
***FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE
EMERGENCY SUPPORT PLAN***

ALBERTA

F. A. D. E. S.

15-February-2012

Memorandum of Understanding

Concerning the Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support Plan - Alberta

Between:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, a body corporate established pursuant to the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act*, with its headquarters located at 59 Camelot Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0Y9 (CFIA)

and

Her Majesty the Queen, in right of the Province of Alberta as represented by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (Alberta)

WHEREAS the CFIA is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada), 1990, c.21 and is the lead authority for the prevention, control and eradication of Foreign Animal Diseases in Canada;

WHEREAS the speed at which some highly contagious Foreign Animal Diseases can spread means that adequately combating the disease will likely exceed the capability of any single agency or government department to adequately combat a Foreign Animal Disease outbreak;

AND WHEREAS effective control and eradication could require rapid mobilization of extraordinary resources and cooperation from other federal government departments, Alberta, municipalities and industry stakeholders to minimize the potentially negative impact on the agri-food industry and the economy;

NOW THEREFORE, the CFIA, in collaboration with other federal government departments, and Alberta, in collaboration amongst several provincial government departments, have developed the Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support Plan - Alberta, ("FADES-Alberta") to support and augment CFIA's disease control capability with the Alberta's provincial emergency management system.

THE PARTIES agree:

1. The FADES-Alberta is attached as Schedule "A" to and forms part of this Memorandum of Understanding. The parties may develop and attach appendices to the FADES-Alberta and develop operational amendments, as they consider necessary in order to implement FADES-Alberta and carry out this Memorandum of Understanding. To be effective, any appendix or amendment must be by the written agreement of the parties.
2. Either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by delivering 30 days notice in writing to the other party. Termination of this Memorandum of Understanding by Alberta shall be without reference to the rights and interests of any party or other

person.

3. It is hereby understood by the parties that:

(a) Alberta employees may need to be designated as analysts, inspectors, veterinary inspectors or officers for the purposes of the *Health of Animals Act*, and that the CFIA would be responsible for the actions undertaken by the Alberta employees in the course of activities conducted as CFIA designated analysts, inspectors, veterinary inspectors or officers,

(b) Alberta would remain responsible for all actions undertaken by its officers, employees or agencies that are not designated under the *Health of Animals Act*, and

(c) This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create binding legal relations between the parties.

4. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of the last signature by one of the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed by the respective representatives, duly authorized, on the date indicated.

Signatures

For CFIA

For ALBERTA

Phil Amundson,
Executive Director
Western Area

Barry Mehr,
Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture, Food
and Rural Development

Signed at _____
on the ___ day of _____ 2006.

Signed at _____
on the ___ day of _____ 2006.

SIGNATORIES

THE PROCEDURES DETAILED IN THIS PLAN ARE APPROVED FOR USE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SPECIFIED THEREIN.

Phil Amundson,
Executive Director,
Western Area
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Michel Sigouin,
Regional Director
Public Safety and Emergency
Preparedness Canada
(Alberta)

Barry Mehr,
Deputy Minister
Alberta Agriculture, Food and
Rural Development

Rick Brown,
Acting Executive Director
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Emergency Management Alberta

Date

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AARD – Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

