



ANIMAL PREPARATION AND RESPONSE WORKSHOP

WEST VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
(CERT)
CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 2, 2013
CHARLESTON, WV

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
WALT HELMICK, COMMISSIONER



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (WVDA)

- WVDA statutory authority is WV Code Chapter 19.
- Primary responsibility of WVDA for animal issues: To prevent and/or contain the spread of animal disease for livestock , poultry and food production animals.
- Limited authority to intervene in a non-disease event.
- Can provide information/guidance on how to manage livestock.
- Have no statutory authority for animal shelters, rescue, etc. for companion animals



LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS BOARD

- WV Code Chapter 19-1c-1/ Was established by WV Legislature in 2012 & was given 9 specific powers & duties. To establish standards by legislative rule.
- Establish standards governing the care & well-being of livestock.
- Best management practices for the care & well-being of livestock & poultry.
- Procedures for addressing complaints for the inhumane treatment of livestock & coordinating efforts with county humane officers.

UPDATED LIVESTOCK TRESPASSING LAW

- WV Code Chapter 19-18-1,2,3
- New legislation passed in 2013.
- Deals with livestock trespassing on property of another, damages for injuries or property.
- Procedures for unclaimed livestock; containment by sheriff.
- Criminal penalties 1) first offense is warning 2) second offense \$50.00- \$100 fine and 3) third offense is \$100-\$1,000.





DESIGNATION OF HUMANE OFFICE IN EACH COUNTY

- WV Code 7-10-1-The sheriff of each county shall annually designate a deputy to act as humane officer of the county.
- 7-10-4-Humane officer shall take possession of any animal ...known or believed to be abandoned, neglected, deprived of food, shelter, medical care; custody & care of animals by humane officer....
- 7-10-5-Destruction of animals by humane officer or animal shelter. Does not apply to livestock, wildlife if kept & maintained by usual & accepted standards.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY SUPPORT (ESF)

FUCTION # 11

- Five primary areas: 1) Nutrition assistance
2) Responding to animal & plant diseases 3) Security & safety of food supply 4) Protecting historic resources
5) Providing for safety & well being of household pets.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is lead agency.
- Each FEMA region has a ESF 11 coordinator. WV 's is Tony DiMarco in Philadelphia, PA.
- USDA has a Area Emergency Coordinator that covers multiple states.
- WVDA points of contacts for federal agriculture/animal/plant resources.

PETS EVACUATION & TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006

- As of result of Hurricane Katrina signed into law.
- Amends the Robert T. Stafford that requires state & local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets & service animals following a major disaster or emergency.
- October 2007 FEMA issued Disaster Assistance Policy DAP9523.19-Elgible Costs Related to Pet Evacuation & Sheltering.
- What agencies can be reimbursed for 75%/25% expenses.
- Non-profit animal organizations can be reimbursed IF they have an MOU with state/county/local emergency management agency.





PETS ACT

- March 2009 FEMA published “ Incorporating Household Pets & Service animals Considerations into Emergency Operations Plans.”
- WVDHSEM submitted 2 MOU’s (NARSC & ASPCA) to WV attorney general for review to serve as third party to assist with shelters. WV can not sign because of indemnification language.
- Will confer with both groups to determine of language can be modified.
- I am on the board of directors of the National Animal & Agriculture State Emergency Programs. A network of resources; federal, state, local profit & non-profit organizations.

WV STATE EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN(EOP)

ANNEX X/ANIMAL SERVICES

- In November 2007 was developed and made part of state EOP.
- Guidance & assignment of responsibilities for animal sheltering & evacuation during emergency operations.
- WVDA is a primary agency however we have no statutory authority.
- Entire state EOPs are under review to bring up to date.



ANIMAL CARE ANNEX

- To assist counties with development of animal operational plans, in the fall of 2009, WVDA developed a Animal Care template to meet the PETS Act.
- Counties are to complete with local information.
- WVDHSEM required counties to complete and submit to meet grant requirements.
- Some did/some did not complete.



WVDA RESOURCES

- WVDA preparedness/response resources are to be used to meet the requirements of Chapter 19: To protect plant, animal and human health and the state's food supply in WV. To provide planning and emergency response for agricultural and other emergencies.
- To assist other organizations with available WVDA resources to allow them to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.
- Approximately WVDA 360 employees statewide.



ISSUES

- When seizing/removing livestock, please advise WVDA Animal Health Division so the horses, cattle, turkeys, chicken, sheep, etc. may be tested for various diseases prior to relocating them.
- WVDA State Veterinarian will have field staff take samples from animals and analyze. NO CHARGE. Do not want to spread diseases with seized/removed animals
- Recently a quantity of seized poultry that had viruses was moved close to a poultry production facility.
- 86 chickens were depopulated at animal shelter to avoid spreading of virus.
- MUST adhere to strict bio-security protocol.



WVDA ACTIVITIES

- WVDA personnel coordinated & facilitated the distribution of MREs, food & water, infant supplies during 2012 Derecho & Superstorm Sandy.
- 80,000 pounds of dog and cat food that was received from PetSmart Charities.
- Involved with the 2013 Boy Scout Jamboree.
- WV State Fair, fairs & festivals in WV.
- Floods, droughts, storms, event or emergency that affects agriculture or food.



