



# PRODUCER HANDBOOK

Preparing the Alberta Pork  
Sector for Disease-Related  
Sector-Wide Emergencies



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# INTRODUCTION

The ***Preparing the Alberta Pork Sector for Disease-Related Sector-Wide Emergencies – Producer Handbook*** has been developed to help operators and staff prepare for disease-related sector-wide emergencies.

The components of this handbook have been collaboratively developed with input and technical support from livestock commodity organizations across Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and several provincial governments including:

- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- BC Ministry of Agriculture
- Manitoba Agriculture
- Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs
- Quebec Agriculture Ministry

## Overview

While emergencies are nearly impossible to predict, there are things you can do to minimize the impact. This handbook has been developed to help producers plan, prepare, and respond to disease-related events that create a sector-wide emergency.

We all have a role to play in protecting and strengthening our industry. As industry experts, with boots in the dirt, producers and their staff are the first line of defense in an emergency situation. This handbook introduces three key themes to help guide people on the ground who will be required to:

### UNDERSTAND

**Know the industry risks and impacts of serious animal diseases and the producer requirements during a disease-related sector-wide emergency**

### PREPARE

**Be aware of tools that can better equip an operation for a disease-related emergency**

### RESPOND

**Know specific protocols, roles and responsibilities during a disease emergency**

## How to Use This Handbook

You will be better prepared for a disease-related emergency if you have worked your way through this handbook. We encourage you to regularly review this document and the tools provided.

For convenience, a glossary explaining various terms and acronyms used throughout this document has been included in Schedule 1. We have also colour coded the individual sections to reflect the **UNDERSTAND**, **PREPARE** and **RESPOND** themes, and to draw attention to producer **RESOURCES**.

Throughout the handbook, you will see various suggested **PROTOCOLS**. These items contain helpful step-by-step prompts that should be considered and implemented as appropriate.

Producers will also want to look out for sections containing the **TOOL** symbol. If you see this sign, it means a customizable tool has been made available in the **RESOURCES** section. We encourage you to tailor these templates for your operation if you do not have this information already available on farm.

### PROTOCOL/PROCESS



Processes or Protocols have been highlighted with a **YELLOW** outline and an **ORANGE** clipboard icon.

#### WHAT TO DO WITH THESE ITEMS:

Please remove or copy the page, laminate it and post it prominently.

### CUSTOMIZABLE TOOL



Customizable Tools have been highlighted with a solid **GRAY** outline and a **GRAY** tool icon.

#### WHAT TO DO WITH THESE ITEMS:

Please **complete and customize** the form to your operation, and then remove or copy the page, laminate it and post it prominently.

## Best Results

The information contained in this document is only of use if it is kept current and shared with staff. With this in mind, producers are encouraged to:

- **Commit to reviewing this handbook annually**
  - Revisit the information and tools when you review and renew your insurance policies each year
- **Ensure that information collected here is available and understood by farm personnel**
  - The content in this handbook is easily incorporated into farm personnel training. Many of the elements can be copied, laminated and posted prominently, and/or inserted into your existing training material
- **Use the following information as the basis for establishing a relationship with first responders in your local area**
  - These agencies may request copies of some of the information you have gathered to help them prepare for an emergency at your operation

It is important to note that the information and resources set out herein are samples that have been made available by your industry association. Specific protocols and procedural requirements may vary depending on the situation.

In the event of a **disease-related sector-wide emergency**, necessary steps will be clearly communicated by **industry associations** and/or municipal, provincial and federal regulatory bodies. To access the information and resources contained in this handbook online please visit **[www.albertapork.com](http://www.albertapork.com)**



# UNDERSTAND

## We are in this Together

Your operation is important – to you, to the industry and to communities around the world. Across Canada, there are thousands of individual hog operations that are building our international reputation and economic advantage and making a significant contribution to the global food system.

Given this important connection, it follows that if an incident occurs at one operation, there could be a ripple effect across the entire industry. This handbook has been designed to equip operators and staff with up-to-date information and resources that can be used during the various phases of an emergency.

## Industry Risks

Be it adverse weather, natural disasters, fluctuations in global markets, or even deliberate damage, producers must contend with challenging and unpredictable circumstances.

- **Terrorism** – deliberate introduction of disease or water/feed contamination
- **Border closure** – resulting from disease in either the importing or exporting region
- **Lost social license** – a change in consumer preferences of certain industry practices
- **Flood or fire** – similar to those experienced in Australia and increasingly in Canada
- **Weather** – such as ice or severe hailstorms
- **Power loss** – including widespread grid failure
- **Earthquake** – potentially in certain regions

Relative to a major disease outbreak, the risks identified above are generally considered less likely to cause sector-wide emergencies. The most widely recognized and likely scenario that will cause a sector-wide emergency event in our industry is a serious animal disease outbreak.

## Disease-Related Sector-Wide Emergencies

Serious animal disease outbreaks are recognized as the industry's greatest vulnerability because they have the potential to impact the pork industry and the livestock sector as a whole. These types of emergencies can negatively affect consumer preferences and industry practices, and can restrict Canada's trade and export capacity.

While the threat of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is widely recognized by most producers, there are a number of serious animal diseases such as Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv), or Pseudorabies (Aujeszky's Disease) that have the potential to cripple the industry indefinitely. More information about these specific diseases can be found in Schedule 2.

A zoonosis outbreak – a disease affecting both humans and animals – or other health related events such as feed/water contamination, or a newly 'emerging' disease would also be classified as disease-related sector-wide emergencies. This is due to the costly, widespread and prolonged impact on the market and the potential for border closure.

## Reportable and Notifiable Diseases

Canadian producers have a duty of care, but they also have **a legal requirement to report all suspected cases of certain diseases.**

The serious animal diseases in this section are primarily federally or provincially reportable diseases. In fact, these are listed specifically in the regulations that accompany the *Health of Animals Act (Canada)* and its provincial counterpart, the *Animal Health Act*.

Producers will appreciate that not all serious animal diseases are created equal. Some have greater impact than others; some are better known; and some are not commonly considered in connection with Canada or North America - although, the disease landscape is continuing to change. With globalized travel, international trade, climate change and the emergence of new and unlisted diseases, such as the Schmallenberg Virus that occurred in 2012 in the EU, we all need to stay informed and aware.

### QUICK FACT

*In a 2016 national survey of livestock associations in Canada, 97% indicated that their sector was vulnerable to disease-related emergencies.*

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## FEDERALLY REPORTABLE DISEASES

- African Swine Fever
- Brucellosis
- Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera)
- Cycsticercosis
- Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)
- Pseudorabies (Aujeszky's Disease)
- Swine Vesicular Disease
- Trichinellosis
- Vesicular Stomatitis

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## PROVINCIALY IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

- Porcine Epidemic diarrhea
- Swine delta coronavirus
- Transmissible gastroenteritis
- Classical Swine Fever
- All federally reportable & notifiable rabies
- Disease caused by any toxic substance that is a threat to animal or human health

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## Your Responsibility

As a producer, you know your operation inside out. When an animal is unwell, there will be signs and it is your responsibility to act on those cues.

Reporting suspected disease not only helps to reduce animal and human health impacts, it is integral to protecting our industry. Serious animal disease outbreaks require extensive resources and expert assistance to contain and eradicate the disease, so it is important to alert the appropriate authorities as early as possible.

## Emergency Phases

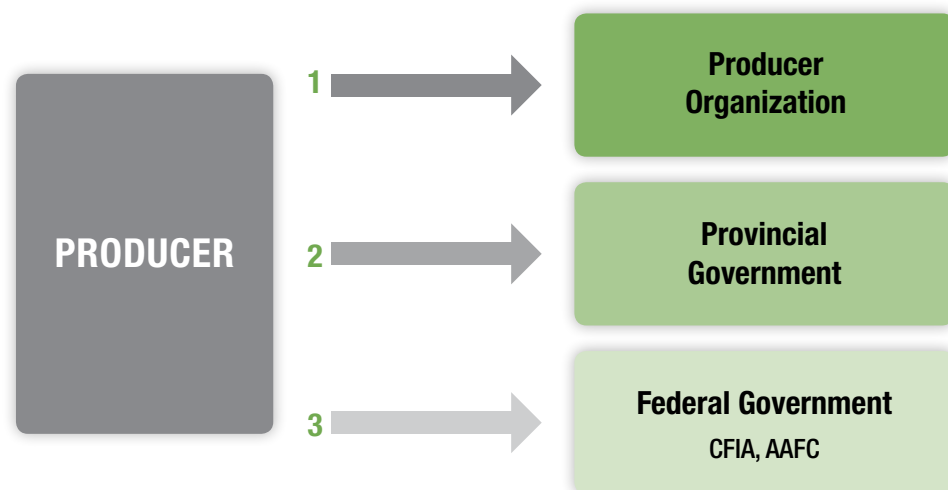
A disease-related sector-wide emergency will generally move through the following six key phases – some of which are more involved than others. Depending on the disease and particular incident, some phases may occur quickly and go unnoticed, while others may extend over a period of time due to heightened risk of contracting a disease or difficulty managing an outbreak.

This handbook contains information pertaining to all of the above phases with the exception of Prevention. For more details on how to protect your animals from disease, please review the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) Diseases/Insects/ Pests: Livestock Diseases page at [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca)



## Who Can Help

During an emergency, there are three important entities that producers should turn to for clarification, direction and necessary resources. As illustrated below, the first point of call should be your respective producer organization. From there, you may be forwarded to the relevant government agency.



## Working Together

Emergency management requires diverse skills, experience and knowledge to ensure an appropriate and effective response. Figure 1, on the following page, outlines the key structures, relationships and joint response required during an emergency.

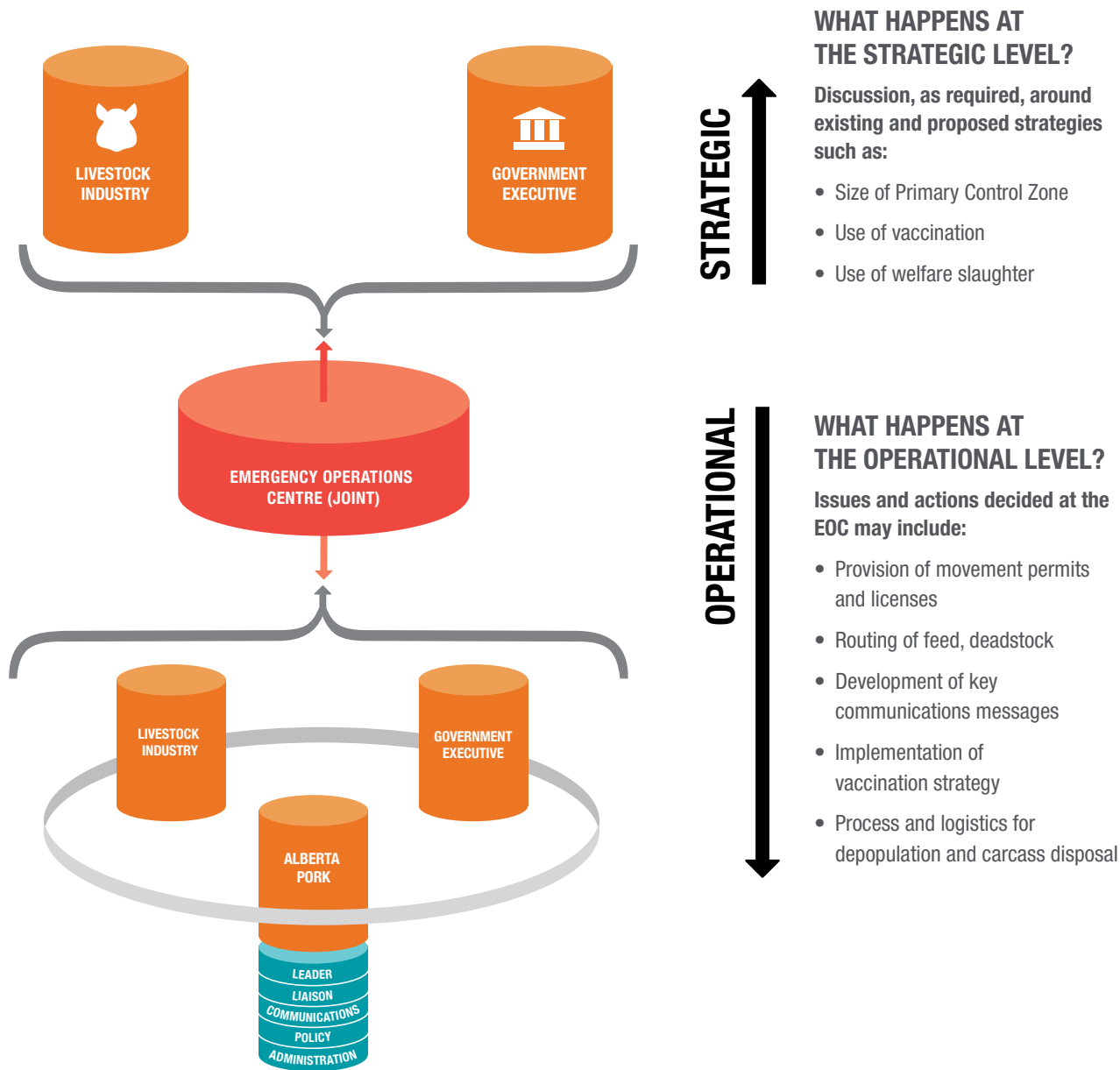
In a disease-related sector-wide emergency, the **first response organizations** are Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and Public Safety Canada (PSC). Public health services will also be kept aware and may be involved if the disease affects humans as well as animals.

