

National Veterinary Stockpile Sponsors Exercise on Vaccine Shipment



The APHIS National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) hosted the NVS 2012 Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine Shipment Tabletop Exercise (TTX) at APHIS headquarters in May. The NVS sponsored the exercise to validate their procedures to coordinate the delivery of finished FMD vaccine to the US, Canada, and Mexico in support of the North American FMD Vaccine Bank (NAFMDVB).

The NVS conducted a similar FMD vaccine shipment TTX with a vaccine manufacturer in June 2011. The NVS sponsored this second exercise with a different vaccine manufacturer to validate its updated and new procedures.

The 2012 two-day logistics TTX exercise brought together the many players that would be involved in providing emergency shipments of FMD vaccine. Participants included Biogénesis-Bagó; Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Cavalier Logistics; Department of Homeland Security; Customs and Border Protection; LMI; Mexico Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food; University of California, Davis; along with officials from many USDA APHIS agencies, including International Services, Legislative and Public Affairs, Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, and Veterinary Services Emergency Management and Diagnostics.

The exercise provided participants an opportunity to meet, discuss, and validate the written processes and procedures involving finished vaccine logistics for FMD and identify opportunities for continued improvement. The TTX was specifically designed to review and validate the roles and responsibilities for moving FMD vaccine antigen concentrate to the manufacturer and distribute the finished FMD vaccine to the US, Canada, and Mexico. The NVS will use the lessons learned to enhance its procedures and identify potential contract modifications.