Francisella tularensis
- Disease caused by any toxic substance that is a threat to animal or human health
- All federally reportable and notifiable rabies

Emergency Phases

A disease-related sector-wide emergency will generally move through the following six key phases – some of which are more involved than others. Depending on the disease and particular incident, some phases may occur quickly and go unnoticed, while others may extend over a period of time due to heightened risk of contracting a disease or difficulty managing an outbreak.

This handbook contains information pertaining to all of the above phases with the exception of prevention. For more details on how to protect your animals from disease, please review the ***National Farm and Facility Level Biosecurity Standard for the Equine Sector*** or see the Biosecurity section on ***page 37***.

Alert

An unusual animal health event has been reported. Industry may be asked to remain vigilant and to voluntarily adopt risk mitigation measures to safeguard against a potential serious animal disease outbreak.

Suspicion

A serious animal disease is suspected. This may be issued by the CFIA, provincial government, or other reliable industry stakeholder. Industry may implement a Non-Essential Movement Ban Protocol to temporarily suspend movement.

Confirmation

A serious animal disease is confirmed. Confirmation will be formally announced by the Chief Veterinary Officer (Canada), Chief Veterinary Officer (BC), or either federal or provincial ministers. Mandatory containment strategies may follow.

Response

Industry professionals, government, and owners/custodians may all have a role to play in various key response components including containment, investigation/tracing, vaccination, depopulation/disposal, valuation/compensation, cleaning/disinfection, and lifting of restrictions.

Recovery

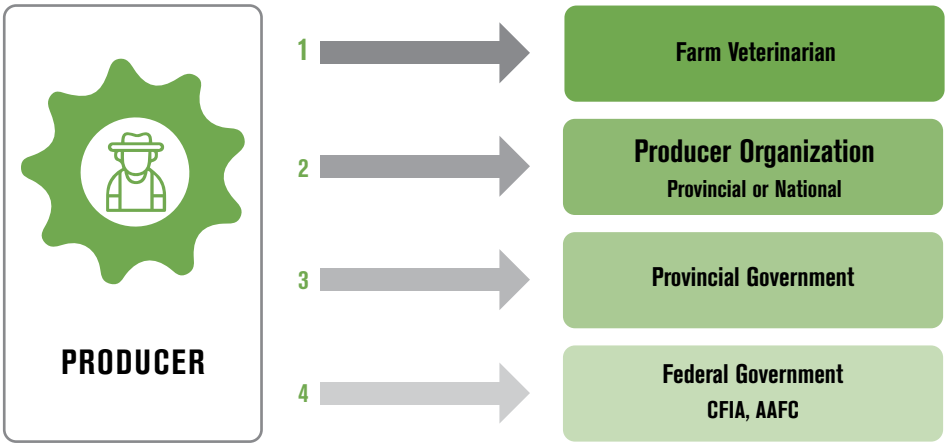
Immediate emergency has passed. Owners, custodians and industry may now focus on demonstrating absence of disease and regaining/resuming market access.

Prevention

BC herd is unaffected by a disease incidence or occurrence, also known as 'peace time'. Industry must remain vigilant for unusual animal health events and adopt risk mitigation measures to safeguard against a potential serious animal disease outbreak.

Who Can Help

During an emergency, there are four important points of reference for owners/custodians. These supports can provide clarification, direction and necessary resources. As illustrated below, the first point of contact if you notice something unusual with your livestock should be your farm veterinarian. From there, you may be referred to the relevant government agency.



Working Together

Emergency management requires diverse skills, experience and knowledge to ensure an appropriate and effective response. Figure 1 on the following page, outlines the key structures, relationships and joint response required during an emergency.

During a disease-related sector-wide emergency that is not zoonotic the **first response organizations** are:

- **Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)**
- **BC Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (BCMAFF)**

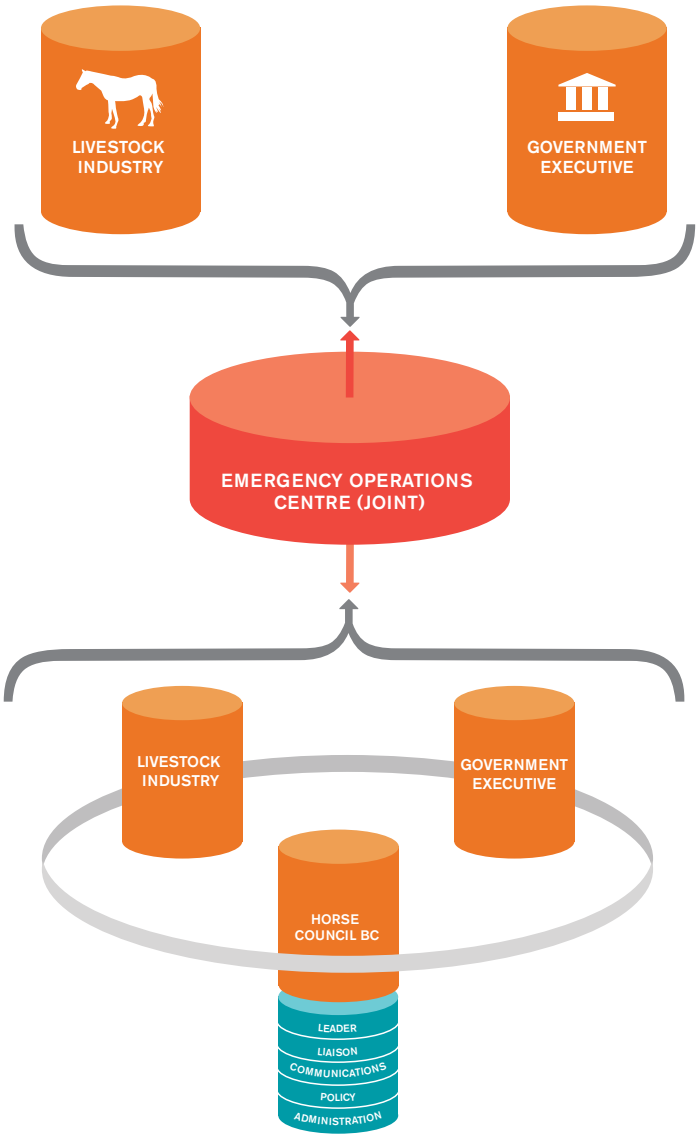
These agencies are supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and Public Safety Canada (PSC). If the disease is zoonotic (affecting humans as well as animals) the response will involve the Public Health Agency of Canada and the provincial Ministry of Health.

An **Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)** may be established by first response organizations during the suspicion or confirmation phases. The EOC is the temporary venue that is established to provide strategic leadership, manage operational decision-making, and coordinate the efforts of all collaborating organizations. If multiple levels of government are involved, a Joint EOC will be formed.

Representatives from the equine organization will be a part of EOC/JEOC discussion and decisions. In addition to advocating on behalf of the industry and providing sector expertise and insight, the association will help communicate updates to owners/custodians and confirm required action as the situation unfolds.

Everyone within the EOC/JEOC works together using the **Incident Command System (ICS)**. This command-and-control system is used to manage emergencies of all types throughout most of North America and the rest of the world. ICS integrates a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure. It allows people from various backgrounds to come together when required and to work as an effective unit.

Figure 1. The Emergency Operations Centre and its Relationship with Government, Industry and the Equine Sector



STRATEGIC

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE STRATEGIC LEVEL?

Discussion, as required, around existing and proposed strategies such as:

- Size of primary control zone
- Use of vaccination
- Use of welfare slaughter

OPERATIONAL

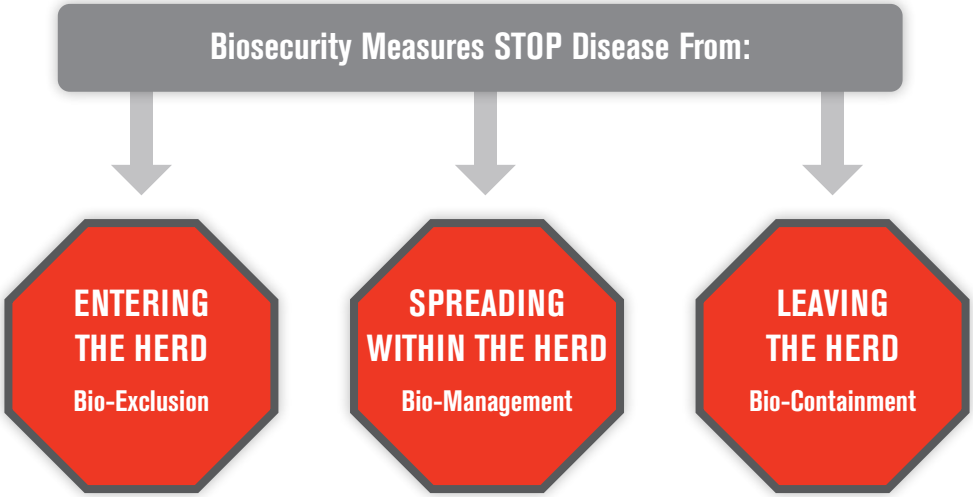
WHAT HAPPENS AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL?

Issues and actions decided at the EOC may include:

- Provision of movement permits and licenses
- Routing of feed, deadstock
- Development of key communications messages
- Implementation of vaccination strategy
- Process and logistics for depopulation and carcass disposal

Biosecurity

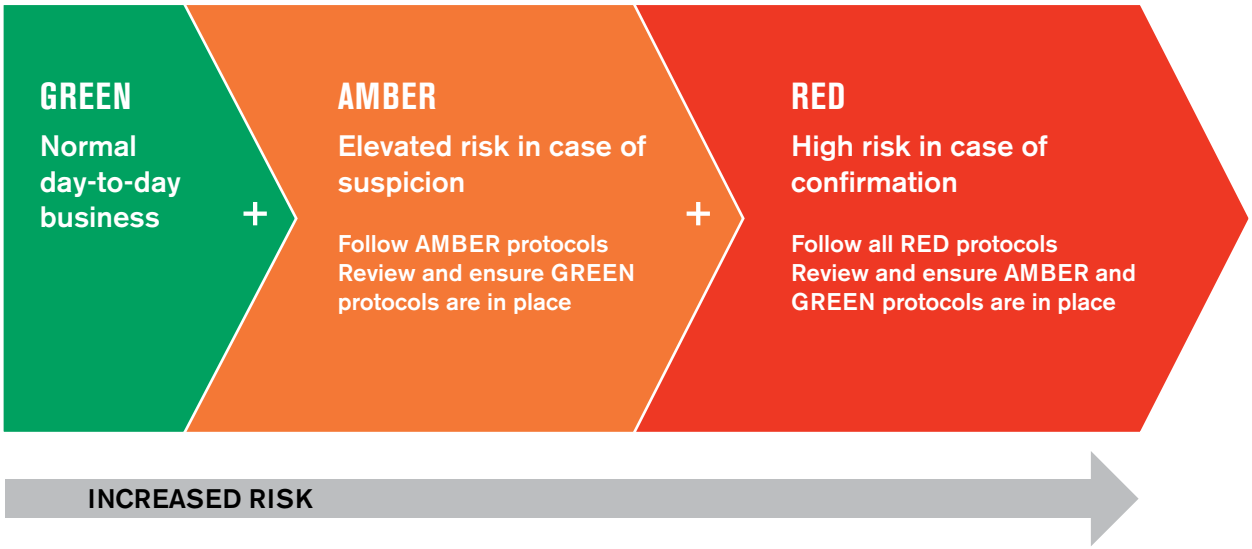
As a owner or custodian you are in a unique position to prevent disease exposure and transmission. By knowing and implementing the appropriate biosecurity measures you are not only helping to protect your farm, but also ensuring the health and vitality of Canada's equine industry.



Some degree of biosecurity is likely already incorporated into your operations routines. Be it good hygiene, vehicle management or staff training, there are quick and simple steps that can safeguard your operation. As shown in Figure 2, biosecurity protocols are colour coded according to risk. Owners/custodians will want to ensure that all staff know the various protocols for each risk level. This is especially important when a disease is suspected within the trading area.

More information on biosecurity is included in the **RESPOND** section (***page 37***).

Figure 2. Escalating Biosecurity Levels



Zoning

A control zone is a geographically defined area established to facilitate an earlier resumption of trade from the disease-free parts of the country while simultaneously mitigating the spread of disease both within and out of the infected area. Zoning is an internationally recognized practice used to manage disease risk and foster a return to safe trade.

Under the authority of the *Health of Animals Act* and Regulations the CFIA has various tools that can be used to effectively implement zoning. There are two main types of zones which can be employed for a reportable disease outbreak: A **'specified disease' control zone** and a **primary control zone**.

The CFIA's zoning strategy is determined after careful consideration of the type of disease, its presence in wildlife or the environment, the nature of the industry, potential for spread, and geographical features in the area such as waterways, roads, and terrain.

SPECIFIED DISEASE CONTROL ZONE

This control zone is an interim zoning method used while an epidemiological assessment of the situation is completed. Declarations of infected place and/or quarantines are issued to individual premises or animals/things to control movements on, off and within premises within a defined geographic area. Licenses are required for all movements, of designated animals, products, or things.

The zone consists of an inner infected zone with a minimum 3 km radius around a confirmed infected premises and an outer restricted zone with a minimum 10 km radius around the confirmed infected premises.

PRIMARY CONTROL ZONES

Zoning on a broad scale will only be implemented upon disease confirmation at the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) and epidemiological assessment of the situation.

PRIMARY CONTROL ZONE

- Encompasses the infected zone, restricted zone and security zone

INFECTED ZONE

- Main focus of control efforts with most restrictive movement controls
- Encompasses all known infected premises
- Extends a minimum of 3 km from the infected premises in all directions
- Multiple or larger zones may be declared when additional infected premises are involved

RESTRICTED ZONE

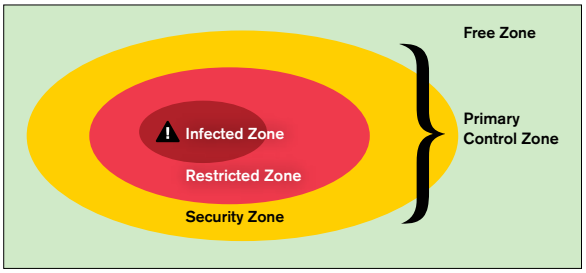
- Surrounds infected zone
- Extends a minimum of 10 km beyond an infected premises
- Multiple or larger zones may be declared when additional infected premises are involved
- Less restrictive movement controls

SECURITY ZONE

- Optional depending on the disease or the situation
- Buffer between the restricted zone and free zone
- No size restrictions
- Least restrictive movement controls

FREE ZONE

- Area outside the primary control zone



While zone size and shape may vary, the most intensive disease control strategies will always take place on premises that are closest to a known infected premises. Once a primary control zone is established, permission will be required for movement into, out of, within and through areas. People with susceptible species seeking access to controlled zones will need to demonstrate that they meet specific conditions and criteria before permission will be given for the movement to occur.

HCBC, in collaboration with other provincial organizations and the national equine associations, will have a role in briefing key decision makers regarding zone locations and other specific requirements. This will include the potential impact of the disease outbreak on the broader trading area.