ADM – Assistant Deputy Minister

AEMA – Alberta Emergency Management Agency

AEOC – Area Emergency Operations Centre

AERT – Area Emergency Response Team

AHW – Alberta Health and Wellness

ASRD – Alberta Sustainable Resources Development

AVMA – Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

CBSA – Canadian Border Services Agency

CCVO – Canadian Council of Veterinary Officers

CFIA – Canadian Food Inspection Agency

CPV – Chief Provincial Veterinarian

EIC – Enforcement and Investigation Services

FAD – Foreign Animal Disease

FADES – Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support

FCC – Federal Coordination Centre

FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease

GEOC – Government Emergency Operations Centre

GIS – Geographic Information System

GOC – Government Operations Centre

JIC – Joint Information Centre

NCIAP – National Critical Infrastructure Assurance Program

NEOC – National Emergency Operations Centre

NERT – National Emergency Response Team

NCFAD – National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease

OCPV – Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian

OIE – Office International des Epizooties

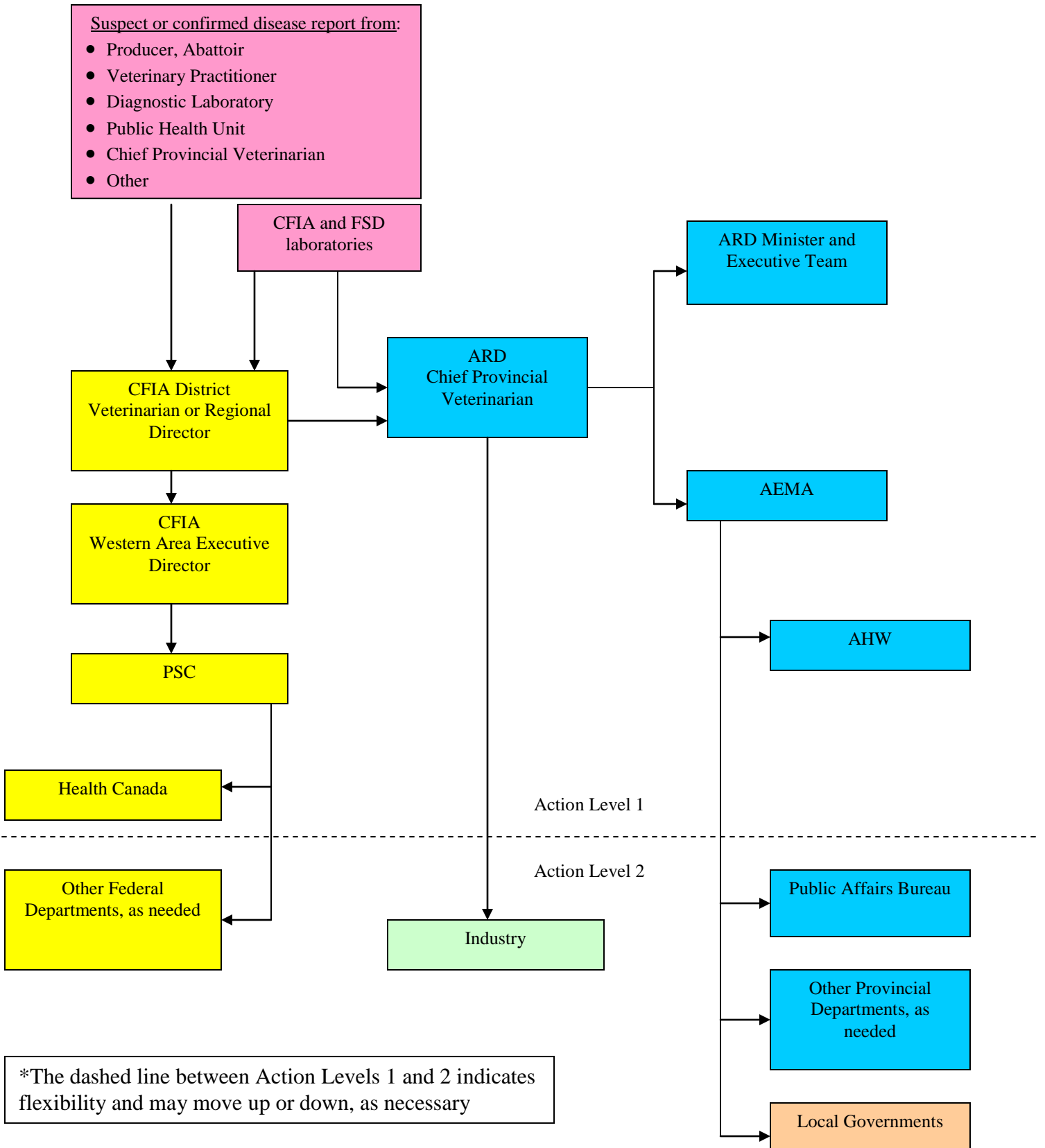
PSC – Public Safety Canada

RCMP – Royal Canadian Mounted Police

REOC – Regional Emergency Operations Centre

SGPS – Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security

QUICK REFERENCE—Notification—Action Levels 1 & 2



SECTION I - PREFACE

OVERVIEW

The agriculture industry in Alberta is a major contributor to the economy of both the province and Canada. An outbreak of a foreign animal disease (FAD) in the meat or poultry production industry in Alberta could result in economic losses on an unprecedented national scale.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible, under the *Health of Animals Act*, for eradication of FADs in Canada. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD) is responsible under various authorities to ensure the health and viability of the agri-food supply in Alberta, partially through dissemination of information, such as preventive measures and effective bio-security practices. Eradication of an FAD will require extraordinary resources and co-operation by all orders of government and the private sector in order to minimize the effect on the agriculture industry. AARD is responsible for implementing the plan at the Alberta provincial level.

This plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of the potential government organizations that may be required to provide the CFIA with the support needed to ensure the coordinated, efficient and effective prevention and/or eradication of an FAD outbreak in Alberta.

The plan presents an opportunity for private organizations to develop agreements of support. The roles of government and private organizations integral to a successful FAD response are outlined, however, it is expected that each group will develop detailed emergency response plans.

It is important to note that a variety of FADs exist and that the response to each may differ. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is the most contagious disease of animals and the response to an outbreak would need to be rapid and substantial. Other diseases that do not spread as quickly would require a response tailored to their characteristics. The CFIA has developed specific responses for each disease. Consequently, adaptation of this plan may be necessary to accommodate the requirements of the FAD in question.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide a concept with which federal, provincial and local governments will provide the assistance required by the CFIA for the eradication of a FAD outbreak in Alberta. The plan also presents an opportunity for private sector organizations to participate by developing emergency response plans to support the disease control effort.

The FADES Plan is always active and provides a guideline of how a highly contagious FAD is handled. The level of activation may increase as required, but the framework that it operates under is always in place. Not all components of the plan are activated for every disease occurrence and activities may be ramped up or scaled down as appropriate.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES

A FAD is a Reportable Disease (Reportable Diseases Regulations, *Schedule 2*) that does not exist in Canada, e.g. FMD, Swine Vesicular Disease, Vesicular Stomatitis, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Pseudorabies, Newcastle Disease, any Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), any H5 or H7 strain of Avian Influenza, Bluetongue) or any other disease

which, after due consideration, is deemed to be foreign to Canada and reportable by the Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food Canada.

