

REVISED: January 2009

**IN CASE OF AN ACTUAL OR SUSPECTED  
AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY, YOUR FIRST  
CALLS SHOULD BE TO ONE OF THE  
FOLLOWING:**

UNION COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGER: 575-643-7557 or 575-207-5454

UNION COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT: 575-207-7884 or 575-374-9361

NMLB INSPECTOR: 575-278-2232

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF: 575-374-2583

AGRO-GUARD 1-888-442-NMSP (6677)

**AGRICULTURAL PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE and  
RECOVERY for the UNION COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY**

Developed to be incorporated as a “Supplement” into the UNION  
COUNTY ALL-HAZARD EOP Union County Agricultural Preparedness  
committee:

Mrs. Midge Graham, Union County Emergency Manager  
Mathew Wiseman, Union County NRCS

Mr.

Mr. David Graham, Union County NMSU Extension Agricultural Agent  
Shane Guest, Feedlot Manager

Mr.

Dr. Manny Encinias, NMSU Cooperative Extension Livestock Specialist

Dr. Donald Reif DVM., Clayton Veterinarian

Mr. Lavon Sink, Union County 911 coordinator

Ms. Shelly Carter, Union County Commission and Producer

Mr. Justin Bennett, Union County Commission and Producer

Mr. Joel Gilbert, New Mexico Livestock Board Inspector for Union County

## **Agricultural Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plan (APPRR) for Union County**

- A. Agencies, organizations, and individuals identified in this plan are familiar with it, and will execute their assigned responsibilities, including the timely reporting of agricultural emergencies.
- B. If an agricultural emergency is discovered in Union County, the entire agricultural complex of the county, region, and possibly the entire U.S. may be at risk.
- C. There is the potential for the state to incur a disease and/or threat of disease as a result of an act of terrorism.
- D. Numerous local, state, federal and volunteer organizations will play a role in preventing, preparing, responding, and recovering from ANY agricultural emergency.
- E. Certain agricultural emergencies and large scale disasters quickly require federal involvement.
- F. New Mexico Emergency Management (NMEM) coordinates assistance to local jurisdictions by state and federal agencies in case of a disaster.
- G. The New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) will use the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to manage the response to an agricultural emergency, including but not limited to highly contagious animal or plant diseases threatening agricultural production in New Mexico.
- H. The Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA, APHIS, VS) will assist the State Veterinarian as appropriate in any animal health emergency.
- I. An agricultural disease emergency involving animals and/or plants in New Mexico, the United States, or surrounding countries may significantly restrict the intrastate, interstate, and international movement of animals (especially livestock), as well as harvested animal and plant products.
- J. The function of and access to public utilities, water, roads, and veterinary medical supplies may be severely restricted or inaccessible after a disaster or in the event of quarantine due to an agricultural emergency.
- K. The incursion of highly contagious animal diseases and catastrophic events will necessitate mass culling of livestock (animals and/or birds), crops, carcass and crop removal and disposal.

- L. Response efforts could also encompass culling of non-domesticated populations such as wildlife.
- M. Animal carcasses, un-harvested crops, unused animal feed, manure and other organic matter may create sanitation, pest, and vector control issues.
- N. Widespread bio-security control measures may be implemented. Suspected infected locations and transport vehicles may need to be cleaned and disinfected.
- O. Quarantine of areas may be required where there are confirmed or suspect cases. Special operational procedures within these zones may be required. Law enforcement may be required for quarantine enforcement.
- P. Agricultural emergencies may lead to long term economic impacts requiring long term federal and state assistance programs for recovery.
- Q. Producers directly involved in the agricultural emergency (i.e. losing animals or crops, euthanasia and disposal of animals, etc.) may require psychological counseling and support.

**Response** to Agriculture Emergency Events in Union County

**NATURAL or MAN MADE disaster response will follow this emergency plan.**

The agriculture industry in Union County is a major contributor to the economy of the state and to the nation. The negative impact of an outbreak of disease, or impact of a natural or man-made disaster could result in economic losses of enormous scale.

Effective disease control and an efficient, well-organized response to a disaster requires full utilization of available resources and cooperation of all local, state, and federal agencies in order to minimize the impact on the agriculture industry.