An Emergency Operations Centre (**EOC**) may be established by first response organizations during the suspicion or confirmation phases. The EOC is the temporary venue that is established to provide strategic leadership, manage operational decision-making, and coordinate the efforts of all collaborating organizations. If multiple levels of government are involved, a Joint EOC will be formed.

Representatives from your producer organization will be a part of EOC/JEOC discussion and decisions. In addition to advocating on behalf of the industry and providing sector expertise and insight, the association will help communicate updates to producers and confirm required action as the situation unfolds.

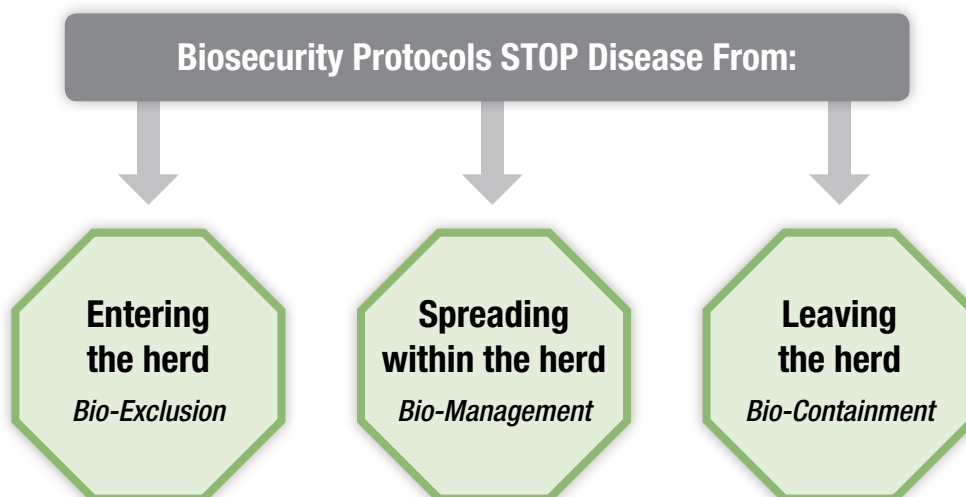
Everyone within the EOC/JEOC works together using the **Incident Command System (ICS)**. This command and control system is used to manage emergencies of all types throughout North America and most of the world. ICS integrates a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure. It allows people from various backgrounds to come together when required and to work as an effective unit.

Figure 1. The Emergency Operations Centre and its Relationship with Government, Industry and the Pork Sector



## Biosecurity Protocols

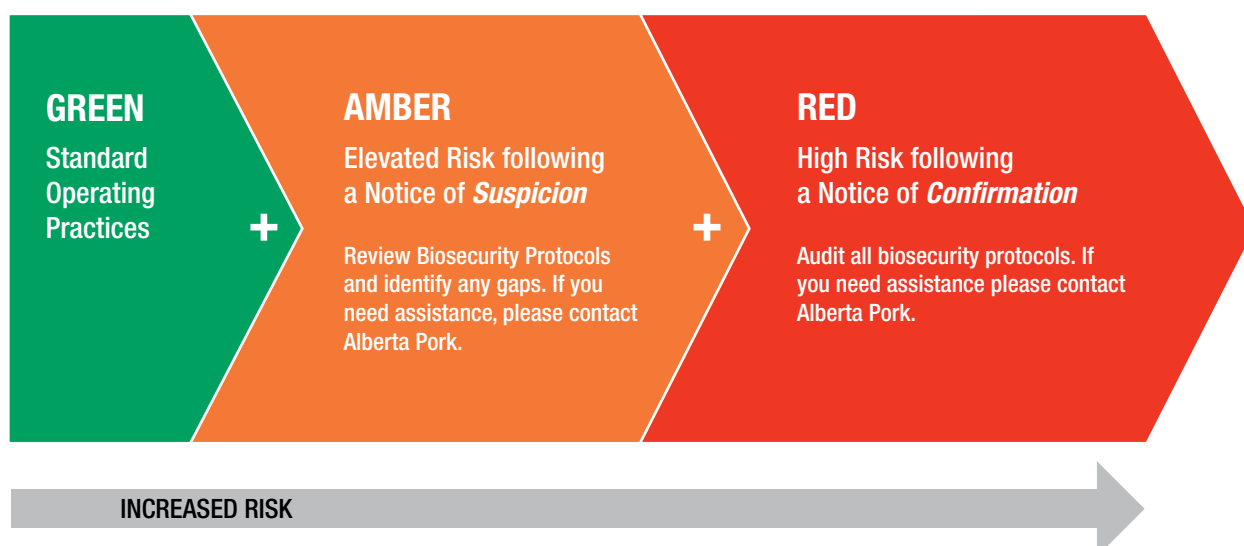
As a producer, you are in a unique position to prevent disease exposure and transmission. By knowing and implementing the appropriate biosecurity protocols, you are not only helping to protect your farm, but also ensuring the health and vitality of Canada's pork industry.



Some degree of biosecurity is likely already incorporated into your farm routines. Be it good hygiene, vehicle management or staff training, there are quick and simple steps that can safeguard your operation. As shown in Figure 2, biosecurity protocols are colour coded according to risk. Producers will want to ensure that all staff know the various protocols for each risk level. This is especially important when a disease is suspected within the trading area.

Alberta Pork has designed a Biosecurity Self-Assessment and Biocontainment Plan that can be used to evaluate an operation's biosecurity practices and identify keys risks on the farm. For more information on these tools contact Alberta Pork.

Figure 2. Escalating Biosecurity Levels



## Zoning

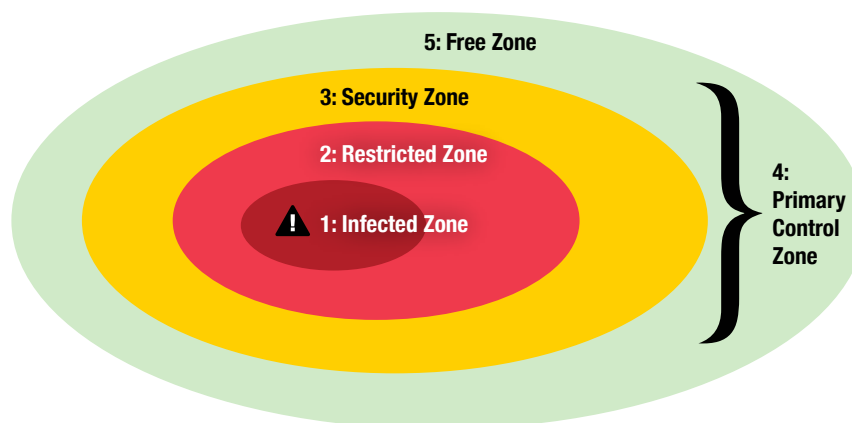
In order to limit the effects of a disease-related event, the federal Minister of Agriculture may establish control zones through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). This is an internationally recognized practice that helps manage disease risk and keep trade relationships viable.

CFIA's zoning strategy is determined after careful consideration of the type of disease, its presence in wildlife or the environment, potential for spread, geographical features such as waterways, roads, and terrain as well as the commodities and business flows or movements in the areas that are affected. Zoning will only be implemented upon disease confirmation.

While zone size and shape may vary, the most intensive disease control strategies will always take place within the inner most circle where infection has been confirmed.

Producers should be aware that once control zones are established, permits will be required for movement within areas. People seeking access to controlled zones will need to demonstrate that they meet specific conditions and criteria.

Figure 3. Primary Control Zone and Zoning Strategy for Animal Disease Control in Canada



### 1. Infected Zone

- Main focus of control efforts
- Encompasses all known Infected Places
- Outer perimeter is up to 5 km beyond affected premises

### 2. Restricted Zone

- Surrounds Infected Zone
- Has an outer perimeter up to 10 km from any known Infected Places

### 3. Security Zone

- Falls in between the outer perimeter of Restricted Zone and edge of Primary Control Zone
- No restrictions on size

### 4. Primary Control Zone

- Includes Infected, Restricted and Security Zones
- As large as reasonably expected over duration of outbreak so that future changes only reduce its size

### 5. Free Zone

- Area outside the Primary Control Zone



## At a Glance

The following few paragraphs briefly summarize a serious animal disease event resulting in a sector-wide emergency.

In this scenario we have ‘ABC Hogs’, a typical Alberta sow farrow-to-finish operation that is facing industry’s greatest vulnerability – an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). We also have ‘DEF Hogs’, a 800-sow farrow-to-finish operation that is located within the trading area and potentially at risk. Please note that this is an example only.

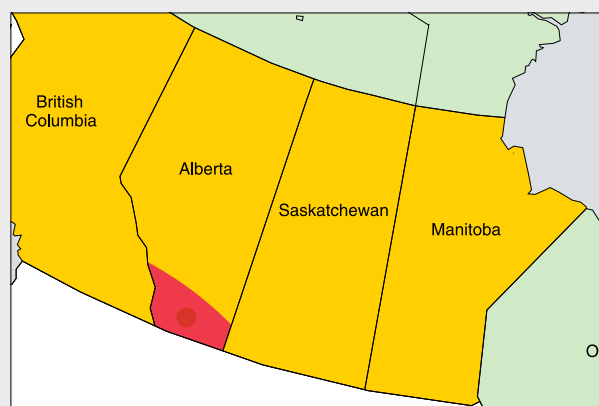
*On Friday, after noticing that a number of animals are limping and have backed off feed, ABC farm staff proceed with protocol for an **Unusual Animal Health Event** and contact their local veterinarian to come and look at the animals.*

*The veterinarian suspects FMD, a federally reportable disease, and notifies the regulatory authority (CFIA). A senior veterinary officer with the CFIA visits the farm very shortly afterwards, clinically diagnoses FMD and declares that ABC Hogs is an ‘Infected Place’. Canada’s Chief Veterinary Officer issues a formal **Notice of Suspicion** setting out very limited and general information related to the incident.*

*Within days, the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease in Winnipeg confirms the disease and Canada’s Chief Veterinary Officer issues a formal **Notice of Confirmation**. Again, the information provided is quite limited and general.*

*As part of the **Disease Control Plan**, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food establishes a **Primary Control Zone**. This zone includes all of Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.*

*Several **Infected Zones** have been declared around the Infected Place located near Warner. The RCMP are enforcing a ban on all movements of livestock and livestock-related products such as feed and bedding within/to/from/through these Zones. Licenses are required for these movements and may be obtained from the **Joint Emergency Operations Centre**, which has been established in Lethbridge.*



*A larger **Restricted Zone** extends around all of the Infected Zones, essentially from the US border north to Highway 1, and from the Saskatchewan border west to the BC border. Specific permits are required for all livestock and livestock-related movements within/to/from/through this Restricted Zone. These are also being enforced by RCMP.*

*The **Security Zone** extends outwards from the Restricted Zone and covers the remainder of the Primary Control Zone. General Permits are required for all livestock and livestock-related movements into or within the Security Zone and these too are enforced by police.*

*With the CFIA’s operational restrictions now in place, hogs are not moving anywhere in Western Canada without a permit. Movements into or through the Restricted Zones are even more limited and require specific permits; and there are almost no movements into, from or through the Infected Zones. The same is true for movements of other susceptible livestock including sheep, goats, beef and dairy cattle. Permits are also required for horse movements, as the disease may be carried on their body or the trailer even though they don’t contract the disease itself.*

Following the outbreak and resulting export ban, the processing plants 'stopped the line' and staff were immediately suspended for two weeks. All sales and auctions have been cancelled.

DEF Hogs is a 800-sow farrow-to-finish operation located within the **Restricted Zone**, near Warner.

To protect the hogs, **Movement Controls** and **Biosecurity Protocols** recommended by Alberta Pork, AAF and the CFIA are being strictly followed and all activity is being monitored closely. Vehicles entering the premises are washed and disinfected prior to entry and when leaving. A temporary washing station has been installed at the main entry as well as a structure to shelter a 24/7 security guard who is responsible for enforcement of the perimeter security, logging of all movements and overseeing vehicle washing.

Other than the main entry, all access points have been gated and locked. **Red Biosecurity Protocols** have been implemented and posted clearly to advise visitors of the risk. Where possible, drivers have been instructed to remain in their cabs.