Scenario Example

The following scenario example briefly summarizes a serious animal disease event.

In this scenario we have 'ABC Stables & Training Center', a typical BC equine training facility which is currently operating in the Abbotsford region where there is currently a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. In this example, we also have "DEF Dairy", a 100-head dairy operation that is located in nearby Chilliwack.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS AN EXAMPLE ONLY.

On Friday, after noticing that a number of animals are limping and have backed off feed, DEF Dairy farm staff proceed with the protocol for an **unusual animal health event** (see **RESPOND** section) and contact their local veterinarian to come and look at the animals.

The veterinarian suspects FMD, a federally reportable disease, and notifies the regulatory authority (BCMAFF and/or CFIA). A senior veterinary officer with the CFIA visits the farm very shortly afterwards, clinically diagnoses FMD and declares that DEF Dairy is an '**infected place**'. Canada's Chief Veterinary Officer communicates this **suspicion** to the provincial and national livestock organizations setting out very limited and general information related to the incident.

Within days, the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease in Winnipeg confirms the disease and Canada's Chief Veterinary Officer formally announces **confirmation** of the disease. Again, the information provided is quite limited and general.

As part of the **Disease Control Plan**, the minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food establishes a **primary control zone**. This zone includes all of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and British Columbia.

Infected zones have now been declared around several new **infected premises**, as the outbreak has grown from the original case located near Chilliwack. The RCMP are enforcing a ban on all movements of livestock and livestock-related products such as feed and bedding within/to/from/through these zones. Permits are required for these movements and may be obtained from the **Joint Emergency Operations Centre**, that has been established in Abbotsford.

A larger **restricted zone** extends around all of the **infected zones**, essentially from the US border north to Kamloops and east to the Alberta border. Specific permits are required for all livestock and livestock-related products within/to/from/through this **restricted zone**. These are also being enforced by RCMP.

The **security zone** extends outwards from the **restricted zone** and covers the remainder of the **primary control zone**. General permits are required for all livestock and livestock-related movements into or within the **security zone** and these are also enforced by police.

ABC Stables is a 25-head sport riding operation located within the **restricted zone**, near Abbotsford. They were expecting to receive a number of horses from Alberta later this week, however, with the CFIA's operational restrictions now in place, horses are not moving anywhere in Western Canada without a permit. Movements into or through the **restricted zones** are even more limited and require specific permits; and there are almost no movements into, from or through the **infected zones**. This also means that several horses from ABC Stables will not attend a competition next weekend in Calgary.

With the CFIA operational restrictions now in place, livestock are not moving anywhere in Western Canada without a permit. Movements into or through the **restricted zones** are even more limited and require specific permits; and there are almost no movements into, from or through the **infected zones**. The same is true for movements of other susceptible livestock including swine, sheep, goats and dairy cattle. Permits are also required for horse movements, as the disease may be carried on their body or the trailer even though they don't contract the disease itself.

To prevent further spread, **movement controls** and **biosecurity protocols** requested by HCBC, BCMAFF and the CFIA are being strictly followed and all activity is being monitored closely.

Red biosecurity protocols have been implemented and posted clearly to advise visitors of the risk.

Mass vaccination has also been ordered for dairy, beef, and pork operations located near the infected place. A CFIA designated site supervisor has arrived at DEF Dairy and is overseeing farm staff who are vaccinating animals according to a strict protocol. Horses are not part of this vaccination strategy.

While surrounding farms continue to vaccinate and monitor their herd, a **destruction order** has been issued and **depopulation** of cows on DEF Dairy and other **nfected premises** has commenced. All cows on the **infected premises** are being slaughtered with the assistance of farm staff and under the oversight of a CFIA representative. As part of the disposal requirements, owners/custodians have opted to render some carcasses, and move others to government designated disposal sites.

Valuation teams sent to the **infected premises** are establishing a fair market value on a per cow basis based on pre-outbreak prices for the different classes of cows present. **Compensation** is being provided for all livestock ordered depopulated.

Prior to restocking, all of the **infected premises** must be thoroughly **cleaned and disinfected** in accordance with a CFIA protocol and to the satisfaction of CFIA. Infected community pastures also require a fallow period and the fence posts need to be disinfected before animals can return. Landowners are responsible for these expenses. Horse stables in the area are also being asked to clean and disinfect their premises as the disease may be present on the ground, equipment, or fencing.

Once there is no longer a chance of contracting the disease and all identified requirements have been met, CFIA will officially **lift restrictions** and give approval to restock the premises with animals.

It is important to note that in this bleak but realistic scenario, it may take a year to manage the outbreak and eradicate the disease. It will likely take considerably longer to regain disease free status and to negotiate international trade market access and fully resume exports.

Although the above scenario is fictitious, it captures many of the elements that apply to the equine industry once a disease-related sector-wide emergency is confirmed, even if it might be in the non-equine livestock industry. For more information about owner/custodian-specific responsibilities and associated resources please refer to the **RESPOND** section.

Testing Your Readiness

The following self-assessment is designed to help owners/custodians gauge whether their operation is prepared for a serious animal disease event. Please take a moment to answer the following questions.

YES	NO	
☐	☐	Are you aware of the indicators and initial response actions for an unusual animal health event on your operation?
☐	☐	Are you and your staff aware of signs and symptoms of serious animal diseases that could spur a disease-related sector-wide emergency?
☐	☐	Are you aware of the official triggers used by response agencies to signify a disease-related sector-wide emergency?
☐	☐	Have you discussed and shared information about specific biosecurity protocol levels with staff?
☐	☐	Do you know the requirements of a voluntary cease movement and when it should be implemented?
☐	☐	Are you aware of primary personal safety guidelines and mental health support resources available for owners and custodians?
☐	☐	Are you aware of operational responsibilities associated with a mass vaccination directive?
☐	☐	Are you aware of the expectations on personnel in the event mass depopulation and disposal are required?
☐	☐	Are the operation's objectives for responding to an animal health related sector-wide emergency clearly identified and communicated to staff?
☐	☐	Is a plan in the form of a schematic or aerial photo immediately available so that first responders can see the location of key emergency management items?
☐	☐	Is the operation's inventory available for immediate provision to first responders, advising them of personnel, animals and assets to be safeguarded or removed, plus equipment and other items of potential use?
☐	☐	Are staff and key decision-makers identified and listed with contact details so first responders can immediately contact them?
☐	☐	Are key contacts such as suppliers and service providers identified and listed so others can contact them while primary decision-makers are occupied with emergency management decisions?
☐	☐	Do you have established relationships and contact details for local and possibly provincial and federal government first response organizations?
☐	☐	Can you control visitor movements in an emergency, e.g., access control, signage, logs or records, risk assessments?
☐	☐	Are you aware of the key recovery actions, such as the requirement for cleaning and disinfecting before restocking can occur?

If you answered no to any of the above questions, there may be some work to do in preparing your operation for a disease-related emergency. The next sections of this handbook contain all the information you need to get started.

Notes:

PREPARE

When the unexpected happens, it is important to be prepared. The aim of the **PREPARE** section is to get owners and custodians thinking about the specifics of their operation before an emergency or crisis. By being proactive, your operation will be in a better position to respond and convey important details to emergency personnel as the situation unfolds.

It's in Your Hands

Being prepared for an emergency not only makes sense, it is **necessary due diligence** for farm operators who are ultimately responsible for the care and well-being of their animals.

Taking these steps now demonstrates a reasonable level of preparedness on your part. This is especially important for potential insurance claims but also extremely helpful for all involved.

While you may know your operation like the back of your hand, someone less connected to the farm will require more background in order to quickly orient themselves and understand unique features. The ability to access detailed information about your operation will make a difference when it matters most.

We recommend that owners and custodians clearly define their operation's objectives, plan, inventory, contacts and visitor controls well in advance and update the information as needed. This information should be kept in a known location and discussed with staff and reviewed annually.

Operation's Objectives

Emergencies can escalate quickly and cause significant and long-term impacts on the operation and net worth. An owner's view of their options and objectives may change drastically during and/or after an emergency. Available support programs at the time may also be crucial in determining whether the best course of action is to rebuild, liquidate or exit. For example, an owner planning a generational transfer in 10 years might suddenly face a more daunting future as a result of a serious animal disease outbreak and may elect to exit the industry altogether.

With this in mind, it is important to seriously consider your business objectives in advance. Clearly defining and communicating these objectives will help to guide efforts during the response, minimize incorrect assumptions and enhance outcomes.

When considering your objectives, it also helps to know the priorities of others. The primary objectives of first response agencies are listed below. Owners/custodians should note that these agencies are not responsible for preserving the personal property involved, such as animals and buildings.

FIRST RESPONSE AGENCIES OBJECTIVES DURING AN EMERGENCY	
1.	Save lives and minimize the impact on people, including first responders, survivors and others indirectly impacted
2.	Protect public property, commencing first with critical infrastructure and then other public infrastructure
3.	Protect the environment and subsequently restore and enhance its quality
4.	Protect the economy, reducing disruption to lessen the impact

FIRST RESPONSE AGENCIES OBJECTIVES DURING AN ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES	
1.	Control the spread of disease
2.	Eliminate the disease

As the owner and/or custodian, your foremost responsibility is to **minimize the risk to humans directly involved**. While first response agencies may assist or provide direction relative to animals, farm operators are ultimately accountable for:

- The well-being of the animals under their care
- Farm equipment
- The farm itself including fuel, fertilizers, medicine, etc.

Your business objectives should include maintaining human safety and the health and safety of the animals in your care; the resumption of normal business operations as soon as possible; and other specific priorities. Some questions to consider:

- What is required to ensure that you will be in a position to continue farm operations once the emergency is over?
- Would you downsize or exit the business if the opportunity presented?

Knowing short and longer-term objectives at the outset of a major emergency will help you to make decisions that can optimize your situation.

A customizable tool for identifying operation's objectives is available in the **RESOURCES** section.

Farm Plan

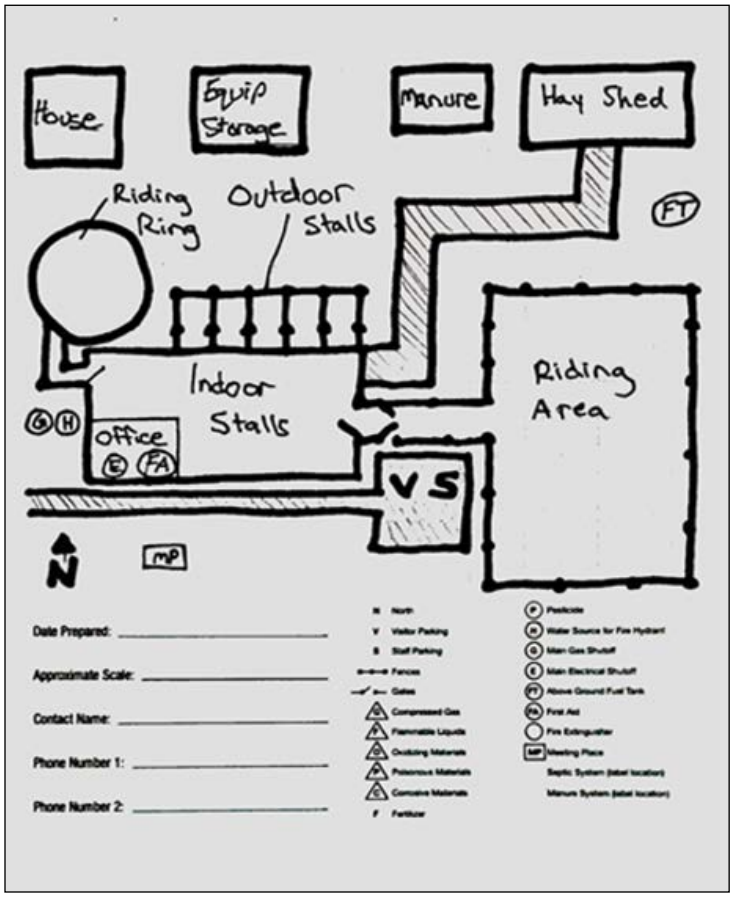
First responders need to know the unique features of your operation and where key items are located. Not only does this help to ensure their safety, it enables them to address unexpected events at your operation. Responders will be far more effective, with less risk to life, if they can consult a site plan while determining their approach to the situation at hand.

Your farm plan can be created from a one-page aerial photo or a hand-drawn schematic. If you've previously developed an Environmental Farm Plan, you may already have this information documented.

Preparing the plan may help you to identify additional risks as you mark out boundaries and add key items that are critical to effective emergency management.

An example is shown below, and a **farm plan grid** is provided in the **RESOURCES** section for preparation of a hand-drawn schematic, as an alternative to an aerial photo. **Use the symbols in the legend as they are widely recognized by emergency management professionals.** Don't forget to include the following key elements:

- Grazing areas or locations
- Legal land descriptions
- Entryways
- Fencing
- Scale
- Buildings
- Recognized symbols
- Hazardous materials
- Directional arrow (North)
- Meeting place
- Mortality storage
- Access routes/barriers
- Potential contaminants
- Manure pits
- Important terrain features (drainage, ponds, creeks)
- Overhead wires



Once your plan is complete, laminate it and put a copy in your emergency management file and/or post it in a prominent location for staff to see.

A customizable farm plan grid for drawing your farm plan is available in the **RESOURCES** section.

Work Cycle

Every operation is unique. As a an owner/custodian it is important to think about the workflow of your operation, including the daily and weekly events, product deliveries and animal movements that are essential to your operation. During an emergency, farm and response personnel will benefit from knowing what to expect in terms of regularly scheduled activity on and off the farm.

Disease containment measures may limit the flow of animals, feed and other products and services on or off the farm. Depending on the severity of the situation, permits or licenses may be required for such farm movements. Consider the logistics associated with getting approval for every movement on or off your premises as well as the day-to-day impact by asking yourself these questions:

- What if all movements on and off farm required a permit? How many permits might be needed on any given week?
- How often is feed delivered to the farm? How long could the farm operate without receiving a feed shipment?
- How often are animals moved on or off-farm? What would happen if these shipments were delayed?
- What other movements on and off-farm would be impacted as a result of movement restrictions?

By outlining these movements in advance, farm personnel and first responders will be better prepared and alert to the work cycle movements required for maintaining business operations.

A customizable tool for outlining your work cycle is available in the **RESOURCES** section.

Inventory

Current information about equipment, human resources and livestock inventory helps first responders and other emergency management professionals be more efficient and effective. In particular, they will be eager to know:

- Number of people residing or employed at the premises
- Whether there are any mobility issues
- Location and number of livestock
- Location and type of equipment

A customizable tool for listing your inventory is available in the **RESOURCES** section.

Decision Makers and Contacts

There is no time for ambiguity during an emergency. For this reason, information about key decision makers should be clearly defined and accessible.

The **primary decision maker** is someone who is authorized and able to make quick decisions on behalf of the operation. This is likely the owner or senior manager who will be available during an emergency and can make decisions or direct the issue to the more appropriate person.