The New Mexico Livestock Board and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture are the primary state agency with statutory authority pertaining to animal and plant issues. The NMLB is responsible for, but not limited to, coordinating disease control procedures, disposition of abandoned, disabled, or dead animals, and agro-terrorism. The NMDA is responsible for, but not limited to, coordinating disease control procedure and disposition of diseased crops and agro-terrorism. This plan recognizes certain catastrophic events related to agriculture as events requiring activation of the state emergency operations plan. This plan supports the control efforts of public health agencies in controlling zoonotic and botanical diseases and law enforcement in acts of terrorism where either animals or plants are the vehicle for dissemination of a chemical or biologic agent.

The purpose of the Union County APPRR Plan is consistent with the National Response Plan (NRP), National Incident Management System (NIMS) with the overall intention of protecting the agricultural resources by providing a guide for a rapid and coordinated response to an agricultural emergency. This plan coordinates the application of local, state, federal, and volunteer resources in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to assist production agriculture in an agricultural emergency to provide for a seamless integration of county, state, and federal response.

This plan identifies the roles and responsibilities of the APPRR participants to protect the public health and the agricultural industry of Union County New Mexico.

The New Mexico APPRR will be activated only when Union County's APPRR and capabilities are exceeded.

An agriculture emergency could be declared because of a natural occurrences (snow, rain, wind, drought, or infestation of an insect or plant), or when a highly contagious, infectious, or economically devastating disease or agent is confirmed in Union County, New Mexico, other states (especially an adjacent state), or a country adjacent to the United States (i.e. Canada and Mexico). The introduction of agricultural diseases could be accidental or intentional (bio-terrorism/agro-terrorism). Any factor causing a substantial impact on the safety, sustainability, and stability of the county agriculture industry, and food supply from animal or plant sources may be categorized as an agricultural emergency.

The Union County APPRR utilizes emergency response levels (ERLs) to

designate which activities will take place in the event of imminent or actual threats affecting Union County. The State Veterinarian, the NMLB, NMDA, and the Cooperative Extension Service will, on a continuing basis, assimilate information relative to the presence of diseases in other countries, the United States, and New Mexico.

A daily level of preparedness, which includes routine monitoring and surveillance, will be maintained.

Defining ERL 1 for Union County:

First-responders for Union County will be: Local NMLB inspectors, Agricultural Extension Agent, and local veterinarians. Incident Command will be the responsibility of the first “first responder” on scene and will remain their responsibility until the emergency is declared a ERL2, or when someone arrives with more expertise or authority

**Local Response to an ERL 1:**

1. In consultation with first responders group (*local NMLB inspectors, Union County Extension agent, and local veterinarians*) assign the emergency response level to the incident.
2. Determine the scope and level of initial response, initiate a task force, and prioritize response activities.
3. Determine the location and size of possible affective areas.
4. In consultation with other agency personnel, strategically assign duties and areas of responsibility.
5. Notify appropriate industry groups of the presence of the threat and request their support to contain and remedy the problem.
6. The County Emergency Manager will “at their discretion” Activate the EOC and make the necessary notifications to Homeland Security and State Officials.

Notification Groups:

Emergency Manager – Union County Manager 575-207-5454 or (575) 643-7757

Dispatch—911

Union County Road Superintendent: 575- 374-9590 Barn or 575- 374-2899

NMLB Inspector ----575--278-2232

Union County Extension Agent—575- 374-9361 or cell 575- 207-7884 or Home 575- 278-2188

Union County Sheriff -- -575--374-2583

Union County Fire Marshal—Contact through dispatch 911 or 575-207-7233

Clayton Police—Chief 575- 374-2504

Clayton Fire Department--Fred – 575--374-2501

Union County General Hospital-- Administrator 575- 374-2585

Clayton Veterinarian-- --575-374-2332 or 575-374-8166

Gas Company-- Arthur Propane 575- 374-9241

Electric Companies-- Southwestern Electric 575- 374-2451 and PNM 800-950-1997

Chemical Suppliers-- Poole Chemical (806)362-4261, 244-9775, 800-392-3849

Feed Suppliers-- Bradley Supply 575- 374-2594 or 575- 374-3333

Feedlot -- Union County Feedlot, 374-2516, Clayton Cattle Feeders 575- 374-2571, 7H Cattle Feeders- 575- 374-2591, Schmitz Feedlot 575-374-8193.

PRODUCERS INVOLVED TO BE IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED BY Local Livestock Inspector and Extension Agent.

**In the event of an ERL 2:** The Local Livestock Inspectors and the Union County Extension agent will alert the office of the New Mexico State Veterinarian and/or The New Mexico Department of Agriculture at which time they will become the Incident Command and the New Mexico State Emergency Plan will take precedence. The Emergency Manager will be responsible to notify the Homeland Security office and State Agencies and it will then be their responsibility to secure a disaster declaration from New Mexico Governor office and FEMA.

