

# USDA Flood Response, Iowa 2008



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# USDA APHIS Emergency Support Functions

- USDA, APHIS Mission is to protect and promote U.S. agricultural health. One aspect of this is animal health emergency management.
- APHIS, VS routinely works cooperatively with IDALS controlling and eradicating diseases and preparing for animal health emergencies such as foreign animal diseases.
- Responding to natural disasters affecting livestock is a new area of cooperation



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# USDA Flood Response, Iowa 2008- APHIS Actions

- FEMA activated ESF #11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) in response to state request to DHS. APHIS is the ESF #11 coordinating agency.
- State Veterinarian requested assistance from APHIS to remove and dispose of swine carcasses (ARF for capturing and euthanizing live swine and for removal of carcasses)
- APHIS has contractors available through the National Veterinary Stockpile to conduct 3-D services. Clean Harbors Environmental Services began work June 22.



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# USDA Flood Response, Iowa 2008- APHIS Actions

- APHIS coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the levee districts, ICPs, and county sheriffs to get access to carcasses on the levees
- APHIS got permission from private landowners to access carcasses on their land
- APHIS contractors removed approximately 371 carcasses from public areas and 1,160 carcasses from private property or over 83,000 lbs of carcass material in total



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# USDA Flood Response, Iowa 2008- APHIS Actions

- APHIS coordinated with the State Veterinarian of Illinois, the AVIC of Illinois, and Illinois EPA for disposal of carcasses
- APHIS and IDALS coordinated with DNR to dispose of carcasses and the Des Moines County Landfill was authorized to receive carcasses
- Due to liability concerns of the contractor we ultimately decided to dispose of carcasses in a landfill in Morrison, Illinois



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# USDA Flood Response, Iowa 2008- Rescue efforts

- At the request of the State Veterinarian we allowed non-governmental agencies (NGOs) to rescue as many live swine as possible
- After the NGOs rescued 69 swine, the State Veterinarian asked APHIS, Wildlife Services to eliminate remaining free roaming swine



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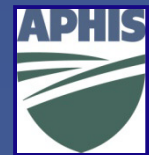


# USDA Flood Response, Iowa 2008

- Challenges to swift carcass removal:
  - Contacting Swine Producers to obtain permission to access private property in times of emergency for rescue and removal efforts.
  - Obtaining declaration of immediate threat to public health and safety from a state agency to allow removal from private property (absent landowner approval)
- Opportunity: Establishment of a process to streamline emergency declaration process.



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# USDA Flood Response, Iowa 2008- Funding

- FEMA issued Mission Assignment to APHIS for \$1,100,000 with a state cost share of 25% (later reduced to 10%)
- Final operation cost was approximately \$800,000
- USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA) may provide financial assistance (Livestock Indemnity Program included in the 2008 Farm Bill) to producers who experienced higher than normal livestock mortality due to adverse weather



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# Preparing for Future Disasters

- Continue to encourage registration of premises in the NAIS
- Prepare to quickly determine the status of carcasses on private property, i.e. are they an immediate threat to public health and safety?



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