For a list of highly contagious FADs of concern, please see Appendix A.

Descriptions of these FADs are available on the CFIA website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/disemalae.shtml>

Outbreaks of serious animal disease will continue to occur in the world.

Recent outbreaks of FMD in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Taiwan and Korea emphasize the need to be vigilant in keeping Canada FAD-free. Similarly, occurrences of Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera) in the Netherlands, Haiti and the Dominican Republic threaten the Canadian pork industry. Since December 2003, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been and continues to be reported in poultry, as well as humans, in a number of countries. British Columbia's Fraser Valley also experienced an HPAI outbreak in 2004, as did a farm in Saskatchewan in 2007.

The rapid and frequent movement of people and goods in the world increases the risk of detecting a FAD in Canada. Increased world trade heightens Canada's risk level of contracting certain diseases, because disease-causing agents can be carried by animals, food products, equipment, shoes and other objects. Continual surveillance, awareness and diagnostic capability are critical to be able to detect disease early. Practicing an effective biosecurity program is also an important part of protecting the health of Canada's livestock industry.

EMERGING DISEASES

Diseases are continually evolving, resulting in novel strains of a known disease or a new disease altogether. "Emerging diseases" are potential threats since much of the information about them is unknown, including the exact way to respond. In cases where an emerging disease has national or international implications, the CFIA will be the lead agency.

PREPAREDNESS

A large component of preparedness includes the development and maintenance of this plan. A working group called the FADES Steering Committee, comprised of federal and provincial and municipal representatives, was formed to steer the development of this plan. Future responsibilities of the FADES Steering Committee include annually reviewing the plan to keep it up to date, as well as participating in table top and simulation exercises with CFIA, other government departments and industry to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the plan and to make changes necessary to improve it. It is also recommended that each organization involved in this plan examine their own emergency response plans on a yearly basis and forward changes to appendices to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV).

SECTION II – LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES

LEGAL AUTHORITIES

The CFIA is responsible under the *Health of Animals Act* for prevention, control and eradication of FAD outbreaks in Canada. If it is necessary to take such action in Alberta it may be done commensurate with the concurrent application, support and respect for other legislated authorities. The primary legal instruments that may apply in Alberta are listed below and described in Appendices B and C.

Federal

Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act
Canada Agricultural Products Act
Canadian Environmental Protection Act
Emergencies Act
Emergency Preparedness Act
Feeds Act
Food and Drugs Act
Health of Animals Act
Meat Inspection Act
Motor Vehicle Transportation Act

Provincial

Agricultural Service Board Act
Animal Health Act
 Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation
 Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation
Animal Protection Act
Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act
Emergency Management Act
 Government Emergency Management Regulation
 Disaster Recovery Regulation
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
Livestock Commerce and Animal Inspection Statutes Amendment Act
Livestock Industry Diversification Act
Meat Inspection Act
Occupational Health and Safety Act
Peace Officer Act
Provincial Parks Act
Public Health Act
Public Highways Development Act
Traffic Safety Act
Water Act
Wildlife Act

SECTION III–FOUR FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management is the application of science, technology, planning and management principles to deal with events that can or have significantly put the health, safety, welfare and property of people at risk and disrupt community life. It encompasses four functional areas: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery that are universally applied in every emergency/disaster.

Emergency Management in animal health is the sum total of organized procedures, structures and resource management that leads to prevention of disease introduction, disease surveillance (mitigation), early detection of disease or infection of animal population (being prepared to detect and respond), prediction of the likely spread, prompt limitation, targeted control, disposal of infected, exposed and dead animals (response) and re-establishment of the industry (recovery). FAD emergencies encompass the four functional areas of emergency management.

The following further highlights the activities and operations that may occur to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from a foreign animal disease outbreak (Responsibilities that agencies and organizations may undertake are outlined in Section VII – and the FAD Impact/Response Matrix (Section IX).

Note: While this section provides general detail on the four functional areas of emergency management, the plan focuses primarily on the response component.

Mitigation – Pre-disaster sustained activities to lessen the impact or likelihood of occurrence; post-disaster sustained activities to enhance preparedness and response operations should a FAD occur another time. These activities may include:

- Intelligence: the Information Gathering and Analysis Team (IGAT) within the CFIA is a group which scans broadly for information related to risks, issues or events which could pose a threat to the health of Canada's livestock. This information is analysed for use by CFIA decision makers and CFIA partners in a timely manner. The team also attempts to anticipate emerging issues which may be important in the future. Networking, collaborating and cooperating with internal and external partners is an extremely important part of the work of IGAT.
- Developing a FAD awareness media campaign for the general public, producers, brokers, transporters, importers, exporters, travellers and other affected parties regarding FAD issues and anticipated responses to a FAD outbreak. Developing information campaigns for those involved in raising, selling, buying or transporting livestock, poultry, wildlife or agricultural products and all persons who may have visited potential FAD infected areas.
- Enhancing FAD surveillance and bio-security activities on farms, in veterinary practices, at livestock markets, ports of entry, slaughterhouses, feedlots, zoos, etc.

