

MACOUPIN COUNTY FAIR AND AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

JANUARY 2017

Reviewed 2023

Resolution 2017-2
A Resolution Concerning Emergency Response

Whereas an emergency situation is defined as” an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action” and the safety and well-being of exhibitors, fairgoers and staff is of greatest importance; the need for a plan designed to encourage emergency preparedness exists;

Whereas an effort to increase awareness through education, by establishing preventative action steps and designing appropriate responses for exhibitors, fairgoers and staff is present, and general policies and procedures to deal with potential emergencies is needed;

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association are granted authority by the State of Illinois and the County of Macoupin to develop specific steps to prevent and deter emergencies and develop plans designed to guide staff, directors and superintendents of the fair in addressing the same and are further granted authority to develop, alter and reverse plans;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association, Incorporated, that pursuant to Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws of the Association, the Macoupin County Fair Emergency Response Plan is created and adopted to serve the interests of the Board of Directors.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on 3 day of APRIL, 2017.

Approved:



President

Attest:



Secretary

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Introduction

The Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association recognizes a need for pro-active emergency planning for its staff, directors, superintendents, and individual citizens. The Animal Health Emergency Response Plan was developed primarily for the safety of the Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association directors, superintendents, volunteers and visitors and animals. It also supports the continuance of vital agriculture operations, promotes responsible animal care and companionship, and reduces harmful interactions between humans and non-domestic animals in the event of a sick or diseased animal on the fairgrounds. This Plan provides an organized, detailed system to allocate proper and pertinent resources in the event of an animal disease emergency. Further, failure to plan for sick or diseased animals prior to an emergency may lead to serious public health concerns during an incident. Injured, ill or, dead animals can pose disease and injury hazards to the public.

1.1 PURPOSE

To protect the public health, the public food supply, domesticated animal resources, the environment, the agricultural economy, and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals in case of illness or disease, or other situations that can cause animal suffering.

1.2 SCOPE

The Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association as a guideline for implementing immediate action to provide care and control of animals, thereby minimizing animal suffering and/or the spread of an animal disease, intend this plan for use and the care and control measures outlined herein will apply to all animals at the fair, regardless of ownership.

This plan addresses planning and response with regard to all-hazards, however incidents that are due to significant animal disease outbreak, will require oversight by the Illinois Department of Agriculture based on established laws and response plans. If incidents of this nature come to the attention of the Livestock Response Group (LRG), the Macoupin County Fair Veterinarian and the Illinois Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarians Office will be notified immediately. For safety and for biosecurity the movement or handling of sick or dead animals that may have been affected by an animal disease will be coordinated by the LRG.

2.0 PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 LIVESTOCK RESPONSE GROUP (LRG)

Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association Board of Directors

Responsibilities: Coordinate and manage animal protection in emergencies. Activate the Incident Command Post, if necessary. Assume responsibility for direction and control of animal health emergency incidents on the fairgrounds.

Macoupin County Emergency Management Agency

Responsibilities: Coordinate support agencies to manage animal protection in emergencies. Assume responsibility at the county level for overall direction and control of animal health emergency incidents.

Macoupin County Animal Control

Responsibilities: Provide and coordinate personnel and equipment to collect, rescue and shelter companion animals. Assist in identifying, surveying, and maintaining a list of small animal sheltering facilities and transportation.

Macoupin County Public Health Department

Responsibilities: Provide services that address injuries/bites/diseases related to the protection of humans and animals. Provide assistance in the disposal of dead animals to avoid negative impact on public health and to minimize zoonotic disease outbreaks during animal health emergency incidents.

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Responsibilities: Assist in providing information and direction, with regard to the general health of animals. Enforce all state regulations concerning animal health and the movements of live or dead animals.

Macoupin County Fair Veterinarian

Responsibilities: Assist in providing information and direction with regard to the general health of animals within their expertise. Provide assistance with identifying needs of animals in shelter situations.

2.2 RESOURCE GROUPS & AGENCIES

Illinois Veterinary Medical Association

Provide information on local veterinarians. Encourage their involvement in local animal emergencies.

