

# **ANNEX O**

## **Animals, Agriculture & Food & Feed Safety**



### **STATE OF TEXAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Revised May, 2011/Updated February, 2013



STATE OF TEXAS  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANNEXO

Animals, Agriculture, and Food & Feed Safety

APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

This annex is hereby accepted for implementation and supersedes all previous editions.

5/31/2011

Date



Dee Ellis, DVM, State Veterinarian  
Executive Director  
Texas Animal Health Commission


STATE OF TEXAS  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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5-30-11  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Drew DeBerry  
Deputy Commissioner  
Texas Department of Agriculture

STATE OF TEXAS  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Awaiting Signature  
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David Lakey, MD  
Commissioner of Health  
Department of State Health Services

**STATE OF TEXAS  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

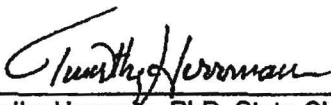
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June 3, 2011  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Herrman, PhD, State Chemist  
Director  
Office of the State Chemist

STATE OF TEXAS  
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Date	<hr/>
	W. Nim Kidd
	Assistant Director
	Texas Department of Public Safety
	Chief
	Texas Division of Emergency Management

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>O-1</b>
A. BASIC PLAN, SECTION I.....	O-1
B. CHAPTER 418.190 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE.....	O-1
<b>II. PURPOSE .....</b>	<b>O-1</b>
A. PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN.....	O-1
B. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS.....	O-1
<b>III. EXPLANATION OF TERMS .....</b>	<b>O-2</b>
A. ACRONYMS .....	O-2
B. DEFINITIONS .....	O-3
<b>IV. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS .....</b>	<b>O-4</b>
A. SITUATION.....	O-4
B. ASSUMPTIONS.....	O-7
<b>V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS .....</b>	<b>O-8</b>
A. STATE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE POLICY .....	O-8
B. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS .....	O-9
C. RESOURCE REQUESTS.....	O-9
D. RESOURCE LISTS .....	O-10
E. PROCUREMENT ACTIONS .....	O-10
F. LOGISTICS ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE.....	O-10
<b>VI. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES .....</b>	<b>O-11</b>
A. ORGANIZATION .....	O-11
B. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.....	O-11
<b>VII. COORDINATION AND CONTROL.....</b>	<b>O-15</b>
<b>X. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>O-16</b>
A. SUPPORT .....	O-16
B. AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS .....	O-17
C. STATUS REPORTS .....	O-17
D. EXPENDITURES AND RECORD KEEPING .....	O-17
E. AFTER-ACTION REVIEW.....	O-17
<b>XI. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE.....</b>	<b>O-17</b>
A. APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION.....	O-17
B. PROCESS RESPONSIBILITY .....	O-18



## **APPENDICES**

1. Resource Support Organizations
2. Resource Summary
3. Foreign and Emergency Animal Disease (FEAD) Response Plan
4. Crop Production Emergency Response Plan
5. Animal Response Plan (for non-disease events)
6. Food Safety Plan
7. Feed and Fertilizer Emergency Response Plan

## **ANNEX O**

### **Animals, Agriculture, and Food & Feed Safety**

#### **I. AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES**

A Basic Plan, Section I

B. Chapter 418.190 of the Texas Government Code

#### **11. PURPOSE**

A Purpose of this Plan

1. The purpose of this annex is to define the organization, operational concepts, responsibilities, and procedures to encompass a comprehensive, all-hazard, state response to an emergency incident related to animals, plants, food, feed, and the safety and marketability of agricultural products in Texas.
2. This annex is applicable to all agencies, organizations, and personnel within the Animals, Agriculture, and Food & Feed Safety (AAFFS) Emergency Support Function (ESF) of the State of Texas. It also involves the coordination with, and support from, various non-government, private-sector organizations and stakeholder entities.

B. Relationship to Other Planning Documents

##### **1. Relationship to Other State Plans**

This annex is intended to supplement the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan. There are several other specialized plans, annexes, and appendices that address complex, large-scale disaster responses in relationship to animals, agriculture, and food and feed safety, such as Annex H (Public Health and Medical Services), Annex V (Food and Water), the state's Drought Contingency Plan, and the state's Hurricane Response Plan. This document is not intended to supersede any of those plans.