- Ensuring substantive FAD related information is being provided to rendering plants, waste management operations, landfills and other similar industrial waste operators.
- Educating FAD related response personnel on the potential human impact and predictable outcomes of FAD control and containment activities.
- Conducting training and awareness campaigns to inform all veterinarians, game wardens, conservation officers, game biologists and other industry stakeholders of the basic clinical signs for identifying common FAD.
- Ensuring the adequacy of existing regulations involving to respond to FAD's.
- Routine biosecurity by minimizing exposure of livestock to visitors, unnecessary movement of animals and having record systems of where the animals have moved.
- Ensuring import inspections and permits, detection processes at key points of entry, inspection of rendering plants, edible residual material feeder control.

Preparedness - Those activities which establish and delineate authorities and responsibilities for emergency actions and make provisions for having, people, equipment and facilities in place to respond when the need arises. It involves planning, training, exercises, procuring and maintaining equipment and designating facilities for emergency purposes. Those activities may include:

- Preparing this support plan to respond to suspected or confirmed FAD outbreaks.
- Preparing or enhancing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for handling FAD outbreaks.
- Conducting training for personnel involved in FAD management activities.
- Ensuring communication lines are established and participants are clear on what actions need to be taken and who is responsible if a FAD is suspected or confirmed.
- Conducting tabletop and functional exercises at the municipal, provincial and federal levels to evaluate FAD plans and test FAD response procedures.
- Developing and maintaining databases of producers and livestock at risk including GIS mapping capability.
- Developing and maintaining a database management tool for tracking the status of premises and response activities.

Response –Those activities and programs designed to address the immediate and short-term effects of the emergency in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Those actions may include:

- Notifying trained responders for FAD related operational response activities.
- Providing regular situation reports (SITREPS) to the Provincial Operations Centre on the status of the FAD situation and its associated operations.
- Developing ongoing public information announcements for release to the media concerning a FAD outbreak.

- Activating law enforcement entities (municipal, provincial) to assist in FAD containment and control operations.
- Obtaining needed staff and equipment for FAD related inspections, containment, decontamination and animal depopulation activities.
- Conducting FAD containment, decontamination and animal depopulation activities.
- Identifying appropriate locations for disposing of animals i.e. burning and/or burying animals.
- Obtaining appropriate permits for animal depopulation operations.
- Maintaining records of FAD activities conducted, their costs, and the hours worked by paid and volunteer personnel.
- Resolving animal welfare situations.
- Providing regular updates specific to industry sectors.
- Ensuring human health and OSH concerns are addressed when dealing with zoonotic diseases.

Recovery - Those activities and programs beyond the initial crisis period of an emergency designed to return all systems to normal status or to reconstitute these systems to a new condition that is less vulnerable. Those activities may include:

- Financial compensation / indemnity.
- Coordinating social services/mental health.
- Emergency financial assistance during the event and recovery packages for various affected sectors
- Resumption of associated business i.e. tourism, trucking, retailers.
- Obtaining information and paperwork from local government officials regarding emergency declarations, if applicable.
- Recouping agency response costs.
- Continuing necessary inter/intra agency communications.
- Re-establishing public trust and consumer confidence.
- Placing of sentinel animals on infected premises.
- Surveillance activities to determine disease-free status of control area.
- Restocking animal population.
- Restoring historic export markets.
- Restoring the environment.
- Identifying wildlife concerns with protection/containment/restoration/depopulation.
- Surveillance and monitoring.

SECTION IV – DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this plan:

Animal health emergency: An outbreak or epizootic of a FAD requiring immediate action to contain, control and eradicate the disease, including: animal movement controls, slaughtering of animals known to be or suspected of being infected, disposal of carcasses or infected products, cleaning and disinfecting of infected premises and transport, application of measures aimed at limiting the spread of the disease and tracing the origin of the disease, etc.

Area Emergency Operations Centre (AEOC) - CFIA: means the management centre for the entire Western area where the Area Emergency Response Team (AERT) and the liaisons for provincial and federal Departments and Agencies, as well as industry, will be located during control and eradication operations of a FAD.

Area Emergency Response Team (AERT): CFIA Emergency Response Team located at the AEOC.

Commander of Field Operations Centre means the person named as Commander of Field Operations by the CFIA's Executive Director – Western Operations or its designate, and is responsible for the management of eradication operations in the Control area.

Control area: means the area described as a control area in accordance with subsection 27.(1) of the federal *Health of Animals Act* and incorporates all Infected places and zones within the Control area.

Field Operations Centre (FOC) - CFIA: CFIA centre established to house the Director of Field Operations and the AERT operational units under his supervision, usually in or near the CFIA district office. Liaison officers of the partner organizations may also be assigned to this centre, if necessary.