Private Veterinarians and Veterinary Clinics

In accordance with clinic policies, provide trained personnel and equipment as required to care for animals.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Provide resources necessary for protection of environment and water quality related to animal carcass disposal and decomposition.

3.0 PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

The Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural should plan for animal health emergency incidents and implement response and recovery operations utilizing local resources. State, federal, and private organizations may provide animal care and assistance in emergencies, when requested. Animal protection planning should ensure the proper care and recovery of animals affected during an illness or disease outbreak. This should include measures to identify housing and shelter for animals, establish communication methods to both internal and external audiences (i.e.: exhibitors, fair board members, animal owners and the public), procure necessary supplies for the care of the animals, and plan for animal release and return to owners or work with animal owners for proper disposal of deceased animals.

A large-scale animal health emergency at the Macoupin County Fair may warrant an immediate response from local and state personnel, agencies, and organizations. However, animal health emergency incidents may become compounded due to the nature of the emergency and may require activation of additional specialized agencies through mutual aid agreements.

3.1 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is important to note that animals are classified broadly into two categories: privately owned and publicly owned. Livestock and companion animals are private property; they belong to individuals or entities and have an economic value that may require compensation if those animals are ordered destroyed. Wildlife, both game and non-game species, belongs to the people of the State of Illinois, and separate laws govern them. Federal and state laws govern how animals are to be cared for and handled.

3.2 ANIMAL POPULATIONS

Determining the number and type of animals at the Macoupin County Fair is an important component of planning for an animal health emergency incident. Ascertaining what livestock exist, determining how many animals are on the fairgrounds and identifying specific species needs is crucial for appropriate resource planning. All animals exhibited and housed on the fairgrounds are to be registered at the fair office.

3.3 FACILITY IDENTIFICATION

The following fairground facilities are included in this plan:

- All barns with live animals
- Temporary shelter (tents) for any animals
- Show rings
- Show and barn equipment (bedding, chutes, wash stalls, scales, gates, pens, brooms, shovels, buckets, etc.)
- Wash racks and other equipment used
- Quarantine/isolation facilities/areas
- Restrooms and hand washing stations
- Fairgrounds racetrack

4.0 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

The fiscal responsibility of maintaining and operating fair events/activities is the responsibility of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will make every effort to provide a secure/safe exhibit area but assumes no financial responsibility for damage, destruction, injury, sickness, or disease of livestock that will remain the responsibility of the exhibitor/owner.

Situations may occur which require treatment or specialized care including the potential of quarantine. In such instances, the LRG in consultation with the assigned superintendent, Fair and/or state veterinarians (and, if necessary, appropriate local, state, and/or federal agencies) will make final judgment regarding security, housing (type and location), feeding and care, waste removal, treatment, disposal of deceased animals and the process/procedure for animal release.

Exhibitors will be kept fully informed with the understanding that official information will come only from the Board of Directors.

Should isolation and/or quarantine be required the Board of Directors and LRG in consultation with the assigned superintendent will develop safe and appropriate procedures for housing (including feed, water, bedding, stall maintenance, necessary security) including who will have access to the location of quarantined animals.

The Board of Directors will hold all premium and sale proceeds owed to the exhibitor/owner until cause and responsibility of the animal health emergency incident has been determined. Should costs exceed premiums and sale proceeds the exhibitor/owner will be billed for the balance. Unused premiums and sale proceeds will be released to the designated exhibitor/owner upon approval of the Board of Directors.

5.0 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Primary and support agencies will manage and coordinate, or assist in coordinating, animal health emergency incident activities. These agencies will use established animal protection and support organizations, processes, and procedures. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs in the event of a large-scale emergency lies primarily with Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association Board of Directors and the LRG. Depending upon the nature of the emergency, other partners may assist as listed under primary and support agencies in section 2.0, 2.1, and 2.2 of this plan.