### **In the event of an ERL 3**

The Federal Emergency authorities may become involved according to the New Mexico plan, and at this time the National Emergency Plan will take effect. The New Mexico Livestock Board (the office location of the State Veterinarian) and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture are the lead agencies in any domestic animal health or plant related emergency. NMLB and NMDA will respond by using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) protocol. The specific components will be under the unified command of the State Veterinarian's office and the USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for animal health emergencies or the NMDA and the USDA/PPQ for plant emergencies. Their overall responsibility will encompass command and management of the disease event, overseeing the management and dissemination of resources, establishing a communication and information management system and securing supporting technologies. The State Veterinarian, AVIC, and State Plant Pathologist (NMDA) may use any or all of the following action steps to control and/or eradicate the disease encountered in the

event.

1. Assign the emergency response level to the incident.
2. Determine the scope and level of initial response and initiate a task force.
3. Determine the location and size of possible affective areas.
4. Establish quarantine area(s) and issue quarantine orders as needed.
5. In consultation with other agency personnel, strategically assign duties and areas of responsibility.
6. Determine appropriate movement restrictions for animals, people, equipment, feeds, commodities, and conveyances.
7. Prepare information for dissemination to the public, producers, processors and other concerned groups through Joint Information Center.
8. Notify NMEM and allied parties when a livestock disease sample being sent to the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (FADDL, Plum Island, NY) for analysis is highly likely to be a highly contagious or infectious disease or agent.
9. Coordinate with NMEM, USDA, NMDOT, NMSP, local jurisdictions, and other agencies as needed in locating staging area(s) outside of the quarantined area.
10. Conduct livestock disease assessments at the site of the event to determine needs and priorities.
11. Coordinate state-level livestock disease emergency response and recovery.
12. Prioritize activities and areas of greatest urgency for state response and recovery personnel in the field.
13. Coordinate with the USDA, APHIS, VS, and Emergency Programs Staff and provide liaison between other federal, state and local organizations when required.
14. Direct disease investigations, epidemiological investigations and trace outs to determine source of disease and scope of disease outbreak.
15. Identify contaminated feed, livestock, and agricultural products that must be destroyed and disposed of or decontaminated.
16. Identify and approve, with notification to NMDEQ, animal carcass disposal sites, sites for burning animal carcasses, contaminated

feed, or other items that are contaminated.

16. Identify and approve, with coordination with DEQ, temporary waste disposal sites for effluent from cleaning and disinfecting stations.
17. Coordinate with appropriate organizations for the deployment of inspectors and veterinarians for agricultural response and recovery.
18. Establish and/or coordinate appropriate regulatory controls.
19. Provide advisories and related public information.
20. Coordinate with OSP, county and local law enforcement for site security and related issues.
21. Maintain ongoing animal agriculture surveillance of affected communities in order to rapidly identify and address disease-related problems.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local emergency management officials will be actively involved in the response and will be utilized. Each county has a comprehensive emergency management plan, which provides the framework for the jurisdiction's response to emergencies and disasters. Counties will utilize their resources and provide an additional line of communication with local farmers, industry groups and community.

#### STATE AGENCIES

New Mexico Emergency Management (NMEM) may activate the state emergency management plan and emergency control center to:

1. Support LOCAL, NMDA and AHID by providing statewide coordination for logistical support, security, bio-security, support personnel, procurement of supplies, equipment, vehicles, food, lodging, and administrative support during livestock disease response and recovery emergencies. Coordinate with NMDA, AHID for the provision of bio-security training to support agencies and provide bio security training to agency personnel designated for operations in the affected area.

New Mexico State Police (OSP) may: Provide law enforcement support to conduct traffic checkpoints and roadblocks, and, secure quarantined areas and related sites during livestock emergencies. Coordinate with local law enforcement throughout response and



recovery, and provide law enforcement support for issuing search warrants and other support as needed.

New Mexico Department of Human Service Acute and Communicable Disease prevention may: Coordinate with NMDA, AHID if a zoonotic condition exists, support public information efforts and provide veterinary and epizootiologic support to an emergency. The Department of Health Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services may provide or coordinate mental health staff to assist in crisis counseling efforts.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) may: assist and coordinate with NMDA on subjects such as carcass disposal, cleaning and disinfection and other issues that may influence soil, water, and air quality, Liaison with Environmental Protection Agency to address issues that may arise, provide lab emergency response support.