A **second decision maker** should also be designated to assist if the primary decision maker is not available or is unable to make a particular decision in a timely manner. This information may be captured in the **farm decision maker** template provided in the **RESOURCES** section and should be regularly reviewed and updated.

In addition to a current staffing list, it is important that owners and custodians keep contact details handy for first responders, local veterinarian, livestock industry professionals, utility providers, relevant government departments, service contractors and neighbouring operations.

Keeping up-to-date contact information posted and readily available enables others to make calls on behalf of owners or key decision makers. It also allows potential risks to be identified and promptly addressed.

Visitor Controls

Visitors may unknowingly amplify the spread of disease on your farm and beyond to the industry at large. For this reason, it is good practice to regularly monitor visitor traffic and to control/restrict access during a disease outbreak.

Be it a one-time visitor or regular service provider, it is important to assess potential risk. Owners/custodians can determine whether or not, and how, to provide visitor access by identifying and assessing the risk associated with these visits, based upon their contact with livestock during the last 14 days.

Use the **Visitor Risk Assessment Guide** in the **RESOURCES** section to identify and manage the different potential risks associated with the range of visitors, equipment or vehicles entering the farm on a daily basis. The **Visitor Log** and may be used to record all farm visits and should be maintained on a consistent and ongoing basis. The checklist below is useful for identifying gaps in your visitor control biosecurity.

VISITOR CONTROL CHECKLIST	
☐	Establish control at recognizable primary access points on and off the farm with a lockable gate or some form of moveable barrier. Be sure to identify these items on the farm plan.
☐	Establish control at access points to the pastures, barns, pens or fields and also at areas where feed and medications are stored.
☐	Post signage prominently at all access points to the farm. All signage should prohibit unauthorized entry and indicate that biosecurity is in effect.
☐	Ensure signage at primary access points directs entrants to the office. Signage at other points should discourage access and redirect entrants to primary access points.
☐	Record all visitor access on a **Visitor Log** to facilitate follow up in an emergency.

Connecting with First Response Agencies

First responders will be more effective in responding to an emergency, if they have a good understanding of the premises they are accessing, the way in which business is conducted and farm specific objectives.

Some of the distinct characteristics or systems on your farm will play a key role in the risk reduction and personal safety strategies of various first responders. This information may also help limit the overall impact of the evolving situation.

Get acquainted with members of your local government first response agencies

- The fire department is a good place to start

Familiarize yourself with the organizations that are initially responsible for sector-wide emergencies

- Disease-related emergencies:
  - **BC Provincial Veterinary Officer –** Provincial lead for animal health-related emergencies can be reached through the Animal Health Center Toll Free 1-800-661-9903
  - **CFIA District Veterinarian/Chief Veterinary Officer –** National lead for animal health-related emergencies. Can be reached through the BC Regional Office 604-292-5700
  - **Horse Council BC –** represents all regions of the BC horse industry and will share communications to operators in a disease emergency at 604-856-4304 or Toll Free at 1-800-345-8055
- Other emergencies:
  - RCMP (911)
  - Emergency Management BC
  - Rural Municipality

In a disease outbreak or even in other types of emergencies, you may wish to share the information that was prepared in the **PREPARE** section with local government first responders.

RESPOND

The **RESPOND** section has been developed to help owners/custodians understand their role and expectations relative to specific situations that may arise during a serious animal disease outbreak.

Alert

- Unusual Animal Health Event Indicators
- Initial Response Protocols
- Producer Self Declaration

Suspicion/ Confirmation

- Official Communication Channels
- Sector-wide Triggers
- Custom Operator/Community Pasture Responsibilities
- Personal Safety
- Mental Health and Well-being

Response

1. Containment and Movement Controls

- Movement Restrictions and Zoning
- Biosecurity Protocols

2. Investigation and Tracing

- Disease Follow-Up
- Traceability
- Premises Identification

3. Vaccination

- Mass Vaccination

4. Depopulation and Disposal

- Destruction Orders
- Methods

5. Financial Considerations

- Compensation (Financial Considerations) Valuation
- Additional Expenses
- Insurance
- Government Programs

6. Cleaning and Disinfection

- Cleaning and Disinfection Steps

7. Lifting of Restrictions

- Communication from the Regulatory Authority and Association Roles

Recovery

- Demonstrating Absence of Disease
- Re-establishing Market Activity

Alert

Initial recognition of a serious animal disease usually starts with an owner/custodian or their staff sensing that something is not right. This section contains information about indicators, initial response protocols and owner/custodian declaration responsibilities.

UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INDICATORS

Whether it is behavioural changes or physical symptoms, owners and custodians may get cues that their animals are unwell. Everyone on your operation should be aware of specific indicators that may signal a cause for concern.

The following **Unusual Animal Health Event Indicator Protocol** can be customized in consultation with your veterinarian to suit the specific needs of your farm. When these indicators are observed in individual animals or the herd, notify your veterinarian immediately and take their direction.

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Know indicators and initial response protocols
- ✓ Recognize primary serious animal disease symptoms
- ✓ Discuss concerns with your veterinarian

UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INDICATOR PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

Veterinarian: _____ Cell: _____

If any of the following indicators are observed, then the operation's veterinarian will be contacted immediately to investigate further:

- ☐ Unexplained or sharp increase in sickness, lameness, behavioural changes or death loss
  - Exceeds normal acceptable level of this many head per week/day: _____ (head/%)
- ☐ Any death of unknown cause
- ☐ Animals backed off feed/water (daily intake is down for reasons not related to weather or seasonality)
- ☐ Change in behaviour such as depression
- ☐ Disease or symptoms not previously encountered
- ☐ Typical disease or symptoms with abnormal severity or non-responsive to treatment
- ☐ Rapid spread throughout herds
- ☐ Reportable/notifiable disease suspected on farm
- ☐ Other events, as determined with your veterinarian

Note: The protocols listed in the **RESPOND** section are included in the **RESOURCES** and are available online at ***www.animalhealth.ca/ahem/resources***. They are designed to be completed and stored in an easily accessible location.

WHEN TO SPEAK WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN

Owners/producers might suspect a problem when they observe:

- **Sudden onset of clinical signs** – such as those listed table below with high morbidity (large number of animals affected or mortality
- **Rapid spread** – the symptoms have spread quickly between pens/barns or within a herd
- **Failure to respond to treatment** – standard treatment for symptoms has not been effective in treating clinical signs
- **History** – consider recent contacts, international visitors, new introductions to the herd/flock

Equine

Blisters/Vesicles/Erosions
- Lips, tongue
- Coronary bands
- Teats

Brain/Nervous System
- Incoordination
- Depression

Deaths
- Unexplained sickness or death

Fever (rectal temp)
- Normal 38.1 ° C

Gastro-intestinal
- Loss of appetite
- Fever
- Urine dribbling

Lameness
- Severe and rapid spread within a pen or barn

Production
- General weakness
- Immobility or reluctance to move

Reproductive
- Abortion
- Neonatal death

Respiratory
- Sudden onset of cough and nasal discharge

Skin
- Jaundice

If you see any of these symptoms CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

A quick reference for concerning basic signs and symptoms of serious animal diseases has been provided in **Schedule 3**. By familiarizing yourself with this information you can help improve disease awareness and early identification.

INITIAL RESPONSE TO AN UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT

Your response to an unusual animal health event is crucial. Timely communication and decisive action are integral in:

- Limiting and containing the possible spread of disease
- Reducing risk to staff and family members
- Decreasing the impact on your business and the industry as a whole

Prior to developing your **Initial Response Protocol**, you will want to connect with your veterinarian and staff. Ensure that the steps you have collaboratively identified reflect the specific needs and features of your operation.

If any unusual animal health indicators are observed notify your veterinarian and take their direction. If you are uncertain of recommended precautions or required action, seek clarification from your veterinarian, owner/custodian organization, provincial government or CFIA.

UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INITIAL RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

1. Notify staff and family members

- ☐ An unusual animal health event exists on the operation
- ☐ Review and strictly follow biosecurity protocols currently in place, or as established by management in consultation with veterinarian (e.g., green, amber and red biosecurity protocols)
- ☐ Minimize/avoid contact with other livestock, particularly other horses

2. Call veterinarian and act on advice, for example:

- ☐ Isolate sick animals
- ☐ Submit samples for diagnosis
- ☐ Stop all livestock movements on/off the infected place
- ☐ Limit and monitor other movements on/off (e.g., staff, equipment, manure spreading etc.)
- ☐ Gather information/documentation as required (e.g., visitor log, livestock inventory, identification record including purchases/sales within the last 30 days, individual treatment log, herd health protocol)
- ☐ Other _____

3. Identify the primary decision maker within your organization. This will be the point person or coordinator to be available for key decisions. A back-up or secondary decision maker may be required if a serious animal disease is confirmed.

4. Notify external contacts, if recommended by your veterinarian

- ☐ Farm veterinarian to notify regulatory authority if required by law
    - CFIA District Veterinarian called (suspect reportable disease)
    - BC Chief Veterinary Officer via Animal Health Center **(1-800-661-9903)**
- ☐ Self-declaration by owner/custodian to industry association and neighbouring livestock owners/custodians (depending on suspected disease)
    - Horse Council BC
    - Neighbouring livestock owners/custodians
    - Notify suppliers and other contracts (e.g., feed suppliers, livestock transporters, utility companies with access rights)

Suspicion/Confirmation

Timely and accurate information is crucial in an emergency. As rumours and misinformation circulate, owners/custodians need access to credible and trusted sources of information. This will confirm whether the situation requires immediate action and how they can protect themselves and others.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

To minimize the spread of conflicting messages, owners/custodians should not react to hearsay and instead wait or look for communication from:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (BCMAFF)
- Horse Council BC (HCBC)

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Distinguish rumour from fact
- ✓ Be aware of Sector-Wide Triggers
- ✓ Share information
- ✓ Take care of yourself and your staff

SECTOR-WIDE TRIGGERS

There may be two triggers for a sector-wide disease related emergency. The first trigger, **suspicion**, occurs when a CFIA, provincial veterinarian, or other trusted industry source diagnose or cannot rule out the presence of a serious animal disease. The CFIA or provincial veterinarian will notify the owner/custodian and depending on the circumstances, regulatory officials may also notify industry associations and trading partners. Sampling and lab tests will be initiated, and additional information collected.

The next trigger, **confirmation**, occurs if the disease is confirmed by specific lab tests. At this point regulatory officials will formally provide Notification of Confirmation to a range of stakeholders starting with the owner/custodian and potentially including industry associations and trading partners. More details as well as the owner and/or custodian tasks that go hand in hand with these two triggers are listed in the following two **response protocols**.

NOTICE OF SUSPICION RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

WHO:

CFIA, provincial government, or HCBC communicates the **suspicion** of a serious animal disease

WHERE:

Anywhere within the area where the owner or custodian regularly does business (trading area)

WHEN:

A federal or provincial government veterinarian suspects the presence of a serious animal disease

WHAT:

May be referred to as 'the gray period,' when an outbreak is suspected but not confirmed and movement controls have not been announced

OWNER/CUSTODIAN RESPONSE:

- ☐ Implement **AMBER Elevated Risk** biosecurity protocols, visitor logs, etc.
- ☐ Review **RED High Risk** biosecurity protocols
- ☐ Implement **voluntary cease movement** and **animals in transit protocols**, if recommended by government and industry leaders
- ☐ Seek additional guidance specific to the situation from veterinarian
- ☐ Monitor CFIA, BCMAFF, HCBC websites and other media for updates

The 'infected place(s)', where the diagnosis was made, will also be subject to more restrictive requirements as directed by veterinary authorities.

OWNER/CUSTODIAN SELF DECLARATION

If an unusual animal health event were to evolve into a disease-related sector-wide emergency, professionals in your industry association (HCBC), government representatives, the veterinary community and fellow owners/custodians will benefit from transparency regarding your situation. An awareness of basic details may help to reduce broader industry impacts and limit the spread of disease.

Federal and provincial privacy and confidentiality legislation requires that you authorize the release and sharing of your personal information, including location. If you do not self-declare that you have an infected premise, your industry's ability to reduce broader industry impacts and limit the spread of disease may be hampered. By self-declaring, you are permitting the use of your information in this manner, in the best interests of the industry at large.

A template of an **Owner/Custodian Self Declaration** is in the **RESOURCES** section.

CONFIRMATION RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

WHO:

CFIA's Chief Veterinary Officer or BC Chief Veterinary Officer makes a formal notification, providing **confirmation** of a serious animal disease

WHERE:

Anywhere within the area where an owner or custodian regularly does business (trading area)

WHEN:

A serious animal disease is confirmed by the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canada's most highly specialized and widely recognized animal disease laboratory

WHAT:

Once confirmation is made, the federal minister may establish a **primary control zone** and movement controls. Permits or licenses will be required for the movement of all livestock, related materials and equipment into, from, within or through the **primary control zone**

OWNER/CUSTODIAN RESPONSE:

- ☐ Implement **RED High Risk** protocol
- ☐ Implement **voluntary cease movement** and **animals in transit protocols**, if recommended by government and industry leaders
- ☐ Seek additional veterinarian guidance specific to the situation
- ☐ Monitor CFIA, BCMAFF, HCBC websites and other media for updates

The 'infected place(s)', where the diagnosis was confirmed, will also be subject to more restrictive requirements as directed by veterinary authorities.

CUSTOM OPERATOR/CUSTODIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Owners of livestock at custom stables should be advised of any emergency situation that affects or presents a risk to their animals. In addition to being part of the manager's duty of care, this may be a contractual requirement.

Most contracts provide the operator with the authority and often the responsibility, to make decisions on behalf of the owner in the event of an emergency. While advice to owners may be provided by phone or in person, it should also be documented for legal purposes.

A sample **Emergency Communication to Owners (Custom Operation)** template can be found in the **RESOURCES** section.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Owners and/or custodians are responsible for the safety of personnel and residents relative to risks that are within their capacity to control or mitigate. **This responsibility takes precedence over the care and needs of the livestock that may be on the premises.**

Owners and management should:

- Be aware of evolving emergency events
- Understand the risks to human safety
- Take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of farm personnel, family and residents who may be living on the premises. This includes the delivery of training as appropriate

To put this in context, a farm owner may choose to assume a certain level of risk. They may decide to remain on the site, but they cannot instruct staff to assume the same level of risk, nor can staff be asked to work without the necessary or appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Your industry association can act as a link in helping to identify where PPE can be obtained.

Farm family members warrant special mention in view of the significant role they play at many operations. This is particularly important for children, as they cannot remain on the premises after an evacuation order has been given.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Unanticipated events like emergencies and the uncertainties that often accompany them can be extremely upsetting and stressful. People react in different ways to trauma and can experience a wide range of physical and emotional changes that can affect mental health and well-being. It is important to monitor your health and the health of those around you, and to access the appropriate resources as required.