When resources and mutual aid agreements are insufficient, animal protection assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter, bedding material, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary medical professionals, will be requested from the State of Illinois via processes outlined under the Illinois Emergency Management Act. Should the need for State or Federal resources arise, the Macoupin County Emergency Management Agency will coordinate the requests for assistance on behalf of the Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association.

Animal health emergency incidents will be managed using this plan and the National Incident Management System. Public health concerns will be managed in accordance with appropriate Macoupin County Public Health Department plans and procedures.

5.1 NOTIFICATION & COMMUNICATIONS

This plan and its procedures will be activated in the event of an emergency that results in a significant need for animal protection. The Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association Board of Directors and the LRG will determine when these procedures will be implemented and notify the appropriate agencies.

Communications among the Board of Directors, Macoupin County Emergency Management Agency, Macoupin County Animal Control, and support agencies will occur primarily through face-to-face meetings, telephone, facsimile, and cellular telephone transmission. The Board of Directors will maintain a list of radio and TV stations for the purpose of public notification when necessary. Public information statements will be issued through various media outlets.

5.2 PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Board of Directors in conjunction with the Macoupin County Emergency Management Agency will be responsible for the coordination of all media activities and press releases associated with the protection of animals. Responsibilities include:

- Notifying the public of quarantine
- Delivering instructions to the animal owners regarding an animal health emergency incident
- Obtaining animal-related information from the owners of animals
- Issuing public information statements through various media outlets
- Promoting public awareness and instructing animal owners on how to monitor their animals through literature, clinics and/or seminars.
- Others information as determined by the nature of the animal health emergency.

5.2.1 PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Board of Directors will work prior to an animal health emergency incident to develop press release templates for anticipated animal emergencies. During the response phase, the Board of Directors will provide continued updates on the animal health emergency response effort. This will include general information on the response and special instructions for the public, as well as for owners as applicable. The Board of Directors will provide information to the media, public and key audiences as appropriate.

Consistent information shall be prepared ahead of release, and edited and approved by the Board of Directors or their designee. The Board of Directors or their designee shall be the appointed spokesperson for internal and external communication.

All media will be directed to the fair office when they enter the fairgrounds. There, the fair spokesperson(s) or designee shall address the situation. The fair spokesperson(s) or designee will be responsible for communicating to all media sources. Careful deliberation about what information will be released shall be taken. Exhibitors will be asked not talk to the media but rather direct them to the fair office. To ensure reaching the media in a timely fashion, the information will be distributed in a variety of forms. All media sources will receive the same information.

5.2.2 PROCEDURE FOR EXHIBITOR/OWNER INFORMATION:

The LRG and assigned superintendent in cooperation with the Fair Veterinarian and Board of Directors shall keep the exhibitors/owners informed of the situation. Every attempt shall be made to provide regular updates to exhibitors/owners about incident response. In the event of quarantine on market animals, additional communication will be established with buyers, packers, processors and transporters, if necessary.

6.0 CHAIN OF COMMAND

The Macoupin County Fair and Agricultural Association chain of command shall be as follows:

1. President of the Board of Directors
2. Livestock Committee Chairman
3. Assigned Livestock Superintendent(s)

Assigned superintendents/fair staff related to the health of any animal may consult exhibitors/owners. The veterinarian working with the exhibitor/owner of the affected animal may be consulted for advice as well. The Board of Directors has final authority on the exhibits on the fairgrounds.

7.0 EDUCATION/AWARENESS OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Superintendents will discuss health issues and the Animal Health Emergency Response Plan with animal exhibitors/owners to ensure awareness, understanding and compliance with the Plan. The Plan will be made available on the fair website. All animal exhibitors/owners should be aware of and understand the plan and procedures. Superintendents will ensure that exhibitors are in compliance. Recommended vaccinations shall be as required by the State Veterinarian and documented by the Fair Veterinarian or assigned superintendent or the fair office.

Superintendents will ensure exhibitors use of hand washing stations, proper cleaning of pens and stalls, NOT sharing feed pans or equipment, and the wearing of proper footwear and disinfecting before entering another barn, as necessary.

