

**ESF-17 – AGRICULTURE & ANIMALS**

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**COORDINATING:** Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health

**PRIMARY:** Clemson University Regulatory and Public Service Programs; and  
Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

**SUPPORT:** SC Department of Agriculture; SC Department of Health and  
Environmental Control; SC Department of Labor, Licensing, and  
Regulation, Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing; SC  
Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of Fire and  
Life Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal; SC Department of Natural  
Resources; SC Association of Veterinarians; and SC Forestry  
Commission

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Assets, commodities, and systems that describe “agriculture and animals” include the following:
1. Animals at-large separated from owners during disasters
  2. Livestock and poultry species
  3. Forests, plants, crops, horticulture, dairy and some associated manufacturing
  4. Agricultural chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides
  5. Food products, animal feed, and some beverages
  6. Some native and free-ranging wildlife animal species, and some exotic animal species
  7. Animal facilities such as veterinary hospitals, zoos, aquariums, and exotic and domesticated animal holding facilities
  8. Food facilities including markets and retail food establishments and all related stakeholders
- B. Any emergency in South Carolina could adversely affect the multi-billion dollar agricultural, livestock, poultry, plant, and crop industries in the state. Substantial damage to animal and plant production would have significant and long-lasting negative impacts on the State’s economy through disruption of private agribusiness, food supply, trade, and tourism.
- C. Public health may be affected by some food safety concerns or animal diseases that affect humans (zoonotic).
- D. Landscape disruptions may lead to displaced or at-large animals, some of which may pose a public safety concern or may hamper response efforts.

**II. PURPOSE**

- A. Coordinate plans, policies, actions, and resources of state and local governments to minimize impacts of emergencies on agribusiness and the economy.
- B. Coordinate resources and actions needed to protect agriculture and animal health and safety, and protect public health and safety related to agriculture and animals.

**III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. ESF-17 acts to coordinate all ESF-17 primary and support agencies and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations to ensure operational readiness prior to, during or after an incident, emergency, or disaster.
- B. Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health (CULPH) is the lead agency and will provide overall leadership of ESF-17, and is responsible for coordinating all administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities to include developing, coordinating, and maintaining Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- C. ESF-17 primary and support agencies will participate, assist, and support CULPH in the planning and execution of the above.
- D. Each ESF-17 agency, organization, and individual will operate under applicable Federal, State, or organizational law, regulations, and guidelines, and will maintain complete administrative and financial control over individual agency activities.
- E. ESF-17 will coordinate with other ESFs and appropriate parties as necessary to assist throughout the State in emergency incidents.
- F. ESF-17 is the Point of Contact (POC) for locality resource requests related to agriculture and animals; however, ESF-6 is the POC for any emergency pet sheltering-related requests. ESF-6 coordinates all operations related to Mass Care, including emergency pet sheltering.
- G. Animal owners and agricultural business owners are responsible for their own disaster planning and resources. However, disasters often present challenges, and back-up resources may be required. Local governments should maintain resources to address agricultural and animal-related emergencies, and ESF-17 may be able to provide subject matter expertise to local emergency managers, or coordinate assistance if shortfalls occur.

**IV. ESF ACTIONS****A. Preparedness**

1. Maintain programs and plans to protect State animal, crop, horticulture, forestry, and food production industries as well as agricultural chemical use.
2. Prepare and disseminate educational materials to assist agricultural business owners and animal owners with development of their individual emergency plans.
3. Ensure procedures are in place to identify and train ESF-17 staff, perform and coordinate operations, track resources, and document costs during periods of activation.
4. Develop an inventory of resources and contingency plans for resource gaps to support animal owners, agribusiness, and public health and public safety related to agriculture and animals.
5. Support local emergency management with preparedness activities related to agriculture and animals as needed.
6. Participate at least annually in State exercises and/or conduct an exercise to validate this Annex and supporting operational procedures and guidelines.
7. Provide ESF-17 representation on the Recovery Task Force and the Hurricane Task Force.

**B. Response**

1. Ensure coverage of ESF-17 when activated as part of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
2. Maintain situational awareness of the emergency's impact on agricultural industries and animals.
3. Coordinate the State's eradication and control activities in an animal disease event or plant disease/pest event.
4. Coordinate resources to support local governments with animal, plant and produce, forestry, public health and safety, animal feed, agricultural chemicals, non-retail food, non-retail food establishments, and agricultural issues as requested.
5. Assist ESF-15 (Public Information) with the development and/or dissemination of public service information regarding agricultural and

animal topics as needed.