If you or anyone you know is exhibiting the symptoms above, the first thing to do is ask for help. CRISIS Center BC provides 24-hour mental health support. They can be reached by calling **1-800-784-2433 or 310-6789** or visit ***www.crisiscentre.bc.ca***

EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS

- Shock, denial, or disbelief
- Confusion, difficulty concentrating
- Anger, irritability, mood swings
- Anxiety and fear
- Guilt, shame, self-blame
- Withdrawing from others
- Feeling sad or hopeless
- Feeling disconnected or numb

PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

- Insomnia or nightmares
- Fatigue
- Being startled easily
- Difficulty concentrating
- Racing heartbeat
- Edginess and agitation
- Aches and pains
- Muscle tension
- Loss of appetite

1. CONTAINMENT AND MOVEMENT CONTROLS

Well before a disease is confirmed, owners and custodians are able to take steps to reduce potential transmission. Be it implementing biosecurity protocols, voluntarily stopping the flow of animals/products, and complying with mandatory movement controls, there are ways to protect your operation and others in your industry.

Stopping movements early will not only help to contain and limit the spread of disease, but it may also reduce the length of market interruption and facilitate faster market recovery. There are, however, certain criteria that have to be met, tests to be completed and critical information that is required, before provincial or federal government ordered movement controls can be initiated. Industry may implement voluntary movement controls in the interim.

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Voluntarily stop operational movements
- ✓ Comply with Movement Restrictions
- ✓ Know relevant Biosecurity Protocols

Implementation of movement controls may also be progressive. Initially, industry leaders may choose to implement a voluntary cease movement to reduce the spread of disease in the early stages of the outbreak. A likely next step could see provincially ordered movement controls invoked in place of the voluntary cease movement. Federally ordered movement controls may follow and may be enforced within a single province or across several provincial regions, each with specific zone designations. These three basic forms of movement controls are detailed below.

NON-ESSENTIAL MOVEMENT BAN PROTOCOL / VOLUNTARY CEASE MOVEMENT

At the outset of an outbreak, industry leaders in the different commodities may recommend a standstill for a period of 72-hours. The cease movement would apply to specific livestock and possibly products and equipment. Exceptions may be defined for certain classes of animals, movements to specific destinations, or movements of particular products. See next page for the **Non-Essential Movement Ban Protocol**.

PROVINCIAL MOVEMENT CONTROLS

Once a provincial laboratory has confirmed the presence of a serious animal disease, provincially ordered movement controls may provide legal authority for standstill measures. Provincial movement restrictions would be enforced through provincial authorities.

FEDERAL MOVEMENT CONTROLS AND ZONING

Once the disease is confirmed at the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease in Winnipeg, the federal minister may establish a **primary control zone (PCZ)**. As discussed in the zoning section on ***page 16***, the PCZ may include a **security zone**, **restricted zone** and **infected zone**. Permits and licenses will be required for all movements into/out of/within/through these zones and will set out specific and enforceable criteria for the movement of livestock and related items. These permits may be available online, while specific licenses for higher risk movements will more likely be required on a case-by-case basis from the Emergency Operations Centre. Federally ordered movement controls are enforceable with significant financial penalties and potential for RCMP involvement for non-compliance.

Whether movement controls are voluntary or legislated and enforced, full and early compliance is essential to control the spread and limit the impacts of a serious animal disease outbreak. Our trading partners will be taking note of our approach and likely be more willing to resume trade activity sooner if the action taken was swift and effective.

NON-ESSENTIAL MOVEMENT BAN PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

The purpose of this document is to clarify the circumstances and conditions under which producers should temporarily suspend movement during a serious animal disease event.

WHEN would the Protocol be triggered?

- This Protocol is **not intended to be used for routine animal disease events**.
- Industry leaders may use the Protocol as a strategy to mitigate risk and limit the spread of a serious animal disease in the early stages of an outbreak.
- Industry leaders may ask producers to implement movement controls in advance of an official CFIA directive and application of formal controls measures.
- Industry leaders may consider this action when a serious animal disease has the potential to spread rapidly via the movement of susceptible animals, their products and by-products. In most cases this action would be based on advice from the Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada (CVOC) or a Chief Veterinary Officer for a province.

WHO does the Protocol apply to?

- All livestock operations with susceptible species, such as: auctions, sale yards, slaughter facilities etc., within a province or trading area.

WHAT does the Protocol entail?

- A standstill on all **non-essential** livestock and livestock-related product movements.
  - Three days (72 hours) initially – the length can be shorten or extended based on the specific situation.
  - Livestock and livestock-related products may not be brought on or off a premises, whether to slaughter or other destination.
- Which movements may be deemed essential and the actions required to enable that movement.

WHY is the Protocol recommended by industry leaders?

- In the early stages of a potential major disease outbreak, reduced movements are critical to disease containment and limiting the introduction/spread to other premises/regions.
- This action is deemed beneficial to an effective response, rapid recovery, reduced market downtime and the industry's long-term viability.

HOW is the Protocol applied?

- Participation is voluntary but strongly recommended and promoted by sector stakeholders.

IN GENERAL, the following will apply:

Livestock in transit within a province	• If not commingled after departure, then return to point of origin. • If commingled or reloaded after departure, then continue to destination and hold in segregated facilities on arrival.
Livestock in transit *to* one province *from* another province or country	• Return the load to the point of origin.
Deliveries (feed or other)	• Farm to consider use of a 'transfer station' to off-load feed. • Drivers to remain in cab. • Vehicles dry cleaned and ideally washed prior to coming on a premises with susceptible animals. • Vehicles are not to enter the production area (restricted access zone) of the premises.
Deadstock	• Pickup suspended for duration of Protocol. Carcasses must be secured in a biosecure manner which prevents scavenging.
Duty of care	• The person who is in possession or has oversight of the animals will be responsible for their well-being.

BIOSECURITY

Whether on boots, clothing, equipment or livestock supplies, staff and visitors can unknowingly spread disease. Biosecurity measures can lower the risk. Developed in collaboration with a veterinarian, biosecurity protocols provide clear instruction on how to manage:

- Animal health practices
- Animal movement risks
- The movement of people, vehicles, equipment and tools

GREEN biosecurity protocols should be a part of your **Normal day-to-day** business while **AMBER** and **RED** protocols will coincide with **Elevated Risk** and **High Risk** emergencies associated with serious animal disease outbreaks. A sample **Biosecurity Protocol** can be found on the next page.

Owners/custodians should note that prior to a serious animal disease **confirmation** (verified by lab results), an operation may be declared by CFIA an 'infected place' on the basis of **suspicion** only. Specific movement restrictions and biosecurity measures will be ordered and enforced. Other premises nearby or ones that can be linked to the 'infected place' may also be affected.

The *National Farm and Facility Level Biosecurity Standard for the Equine Sector* is a good starting point for determining appropriate on-farm biosecurity measures.

The standard can be found online by searching "National Farm and Facility Level Biosecurity Standard for the Equine Sector".

BIOSECURITY PROTOCOL (SAMPLE)

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

GREEN +	AMBER +	RED
Normal day-to-day	**Use of this AMBER Elevated Risk biosecurity protocol should be reviewed when:** • There is concern that an unconfirmed disease may be present in the trading area (area of business) • There is suspicion of a serious animal disease within the trading area **What to Do:** • Review and verify current biosecurity practices and compare with industry biosecurity standard • Ensure biosecurity standard is known by staff and understand the importance of following the standard	**Use of this RED High Risk biosecurity protocol should be reviewed when:** • There is **SIGNIFICANT** concern that a disease is present in the trading area • A formal **Notice of Confirmation** has been declared for a relevant serious animal disease within the trading area **What to Do:** • STRICTLY adhere to the biosecurity standard

FARM ACCESS

GREEN +	AMBER +	RED
Normal	• Restrict primary access points where farm offices or personnel are present to monitor access • Use Visitor logs in accordance with risk assessment tool and ensure they are placed at entry/exit points • Bar or otherwise prevent access through all secondary access points where the farm does not have an ongoing presence • Post biosecurity signage at access points	• Additional as recommended at time of Confirmation

SICK ANIMALS

GREEN +	AMBER +	RED

Normal	• Isolate to the extent possible
	• Minimize contact or potential for contact with healthy animals/pens
	• Assign dedicated clothing, equipment, pens, feed and water stations
	• Designate staff to handle as follows:
	  • No contact of other animals after treating sick animals
	  • Change of outerwear/footwear
	  • Wash hands before and after treatment
		• Additional as recommended at time of Confirmation

INCOMING/OUTGOING TRAFFIC

GREEN	AMBER	RED
Normal	• Ensure disinfection prior to entering farm and before leaving • Have drivers consider additional biosecurity protocols • Document truck movements on and off the farm. • Ensure drivers are recording dates and times of farm pickups	• No incoming livestock • Postpone arrivals and departures pending more information on outbreak and conditions under which animals may be moved

STAFF

GREEN	AMBER	RED
Normal	• Remind staff of indicators and immediate response protocol for unusual animal health events • Ensure those owning and/or in contact with livestock have dedicated clothing and footwear for the farm and change clothing/footwear when entering or leaving the farm premises • All staff to wash hands and feet prior to entering or leaving the farm	• Staff to make alternate arrangements for care of personal livestock or be moved into a position having no contact with operation's animals • All staff to wash hands again, and boots, when entering production area for the purposes of working with animals or entering pens, processing or hospital unit

DEADSTOCK

GREEN	AMBER	RED
Normal	• Designate specific staff to handle and remove animals from pens • Instruct staff to wash hands and clothing after handling deadstock • Ensure separation from other farm practices for equipment • Refer to depopulation and disposal section for more information about deadstock burial • Monitor key websites for information and recommendations (e.g., HCBC, BCMAFF, CFIA and AAFC)	• No pickup of deadstock on-farm • Additional as recommended at time of Confirmation

PRODUCTION AREA e.g., barn, manure storages, feed mills

GREEN	AMBER	RED
Normal	• No visitors • No external animals, vehicles or personnel beyond main office/delivery area	• Additional as recommended at time of Confirmation

2. INVESTIGATION AND TRACING

A critical component of containing a disease is determining how it was introduced and how far it has spread. Animal identification, premises identification, and traceability systems are not only integral to investigating movements that led to an outbreak, they facilitate tracing of contacts associated with other cases.

Similarly, the visitor logs discussed earlier can help identify how a disease may have entered an area and people or equipment that may be at risk. This section highlights steps that owners/custodians can take both before and during an emergency to assist investigators and protect their farm.

DISEASE FOLLOW-UP

Epidemiologists are specially trained to get to the bottom of a disease outbreak. During an adverse disease event these specialists will conduct interviews with key staff, review all available data and documentation such as identification records and visitor logs, monitor affected animals and collaborate with other authorities.

As they review the situation, they will try to identify the following:

WHEN	HOW	WHERE and WHEN
• Incubation period • Time of onset (first signs)	• Location and spatial distribution • Species and numbers • Economic and social relationships on the farm • Supply and disposal practices • Disease prevention systems • Hygiene	• Animal and staff movements • Deliveries, vehicles, equipment, feed, water, airborne potential

TRACEABILITY

Knowing where animals are currently located, their movement history and who they have had contact with can significantly help disease responders locate at risk animals who may be spreading or have potentially been exposed to the disease. Traceability systems bring together animal identification, premises identification (PID) and animal movement data and make it easily accessible when it is needed most.

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Keep up-to-date records
- ✓ Consider traceability options
- ✓ Register your land with a PID

By enhancing the speed and precision of a response, traceability systems can significantly reduce the overall impact of an emergency. Whether it is a disease outbreak, or other significant hazard such as wildfire or flood, traceability can contribute to a reduction in the size and scale of an adverse event.

PREMISES IDENTIFICATION (PID)

PID is another essential tool used by emergency response professionals to manage a serious animal disease outbreak and other adverse events.

Across Canada, governments use premises identification numbers to distinguish parcels of land and farm locations. PID systems can serve as an early warning mechanism to notify animal owners of a natural disaster such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals or operations. They also provide a way to connect livestock to specific pieces of land or identify potentially affected transportation routes, which is very helpful during a disease-related emergency.

During a disease outbreak, a PID will help ensure a quick, accurate and cost-effective emergency response. To register your operation and receive a PID, call 1-888-221-7141 or visit : ***www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram***

3. VACCINATION

Vaccination can play an important role in slowing the spread of disease. By vaccinating animals, owners and custodians are able to strengthen the buffer area around the infected place, protect animals at risk, and safeguard the industry.

MASS VACCINATION

During a major disease event, provincial or federal authorities may order mass vaccination. If ordered, compliance is required under the federal *Health of Animals Act* and its related regulations or similar provincial legislation.

Vaccinated animals will be identified and their individual animal ID recorded. Depending upon the disease, vaccinated animals may need to be slaughtered and even diverted from the food chain.

The CFIA will state the necessary protocol once the mass vaccination program is ordered. The CFIA is responsible for providing vaccine and dosage guidelines to owners/custodians who then must vaccinate their animals accordingly. If vaccination is ordered, a comprehensive vaccination strategy will be discussed with and accepted by industry leaders. The strategy would set out:

- The type of premises, species and even class of animals to be vaccinated
- Location within the primary control zone of premises being vaccinated
- Recordkeeping requirements
- Subsequent use restrictions for vaccinated animals

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Understand your duty to comply with government ordered vaccination
- ✓ Take direction from your government appointed site supervisor
- ✓ Ensure staff are familiar with vaccination technique and requirements

For example, vaccination may be ordered at all operations within the **infected zone** for all equine regardless of their sex or class. Owners and custodians may be required to use onsite personnel to carry out the vaccination to free up qualified government and emergency staff to focus on other necessary control measures. In this scenario, a site supervisor will be designated by CFIA or BCMAFF to ensure compliance with required protocols.

Our industry's continued livelihood hinges on the CFIA and/or AAFC's ability to state with certainty that protocols have been completed in strict compliance with the conditions that international animal and public health authorities require for Canada to regain domestic and international market access. For this reason, **100% compliance with the CFIA or AAFC protocol is essential**. A sample mass vaccination protocol is provided on the next page.

MASS VACCINATION PROTOCOL (SAMPLE)

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

- ☐ **Owner/manager to review and accept the vaccination protocol with a site supervisor appointed by CFIA or BCMAFF, setting out all requirements including:**
  - Species/class to be vaccinated
  - Method
  - Dosage
  - Record keeping requirements
  - Booster requirements
  - End use
  - Oversight
  - Other control factors
- ☐ **All personnel acknowledge their acceptance of regulatory oversight whether provided by CFIA or BCMAFF**
- ☐ **All personnel agree to apply protocol as directed by CFIA or BCMAFF site supervisor**
- ☐ **Staff will:**
  - Record receipt of vaccine doses and ensure oversight of vaccine as directed
  - Vaccinate all animals, as set out in the vaccination protocol and directed by the site supervisor
  - Record individual animal identification of each vaccinate, at time of vaccination, together with date and place and members of vaccination crew and vaccination oversight personnel
  - Identify vaccinates, as required by regulatory authority. This may be a temporary or permanent identifier (e.g., ear tag or brand)
  - Record unused vaccine doses and return to regulatory authority if required
  - Provide CFIA or BCMAFF site supervisor with record of animal identification for all animals vaccinated
  - Apply second or booster vaccination if directed, using similar protocol, in the time frame required

4. DEPOPULATION (DESTRUCTION AND DISPOSAL)

Provincial or federal authorities may order mass depopulation, the destruction of animals and disposal of carcasses in response to a major outbreak. This is an unfortunate but necessary and very effective strategy to stop disease spread and to protect our industry. Depopulation may also be an option of last resort to address an animal surplus situation, in other words, a welfare cull.

