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European Commission for the
control of foot-and-mouth disease

EUFAST
Foot-and-mouth disease And Similar
Transboundary animal diseases

Simulation exercises: examples of exercise aims and objectives

Contents

Examples of exercise aims and objectives.....	3
Iowa Homeland Security – tabletop exercise on foot-and-mouth 2008.....	3
Iowa Homeland Security – functional exercise on foot-and-mouth 2008	3
EU FloodEx - international field exercise on flooding in the Netherlands (2009)	3
Autumn (Nordic-Baltic countries – functional exercise on African swine fever (ASF) 2011).....	4
Walnut (United Kingdom – full-scale exercise on classical swine fever (CSF) 2013)	4
Pegasus (Nordic-Baltic countries – functional exercise on African horse sickness (AHS) 2017)	4
Blackthorn (United Kingdom – full-scale exercise on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) 2018)	5
Athena (Australia, New Zealand, United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland – functional exercise on staff sharing arrangement 2016)	5
Rūta (Nordic-Baltic countries – tabletop exercise on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) 2019)	6
References.....	6

Examples of exercise aims and objectives

For the purpose of the document, some aims and objectives have received minor edits.

Iowa Homeland Security – tabletop exercise on foot-and-mouth 2008

Aim:

To stimulate communication among local stakeholders regarding the assets, vulnerabilities and response resources including personnel, skill sets, equipment and supplies, in the community and county.

Objectives:

1. Understand the response activities needed for an animal disease emergency
2. Identify the current resources available at the local level to assist and support a response
3. Determine the personnel and agencies roles and responsibilities when assisting and supporting an animal disease response
4. Identify critical local assets that may be impacted by an animal disease emergency.

Iowa Homeland Security – functional exercise on foot-and-mouth 2008

Aim:

To help local communities to prepare for the necessary tasks and personnel requirements that may be needed for response to an animal disease emergency.

Objectives:

1. Activate the county Emergency Operations Centre and determine the appropriate personnel involved in the management and coordination of response and support for an animal disease emergency
2. Implement the county's animal disease emergency plan
3. Determine the necessary quarantine and access control resources needed for an animal disease emergency

EU FloodEx - international field exercise on flooding in the Netherlands (2009)

Aim:

To test the procedures during a request for assistance from the Netherlands to the European Union.

Objectives:

1. Test the procedures concerning incoming foreign assistance during a large-scale flooding event (in particular the organisational structure, coordination and control, and tasks and responsibilities during the different phases)
2. Enhance operational cooperation between different local and foreign teams (pumping and rescue)
3. Enhance operational cooperation between military and civil parties
4. Exchange knowledge (on procedures and equipment).

Autumn (Nordic-Baltic countries – functional exercise on African swine fever (ASF) 2011)

Aim:

To enhance joint emergency preparedness among veterinary administrations in the Nordic and Baltic Countries and to assist in the understanding of roles and responsibilities in the event of African swine fever outbreaks.

Objectives:

At inter-Nordic-Baltic level to:

1. Train the rapidly exchange of information between relevant persons in the Nordic and Baltic countries
2. Make use of the Memorandum of Understanding on Nordic-Baltic Animal Health Emergency Reserve. The memorandum shall be used of at least at two occasions
3. Explore the potential for exchange of resources, including mobile equipment

Walnut (United Kingdom – full-scale exercise on classical swine fever (CSF) 2013)

Aim:

To exercise the UK's current contingency plans for exotic notifiable diseases for animals and control strategies for an outbreak of CSF, to establish the current state of readiness for such an outbreak and identify existing problems and need for improvements in policy implementation, control strategies, operational instructions, operational and tactical structures and recovery procedures.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate that the UK has the capacity and capability to respond to an exotic disease outbreak through a two-day live play simulation exercise. This exercise should assess whether the plans, procedures, policies and the new draft legislation provide an effective response to an outbreak of CSF
2. Exercise the new outbreak response model, structures and processes that have been implemented by Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency, including operational resourcing
3. Test the UK's strategic response to a notifiable exotic animal disease outbreak within the UK
4. Test the interface between country level and regional response structures including those of operational partners and stakeholders
5. Discuss and exercise recovery arrangements in the event of an outbreak of CSF
6. Review and identify issues for improvement throughout the planning, implementation and evaluation stages of the exercise.