New Mexico Department of Fish and Wildlife (NMDF&W) may: provide disease surveillance in free-ranging wildlife and wildlife in zoos, parks, and other natural areas, survey for and/or dispose of contaminated items and wild animals, conduct wild animal inventories in the area of a disease event to identify susceptible species. In collaboration with the State Veterinarian's office, collect animals, specimens, and samples for disease testing to determine presence of disease or impact of disease on wildlife. In consultation and cooperation with the State Veterinarian's office, conduct disease control and elimination activities in wildlife's, support public information efforts throughout the emergency, Provide bio-security training to personnel designated for operations in the affected area based upon training provided by NMDA, AHID and USDA, support animal movement restrictions in New Mexico throughout the emergency. Assist NMDA, AHID with law enforcement support as requested. Assist with euthanasia procedures for infected livestock or wild animals. Assist with the disposal of infected livestock or wild animals.

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) may:

Assist in the movement of state resources during emergencies.

Provide traffic control and routing assistance, barricades, and road monitoring.

Provide equipment and operators to assist with animal disposal.

Department of Administrative Services (DAS) may: assist in the identification of resource providers and in purchasing of supplies, equipment, and services needed during a state-level livestock or crop emergency.

New Mexico National Guard may be called upon for support

- 1) Assist with cleaning, disinfection of equipment, facilities and the decontamination of personnel working at the site based upon NMDA, AHID and USDA guidance.
- 2) Assist with transportation and logistical issues.
- 3) Assist with recovery operations.

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

- 1) The College of Agriculture and Home Economics may provide support and expertise throughout the emergency as requested by NMDA, AHID.
- 2) NMDA Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory may provide appropriate diagnostic support services as requested by NMDA, AHID.
- 3) The Cooperative Extension Service may provide reliable coordination, communication, and information dissemination between the EOC, the industry groups and local communities during emergencies.

New Mexico Department of Parks and Recreation (NMDP&R) may be a resource for logistical support, storage and parking. Depending on the location, the state agency may have land that could be utilized to dispose of animals by burial.

New Mexico OSHA (NM-OSHA) may:

- 1) Provide technical assistance on worker safety and health issues.
- 2) Liaison with Federal OSHA when worker safety and health issues are coordinated pursuant to OSHA regional and national emergency management plans, or under the National Response Plan.
- 3) Assist and coordinate with NMDA on subjects such as worker protection related to incident-specific health and safety site plans (HASP), risk (hazard/exposure) assessments, personal protective equipment (PPE) and respiratory protection programs, responder training, and/or decontamination.

- 4) Assist and coordinate with NMDA on actions such as personal exposure monitoring and laboratory analysis of occupational exposure samples; data collection, interpretation and sharing; and reports and recordkeeping.
- 5) Assist and coordinate with NMDA on technical information resources to facilitate effective risk management and risk communication.

#### Federal agencies

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) may:

- 1) Assist in disease eradication activities including quarantine, evaluation, slaughter, disposal, cleaning and disinfecting, epidemiology, trace-back, vector control and transportation permitting arrangements.
- 2) Consult with state and local authorities regarding eradication proceedings.
- 3) Collect, analyze, and disseminate technical and logistical information.
- 4) Define training requirements for casual employees or support agencies involved in eradication operations.
- 5) Issue a declaration of extraordinary emergency.
- 6) Coordinate with state and local agencies to define quarantine and buffer zones.
- 7) Prepare information for dissemination to the public, producers, processors and other concerned groups through the Joint Information Center.
- 8) Allocate funding for compensation to the owner(s) of depopulated animals.
- 9) Define restrictions on interstate commerce.

USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS)

The FSIS is charged with protecting the Nation's food supply by providing inspectors and veterinarians in meat, poultry, and egg product plants and at ports-of-entry to prevent, detect, and act in response to food safety emergencies. FSIS has developed the infrastructure needed to confront new biosecurity challenges. FSIS may assist state and local authorities in disease eradication activities and/or food-borne illness emergency investigations.

USDA APHIS Plant Protection Quarantine (PPQ)

USDA APHIS PPQ safeguards agriculture and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment or spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds. An FAD could enter the US and New Mexico on smuggled plants or animal food products. PPQ is an agency that is critical in preventing a FAD from entering the US and New Mexico intentionally by agro-terrorists or unintentionally by world travelers.

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency may recommend implementation of the NRP if conditions are warranted. The conditions required for FEMA involvement are usually large-scale natural disasters, e.g., flooding, earthquake, etc. The NRP provides a mechanism for organizing, coordinating, and mobilizing federal resources to augment state and local resources.

### Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

One of FDA's mandates is to protect the public health by assuring the safety of our nation's food supply. FDA also has an important role in prevention and control of contaminated animal feed. FDA may assist state and local authorities in disease eradication activities and/or food-borne illness emergency investigations.

### Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

The FBI is the agency responsible for investigating cases of bio-terrorism or agro-terrorism. When food animals are the target of a terrorist's attack and evidence suggests a foreign animal disease may have been intentionally introduced or threatened, NMDA will notify the FBI.

### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The federal agency that may collaborate with the state DEQ on decisions of carcass disposal, cleaning and disinfection and their effect on soil, air and water.

### Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

In an agro/bio-terrorism event, specific agencies that NMDA may be involved with that are under DHS are, US Customs, Immigration and Naturalization Services, Customs Border

Protection, FAD Diagnostic Lab at Plum Island and other agencies noted above such as FEMA and NMEM.

### Volunteer and industry groups

Volunteer groups such as The Red Cross, Humane Societies, Animal Shelters, and Veterinary Medical Associations may provide resources such as personnel, equipment, technical assistance, rescue and sheltering, planning, training, animal medical care and public health issues. Activities will be coordinated via liaison with the Incident Command. The New Mexico livestock industry groups (i.e. producer organizations, livestock markets, slaughtering establishments, rendering facilities and other allied groups) may, upon request from the NMDA, AHID act as liaison on matters relating to livestock industries affected by an animal disease outbreak such as participate as members of state and local jurisdiction planning teams and assist state and local jurisdictions in the response and recovery phases of emergencies. Provide assistance to families affected by quarantine, euthanasia, and disposal activities during the emergency. Provide support for disease control and eradication activities.

Provide appropriate information for dissemination to industries and the public. Identify individuals who may be qualified to assist with disease control efforts. Develop a list of qualified appraisers. Support exercises and drills as a participant during the exercise and design period and conduct of the event. Include state and local jurisdictions in business and industry activities.

When ERL 2 is activated, the NIMS Incident Command System (ICS) will be used to manage the response at the county or local jurisdiction where the incident occurred and at the state and federal level. Unified Command would be utilized at all levels since the event would involve multi-jurisdictional or multi-agencies. The State Veterinarian, in conjunction with the AVIC, will direct all animal disease investigation, surveillance, diagnostic, bio-security, animal depopulation, carcass disposal, cleaning/disinfection and recovery activities. Primary and support agencies will coordinate through the State Veterinarian, NMEM and County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). An ICS will be established at the outbreak area(s) to ensure the most effective response and use of personnel and equipment. An Area Command Center will be instituted at the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, when an incident occurs in more than one location and the span of control exceeds the capability of the initial ICS. All acts of terrorism may be directed to the nation's food supply, either as the target or as a vehicle of chemical, radiological and biologic weapons of mass destruction. Acts of terrorism are a federal crime and the response to such events are authorized and outlined in the -- National Response Plan (NRP). The Secretary of Homeland Security is the principal federal official responsible for domestic incidents. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the primary federal agency that would be notified when an act of terrorism is suspected. All other activities will proceed as consequences of such an event as described in the NRP. The event will proceed according to the NRP, the extraordinary state of emergency and the state emergency operations plans.

Recognizing that the ability to respond to and recover from emergency events is a result of mitigation, planning, training and exercise, all primary and support agencies will participate in such activities to maintain a state of readiness.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services is responsible for the development of this plan. NMDA and USDA APHIS VS will be responsible for plan updates and other ongoing maintenance. NMDA, under the direction of the State Veterinarian's office, will play a central role in ensuring that the plan continues to reflect the latest generally accepted veterinary principles and is maintained at a level to protect the health of New Mexico's animal populations and citizens of New Mexico.

The maintenance and updating of this plan may be timed in accordance with the processes of changes in government structure, exercises performed, critiques of actual emergency situations, or guidance from state and federal government.

Periodic plan testing is essential for determining the ongoing effectiveness of the plan as the legal environment, technology, livestock industry, the field of veterinary medicine, disease threats and other key parameters change over time. The NMDA will work in partnership with local and other state and federal agencies

to ensure that adequate testing and maintenance of this plan occurs.

**It is highly recommended that regardless of the ERL level, the nature of the emergency, or degree of the disaster, LOCAL emergency response teams be involved in all planning, coordination, and implementation of emergency actions.**