DESTRUCTION ORDERS

Destruction orders will be issued for each of the designated premises. When ordered, compliance is required under the *Health of Animals Act* and its related regulations or similar provincial legislation. A site supervisor appointed by CFIA or BCMAFF will provide regulatory oversight.

Depopulation strategies will be discussed with and accepted by industry leaders. This collaborative process will involve a detailed evaluation of the risks to human and animal health and economic and environmental considerations. The means and methods to be used will be prescribed in a strict protocol after consideration of the various alternatives and the conditions at hand including numbers of animals, whether they are diseased or not, location, facilities, soil types, water table, and other key elements.

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Understand your duty to comply with orders
- ✓ Follow protocols agreed to by industry leaders provided by CFIA

METHODS

There are various methods used to destroy animals and dispose of carcasses. One such strategy involves use of a designated slaughter facility, possibly salvaging a portion of the carcass and/or directing carcass to landfill. Based on the specifics of the animals and location in question, industry leaders and government regulators will select the method from the following options that are approved for use:

Destruction	Disposal
• Free bullet • Captive bolt (penetrating or non-penetrating) • Electrocution (single or two stage) • Injection	• Burial at a central location and/or approved secondary landfill sites • Incineration • Rendering • Processing for food (depending on the disease)

Farm personnel will have a role in both depopulation and disposal processes. Staff with livestock handling skills and equipment familiarity will be guided by a BCMAFF or CFIA appointed site supervisor. Using farm personnel and other resources will allow qualified government and professional staff to work on other necessary control measures.

Strict compliance with the protocols set out by CFIA or BCMAFF is essential. In order to regain domestic and international market access, CFIA and/or BCMAFF will need to state with certainty that prescribed depopulation protocols have been carried out in strict compliance with the conditions specified by international authorities for animal health, public health, and the environment.

While the CFIA or BCMAFF will state the necessary protocol at the time of the mass destruction and disposal program, a sample destruction and disposal protocol is provided below so owners/custodians can be aware of the requirements of such a program ahead of time.

BC owners/custodians wanting to familiarize themselves with additional information on this topic are encouraged to review the following:

- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food – Poultry and Livestock Carcass Disposal
- BC Environmental Farm Plan

MASS DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL PROTOCOL (SAMPLE)

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

Once a destruction order is issued, operators and personnel will need to:

☐	Review and accept the overall depopulation and/or disposal strategies required by regulatory authority CFIA or BCMAFF	Owner/ Manager
☐	Follow directives from the Regulator's designate (site supervisor) who will provide regulatory oversight and instructions regarding: • Species/class involved • Depopulation and/or disposal protocols (method and means) • Record-keeping requirements, etc.	All personnel
☐	Assist with the assembly, movement, restraint, and processing of animals, whether depopulation takes place at the farm or elsewhere	
☐	Prepare and **provide** records of animals depopulated and/or disposed of, as set out in the protocol. Examples of the type of records can be found in the **Information for Valuation/Compensation** chart	
☐	Apply animal biosecurity practices as prescribed	
☐	Follow personal biosecurity requirements as prescribed and which may include any or all of the following and other requirements: • Showering before and after each shift • Hand washing before putting on and after removal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • Wearing of PPE • Taking any vaccine or prophylactic medication, if any is recommended by public health officials • Self-monitoring for any signs of personal sickness and seeking medical care if symptoms appear • Having NO CONTACT with other livestock for a prescribed period of time after these operations	
☐	Report any spillage of material (urine, manure, hide, other) that might potentially contain contaminant (virus, bacteria, other), outside the prescribed area for disposal	

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A disease outbreak can place significant stress and financial pressure on affected operations. While depopulation orders are never welcome owners/custodians may be compensated for some of their losses. There may also be support available through other sources such as insurance and government aid.

COMPENSATION – *HEALTH OF ANIMALS ACT* (FEDERAL)

The federal minister may order compensation when a destruction order is issued for particular animals. The amount is determined and paid in accordance with the *Health of Animals Act* (Federal) or provincial legislation.

It is important to explicitly note that compensation will only be awarded to herds that have been ordered destroyed by the federal minister for disease control purposes.

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Keep accurate and up-to-date animal records
- ✓ Contact your association for help finding a qualified evaluator
- ✓ Check your insurance coverage
- ✓ Know your financial aid options

Compensation under the *Health of Animals Act* has limits and is not intended as insurance or full recompense. It covers:

- The fair market value of animals ordered destroyed less any salvage value
- Other things that may be ordered destroyed such as contaminated feed or animal products
- Disposal costs

Compensation is reduced by any salvage value derived from the carcasses, which is also paid to the owner.

The current limit for horses destroyed is $8,000 per animal unless the animal is ordered destroyed due to Equine Infectious Anemia in which case the limit is $2,000 per animal.

VALUATION

Fair and accurate valuation of the animals is a necessary step in determining the compensation due to the owners of the animals ordered destroyed. The valuation process involves two evaluators, one selected by the operator and the other selected by the CFIA. Operators can identify their own evaluator or choose one from a list that may be made available at the time of the outbreak.

Evaluators will base their findings upon the animals and relevant records, as presented by the operator. Their valuation is presented to the CFIA veterinarian responsible for the valuation process.

The table below contains some common queries related to compensation:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Will value be based upon pre-outbreak prices or current prices?	Valuations are historically based upon prices in effect just prior to the outbreak
How is value determined?	Fair market value is used, typically based on either: factors such as age, weight, class, etc.; or the animals' point in the production cycle at time of destruction
What special attributes might be considered that add value?	Specialty breeds, purebred lines, pregnant animals, etc.
How long does payment take?	For recent outbreaks compensation was provided in approximately six weeks, however this will vary depending upon the situation

Other issues may surface during the compensation process. These topics will be explored and jointly addressed by the industry and government executive. The CFIA will work with the industry to ensure that the compensation process runs as smoothly as possible.

INFORMATION FOR VALUATION/COMPENSATION

When compensation is sought, farm personnel will be asked to assist the valuation process by providing the following information from all animals being valued:

- Animal purchase/birth date
- Description (e.g., number of head, class, sex, species, breed of animal)
- Production/quality records or parameters
- Individual ID if available, or other (group) identifiers
- Owner details, e.g., name and contact information
- Premises identification PID (farm)
- Date of quarantine and depopulated
- Depopulation method
- Premises identification PID (depopulation location, if different)
- Disposal method
- Premises identification PID (disposal location, if different)
- Salvage value received, if any (payment received for animal/carcass)

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

While compensation can help cover animal losses there are other expenses associated with a disease-related emergency. These may include cleaning and disinfecting or decontaminating premises and equipment that will not be covered. Since these items are not part of the compensation process, owners/custodians need to be aware of all other avenues for financial aid.

COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

Commercial insurance provided in the private sector may be available to owners/custodians depending on individual policy specifics. Owners/custodians should review their coverage with an experienced broker annually and consider adjustments that would better protect them from disease-related emergencies.

If coverage is available, some losses to consider are those related to mortality, disease, livestock relocation, infrastructure losses, flood, weather such as hail or fire, and business interruption.

Owners/custodians should know the specifics of what perils or events are covered by their insurance and what costs are addressed.

INSURANCE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Have you checked to ensure your coverage is current?
- ☐ Have you reviewed your operation with your insurance broker with specific consideration for coverage of potential perils or events?
- ☐ Do you have records of the individual animal identifiers that are within your possession?
- ☐ Have you assessed the risks associated with actions you might take in response to certain perils and the coverage available should you do so? For instance, moving animals off premise from a flood zone or fire path?
- ☐ Do you have business interruption coverage that would cover you in the event of a sustained border closure or market collapse?
- ☐ Have you documented your various protocols, including your emergency management protocols, so that if necessary, you can demonstrate due diligence to the insurer?

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

In response to certain disasters or emergencies the federal and provincial governments may make funding available for individuals and in some cases business operators. These supports are in addition to funding offered for compensation and are typically provided to the recipient through provincial authorities.

Federal and provincial governments have also partnered to develop and deliver a suite of risk management programs. For more information about any of these programs please contact Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada or refer to their website.

AgriStability	AgriRecovery	AgriInvest
Covers losses associated with increased feed costs or reduced revenue from sale of livestock	Disaster relief on a case-by-case basis	Provides a 'savings account' for owners/custodians that may cover small income declines

BC owners/custodians can learn more about the Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance by searching "Disaster Assistance" on the BCMAFF website.

6. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

In the event that a serious animal disease occurs on your farm you will be required to clean and disinfect the premises after the disease is eradicated.

Cleaning and disinfection actions and costs are the responsibility of the owner of the premises. In some cases, this might be the landlord of the property even if they do not personally own the affected livestock.

Your premises will continue to be designated as an 'infected premises' until cleaning and disinfection are completed to the satisfaction of the province or CFIA. After that time, restocking can begin to take place.

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Have cleaning and disinfecting supplies on hand
- ✓ Develop your Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with input from CFIA
- ✓ Work with CFIA inspectors

Although cleaning and disinfection protocols are typically site-specific owners/custodians can expect to move through the following steps:

PREMISES PLAN FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION	CFIA ROLES
Owners/custodians contacts CFIA	CFIA Site Visit #1: Site assessment
Owners/custodians develops Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the cleaning and disinfecting of all barns, equipment, service rooms, etc. on the premises	CFIA reviews, makes recommendations and approves SOP
Owners/custodians • Completes dry cleaning • Completes wet cleaning and rinse • Contacts CFIA	CFIA Site Visit #2: Clean inspection
Owners/custodians completes disinfection	CFIA Site Visit #3: Disinfection inspection
Restocking possible subject to CFIA approval	

During a disease event the CFIA or AAFC will provide owners/custodians with clear guidance and instruction for cleaning and disinfection. The requirements and expectations for cleaning and disinfection will differ considerably between diseases. Below is a sample checklist that may be considered when developing a protocol for cleaning and disinfection on your farm.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION CHECKLIST
IDENTIFY
☐ Areas that need to be cleaned and disinfected (barns, storage, garages, offices, entrances, feed bins/feeding equipment, etc.)
☐ Materials, equipment and machinery to be cleaned and disinfected
DEVELOP
☐ A list of area(s) or equipment that are difficult to clean
☐ Entry and exit procedures
DETERMINE
☐ Application method and required equipment
SELECT
☐ Appropriate methods of cleaning – dry and wet, including application method and required equipment

Response

7. LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

Once the outbreak situation has stabilized and the risk has diminished the appropriate regulatory authority will begin lifting disease response conditions. This decision will be made after discussion with industry leaders.

A statement will be released by the BCMAFF or CFIA indicating that the disease-related sector-wide emergency is now over. This information will be welcome news to owners/custodians and will come by way of the industry associations. HCBC will communicate changes to conditions and sector-wide disease-related emergency status to its members and others within the livestock sector using a variety of communication tools.

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Keep your eye out for updates from your HCBC
- ✓ Regularly visit your association's website

Recovery

As conditions are removed, focus will turn to the recovery process. CFIA, the federal government and industry leaders will be working diligently to gain formal recognition of Canada's 'disease-free' status by our trading partners around the world. This is an involved process that may take months and even years.

Once Canada has successfully demonstrated an absence of the disease for the required time frame and our 'disease-free' status is recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health and national regulatory authorities of our various trading partners, industry stakeholders can begin to re-establish market share. This too will take time.

Maintaining Business Operations During an Emergency

A human pandemic, serious animal disease, zoonotic outbreak, or natural hazard such as extreme weather events, fire, or flood, emergencies can significantly interrupt business operations and the flow of farm products.

Business disruptions are not only inconvenient; they can also pose serious challenges for owners and various industry stakeholders. During the COVID-19 global pandemic, livestock industries felt the impact of product unavailability, shortages and impeded flow. Adaptability and quick decision-making proved integral in handling the unexpected and reducing negative impacts.

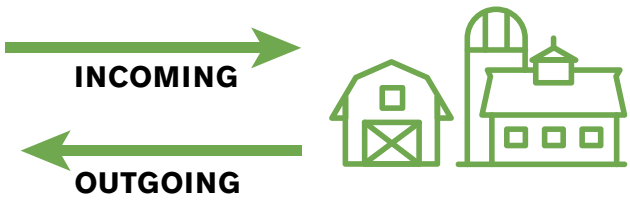
The purpose of this section is to highlight some of the potential disruptions to business operations along with strategies that owner/custodians may use to help manage the ripple effect. The information included in this section has been developed to support you in assessing risk, planning in advance, and responding in the moment to a business interruption.

ESSENTIAL BUSINESS WORKFLOW

There are movements both on and off your premises that are critical to business operations. Whether you are an infected premises/place, located nearby an infected farm, or outside the zone of infection, an emergency can trigger all types of business workflow interruptions.

Typical workflow on Canadian livestock farms include:

- Incoming and outgoing movement
- Incoming supply of feed
- Outgoing by-product (deadstock or manure)
- Movement of workers
- Service provider visits such as veterinarians, utility technicians, and equipment technicians



Some questions for consideration:

What if you couldn't move livestock on or off your farm? How might that impact your business?	What if business patrons couldn't enter your premises?	What is your storage capacity for feed? How long could you operate until you will need more shipments of feed or supplements?
What if you were restricted from moving deadstock or manure? How long could you operate?	What if there were restrictions on workers accessing your farm? How would you staff your operation?	What if there were restrictions on service providers entering your farm?

In the event of disease outbreak or other emergency event, these movements may be restricted or made more difficult. Thinking about these things in advance can help you be even more prepared for the unexpected.

During a disease outbreak, restrictions to movements on or off the premise will highly depend on the location of the premises and its relation to the infected zone as discussed in the **zoning** section of this Handbook on ***page 16***.

- Movement controls will be most restrictive into or out of the 'infected zone'
- Less restrictive movement controls will be placed on those in the 'restricted zone'
- Least restrictive movement controls will be placed those in the 'security zone'

Owners will need to be prepared to utilize licenses and/or permits to move livestock or livestock-related products into or out of the control zone.

LICENSING AND PERMITTING

Government may require movement permits or licenses for movements of livestock or other farm-related products into, out of, within, or through infected areas. How, where, and what movements require permits will be communicated by the government to the livestock industry.

The process for obtaining the necessary permits will be communicated to owners/custodians through industry associations (HCBC).

Every effort will be made by industry associations (national and/or provincial) to work with government in maintaining business workflow. Movement restrictions and conditions for movement will be outlined by government and communicated to owners/custodians through their respective industry associations through the appropriate communication channels (email, teleconference, meeting, online townhall, virtual video or audio conferencing, etc.)