Pegasus (Nordic-Baltic countries – functional exercise on African horse sickness (AHS) 2017)

Aim:

To test African horse sickness contingency plans prepared by the Nordic-Baltic countries.

Objectives:

1. Test the AHS contingency plans in the Nordic-Baltic countries.
2. Further develop the communication system established between the veterinary administrations of the Nordic-Baltic countries.

3. Improve the knowledge about AHS and disease control measures.
4. Improve the crisis communication between the Nordic-Baltic countries.

At National level the objectives include:

1. Activate the national disease control centre
2. Activate one or several local disease control centre(s)
3. Carry out pig trace-back activities on national movements and on movements related to import and export of animals
4. Test the capability of depopulating infected farms and in-contact farms
5. Test procedures for disposal of carcasses from infected herds

Blackthorn (United Kingdom – full-scale exercise on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) 2018)

Aim:

To exercise governments' contingency plans for a UK wide outbreak of FMD and thereby establish the current state of readiness for such an outbreak whilst identifying issues and improvements in policies, plans, instructions, structures and recovery procedures employed in managing an outbreak.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate that the current UK and devolved contingency plans and policies provide an effective response to a national outbreak of FMD
2. Exercise outbreak response structures and processes including operational resourcing
3. Exercise the UK cross-governmental strategic response to a notifiable exotic animal disease outbreak
4. Exercise the interface between national, central and local response structures including operational partners and stakeholders
5. Exercise recovery arrangements in the event of an outbreak of FMD
6. Exercise the real-time use of the different Great Britain animal movement systems to demonstrate the effectiveness during an outbreak of FMD.

Athena (Australia, New Zealand, United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland – functional exercise on staff sharing arrangement 2016)

Aim:

To promote awareness of and support for the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve Arrangement (IAHER) Arrangement and assess the draft IAHER Operations Manual.

Objectives:

1. Practice the roles in identifying, selecting and preparing personnel for deployment under the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve Arrangement (Australia as a recipient and all other signatories as donor)
2. Identify gaps to improve the operations manual when the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve Arrangement is invoked.

Rūta (Nordic-Baltic countries – tabletop exercise on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) 2019)

Aim:

To improve the knowledge and to test the current FMD contingency plans of Nordic-Baltic member countries with respect to stamping out of large infected animal herds and emergency vaccination.

Objectives:

1. Share information about FMD pre- and post- outbreak procedures
2. Test the stamping out procedures for large infected herds
3. Review the content and design of FMD emergency vaccination plans
4. Discuss possible exit strategies, if FMD emergency vaccination is implemented
4. Determine the necessary resources to establish and support the needed decontamination and disinfection actions for an animal disease emergency
5. Establish communications between agencies involved and the flow of information within the Emergency Operations Centre, to the Incident Command Post and to the public
6. Determine the necessary resources to support the animal disposal needs for an animal disease emergency.

References

1. Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (2016) [Exercise Athena](#)
2. Iowa State University, The Centre for Food Security and Public Health (2008) [Response Plan and Exercises](#)
3. Netherlands Institute for Physical Safety (2009) [EU FloodEx field exercise evaluation report](#)
4. Nordic-Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group (2017) [Exercise Pegasus \(African horse sickness\)](#)
5. Nordic-Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group (2011) [Exercise Autumn \(African swine fever\)](#)
6. United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2018) [Exercise Blackthorn \(foot-and-mouth disease\)](#)
7. United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2013) [Exercise Walnut \(classical swine fever\)](#)