**Mass Vaccination** has also been ordered for operations located near the Infected Place. A CFIA designated site supervisor has arrived at DEF Hogs and is overseeing farm staff who are vaccinating animals according to a strict protocol.

While DEF Hogs staff continue to vaccinate and monitor their herd, a **Destruction Order** has been issued and **Depopulation** of hogs on ABC Hogs and other Infected Places has commenced. All hogs on the Infected Place are being slaughtered with the assistance of farm staff and under the oversight of a CFIA representative. As part of the disposal requirements, producers have opted to render some carcasses, and move others to government designated burial sites.

**Valuation** teams sent to the Infected Places are establishing a fair market value on a per hog basis based on pre-outbreak prices for the different classes of hogs present. **Compensation** is being provided for all livestock ordered depopulated.

Prior to restocking, all of the Infected Places must be thoroughly **Cleaned and Disinfected** in accordance with a CFIA protocol. Infected pens and barns also require a fallow period and the building needs to be disinfected before animals can return. Landowners are responsible for these expenses.

Once there is no longer a chance of contracting the disease and all identified requirements have been met, CFIA will officially **Lift Restrictions** and give approval to restock the premises with animals.

It is important to note that in this bleak but realistic scenario, it may take a year to manage the outbreak and eradicate the disease. It will likely take considerably longer to regain disease free status and to negotiate international trade market access and fully resume exports.

Although the above scenario is fictitious, it captures many of the elements that apply to producers once a disease-related sector-wide emergency is confirmed. For more information about producer-specific responsibilities and associated resources please refer to the RESPOND section on **page 29**.

## Testing Your Readiness

The following self-assessment is designed to help producers gauge whether their operation is prepared for a sector-wide emergency. Please take a moment to answer the following questions.

YES	NO	Are you aware of the indicators and initial response actions for an Unusual Animal Health Event on your farm?
YES	NO	Are you and your staff aware of signs and symptoms of the serious animal diseases most likely to spur a disease-related sector-wide emergency?
YES	NO	Are you aware of the official triggers used by response agencies to signify a disease-related sector-wide emergency?
YES	NO	Have you discussed and shared information about specific biosecurity protocol levels with staff?
YES	NO	Are you aware of primary personal safety guidelines and mental health support resources available for producers?
YES	NO	Are you aware of operational responsibilities associated with a mass vaccination directive?
YES	NO	Do you understand your responsibility in the event of mass depopulation and disposal?
YES	NO	Are the farm's objectives for responding to an animal health-related sector-wide emergency clearly identified and communicated to staff?
YES	NO	Is a farm plan in the form of a schematic or aerial photo immediately available so that first responders can see the location of key emergency management items?
YES	NO	Is the operation's inventory available for immediate provision to first responders, advising them of personnel, animals and assets to be safeguarded or removed, plus equipment and other items of potential use?
YES	NO	Are the contacts and key decision-makers within the business identified and listed, together with other staff, so first responders can immediately contact them?
YES	NO	Are key contacts outside the business, such as suppliers and service providers, identified and listed so others can contact them while primary decision-makers are occupied with emergency management decisions?
YES	NO	Do you know which first response organizations to contact locally, provincially, and federally?
YES	NO	Can you control visitor movements in an emergency, e.g. access control, signage, logs or records, risk assessments?
YES	NO	Are you aware of the key recovery actions, such as the requirement for cleaning and disinfecting before restocking can occur?

If you answered no to any of the above questions, there may be some work to do in preparing your operation for a disease-related emergency. The next sections of this handbook contain all the information you need to get started.

### Notes:

[illegible]

# PREPARE

When the unexpected happens, it is important to be prepared. The aim of the following section is to get producers and staff thinking about the specifics of their operation, well before a crisis strikes. By being proactive, your operation will be in a better position to respond and convey important details to emergency personnel as the situation unfolds.

## It's in Your Hands

Being prepared for a disease emergency not only makes sense, it is **necessary due diligence** for farm operators who are ultimately responsible for the care and well-being of their animals.

Taking these steps now demonstrates a reasonable level of preparedness on your part. This is especially important for potential insurance claims but also extremely helpful for all involved.

While you may know your operation like the back of your hand, someone less connected to the farm will require more background in order to quickly orient themselves and understand unique features. The ability to access detailed information about your operation will make a difference when it matters most. This investment of time and energy before an emergency situation arises is well worth it.

## Spread the Word

We recommend that producers clearly define their farm objectives, plan, inventory, contacts and visitor controls well in advance. This information should be discussed with staff and reviewed annually. You may also choose to share this information with local first responders and other emergency management professionals.



## Farm Objectives

Emergencies can escalate quickly. For this reason, it is important to know and to communicate the business objectives you want to achieve during a disease-related event. Clearly defining these objectives will help to guide efforts during the response, minimize incorrect assumptions and enhance outcomes.

When considering your own objectives, it helps to know the priorities of others. The primary objectives of first response agencies are listed below. Producers should note that these agencies are not responsible for the personal property involved, such as animals and buildings.

IN ALL EMERGENCIES	IN ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES
1. Save lives and minimize the impact on people, including first responders, survivors and others indirectly impacted	5. Control the spread of disease
2. Protect property, commencing with critical infrastructure	6. Eliminate the disease
3. Protect the environment and subsequently restore and enhance its quality	
4. Protect the economy, reducing disruption to lessen the impact	

The foremost responsibility of your business is to **minimize the risk to humans directly involved**. This is also the primary focus of first response agencies in such an event. While first response agencies may assist or provide direction relative to animals, farm operators are ultimately accountable for:

- The well-being of the animals under their care
- Farm equipment
- The farm itself

Your business objectives should include maintaining human safety and maintaining the health and safety of the animals in your care. They may also focus on the resumption of normal business operations as soon as possible, although for some the event itself may spark a desire to grow, downsize, transition or even exit the business. Understanding and knowing your objectives before an adverse event happens will help to minimize overall impact.

## Farm Plan



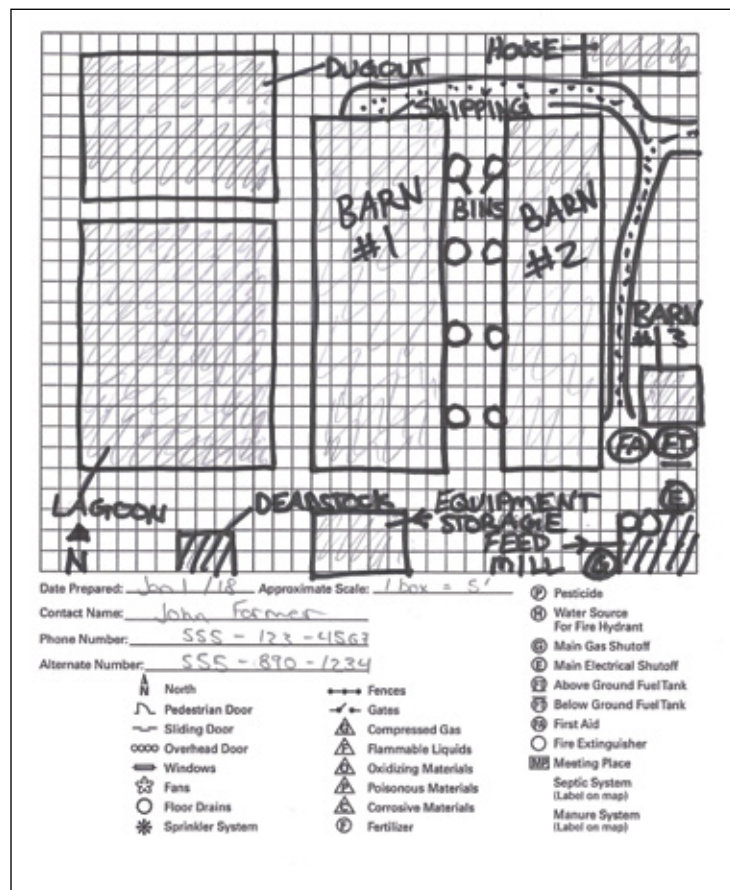
First responders need to know the unique features of your farm and where key items are located. This helps to ensure their own safety and it enables them to effectively address unexpected events on your operation. Responders will be far more effective, with less risk to life, if they can consult a farm plan while determining their approach to the situation at hand.

Your farm plan can be created from a one-page aerial photo or a hand-drawn schematic. If you've previously developed an Environmental Farm Plan, you may already have this information documented.

Preparing the plan may help you to identify additional risks as you mark out boundaries and add key items that are critical to effective emergency management. The plan should include a map of areas important features such as legal land locations, entryways, neighbouring livestock, terrain features, and other obstacles. The inclusion of Restricted Access Zone (RAZ) and Control Access Zones (CAZ) will also be valuable for responders and other on farm personnel.

An example is shown below and a **Farm Plan Grid** is provided in the **RESOURCES** section for preparation of a hand-drawn schematic, as an alternative to an aerial photo. **Use the symbols in the legend as they are widely recognized by emergency management professionals.** Don't forget to include the following key elements:

- Scale
- Buildings
- Recognized symbols
- Scrape out pile
- Hazardous materials
- North arrow
- Meeting place
- Mortality storage
- Access routes/barriers
- Potential contaminants
- Manure pits



Once your plan is complete, laminate it and put a copy in your emergency management file and/or post it in a prominent location for staff to see.



## Work Cycle



Every operation is unique. During an emergency, producers and response personnel will benefit from knowing what to expect in terms of flow on and off the farm and regularly scheduled activities. A clearly defined work cycle will help increase everyone's understanding of potential disruptions as well as opportunities for action. This should include:

- The frequency of various activities such as deliveries, shipments, deadstock pickup
- Flow of people and other farm traffic
- Animal health checks (pregnancy, veterinarian visits, other visitors)
- Other husbandry protocols (vaccinations, breeding, weaning etc.)

## Inventory



Knowing the equipment and personnel resources available at your operation along with the general livestock inventory, enables first responders and other emergency management professionals to be more efficient and effective.

Producers can decide whether to provide this at the time of an emergency or earlier for agencies to hold on file. Supplying the information in advance gives responders the chance to plan and be more strategic in their approach. Your farm inventory will include:

- Specifics about personnel (specific roles, number living onsite, and any physical limitations)
- An itemized list of equipment (machinery) and resources (generators, first aid, fire extinguishers, etc.)

## Decision Makers and Contacts



There is no time for ambiguity during an emergency. For this reason, information about key contacts and decision makers should be clearly defined and accessible.

The **Primary Contact** is someone who is authorized and able to make quick decisions on behalf of the operation. This is likely the owner or senior manager, who is available in an emergency, and can make decisions or direct the issue to the most appropriate person. A **Secondary Contact** should also be designated in case the primary decision maker is unavailable. This information may be captured in the template provided and should be regularly reviewed.

The ability to notify and follow up with staff, key external organizations and individuals is also paramount. Keeping up-to-date records and having contact information posted and readily available can be helpful as it enables others to make calls on behalf of owners or key decision makers. It also allows potential risks to be identified and promptly addressed.

In addition to a current staffing list, producers will want to keep contact details handy for first responders, local veterinarian, livestock industry professionals, utility providers, relevant government departments, service contractors and neighbouring operations. Helpful **Contact List Templates** may be found on **pages 62-64**.





## Visitor Controls

Visitors may amplify the spread of disease on your farm and beyond to the industry at large. With this in mind, it is important to control visitor access and movements during a disease outbreak; and to implement clear protocols in production areas, animal holding spaces and areas where feed and animal medications are stored. If visitors are allowed entry, they must comply with strict control measures.

### VISITOR RISK ASSESSMENT

Producers need to assess whether visitors, service providers or others connected to the operation present a risk. The following **Visitor Risk Assessment Guide** and **Visitor Control Protocol** will help you determine how best to proceed.

A **Visitor Log** has also been included on **page 65** of the **RESOURCES** section.

## VISITOR RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

RISK CATEGORY	CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE	BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS
LOW	Within the past 14 days:	Visitor is from urban area and does not have livestock contact	Workplace health and safety inspector stops by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record visits</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 livestock contact</li> <li>0–1 visits to livestock operations</li> </ul>			
MODERATE	Within the past 14 days:	Contractor outside of agriculture that typically does not visit farming operations	A utility provider that entered the barn to fix some lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize access to production area</li> <li>Prevent all but essential contact to pigs</li> <li>Before access is permitted, ensure clean footwear/clothing/tires/surfaces, all visibly clean of organic matter</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock contact at one operation</li> </ul>			
HIGH	Within the past 14 days:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals who travel from or are transported from farm to farm</li> <li>Individuals who enter the production area and have direct contact with livestock or manure</li> </ul>	Veterinary and livestock inspection professionals who enter the production area and generally come into direct contact with livestock manure  Custom manure cleaning operators and equipment that may transport manure from one production area to another  Personnel who work with livestock at their own or another operation  Personnel working with animals in the segregation or sick facility	Producers must apply biosecurity practices to these visitors  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent all but essential access to the production area or contact with pigs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visited more than one livestock operation</li> </ul>			
	Other livestock operator (including employee)			
	Persons from other countries where reportable diseases are a concern			
	Person who has handled sick or segregated animals at this or other operations			

## VISITOR CONTROL PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Establish control at recognizable primary access points on and off the farm with a lockable gate or some form of moveable barrier. Be sure to identify these new items on the farm plan.

