
Foreign Animal Disease Guidance #1: Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness

Section 1: Overview

The occurrence of a foreign animal disease (FAD) in the U.S. could devastate the food animal industries. In the event of an outbreak, it is likely that live animal movement, product movement, and exports would be halted for an unknown amount of time. Being prepared for an outbreak situation can help keep plants running or shorten the amount of time that movement or exports are stalled in the event a foreign animal disease is discovered in the U.S.

Beef, pork, and lamb slaughter establishments are unique compared to live animal production units in FAD detection, as they will operate under the oversight of two governmental bodies, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), if a foreign animal disease is detected. Additionally, State Animal Health Officials (SAHO) have jurisdiction in their respective state in the event of an outbreak and will work with APHIS to facilitate response activities. The establishment must work cooperatively with all regulatory agencies to ensure that all necessary steps are taken in an FAD response, as well as the subsequent steps required to continue normal business operations after an outbreak is contained.

This guidance document will aid beef, pork, and lamb slaughter establishments in implementing practices that will help slaughter facilities prepare for an FAD outbreak in the U.S. **before** such an outbreak occurs.

Section 2: Steps to Take to Prepare for an FAD Outbreak

- 1. Establish a relationship with your State Animal Health Official.** The State Animal Health Official is usually the State Veterinarian in your state. It is important that management at slaughter facilities know who this person is, and how to contact them. Contacting your state's SAHO is an important step in FAD preparedness so the SAHO is familiar with you and your facility, and can have open and productive conversations in the event of an outbreak.
- 2. Obtain a Premise Identification Number (PIN) from your State Animal Health Official.** A PIN is a 7-digit alpha-numeric identification number that is used by the State and APHIS to aid in disease traceability purposes. The PIN is associated with the valid 911 physical address and a

set of matching coordinates (latitude and longitude) that indicate the actual location of the animals on a premise.¹ Every production unit, slaughter establishment, livestock market, or assembly yard should have a PIN. The PIN is **not** the same number as an establishment number. A PIN will help SAHOs make decisions about whether or not animals can move during an outbreak. A PIN is required for both the premise of origin and the destination in order for movement to occur. Obtaining a PIN will help develop a relationship between the slaughter facility and the SAHO.

- 3. Designate a person at the establishment as the main point of contact/Biosecurity Coordinator for FAD response and biosecurity efforts.** This person should be well-versed in the clinical signs of various FADs, and knowledgeable about proper biosecurity and cleaning/disinfection practices for the establishment. This person will be integral in the development of an enhanced biosecurity plan (see recommendation #4), which would be used in the event of an FAD outbreak in your area or an FAD finding in your establishment. For companies with multiple establishments, a designated POC at the corporate level is also recommended.
- 4. Review your current biosecurity plan, and devise an enhanced biosecurity plan for use in the event of an outbreak.** In the event of a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak, biosecurity measures on all facilities which house animals for even a brief period of time will be heightened. Existing procedures may not account for these increased precautions. See NAMI Foreign Animal Disease Guidance Document #4, Biosecurity Measures, for more information on enhanced biosecurity during an FAD outbreak.
- 5. Become familiar with applicable waste and waste-water regulations.** If an FAD outbreak is detected in a slaughter establishment, all waste leaving the establishment must go through a process to render any FAD virus inactive. This may include treating waste and/or waste-water. Some local environmental or natural resource agencies may have strict regulations regarding treatment of waste water or materials going to a landfill. It is recommended that slaughter establishment management become familiar with the pertinent regulations and permitting processes regarding waste and waste-water.
- 6. Prepare for a supply chain disruption in the event of an FAD outbreak.** The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has indicated on a number of occasions that if an FAD is detected in the United States, it would issue a nation-wide stop-movement order for all species

¹ Secure Pork Supply Plan Website: <http://www.securepork.org/>. Accessed June 13, 2019.

susceptible to the disease. This would obviously result in the shut-down of slaughter establishments for at least 72 hours after the first indication of an outbreak. Establishments should discuss and prepare for such an event before it occurs. During this downtime, establishments should ensure that all areas of the plant, including lairage and unloading docks, are cleaned and disinfected. Establishment personnel can also use this time to gather pertinent tracing information (30 days of backward and forward tracing of livestock and all product, including rendered) and prepare to implement their enhanced biosecurity plans when operations resume. Depending on the establishment's location, the epidemiology of outbreak, and movement/permitting requirements of the States, business may resume as normal after the federal stop-movement is lifted, or establishments may be required to follow specific recommendations made by the SAHO.

