

Animal Health Network

Your Local Information Link for Animal Safety and Security

Guidance for Establishing the Animal Health Network

Key participants:

A) State Animal Health Organization/Agency:

Who: Agency Director and a designated Animal Health Network (AHN) Point-of-Contact (POC)

B) State Cooperative Extension Service:

Who: State Ag & NR Program Leader, a designated AHN POC and local Extension Educators

C) State Feed Regulatory Agency:

Who: Agency Director and a designated AHN POC

D) Feed Manufacturers who sell product in the state.

Who: CEO and a designated AHN POC

E) Feed Retailers

Who: CEO and a designated AHN POC

Duties of State Animal Health Organization/Agency

Phases 1: Establish the Network

- Step 1. State Veterinarian (Agency Director) Provide letter requesting two key partners to join you to establish a state Animal Health Network to enhance early detection and rapid response to animal emergency management. The two letters should request the support from:
- a) your state Extension Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)
 - b) and your state livestock feed regulatory agency.
- Step 2. In the letter the State Veterinarian should express his/her commitment to:
- a) coordinate with your designated state Cooperative Extension Service and your state feed regulatory agency to establish a the state's Animal Health Network based on the principals and concepts established by the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases and described online at <http://AnimalHealthNetwork.org>
 - b) provide leadership to collaborate with key partners to craft appropriate alert/message content whenever the Animal Health Network is to be activated to address an animal health incident.
 - c) include the Animal Health Network in the appropriate ESF/Annex in your State EM Plan.

Animal Health Network

Your Local Information Link for Animal Safety and Security

Phase 2: Test the Network

- Step 1. Correspond with key AHN partners to create a message for a mock (or real) activation of the Animal Health Network.
- Step 2. Via email disseminate the test message to activate the state Animal Health Network. (email will be the primary means for distribution of the message but other means may also be used). The email should be distributed to:
 - Your state feed regulatory agency/service.
 - Your state Extension Program Leader for Ag and NR.-
 - County Extension Educators state-wide, or in the incident region or county as designated by the State Veterinarian

Phase 3: Activating and Maintaining the Network

- Step 1. Coordinate with other key partners to conduct at least one annual test of the established Animal Health Network (September – National Preparedness Month is an appropriate month for this test).
- Step 2. Activate the state Animal Health Network as needed to address actual animal issues or emergencies