##### **2. Relationship to Local Emergency Management Plans**

This plan provides for coordination with local officials concerning the effective integration of resource support for emergency operations when state assistance is requested. Local emergency management plans provide guidance for the deployment of emergency resources, mutual aid resources, and specialized response resources under an incident commander, unified command, or area command and may be supported by a local Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Local emergency plans include specific provisions for requesting and employing state resources to aid in managing and resolving emergency situations when resources are inadequate. When the state or federal government has the lead in responding to certain emergencies (e.g., a foreign animal disease, a plant and animal pest incursion, a widespread food or

feed contamination, a terrorism event involving agriculture, etc.), local support will be provided through the use of the unique resources and capabilities that local governments can bring to bear in concert with their local plans.

3. Relationship to Federal Contingency Plans

Relationship to Federal plans is provided for in the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan.

4. Relationship to Interstate Agreements

Relationship to interstate agreements is provided for in the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan

- a. State-to-state emergency resource assistance may be requested or provided among states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).
- b. All FEMA Region VI states have entered into an Interstate Emergency Response Support Plan (IERSP) to expedite the provision of resource assistance during a disaster or catastrophic event.

111. **EXPLANATION OF TERMS**

A. Acronyms

AFFS	Animals, Agriculture, Food, and Feed Safety
ALEX	Texas Agrilife Extension Service (TAMUS)
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA)
ARCC	Animal Response Coordination Center
ART	Animal Response Team
CARP	Community Animal Response Plan
CVMB	College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (TAMU)
DSHS	Texas Department of State Health Services
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FEAD	Foreign and emerging animal disease
FSA	Farm Service Agency (USDA)
LSP	Livestock supply point
OTSC	Office of the Texas State Chemist (Texas Agrilife Research)
PPQ	Plant Protection and Quarantine (APHIS)
RRT	Rapid Response Team (DSHS and OTSC)
SMOC	State Medical Operations Center (DSHS)
TAHC	Texas Animal Health Commission
TAMU	Texas A&M University
TAMUS	Texas A&M University System
TOA	Texas Department of Agriculture
TDEM	Texas Division of Emergency Management
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VS	Veterinary Services (APHIS)

## B. Definitions

1. Agriculture - (as defined in the Texas Agriculture Code) means the cultivation of the soil to produce crops, horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, forestry, or the raising keeping of livestock or poultry.
2. Agrilife County Extension Agent - A jointly employed state and county employee, working at the county level, who serves as a professional educator and subject matter expert, and resource provider for agriculture and natural resources.
3. Agrilife Extension Livestock/Poultry Specialist - A state employee, working at the regional and state level, who serves as a professional educator, subject matter expert, and resource provider for livestock or poultry.
4. Animal - For the purposes of this annex, a general term used to encompass household pets, service animals, research animals, zoo animals, show animals, agricultural production animals (livestock and poultry), wildlife, and equids.
5. Animal Shelter - A general term describing a temporary facility for housing animals in a disaster or emergency. Animal shelters can be for household pets, livestock, and other types of animals as defined above.
6. Animal Response Coordination Center-The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Animal Response Coordination Center (ARCC) is a Multi-Agency Coordination Group that provides off-scene coordination and support to the Texas Multi-Agency Coordination System through the State Operations Center (SOC) during an animal emergency. The Texas State Veterinarian is the lead state official for the ARCC and activates the ARCC at the TAHC headquarters in the event of an animal emergency. The ARCC allocates and reallocates critical resources for animal emergencies through the SOC and sets incident priorities. The ARCC makes coordinated decisions with the State Emergency Management Council concerning issues that affect multiple agencies.
7. Agricultural Critical Infrastructure- The assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, of the agriculture continuum, which are so vital to the United States that the incapacitation or destruction of such assets, systems, or networks would leave a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of these.
8. Household Pets - As defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), domesticated pets, such as dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, rodents, or turtles that are traditionally kept in the home for pleasure, and can travel in commercial carriers, and can be housed in temporary shelter facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (with the exception of turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.

9. Livestock -As defined in the Texas Agriculture Code, cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, exotic livestock, including elk and elk hybrids, and hogs, unless otherwise defined.
10. Rapid Response Team (RRT)-A joint response team, with members from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and The Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC), trained and equipped to identify food-borne illness outbreaks quickly and to mitigate effects of such illnesses.
11. Service Animal - Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. The crime-deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.
12. Zoonosis -A disease communicable from animals to humans under natural conditions.

#### IV. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

##### A Situation

1. The health and safety of the Texas public is the top priority of this plan. Public safety and health can be put at risk when hazards affect the agricultural sector, and it is therefore imperative to ensuring public safety and health protection that these agricultural affects be properly addressed.

