

# Agricultural Emergency Response Training (AgERT)



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# Why a concern?

- ❑ Agriculture contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- ❑ GDP is over a **trillion dollars/yr**
- ❑ The largest employer in the U.S. is the agriculture and food sector
- ❑ Agricultural disasters – cripple the economy, human disease



# A Case of Too Few Trained Veterinarians...

- ❑ In the State of New York, there are ~70,000 MDs for ~20 Million Residents
  - ❑ Nationally, there are ~85,000 Veterinarians for billions of Food Animals
  - ❑ Veterinarians are a critical resource pool that must be managed and supported if the nation is to have trained professionals ready for catastrophic animal events.
- ❑ A recent North Carolina study indicated that a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak would **require more than 500,000 individuals** in order to halt the spread of the disease (McGinn).
- ❑ There are ~ **2500** federal veterinarians nationwide – therefore, traditional 1<sup>st</sup> Responders and DVMs must train together to successfully respond to catastrophic animal events.

# Homeland Security Presidential Directive-9

- ❑ 911; Federal Government realizes the dangers
- ❑ HSPD-9; Instructs that the agricultural response be an organized event with coordination at the federal, state and county levels



# Part of National Response Plan

AVMA - Emergency Management Program Strategic Plan (EMPSP) - to encourage and foster veterinary leadership and guidance in local, state and federal efforts in preparation for disasters and emergencies





# AVMA - EMPSP

Envisioned two major scenarios

- ❑ Major disaster – National Disaster Medical Services
- ❑ Animal disease outbreak – USDA, Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) ([www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ([www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)) (404-639-2888) 24hr assistance



# Response To Animal Disease

Emergency preparedness - development of plans to deal with potential disasters whether natural or induced

- ❑ Prepare
- ❑ Prevent
- ❑ Detect / Identify
- ❑ Contain / Quarantine
- ❑ Depopulate
- ❑ Dispose
- ❑ Recover



## Proactive Measures

Vaccines  
Prophylaxis  
Treatments

Intelligence  
Risk Assessment  
Surveillance & Laboratories  
Regulatory Safeguards

Enhanced  
resistance  
Biosecurity  
Response &  
Preparation =  
Training

# Agricultural and Biological Threat Countermeasures

## Catastrophic Disease Event

Big  
\$\$

before

after

Incident  
Management  
Consequence  
Management  
Trade Implications

Containment  
& Quarantine  
Decontamination  
Disposal  
Indemnification &  
Recovery/Surveillance  
& Post Surveillance

Bigger  
\$\$

## Reactive Measures

..... Current Projects  
..... Proposed



# History

- ❑ AgERT - developed over an 18 - month period; involved input from key USDA staff and field veterinarians as well as USDA training officers
- ❑ Numerous site visits and veterinary staff participated in the pilots.
- ❑ 2 years of pilots - feedback from responders (including many state and federal veterinarians as well as local, state and regional emergency coordinators)



# AgERT: Days 1 to 3

## “Awareness Level Training”



# AgERT: Days 1 - 3

## “Hands-On Awareness Level Training”



- ❑ Introduction to Agricultural Response
- ❑ CBRNE Hazards
- ❑ Overview Agricultural Related Issues (Epidemiology & Infectious Disease, Zoonoses, FAD, Restraint / Euthanasia, Carcass Disposal)
- ❑ ICS & Response Actions
- ❑ PPE / DECON
- ❑ Survey / Monitor / Evidence



# Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine



Large Animal Teaching Hospital





# AgERT: Day 4 – Lab Exercise “Scenario Based - Task Driven”



- ❑ Establish Responsibilities
- ❑ Organize IR Materials
- ❑ PPE
- ❑ Secure Area
- ❑ Monitor / Collect Samples









# AgERT: Day 4 – Barn Exercise “Scenario Based -Task Driven”



- ❑ Establish Responsibilities
- ❑ DECON Setup
- ❑ Organize IR Materials
- ❑ PPE
- ❑ Secure Area
- ❑ Collect Samples
- ❑ DECON



# AgERT: Day 4 – Barn Exercise “Scenario Based - Task Driven” Mimics Real World Events

NIPAH Outbreak



Necropsy

AgERT



NIPAH Outbreak



Blood Samples

AgERT



## Samples Collected

- Liver
- Muscle
- Rumen Content
- Blood



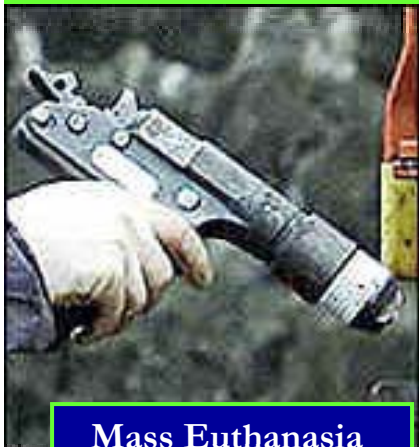


# The Products of AgERT

- ❑ 2,000 + certified trainees
- ❑ Veterinary Students - Curriculum
- ❑ Continuing Education - maintain license
- ❑ Accreditation
- ❑ Masters of Veterinary Public Health and training for upper level USDA jobs
- ❑ Unique - “clinical training” – “hands on”
- ❑ Integrated multi-state animal response



# Proposed AVERT- Aspects of Zoonotic/Agricultural Disease Response



Mass Euthanasia  
Strategies and Skills



Mass Carcass  
Disposal Strategies  
and Skills – Burial,  
Incinerate, Compost



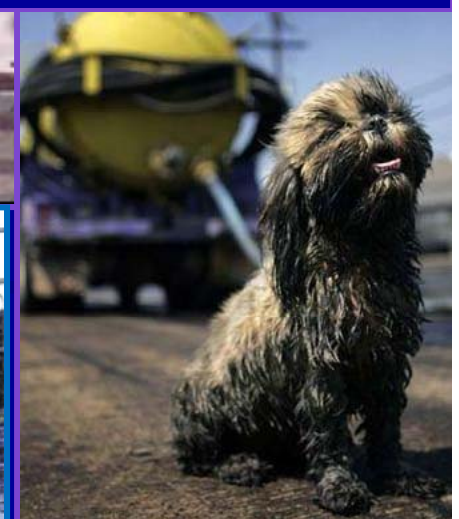
Decontamination –  
Animal, Vehicular, Structural



Public Response/Media Relations



Quarantine



# Contact Information

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# Questions ???

