

Memo to: Stakeholders/Participants of Mass Animal Mortality Workshop

14May06

Subject: Workshop Findings/Results

We would like to thank you once again for your participation in the November 2006 Emergency Management of Mass Animal Mortality Workshop in Austin, TX. The attached white paper describes the workshop findings/results. This information along with a thorough description of the conceptualization of the workshop may be accessed on the FAZD website under the "Events" heading. <http://FAZD.tamu.edu>

Building positive working partnerships between such diverse stakeholder groups as industry, regulatory agencies, and the scientific community, prior to a catastrophic event, is vital to overcoming misunderstandings and confusion that may hinder preparedness, timely response, mitigation, and recovery from such an event. This workshop tested a model to facilitate effective stakeholder dialogue and collaboration leading to future incidence response planning for the appropriate disposal of mass animal mortalities. The 2-day workshop provided an important, realistic initial step toward resolving policy issues by beginning the process of dialogue and collaboration between and among stakeholder groups that will facilitate future collaboration on effective and meaningful policy issue resolutions. The objectives of the workshop were:

Objective 1: Engage major livestock and poultry industry stake holders, health and environmental regulators, policy makers and scientists to review current science and policy and identify future best practices for proper disposal of mass animal mortality.

Objective 2: Beef dairy, swine, sheep, goat and poultry producers, regulators, and emergency management officials develop relationships that will lead to planning together to confidently dispose of mass animal mortality in the event of a natural, accidental, or man-made disaster.

Three workshop deliverables prioritized common questions that may lead to agency, industry, and academic interactions; started the process of dialogue and collaboration between and among stakeholder groups; and initiated actions leading to successful policy, emergency management plans, and scientific needs prioritization. The deliverables were:

Deliverable #1: Initiate the development of an inventory of interacting policies of the different agencies that may contribute to uncertainty, confusion, or pose insurmountable obstacles to efficient and timely carcass management.

Deliverable #2: Review and update producer guidance based on enterprise type of: who to call; disposal options; and consequences of each option.

Deliverable #3: To prepare stakeholders to communicate with the public and respond to public concerns.

Thank you again for your participation in the Emergency Management of Mass Animal Mortality Workshop in Austin, TX.

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