Additionally, Texas agriculture leads the nation in the production of many commodities that are vital to everyday life. The agriculture industry employs one in seven working Texans and contributes more than \$100 billion to the state's economy annually. It is a growing industry with the evolution of technology. Not just food and fiber, agriculture now includes the production of biofuels and biopharmaceuticals. Every Texan has a fundamental stake in agriculture and its future; it is the critical link that brings rural, suburban and urban Texas together.

Texans have an emotional and financial investment in the health and well-being of their animals including household pets, livestock, and other animals. By acknowledging the importance of all-hazards planning for animals, the emergency management community advances the protection of public health and safety.

2. This annex considers the entire agricultural continuum (i.e., what is commonly referred to as the pathway from the "farm gate to the dinner plate"). It discusses the production of plants and animals for food, feed, and other products, as well as the processing and distribution of these products and materials for

subsequent use by humans, plants, and animals. The annex also considers issues related to the well-being of animals during disasters.

3. Plants, animals, and agricultural foods, feed, and other products are vulnerable to diseases as well as natural, technological, and other human-caused hazards. This includes the threat of terrorism anywhere within the agriculture production, processing, and distribution continuum.
4. This annex supports three implied priority missions of the National Response Framework (NRF):
  - a. To enhance protection and safety of the nation's agriculture and food supply.
  - b. To strengthen emergency response preparedness (related to animals, crops, food, and animal feed).
  - c. To ensure domestic pets are permitted to be kept with their owners during a disaster event or appropriately cared for, during an emergency event, prior to reunification with their owners.
5. This annex corresponds in some measure to the federal Emergency Support Function 11 (ESF-11: Agriculture and Natural Resources) as outlined in the NRF, but it does not include the protection of natural and cultural resources. It does, however, consider the protection and care of household pets and livestock in a disaster-related situation.
6. The state's AAFFS ESF covers six primary functions:
  - a. Responding to a foreign and/or emerging animal disease  

These efforts are coordinated by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Investigative Service's Veterinary Service (USDA-APHIS-VS) and the DSHS Zoonosis Control Branch.
  - b. Responding to a plant disease and/or plant pest  

These efforts are coordinated by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TOA) in conjunction with USDA's APHIS's Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ).
  - c. Helping provide for the safety and well-being of household pets during an evacuation, transportation, and sheltering event related to an emergency or disaster.  

These efforts are coordinated by the TAHC, generally through non-government animal care organizations.

- d. Providing for the safety and well-being of other animals such as livestock, zoo animals, and research animals

These efforts are coordinated by the TAHC with other government or private organizations.

- e. Providing for the safety of the human food supply from the point of processing until it reaches the consumer

These efforts are coordinated by the DSHS.

- f. Providing for the safety of animal feed and fertilizer

These efforts are coordinated by the OTSC.

## 7. Animals, Agriculture, and Food and Feed Safety ESF (AAFFS)

- a. The AAFFS ESF is a consortium of four primary or lead agencies for emergencies and disaster events. Depending on the specific type of incident, the agency most appropriate to the response will provide overall coordination for the entire ESF. The lead agencies and their general responsibilities are:

- 1) Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) – The health of Texas livestock, the emergency care of household pets, and the eradication of foreign and emerging animal diseases in livestock as well as the eradication of certain animal pests that transmit diseases from one animal to another or from an animal to a human.
- 2) Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) – The safety of plants and eradication of plant pests, as well as the marketing of Texas agriculture products (Note: The handling and distribution of USDA food commodities can be found under Annex V (Food and Water).
- 3) Department of State Health Services (DSHS) – The safety of food in Texas through its processing and distribution to the consumer and zoonotic disease surveillance and disease control activities.
- 4) Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) -The safety of animal feed and fertilizer in Texas.

- b. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service (ALEXT), although not a lead agency for the various functions outlined above, will assist all of the above agencies in carrying out their assigned tasks as described in this document. ALEXT will also provide applicable support for the public education and an awareness component to any agricultural-related (i.e., plant, animal, food, feed) disaster event.