WVDA RESPONSE

- Respond to animal transporting motor vehicle accidents on WV Turnpike.
- Maintain a list of available WVDA personnel, honey bee responders, livestock markets, livestock haulers & responders.
- Serve as the WVDA point of contact for anything not “normal” within WVDA and for external organizations.
- Serve as WVDA’s after hours contact for WVDHSEM.



WVDA IMT

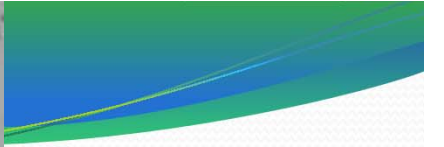
- All WVDA employees must complete IS 700 & ICS 100.
- Incident Management Team (IMT)-Have 2 IMT's- 1) plant related & 2) animal related. 3 people assigned to each of the 8 ICS command positions. Have completed ICS 300-400
- Ongoing personnel turnover, training and keeping interest.
- Work close with multiple federal, state, county, local, private & non-profit organizations to prepare and respond to agriculture & food events and emergencies.



SUPERSTORM SANDY

JEAN KELLY FARM

- Tuesday October 30, 2013-Large barn at Cranesville, WV collapsed under 4' of snow trapping a large quantity of cattle; up to 40 animals.
- On Friday November 2, WVDA was made aware of collapse. On Saturday received bids & issued purchase order to contractor for removal of debris to access dead cattle.
- Sunday-Monday contractor arrived & began removing dead cattle & debris. Removed 24 & transported to Tucker County Landfill.







SUPERSTORM SANDY

JEAN KELLY FARM

- WVDA completed because :
- 1) Owner had no resources .
- 2) Widespread damage that lasted weeks.
- 3) No other agencies would assist.
- 4) Human health and animal disease concern.
- In addition to Jean Kelly's farm, WVDA visited 2 other farms that had collapsed barn in Preston County. Determined no assistance was needed.











SUPERSTORM SANDY

JEAN KELLY FARM

- No group or organization came together to assist Jean Kelly.
- Sunday afternoon approximately 30 neighbors came together with trucks/trailers/hugs & coffee and transported remaining live cattle to their own farms.
- WV CITIZENS AT THEIR FINEST!!!!!!₁
- WV'S HELPING WV'S INCLUDING PEOPLE FROM MD NOT BECAUSE THEY HAD TO—BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO !!!!!!!!







WVDA HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

- TRUCKS- 7 different types-2005 International road tractor to Ford Excursion. Ford F-350 with A-Frame for lifting with hydraulic winch.
- TRAILERS-19 different trailers. 53' mobile lab, portable incinerator, 28' command post, livestock trailer, 20kw generator, 24' 5th wheel livestock trailer, decontamination supply trailer with 3-line decon tent. 36 Preifart brand 10' & 8-8' livestock panels transported on trailer, livestock head gate, etc.
- Two portable high pressure cleaning/decontamination units. Guthrie & Moorefield



WVDA HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

- Kawasaki Mule-4wd.
- 270 collapsible animal crates and associated bowls.
- UC-Davis--large animal Lift.
- Large animal glide.
- 23-3M brand powered air purifying respirators.
- Quantity of personnel protective equipment.
- Quantity of large animal handling equipment.
- Farms at Huttonsville, Prunytown & Henderson.







ANIMAL RESPONSE SURVEY SUMMARY

- In August 2013 WVDHSEM Director Jimmy Gianato authorized the WV Animal Response Survey form sent to all 55 county/city EMA directors.
- As of this date, 42 out of 55 counties have been responded.
- WV has approximately 14 animal response trailers stocked with supplies located in the following counties: Gilmer, Hancock, Jefferson, Lewis, Logan, Monongalia, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, and Wood.



REGIONAL/COUNTY/LOCAL ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAMS

- WV has no state wide team.
- Regional & county animal response teams work with and supplement county humane officers/ regional/county/ & animal shelters.
- WV has approximately 12 teams in: Braxton, Greenbrier, Jefferson, Marion, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Tyler, Upshur and Wood counties.
- Non-profit organizations such HSUS, NARSC, PURS, Red Rover, etc.



SHELTERING ISSUES

- County animal shelters generally for ongoing daily animals issues. Most are operating at or near capacity.
- Lack of funding and importance.
- No organized voice; informal network.
- American Red Cross and many other shelters do not allow animal in people shelters.
- WV's do not use shelters in large numbers; stay in homes.
- Lack of a perceived need for animal shelters-not always correct.



SHELTERING ISSUES

- Katrina-people would not leave their homes because of pets.
- 2006-Huntington, WV coal tar spill-people would not leave their homes because of pets.
- Superstorm Sandy & Derecho-People would not leave their homes because of pets.
- Sept. 17-Large number of assisted living complex people had to leave complex because of water damage. Concerns what to do with their pets.