Notes:

CONCLUSION

Although the prospect of dealing with any phase of a disease-related sector-wide emergency is daunting, there are things we can all do to strengthen and protect our industry. This handbook has been developed to help owners and custodians understand important concepts, be as prepared as possible for an outbreak situation and to respond appropriately.

HCBC is committed to advocating on behalf of the equine industry and providing owner/custodian support. If you have any questions or concerns about the information contained in this document, please contact:

Horse Council British Columbia
27336 Fraser Hwy
Aldergrove, BC
Phone 604-856-4304
Email: industry@hcbc.ca

For more information and specific resources on serious animal disease prevention please visit ***www.animalhealth.ca***

Notes:

SCHEDULE 1. GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

Glossary

AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
ADM	Assistant Deputy Minister
BCMAFF	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food
CBSA	Canada Border Services Agency
CCVO	Council of Chief Veterinary Officers
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CLRC	Canadian Livestock Records Corporation
CVO	Chief Veterinarian Officer
ED	Executive Director
EIA	Equine Infectious Anemia
EMC	Emergency Management Committee
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre, modified by (J) Joint, (G) Government, (N) National, or (R) Regional, (A) Area
FAD	Foreign Animal Disease
FMD	Foot-and-Mouth Disease
FSAHD	Food Safety and Animal Health Division
GIS	*Geographic Information System*
HAA	Health of Animals Act – Federal
HCBC	Horse Council BC
ICS	Incident Command System
IP	Infected premises
JIC	Joint Information Centre
LMIS	Livestock Market Interruption Strategy
NCFAD	National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease
NCIAP	National Critical Infrastructure Assurance Program
NERT	National Emergency Response Team
OIE	Office International des Epizooties/World Organisation for Animal Health
OII	Ownership Identification Inc
PAHS	Plant and Animal Health Strategy
PCZ	Primary Control Zone
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
POC	Provincial Operations Centre
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSC	Public Safety Canada
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RVF	Rift Valley Fever
SEMO	Saskatchewan Emergency Management Organization
TADES	Terrestrial Animal Disease Emergency Support Agreement

Definitions

Animal health emergency	An outbreak or epizootic of a serious animal disease requiring immediate action to contain, control and eradicate the disease, including: • Animal movement controls • Slaughtering of animals known to be or suspected of being infected • Disposal of carcasses or infected products • Cleaning and disinfecting of the infected place and transport • Application of measures aimed at limiting the spread of the disease and • Tracing the origin of the disease, etc
Confirmed Case	Confirmation of disease by National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease on samples obtained at the farm by CFIA staff by: • Virus isolation • Antigen identified from animals showing clinical signs or • Linked to confirmed outbreak, or antibodies from other than vaccination with clinical signs.
Emergency Operations Centre (EOC, NEOC, PEOC, REOC, JEOC)	Site of decision-making, leadership and management for the event are administered using the Incident Command System (ICS). May be implemented on a (N) national, (P) provincial or (R) regional basis, (J) joint, in which case it will be preceded by the letter N, P, A R, or J.
Emergency Management Committee	During an emergency, an industry organization's Emergency Management Committee is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the organization. The committee may be comprised of Chair/President, General Manager/Executive Director, Vice Chair/President or Animal Health Committee Chair and/or other executive members or staff as required; a quorum of three is required. All members have voting rights. Decisions require a majority. Meetings will be chaired by the Chair/President and decisions recorded.
EOC Director	The person named as EOC Director is responsible for the Emergency Operations Centre and responsible for the management of disease control or eradication operations.
Infected place	Where an inspector or officer suspects or determines that a disease or toxic substance exists in a place and is of the opinion that it could spread or that animals or things entering the place could become affected or contaminated by it, the inspector or officer may in writing declare that the place is infected and identify the disease or toxic substance that is believed to exist there, and such a declaration may subsequently be amended by the inspector or officer.
Infected premises	Premises where a federally reportable disease has been detected through laboratory testing.
Livestock Market Interruption Strategy	The LMIS is a national strategy developed by federal, provincial, and territorial governments and the livestock industry to enhance preparedness to manage any large-scale livestock market interruption focused on the impact to healthy animals. The strategy is made up of a variety of tools and information to support government and industry planning, decision-making and action.
Local authority	The council of a city, town, village, regional government or Indigenous group.

Definitions

Plant and Animal Health Strategy	The PAHS is a strategy of government, industry, academia and other stakeholders to strengthen Canada's protection of plant and animal health by collaboration, innovation and risk prevention.
Production area	The operation corrals, pens, barns, and pastures where livestock are or may be kept.
Reportable diseases	Reportable diseases are outlined in the *Health of Animals Act* and Reportable Diseases Regulations and are usually of significant importance to human or animal health or to the Canadian economy. Anyone having care and control of an animal (e.g., owner, veterinarian, laboratory) is required to immediately report the presence of an animal that is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with one of these diseases to a CFIA district veterinarian. **Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD)** are reportable diseases that are not found in Canada. Note: Provinces may also have a reportable disease list that may include diseases that are not in the federal Reportable Diseases Regulations.
Serious animal diseases	Serious animal diseases (SAD) are diseases that are more severe than common animal health illnesses and that can have significant impacts to trade and industry operations.
Special premises	Premises such as an abattoir, artificial insemination centre, sales yard, zoo, game farm, shipping yard or any other premises where animals are kept or assembled.
Suspect case	The presence of clinical signs or post-mortem lesions in susceptible animals consistent with a specific disease reported by a private practitioner, an owner, a provincial laboratory, or a veterinarian in charge or district veterinarian and determined as high risk in consultation with the disease specialists or all susceptible animals epidemiologically determined to have been exposed to the virus.
Trade(ing) area	The geographic area that either directly or indirectly interacts with the province in consideration and includes areas where bulk of animals bought from or sold to. An interruption or outbreak in any portion of the trading area would impact the province in consideration.
Triggers	SUSPICION occurs when a CFIA or provincial veterinarian diagnoses or cannot rule out the diagnosis of a serious animal disease. The CFIA or provincial veterinarian will notify the owner/custodian and depending on the circumstances regulatory officials may also notify industry associations and trading partners. Sampling and lab tests will be initiated, and additional information collected. The next trigger CONFIRMATION occurs if the disease is confirmed by specific lab tests. At this point regulatory officials will formally provide notification of confirmation to a range of stakeholders starting with the owner/custodian and potentially including industry associations and trading partners.

Notes:

SCHEDULE 2. OTHER HAZARDS RESOURCE

Emergencies, seasonal events and natural disasters can place a tremendous strain on owner/custodian, animals, and the food supply chain. While these challenges are difficult to predict, advance preparation can help safeguard the welfare of those involved, ensure business continuity, and speed recovery after the event. The following resources have been developed by provincial governments and have been included to provide additional direction to owners/custodians to help during other emergency guidance for owners/custodians.

Structure Fire and Wildfire

Fires can have a devastating impact on a farm. Whether it's a small area fire or uncontrolled wildfire, flames can spread across vast tracts of land, posing serious threats to livestock in barns, pens and pastures.

STRUCTURE FIRES

Farm buildings, sheds, and residences may be seriously impacted during a fire. These structures often contain materials such as wood, hay, and straw that can act as feedstock and further fuel the blaze.

The ignition of a fire may be triggered by engine exhaust, exposed wiring, or lighting as well as other on farm heat sources such as combustion of bedding, litter or hay. It is important to keep flammable materials away from heat sources and to be aware that high moisture levels in bales can contribute to excess heat, mould growth, and loss of dry matter.

Fortunately, almost all structure fires are preventable. By being observant and practicing common-sense fire prevention techniques you can help reduce risks.

Considerations for Barn Fires:

- Never put personal safety in jeopardy to save an animal
- Panicked animals normally will not leave a barn on their own, because they do not fear fire
- Most animals are killed from smoke inhalation and those who do survive rarely recover
- A structure can be completely engulfed in less than six minutes

Livestock Tips During a Fire

Horses	• Lead animals from the left-hand side
	• Horses are easier to control when blindfolded
	• A towel over the horse's eyes, secured under the halter works well to keep horses from running back into the barn
Cattle	• Cattle are very difficult to remove from a burning barn as they will try to return to a structure if not confined away from the fire
	• Try to move animals in a group instead of one at a time. Isolation greatly stresses the animals, and they will generally be more cooperative if moved together
	• Dairy animals should be relocated to a protected area if the fire occurs in winter, as they cannot withstand extreme weather

Swine	• Pig barn fires are very challenging. If numerous pigs are in a barn, they will be almost impossible to evacuate • Pigs must be confined after removal from a barn, or they will attempt to run back into the burning structure • If possible separate livestock by species, especially pigs from other animals
Poultry	• Poultry barn fires generally have a high mortality rate as birds are very difficult to move during a large structure fire

WILDFIRE

Wildfires can spread across forests, grasslands and fields at an astonishing rate. Farms near wildlands/grasslands or owners that have livestock near these natural areas should be prepared for and know steps to minimize wildfire risks and losses.

Resources
Wildfire Information: 1-888-3FOREST (1-888-336-7378)
FireSmart manuals
www.firesmartbc.ca/resource-types/guides-manuals
Material derived from BC Emergency Management Guides

Preparation

There are several proactive measures that can be completed in advance to prepare owners/custodians for a wildfire emergency including:

- Having contact information for prearranged off-farm evacuation sites handy
- Reviewing wildfire history in area
- Identifying and maintaining equipment that may help fight an approaching grassfire or wildfire (e.g., disk, harrow, tractor, water truck)
- Clearing vegetation and wood debris within 10 meters of any farm structure
- Reducing vegetation and wood debris within 10 to 30 meters of farm structures by thinning and pruning vegetation
- Storing hay away from roads or fences, and surrounding bale stacks with a bare area or fuel reduced strips
- Mapping location of fire extinguishers, evacuation sites and routes that may be used for animal movement
- Prohibiting smoking in and around barns
- Inspecting electrical systems regularly and correcting any deficiencies
- Removing accumulated dust from electrical fixtures, heaters, etc. on a regular basis
- Keeping the number of appliances at a minimum in the barn
- Using space heaters only when someone is in the barn
- Obtaining and installing fire extinguishers near all building exits
- Ensuring hay is dry before storage
- Storing hay outside the barn in a dry, covered area, if possible

Response

In the lead up to and during a wildfire emergency, owners/custodians will try to protect their farms and prevent losses. As you respond to the threat of wildfire consider the following:

- Evacuating employees/visitors to an agreed safe meeting place as required
- Notifying the fire authority immediately. In my area, the number is _____
- Assessing the fire and only attempting to contain or extinguish a small fire if it can be done safely

Flooding

Flooding is a natural and often seasonal hazard that can be extremely disruptive and can pose a threat to animal and human health.

The most common cause of flooding is rain and/or snowmelt that accumulates faster than it can be absorbed into the soil, drainage or water bodies. Not only can flooding cause immediate issues with rising water levels, it can also disrupt services and create broader public health concerns.

By assessing the threat of flood and being prepared, owners/custodians can improve their readiness for an emergency. The risk of flooding will depend on the geographical location (e.g., proximity to creeks, streams, and rivers) as well as topographical features (e.g., drainage basins, low lying land, etc.).

Common Flooding Terms

High Streamflow Advisory	River levels are rising or likely to rise rapidly, but no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding is possible
Flood Watch	River levels are rising and will approach or may exceed the banks. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur
Flood Warning	River levels have exceeded the top of the bank or will surpass it imminently. Flooding will occur in areas near affected rivers

Livestock Tips During a Flood

1. Unconfined animals can usually take care of themselves during a flood
2. The farmer's goal should be keeping livestock high and dry
3. Your local emergency coordinator can provide up-to-date flood information and forecasts

Preparation

There are activities that can be completed prior to a flood that will better prepare owners/custodians in the event of an emergency including:

- Reviewing local or provincial floodplain map and assessing flooding potential
- Identifying locations where livestock can be moved, on-site and/or off-site, including evacuation route
- Mapping out safe locations and routes on map
- Identifying livestock haulers that could assist in livestock movement on short notice, if applicable
- Considering shipping animals that are approaching market weight
- Identifying high ground to move equipment (e.g., motors, tractors, tools, etc.), pesticides, fertilizer, or other chemicals
- Identifying electrical power switches/breaker to shut off power to areas where flooding is imminent
- Locating feed, bedding material, medications, etc. in areas unlikely to be flooded
- Considering methods of moving feed and water to location safe from flood
- Checking that backup generators are in working order and extra fuel is available in the event of a power outage

Response

The necessary approach during a flood will depend on various factors including river or stream levels, winter snow load, ground conditions, and current and forecasted precipitation. It is important to stay informed of situation developments and relocation instructions as they are communicated through online channels, television, radio and social media. Always follow evacuation orders and ensure human safety first.

Some actions to consider if an evacuation order is issued and time permits movement of animals:

- Arrange trucks, trailers, drivers, and handlers to move animals if necessary
- Use prearranged route to move livestock to a location where they will be safe from the flood (high ground) whether that be on-farm or off-farm
- Ensure animals have access to food, clean water, and ample living area

In the event that a owners/custodians is unable to move their livestock into a pre-determined safe area, freeing animals may be the best option. Opening gates and/or cutting fences will allow animals to move and avoid the flood. This should only be done if the owners/custodians can determine that there is no reasonable danger to people or vehicular traffic from freeing the animals. If animals are set free, local authorities should be notified immediately.

Power Grid Failure

Utility outages are generally unexpected and inconvenient. These downtimes can be triggered by a variety of events, including severe weather, wildfire, and other potential hazards.

Owners/custodians should consider the length of time their operations can function without electricity, natural gas, or water. Preparation and appropriate response will minimize the impact of prolonged outages and will help protect your equipment and livestock.

Power Outage Safety Tips

1. Look up and down – look for electrical hazards overhead and underground
2. Stay back – Make sure you're standing at least 10 meters away from fallen power lines
3. Call for help – If you see a power line on the ground, stay back at least 10 meters and call 911

Questions to ask yourself?

- Which critical equipment and facilities rely on electrical power, natural gas, and/or water?
- What if these utilities are unavailable?
- How long could you operate with the utility?
- Are back up measures possible?

Preparation

The following activities may help prepare owners/custodians in the event of an emergency:

- Ensure backup generator available working and is tested regularly
- Have sufficient fuel available to run generator for at least seven days
- Identify locations of electrical breakers, water shut-off, and natural gas/propane shut-off and include on farm map
- Ensure electrical panels are well-marked and breakers can easily be turned off
- Test critical equipment with backup power and ensure working as required
- Identify equipment that should be shut off during a power outage and record the sequence for turning on
- Determine how livestock will be fed during a power failure
- Identify backup measures to supply heat for animals, if applicable
- Store battery-operated lights in a location that is easily accessible and have fresh batteries on hand
- Create a contact list that includes energy suppliers and electrician details
- Protect sensitive equipment with surge protectors
- Back up computer files regularly

Response

Some factors to consider when responding to a power outage include:

- Confirming back-up generator or other power source is working
- Contacting power provider to set up re-connection as soon as possible
- Ensuring all animals have access to appropriate food and water
- Using alternative forms of barn heat or ventilation if possible

Notes:

SCHEDULE 3. KEY SERIOUS ANIMAL DISEASE SYMPTOMS

For more information on livestock diseases and tips for recognizing signs of disease search "animal disease information" on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website (***https://inspection.canada.ca***) or the Center for Food Security and Public Health (***www.cfsph.iastate.edu***).