- c. The Veterinary Emergency Team (VET) is a project of the Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (TAMU-CVMBS) that works under the authority of TAHC in an emergency or disaster where triage, medical care, or humane euthanasia of animals may be needed.
8. Animals, agriculture, food, and feed are all vulnerable to man-made and natural disasters. Disaster-related damage to these economic sectors impacts public safety, public health, and the state, national, and global economy.
9. In an animal, plant, food, or feed incident, the mere perception of an impact to the integrity of the supply could cause a devastating negative economic impact.
10. The duration of a response to an agricultural-related, animal disease emergency is not necessarily the same as the response phase for a typical non-disease disaster situation. Animal disease responses are generally not completed until: (a) the disease has been conclusively eradicated (certified by negative test results in a certain area over a certain time period); (b) there is a public perception that the product is again safe for consumption; and (c) national and international trading partners begin to once again purchase the product.
11. Actions described in this annex and its appendices may occur with or without a Stafford Act Presidential declaration. Reimbursement for those actions may not be an appropriate expense request under the Stafford Act.
12. An incident involving the AAFS ESF may often be distributed across multiple jurisdictions, requiring the coordination of multiple sites and responding agencies simultaneously. Furthermore, an incident may involve chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and/or explosive (CBRNE) agents, which, if detected, will be coordinated with the appropriate ESFs and agencies. Federal assistance may be necessary to restore the animal, agriculture, food, or feed critical infrastructure and key resources.
13. No single organization possesses the authority, expertise, and resources to act unilaterally on the many complex issues affecting the Animal, Agriculture, Food and Feed Safety ESF.

#### B. Assumptions

1. Disaster-related damage to agriculture and food and feed products will greatly limit the availability and/or safety of these products, ultimately impacting the economy through reduced sales, job losses, etc.
2. An emergency or disaster affecting, or even threatening agriculture, food, or feed production, processing, or distribution, would cause panic that might disrupt the market for agriculture products by making them unsafe, or appearing to be unsafe, for consumer consumption.



3. Although not a highly visible part of the overall homeland security infrastructure, agriculture is a mainstay of the economy and satisfies basic human needs. A major loss, or even the threat of a loss, of an agriculture-related system or product, would have severe social consequences.
4. The protection of and/or restoration of plant and animal production capabilities, as well as the safety of the agricultural product, is of paramount importance to the continued viability of the overall economy.
5. Household pets frequently have a special bond with their owners, and their safety and security related to a disaster event will frequently affect the decision-making and response actions of their owners in an emergency situation.

## V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. State Support and Assistance Policy

1. State emergency support and assistance will be provided as quickly and as efficiently as possible using National Incident Management System (NIMS) processes for managing resources.
2. For a catastrophic incident, the State will mirror, as much as possible, its activities with the federal ESFs that have roles within the scope of this annex. These federal ESFs, outlined in the National Response Framework, may include:
  - a. ESF-3-PublicWorksandEngineering
  - b. ESF-6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services
  - c. ESF-8-PublicHealthandMedicalServices
  - d. ESF-9-SearchandRescue
  - e. ESF-11 -Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - f. ESF-14- Long-Term Community Recovery
3. The decision to expend state funds to provide support and assistance will be made only after consideration of both priority of need and cost to the State. However, in situations where lives and property (e.g., livestock, crops, household pets, food and feed commodities, etc.) are immediately threatened, the most rapid and appropriate means of response will be employed.
4. The State Emergency Management Council (SEMC) (hereafter referred to as the "Council") shall assist TDEM in identifying, mobilizing, and deploying state resources to respond to major emergencies and disasters throughout the State.

## B. Staffing Requirements

1. Based on situational requirements, and to the extent they are able, Council member agencies will provide staff to the State Operations Center (SOC), affected disaster district committees (DDCs), state incident command posts (ICPs), and regional response teams. If appropriate, Council member agencies may also be asked to provide staff to selected emergency operations centers (EOCs) and joint field offices (JFOs).
2. Council member agency representatives may serve in both a primary and/or support agency role for several ESFs. To facilitate these ESF responsibilities, the number of Council member representatives operating from each location will be based on requirements and coordinated with the appropriate agency.

