

National Veterinary Stockpile Sponsors Tabletop Exercise on Vaccine Shipment



The USDA APHIS National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) program hosted a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine shipment tabletop exercise at APHIS headquarters in Riverdale, Maryland, on January 16, 2013. The exercise provided an opportunity for key personnel to meet, discuss, and verify the processes and procedures involving FMD vaccine antigen concentrate and finished vaccine logistics. Topics included: roles and responsibilities, permits and documentation, communications, packaging, and transportation.

Exercise participants represented the various organizations required to coordinate the delivery and receipt of emergency FMD vaccine shipments. There were participants and observers representing: the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Cavalier Logistics; Department of Health and Human Services; LMI; Merck; Mexico Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food; North American FMD Vaccine Bank; Quick International; and University of California, Davis. A variety of APHIS officials also participated in the exercise.

This exercise was specifically designed to review and validate the roles and responsibilities for:

1. moving FMD vaccine antigen concentrate to the manufacturer, and
 2. delivering the finished FMD vaccine to the US, Canada, and Mexico through the NVS.
- The exercise objectives were achieved. NVS will use the exercise findings to finalize the deployment plan that coordinates the delivery of finished FMD vaccine.

NVS previously conducted similar FMD vaccine shipment exercises with other vaccine manufacturers in June 2011 and May 2012.

January 24, 2013