



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

AVIAN INFLUENZA TABLETOP EXERCISE
NOVEMBER 2012
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

FOCUS:

- Address plans, agreements and understandings among various agencies in Tennessee that would direct or support operations to respond to the discovery of a limited number of cases of avian influenza.

SCENARIO:

- Three infected flocks of broiler chickens at three farms near the Tennessee-Alabama border

Exercise Planning Team

- TN Department of Agriculture (TDA)
- Homeland Security
- TN Department of Health (TDH)
- TN Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- GP Strategies

Coordination & Cooperation:

- TDA
- TDH
- TEMA
- Other State and local agencies
- Bordering states agricultural authorities
- USDA

Exercise Purpose and Design

- “Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program” also known as “HSEEP”
- Exercise was designed in keeping with overall goals of HSEEP

Exercise Purpose and Design

- Detection and reporting of avian influenza in affected flocks
- Organization of the initial response
- Laboratory services of TDH, TDA, USDA and CDC
- Containment measures at affected sites
- Mitigation measures for people and birds
- Role of poultry industry representatives
- Public information
- Coordination of resources at all levels
- Activation of other needed response resources
- Jurisdictional considerations

CONCLUSIONS:

- Participants were enthusiastic about the exercise and the exchange of information was energetic
- Working relationships among all involved agencies appeared to be a great asset, not only to the exercise, but when a response is necessary
- Management of poultry movement (transportation) during an AI outbreak was of great concern
- NEW OBSERVATION: Biosecurity requirements are sufficiently stringent, but difficult for commercial growers to monitor and enforce among their own employees

CONCLUSIONS:

- Initial detection and confirmation of AI relies on NPIP guidelines and procedures
- Small, independent growers and “backyard flocks” are difficult to monitor and reporting of suspected poultry diseases may not follow formally-prescribed pathways
- TDA’s AI Plan is generally consistent with similar plans in other states
- TDH and TDA officials involved in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program are also part of the National Veterinary Stockpile Program and would use existing structure to assist TDA if PPE, vaccine, antivirals or other medications for poultry were needed to control an AI outbreak

CONCLUSIONS:

- Depopulation concerns were widespread among participants
- Training and follow-on exercises should be inclusive of multiple disciplines and stakeholders and provide an opportunity for greater collaboration and relationship building
- Future exercises should consider the inclusion of industry representatives on the Exercise Planning Team

IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

- Conduct training and exercises involving multiple states and stakeholders addressing poultry, feed and product movement
- Develop notification flowchart and contact lists for laboratory and regulatory officials
- Continue outreach programs to assist with monitoring of backyard flocks

IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

- Revise response plan to reflect actions for AI in general, without designation of low-path or high-path
- Seek opportunities to include conservation agency within the state in training, exercise and planning
- Develop training and exercise activities related to depopulation concerns, including indemnity program
- Include industry representatives in planning of future exercises



QUESTIONS???