## C. Resource Requests

1. Requests for emergency assistance will be filled by appropriate response resources at the lowest possible level. This includes coordination between a requesting city or county and with regional resources, using the regional Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS). Unresolved local assistance requests will flow upward to the State (i.e., the appropriate DOC chair), from either a city or a county, after appropriate coordination has been conducted among all appropriate local and regional entities.
2. If approved by the DOC Chair, the request will be handled at the DOC by the appropriate ESF group(s).
3. If the request cannot be resolved at the DOC level, then it will be forwarded by the DOC to the State Operations Center (SOC) and tasked, by the SOC Controller, as a mission assignment to the lead agency for the appropriate ESF.
4. If the AAFSS ESF is tasked to provide a resource(s) to support disaster response and recovery efforts, either at the DOC or at the SOC, each organization within the AAFSS ESF will make all reasonable efforts to fulfill the request using its own resource assets before requesting assistance from other state agencies and organizations.
5. In the case of the AAFSS ESF, the lead (or primary) agency selected for the ESF as a whole, will reflect the tasked mission at hand [i.e., protection of animals (TAHC), protection of plants and crops (TOA), food safety or zoonotic disease (DSHS), or feed safety (OTSC)]. Since OTSC is not a formal member of the Council, TAHC and TOA will represent them at the SOC for the purposes of handling the request and passing the requirement to them.
6. Resolving requests for assistance may require the involvement of several state ESFs, each providing a part of the solution. This, in turn, means that several separate mission assignments may be tasked to separate agencies or entities based on their responsibilities and anticipated contribution.

7. To the extent possible, AAFSS ESF agency representatives must be knowledgeable of state resources, operational procedures, and accountability methodology for committing State of Texas assets, resources, or services, which may be placed at their disposal.

#### D. Resource Lists

1. The Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS), an office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, is a procurement and resource support agency for the State. They maintain lists of vendors and other resources to meet emergency needs.
2. TAHC, TOA, DSHS, and OTSC are the lead/primary agencies for the AAFSS ESF depending on issue at hand. Each maintains a resource list of vendors and other sources to meet the emergency needs. In an impending disaster situation, such as a hurricane, flood, extreme heat emergency, severe drought, or increasing wildfires, etc., a custom resource needs list may have to be created.
3. Support entities for the AAFSS ESF may maintain similar resource lists and associated databases and may have the capability to access and provide these resources, as appropriate. As above, for a potential disaster situation, a custom resource needs list may need to be developed for these entities.

#### E. Procurement Actions

1. If the AAFSS ESF is tasked to provide a resource to support disaster response and recovery efforts, each agency within the ESF will make all reasonable efforts to fulfill the request using its own resource assets before requesting assistance from TDEM for procurement actions.
2. A person holding a license, certificate, permit, or other document qualifying them in a professional, mechanical, or other skill that is requested by a state agency to assist in an emergency will be considered qualified in the political subdivision in which the service is required.

#### F. Logistics Advice and Assistance

1. The AAFSS ESF will work with other state agencies, local governments, and Voluntary agencies, as appropriate, to establish a state-to-state and state-to-local resource distribution system(s) to ensure requested goods and services can be obtained, stored, secured, and/or distributed to entities, people, or animals in need after a disaster. Services may include the unique skills of warehousing specialists, inventory and supply technicians, packaging experts, etc. to manage animal, plant, food, and feed resources.

2. In some situations, specialized and secured warehousing, and novel distribution systems may be required for certain response items and equipment such as pharmaceuticals, toxic chemicals, euthanasia devices, animal cages, livestock panels and corrals, water troughs, fencing supplies, etc.
3. Skilled experts may also be required to work with response personnel to appropriately use any specialized equipment; to identify and handle affected or diseased animals, plants, and pests; to appropriately identify (for ownership) and dispose of carcasses; to work with tainted food and feed supplies; to disinfect disease-affected or toxic areas; and to obtain, collect, and transport samples for subsequent laboratory testing.
4. Additionally, the appropriate distribution of basic equipment, supplies, water, and feed to responders and affected animals could be a major challenge. Selected primary and support agencies within the AAFFS ESF are prepared to accept and carry-out this process.
5. In the event of a major response or recovery operation, for either a disease or non-disease situation, there may be a need for the State to assist local governments to establish and provision temporary warehousing and distribution facilities. These facilities will be used to temporarily store needed supplies prior to their transfer to voluntary organizations, stakeholder groups, disaster victims, or medical or veterinary health personnel.
6. Livestock Supply Points (LSPs) - In the event there is a need to provide specialized supplies and resources to sustain livestock in distress (e.g., hay, feed, water, water troughs, corrals, panels, fencing supplies, etc.), then the Animal Response Team, in coordination with the affected jurisdictions, will assist in locating, establishing, securing, equipping, and operating those LSPs at appropriate locations within the impacted areas.

