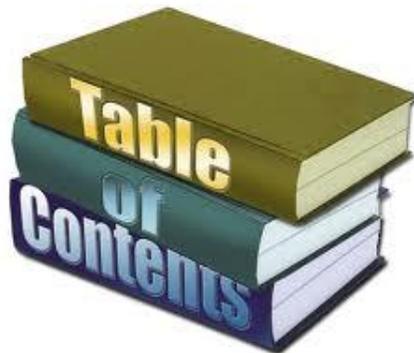


2011  
Polk County  
ESF #11  
Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets

Public Version

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Purpose of ESF #11 Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets .....	3
1.2 The role of Emergency Support Function #11: Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets.....	4
1.3 Target Capabilities List.....	4
<b>2. Participating Agencies for Agriculture &amp; Natural Resources.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.2 Activities of participating agencies .....	6
2.2.1 Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense.....	6
2.2.2 Animal Health Emergency Support.....	8
<b>3. Participating Agencies for Pets .....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 Concept of Operations.....	10
3.2 Activities of participating agencies.....	11
<b>4. Annex Development and Maintenance.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5 Things you need to know and what you can do.....</b>	<b>14</b>
5.1 Agriculture and Natural Resources .....	14
5.1.1 Be Alert.....	14
5.1.2 Protective Measures.....	14
5.2 Pets.....	16
5.2.1 Before.....	16
5.2.2 Disaster Preparedness for Horses.....	17
5.2.3 Emergency Kit for your pet .....	18
5.2.4 After.....	19
<b>6 Important contacts and numbers.....</b>	<b>20</b>



## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose of ESF #11 Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets**

The purpose of the plan is to establish a framework by which Polk County Emergency Management Agency can coordinate the Emergency Support Function #6 Mass Care & Human Services. This response may consist of federal, state, and local government agencies and private industries.

The public version of ESF #11 Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets "FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION" is designed to provide the public with the following information regarding the plan:

- **Section 1** provides the introduction and purpose of the emergency support function.
- **Section 2** is a description of the roles and responsibilities of the agencies that will respond.
- **Section 3** contains information you should know and what actions you can take after a disaster
- **Section 4** contains important contact numbers.

Please note that the ESF #11 Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets is a living document. It may undergo a major revision every three years and can be updated annually from submitted and committee approved changes.

**For more general information** please contact Polk County Emergency Management Agency at 515-286-2107 or your local emergency manager.

## **1.2 The role of Emergency Support Function #11: Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets**

The role of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11: Agriculture is to provide for Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense.

The role of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11: Pets is to provide for the care and sheltering of pets before, during, and after an emergency, disaster, or planned event.

## **1.3 Target Capabilities List**

The Target Capabilities List describes the capabilities related to the four homeland security mission areas: Prevent, Protect, Respond, and Recover. It defines and provides the basis for assessing preparedness. It also establishes national guidance for preparing the Nation for major all-hazards events, such as those defined by the National Planning Scenarios. The current version of the TCL contains 37 core capabilities ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)).

ESF #11: Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets includes the following Respond Mission Capabilities:

### **Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense**

The Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense is the capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from chemical, biological, radiological contaminants, and other hazards that affect the safety of food and agricultural products.

### **Animal Disease Emergency Support**

Animal Disease Emergency Support is the capability to protect, prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from threats and incidents that would result in the disruption of industries related to U.S. livestock, other domestic animals (including companion animals) and wildlife and/or endanger the food supply, public health, and domestic and international trade.

## **2. Participating Agencies for Agriculture & Natural Resources**

### **ESF COORDINATOR:**

Polk County Emergency Management Agency

### **PRIMARY AGENCIES:**

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
State of Iowa Veterinarian

### **SUPPORT AGENCIES:**

Polk County Health Department  
Polk County Animal Control  
Polk County Public Works, Air Quality Division  
Polk County Public Works, Environmental Sanitation Division  
Polk County Conservation Board  
Animal Rescue League of Iowa  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Teams  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
United States Department of Agriculture

### **2.1 Concept of Operations**

Traditional response activities task Polk County Emergency Management with requesting resources to support incident operations.

During events concerning food and agriculture safety and defense or animal health emergencies, those resources will most likely be engaged before Polk County Emergency Management is notified.

As an example, animal health emergencies will be reported via local veterinarians to the State Veterinarian for disease confirmation.

Polk County Emergency Management will then be contacted as a support agency for the State Veterinarian response.

## **2.2 Activities of participating agencies**

### **2.2.1 Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense**

Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense is accomplished concurrent to protecting public health and maintaining domestic and international confidence in the U.S. commercial food supply.

