

## Is California Ready for a Livestock Emergency Animal Disease or Pest Outbreak?

### Yes! With **YOUR** help.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System (CAHFS), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are preparing IN ADVANCE to prevent and respond to the introduction of a emergency animal disease, or the invasion of a dangerous tick or other pest. District-based teams of veterinarians, livestock inspectors, and animal health technicians are ready and capable of responding to an outbreak. These teams depend on YOU to watch for and report potential signs of diseases and pests in livestock.

YOUR help is needed to protect California from a emergency animal disease outbreak. As a producer, private veterinary practitioner, livestock market or feedlot operator, or animal owner, YOU are the front-line defense for spotting and reporting possible signs of disease or pests! YOU are the **most** important component in California's Emergency Disease Surveillance program.

The keys to protecting California's livestock industry are:

### Prevention

The U.S. and California programs closely monitor and regulate the movement of livestock across its borders. Despite these efforts to prevent the introduction of disease and pests and to ensure the importation of only healthy livestock, the risk is always present. More than 45 million people travel internationally each year, with more than 6 million entering California. Viruses, bacteria, and pests do not respect borders and are capable of "hitching a ride" into California on imported animals and on travelers' clothing, bodies, and possessions. The illegal smuggling of animal food products also poses serious risk to California animal agriculture.

### Recognition

Early recognition of emergency animal diseases is the key to containing an outbreak.

#### Potential Signs of Emergency Animal Disease

1. Sudden, unexplained production or death loss in the herd or flock.
2. Severe illness affecting a high percentage of the animals in a herd, flock, or region.
3. Blistering around an animal's mouth, nose, teats, or hooves.
4. Unusual ticks or maggots.
5. Staggering, falling, or other central nervous system disorders.

### Reporting

If you recognize signs of emergency animal disease, report them **immediately!**

1. Call your veterinarian first.
2. Call the CDFA, Animal Health Branch:

Headquarters	(916) 654-1447
Redding District	(530) 225-2140
Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
Tulare District	(559) 685-3500
Ontario District	(909) 947-4462

3. Call the USDA Veterinary Services at:  
  
(916) 854-3900 or (877) 741-3690

If you learn that illegal animals or animal food products are being smuggled into the state, report it to animal health officials (you may remain anonymous). By reporting, you help protect California livestock from the threat of animal disease.

### Response

- Immediate response is crucial. The first 24 hours are the most important in stopping the spread of a disease or pest.
- Animal Health officials may waive laboratory fees for services needed to investigate possible emergency animal diseases or pests, so there is **no cost to the producer**. Specimens and samples will be shipped to the CAHFS or federal laboratories.

Prevention

Recognition

Reporting

Response

## What's at Stake?

The health and well-being of California's livestock and California's economy are at stake! In 2000:

- Livestock cash receipts exceeded \$6.3 billion.
- California ranked #1 in the country for milk and cream. These products generated more than \$3.7 billion.
- California ranked #7 in the country for cattle and calves. These products generated more than \$1.3 billion.
- California ranks #4 in the country in the production of chickens and eggs, generating more than \$709 million.

Disease or pest outbreaks could bring California's livestock industry to a halt. States and countries will prohibit or restrict the movement of animals and animal products. Millions of dollars can be lost overnight from livestock losses, costs of fighting diseases, and restricted trade opportunities. Remember that meeting the challenge of preventing and/or eliminating emergency animal disease outbreaks requires the unified effort of CAHFS, CDFA, USDA-Veterinary Services, and industry professionals, as well as people in livestock allied industries.

**Everybody plays a role in protecting livestock and poultry health!**

CDFA thanks the Texas Animal Health Commission for ideas used in the design of this brochure

## Strategically Located to Serve

Animal Health Branch offices and CAHFS laboratories are strategically located throughout the State to serve the livestock and poultry industries of California. CAHFS has laboratories in Davis, Turlock, Fresno, Tulare, and San Bernardino. Access to laboratory services can be obtained by contacting your local veterinarian or animal health official.



To learn more, contact:

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Animal Health Branch  
1220 N St., Rm A-107  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone (916) 654-1447  
Fax (916) 653-2215

Or visit our Web site at :

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah>

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California Department of Food and Agriculture

**Animal Health and  
Food Safety Services**

Protecting the  
Health  
of California's  
Animal  
Agriculture



**Foot and mouth disease may begin with subtle signs of excessive salivation. During the 1920's foot and mouth disease outbreaks, 953 cattle herds totaling 113,446 animals were lost to this devastating disease... Will California be prepared to recognize and respond to another emergency animal disease outbreak?**