## VI. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Organization

The State of Texas Emergency Management Plan references resources and personnel from various state agencies and organizations. Primary agencies are selected on the basis of their authority and capabilities. Support agencies and organizations are designated according to their ability to provide equipment, personnel, and expertise in support of functional tasks. The agencies and organizations of the AAFFS ESF group are listed in Appendix 1 of this Annex.

### B. Assignment of Responsibilities

#### 1. General

All agencies and organizations assigned to the AAFFS ESF (see Attachment 1) are responsible for the following:

- 1) Designate and train representatives to serve as group members. Ensure that Action Guides and Standard Operating Procedures {SOPs} are developed and maintained.
- 2) Identify staffing requirements and maintain current notification procedures to ensure appropriately trained personnel are available to respond to issues related to animals, plants, food safety, and feed safety. These response activities could include, as appropriate, extended duty at the SOC and DDCs, at the incident command post(s) [ICP(s)], at the TAHC Animal Response Coordination Center (ARCC), and at a state-managed livestock supply point(s) [LSP(s)], if one or more is established.
- 3) Develop and maintain a current inventory of resources and a means of obtaining them.
- 4) Develop procedures for determining the identification, location, commitment, deployment, and accountability of emergency support resources.
- 5) Provide, within the entity's capabilities, personnel, equipment, and other assistance to support emergency response and recovery operations.
- 6) Provide situational and operational status reports in accordance with existing procedures requested by the primary agency.

## 2. Primary Agencies

- a. TAHC, TOA, DSHS, and OTSC are the four primary agencies for the AAFS ESF, depending on the situation {i.e., whether an incident involving animals, plants, food safety, or feed safety}, and they are responsible for state-level coordination of assets and services. They will accomplish the following:
  - 1) Determine the most feasible and practical agency to provide leadership.
  - 2) Discuss requests for assistance for emergency resources by developing recommendations and presenting the most feasible ones to the designated direction and control authority {e.g., DOC Chair, SOC Controller, etc.) for possible mission assignment.
  - 3) When tasked, collect information from support agencies and provide reports concerning emergency operations in accordance with applicable procedures.
  - 4) Collectively develop, maintain, and distribute this annex, appropriate SOPs, and appendices.

- b. Tasks for each of the agencies shown above are:
- 1) Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)
    - a) Lead the response for any animal issue where state support is requested or mandated.
    - b) If appropriate, activate and provide leadership for the state's Animal Response Team.
    - c) If a state incident management team (IMT) is responding to the emergency or disaster, integrate the Animal Response Team into the IMT as the "Animal Issues Branch," and provide supervision for that functional entity.
    - d) If necessary, activate an Animal Response Coordination Center (ARCC) at the TAHC Central Office, to provide an overall coordinated response to the disaster situation.
    - e) If there are animal issues, disease or non-disease, and no state IMT is activated, then establish a separate field incident command post (ICP) with a supporting IMT, in accordance with incident command system (ICS) procedures.
  - 2) Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
    - a) Lead the response for any eradication, control, or exclusionary response for plant pests and plant diseases.
    - b) Provide support to the Animal Response Team.
    - c) Provide leadership and coordination to the Donations Management function for livestock in order to preserve public safety.
    - d) Enter into cooperative agreements with other entities to carry out the agency's duties as defined under the Agriculture Code.
    - e) Provide, or assist in providing, information to the media regarding agricultural response during the disaster.
  - 3) Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
    - a) Perform as the lead state agency for responding to food safety issues.

- b) Be prepared to activate and staff the DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) to coordinate public health and medical resources, as needed.
  - c) Conduct inspections of manufacturers, processors, salvage distributors, warehouses, and slaughter facilities .
  - d) Conduct food-borne illness surveillance and outbreak investigations, through the Rapid Response Team (RRT).
  - e) Identify and detain tainted and/or mislabeled food and drugs entering the state.
  - f) Provide food-related laboratory testing support, including surge capacity with OTSC.
  - g) In collaboration with federal regulatory agencies, issue food alerts for recalled products distributed in Texas.
- 4) Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC)
- a) Lead the state policy and response to incidents involving animal feed or fertilizers by providing expertise to carry out surveillance and response operations.
  - b) Where appropriate, activate and administer the OTSC Incident Response Team.
  - c) Perform feed and fertilizer investigations by providing investigators and technical expertise.
  - d) Issue "stop-sale orders" for product seizure, and provide hold and condemnation authority of product.
  - e) Provide a laboratory surge capacity for chemical and microbiology analysis.

