

Emergency Support Function # 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

Primary Agencies

VPI Cooperative Extension Service
Animal Care and Control
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Virginia Department of Social Services
Emergency Management

Secondary/Support Agencies

Central Shenandoah Health District
Department of Social Services
Red Cross
Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VVOAD)
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

Introduction

Purpose:

Agriculture and Natural Resources works to address the provision of nutrition assistance; control and eradication of an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal disease, highly infective plant disease, or economically devastating plant pest infestation; assurance of food safety and security; and protection of cultural resources and historic property resources during an incident.

Scope:

Determined based on the local capabilities and include:

- Identify food assistance needs;
- Obtain appropriate food supplies;
- Arrange for transportation of food supplies to the designated area;
- Implement an integrated response to an outbreak of highly contagious or economically devastating animal disease, infective exotic plant disease or an economically devastating plant pest infestation;
- Coordinate with Public Health and Medical Services to ensure that animal/veterinary/and wildlife issues are supported;
- Inspect and verify food safety in distribution and retail sites;
- Conduct food borne disease surveillance and field investigations;
- Coordinate appropriate response actions to conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore natural, cultural, and historic properties resources.

Policies:

- Each supporting agency is responsible for managing its assets and resources after receiving direction from the Department of Social Services;
- Actions will be coordinated with agencies responsible for mass feeding;
- This ESF will encourage the use of mass feeding as the primary outlet for disaster food supplies;
- Schools and communities may be able to feed affected population for several days;
- Food supplies secured and delivered are for household distribution or congregate meal service;

- Transportation and distribution may be arranged by volunteer organizations;
- Priority is given to moving supplies into areas of critical need and then to areas of moderate need;
- Animal depopulation activities and disposal will be conducted as humanely as possible; and
- Ensure food safety.

Concept of Operations

General:

- Provides for an integrated response to an outbreak of highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, exotic plant disease, or economically devastating plant or pest infestation;
- Ensures the safety and security of the commercial supply of food (meat, poultry and egg products) following an incident;
- Identifies, secures and arranges for the transportation of food to disaster areas; and
- Protects cultural resources and historic property resources during an incident.

Organization:

The Emergency Management Coordinator will determine what tasks are to be completed and designate the appropriate agency and individuals by titles that are responsible for:

- Assessing damage to facilities and infrastructure;
- Assessing current food supply of community and determine if safe for human consumption;
- Assessing sensitive areas on community, such as plant and animal laboratories, to ensure secure; and
- Conducting inventory of sensitive items, in regard to agriculture and horticulture.

Actions

These items may vary based on local capabilities and the type and magnitude of the emergency event.

- Assist in determining the critical needs of the affected population;
- Catalog available resources and locate these resources;
- Ensure food is fit for consumption;
- Assist and coordinate shipment of food to staging areas;
- Work to obtain critical food supplies that are unavailable from existing inventories;
- Identify animal and plant disease outbreaks;
- Assist in providing inspection, fumigation, disinfection, sanitation, pest termination and destruction of animals or articles found to be contaminated or infected; and,
- Proper containment and disposal of contaminated food, animals, and/or plants.

Responsibilities

- Assist with guidance to unaffected areas as to precautions that may be taken to ensure animal and plant health;
- Assist handling and packing of any samples and shipments to the appropriate research laboratory;
- Provide information and recommendations to the Health Department for outbreak incidents;

- Assist with assigning veterinary personnel to assist in delivering animal health care and performing preventative medicine activities;
- Participate in subsequent investigations jointly with other law enforcement agencies;
- Assess the operating status of inspected meat, poultry and egg product processing, distribution, import and retail facilities in the affected area;
- Evaluate the adequacy of inspectors, program investigators and laboratory services relative to the incident;
- Assist with establishing logistical links with organizations involved in long-term congregate meal service; and
- Establish need for replacement food products.

Tab 1 to Emergency Support Function #11
EMERGENCY FOOD CONSUMPTION STANDARDS

Per Person
Food Groups and Food Items per Week Standard

Meat and Meat Alternatives (red meat, poultry pounds, fish, shellfish, cheese, dry beans, peas, and nuts)	3
Eggs	6
Milk (pints)	7
Cereals and cereal products (flour including mixes, bakery products, cornmeal, rice, macaroni, and breakfast cereals)	4
Fruits and vegetables (fresh and frozen)	4
Food fats and oils (butter, margarine, lard, shortening pound and salad and cooking oils)	0.5
Potatoes (white and sweet)	2
Sugars, syrups, honey, and other sweets	0.5
Total (equivalent pounds per week):	27.0 lbs