- 7. Familiarize management with the Emergency Management Response System (EMRS2) Customer Permit Gateway, or the pertinent data collection that your State Animal Health Officials use.** The EMRS system is a web-based application that APHIS uses to manage data related to FAD outbreaks in the United States. This system will be used by APHIS and SAHOs to communicate diagnostic and epidemiologic information about an FAD outbreak. The system will also be used to gather information relevant to the permitting process. State Animal Health Officials will use the information in this system, provided by producers, slaughter establishments, other SAHOs, and APHIS officials, to determine whether or not permits for animal, product, or byproduct movement can be issued. Establishments are encouraged to familiarize their management teams with the system or the system used by your state. Please use the following link to access information on the EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway:
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjVhMWb3truAhWDVc0KHXuuD5sQFjABegQIAXAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.aphis.usda.gov%2Fanimal_health%2Femergency_management%2Fdownloads%2Femrs_gateway_rrg.pdf&usg=AOvVaw30ufFxbom6Eb3fmfeR7BSC
- 8. Familiarize management with Secure Food Supply plans.** If an FAD is found in U.S. livestock, state and federal regulatory officials will limit the movement of animals and animal products to control the spread of these very contagious animal diseases. The Secure Food Supply Continuity of Business Plans provide opportunities to voluntarily prepare before an outbreak.² This will better position premises with animals that have no evidence of infection to:

² The Secure Pork Supply Plan can be found here: <http://www.securepork.org/>. The Secure Beef Supply plan can be found here: <http://securebeef.org/>. Accessed June 13, 2019.

- a. Move animals to processing or another pork production premises under a movement permit issued by regulatory officials, and
 - b. Maintain business continuity during an FAD Outbreak.
- 9. Maintain 30 Days of records for live animal movement to and from the facility.** In the event an FAD outbreak occurs in your area, or an FAD investigation occurs at your plant, APHIS and the SAHO will likely request information that can be used to trace animals back to their farm of origin. At least 30 days of receiving records should be available for use when an FAD outbreak or investigation occurs. Additionally, trace-forward information will be helpful. This includes destination information for all trucks leaving the facility, whether they be hauling trailers full of product or empty livestock trailers.
- 10. Familiarize management and designated employees with the clinical signs of various foreign animal diseases,** specifically Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), and African Swine Fever (ASF). It is essential that plant employees are familiar with the clinical signs of diseases so that if observed, animals be sorted out and reported to FSIS immediately. Refer to the NAMI FAD Guidance Document #2, Clinical Signs of Foreign Animal Diseases, for more information on clinical signs of FADs.
- 11. Participate in an FAD preparedness exercise.** Foreign animal disease exercises can be held on the company, county, state, or federal level or with multiple levels involved. These exercises simulate an FAD outbreak, and encourage participants to think and solve problems that will only otherwise come to light during an outbreak. Many times, more questions than answers are generated during such exercises, but it is important for slaughter facilities to attend and observe these events. A company can request to be part of a state- or federally-organized FAD exercise by contacting their State Animal Health Official. Additionally, a company can request a table-top exercise be organized specifically for their company, if desired. If you would like to host an FAD exercise, contact the North American Meat Institute, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, or the National Pork Board.

Section 3: Conclusion

This guidance document is meant to aid beef, pork, and lamb slaughter establishments in implementing practices that will help slaughter facilities be as prepared as possible for an FAD outbreak in the U.S. **before** such an outbreak occurs.