

**06/11/2003 Entry: "SIMULATED ANIMAL DISEASE EVENT TO TEST STATE'S PREPAREDNESS"**

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(TOPEKA) – The Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD) and USDA Veterinary Services will conduct an exercise simulating a foreign animal disease outbreak June 18-19. Participants from both government and industry will test the state's preparedness through a mock scenario developed by the National Ag Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University.

One objective of the exercise will be to determine levels of assistance needed from local, state and federal agencies, as well as from the private sector, in the case of an intentional disease introduction. Containing a foreign animal disease would require extraordinary cooperation at all levels to minimize the impact on agriculture and commerce.

Response to the simulated disease outbreak will be guided by the Kansas Emergency Animal Disease Plan drafted by KAHD and USDA Veterinary Services. The plan is designed to deal with all aspects of disease control including diagnosis, quarantine, depopulation, public communications and facility decontamination. Officials in Finney and Grant counties will test their local emergency animal disease plans in conjunction with the statewide simulation. Following the exercise, state and local plans will be reviewed and improved where necessary.

Command center for this simulated disease event will be the Kansas Emergency Operations Center in Topeka. The center is operated by the Kansas Emergency Management office, an agency that would be key to coordinating any foreign animal disease response.

KAHD operates with the purpose of ensuring the public health and safety of Kansas citizens through prevention, control and eradication of infectious livestock diseases in the state. The agency monitors and controls the spread of livestock diseases by licensing and regulating public auction markets, feedyards, by-product plants and livestock dealers.

USDA Veterinary Services is directly affiliated with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The agency is responsible for ensuring the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry and egg products is safe and wholesome.