8.0 CHECK IN PROCEDURES

Superintendents will ensure that all animals, upon arriving at the fairgrounds are in a general state of well being before the animals are placed in a barn. If an animal presents itself as being not in good health, the animal shall not be allowed into the barn until cleared by the Fair Veterinarian and fair management. Individual isolation/quarantine areas will be livestock owners stock trailers away from non-affected trailers. An attempt will be made to avoid same species use of trailers. Signs with contact information for fair office will be posted. Other animals transported with the animal in question shall not be allowed into the barns until cleared by the Fair Veterinarian and fair management. Assigned superintendents will develop and follow their respective criteria for check in procedures.

9.0 ANIMAL TREATMENT

No animal will be treated without the knowledge of the assigned superintendent or designee of that species. If an animal requires treatment, the treatment shall be documented on a form or record of activity and presented to the assigned superintendent and on file. When necessary the superintendent can rely on the expertise of the LRG. In the case of conflicting advice, the assigned superintendent and/or his/her designee will have the final say.

9.1 All market animals are only to be treated after the approval of a Veterinarian. If an animal requires treatment, the treatment shall be documented on a form or record of activity and presented to the assigned superintendent and on file.

9.2 The assigned superintendent or his/her designee, after consulting with the Fair Veterinarian, has the authority to send an animal home or observe animals throughout the fair but sick animals should must be removed from exhibition area and isolated.

9.3 Treatment of an animal shall be by the veterinarian or by the direction of a Veterinarian of the owner of said animal verified with written documentation.

9.4 Cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted at the direction of the LRG and adequate quantities of cleaning and disinfection supplies and people trained to use them will be made available if needed.

10.0 DISPOSAL

For an isolated incident and where the cause of death has been determined to not fall under local jurisdiction, it shall be the animal's owner responsibility to properly dispose of the carcass. A laboratory evaluation should be considered for any mortality during the fair at the expense of the owner. This will be coordinated with the species superintendent and fair management to be completed as soon as feasibly possible. For an incident that involves multiple owners or animals, the LRG will determine disposition with the advice and consent of the Fair Veterinarian and the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

11.0 REVIEW AND UPDATE

Annually this procedure will be reviewed and updated as appropriate by the Board of Directors, and other affected agencies. This procedure will be periodically tested by an appropriate exercise method.

APPENDIX A - DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Accredited Veterinarian: A veterinarian approved by the administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in accordance with provisions of 9 C.F.R. part 161, and considered pre-approved to perform certain functions of federal and cooperative state/federal programs.

Animal: Mollusks, crustaceans, and vertebrates other than human beings including, but not limited to livestock, exotic animals, aquaculture, and domestic animals.

Carcasses: The dead bodies of animals, poultry, or aquaculture. Carcasses do not include rendered products.

Cattle: All bovine (genus bos) animals, bovine like animals (genus bison) also commonly referred to as American Buffalo or Bison and any cross of these species unless otherwise specifically provided.

Comingling: concurrently, subsequently sharing, or subsequent use by livestock or other domestic animals of the same pen or same section in a facility or same section in a transportation unit where there is physical contact or contact with bodily excrements, aerosols, or fluids from other livestock or domestic animals.

Consignee: The person receiving the animals at the point of destination named on the official interstate or intrastate health certificate, official interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or animal movement certificate, entry authorization form, fish disease inspection report, ownership statement, or sales invoice.

Contagious disease: An illness due to a specific infectious agent or suspected infectious agent or its toxic products which arises through transmission of that agent or its products from an infected animal, or inanimate reservoir to a susceptible host, either directly or indirectly through an intermediate plant or animal host, vector, or the inanimate environment, or via an airborne mechanism.

Direct movement: Transfer of animals to a destination without unloading the animals en route and without exposure to any other animals or bodily excrements, aerosols, or fluids from other animals.

Disease: Any animal health condition with potential for economic impact, public or animal health concerns, or food safety concerns.

Domestic animal: Those species of animals that live under the husbandry of humans.

Equine: All animals of the equine family which includes horses, asses, jacks, jennies, hinnies, mules, donkeys, burros, ponies, and zebras.