6. Provide outreach to agricultural and animal stakeholders as needed and when appropriate.
7. Coordinate the reporting of damage assessment, resource utilization, any relevant financial records, and services provided to share with SC Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), SEOC Situation Unit, and/or internal and external stakeholders as necessary and when appropriate.

**C. Recovery**

1. Finalize all State animal and plant disease/pest eradication and control activities.
2. Finalize demobilization of resources used to support requests for assistance with agriculture and animal issues.
3. Coordinate agricultural damage assessment reporting to internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.
4. Support priorities identified by the Recovery Task Force.
5. Compile final incident-related data.

**D. Mitigation**

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures including monitoring and updating mitigation actions in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, and review and evaluate any amendments to the plan.
2. Support requests and directives from the Governor and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
3. Document matters for inclusion in agency or State/Federal briefings, situation reports, and action plans.

**V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. General**

1. ESF-17 personnel will maintain familiarity with the National Response Framework (NRF) and the corresponding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions, and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be limited to the structure, organization, functions, and responsibilities of the

Incident Management Assist Teams (IMAT) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).

2. Develop agreements such as Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) with appropriate groups as needed and in coordination with SCEMD (Attachment D).
3. Each ESF-17 agency will identify, train, and assign personnel to staff the SEOC during an activation (in person or virtual as dictated by each emergency declaration), maintain contact and communication with the ESF-17 team, and/or support field operations during activation.
4. Each ESF-17 agency will assist in the development of state plans for the protection of agriculture and animals within their corresponding area of expertise.

**B. Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health**

1. Provide leadership for ESF-17; develop training for ESF-17 team members; establish and maintain a system for notification of ESF-17 team members and agencies upon activation, ensure staffing of ESF-17 upon activation; coordinate participating agency involvement; ensure operational plans, procedures, and guidance are in place; and collate emergency operational and situational data for concise reporting.
2. Manage and coordinate all state eradication and control activities in response to an animal disease emergency event.
3. Maintain regulatory programs and plans to protect the health of livestock and poultry, the food supply, public health, and the economy. These include animal disease surveillance, prevention, and response; veterinary diagnostic laboratory testing; and inspection of regulated meat and poultry processing facilities.
4. Support and assist local emergency managers by providing subject matter expertise as needed or requested related to organization and planning for agricultural and animal issues.
5. In coordination with the SC Association of Veterinarians (SCAV), maintain the Veterinary Reserve Corps resource list and use it to fulfill local requests for veterinary personnel and care when possible.
6. Maintain a resource list of personnel, organizations, and capabilities that can be used to fulfill local requests related to agriculture and animals. Work in coordination with SCEMD to activate agriculture and animal Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) as needed and when appropriate. Resources include, but are not limited to:

- a. Qualified and trained personnel, equipment, and vehicles to safely provide animal search and rescue, capture, containment, and transportation for animals at-large or otherwise identified to have a need.
  - b. Personnel and supplies to provide humane care to stranded livestock and poultry species.
  - c. Contact information for individuals and organizations that may be able to provide feed, shelter, or equipment for exotic animal species and livestock.
  - d. Qualified animal handlers who can assist with animal capture, search, and rescue.
7. Provide subject matter expertise to other ESFs, agencies, and organizations as requested or needed.
  8. Draft and provide outreach, instruction, guidelines, and situational awareness documentation to internal and external stakeholders as needed.
  9. Finalize demobilization of resources used to support localities during the emergency.
  10. Support priorities identified by the SC Recovery Task Force.
  11. Assist with recovery efforts in impacted areas when available.
- C. Clemson University Regulatory and Public Service Programs (RPSP)
1. Maintain regulatory programs and plans to protect plant health and security and regulatory programs to ensure the safe use of agricultural chemicals. These include surveillance, prevention, and response for plant diseases and pests of concern; plant pest diagnostic laboratory testing; and investigation and laboratory support for pesticide-related incidents and misuse.
  2. Disseminate educational materials to assist agricultural producers, horticulture businesses, agricultural chemical dealers, and distributors with development of their individual emergency plans.
  3. In coordination with ESF-17 leadership, assist with ESF-17 staffing and scheduling as needed and when requested.
  4. Manage and coordinate state eradication and control activities for a plant disease or pest event.