Foreign animal disease (FAD): means a Reportable Disease as described in Schedule 2 of the *Reportable Diseases Regulations*, S.C. 1990, c.21, that does not exist in Canada or any other disease which after due consideration is designated as such by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (subject to knowing where the authority is for this designation by the Minister)

Government Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC): The provincial emergency operations centre established to coordinate Alberta's response to emergencies.

Infected place: means a place declared infected pursuant to the federal *Health of Animals Act*

Local Authority means:

1. the council of a city, town, village, county or municipal district,
2. in the case of an improvement district or special area, the Minister of Municipal Affairs,
3. the settlement council of a settlement council under the *Métis Settlements Act*,

4. the park superintendent of a national park or his delegate where an agreement is entered into with the Government of Canada under Section 61(b) (of the *Emergency Management Act*) in which it is agreed that the park superintendent is a local authority for the purposes of this act, or
5. the band council of an Indian Band where an agreement is entered into with the Government of Canada under Section 6(b) (of the *Emergency Management Act*) in which it is agreed that the band council is a local authority for the purposes of this act.

National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC):(Government Operations Centre): CFIA national operations centre, located in Ottawa, which is responsible for national direction of eradication operations.

Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC): (Federal Coordination Centre): the management centre where the CFIA Regional Team as well as liaisons for provincial and federal Departments and Agencies, as well as industry, will be located during control or eradication operations.

Regional Emergency Response Team: CFIA Emergency Response Team located at the REOC

Special premises: Premises such as an abattoir, artificial insemination centre, feedlot, sales yard, zoo, game farm, shipping yard or any other premises where animals are kept or assembled.

SECTION V – STRUCTURE

Event Management

Concept

In Alberta, emergency responses are built upon a premise of local responsibility. However, from a federal perspective, FADs are seen as threats to national security and therefore the federal government through CFIA leads the disease control response with attendant urgency.

Effective response to a highly contagious FAD outbreak requires co-ordination of not only the critical disease control response, but of the many expected activities in support of those specialized functions.

Eradication

A critical concept of a highly contagious disease is that by the time the disease has been detected it is likely that, due to the movement of animals, the disease is incubating in many herds or flocks and an immediate response is required.

FAD response requires immediate involvement of senior executive management of all levels of government.

Effective response to FAD incursion includes three fundamental components: rapid identification, spatial or geographical containment and eradication.

The first fundamental element requires rapid and conclusive laboratory identification to ensure that appropriate response activity occurs following a suspected outbreak. This is a critical element especially in cases where the agent involved spreads rapidly.

Second, strategic quarantine and movement control of infected and exposed animals and animal products is paramount in stopping the spread of disease. It is important to recognize that in the initial stages a complete ban of all movement of animals, vehicles and other contaminated products may be implemented to prevent the spread. As well, an in-depth analysis (trace in/out) will be conducted to determine the degree to which the disease has/may spread. This will undoubtedly impact businesses directly or indirectly as a result.

Controlling the movement of persons is equally important in stopping the spread of disease. However, the CFIA does not have the authority to control the movement of persons, unless the Minister creates specific regulations following the declaration of a control area. Because of this, any control of the movement of persons will have to rely on appropriate biosecurity measures, voluntary restrictions imposed by the owner of affected properties, or statutory authorities that other supporting organizations may have. It is recommended that agreements be negotiated with producer organisations specifying that their members will restrict the access to their property in the event of a FAD outbreak.

Third, the depopulation and disposal of affected and exposed susceptible animals and the resulting decontamination of all affected areas will prove critical in controlling the spread of the disease. This third element may elicit concerns over necessity and methodologies. Protocols will

call for the destruction of all potentially infected and exposed animals within a specified perimeter. There may be a need to pre-emptively slaughter large numbers of high-risk species or to consider vaccination in certain disease scenarios. Concerns for the number of animals destroyed and the manner of euthanasia and disposal will be key issues. It is therefore essential that clear, standardized methodologies for addressing these above issues be coordinated among diverse agencies.

Incident Command System

While it is recognized that CFIA has expert personnel on staff to deal with most FAD emergencies, the potential for multiple, simultaneous outbreaks or a single massive event would likely overwhelm their existing staff and resources. In this scenario, an Incident Command System (ICS) may be used to address decision-making for a multi-agency response.

Incident Command is a standardized system designed to allow different government and private sector organizations to operate cohesively when facing an emergency, while maintaining individual jurisdictions. The ICS defines basic command structure, roles and responsibilities required for the effective management of emergencies. The ICS is designed to ensure that accurate information flows between all emergency respondents and that appropriate response activities are undertaken in a timely manner. The ICS enables all agencies - local, provincial and federal - that have a primary or supportive role in case of FAD to contribute to the development and implementation of a common response strategy. Effective eradication will require all agencies to work in a coordinated manner, through a unified command structure, under common goals, objectives, strategy, and joint communications.

Communications and the Joint Information Centre (JIC)

Activate the Joint Information Centre (JIC). It is expected that a local JIC will be established at the point of the initial outbreak to assist media desiring a first-hand look at the affected areas while respecting bio-security and movement control restrictions.