Exhibition or exposition: A congregation, gathering, or collection of livestock that are presented or exposed to public view for show, display, swap, exchange, entertainment, educational event, instruction, advertising, or competition.

Exhibition facility: Any facility used or intended to be used for public view, show, display, swap, exchange, entertainment, advertisement, educational event, or competition involving livestock. Exhibition facility does not include a public stockyard, an auction sale yard, and a livestock yard where livestock are accepted on consignment and the auction method is used in the marketing of the livestock.

Exhibitor: any person who presents livestock for public display, exhibition, or competition or enters livestock in a fair, show, exhibition, or exposition.

Exotic animal: Those animals not native to North America.

Fair: A competition and educational exhibition of agricultural commodities and manufactured products for which premiums may be paid and which is conducted by an association or governmental entity.

Garbage: Any animal origin products, including those of poultry and fish origin, or other animal material resulting from the handling, processing, preparation, cooking, and consumption of foods. Garbage includes, but is not limited to, any refuse of any type that has been associated with any such material at any time during the handling, preparation, cooking, or consumption of food. Garbage does not include rendered products or manure.

Herd or flock of origin: Any herd or flock in which animals are born and remain until movement or any herd or flock which animals remain for at least 30 days immediately following direct movement into the herd or flock from another herd or flock. Herd or flock of origin includes the place of origin, premises of origin, and farm of origin.

Infectious disease: an infection or disease due to the invasion of the body by pathogenic organisms.

Isolated: The physical separation of animals by a physical barrier in such a manner that other animals do not have access to the isolated animals' body, excrement, aerosols, or discharges, not allowing the isolated animals to share a building with a common ventilation system with other animals, and not allowing the isolated animals to be within 10 feet of other animals if not sharing a building with a common ventilation system. Isolated animals have a feed and water system separate from other animals.

Livestock: Those species of animals used for human food and fiber or those species of animals used for service to humans. Livestock includes, but is not limited to, cattle, sheep, new world camelids, goats, bison, privately owned cervids, ratites, swine, equine, poultry, aquaculture, and rabbits. Livestock does not include dogs & cats.

Official Identification: An identification ear tag, tattoo, electronic identification, or other identification approved by the United States department of agriculture or the department.

Official Interstate Health Certificate or Official Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection: A printed form adopted by any state that documents the information required under section 20 and that is issued for animals being imported to or exported from this state within 30 days before the importation or exportation of the animals it describes. A photocopy of an official interstate health certificate or an official interstate certificate of veterinary inspection is considered an official copy if certified as a true copy by the issuing veterinarian or a livestock health official of the state of origin.

Official Test: A sample of specific material collected from an animal by an accredited veterinarian, state or federal veterinary medical officer, or other person authorized by the director and analyzed by a laboratory certified by the United States department of agriculture or the department to conduct the test, or a diagnostic injection administered and analyzed by an accredited veterinarian or a state or federal veterinary medical officer. Only an accredited veterinarian or a state or federal veterinary medical officer except under special permission by the director conducts an official test.

Official Vaccination: A vaccination that the director has designated as reportable, administered by an accredited veterinarian or a state or federal veterinary medical officer, and documented on a form supplied by the department.

Quarantine: Enforced isolation of any animal or group of animals or restriction of movement of an animal or group of animals, equipment, or vehicles to or from any structure, premises, or area of this state including the entirety of this state.

Reportable disease: An animal disease on the current reportable animal disease list maintained by the state veterinarian that poses a serious threat to the livestock industry, public health, or human food chain.

Slaughter facility premises: All facilities, buildings, structures, including all immediate grounds where slaughtering occurs under federal or state inspection, or otherwise authorized by the director.

State Veterinarian: The chief animal health official of the state as appointed by the director under section 7, or his or her authorized representative.

Swine: Any of the ungulate mammals of the family Suidae.

Toxicological disease: Any condition caused by or related to a toxic substance.

Wild animal: Any non-domesticated animal or any cross of a non-domesticated animal.