Establish control at access points to the barns, pens, manure storages, or field, and also at areas where feed and medications are stored.

Post signage prominently at all access points to the farm. All signage should prohibit unauthorized entry and indicate that biosecurity is in effect.

Ensure signage at primary access points directs entrants to the office. Signage at other points should discourage access and redirect entrants to primary access points.

Record all visitor access on a Visitor Log to facilitate follow up in an emergency.

Use a Visitor Risk Assessment Guide to identify and manage the different potential risks associated with the range of visitors, equipment or vehicles entering the farm on a daily basis.

## Connecting with First Response Agencies

First responders will be more effective if they have a good understanding of the premises they are accessing, the way in which business is conducted, and farm specific objectives in an emergency.

Some of the distinct characteristics or systems on your farm will play a key role in the risk reduction and personal safety strategies of various first responders. This information may also help limit the overall impact of the evolving situation.

### FIRST RESPONSE AGENCY PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Get acquainted with members of your local government first response agencies**

- The fire department is a good place to start

#### **Familiarize yourself with the organizations that are initially responsible for different sector-wide emergencies**

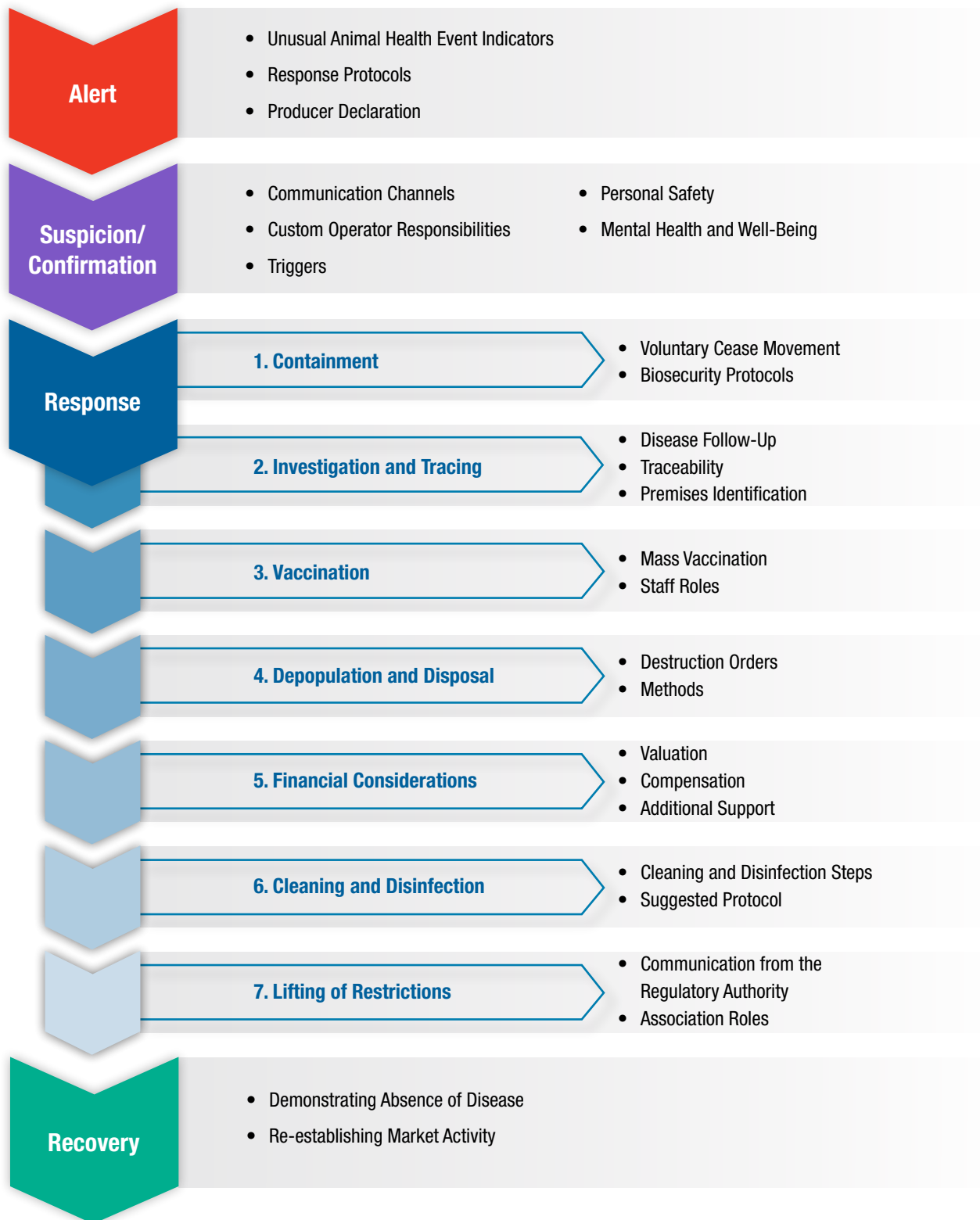
- Disease-related emergencies: Alberta Pork, Chief Provincial Veterinarian, CFIA regional offices, CFIA Chief Veterinary Officer
- Other emergencies: Alberta Emergency Management Agency

#### **Offer to share your plans with local government first response agencies**

- Of particular interest will be your Farm Plan, Farm Inventory, and Decision Makers (Primary and Secondary contacts)
- They may be able to keep it on file or stored digitally for access before and on route to an event

# RESPOND

The following section has been developed to help producers understand their role and expectations relative to specific situations that may arise during a disease-related sector-wide emergency.



# Alert

**Initial recognition of a serious animal disease usually starts with a producer or their staff sensing that something is not right. This section contains information about indicators, initial response protocols and producer declaration responsibilities.**

Alberta Pork has also developed a Biocontainment Plan that provides direction to producers who are uncertain what steps to take if they suspect a disease outbreak. Contact Alberta Pork to access the Biocontainment Plan. The following sections provide additional direction on detecting and reacting to a suspected disease outbreak."

## UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INDICATORS

Whether it is behavioural changes or physical symptoms, producers may get cues that their animals are unwell. Staff should be made aware of specific indicators within your operation that signal a cause for concern. Basic signs and symptoms of serious animal diseases specific to the pork industry are set out in Schedule 2. This information will help improve awareness and early identification.

The **Indicator Protocol** on the next page can be customized in consultation with your veterinarian and staff to suit the specific needs of your farm. When these indicators are observed in individual animals or the herd, notify your veterinarian immediately and take their direction.

### QUICK TIPS

- ✓ *Know indicators and initial response protocols*
- ✓ *Recognize primary serious animal disease symptoms*
- ✓ *Discuss concerns with your veterinarian*

## UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INDICATOR PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**If any of the following indicators are observed, then the farm's veterinarian will be contacted immediately to investigate further:**

Unexplained or sharp increase in sickness, lameness, behavioural changes, death loss.

- Exceeds normal acceptable level of this many head per week/day: \_\_\_\_\_ (head/%)

Animals backed off feed/water (daily intake is down for reasons not related to weather or seasonality)

Disease or symptoms not previously encountered

Typical disease or symptoms with abnormal severity or non-responsive to treatment

Rapid spread throughout herd

Reportable/notifiable disease suspected on farm

Lesions/blisters

Blotchy/discooured skin

Any death of unknown cause

Other events, as determined with your veterinarian

## INITIAL RESPONSE PROTOCOL

The initial response for unusual animal health events cannot be stressed enough. An effective and rapid response can play a vital role in:

- Limiting the possible spread of disease
- Reducing staff and family member risk
- Containing the incident
- Decreasing the impact on your business and the industry as a whole

Prior to developing your **Initial Response Protocol** you will want to connect with your veterinarian and staff. Ensure that the steps you've collaboratively identified reflect the specific needs and features of your operation.

If these indicators are observed in any of the animals, notify your veterinarian or if you are uncertain of what actions or precautions to take seek clarification from your producer organization, provincial government, or CFIA.

## UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INITIAL RESPONSE PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Notify Staff and Family Members

An Unusual Animal Health Event exists on the farm

Review and strictly follow biosecurity protocols currently in place, or as established by management

Minimize/avoid contact with other livestock, particularly other hogs

### 2. Call Veterinarian and Alberta Pork and Act on Advice and Act on Advice, for example

Isolate sick animals

Submit samples for diagnosis

Stop livestock movements on/off the Infected Place

Limit and monitor other movements on/off (e.g. staff, equipment, manure spreading etc.)

Gather information/documentation as required (e.g. visitor log, livestock inventory, identification record including purchases/sales within the last 30 days, individual treatment log, herd health protocol)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Identify a Primary Contact within your organization. This will be the point person or coordinator to be available for key decisions

### 4. Contact External Stakeholders. External notifications may be made after a positive diagnosis is received

Farm veterinarian to notify regulatory authority as/if appropriate

- CFIA District Veterinarian called (suspect reportable disease)
- Chief Provincial Veterinarian

Self-declaration by producer to industry association and neighbouring livestock producers (depending on suspected disease)

- Alberta Pork
- Neighbouring livestock producers
- Notify suppliers and other contracts (e.g. feed suppliers, livestock transporters, utility companies with access rights)

## PRODUCER SELF DECLARATION



If an unusual animal health event were to evolve into a disease-related sector-wide emergency, professionals in your industry association (Alberta Pork), government representatives, the veterinary community and fellow producers will benefit from transparency regarding your situation. An awareness of basic details may help to reduce broader industry impacts and limit the spread of disease.

Federal and provincial privacy and confidentiality legislation requires that you authorize the release and sharing of your personal information. By self-declaring, you are permitting the use of your information in this manner, in the best interests of the industry at large.

An example of a **Producer Self Declaration** is provided on **page 73**. Please note that this is a sample and may need to be altered to suit your operation.



# Suspicion/Confirmation

Timely and accurate information is crucial in an emergency. As rumours and misinformation circulate, producers need to know who they can trust, whether the situation requires immediate action, and how they can protect themselves and others.

## OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

To minimize the spread of conflicting messages, producers should not react to hearsay and instead wait for communication from:

- Alberta Pork
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- CFIA
- Canadian Pork Council

## QUICK TIPS

- ✓ *Distinguish rumour from fact*
- ✓ *Be aware of Sector-Wide Triggers*
- ✓ *Share information*
- ✓ *Take care of yourself and your staff*

## SECTOR-WIDE TRIGGERS

The two precursors for a sector-wide emergency declaration are a formal **Notification of Suspicion** followed by a **Notification of Confirmation**. More details as well as the producer tasks that go hand in hand with these two triggers are listed in the following two **Response Protocols**.

## NOTICE OF SUSPICION RESPONSE PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### WHO:

CFIA's Chief Veterinary Officer or Provincial Chief Veterinarian issues formal Notice of Suspicion for a serious animal disease

### WHERE:

Anywhere within the area where a producer regularly does business (trading area)

### WHEN:

A federal or provincial government veterinarian has reason to believe a federal or provincially reportable disease is present

### WHAT:

May be referred to as 'the gray period' when an outbreak is suspected but not confirmed and movement controls have not been announced

### PRODUCER RESPONSE:

Review biosecurity protocols, visitor manuals, etc.

Seek additional guidance specific to the situation from veterinarian or Alberta Pork

Monitor Alberta Pork, CFIA, AAF and CPC websites and other media for updates

### NOTE:

Additional and more restrictive requirements would be ordered for 'Infected Place(s)', as announced by veterinary authorities.

## NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION RESPONSE PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### WHO:

CFIA's Chief Veterinary Officer or Chief Provincial Veterinarian issues formal Notice of Confirmation for a serious animal disease

### WHERE:

Anywhere within the area where a producer regularly does business (trading area)

### WHEN:

A serious animal disease is confirmed, at the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canada's most highly specialized and widely recognized animal disease laboratory

### WHAT:

Once Notice of Confirmation is issued, the Minister usually establishes a Primary Control Zone and movement controls. Permits or licenses for all livestock, related materials and equipment will be required for movement into or within the Primary Control Zone

### PRODUCER RESPONSE:

Review and strictly adhere to biosecurity protocols

Seek additional guidance specific to the situation from veterinarian or Alberta Pork

Monitor Alberta Pork, CFIA, AAF and CPC websites and other media for updates

## CUSTOM OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES



Owners of livestock at custom operations should be advised of any emergency situation that affects or presents a risk to their animals. In addition to being part of the land manager's duty of care, this may be a contractual requirement.

Most contracts provide the operator with the authority, and often the responsibility, to make decisions on behalf of the owner in the event of an emergency. While advice to owners may be provided by phone or in person, it should also be documented for legal purposes.

A sample **Owner Advisory Template** can be found in the RESOURCES section on **page 74**.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

Personal safety should always come first. While this is well accepted, it is sometimes easily forgotten or overlooked in a moment of crisis.

Farm owners are responsible for the safety of personnel and residents, relative to risks that are within their capacity to control or mitigate. **This responsibility takes precedence over the care and needs of the hogs and other livestock that may be on the farm.**

Farm owners and management should:



- Be aware of the evolving emergency events
- Understand the risks that these events represent to human safety
- Take the steps necessary to ensure the safety of farm personnel and residents who may be living on the premises, including the delivery of training relative to these risks

To put this in context, a farm owner may choose to remain on the premises after an evacuation order has been issued, or may decide not to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the event of a disease outbreak. However, the same farm owner cannot instruct staff to disregard an evacuation order, nor can staff be asked to work without the necessary or appropriate PPE. Your industry association can advise you about PPE recommendations and where it can be obtained.

Farm family members warrant special mention in view of the significant role they play on many operations. This is particularly important for children, as they cannot remain on the premises after an evacuation order has been given.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Unanticipated events can be extremely upsetting and stressful. People react in different ways to trauma and can experience a wide range of physical and emotional changes that can affect mental health and well-being. It is important to monitor your health and to access the appropriate resources as required.

EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS	PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shock, denial, or disbelief</li> <li>• Confusion, difficulty concentrating</li> <li>• Anger, irritability, mood swings</li> <li>• Anxiety and fear</li> <li>• Guilt, shame, self-blame</li> <li>• Withdrawing from others</li> <li>• Feeling sad or hopeless</li> <li>• Feeling disconnected or numb</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insomnia or nightmares</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Being startled easily</li> <li>• Difficulty concentrating</li> <li>• Racing heartbeat</li> <li>• Edginess and agitation</li> <li>• Aches and pains</li> <li>• Muscle tension</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> </ul> 

If you or anyone you know is exhibiting the symptoms above, the first thing to do is ask for help. Alberta Health Services provides a 24/4 Mental Health Help Line for those who are looking for further direction in dealing with their mental well-being. They can be reached by calling 1-877-303-2642 or visit [www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/service.aspx?id=7484](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/service.aspx?id=7484)

# Response

## 1. CONTAINMENT

Well before a disease is confirmed, producers are able to take steps to reduce potential transmission. Be it voluntarily stopping flow in and around the potentially affected area, complying with mandatory movement controls or implementing biosecurity protocols, there are ways to protect your farm and others.

### VOLUNTARY CEASE MOVEMENT

At the outset of an outbreak, shortly after a Notice of Suspicion or Notice of Confirmation is declared, industry leaders may recommend a Voluntary Cease Movement (VCM).

Stopping movements early on will not only help to contain and limit the spread of disease, but it may also reduce the length of market interruption and facilitate faster market recovery.

#### QUICK TIPS

- ✓ *Voluntarily stop operational movements*
- ✓ *Comply with Movement Restrictions*
- ✓ *Know relevant Biosecurity Protocols*

## MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

As the situation evolves, a VCM, if implemented, may be replaced by official movement restrictions that coincide with the Minister's establishment of a Primary Control Zone (PCZ). As discussed in the zoning section on **page 16**, the PCZ will include a Security Zone, Restricted Zone and Infected Zone.

Movement Restrictions will vary according to the risk associated with the item being moved and the origin of travel/final destination. A range of permits and/or licenses setting out these restrictions will be required for the various different movements within, to or from these zones. Permits with more general restrictions may be available on-line, while licenses and permits with more specific restrictions will be available from the EOC.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other national, provincial or municipal enforcement services may be tasked with enforcing movement restrictions. Failure to comply with permit or license restrictions may result in fines and/or legal action.

Whether restrictions are voluntary or mandatory, full compliance is essential. In addition to minimizing the impact of the potential outbreak, it shows our trading partners that we are responding quickly and effectively to the situation.

## BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS

Whether on boots, clothing, equipment or livestock supplies, staff and visitors can unknowingly spread disease. Biosecurity protocols can lower the risk and provide clear instruction on how to manage:

- Animal health practices
- Animal movement risks
- The movement of people, vehicles, equipment and tools

Biosecurity protocols should be strictly adhered to at all times, however, as the threat of disease increases, more emphasis needs to be placed on the adherence to these protocols. **AMBER Elevated Risk** directs producers to review their biosecurity protocols and identify any gaps. **RED High Risk** directs producers to audit all biosecurity protocols and to carefully monitor herd health for signs of disease.

Producers should note that prior to a **Notice of**

**Confirmation**, an operation may be declared an 'Infected Place' if a serious animal disease is suspected. Specific movement restrictions and biosecurity measures will be ordered and enforced. Other premises nearby or in close association to the 'Infected Place' may also be affected.

*The **National Swine Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard** available at [www.ontlpc.ca/pdfs/NationalSwineOn-FarmBiosecurityStandard.pdf](http://www.ontlpc.ca/pdfs/NationalSwineOn-FarmBiosecurityStandard.pdf) should be used as a resource for determining appropriate on-farm biosecurity measures.*

# Response

## 2. INVESTIGATION AND TRACING

A critical component of containing a disease is determining how it was introduced and how far it has spread. This section highlights steps that producers can take both before and during an emergency to assist investigators and protect their farm.

### DISEASE FOLLOW-UP

Epidemiologists are specially trained to get to the bottom of a disease outbreak. During an adverse event, these specialists will conduct interviews with key staff, review all available data and documentation, monitor affected animals and collaborate with other authorities.

As they review the situation, they will try to identify the following:

WHEN	HOW	WHERE and WHEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incubation period</li> <li>• Time of onset (first signs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location and spatial distribution</li> <li>• Species and numbers</li> <li>• Economic and social relationships on the farm</li> <li>• Supply and disposal practices</li> <li>• Disease prevention systems</li> <li>• Hygiene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal and staff movements</li> <li>• Deliveries, vehicles, equipment, feed, water, airborne potential</li> </ul>

### TRACEABILITY

Traceability is an integral component of contemporary agriculture operations. Knowing where animals can be found, where they have been, and who they have had contact with, helps to protect animals and public health as well as the safety of our food system.

Bringing together animal identification, animal movement and premises identification (PID) data, traceability systems yield valuable information that can be used to identify risks and improve outcomes during an emergency.

#### QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Keep up-to-date records
- ✓ Register your land with a PID

By enhancing the speed and precision of a response, traceability systems help to reduce the overall impact of an event in terms of size and scale. Clearly this is something that is of great benefit to livestock, producers and consumers alike.

### PREMISES IDENTIFICATION

Across Canada, governments use premises identification numbers to distinguish parcels of land and farm locations. PID systems can serve as an early warning mechanism to notify animal owners of a natural disaster such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals or operations. They also provide a way to connect livestock to specific pieces of land, which is very helpful during a disease-related emergency.

During a disease outbreak, a PID will help ensure a quick, accurate and cost-effective emergency response. To register your farm and receive a PID, visit [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/trace12354](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/trace12354) or call 310-FARM (3276)

# Response

## 3. VACCINATION

**Vaccination can play an important role in slowing the spread of disease. By vaccinating animals, producers are able to strengthen the buffer area around the Infected Place, protect animals at risk, and safeguard the industry.**

### MASS VACCINATION

During a major disease event, provincial or federal authorities may order mass vaccination. If ordered, compliance is required under the federal *Health of Animals Act* and its related regulations or similar provincial legislation.

Vaccinated animals will be identified and their individual animal ID recorded. Depending upon the disease, vaccinated animals may need to be slaughtered and even diverted from the food chain.

The CFIA will state the necessary protocol once the mass vaccination program is ordered. The CFIA is responsible for providing vaccine and dosage guidelines to producers who then must vaccinate their animals accordingly. If vaccination is ordered, a comprehensive vaccination strategy will be discussed with and accepted by industry leaders. The strategy would set out:

- The type of premises, species and even class of animals to be vaccinated
- Location within the Primary Control Zone
- Recordkeeping requirements
- Subsequent use restrictions for vaccinated animals

For example, vaccination may be ordered at all operations within the Infected Zone, for all hogs regardless of their sex or class. Producers may be required to use onsite farm personnel to carry out the vaccination. This will free up qualified government and emergency staff to focus on other necessary control measures. In this scenario, a Site Supervisor will be designated by CFIA or AAF to ensure compliance with required protocols.

Our industry's continued livelihood hinges on the CFIA and/or AAFC's ability to state with certainty that protocols have been completed in strict compliance with the conditions that international animal and public health authorities require for Canada to regain domestic and international market access. For this reason, **100% compliance with the CFIA or AAFC protocol is essential.** A sample vaccination protocol is provided on the next page.

### QUICK TIPS

- ✓ *Understand your duty to comply with orders*
- ✓ *Take direction from your appointed Site Supervisor*
- ✓ *Follow the CFIA's dosage guidelines*
- ✓ *Ensure staff are familiar with vaccination technique and requirements*



## MASS VACCINATION PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Farm owner/manager to review and accept the vaccination protocol with a Site Supervisor appointed by CFIA or AAF, setting out all requirements including:**

- Species/class to be vaccinated
- Method
- Dosage
- Record-keeping requirements
- Booster requirements
- End use
- Oversight
- Other control factors

**All personnel acknowledge their acceptance of regulatory oversight whether provided by CFIA or AAF**

**All personnel agree to apply protocol as directed by CFIA or AAF site supervisor**

**Farm staff will:**

- Record receipt of vaccine doses and ensure oversight of vaccine as directed
- Vaccinate all animals, as set out in the vaccination protocol and directed by the Site Supervisor
- Record individual animal identification of each vaccinate, at time of vaccination, together with date and place and members of vaccination crew and vaccination oversight personnel
- Identify vaccinates, as required by regulatory authority: this may be a temporary or permanent identifier (e.g. ear tag or brand)
- Record unused vaccine doses and return to regulatory authority if required
- Provide CFIA or AAF site supervisor with record of animal identification for all animals vaccinated
- Apply second or booster vaccination if directed, using similar protocol, in the time frame required

# Response

## 4. DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL

**Provincial or federal authorities may order mass depopulation and disposal of carcasses in response to a major outbreak. This is an unfortunate but necessary strategy to stop disease spread and to protect our industry.**

### DESTRUCTION ORDERS

Destruction orders will be issued for each of the designated premises. If ordered, compliance is required under the *Health of Animals Act* and its related regulations, or similar provincial legislation. A Site Supervisor appointed by CFIA or AAF will provide regulatory oversight.

Depopulation and disposal strategies will be discussed with and accepted by industry leaders. This collaborative process will involve a detailed evaluation of the risks to human and animal health, and economic and environmental considerations. The means and methods to be used will be prescribed in a strict protocol, after consideration of the various alternatives and the conditions at hand including: numbers of animals, location, facilities, soil types, water table, and other key elements.

### QUICK TIPS

- ✓ *Understand your duty to comply with orders*
- ✓ *Follow protocols agreed to by industry leaders provided by CFIA*

### METHODS

There are various methods used to depopulate and dispose of animals. The most likely strategy involves use of a designated slaughter facility and some form of on-farm, high volume slaughter. Potential disposal methods may include:

- Burial at a central location and/or approved secondary landfill sites
- Incineration
- Rendering
- Processing for food (depending on the disease)

**Farm personnel will have a role in both depopulation and disposal processes.** Staff with hog handling skills and equipment familiarity will be guided by an AAF or CFIA appointed Site Supervisor. Using internal resources will allow qualified government and professional staff to work on other necessary control measures.

**Strict compliance with the protocols set out by CFIA or AAF is essential.** In order to regain domestic and international market access, CFIA and/or AAF will need to state with certainty that prescribed depopulation and disposal protocols have been carried out in strict compliance with the conditions specified by international animal, public health, and environment authorities.

While the CFIA or AAF will state the necessary protocol at the time of the mass depopulation and disposal program, a sample depopulation and disposal protocol is provided below so producers can be aware of the requirements of such a program ahead of time.

Alberta Pork has euthanasia equipment located across the province for disease response purposes. These units can be made available by contacting Alberta Pork.