5. Maintain a resource list of personnel and capabilities that can be used to fulfill local requests for assistance with plant and agricultural chemical issues, protection of crop and horticulture industries, and agricultural chemical use to protect public health.
6. Maintain a list of agricultural chemical dealerships.
7. Assist with demobilization of resources used.
8. Support priorities identified by the SC Recovery Task Force.

D. Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

1. Develop educational and outreach materials to assist the public at county and community levels regarding best practices and disaster planning covering all aspects of agriculture, natural resources, and food safety nutrition topics.
2. Provide subject matter expertise for organization, planning, and response activities related to agriculture and animals.
3. Act as a liaison between ESF-17 personnel at the SEOC and the local agricultural communities for situational awareness.
4. Provide agricultural damage assessment at the county level. This may include participation in assessment teams as well as submission of formal reports to authorized individuals/agencies and submission of information to ESF-17 for reporting procedures.
5. Assist with responding to and coordinating resources for the impacts on livestock, poultry, plants/crops, agricultural chemicals, food safety/nutrition, water safety, natural resources, and community resilience.
6. Gather relevant information and data to incorporate into ESF-17 reporting procedures.

E. South Carolina Department of Agriculture

1. Provide outreach and messaging to regulated industries including animal feed (hereafter called “feed”) producers and manufacturers, feed distribution facilities, and stakeholders of forage crops, hay, feeds, and pet food.
2. When appropriate, issue orders of stop sales and embargos for suspected contaminated or adulterated human food and feed, or for human food or feed that may pose a public health risk.

3. Act as a liaison and coordinate resources needed to support forage crops, hay, feeds, produce, and pet food industries.
4. Maintain lists and locations of regulated producers, manufacturers, and distributors that may be impacted by an emergency.
5. Act as a liaison with regulated industries to help ensure the thorough coordination of agricultural damage assessments.

F. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

1. General – Provide public health guidelines.
2. Bureau of Public Health Preparedness – Coordinate dissemination of public health information related to animal, plant, and food issues.
3. Environmental Affairs
  - a. Provide outreach and messaging to regulated industries including bottled water, soft drink, wholesale ice manufactures and dairy farms, dairy product producers and manufacturers, dairy distribution facilities, and all related stakeholders.
  - b. Provide technical assistance for dairy products, producer support, and sampling.
  - c. Provide technical assistance for food protection activities.
  - d. Provide technical assistance for agricultural waste and animal carcass disposal.
  - e. Provide outreach assistance to retail food establishments and all related stakeholders, including the end consumer.
4. Communicable Disease Prevention & Control, Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology
  - a. Provide epidemiology and public health support.
  - b. Assist in the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases of public health significance.
  - c. In a response involving an animal disease agent with potential zoonotic consequences, provide guidance for the proper techniques and procedures to adequately protect field responders from infectious human and zoonotic diseases, if requested.

5. Public Health Laboratory – Assist in the diagnosis of zoonotic diseases of public health significance.

G. SC Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

1. Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing

Provide temporary licensing of veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are invited to assist in a declared disaster response as needed and when appropriate.

2. Division of Fire and Life Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal

- a. Maintain a list of fire service resources and collaborate on planning search and rescue efforts that include animals.
- b. Facilitate the coordination of search and rescue field missions with the Search and Rescue Planning Cell.
- c. Upon request, assist with the coordination of fire service resources that may be required during an animal disease emergency.

H. SC Department of Natural Resources

1. Develop plans to respond to emergency incidents which could include or affect native or free-ranging wildlife species, including the outbreak of a highly contagious animal or zoonotic disease.
2. Maintain a resource list and coordinate resources requested by localities to provide native or free-ranging wildlife species support and subject matter expertise.
3. When appropriate, provide subject matter expertise for at-large zoo and exotic animals.

I. SC Association of Veterinarians

1. Develop and distribute informational materials to assist animal owners with development of individual emergency plans.
2. Maintain the Veterinary Reserve Corps resource list, which includes interested volunteers of veterinary professionals who may assist with emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery activities for animal care in emergencies. Provide training opportunities to these volunteers when possible.
3. Coordinate provisions of veterinary medical care when requested by

localities.

4. Assess damage to veterinary facilities in affected areas and incorporate this information as well as other information about utilized resources for veterinary medical care into the ESF-17 reporting procedures.
5. Assist with demobilization of resources.
6. Assist with recovery efforts related to veterinary establishments.

J. SC Forestry Commission

1. