

USDA APHIS VS

STATE PARTICIPATION

States that participate in joint exercises with us will:

- Acquire a thorough understanding of the NVS program,
- Help identify items that we may add,
- Appreciate what the state should procure for its own resources, and
- Test their NVS emergency response capabilities, processes, and procedures.

States that wish to sponsor/co-host an NVS exercise should contact the Director at:

Email: nvs@aphis.usda.gov

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USDA APHIS VS

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National Veterinary Stockpile Exercise Program

United States

Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Service



NATIONAL VETERINARY STOCKPILE EXERCISE PROGRAM



Our Purpose

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) is the nation's repository of supplies, vaccines, equipment, and other critical veterinary resources. Established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 and operational in 2006, we are able to deploy large quantities of veterinary resources anywhere in the continental U.S. within 24 hours.

We exist because of the nation's concern after 9/11 that terrorists could release animal diseases of catastrophic proportions that would

- deplete State and local response inventories,
- generate surge requirements that would overwhelm traditional commercial sources, and
- prevent unaffected States from providing significant help for fear of the threat crossing their borders

Our Goals

- Deploy countermeasures against the 17 worst animal diseases including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Rift Valley Fever, Exotic Newcastle Disease, and Classical Swine Fever.
- Help states, before an event, plan for and exercise the rapid request, receipt, processing, and delivery of the NVS during an event.

Our Exercise Program

While we have demonstrated our ability to deploy rapidly, that is not enough. States must understand what we will provide and then plan and test their ability to request, receive, deliver, and use the critical resources we deliver. Our exercise program helps states understand the NVS and test their NVS plans. Our program also helps us test our internal deployment procedures and identify capabilities we may add in the future.

Our program uses tabletop and operations-based exercises, which

- help federal, state, and industry representatives learn about the NVS program;

- Allow states to review their response plans and validate their NVS plans, policies, agreements, and procedures;
- Clarify roles and responsibilities;
- Identify resource gaps before outbreaks occur; and
- Help us define capabilities we may need to add.

All exercises follow the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Guidelines.

Long before each exercise, our outreach staff meet with state representatives to help them create an effective plan for the NVS that the exercise will test.

Ultimately, our exercise program enhances federal and state emergency response preparedness, interagency coordination, and knowledge of what the NVS will provide during major animal disease outbreaks.