

FAD PReP/NAHEMS Tactical Topics:

Continuity of Business

Information is based on the **Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (FAD PReP)/ National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) Guidelines: Continuity of Business (2013)** to be used in training for or during an animal health emergency. References to the Guidelines sections are provided in parentheses for more detail.

Introduction/Overview: Continuity of business (COB) is the science- and risk-based approach towards managing the movement of non-infected animals and non-contaminated animal products from non-infected premises in a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak. Agriculture and food industries can maintain normal business operations but mitigate the risks of animal and product movements.

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING CONTINUITY OF BUSINESS PROCEDURES IN AN INCIDENT: Contact your immediate supervisor. Follow chain of command.

Continuity of Business

Part of an FAD Response (5)

- COB is one of the critical activities and tools needed for an effective FAD response.
- Quarantine and movement control stops or severely limits movements of animals, products, fomites, vehicles, and equipment to and from Infected, Contact, and Suspect Premises, while COB manages the movement of non-infected animals and products in a regulatory Control Area.
- Agriculture sectors must coordinate incident goals, guidelines, strategies, and procedures with Federal, State, Tribal, and local plans when developing their disease-specific COB plans.

The Bigger Picture (7)

- COB planning protects
 - animal health, by preventing the transmission of an FAD from an infected to a naïve animal subpopulation;
 - food security, by allowing movement of unaffected animals and animal products; and
 - public health, by mitigating zoonotic threats in animal populations and the food supply.
- COB reduces production disruptions and lessens negative economic impacts on rural communities.
- COB promotes coordination and collaboration between industry, academia, and regulators on FAD response issues.

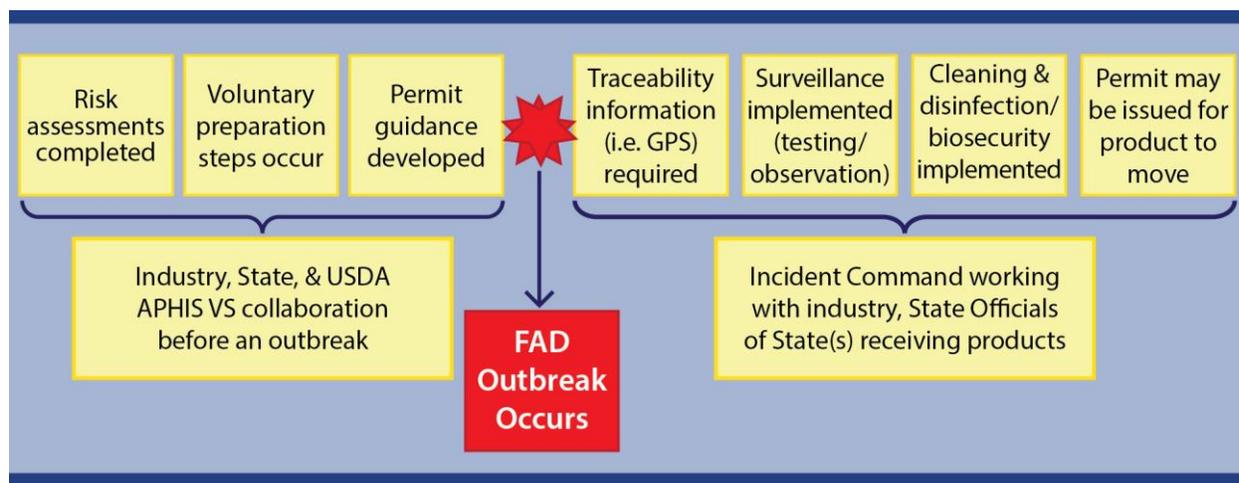
Key Elements of COB Plans for Managed Movement (6.1)

- *Risk assessments* can help determine the transmission risk of product movement, particularly from an infected but undetected premises, herd, or flock.
- *Surveillance requirements* are standards for sampling premises, including frequency, duration, and population size.
- *Biosecurity* guidance takes into consideration appropriate precautions, including personal protective equipment, and provides specific steps for any movements that could spread the pathogen.
- *Cleaning and disinfection* procedures include the various requirements for cleaning fomites and equipment as well as identifying appropriate disinfectants.
- *Epidemiological and premises information* comprises data on movement to and from premises as well as numbers of animals, species, ages, and geographic premises locations.
- *Permitting* guidance must be transparent, explicit information for Incident Command on movement requirements for various commodities, including options if available.
- *Information management systems* must be effective, flexible, and scalable in order to facilitate situational awareness and data sharing among all partners in a COB plan.

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How Continuity of Business Works



Current Continuity of Business Planning Efforts

Collaboration and Challenges in COB Plan-Making (6.2)

COB planning is complex and requires a multidisciplinary effort that considers competing interests and priorities that emerge prior to or during an FAD outbreak. Other challenges include (but are not limited to) developing plans under diverse directions from different sectors and lack of resources and personnel.

The Secure Food Supply Plans (8)

These plans are the result of public-private-academic collaborations to improve COB planning. By focusing on commodity-specific COB, the Secure Food Supply Plans set goals of:

- Avoiding interruptions in animal and animal product movements to commercial processing from premises with no evidence of FAD infection;
- Providing a continuous supply of wholesome food to consumers; and
- Maintaining business continuity for producers, transporters, and food processors through response planning.
 - Secure Egg Supply Plan: www.secureeggssupply.com
 - Secure Milk Supply Plan: www.securemilksupply.org
 - Secure Pork Supply: www.securepork.org
 - Secure Broiler Supply: www.securebroilersupply.com
 - Secure Turkey Supply Plan: <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/pdf/sts-plan-secure-turkey-supply>