Alberta producers wanting to familiarize themselves with additional information this topic encouraged to review the following:

- Standards for manure management can be found in the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/epw12498](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/epw12498)
- Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation under the Alberta Health Act [www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2014\\_132.pdf](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2014_132.pdf)
- Alberta Environmental Farm Plan – to start the EFP process see the following website [www.albertaefp.com](http://www.albertaefp.com)

## MASS DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Once a Destruction Order is issued, operators and personnel will need to:

<p><b>Review</b> and <b>accept</b> the overall depopulation and/or disposal strategies required by Regulatory Authority CFIA or AAF</p>	Owner/ Manager
<p><b>Follow</b> directives from the Regulator's Designate (Site Supervisor) who will provide regulatory oversight and instructions regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species/class involved</li> <li>• Depopulation and/or disposal protocols (method and means)</li> <li>• Record-keeping requirements, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assist</b> with the assembly, movement, restraint, and processing of animals, whether depopulation takes place at the farm or elsewhere</p> <p><b>Prepare</b> and <b>provide</b> records of animals depopulated and/or disposed of, as set out in the protocol. Examples of the type of records that should be taken can be found in Figure 4 – Information Protocol for Valuation/Compensation</p> <p><b>Apply</b> animal biosecurity practices as prescribed</p> <p><b>Follow</b> personal biosecurity requirements as prescribed and which may include any or all of the following and other requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showering before and after each shift</li> <li>• Hand washing before putting on and after removal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</li> <li>• Wearing of PPE</li> <li>• Taking any vaccine or prophylactic medication, if any is recommended by public health officials</li> <li>• Self-monitoring for any signs of personal sickness and seeking medical care if symptoms appear</li> <li>• Having NO CONTACT with other livestock for a prescribed period of time after these operations</li> </ul> <p><b>Report</b> any spillage of material (urine, manure, hide, other) that might potentially contain contaminant (virus, bacteria, other), outside the prescribed area for disposal</p>	All personnel

# Response

## 5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A disease outbreak can place significant stress and financial pressure on affected producers. While depopulation orders are never welcome, producers may be compensated for some of their losses. There may also be support available through other sources such as insurance and government aid.

### COMPENSATION

The Federal Minister may order compensation when a destruction order is issued for particular animals. The amount is determined and paid in accordance with the *Health of Animals Act (Canada)* or provincial legislation.

Compensation under the *Health of Animals Act* has limits and is not intended as insurance or full recompense. It covers:

- The fair market value of animals **ordered destroyed** less any salvage value
- Other things that may be ordered destroyed such as contaminated feed or animal products
- Disposal costs

### QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Keep accurate and up-to-date animal records
- ✓ Contact your association for help finding a qualified evaluator
- ✓ Check your insurance coverage
- ✓ Know your financial aid options

Compensation is reduced by any salvage value derived from the carcasses, which is also paid to the producer.

*The current limit for non-registered swine is up to \$2,000  
or up to \$5,000 for registered animals.*

### VALUATION

Fair and accurate valuation of the animals is a necessary step in determining the compensation due to the owners of the animals ordered destroyed. The valuation process involves two evaluators, one selected by the operator and the other selected by the CFIA.

Operators can identify their own evaluator, or choose one from a list made available by Alberta Pork. Industry associations may also assist in the administration of the valuation process, particularly if multiple premises are involved.

Evaluators will base their findings upon the animals and relevant records, as presented by the operator. Their valuation is presented to the CFIA Veterinarian responsible for the valuation process.

The table below contains some common queries related to compensation:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<b>Will value be based upon pre-outbreak prices or current prices?</b>	Valuations are historically based upon prices in effect just prior to the outbreak
<b>How is value determined?</b>	Fair Market Value is used, typically based on either: factors such as age, weight, class, etc.; or the animals' point in the production cycle at time of destruction as determined in the valuation
<b>What special attributes might be considered that add value?</b>	Organically raised, specialty breeds, purebred lines, pregnant animals, etc.
<b>How long does payment take?</b>	In recent outbreaks compensation has been provided in approximately six weeks, however this will vary depending upon the situation

Other issues may surface during the compensation process, which will be addressed jointly by the Industry and Government Executive. The CFIA will work with the industry to ensure that the compensation process runs as smoothly as possible.

Figure 4. Information Protocol for Valuation/Compensation

**When compensation is sought, farm personnel will be asked to assist the valuation process by providing the following information from all animals being valued:**

- Date animals born or purchased
- Description (e.g. Number of head, class, sex, species, breed of animal)
- Production/quality records or parameters
- Individual ID if available, or other (group) identifiers
- Owner details, e.g. Name and contact information
- Premises ID (farm)
- Date of quarantine and depopulated
- Depopulation method
- Premises ID (depopulation location, if different)
- Disposal method
- Premises ID (disposal location, if different)
- Salvage value received, if any (payment received for animal/carcass)

## ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

While compensation can help cover animal losses, there are other expenses associated with a disease-related emergency such as: cleaning and disinfecting or decontaminating the premises and equipment; lost income or business interruption costs; and ancillary costs related to restocking. Since these items are not part of the compensation process, producers need to be aware of all other avenues for financial aid.

## INSURANCE

Commercial insurance provided in the private sector may be available to producers depending on individual policy specifics. Producers should review their coverage with an experienced broker annually and consider adjustments that would better protect them from disease-related emergencies.

**If coverage is available, some losses to consider are those related to:** mortality, disease, livestock relocation, infrastructure losses, flood, weather such as hail or fire, and business interruption.

Producers should know the specifics of what perils or events are covered by their insurance and what costs are addressed.

**INSURANCE CHECKLIST:**

Have you checked to ensure your coverage is current?

Have you reviewed your operation with your insurance broker, with specific consideration for coverage of potential perils or events?

Do you have records of the individual animal identifiers that are within your possession?

Have you assessed the risks associated with actions you might take in response to certain perils and the coverage available should you do so? For instance, moving animals off premise from a flood zone or fire path?

Do you have business interruption coverage that would cover you in the event of a sustained border closure or market collapse?

Have you documented your various protocols, including your emergency management protocols, so that if necessary, you can demonstrate due diligence to the insurer?

**GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS**

In response to certain disasters or emergencies, the federal and provincial governments may make funds available for individuals and in some cases business operators. These funds are in addition to those made available for compensation and are typically provided to the recipient, through provincial authorities.

Federal and provincial governments have also partnered to develop and deliver a suite of risk management programs. While these programs are not intended to address a sector-wide emergency, they may provide limited coverage.

For more information about any of these programs please visit: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
[www.agr.gc.ca/eng/home/?id=1395690825741](http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/home/?id=1395690825741)

**AgriStability**

Covers losses associated with increased feed costs or reduced revenue from sale of livestock

**AgriRecovery**

Disaster relief on a case-by-case basis

**AgriInvest**

Provides a 'savings account' for producers that may cover small income declines

*Alberta producers can learn more about the Disaster Recovery Program Referrals by visiting [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/mgb\\_disaster\\_recovery\\_program\\_referral](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/mgb_disaster_recovery_program_referral)*

# Response

## 6. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

**In the event that a serious animal disease is reported on your farm, you will be required to clean and disinfect the premises after the disease is eradicated.**

Cleaning and disinfection actions and costs are the responsibility of the owner of the premises in question. In some cases, this might be the landlord of the property even if they do not personally own the affected livestock.

Your premises will continue to be designated as an 'Infected Place' until cleaning and disinfection are completed to the satisfaction of the province or CFIA. After that time, restocking can begin to take place.

Although cleaning and disinfection protocols are typically site specific, producers can expect to move through the following steps:

### QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Have cleaning and disinfecting supplies on hand
- ✓ Develop your Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with input from CFIA
- ✓ Work with CFIA inspectors

PREMISES PLAN FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION	CFIA ROLES
Producer develops Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the cleaning and disinfecting of all barns, equipment, service rooms, etc. on the premises	CFIA Site Visit #1: Review, Recommendations and Approval of SOP
Dry Clean	CFIA Inspection
Wet Clean and Rinse	CFIA Inspection
Dry, Disinfect, Rinse	CFIA Inspection
Dry	CFIA Sign Off
Fallow period if required or declaration that a place has ceased to be infected	

During a disease event, the CFIA or AAFC will provide producers with clear guidance and cleaning and disinfection instructions. The requirements and expectations for cleaning and disinfection will differ considerably between diseases. Below is a sample checklist that may be considered when developing a protocol for cleaning and disinfection on your farm.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### IDENTIFY:

Areas that need to be cleaned and disinfected (barns, storage, garages, offices, entrances, feed bins/feeding equipment, etc.)

Materials, equipment and machinery to be cleaned and disinfected

### DEVELOP:

A list of area(s) or equipment that are difficult to clean

Entry and exit procedures

### DETERMINE:

Application method and required equipment

### SELECT:

Appropriate methods of cleaning – dry and wet, including application method and required equipment



## Response

### 7. LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

**Once the outbreak situation has stabilized and the risk has diminished, the appropriate regulatory authority will begin lifting disease response conditions. This decision will be made after discussion with industry leaders.**

A statement will be released by the AAF or CFIA indicating that the disease-related sector-wide emergency is now over. This information will be welcome news to producers and will come by way of the industry associations or public media.

Alberta Pork will communicate changes to conditions and sector-wide disease-related emergency status, to its members and others within the pork sector using a variety of communication tools.

#### QUICK TIPS

- ✓ *Keep your eye out for updates from your producer organization*
- ✓ *Regularly visit your association's website*

## Recovery

**As conditions are removed, focus will turn to the recovery process. CFIA, the federal government, and industry leaders will be working diligently to gain formal recognition of Canada's 'disease-free' status by our trading partners around the world. This is an involved process that may take months and even years.**

Once Canada has successfully demonstrated an absence of the disease for the required time frame, and our 'disease-free' status is recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health and national regulatory authorities of our various trading partners, industry stakeholders can begin to re-establish market share. This too will take time.

# CONCLUSION

Although the prospect of dealing with any phase of a disease-related sector-wide emergency is daunting, there are things we can all do to strengthen and protect our industry. This handbook has been developed to help producers understand important concepts, be as prepared as possible in the event of an outbreak situation, and to respond appropriately.

Alberta Pork is committed to advocating on behalf of the pork industry as a whole and providing producer support. If you have any questions or concerns about the information contained in this document please contact:

**Alberta Pork**  
**4828 89 Street**  
**Edmonton, AB**  
**T6E 5K1**

**Phone: (780) 474-8288**  
**Fax: (780) 479-5128**  
**Producer Direct Line: 1-877-247-7675**  
**Email: [info@albertapork.com](mailto:info@albertapork.com)**

For more information and specific resources on serious animal disease prevention please visit  
**[www.albertapork.com](http://www.albertapork.com)**

# SCHEDULE 1. GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

## Glossary

<b>AAF</b>	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
<b>AAFC</b>	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
<b>ADM</b>	Assistant Deputy Minister
<b>AERT</b>	Area Emergency Response Team
<b>CBSA</b>	Canada Border Services Agency
<b>CCVO</b>	Council of Chief Veterinary Officers
<b>CFIA</b>	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
<b>CPC</b>	Canadian Pork Council
<b>CPV</b>	Chief Provincial Veterinarian
<b>CVO</b>	Chief Veterinarian Officer of Canada
<b>EIS</b>	Enforcement and Investigation Services
<b>EMC</b>	Emergency Management Committee
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Centre, modified by (J) Joint, (G) Government, (N) National or (R) Regional, (A) Area
<b>FAD</b>	Foreign Animal Disease
<b>FADES Plan</b>	Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support Plan
<b>FCC</b>	Federal Coordination Centre
<b>FMD</b>	Foot and Mouth Disease
<b>FSAHD</b>	Food Safety and Animal Health Division
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>HAA</b>	Health of Animals Act – Federal
<b>ICS</b>	Incident Command System
<b>JIC</b>	Joint Information Centre
<b>LCD</b>	Liquid Crystal Display
<b>LMIS</b>	Livestock Market Interruption Strategy
<b>NCFAD</b>	National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease
<b>NCIAP</b>	National Critical Infrastructure Assurance Program
<b>NERT</b>	National Emergency Response Team
<b>OCPV</b>	Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian
<b>OIE</b>	Office International des Epizooties/World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>PAHS</b>	Plant and Animal Health Strategy
<b>PCZ</b>	Primary Control Zone
<b>PEDv</b>	Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus
<b>PHAC</b>	Public Health Agency of Canada
<b>POC</b>	Provincial Operations Centre
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>PSC</b>	Public Safety Canada
<b>RCMP</b>	Royal Canadian Mounted Police