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)

DESCRIPTION & SYMPTOMS

A federally reportable, retroviral disease of equids that may be characterized by acute and/or chronic recurring clinical signs including fever, anemia, edema and cachexia in some animals. Clinical cases occur in horses and ponies and have also been reported in mules.

The incubation period is generally two to four weeks but may range from one week to three months. Infected horses may show the following signs:

- Anorexia
- Depression
- General Weakness
- Intermittent fever up to 41°C
- Jaundice
- Small hemorrhages under the tongue and eye
- Swelling of the extremities
- Weight loss.

In some cases, a loss of coordination may be the only clinical sign. Foals infected prior to birth are often aborted or die within two months of birth.

Many animals show temporary recovery from the severe stage of EIA and may even appear normal for two to three weeks before relapsing with similar, but less severe signs. Episodes of clinical illness are often associated with the use of steroid drugs or with periods of stress such as hard work, hot weather, racing or pregnancy.

HOW IS EIA SPREAD?

Transmission of EIA occurs mainly through the transfer of contaminated blood from one animal to another. Insects such as horse flies, stable flies, and deer flies aid in the disease spread. Transmission may also occur when blood-contaminated objects (e.g., needles, syringes, or surgical instruments) are used on more than one animal.

EIA can also be transmitted through the semen of an infected stallion. Foals can be infected before birth.

HOW IS EIA CONTROLLED OR ERADICATED?

At this time there is no cure for EIA, nor is there a vaccine that will prevent an animal from becoming infected. Supportive therapy may alleviate clinical signs in individual cases, but it is critical to remember that infected equines serve as a reservoir of infection for other equines.

The control of the disease is based on voluntary testing by owners, identification and destruction or life-long quarantine of infected animals, mandatory testing of imported equines, and efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by controlling insect and mechanical vectors.

The CFIA places movement restrictions on all premises on which EIA infected equines are found. The EIA-infected animals and EIA susceptible animals are quarantined and all equines on the premises are tested for the disease. Equines confirmed to be infected with EIA are either ordered destroyed or placed under permanent quarantine where possible.

Owners whose animals are ordered destroyed may be eligible for compensation.

WHY IS EIA A CONCERN?

EIA is not a disease of concern to humans. It is a potentially fatal viral disease. EIA-infected animals remain carriers of the virus for life and can be a source of infection for other animals.

Equine Piroplasmosis

DESCRIPTION & SYMPTOMS

Equine piroplasmosis is a tick-borne disease, affecting all equine species, such as horses, mules, donkeys and zebras.

The clinical signs of equine piroplasmosis vary and are often non-specific; the disease can easily be confused with other conditions. Equine piroplasmosis can occur in several different forms:

- **Per acute**: In some per acute cases, animals may be found dead with no previous signs of being sick.
- **Acute**: The acute form is characterized by fever, loss of appetite, sudden onset of immobility and reluctance to move, and severe lethargy. The fever may subside after one day and become intermittent. Other signs include anemia, jaundice and an enlarged spleen and liver. Severe cases can result in death.
- **Sub-acute**: Clinical signs in sub-acute cases are similar to acute cases except that affected animals may show weight loss and an intermittent fever.
- **Chronic**: Chronic cases usually present non-specific clinical signs such as mild loss of appetite, poor performance and loss of body weight. Severe cases can result in death. In young horses and newborn foals the symptoms are more severe.
- **Carrier**: A large proportion of infected horses are carriers of the disease. These horses show no apparent signs of infection and are the most difficult horses to control in the spread of the disease. Persistent infections of mares may cause abortions. Foals can become infected before birth, resulting in either weak, anemic foals or healthy carrier foals. Carrier horses may become sick when they are stressed or after the administration of immunosuppressive medications.

HOW IS EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS SPREAD?

Equine piroplasmosis is not directly contagious. It is transferred by blood from an infected animal to a susceptible animal or insect. Ticks are the main vector of transmission as they are a natural host for the parasites. It can also be transmitted by contaminated needles and syringes. Foals can become infected while in the uterus, particularly with T. equi.

Some horses can carry the parasite in their blood for a long time and can act as sources of infection for ticks. Introduction of these carrier animals into disease-free areas can lead to new cases of piroplasmosis if ticks are prevalent.

Infection is seasonal and is most likely to occur shortly after peaks in the tick population. Tick activity tends to increase with warmer temperatures. The main risk factor for introducing equine piroplasmosis into Canada is through importing infected animals

HOW IS EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS CONTROLLED OR ERADICATED?

Equine piroplasmosis can be difficult to treat. New treatment protocols have been established that have shown to be effective in clearing equine piroplasmosis caused by either B. caballi or T. equi. The medications used to treat piroplasmosis may cause horses to become ill. Side effects include colic, diarrhea and rarely, death.

Equine piroplasmosis is a reportable disease under the Health of Animals Act. This means that all suspected cases must be reported to the CFIA for immediate investigation by inspectors.

Canada's emergency response strategy to an outbreak of equine piroplasmosis would be to:

- Eliminate the disease
- Re-establish Canada's disease-free status as quickly as possible.

In an effort to eliminate equine piroplasmosis, the CFIA may use some or all of the following disease control methods:

- The treatment or humane euthanasia of infected animals
- Surveillance and tracing of potentially infected or exposed animals
- Strict quarantine and animal movement controls to prevent spread
- Zoning to define infected and disease-free areas.

If an owner has an animal that is ordered euthanized, they may be eligible for compensation.

WHY IS EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS A CONCERN?

Infected horses pose no risk to humans. Ticks infected with the parasite may be able to spread the disease to humans through biting, but this has not been proven. Human piroplasmosis is uncommon and is usually associated with different strains of Babesia.

Vesicular Stomatitis

DESCRIPTION & SYMPTOMS

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) is a viral disease affecting horses, ruminants such as cattle, sheep and members of the deer and llama families, and swine.

Vesicular Stomatitis causes a mild fever and the formation of blister-like lesions on the inside of the mouth, and on the lips, nose, hooves and udder. The blisters break, leaving raw, sore areas. Affected animals often salivate profusely and are unwilling to eat or drink. Some animals, particularly swine, may become lame. Milking cows show a marked decrease in milk production. The incubation period (the time between infection with the virus and clinical signs) may range from two to eight days, and animals generally recover completely in three to four days.

Horse mouth. There is extensive erosion of the lip

HOW IS VESICULAR STOMATITIS SPREAD?

Animals are infected with the virus by eating or coming into contact with substances contaminated with saliva or fluid from the lesions of infected animals. Spread in dairy herds may also occur as a result of milking procedures. In some regions insects play a significant role in the spread of the disease.

Vesicular Stomatitis is diagnosed by laboratory testing on samples of fluid from the vesicles of affected animals, or by testing a blood sample taken from the animal.

HOW IS VESICULAR STOMATITIS CONTROLLED OR ERADICATED?

The CFIA has taken the following measures to prevent the entry of this disease into Canada:

- VS is a reportable disease under the Health of Animals Act. This means that all suspected cases must be reported to the CFIA.
- All reported suspect cases are immediately investigated by inspectors from the agency.
- Should VS be diagnosed on a Canadian premises, a quarantine would be imposed to restrict movement of the animals. This quarantine would be lifted 30 days after all clinical signs have disappeared.
- When there is a VS outbreak in another country, the CFIA may require that all susceptible animals entering Canada from that country be examined by a federal veterinarian. The veterinary authorities of the exporting country are required to provide certification that the animal was found clinically healthy prior to departure and did not originate from an area where the disease is active.

WHY IS VESICULAR STOMATITIS A CONCERN?

The disease may also be transmitted to humans who come into contact with infected animals. It causes influenza-like symptoms. While VS causes discomfort to affected animals and may result in loss of markets for live animals, meat and animal genetics, it is most significant because it closely resembles Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). FMD affects ruminants and swine and is a devastating disease for owners/custodians.

Notes:

SCHEDULE 4: OWNER/CUSTODIAN RESOURCES

This section includes templates to assist you in preparing for and responding to an unusual animal health event emergency event. Electronic versions are available at ***www.animalhealth.ca/ahem/resources***

Farm Objectives

FARM OBJECTIVES: DISEASE-RELATED SECTOR-WIDE EMERGENCY

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

In a sector-wide emergency, real or perceived, the principal objectives are to:

1. Keep personnel safe

- Including staff, management, owners, and their families, and residents on the farm

2. Minimize animal losses

- Avoid or minimize animal loss within the barns or pastures
- Avoid or limit impacts of the event spreading from the farm

3. Minimize animal health and welfare impacts

- Avoid or minimize introduction of disease into the farm
- Avoid or minimize the spread of disease within the farm
- Avoid or minimize the spread of disease from the farm
- Avoid or minimize animal stress on the farm

4. Determine best direction for the operation:

- Resume or grow business activities as quickly and as safely as possible
- Regain normal operations at the farm, as soon as practical and safe for staff and residents
- Expand as opportunities present
- Downsize or exit operations as efficiently and safely as possible
- Consider potential productivity versus input costs
- Consider shutdown costs, sale of facilities/equipment and impacts on staff

5. Other:

Farm Plan Grid

FARM PLAN GRID

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

Legal Land Description: _____ Address: _____

One Time Capacity: _____ Normal Operating Capacity: _____

Date Prepared: _____

Approximate Scale: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number 1: _____

Phone Number 2: _____

- N North
- V Visitor Parking
- S Staff Parking
- Fences
- Gates
- G Compressed Gas
- F Flammable Liquids
- O Oxidizing Materials
- P Poisonous Materials
- C Corrosive Materials
- F Fertilizer

- P Pesticide
- H Water Source for Fire Hydrant
- G Main Gas Shutoff
- E Main Electrical Shutoff
- FT Above Ground Fuel Tank
- FA First Aid
- Fire Extinguisher
- MP Meeting Place
- Septic System (label location)
- Manure System (label location)

Farm Work Cycle

FARM WORK CYCLE

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

Activity	Frequency	Quantity
Example: Feed Delivery	***Daily***	***2 loads @ 15 Mt per load***
Feed Delivery		
Shipment of Animals		
Movement of People		
Pregnancy Check		
Other Traffic		
Husbandry Protocols (vaccinations, training schedule, etc.)		
Veterinarian Visits		
Other		

Farm Inventory

FARM INVENTORY OF PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

PEOPLE

Number of people living here:		Number of people employed:	
Number of disabled persons:		Nature of disability:	
Number of heavy-duty equipment operators:		Number of others: (excl. owner/operator):	

BARN/BUILDING SUMMARY

Building/Barn	Capacity

Feed Storage/Bin	Inventory/Capacity

EQUIPMENT & RESOURCES ON HAND (Description, Number & Location)

Bulldozers/Scrapers/Skidder:	
Front-End Loaders:	
Backhoes:	
Vaccines/Medicines:	
Portable Water Pumps:	
Portable Generators:	
Fire Extinguishers:	
Absorbent Material (Shavings, straw, etc.)	
Sand Bags:	
First Aid:	
Personal Protection Equipment:	
Other:	

Contact List Templates

PRIMARY/SECONDARY ON-FARM CONTACTS

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Primary Contact: _____

Farm Name: _____

Land Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Legal Land Location: _____

Municipality: _____ 911 Address: _____
(if available)

Directions to this location: _____

Secondary Contact: _____

Land Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Community Pasture Manager: _____

Land Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Off Site Contact: _____

Land Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Notes:

STAFF CONTACT LIST

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

Name	Title	Contact Phone	Contact Email	Lives on Farm (Y/N)	Owns Animals (Y/N)	Equipment Operator (Y/N)

EXTERNAL CONTACT LIST

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

WHO	PRIMARY CONTACT	PHONE & CELL	EMAIL
Primary Emergency Organizations			
Police/RCMP			
Fire			
Ambulance			
Veterinarian			
Municipal Emergency Management			
Horse Council BC		(604) 856-4304 or Toll Free 1-800-345-8055	
Animal Health Center		Toll Free 1-800-661-9903	
Utilities			
Electricity Supplier			
Internet Provider			
Telephone Service			
Natural Gas			

continued >>

>> CONTINUED

Government Offices			
CFIA Emergency Line		1-800-442-2342	
Chief District Office (Burnaby)		604-292-5700	
Ministry of Agriculture (local office)			
Service Providers			
Deadstock Provider			
Fuel			
Insurance Broker			
Feed 1			
Feed 2			
Feed 3			
Livestock Transporter			
Electrician			
Plumber			
Lenders			
Livestock Owners			

Visitor Log

VISITOR LOG

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

FOR BIOSECURITY PURPOSES, ALL VISITOR ENTRIES ARE RECORDED

Entry is recorded at the earliest point of entering the operation.

Visitors include all people entering with permission (e.g., service providers and professionals, school tours, international visitors, etc.) Excludes personnel (owner/operators, staff, family, etc.)

Date	Name	Company	Contact Number	License Plate No.	Comments	Previous livestock/ farm contact (Y/N)	Entered Production Area? (Y/N)	Animal Contact? (Y/N)

Visitor Risk Assessment Guide

VISITOR RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

RISK CATEGORY	CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE	BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS
LOW	Within the past 14 days: • 0 livestock contact • 0–1 visits to livestock operations	Visitor is from urban area and does not have livestock contact	Old acquaintance in the area and decide to visit	• Record visits
MODERATE	Within the past 14 days: • Livestock contact at one operation	Contractor outside of agriculture that typically does not visit farming operations	A utility provider that entered a pen to fix a light	• Minimize access to production area • Prevent all but essential contact to livestock • Before access is permitted, ensure clean footwear/clothing/ tires/surfaces, all visibly clean of organic matter
	Within the past 14 days: • Visited more than one livestock operation	Travel from or are transported from farm to farm, but do not enter the production area or come into direct contact with livestock or manure	Service personnel that may enter the production area but rarely come into contact with livestock manure	
	Neighbouring livestock producer	Producer who shares a fence-line with your operation		
HIGH	Within the past 14 days: • Livestock contact at multiple operations	• Individuals who travel from or are transported from farm to farm • Individuals who enter the production area and have direct contact with livestock or manure	Veterinary and livestock inspection professionals who enter the production area and generally come into direct contact with livestock manure	Producers must apply biosecurity practices to these visitors • Prevent all but essential access to the production area or contact with livestock • Before access or contact is permitted, ensure: • Tires/surfaces are visibly clean of organic matter • The person wears clothing and footwear dedicated to the operation, or wears fresh coveralls or clean clothing and disinfects footwear • The person disinfects off-farm equipment or tools contacting livestock, or provide site specific tools
	Other livestock operator (including employee)		Custom manure cleaning operators and equipment that may transport manure from one production area to another	
	Persons from other countries where reportable diseases are a concern		Personnel who work with livestock at their own or another operation	
	Person who has handled sick or segregated animals at this or other operations		Personnel working with animals in the segregation or sick facility	

Unusual Animal Health Event Indicator Protocol

UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INDICATOR PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

Veterinarian: _____ Cell: _____

If any of the following indicators are observed, then the operation's veterinarian will be contacted immediately to investigate further:

- ☐ Unexplained or sharp increase in sickness, lameness, behavioural changes or death loss
  - Exceeds normal acceptable level of this many head per week/day: _____ (head/%)
- ☐ Any death of unknown cause
- ☐ Animals backed off feed/water (daily intake is down for reasons not related to weather or seasonality)
- ☐ Change in behaviour such as depression
- ☐ Disease or symptoms not previously encountered
- ☐ Typical disease or symptoms with abnormal severity or non-responsive to treatment
- ☐ Rapid spread throughout herds
- ☐ Reportable/notifiable disease suspected on farm
- ☐ Other events, as determined with your veterinarian

Unusual Animal Health Event Initial Response Protocol

UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INITIAL RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

1. Notify staff and family members

- ☐ An unusual animal health event exists on the operation
- ☐ Review and strictly follow biosecurity protocols currently in place, or as established by management in consultation with veterinarian (e.g., green, amber and red biosecurity protocols)
- ☐ Minimize/avoid contact with other livestock, particularly other horses

2. Call veterinarian and act on advice, for example:

- ☐ Isolate sick animals
- ☐ Submit samples for diagnosis
- ☐ Stop all livestock movements on/off the infected place
- ☐ Limit and monitor other movements on/off (e.g., staff, equipment, manure spreading etc.)
- ☐ Gather information/documentation as required (e.g., visitor log, livestock inventory, identification record including purchases/sales within the last 30 days, individual treatment log, herd health protocol)
- ☐ Other _____

3. Identify the primary decision maker within your organization. This will be the point person or coordinator to be available for key decisions. A back-up or secondary decision maker may be required if a serious animal disease is confirmed.

4. Notify external contacts, if recommended by your veterinarian

- ☐ Farm veterinarian to notify regulatory authority if required by law
    - CFIA District Veterinarian called (suspect reportable disease)
    - BC Chief Veterinary Officer via Animal Health Center **(1-800-661-9903)**
- ☐ Self-declaration by owner/custodian to industry association and neighbouring livestock owners/custodians (depending on suspected disease)
    - Horse Council BC
    - Neighbouring livestock owners/custodians
    - Notify suppliers and other contracts (e.g., feed suppliers, livestock transporters, utility companies with access rights)

Notice of Suspicion Response Protocol

NOTICE OF SUSPICION RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

WHO:

CFIA, provincial government, or HCBC communicates the **suspicion** of a serious animal disease

WHERE:

Anywhere within the area where the owner or custodian regularly does business (trading area)

WHEN:

A federal or provincial government veterinarian suspects the presence of a serious animal disease

WHAT:

May be referred to as 'the gray period,' when an outbreak is suspected but not confirmed and movement controls have not been announced

OWNER/CUSTODIAN RESPONSE:

- ☐ Implement **AMBER Elevated Risk** biosecurity protocols, visitor logs, etc.
- ☐ Review **RED High Risk** biosecurity protocols
- ☐ Implement **voluntary cease movement** and **animals in transit protocols**, if recommended by government and industry leaders
- ☐ Seek additional guidance specific to the situation from veterinarian
- ☐ Monitor CFIA, BCMAFF, HCBC websites and other media for updates

The 'infected place(s)', where the diagnosis was made, will also be subject to more restrictive requirements as directed by veterinary authorities.

Confirmation Response Protocol

CONFIRMATION RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

WHO:

CFIA's Chief Veterinary Officer or BC Chief Veterinary Officer makes a formal notification, providing **confirmation** of a serious animal disease

WHERE:

Anywhere within the area where an owner or custodian regularly does business (trading area)

WHEN:

A serious animal disease is confirmed by the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canada's most highly specialized and widely recognized animal disease laboratory

WHAT:

Once confirmation is made, the federal minister may establish a **primary control zone** and movement controls. Permits or licenses will be required for the movement of all livestock, related materials and equipment into, from, within or through the **primary control zone**

OWNER/CUSTODIAN RESPONSE:

- ☐ Implement **RED High Risk** protocol
- ☐ Implement **voluntary cease movement** and **animals in transit protocols**, if recommended by government and industry leaders
- ☐ Seek additional veterinarian guidance specific to the situation
- ☐ Monitor CFIA, BCMAFF, HCBC websites and other media for updates

The 'infected place(s)', where the diagnosis was confirmed, will also be subject to more restrictive requirements as directed by veterinary authorities.

Owner/Custodian Self Declaration Template

SAMPLE OWNER/CUSTODIAN SELF DECLARATION

As owner of the following animals, hereafter referred to as 'the Animals'

Species: _____

Approximate number: _____

PID #: _____

Location: _____

In the town of: _____ Province of: _____,

Hereafter referred to as "the province," and duly represented as a livestock owner/custodian by the following association

_____ hereafter referred to as 'the association'

I, (owner name) _____, hereby authorize the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and/or the Government of British Columbia to share confidential details about my operation during the course of a disease investigation with the Association as necessary, with the understanding that this information will only be used to aid in the investigative process.

I agree to release the Association from any and all claims I may have as a result of the disclosure of the disease information as set out in this Direction, provided that such disclosure shall not apply with respect to any negligent or intentionally wrongful act of omission on the part of any of the Recipients.

I further agree to allow the Association to utilize and share such confidential information about my operation during the disease outbreak and investigation, as it determines to be in the best interests of the industry at large.

Dated at _____, in the province of _____,

this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

_____ _____

Witness' Signature Owner's Signature

Definition of Terms:

Inventory Owner: Individual or Corporation that is the legal owner of the animals located at the premises identified.

Premises: Location of the barn/barns or pastures at which the disease testing has taken place.

PID: Provincial Premises Identification Number assigned to each livestock production premises within the province.

Emergency Communication to Owner Template (Custom Operations)

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TO OWNERS (CUSTOM OPERATION)

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

Date: _____ Contract #: _____

Operation Name: _____

Livestock Owner: _____

Description of animals affected:

Nature of emergency or risk:

Authority to make decisions to protect animal well-being (reference to specific contract section):

Contact information:

Non-Essential Movement Ban Protocol / Voluntary Cease Movement

NON-ESSENTIAL MOVEMENT BAN PROTOCOL

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

The purpose of this document is to clarify the circumstances and conditions under which producers should temporarily suspend movement during a serious animal disease event.

WHEN would the Protocol be triggered?

- This Protocol is **not intended to be used for routine animal disease events**.
- Industry leaders may use the Protocol as a strategy to mitigate risk and limit the spread of a serious animal disease in the early stages of an outbreak.
- Industry leaders may ask producers to implement movement controls in advance of an official CFIA directive and application of formal controls measures.
- Industry leaders may consider this action when a serious animal disease has the potential to spread rapidly via the movement of susceptible animals, their products and by-products. In most cases this action would be based on advice from the Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada (CVOC) or a Chief Veterinary Officer for a province.

WHO does the Protocol apply to?

- All livestock operations with susceptible species, such as: auctions, sale yards, slaughter facilities etc., within a province or trading area.

WHAT does the Protocol entail?

- A standstill on all **non-essential** livestock and livestock-related product movements.
  - Three days (72 hours) initially – the length can be shorten or extended based on the specific situation.
  - Livestock and livestock-related products may not be brought on or off a premises, whether to slaughter or other destination.
- Which movements may be deemed essential and the actions required to enable that movement.

WHY is the Protocol recommended by industry leaders?

- In the early stages of a potential major disease outbreak, reduced movements are critical to disease containment and limiting the introduction/spread to other premises/regions.
- This action is deemed beneficial to an effective response, rapid recovery, reduced market downtime and the industry's long-term viability.

HOW is the Protocol applied?

- Participation is voluntary but strongly recommended and promoted by sector stakeholders.

IN GENERAL, the following will apply:

Livestock in transit within a province	• If not commingled after departure, then return to point of origin. • If commingled or reloaded after departure, then continue to destination and hold in segregated facilities on arrival.
Livestock in transit *to* one province *from* another province or country	• Return the load to the point of origin.
Deliveries (feed or other)	• Farm to consider use of a 'transfer station' to off-load feed. • Drivers to remain in cab. • Vehicles dry cleaned and ideally washed prior to coming on a premises with susceptible animals. • Vehicles are not to enter the production area (restricted access zone) of the premises.
Deadstock	• Pickup suspended for duration of Protocol. Carcasses must be secured in a biosecure manner which prevents scavenging.
Duty of care	• The person who is in possession or has oversight of the animals will be responsible for their well-being.

Biosecurity Protocol

BIOSECURITY PROTOCOL (SAMPLE)

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

GREEN +	AMBER +	RED
Normal day-to-day	**Use of this AMBER Elevated Risk biosecurity protocol should be reviewed when:** • There is concern that an unconfirmed disease may be present in the trading area (area of business) • There is suspicion of a serious animal disease within the trading area **What to Do:** • Review and verify current biosecurity practices and compare with industry biosecurity standard • Ensure biosecurity standard is known by staff and understand the importance of following the standard	**Use of this RED High Risk biosecurity protocol should be reviewed when:** • There is **SIGNIFICANT** concern that a disease is present in the trading area • A formal **Notice of Confirmation** has been declared for a relevant serious animal disease within the trading area **What to Do:** • STRICTLY adhere to the biosecurity standard

FARM ACCESS

GREEN +	AMBER +	RED
Normal	• Restrict primary access points where farm offices or personnel are present to monitor access • Use Visitor logs in accordance with risk assessment tool and ensure they are placed at entry/exit points • Bar or otherwise prevent access through all secondary access points where the farm does not have an ongoing presence • Post biosecurity signage at access points	• Additional as recommended at time of Confirmation

SICK ANIMALS

GREEN +	AMBER +	RED

Normal	• Isolate to the extent possible
	• Minimize contact or potential for contact with healthy animals/pens
	• Assign dedicated clothing, equipment, pens, feed and water stations
	• Designate staff to handle as follows:
	  • No contact of other animals after treating sick animals
	  • Change of outerwear/footwear
	  • Wash hands before and after treatment
		• Additional as recommended at time of Confirmation

INCOMING/OUTGOING TRAFFIC

GREEN	AMBER	RED
Normal	• Ensure disinfection prior to entering farm and before leaving • Have drivers consider additional biosecurity protocols • Document truck movements on and off the farm. • Ensure drivers are recording dates and times of farm pickups	• No incoming livestock • Postpone arrivals and departures pending more information on outbreak and conditions under which animals may be moved

STAFF

GREEN	AMBER	RED
Normal	• Remind staff of indicators and immediate response protocol for unusual animal health events • Ensure those owning and/or in contact with livestock have dedicated clothing and footwear for the farm and change clothing/footwear when entering or leaving the farm premises • All staff to wash hands and feet prior to entering or leaving the farm	• Staff to make alternate arrangements for care of personal livestock or be moved into a position having no contact with operation's animals • All staff to wash hands again, and boots, when entering production area for the purposes of working with animals or entering pens, processing or hospital unit

DEADSTOCK

GREEN	AMBER	RED
Normal	• Designate specific staff to handle and remove animals from pens • Instruct staff to wash hands and clothing after handling deadstock • Ensure separation from other farm practices for equipment • Refer to depopulation and disposal section for more information about deadstock burial • Monitor key websites for information and recommendations (e.g., HCBC, BCMAFF, CFIA and AAFC)	• No pickup of deadstock on-farm • Additional as recommended at time of Confirmation

PRODUCTION AREA e.g., barn, manure storages, feed mills

GREEN	AMBER	RED
Normal	• No visitors • No external animals, vehicles or personnel beyond main office/delivery area	• Additional as recommended at time of Confirmation

Mass Vaccination Protocol

MASS VACCINATION PROTOCOL (SAMPLE)

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

- ☐ **Owner/manager to review and accept the vaccination protocol with a site supervisor appointed by CFIA or BCMAFF, setting out all requirements including:**
  - Species/class to be vaccinated
  - Method
  - Dosage
  - Record keeping requirements
  - Booster requirements
  - End use
  - Oversight
  - Other control factors
- ☐ **All personnel acknowledge their acceptance of regulatory oversight whether provided by CFIA or BCMAFF**
- ☐ **All personnel agree to apply protocol as directed by CFIA or BCMAFF site supervisor**
- ☐ **Staff will:**
  - Record receipt of vaccine doses and ensure oversight of vaccine as directed
  - Vaccinate all animals, as set out in the vaccination protocol and directed by the site supervisor
  - Record individual animal identification of each vaccinate, at time of vaccination, together with date and place and members of vaccination crew and vaccination oversight personnel
  - Identify vaccinates, as required by regulatory authority. This may be a temporary or permanent identifier (e.g., ear tag or brand)
  - Record unused vaccine doses and return to regulatory authority if required
  - Provide CFIA or BCMAFF site supervisor with record of animal identification for all animals vaccinated
  - Apply second or booster vaccination if directed, using similar protocol, in the time frame required

Mass Depopulation and Disposal Protocol

MASS DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL PROTOCOL (SAMPLE)

Farm Name: _____ PID #: _____

Once a destruction order is issued, operators and personnel will need to:

☐	Review and accept the overall depopulation and/or disposal strategies required by regulatory authority CFIA or BCMAFF	Owner/ Manager
☐	Follow directives from the Regulator's designate (site supervisor) who will provide regulatory oversight and instructions regarding: • Species/class involved • Depopulation and/or disposal protocols (method and means) • Record-keeping requirements, etc.	All personnel
☐	Assist with the assembly, movement, restraint, and processing of animals, whether depopulation takes place at the farm or elsewhere	
☐	Prepare and **provide** records of animals depopulated and/or disposed of, as set out in the protocol. Examples of the type of records can be found in the **Information for Valuation/Compensation** chart	
☐	Apply animal biosecurity practices as prescribed	
☐	Follow personal biosecurity requirements as prescribed and which may include any or all of the following and other requirements: • Showering before and after each shift • Hand washing before putting on and after removal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • Wearing of PPE • Taking any vaccine or prophylactic medication, if any is recommended by public health officials • Self-monitoring for any signs of personal sickness and seeking medical care if symptoms appear • Having NO CONTACT with other livestock for a prescribed period of time after these operations	
☐	Report any spillage of material (urine, manure, hide, other) that might potentially contain contaminant (virus, bacteria, other), outside the prescribed area for disposal	

INFORMATION FOR VALUATION/COMPENSATION

When compensation is sought, farm personnel will be asked to assist the valuation process by providing the following information from all animals being valued:

- Animal purchase/birth date
- Description (e.g., number of head, class, sex, species, breed of animal)
- Production/quality records or parameters
- Individual ID if available, or other (group) identifiers
- Owner details, e.g., name and contact information
- Premises identification PID (farm)
- Date of quarantine and depopulated
- Depopulation method
- Premises identification PID (depopulation location, if different)
- Disposal method
- Premises identification PID (disposal location, if different)
- Salvage value received, if any (payment received for animal/ carcass)