STYLES OF SHELTERS

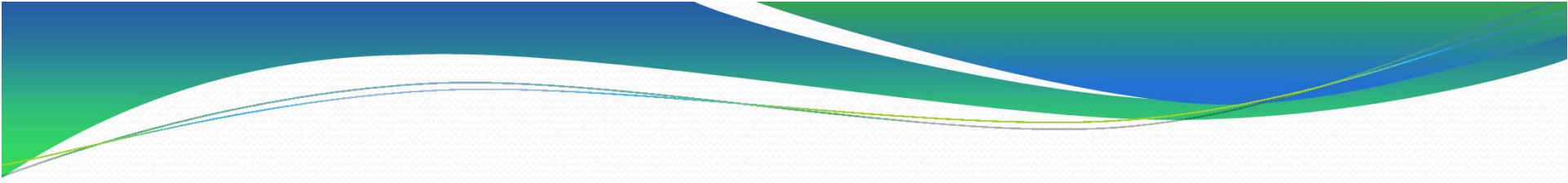
- Separate people & animal shelters that are apart.
- People shelters & no animal shelters; animal stay home.
- People shelters & have animal shelters co-located where residents can take care of their own animals.

SUPERSTORM SANDY

DOGS & CATS RECEIVED FOOD

- WVDA had previously taken the lead for facilitating distribution of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and bottled water during the June 29 Derecho wind storm.
- WVDA was tasked to assist with coordination of delivery of MREs, bottled water, infant kits for Superstorm Sandy.
- FEMA established Point of Distribution (POD) at the WV Air National Guard base at Yeager Airport.
- Tues. 10/30-Thur. 11/1-WVDA staff delivered MREs that were stored from the Derecho.

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- Thur. 11/1-FEMA began delivering generators, MREs, bottled water & infant kits to POD.
 - Fri. 11/2-WV National Guard(WVNG) & WVDA began distributing water, MREs, etc.
 - Fri. 11/2-Anne McCann & Wanda Merling & others advised one tractor-trailer load of dog & cat food would be delivered in PM. WVNG agreed to allow delivery at POD.
 - Sent message to 55 county EMA directors advising them of the availability of the dog & cat food. Received requests from 9 EMA directors.
 - WVDHSEM/WVDA/WVNG agreed would use same established distribution system.

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- Sun. 11/4 AM-One trailer of 22 tons of food arrived.
 - Sun. 11/4 PM-WVNG began distributing dog & cat food to requesting counties.
 - Mon. 11/5 AM-Second trailer of 22 tons of food arrived.
 - Sun 11/4-Wed. 11/7-WVNG & WVDA coordinated & delivered food to impacted counties.
 - Thurs. 11/8-Friday 11/9-WVDA distributed remaining food to animal shelters & humane organizations in non-impacted counties.

LEASON LEARNED--POSITIVE

- Anne McCann, USDA/APHIS/Animal Care, facilitated and coordinated food with NARSC, NRCC, etc. to get the food to WV.
- Wanda Sterling, PetSmart Charities provided the food.
- Many county EMAs directors were grateful someone was offering assistance for animals. Counties made the decision where & how to distribute.
- WVDA Executive staff was supportive.
- WVNG was very supportive of allowing the POD to receive the food. Permitted staff/equipment to unload/load food and accepted delivery missions.

LESSON LEARNED-POSITIVE

- A need was met; dog & cat food provided to animals that otherwise would have had limited access to food.
- People stayed in their homes & came to feeding stations & received supplies. Very few human shelters opened.
- No pet shelters opened for the storm. Existing animal shelters/facilities received animals.
- Upon conclusion of fulfilling impacted counties needs; remaining food distributed to humane organizations & humane shelters.
- WV animal organizations came together and networked during the event.

LESSONS LEARNED-POSITIVE

- Anne McCann & Wanda Sterling making follow up calls to answer questions.
- NRCC contact & support.
- NASAAEP members called and asked what WV needed.
- NARSC daily conference calls.
- All of this was possible:
 - 1) The result of previous planning & preparation via a multitude of face-to-face meetings, conference calls and projects.
 - 2) Knowing on a first name basis individuals in the correct agency to contact.

LESSONS LEARNED-WV ISSUES

- WVDA is lead agency in WV for agriculture: ESF 11. Dealt with agriculture issues, distribution of MREs, water & animal food.
- WVDA is default agency to handle State's PETS act.
- No statutory authority for companion animals.
- WVDA personnel/equipment coordinated & delivered food.
- No state-wide animal/humane organizations/CARTs. Very fragmented.
- Utilize the resources & knowledge of extension service.
- Many county EMA directors not interested in animal issues because of being overwhelmed with human, electric & other issues.



NEXT STEP

- What animal organizations exist in WV?
- How do we network together?
- Now have a partial list of animal response resources in WV. Animal Response Survey forms will be entered in WVDHSEM E-Team.

Working Together=The End Result!





**WV DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**
HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT

ROY MCCALLISTER

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPERVISOR

1900 KANAWHA BOULEVARD, EAST

CHARLESTON, WV 25305

OFFICE PHONE (304) 558-5892

CELL PHONE (304) 553-1170

E-MAIL: RMCCALLISTER@WVDA.US

WALT HELMICK, COMMISSIONER