Additionally, the public is provided with accurate and timely notification and instructions related to an event and appropriate steps to follow with regard to disposal of affected food or agricultural products and appropriate decontamination procedures.

#### **Unified Command**

Activities:

- In response to a notification of an existing threat of food contamination or crop disease, provide the management and coordination of an epidemiological and food establishment investigation as well as appropriate food and crop control measures to stop further cases of illness or disease

#### **Operations Section**

Activities:

- Establish protective measures designed to control the spread of the contamination

#### **Contamination Management Group**

Activities:

- Implement product recalls/embargoes, alert the public about the situation, and take control of contaminated facilities and products or diseased crops to ensure contaminated products do not enter the food supply and diseased crops are not further distributed

#### **Cleaning and Decontamination Unit**

Activities:

- Dispose of infected or contaminated materials in an environmentally safe manner that prevents the materials use as food or food product and utilize appropriate procedures for surface and facility decontamination

#### **Disposal Unit**

Activities:

- Coordinate the disposal of contaminated food

**Contamination Surveillance Group**

Activities:

- In response to a notification that food products are contaminated or that crops are diseased, establish and implement a plan to expand on-going surveillance activities to focus on additional food products, crops and facilities that might be affected

**Inspection Unit**

Activities:

- Conduct inspection and monitoring of food and agriculture products and establishments

**Tracing Unit**

Activities:

- Conduct investigations to determine the sources of contamination and identify other products and facilities that could be contaminated

## **2.2.2 Animal Health Emergency Support**

In the event of an incident, animal disease is detected as early as possible; exposure of livestock to foreign diseases is reduced; immediate and humane actions to eradicate the outbreak are implemented; continuity of agriculture and related business is maintained; economic damage is limited; and public and animal health and the environment are protected.

Trade in agriculture products and domestic and international confidence in the U.S. food supply are maintained and/or restored. Agricultural industries are returned to their prior productivity, to include replenishment of the domestic livestock and other domesticated animals.

### **Unified Command**

Activities:

- In response to a notification of an animal disease, provide the overall management and coordination of the epidemiological investigations and animal control measures to eradicate the disease.
- Coordinate and provide regional and state resources and procedures for the response to an outbreak of highly contagious animal and plant diseases

### **Operations Section**

Activities:

- Establish protective measures designed to control the spread of the disease

### **Disease Management Group**

Activities:

- In response to a notification of animal disease, respond, mobilize, and arrive on scene to begin emergency veterinary operations

### **Euthanasia Unit**

Activities:

- Provide humane methods to euthanize affected animals to stop the spread of disease or alleviate suffering and properly dispose of animal remains

### **Cleaning & Disinfecting Unit**

Activities:

- Coordinate site clean-up

## **Disposal Unit**

### Activities:

- Coordinate with appropriate agencies to implement disposal methods for agricultural waste, including carcasses, to reduce the spread of animal disease

## **Disease Surveillance Group**

### Activities:

- Conduct investigations and surveillance of animal populations to determine the sources of an animal disease outbreak as well as the potentially infected animal populations, and to verify the elimination of the disease

## **Logistics Section**

### Activities:

- Implement plans procedures, protocols and systems for distribution of mass prophylaxis from the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS)

### **3. Participating Agencies for Pets**

**ESF COORDINATOR:**

Polk County Emergency Management Agency

**PRIMARY AGENCIES:**

Animal Rescue League of Iowa

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:**

Polk County Health Department

Polk County Animal Control

Polk County Public Works, Environmental Sanitation Division

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Teams

United States Environmental Protection Agency

#### **3.1 Concept of Operations**

Domestic pets of evacuated citizens may be sheltered at private boarding kennels and veterinary hospitals as close to the evacuation shelters as possible, or other facilities designated by local animal care authorities.

Upon activation of evacuation shelters for citizens, temporary animal boarding facilities may be initiated.

Facilities for the sheltering of pets in an emergency (in order of preference):

1. Owner's pre-existing contacts such as veterinary service, boarding facility or groomer
2. Jurisdiction's pre-existing animal control authority
3. Animal Rescue League of Iowa facilities or crisis foster care
4. Veterinary service, boarding facility or groomer with surge capacity
5. Temporary emergency shelter supported by Emergency Animal Shelter trailer

## **3.2 Activities of participating agencies**

### **Pets Group Supervisor**

Activities:

- Responsible for overseeing registration and operation of shelter

### **Assistant Safety Officer**

Activities:

- Responsible for monitoring and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures for assuring personnel safety

### **Capture& Transport Unit**

Activities:

- Animals that are not cared for by their owners during a disaster may become a public health and safety risk. Loose and displaced animals are possible carriers of disease and can become a nuisance or danger to people. Capturing pets during a disaster is made more difficult because the pet's normal behavior may be overridden by survival instincts. Police, Fire and EMS units should report animals at large to the Incident Command Post and if safe to do so, detain the animal for possible identification.
- At no time will human life be risked to capture loose animals. Accepted methods of humane euthanasia are viable alternatives to placing human life at risk to rescue animals in a disaster environment.
- Direct the capture and transport of all animals affected by the incident or event

### **Disposal Unit**

Activities:

- Decaying carcasses can contaminate water sources and could potentially lead to increased disease in humans and/or animals. Timely carcass removal is critical.

