

PREPARING IOWA AGRICULTURE FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE THREATS

AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

As agriculture has advanced and connected globally, it is critical we prepare Iowa for the threat of Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD). An introduction of an FAD could disrupt our in-state, national and global commerce as was experienced during the 2015 Avian Influenza outbreak, which resulted in a \$1.2 billion economic impact on our state's economy. Future introductions of an FAD such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease, that affects both the beef and pork industries, could cause annual losses of \$12.9 billion to the U.S. economy.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) requests the legislature's help to address this threat by devoting an additional \$250,000 to FAD preparedness and response. This appropriation will allow IDALS to:



1. Increase our staff's emergency response capabilities. Through devoting a portion of a District Veterinarian's position to emergency response, and cross-training existing staff so they can quickly transition into emergency response roles, we will continue to provide top quality services to our producers on a daily basis while simultaneously giving us the flexibility to respond during outbreaks.



2. Modernize our existing infrastructure. Additional funding will help our Animal Industry Bureau move away from paper-based record keeping to electronic systems. Doing so will increase our response times and speed of information sharing. It will also enable us to create more online educational materials such as biosecurity and FAD webpages as well as biocontainment/decontamination video tutorials.



3. Update response plans and engage stakeholders throughout Iowa. As new threats emerge, like African Swine Fever and Foot-and-Mouth Disease, we must update existing FAD response plans and train both our staff and external stakeholders on these plans and their roles. Internally, we will hold incident command trainings and epidemiologic investigation trainings. Externally, we will create trainings for accredited veterinarians in Iowa to increase their ability to identify FADs on farms and increase our outreach to livestock producers.

