

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: Emergency Management Assistance Compacts for Agriculture

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) approved resolution number 15 regarding Emergency Management Assistance Compacts for Agriculture during the 2023 USAHA Annual Meeting.

A working group was to be established to review “the existing state Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request structure and assist states in creating a document that develops how animal agricultural EMAC requests can be made with current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) funding structures when animal disease management events occur.” The working group was comprised of “three state animal health officials, three EMAC subject matter experts, and three USDA-APHIS-VS officials,” with a report of the findings to the Committee on Animal Emergency Management (CAEM) at the 2024 USAHA Annual Meeting. USDA-APHIS-VS agreed and participated in a working group with the CAEM.

The working group met monthly from April through August 2024 and found:

1. EMAC is available once a governor’s declaration has been made. EMAC has been used in some animal disease response events where the governor has issued a declaration.
2. In some situations, states may find that issuing a governor’s declaration is not the best strategy in an animal disease outbreak. In those cases, EMAC is not available.
3. Reimbursement requests sent to USDA-APHIS-VS are evaluated according to USDA-APHIS-VS reimbursement policies and the source of the funds. States need to have an emergency cooperative agreement in place with USDA-APHIS-VS before requesting reimbursement. USDA-APHIS-VS may be able to reimburse some expenses related to personnel or resources requested through EMAC, but must comply with USDA and appropriated funding reimbursement policies.
4. Having animal disease response equipment and personnel resource-typed by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) would make it easier to locate available resources if a state issues a governor’s declaration, and provide states with a catalog of resources for use if or when regional resource sharing agreements are developed.

5. Regional and international agreements exist which use EMAC principles but are governed by their own rules. [See the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement \(PNEMA\), International Emergency Management Group \(IEMG\), and the Northern Emergency Management Compact \(NEMAC\).](#)

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services supply personnel representing emergency response operations, policy, and finance staff to participate, discuss, and provide input on a Committee on Animal Emergency Management Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) subcommittee. The subcommittee should also include at least three representatives from state animal health officials and EMAC subject matter experts each.

The subcommittee would continue the working group's work to incorporate EMAC into animal disease response. The subcommittee would be responsible for at least the following:

1. Developing templates for supplemental agreements between states for sharing resources during an animal disease response to create an EMAC-like system.
2. Engaging with National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) regarding the opportunities to have representatives on NEMA committees, including but not limited to the EMAC Advisory Group, and have animal disease response resources typed and added to the EMAC catalog.
3. Requesting an assessment from USDA on the impact of a governor's declaration in a transboundary or emerging disease outbreak on international trade.
4. Encouraging states to consider requesting a governor's declaration if warranted.
5. Exploring the possibility of amending EMAC to remove the requirement for a governor's declaration to access resources in an animal disease response.

FINAL RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS commits to continued participation in the working group and to working with industry and federal partners to prioritize activities within our budgetary, staffing, and regulatory allowances.