### **Shelter Support Group**

Activities:

- Arranges and manages facility and animal containment resources as well as sanitation concerns relative to the facilities and animal affected

## **Facilities Unit**

### Activities:

- Responsible for the activation of the shelter and ensuring that basic facility needs are present

## **Food Supply Unit**

### Activities:

- Arranges, manages and schedules animal food supplies as necessary for all animal affected by the animal rescue situation

## **Care Unit**

### Activities:

- Direction and control responsibilities over all animals managed under the animal rescue situation

## **Veterinarian Unit**

### Activities:

- Attends to veterinarian needs of all animals managed under the animal rescue situation

## **Security Unit**

### Activities:

- Responsible for all shelter security

## **Intake/Discharge Group**

## **Registration Unit**

### Activities:

- Establish policies and procedures for registering and tracking all animals involved in the animal rescue event

## **Release Unit**

### Activities:

- Establish policies and procedures for releasing all animals involved in the animal rescue event

## **4. Annex Development and Maintenance**

### **Mandatory Review Requirements**

As required by the Code of Iowa (statutes) and Iowa Administrative Code (rules and regulations), this annex will be reviewed and revised if necessary, at a minimum of every five (5) years. A draft will be presented to the Polk County Emergency Management Commission for their approval and adoption.

### **Voluntary Review Expectations**

The Polk County Emergency Management Commission will attempt to evaluate this annex continuously and revise annually based on input and feedback from primary and support agencies, as well as after-action reporting as recommended by corrective action plans. A draft will be presented to the Polk County Emergency Management Commission for their approval and adoption.

### **Plan Distribution**

This annex and any subsequent revisions of this annex will be distributed to the primary and alternate Commission Members representing Polk County and all city governments within the county. The annex will also be shared with the specific primary and support agencies named at the beginning of this annex.

## **5 Things you need to know and what you can do**

### **5.1 Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Farmers and others with agriculture related businesses can take steps to contain and deter both terrorism and crime threats. Depending on the size and nature of your farming operation, some of these steps will be more feasible than others.

#### **5.1.1 Be Alert**

Watch for warning signs that your operation may be a target. Such signs can include:

- An increase in requests for animal specific information or on-farm tours
- Calls and letter questioning or criticizing your business or particular business practices
- Any harassing calls and letter to you or a nearby operations
- An increase in media attention to issues relating to the livestock industry
- Local special interest group campaigns related to agriculture or livestock
- An unusual increase in the number of people seeking employment
- Surveillance of your facility, such as someone watching you activities, using cameras (still or video), drawing diagrams, or making notes on maps

Many of these activities, in and of themselves, may not indicate criminal activity. Taken together, however, they may be a cause for concern. If you observe people acting suspiciously, don't hesitate to contact local law enforcement.

#### **5.1.2 Protective Measures**

- Make security a priority at your facility and report any suspicious activities immediately to local police
- Keep facility maps that indicate service shut-off locations, security areas and any other areas of sensitivity or vulnerability
- Evaluate every request for information about your operation. Never agree to an unusual request unless you have verified its validity. Obtain as much information as possible – name, telephone number, address, reason for request, what the person will be doing with the information, who else has

been contacted, etc. If anyone hesitates to cooperate with these requests, do not reveal information about or provide access to your operation

- Ask for references. Make calls to verify that the person requesting any sensitive information is who he or she claims to be
- Ensure that access to your facility is controlled. Require visitors to sign in and out upon entering and leaving the facility. Use visitor identification badges
- Escort visitors at all times while they are on the premises. Employees should be instructed to report all unescorted visitors to management and/or security personnel immediately
- Maintain basic security by locking office doors and file cabinets. Have firewalls installed on your computer systems. Consider maintaining separate business and personal computers
- Keep potentially hazardous agricultural or animal health products secured
- Use security lighting and alarms. Maintain fencing and gates. Post signs indicating restricted areas and no trespassing
- Thoroughly screen all job applicants. Take the time to check all references
- Develop a company statement concerning care, treatment and nutrition of your animals. Designate a spokesperson to handle all calls about animal care, animal rights, or any company policy concerning animals
- Conduct routine tests of your security system and, if necessary, mock drills on your response procedures
- Develop a crisis communication and action plan. Establish policies and procedures for handling disruptive and illegal situations, as well as for handling adverse publicity that might result. In developing response procedures, remember that steps to protect people should take a priority over steps to protect property

## 5.2 Pets

### 5.2.1 Before

Our pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency.

Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment. Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pet's emergency supply kit.

Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency.

Source: <http://www.ready.gov/>

## 5.2.2 Disaster Preparedness for Horses

It takes extra consideration for horses because of their size and their transportation needs. It is imperative that you are prepared to move your horses to a safe area. During an emergency, the time you have to evacuate your horses will be limited. With an effective emergency plan, you may have enough time to move your horses to safety. If you are unprepared or wait until the last minute to evacuate, you could be told by emergency management officials that you must leave your horses behind. Once you leave your property, you have no way of knowing how long you will be kept out of the area. If left behind, your horses could be unattended for days without care, food, or water.

### Horse Evacuation Tips

- Make arrangements in advance to have your horse in a trailer in case of an emergency. If you do not have your own trailer or do not have enough trailer space for all your horses, be sure you have several people on standby to help evacuate your horses.
- Know where you can take your horses in an emergency evacuation. Make arrangements with a friend or another horse owner to stable your horses if needed. Contact your local animal care and control agency, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management authorities for information about shelters in your area.
- Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plans, Post detailed instructions in several places-including the barn office or tack room, the horse trailer, and barn entrances-to ensure they are accessible to emergency workers in case you are not able to evacuate your horses yourself.
- Place your horses' Coggins tests, veterinary papers, identification photographs, and vital information-such as medical history, allergies, and emergency telephone numbers (veterinarian, family members, etc.)-in a watertight envelope. Store the envelope with your other important papers in a safe place that can be quickly reached.
- Keep halters ready for your horses. Each halter should include the following information: the horse's name, your name, your telephone number, and another emergency telephone number where someone can be reached.
- Prepare a basic first aid kit that is portable and easily accessible.
- Be sure to have on hand a supply of water, hay, feed, and medications for several days for each horse you are evacuating.
- It is important that your horses are comfortable being loaded into a trailer. If your horses are unaccustomed to being loaded into a trailer, practice the procedures so they become used to it.

There may be times when taking your horses with you is impossible during an emergency. So you must consider different types of disasters and whether your horses would be better off in a bar on loose in a field.

Source: Animal Rescue League of Iowa

### 5.2.3 Emergency Kit for your pet

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Plus, be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

**Food:** Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

**Water:** Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.

**Medicines and medical records:** Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

**First aid kit:** Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.

**Collar with 10 tag, harness or leash:** Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and 10 tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. In addition, place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as micro chipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.

**Crate or other pet carrier:** If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation take your pets and animals with you provided that it is practical to do so. In many cases, your ability to do so will be aided by having a sturdy, safe, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.

**Sanitation:** Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scent or color safe bleaches, or those with added cleaners.

**A picture of you and your pet together:** If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.

**Familiar items:** Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Source: <http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/emergency-preparedness/make-a-plan/pets.aspx>

#### **5.2.4 After**

Be prepared to assess the situation. Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if practical. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind your animals may not be allowed inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency.

Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets or a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place.

For more information look at ESF#15: Public Information.

## **6 Important contacts and numbers**

### **Nationwide**

United States Department of Agriculture: Food Safety and Inspection Service

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis\\_Recalls/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_Recalls/)

Federal Food Safety Information

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/>

### **Iowa**

Animal Rescue League of Iowa

[www.arl-iowa.org/](http://www.arl-iowa.org/)

### **Polk County**

#### **United Way 2-1-1 provider:**

Provide free information 24/7 to callers on community related resources, including disaster related resources.

#### **Polk County Emergency Management Agency:**

##### **Agency Website**

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/>

##### **Facebook**

<http://tinyurl.com/ya4osdq>

##### **Twitter**

<http://twitter.com/PCEmrgManAgency>

##### **YouTube**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PolkColaEmergMgt>

## **Summary**

It is hoped that this public version plan will provide the reader with an understanding of Polk County Emergency Management Agency and participating agencies' roles in the event of an incident.

The processes and agency roles and responsibilities specified may change without notice contingent upon the magnitude of the emergency or catastrophic event, as well as the actual availability of emergency response and emergency support personnel.

The ESF #11 Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets Public Version was developed for public distribution and excludes specific information that is protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and similar State and local disclosure laws, and from use in civil litigation and regulatory actions.

Access to the full plan is restricted to ESF #11 Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets emergency first responders and contains Security Sensitive Information that is For Official Use Only.