Emergency Financial Assistance and Recovery Planning

Financial compensation for losses derived from control and eradication actions, such as destruction of livestock, may be considered by CFIA. There are other potential sources for financial assistance at the federal, provincial and local government levels. The provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs, working closely with provincial Agriculture, CFIA and other impacted agencies, will coordinate federal, provincial and municipal discussions related to additional financial assistance, which may include:

- a) Compensation for producers, other businesses and individuals impacted;
- b) Municipal compensation for extraordinary costs, etc.

It is recognized that response strategies may be affected by costs and compensation policies.

SECTION VI – ACTIVATION PROCEDURES

DISEASE PHASES

Alberta's FADES plan encompasses five phases used to delineate a response to a FAD. Alberta's Animal Health Emergency Support Plans outline the specific actions Provincial departments and organizations may take to handle a FAD outbreak. Alberta government department animal health emergency plans are included as an accompaniment to this document. It is expected that additional stakeholders will have in place, their own plans and procedures to carry out the tasks prescribed in this plan.

(1) Prevention Phase

Alberta is in this phase when FADs (e.g. FMD) are occurring in other areas of the world and North America remains free of the disease. This period is ongoing and continuous, involving constant surveillance for disease, continuing education, as well as ongoing biosecurity practices.

(2) Disease Confirmed in Neighboring Province/State Phase

When a FAD outbreak occurs in close proximity to Alberta, prevention and biosecurity measures should be "ramped up". Awareness and increased communication are important in this phase. There is a possibility that the Canadian government may close borders to live animals and animal products from the United States if a disease was confirmed there. The CFIA may also impose movement controls and quarantines if a disease outbreak occurred in another region of Canada.

(3) Potential Risk Phase (Action Level 1)

This level is one of preparatory action that is initiated when an FAD is suspected on an Alberta premises, but has not yet been confirmed. It begins when the CFIA veterinary inspector would make a declaration of an Infected place under 22(1) of the HAA and advises the Regional Director, who, in turn, advises the Western Area Executive Director or designate (Appendix G).

(4) Confirmed Disease Phase (Action Level 2)

This phase begins when the FAD is officially diagnosed, and a declaration is announced by the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

(5) Recovery Phase

This is the time it takes to reestablish the province and the country as being free of a FAD (or controlled status) and to resume market access. It is also the time required to recover affected sectors of the economy.

Prevention Phase

Prevention of the introduction of FAD into Alberta flocks and herds is the primary focus of this phase. Prevention of disease is accomplished through biosecurity measures at the international, national and local levels. The CFIA and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), have the means to possibly prevent the introduction of disease to Canada through international ports of

entry, be they land, sea or air.

Alberta has a strong network of veterinary practitioners who would likely be the first to recognize a FAD should it occur on an Alberta premise. It is important that they be continually updated by CFIA and AARD about FAD etiology and presentation so that FAD awareness is maintained and early detection can be achieved.

The Food Safety Division of AARD is responsible for providing leadership and support for safe food production systems and maintaining global market access for Alberta's agri-food industry. Monitoring the health of Alberta's livestock and detecting emerging animal diseases through surveillance programs and projects is a main focus. A high level of continual, routine surveillance for animal diseases by both CFIA and AARD is necessary to quickly detect unusual conditions in animals. Adequate staffing of federal and provincial animal health officials and cooperation with private practice veterinarians and laboratories is crucial to a baseline of preparedness.

Biosecurity at the producer level is a major component of prevention. Every livestock producer has a critical role to play in preventing the introduction of disease into his/her herd or flock. AARD works closely with commodity groups to provide the information necessary to set up an effective farm gate biosecurity system. Through updates, workshops, public meetings, print and electronic media, AARD may continue to provide information to all producers required to make informed decisions about disease prevention.

Disease Confirmation in a Neighboring Province/State Phase

When a disease is confirmed in another province or in the United States, it is likely that we would first be alerted through the media. National industry associations would also be a good source of first-hand information. During this phase, maintaining an awareness of the situation and communicating information internally within government and externally to stakeholders is paramount. Biosecurity measures should be increased.

There is the possibility that the Canadian government may close borders to live animals and animal products from the United States if a disease was confirmed on their territory. The CFIA may also impose movement controls and quarantines if a disease outbreak occurred in another region of Canada.

Potential Risk Phase (Action Level 1)

This phase is a preparatory action level that begins when a FAD outbreak is suspected on an Alberta premises, but not yet confirmed. If a FAD was suspected at an Alberta location, the CFIA veterinary inspector would declare the place to be infected and report the suspected case to the regional Director CFIA, who, in turn, would notify the Western Area Executive Director or designate.

The following steps may occur:

- a. The livestock owner or veterinary practitioner suspects a FAD. The district CFIA veterinarian is called upon to evaluate the situation. When necessary, specimens are transported as soon as possible to the provincial laboratory in Edmonton or the CFIA laboratory in Winnipeg for testing.
- b. If the situation is "high risk", the CFIA Western Area Executive Director or designate, may issue an alert to its members of the Area Emergency Response Team (AERT),

Public Safety Canada (PSC) and to the OCPV in Alberta. Health Canada and Alberta Health and Wellness may also be notified, if the disease is a human health concern. Depending on the nature of the situation and the disease outbreak, supporting participants are notified as shown in Appendix G.

- c. The CFIA identifies/confirms its Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) and District Field Emergency Operations Centre location and the initial communications requirements.
- d. The CFIA Western Area Executive Director or designate may assure that all appropriate interests are notified of the situation. The CFIA AERT and the Primary Agencies representatives may deploy to pre-designated Emergency Operations Centers selected by the CFIA Western Area Executive Director.
- e. Preparations may be made for emergency response on infected places and mobilization of eradication operations should the disease be confirmed. At this point, PSC, AARD and Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) liaison staff may be represented at the REOC to assist in preparations and planning for eradication operations if the disease is confirmed. Liaison with and support from appropriate government agencies and industry may be coordinated through PSC and AEMA representatives.
- f. Premises containing suspect infected livestock may be declared to be an infected place. Animals may be evaluated, destroyed and disposed of by field teams as outlined by CFIA disease strategies specific for the disease in question. Animal movements may also be traced and additional premises quarantined.
- g. Suspect infected places and animal transports may be cleaned and disinfected.

Confirmation of Disease Phase (Action Level 2)

This level commences with a Declaration by the Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in accordance with section 27 of the federal *Health of Animals Act*, once the disease has been confirmed by CFIA laboratory tests. CFIA is the lead agency and directs the management of the disease control program, with the assistance of supporting organizations (Appendix H). If a disease such as FMD was confirmed, Canada would notify the OIE, who, in turn would notify its member countries. At this point bans on the international movement of animals and animal products may be put into place.

The following actions may occur:

- a. the CFIA Western Area Executive Director or designate may assure that all appropriate organizations are contacted. Subsequently, as outlined in Appendix H, PSC, AEMA and the OCPV may notify additional organizations.
- b. if not already in place, the REOC may be established, as well as District Field Emergency Operations Centre(s), where required. (This may be co-located with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency's Government Emergency Operations Centre (GEOC) in an FAD outbreak)

- c. the CFIA may activate the Joint Information Centre (JIC) to provide a forum for coordinating and managing all information released to the public.
- d. the control area may be legally defined;
- e. movement into, from and within the zones in the control area, may be restricted and enforced with provincial security resources;
- f. infected livestock may be evaluated, destroyed and disposed of by field teams
- g. infectious disease control criteria for transport vehicles may be determined by the CFIA;
- h. infected places and animal transports may be cleaned and disinfected
- i. information on animal and human health related matters, movement control and eradication may be provided to the public, industry and other governments; and
- j. the origin of the disease may be traced and potential spread monitored and controlled.

Note: The speed of onset of events may require immediate progression to Action Level 2. In such cases, the activities identified in Action Level 1 will occur concurrently with the declaration that initiates Action Level 2.

Recovery Phase

1) Regaining Disease-Free Status

The requirements of the OIE for regaining status as a country free of the FAD may have to be met. The OIE will specify the number of months of disease freedom required and the testing method used to prove that disease is no longer present. This could include blood tests or other types of monitoring for the presence of the disease and controlling movement of livestock. If positive cases are discovered, actions to eliminate them, such as tracing contacts, quarantine, disposal of animals, and cleaning and disinfecting the premises could all be required.

The CFIA may be the lead agency during the recovery period with support from AARD and industry. Assistance from other agencies may be requested as required.

2) Restoring Trade and the Economy

The restoration of disease freedom may open the borders for international trade to resume. Assistance for economic recovery is beyond the scope of this plan. It is anticipated that federal and provincial governments will work with industry to implement ways to help restore the economy.

OUTLINE OF ARRANGEMENTS

Response Organization and Coordination

The CFIA is the lead organization and may oversee the response to a FAD outbreak, as illustrated in Appendix I, which describes the comprehensive process of identifying and responding to a FAD incursion. The CFIA may be responsible for the overall conduct of operations to control and/or eradicate a disease outbreak.

PSC is a coordinating agency and may coordinate resources at the federal level. AEMA is responsible for coordinating provincial government departments and resources. Every Alberta provincial government department has a designated Crisis Management Officer and a Consequence Management Officer, who may be notified by AEMA to convene at the GEOC in the event of an emergency situation that potentially involves the government department they represent. This forum of department representatives facilitates decision-making and the efficient use of resources.

AARD is the lead provincial agency in an animal health emergency.

Resource mobilization is generally limited to resources resident in Alberta. Unless participant agency procedures determine otherwise, resource requests beyond or anticipated beyond Alberta's capability will be discussed by CFIA, AARD, PSC and AEMA to determine the best way to bring in additional resources.

Information Sharing

The flowchart on pages 9 and 42 outlines the "notification" process that will be followed as the event unfolds. It is important to note that the distinction between Action Levels 1 and 2 is flexible and certain organizations may be notified earlier than the flowchart indicates depending on the disease involved and the circumstances surrounding the event. In all FAD situations, it is important to strike a balance between informing the organizations who are able to assist in the response effort vs. protecting the privacy of the animal owner and commodity markets. With this in mind, notifications that occur within Action Level 1 must be made in confidence. Meetings held *in camera* (especially with municipalities) are one way to achieve this.