## Definitions

<b>Animal health emergency</b>	<p>An outbreak or epizootic of a serious animal disease requiring immediate action to contain, control and eradicate the disease, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal movement controls</li> <li>• Slaughtering of animals known to be or suspected of being infected</li> <li>• Disposal of carcasses or infected products</li> <li>• Cleaning and disinfecting of the Infected Place and transport</li> <li>• Application of measures aimed at limiting the spread of the disease and</li> <li>• Tracing the origin of the disease, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Confirmed Case</b>	<p>Confirmation of disease by National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease on samples obtained at the farm by CFIA staff by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virus isolation</li> <li>• Antigen identified from animals showing clinical signs or</li> <li>• Linked to confirmed outbreak, or antibodies from other than vaccination with clinical signs.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Operations Centre (EOC, NEOC, PEOC, REOC)</b>	<p>Site of decision-making, leadership and management for the event are administered using the Incident Command System. May be implemented on a (N) national, (P) provincial or (R) regional basis, in which case it will be preceded by the letter N, P, A or R.</p>
<b>Emergency Management Committee</b>	<p>During an emergency, an industry organization's Emergency Management Committee is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the organization. The committee may be comprised of Chair/President, General Manager/Executive Director, Vice Chair/President or Animal Health Committee Chair, and/or other executive members or staff as required; a quorum of three is required. All members have voting rights. Decisions require a majority. Meetings will be chaired by the Chair/President and decisions recorded.</p>
<b>EOC Director of Field Operations Centre</b>	<p>The person named as EOC Director responsible for the Emergency Operations Centre and responsible for the management of disease control or eradication operations.</p>
<b>Infected Place</b>	<p>A place declared infected pursuant to the federal <i>Health of Animals Act</i>.</p>
<b>Livestock Market Interruption Strategy</b>	<p>LMIS is a national strategy developed by federal, provincial, and territorial governments and the livestock industry to enhance preparedness to manage any large-scale livestock market interruption focused on the impact to healthy animals. The strategy is made up of a variety of tools and information to support government and industry planning, decision-making and action.</p>
<b>Local Authority</b>	<p>The council of a city, town, village, local government or Indigenous group.</p>
<b>Plant and Animal Health Strategy (PAHS)</b>	<p>The strategy of government, industry, academia and other stakeholders to strengthen Canada's protection of plant and animal health by collaboration, innovation and risk prevention.</p>
<b>Production Area</b>	<p>The operation's pens, barns, and pastures where livestock are or may be kept.</p>

<b>Reportable diseases</b>	<p>Reportable diseases are outlined in the <i>Health of Animals Act</i> and <i>Reportable Diseases Regulations</i> and are usually of significant importance to human or animal health or to the Canadian economy. Anyone having care and control of an animal (e.g. owner, veterinarian, laboratory) is required to immediately report the presence of an animal that is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with one of these diseases to a CFIA district veterinarian.</p> <p><b>Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD)</b> are reportable diseases that are not found in Canada.</p> <p>Note: Provinces may also have a reportable disease list that may include diseases that are not in the federal <i>Reportable Diseases Regulations</i>.</p>
<b>Serious animal diseases</b>	Serious animal diseases are diseases that are more severe than common animal health illnesses and that can have significant impacts to trade and industry operations.
<b>Special premises</b>	Premises such as an abattoir, artificial insemination centre, sales yard, zoo, game farm, shipping yard or any other premises where animals are kept or assembled.
<b>Suspect Case</b>	The presence of clinical signs or post-mortem lesions in susceptible animals consistent with a specific disease reported by a private practitioner, an owner, a provincial laboratory, or a veterinarian in charge or district veterinarian, and determined as high risk in consultation with the disease specialists or all susceptible animals epidemiologically determined to have been exposed to the virus.
<b>Trade(ing) Area</b>	The geographic area that either directly or indirectly interacts with the province in consideration and includes areas where bulk of animals bought from or sold to. An interruption or outbreak in any portion of the trading area would impact the province in consideration.

# SCHEDULE 2. KEY SERIOUS ANIMAL DISEASE SYMPTOMS

For more information on individual livestock diseases and tips for recognizing their signs, visit the Center for Food Security and Public Health ([www.cfsph.iastate.edu](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu)) and search Animal Disease Information or see [www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/eng/1300388388234/1300388449143](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/eng/1300388388234/1300388449143)

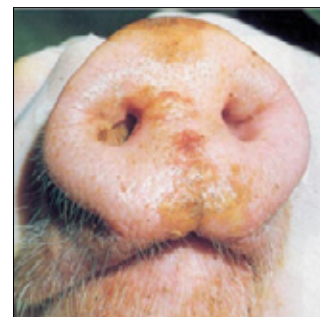
## Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

### DESCRIPTION & SYMPTOMS

A viral disease-causing fever and vesicles, which are similar to blisters, that quickly pop and cause erosions in the mouth or on the feet, resulting in excessive salivation or lameness. Because they pop quickly, these blisters are not always easy to see. FMD affects all ungulates or hoofed animals.

These signs may appear in affected animals during an FMD outbreak:

- Hogs backed off feed and eating less, or not eating, because of painful tongue and mouth blisters
- Vesicles that rupture and discharge clear or cloudy fluid, leaving raw, eroded areas surrounded by ragged fragments of loose tissue
- Sticky, foamy, stringy saliva
- Lameness with reluctance to move
- Great increase in body temperature for two to three days
- Other indicators include: Abortions, low milk production in dairy cows, and heart disease and death in newborn animals
- It will take many months for animals to regain weight lost during the illness, and recovered animals suffer lower milk production, conception rates and rates of gain



Lesions

### HOW IS FMD SPREAD?

FMD is an infectious and highly contagious viral disease that is spread by aerosol, sometimes at a distance of several miles. The virus can also exist for several days on metal, cloth or other surfaces or in organic matter including manure. FMD is commonly introduced through the movement of infected livestock or manure, or contaminated equipment / vehicles / clothing.

### HOW IS FMD CONTROLLED OR ERADICATED?

FMD is difficult to control or eradicate, other than by slaughter of the affected and exposed animals. Vaccines may be used to slow the spread, but vaccinated animals are ineligible for export.

### WHY IS FMD A CONCERN?

**FMD is not a disease of concern to humans.** Although animals may recover from FMD, international borders are closed to countries that are not free of FMD. Were FMD to occur in Canada, the loss of international markets would result in a significant market interruption resulting in a sector-wide emergency for several years.

# Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv)

## DESCRIPTION & SYMPTOMS

Porcine epidemic diarrhea is a coronavirus that infects the cells lining the small intestine severe diarrhea and dehydration. Older animals mostly get sick and lose weight after being infected, whereas piglets usually die within three to five days. PEDv cannot be transmitted to humans and does not pose any food safety risk.

### Sows

- This can vary from very mild "cow pat" feces through to a watery diarrhea
- Loose feces

### Piglets

- Diarrhea
- Dehydration
- Nearly 100% mortality

### Weaners & Growers

- Acute watery diarrhea with no blood or mucus
- Mortality is usually low but morbidity can be high
- When the virus is first introduced on to the farm there is a rapid spread of diarrhea across all breeding and growing pigs with almost 100% morbidity (pigs affected) within 5 to 10 days. The incubation period is 2 to 4 days
- Vomiting

## HOW IS PEDv SPREAD?

Huge numbers of virus particles are shed in feces. One thimble-full of feces could contain enough virus to infect all the pigs in the United States. The PED virus is being detected in samples collected from pig collection points, slaughter facilities, transportation vehicles and innumerable fomites illustrating the vast potential for transmission.

## HOW IS PEDv CONTROLLED/ERADICATED?

Proper disinfection and biosecurity are crucial adjuncts to feedback. These programs become even more important as preliminary reports of ongoing studies in the US reveal that very low amounts of virus are needed to infect piglets. Reducing or eliminating the virus from the environment after feedback through rigid disinfection and biosecurity protocols is necessary so that the benefits of immunity from feedback are maximized

## WHY IS PEDv A CONCERN?

PED is not a human health concern but it is extremely contagious and can devastate the regional, provincial or national pork industry. Swine producers in Manitoba have recently experienced significant losses.

# Pseudorabies (Aujeszky's Disease)

## DESCRIPTION & SYMPTOMS

A viral disease causing neurological and respiratory disease in swine, which are the natural hosts of the virus. It sporadically infects other species (cattle, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, mink, foxes, raccoons and rats), causing a fatal neurological disease with rabies-like signs and severe itching.

Swine show different signs of the virus depending on age, with the youngest animals being the most severely affected:

- **Neonates/suckling pigs:** In very young pigs, the only sign may be an inability to move or stand up; they may sit like dogs due to posterior paralysis. Slightly older piglets may have a fever, loss of appetite, vomiting and nervous system signs such as incoordination, drowsiness, muscle twitching, convulsions and paralysis. Mortality in suckling pigs is close to 100 per cent
- **Weaner pigs:** The mortality rate is lower (five to 10 per cent). The clinical signs may resemble those in suckling pigs but respiratory signs including coughing, sneezing and laboured breathing, are more prominent
- **Grower and finisher pigs:** Respiratory disease is the most common sign. Mortality rates are low (one to two per cent)
- **Adult pigs:** Infection in adult pigs is often mild or unapparent. Gilts and sows may have reproductive problems, such as early embryonic mortality, abortion, mummified fetuses, stillbirths or they could give birth to weak and trembling pigs who quickly die

Infections in species other than pigs are almost always fatal. Symptoms may include intense itching, scratching and self-mutilation, an inability to rise, incoordination, paralysis and rapid death

## HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Pseudorabies is highly contagious in pigs and the disease will spread rapidly throughout an entire herd. The virus is spread mainly via the respiratory route and nose-to-nose contact. Piglets can become infected in utero and through milk from an infected sow.

Pseudorabies is a herpes virus; once an animal is infected, it remains infected for life and it may not demonstrate signs of disease even though it is shedding the virus.

Transmission can also occur by contaminated drinking water, coming in contact with contaminated clothing, footwear, or equipment, especially in cool, damp weather which helps virus survival. There is evidence of airborne transmission.

## HOW IS IT CONTROLLED/ERADICATED?

There is no specific treatment for the disease. Vaccination can prevent illness and alleviate clinical signs in acute cases, and it is used extensively in some countries to control the disease. In the U.S., vaccination is part of the pseudorabies eradication program.

## PROTECTION OF THE CANADIAN INDUSTRY

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) imposes strict regulations on the import of animals and animal products from countries where pseudorabies is known to occur.

**These regulations are enforced through port-of-entry inspections done either by the Canada Border Services Agency or the CFIA.**



# RESOURCES

## Farm Objectives

### FARM OBJECTIVES: DISEASE-RELATED SECTOR-WIDE EMERGENCY



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

In a sector-wide emergency, real or perceived, the principal objectives are to:

#### 1. Keep personnel safe

- Including staff, management, owners, and their families, and residents on the farm

#### 2. Minimize animal losses

- Avoid or minimize animal loss within the barns or pastures
- Avoid or limit impacts of the event spreading from the farm

#### 3. Minimize animal health and welfare impacts

- Avoid or minimize introduction of disease into the farm
- Avoid or minimize the spread of disease within the farm
- Avoid or minimize the spread of disease from the farm
- Avoid or minimize animal stress on the farm

#### 4. Determine best direction for the operation:

- Resume or grow business activities as quickly and as safely as possible
  - Regain normal operations at the farm, as soon as practical and safe for staff and residents
  - Expand as opportunities present
- Downsize or exit operations as efficiently and safely as possible
  - Consider potential productivity versus input costs
  - Consider shutdown costs, sale of facilities/equipment and impacts on staff

#### 5. Other:

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## INTRODUCTION



## PREPARE

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## RESOURCES

(P) Pesticide

(H) Water Source for Fire Hydrant

(G) Main Gas Shutoff

(E) Main Electrical Shutoff

(FT) Above Ground Fuel Tank

(FA) First Aid

 Fire Extinguisher

**MP** Meeting Place

Septic System

Manure System (label location)

# Farm Work Cycle

## TYPICAL WORK CYCLE



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY	FREQUENCY	QUANTITY
<i>Example: Feed Delivery</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>2 loads @ 15 Mt per load</i>
Feed Delivery		
Shipment of Animals		
Movement of People		
Other Traffic		
Veterinarian Visits		
Husbandry Protocols (vaccinations, breeding, weaning, etc)		
Deadstock Pick-up		

## FARM INVENTORY OF PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### PEOPLE

Number of people living here:		Number of people employed:	
Number of disabled persons:		Nature of disability:	
Number of heavy-duty equipment operators:		Number of others: (excl. owner/operator):	

### BARN/BUILDING SUMMARY

Building/Barn	Capacity	Feed Storage/Bin	Inventory/Capacity

### EQUIPMENT & RESOURCES ON HAND (Description, Number & Location)

Bulldozers/Scrapers/Skidder:	
Front-End Loaders:	
Backhoes:	
Vaccines/Medicines:	
Portable Water Pumps:	
Portable Generators:	
Fire Extinguishers:	
Absorbent Material (Shavings, straw, etc.)	
Sand Bags:	
First Aid:	
Personal Protection Equipment:	
Other:	

# Farm Decision Makers

## PRIMARY/SECONDARY ON-FARM CONTACTS



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

**Primary Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Land Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Land Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_ 911 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if available)

Directions to this location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

Land Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Off Site Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

Land Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

# Farm Contact List Templates

## STAFF CONTACT LIST



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Title	Contact Phone	Contact Email	Lives on Farm (Y/N)	Owns Animals (Y/N)	HD Equip. Operator (Y/N)

# Farm Contact List Templates

## EXTERNAL CONTACT LIST



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO	PRIMARY CONTACT	PHONE & CELL	EMAIL
<b>Primary Emergency Organizations</b>			
Police/RCMP			
Fire			
Ambulance			
Veterinarian			
Municipal Emergency Management			
Alberta Pork			
Canadian Pork Council			
<b>Utilities</b>			
Electricity Supplier			
Internet Provider			
Telephone Service			
Natural Gas			

*continued >>*

## &gt;&gt; CONTINUED

**Government Offices**

CFIA Emergency Line		1-877-814-2342	
Chief District Office		204-945-7684	
AAF (local office)			
Alberta Ministry of Environment and Parks			
Alberta Emergency Management Agency			
Municipal Office			
Service Providers			
Assembly Yards, Processing Plants, Other Farms			
Fuel			
Insurance Broker			
Feed 1			
Feed 2			
Feed 3			
Livestock Transporter			
Electrician			
Plumber			
Lenders			
<b>Livestock Owners</b>			



# Visitor Log

## VISITOR LOG



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR BIOSECURITY PURPOSES, ALL VISITOR ENTRIES ARE RECORDED

Entry is recorded at the earliest point of entering the operation.