### 3. Support Agencies/Organizations

#### a. General

All AAFFS ESF support group members shall be aware of their organization's capabilities in providing assistance and support. Agencies will provide support recommendations to the primary agency representative. Members will respond to mission assignments from the designated coordination and control authority for the deployment and use of assets to support response and recovery efforts. Some agencies will provide agency personnel and/or equipment. Support from other agencies will be through their knowledge and expertise in working with the AAFFS

ESF response agencies, vendors, private-sector partners and other stakeholders.

b. Texas Agrilife Extension Service (ALEXT)

- 1) Maintain a state of readiness among food, agricultural, and environmental safety specialists and county agents to support public information and education addressing mitigation, economic loss, damage assessment, and recovery when state support is requested.
- 2) Activate Agrilife communications specialists to fortify the mass media/public information capabilities in support to one or more of the lead agencies.
- 3) Perform as a key member of the state's Animal Response Team (ART) when it is activated and deployed to the emergency or disaster.
- 4) The Soil Test Laboratory will provide laboratory analyses of soil, water, and forage samples to determine agronomic issues affecting soil/plant nutrients or irrigation and livestock water quality.
- 5) The Texas Plant Diagnostic Laboratory will provide plant pathology and microbiology disease analysis.

c. Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS)

- 1) Work with the AAFSS ESF agencies to develop an appropriate annex and associated appendices.
- 2) Support response operations for animal, plant, food, and feed-related emergencies and disasters.
- 3) Provide support for the protection, movement controls, and quarantines of diseased animals, tainted food or feed supplies, etc.
- 4) Provide security for response personnel, specialized supplies, and high-value equipment.

**VII. COORDINATION AND CONTROL**

Coordination and control will be exercised in accordance with Section IV of the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan. The TAHC, TOA, and DSHS primary agency representatives will coordinate AAFSS issues within the respective DDC(s) and the SOC, and communicate any issues arising with the OTSC.



All unresolved requests for resource support at the DDC(s) will be forwarded to the SOC. The AAFFS agency that will take the lead on any unresolved requests for assistance will be based on the incident and/or hazard, as previously described under Section III of this annex.

## VIII. EMERGENCY RESPONSE LEVELS/ACTION GUIDES

See Section VI of the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan for a list of the different emergency response levels and the kinds of activities that characterize each level.

## IX. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

### A. Lines of Succession

Lines of succession for personnel with emergency management responsibilities will be in accordance with existing policies and required standard operating procedures (SOP)s and standard operating guides (SOG)s of each agency within the AAFFS ESF.

### B. Training

Primary and support agencies will ensure their respective personnel are trained and prepared to operate in the event regular agency members are absent. They will identify alternate or back-up personnel and ensure these individuals understand the lines of succession, pre-delegated authorities, and task responsibilities of their individual agencies. They will also ensure appropriate procedures and action guides contain sufficient detail so that alternate/back-up personnel can use them in performing their responsibilities.

### C. Records

Primary and support agencies will ensure all records necessary for emergency management operations can be easily obtained from each member agency in an emergency. Duplicate records should be kept in the event the primary records are destroyed.

## X. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

### A. Support

1. Requests for emergency assistance will be resolved at the lowest level with appropriate response resource capabilities. Unresolved assistance requests will normally flow upward from cities to the county and, if unresolved at the county level, continue upward to the responsible Disaster District, to the State Emergency Management Council, and, if needed, to other states or the federal government for assistance support.

2. Tasking to the AAFSS ESF will be based on mission assignments from an appropriate coordination and control authority within the state's emergency management system.

#### B. Agreements and Understandings

All agreements and understandings entered into for the purchase, lease, or use of equipment and services will be in accordance with the provision of state law and procedures. The State will only be responsible for providing funds for expenditures for specific tasking assigned directly to it by the Governor, or by TDEM, acting on the Governor's behalf. The Proclamation of a State of Disaster, issued by the Governor, may suspend selected rules and regulations that affect support operations. The specific impact of the situation will be determined by each agency, and AAFSS ESF group members will be advised accordingly of administrative and/or procedural changes that may affect emergency operations.

#### C. Status Reports

The primary agency for the AAFSS ESF group, depending on the situation involved, will maintain status of outstanding assistance requests and unresolved issues. The information will be summarized into periodic status and situation reports and submitted in accordance with SOPs.

#### D. Expenditures and Record Keeping

1. Each agency and entity, named in this annex, the appendices, and attachments, is responsible for establishing administrative controls to manage the expenditure of funds and to provide reasonable accountability and justification for federal reimbursement. This includes the management and reporting of hours worked by volunteers.
2. In accordance with established procedures, state agencies may seek financial assistance from the State Disaster Contingency Fund.