Communication

The CFIA maintains the lead role for animal disease control and eradication operations. It leads in communications and the dissemination of information to stakeholders, the public and the media. It may activate a JIC to enable the media and stakeholders to receive consistent messages about the disease control effort. Health Canada may also play a role at the federal level to provide information and advice on public health matters and food safety.

If Alberta's GEOC is activated, the Alberta Public Affairs Bureau (PAB) provides primary communications support through Alberta Municipal Affairs communications and other PAB communicators. Drawn from across government, a PAB emergency response team disseminates the flow of information from the GEOC to the public and media through the Public/Media Information Room (PMIR) toll-free line, 310-4455.

Provincial government departments, especially those at the forefront of a FADES operation, are responsible for preparing public information in support of their areas of expertise, which is disseminated through the PMIR.

If the GEOC is not activated, AARD's communications branch maintains the lead responsibility for disseminating information to stakeholders, the public and the media on the province's involvement in a FADES operation. Other provincial government departments, including Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Environment or Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, may also provide information on their involvement in a FADES operation.

State of Emergency

A declaration of a State of Emergency is a national, provincial and/or local prerogative in accordance with the provisions of the federal *Emergencies Act* or the provincial *Emergency Management Act* of Alberta. The Executive Director of the CFIA may request that the Managing Director of Alberta Emergency Management Agency seek such a declaration from a municipality or the Province.

The *Emergencies Act* allows the Government of Canada to take special temporary measures to ensure safety and security during national emergencies.

The provincial *Emergency Management Act* allows for extraordinary powers to be exercised by the Minister of Municipal Affairs if a local State of Emergency is declared by a local authority, or a provincial State of Emergency is declared by Alberta's Lieutenant Governor.

Wildlife, Zoos and Petting Zoos

If the suspected FAD has potential wildlife impacts, Alberta Sustainable Resources Development (Fish and Wildlife), may be consulted by the CFIA Western Executive Director or designate and the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV) to determine appropriate response activities. The CFIA has the authority to control or eradicate FADs in animals located in zoos or petting zoos.

Human Health

If the suspected FAD has potential human health impacts, CFIA may contact Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, PSC and AEMA, who may in turn contact Alberta Health and Wellness to determine the appropriate response to protect human health. Support may involve Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) recommendations, as well as preventive measures such as vaccines for zoonotic diseases that have vaccines available.

SECTION VII– ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Details of eight different areas of support, including: 1) FAD Prevention, 2) Economic Impact and Compensation, 3) Diagnosis, Trace back and Epidemiology, 4) Eradication, Destruction, Disposal, Cleaning and Disinfection, 5) Movement Control, 6) Communications and Public Information, 7) Public Health and Food Supply, and 8) GIS and Database Management, are provided in Appendix J.

The tables in Appendix K illustrate which organizations may be able to provide the tasks required.

A summary of CFIA tasks is outlined in Appendix L, along with a list of Federal supporting agencies, and their tasks. Federal government supporting agencies include:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Public Safety Canada (PSC)
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AFAC)
- Health Canada (HC)
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- Communications Canada (CC)
- Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)
- Industry Canada (IC)
- Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)
- Environment Canada (EC)
- Parks Canada (PC)
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
- Western Economic Development (WED)
- National Defense—Canadian Forces (CF)

A summary of provincial government and industry support, by organization, is outlined in Appendix M.

Provincial government support organizations include:

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD)
- Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)
- Alberta Environment and Water (AEW)
- Alberta Sustainable Resources Development (ASRD)
- Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW)
- Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security (ASGPS)
- Alberta Infrastructure (AI)
- Alberta Transportation (AT)
- Alberta Employment and Immigration (AEI)
- Alberta Aboriginal Relations (AAR)
- Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation (ATPR)

Provincial government departments have in place their own emergency plans and procedures to

carry out the support prescribed. Provincial authorities may employ their normal statutory authority to initiate the support and assistance provided throughout this plan.

Municipal governments may also become involved depending on the resources and manpower they have available to assist.

Industry and animal health stakeholders are also expected to participate in a disease response operation as they are most knowledgeable about their industry and suffer the greatest economic consequences from a FAD outbreak. It is expected that private organizations will develop contingency plans, making maximum use of existing procedures, to deliver the support required. Some of the industry and animal health stakeholders include:

- Livestock Industry Organizations
- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC)
- Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- Livestock Identification Services (LIS)
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM)
- University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM)
- Alberta Livestock Fairs and Exhibition Grounds
- Various financial institutions

SECTION VIII– REVIEW AND MAINTENANCE

On an annual basis, each organization involved in the FADES Plan may review their animal health emergency support plans and forward changes to the appendices to the OCPV.

Future updates to any of the accompanying appendices in this plan may be approved upon the written agreement of the individuals occupying the following positions within their respective organizations: 1) Western Area Emergency Coordinator, CFIA, 2) National Critical Infrastructure Assurance Program Coordinator, PSC, 3) Chief Provincial Veterinarian, AARD, and 4) Emergency Management Officer, AEMA.

The FADES Plan and accompanying provincial government department and industry contingency plans may be tested periodically in disease simulation exercises to identify any gaps or missing information.