Visitors include all people entering with permission (e.g. service providers and professionals, school tours, international visitors, etc.) Excludes personnel (owner/operators, staff, family, etc.)

Date	Name	Company	Contact Number	License Plate No.	Comments	Last contact with pigs (date)	Entered Production Area? (Y/N)	Animal Contact? (Y/N)

# Visitor Control Protocol

## VISITOR CONTROL PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Establish control at recognizable primary access points on and off the farm with a lockable gate or some form of moveable barrier. Be sure to identify these new items on the farm plan.

Establish control at access points to the barns, pens, manure storages, or field, and also at areas where feed and medications are stored.

Post signage prominently at all access points to the farm. All signage should prohibit unauthorized entry and indicate that biosecurity is in effect.

Ensure signage at primary access points directs entrants to the office. Signage at other points should discourage access and redirect entrants to primary access points.

Record all visitor access on a Visitor Log to facilitate follow up in an emergency.

Use a Visitor Risk Assessment Guide to identify and manage the different potential risks associated with the range of visitors, equipment or vehicles entering the farm on a daily basis.

## VISITOR RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

RISK CATEGORY	CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE	BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS
LOW	Within the past 14 days:	Visitor is from urban area and does not have livestock contact	Workplace health and safety inspector stops by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record visits</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 livestock contact</li> <li>0–1 visits to livestock operations</li> </ul>			
MODERATE	Within the past 14 days:	Contractor outside of agriculture that typically does not visit farming operations	A utility provider that entered the barn to fix some lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize access to production area</li> <li>Prevent all but essential contact to pigs</li> <li>Before access is permitted, ensure clean footwear/clothing/tires/surfaces, all visibly clean of organic matter</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock contact at one operation</li> </ul>	Travel from or are transported from farm to farm, but do not enter the production area or come into direct contact with livestock or manure	Service personnel that may enter the production area but rarely come into contact with livestock manure	
HIGH	Within the past 14 days:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals who travel from or are transported from farm to farm</li> <li>Individuals who enter the production area and have direct contact with livestock or manure</li> </ul>	Veterinary and livestock inspection professionals who enter the production area and generally come into direct contact with livestock manure	Producers must apply biosecurity practices to these visitors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent all but essential access to the production area or contact with pigs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock contact at multiple operations</li> </ul>		Custom manure cleaning operators and equipment that may transport manure from one production area to another	
	Other livestock operator (including employee)		Personnel who work with livestock at their own or another operation	
	Persons from other countries where reportable diseases are a concern		Personnel working with animals in the segregation or sick facility	
	Person who has handled sick or segregated animals at this or other operations			

# First Response Agency Protocol

## FIRST RESPONSE AGENCY PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Get acquainted with members of your local government first response agencies**

- The fire department is a good place to start

### **Familiarize yourself with the organizations that are initially responsible for different sector-wide emergencies**

- Disease-related emergencies: Alberta Pork, Chief Provincial Veterinarian, CFIA regional offices, CFIA Chief Veterinary Officer
- Other emergencies: Alberta Emergency Management Agency

### **Offer to share your plans with local government first response agencies**

- Of particular interest will be your Farm Plan, Farm Inventory, and Decision Makers (Primary and Secondary contacts)
- They may be able to keep it on file or stored digitally for access before and on route to an event

# Unusual Animal Health Events

## UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INDICATOR PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**If any of the following indicators are observed, then the farm's veterinarian will be contacted immediately to investigate further:**

Unexplained or sharp increase in sickness, lameness, behavioural changes, death loss.

- Exceeds normal acceptable level of this many head per week/day: \_\_\_\_\_ (head/%)

Animals backed off feed/water (daily intake is down for reasons not related to weather or seasonality)

Disease or symptoms not previously encountered

Typical disease or symptoms with abnormal severity or non-responsive to treatment

Rapid spread throughout herd

Reportable/notifiable disease suspected on farm

Lesions/blisters

Blotchy/discoloured skin

Any death of unknown cause

Other events, as determined with your veterinarian

# UNUSUAL ANIMAL HEALTH EVENT INITIAL RESPONSE PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Notify Staff and Family Members

An Unusual Animal Health Event exists on the farm

Review and strictly follow biosecurity protocols currently in place, or as established by management

Minimize/avoid contact with other livestock, particularly other hogs

## 2. Call Veterinarian and Act on Advice, for example

Isolate sick animals

Submit samples for diagnosis

Stop livestock movements on/off the Infected Place

Limit and monitor other movements on/off (e.g. staff, equipment, manure spreading etc.)

Gather information/documentation as required (e.g. visitor log, livestock inventory, identification record including purchases/sales within the last 30 days, individual treatment log, herd health protocol)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Identify a Primary Contact within your organization. This will be the point person or coordinator to be available for key decisions

## 4. Contact External Stakeholders. External notifications may be made after a positive diagnosis is received

Farm veterinarian to notify regulatory authority as/if appropriate

- CFIA District Veterinarian called (suspect reportable disease)
- Chief Provincial Veterinarian

Self-declaration by producer to industry association and neighbouring livestock producers (depending on suspected disease)

- Alberta Pork
- Neighbouring livestock producers
- Notify suppliers and other contracts (e.g. feed suppliers, livestock transporters, utility companies with access rights)

# Sector-Wide Triggers

## NOTICE OF SUSPICION RESPONSE PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### WHO:

CFIA's Chief Veterinary Officer or Chief Provincial Veterinarian issues formal Notice of Suspicion for a serious animal disease

### WHERE:

Anywhere within the area where a producer regularly does business (trading area)

### WHEN:

A federal or provincial government veterinarian has reason to believe a federal or provincially reportable disease is present

### WHAT:

May be referred to as 'the gray period' when an outbreak is suspected but not confirmed and movement controls have not been announced

### PRODUCER RESPONSE:

- Review biosecurity protocols, visitor manuals, etc.

- Seek additional guidance specific to the situation from veterinarian or Alberta Pork

- Monitor Alberta Pork, CFIA, AAF and CPC websites and other media for updates

### NOTE:

Additional and more restrictive requirements would be ordered for 'Infected Place(s)', as announced by veterinary authorities.

## NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION RESPONSE PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### WHO:

CFIA's Chief Veterinary Officer or Chief Provincial Veterinarian issues formal Notice of Confirmation for a serious animal disease

### WHERE:

Anywhere within the area where a producer regularly does business (trading area)

### WHEN:

A serious animal disease is confirmed, at the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canada's most highly specialized and widely recognized animal disease laboratory

### WHAT:

Once Notice of Confirmation is issued, the Minister usually establishes a Primary Control Zone and movement controls. Permits or licenses for all livestock, related materials and equipment will be required for movement into or within the Primary Control Zone

### PRODUCER RESPONSE:

- Review and strictly adhere to biosecurity protocols

- Seek additional guidance specific to the situation from veterinarian or Alberta Pork

- Monitor Alberta Pork, CFIA, AAF and CPC websites and other media for updates



# Producer Self Declaration

## SAMPLE PRODUCER SELF DECLARATION



**As owner of the following animals, hereafter referred to as 'the Animals'**

Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate number: \_\_\_\_\_

PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

In the town of: \_\_\_\_\_ Province of: \_\_\_\_\_,

hereafter referred to as 'the Province,' and duly represented as a livestock producer by the following association

\_\_\_\_\_ hereafter referred to as 'the Association.'

I, (owner name) \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and/or the Government of Alberta to share confidential details about my operation during the course of a disease investigation with the Association as necessary, with the understanding that this information will only be used to aid in the investigative process.

I agree to release the Association from any and all claims I may have as a result of the disclosure of the disease information as set out in this Direction, provided that such disclosure shall not apply with respect to any negligent or intentionally wrongful act of omission on the part of any of the Recipients.

I further agree to allow the Association to utilize and share such confidential information about my operation during the disease outbreak and investigation, as it determines to be in the best interests of the industry at large.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, in the province of \_\_\_\_\_,

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness' Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Signature

### Definition of Terms:

**Inventory Owner:** Individual or Corporation that is the legal owner of the animals located at the premises identified.

**Premises:** Location of the barn/barns at which the disease testing has taken place.

**PPID#:** Provincial Premises Identification Number assigned to each hog production premises within the province.

# Owner Advisory Template

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TO OWNERS (CUSTOM OPERATION)



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Contract #: \_\_\_\_\_

Operation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Livestock Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of animals affected:**

**Nature of emergency or risk:**

**Authority to make decisions to protect animal well-being** (reference to specific contract section):

**Contact information:**

# Mass Vaccination

## MASS VACCINATION PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Farm owner/manager to review and accept the vaccination protocol with a Site Supervisor appointed by CFIA or AAF, setting out all requirements including:**

- Species/class to be vaccinated
- Method
- Dosage
- Record-keeping requirements
- Booster requirements
- End use
- Oversight
- Other control factors

**All personnel acknowledge their acceptance of regulatory oversight whether provided by CFIA or AAF**

**All personnel agree to apply protocol as directed by CFIA or AAF site supervisor**

**Farm staff will:**

- Record receipt of vaccine doses and ensure oversight of vaccine as directed
- Vaccinate all animals, as set out in the vaccination protocol and directed by the Site Supervisor
- Record individual animal identification of each vaccinate, at time of vaccination, together with date and place and members of vaccination crew and vaccination oversight personnel
- Identify vaccinates, as required by regulatory authority: this may be a temporary or permanent identifier (e.g. Ketchum metal tag or brand)
- Record unused vaccine doses and return to regulatory authority if required
- Provide CFIA or AAF site supervisor with record of animal identification for all animals vaccinated
- Apply second or booster vaccination if directed, using similar protocol, in the time frame required

# Mass Depopulation and Disposal

## MASS DEPOPULATION AND DISPOSAL PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Once a Destruction Order is issued, operators and personnel will need to:**

<p><b>Review</b> and <b>accept</b> the overall depopulation and/or disposal strategies required by Regulatory Authority CFIA or AAF</p>	Owner/ Manager
<p><b>Follow</b> directives from the Regulator's Designate (Site Supervisor) who will provide regulatory oversight and instructions regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species/class involved</li> <li>• Depopulation and/or disposal protocols (method and means)</li> <li>• Record-keeping requirements, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assist</b> with the assembly, movement, restraint, and processing of animals, whether depopulation takes place at the farm or elsewhere</p> <p><b>Prepare</b> and <b>provide</b> records of animals depopulated and/or disposed of, as set out in the protocol. Examples of the type of records that should be taken can be found in Figure 4 – Information Protocol for Valuation/Compensation</p> <p><b>Apply</b> animal biosecurity practices as prescribed</p> <p><b>Follow</b> personal biosecurity requirements as prescribed and which may include any or all of the following and other requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showering before and after each shift</li> <li>• Hand washing before putting on and after removal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</li> <li>• Wearing of PPE</li> <li>• Taking any vaccine or prophylactic medication, if any is recommended by public health officials</li> <li>• Self-monitoring for any signs of personal sickness and seeking medical care if symptoms appear</li> <li>• Having NO CONTACT with other livestock for a prescribed period of time after these operations</li> </ul> <p><b>Report</b> any spillage of material (urine, manure, hide, other) that might potentially contain contaminant (virus, bacteria, other), outside the prescribed area for disposal</p>	All personnel

# Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PROTOCOL



Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID #: \_\_\_\_\_

### IDENTIFY:

Areas that need to be cleaned and disinfected (barns, storage, garages, offices, entrances, feed bins/feeding equipment etc.)

Materials, equipment and machinery to be cleaned and disinfected

### DEVELOP:

A list of area(s) or equipment that are difficult to clean

Entry and exit procedures

### DETERMINE:

Application method and required equipment

### SELECT:

Appropriate methods of cleaning – dry and wet, including application method and required equipment

**Notes:**

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