#### E. After-Action Review

Following the conclusion of any significant emergency, incident, or exercise, the primary agency representative (i.e., the agency that acted as the lead for the incident based on the situation) will organize and conduct a review of the AAFSS ESF group's activities. The other primary agencies and support agencies will provide written and/or oral inputs for this critique, and the primary agency representative will consolidate all inputs into a final written report and submit it to the Assistant Director of DPS/Chief of TDEM not later than the 90th day after the date a request for assistance was received from the Division.

### XI. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

#### A. Approval and Implementation

The Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Executive Director of the Texas Animal Health Commission, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, the State Chemist of the Office of the State Chemist, and the Assistant Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety/Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management are approving authorities for this document.

B. Process Responsibility

The primary AAFFS agency representatives (TAHC, TOA, DSHS, and OTSC) are responsible for the development, maintenance, and distribution of this annex. These agencies, in conjunction with the Chief of TDEM, are also responsible for conducting an annual review, coordinating all review and revision efforts, and incorporating information learned from exercises and actual events into this annex .

**APPENDIX 1 to ANNEX 0**

Resource Support Organizations

PRIMARY AGENCIES

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)  
Texas Department of Agriculture (TOA)  
Department of State Health Services (DSHS)  
Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC)

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Texas Agrilife Extension Service (ALEXT)  
Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS)

## APPENDIX 2 to ANNEX 0

### Resource Summary

#### Office of the Texas State Chemist

- Feed and fertilizer investigators and technical expertise
- Authority for stopping sales, and seizing, holding, and condemning product
- Property access/entry authority
- Laboratory surge capacity for chemical and microbiology analysis

#### Texas Agrilife Extension Service

- Food and agricultural subject matter experts (SMEs)
- Community and family SMEs
- Personnel support to TAHC-led State Animal Response Team to support state livestock supply points (LSPs), as needed
- Soil, water, plant, and forage laboratory equipment and technicians

#### Texas Animal Health Commission

- Animal health planning and coordination
- Animal health personnel
- Coordination to procure portable corrals, livestock panels, livestock transportation vehicles, water troughs, hay and forage, drinkable water, fencing

#### Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

- Carcass disposal assistance

#### Texas Department of Agriculture

- Personnel
- Crop production emergency planning and coordination
- Cooperative agreements with other entities
- Leadership and coordination to procure donations for livestock in order to preserve public safety
- Communications with the media
- Transportation assistance

#### Texas Department of Criminal Justice

- Personnel
- Transportation equipment
- Transportation assistance

#### Texas Department of Public Safety

- Uniformed officers
- Personnel and equipment
- Direction and control

- Traffic regulation
- Security
- Quarantine and "hold order" enforcement
- Preparedness and decision-making aids
- Planning aids and templates
- Emergency management training and exercises
- State Operations Center
- Data collection, maintenance, and analysis
- Global digital mapping
- Coordination, mission assignment, and deployment of Civil Air Patrol resources
- Coordination, mission assignment, and coordinated deployment of National Guard resources

#### Texas Department of State Health Services

- Food safety subject matter experts
- Zoonotic disease experts
- Food surveillance, inspections, and outbreak investigations
- Laboratory testing support
- Coordination of public health and medical resources

#### Texas Department of Transportation

- Quarantine and movement order signage
- Safety signage for stray livestock
- Carcass disposal assistance
- Heavy excavation and moving equipment
- Engineering expertise
- Highway system maps
- Highway computer modeling
- Road stops/gates for disinfection and traffic control

#### Texas Forest Service

- Incident command system "overhead" teams

#### Texas Military Forces

- Military personnel
- Embarkation planning and operations
- Lab testing personnel
- Limited construction personnel
- Uniformed personnel

**APPENDIX 3 to ANNEX 0**

Foreign and Emergency Animal Disease (FEAD) Response Plan

*Under Development*

**APPENDIX 4 to ANNEX 0**

Crop Production Emergency Response Plan

*Under Development*



**APPENDIX 5 to ANNEX 0**

Animal Response Plan (For non-disease events)

*Under Development*

**APPENDIX 6 to ANNEX 0**

Food Safety Plan

*Under Development*

**APPENDIX 7 to ANNEX 0**

Feed and Fertilizer Emergency Response Plan

*Under Development*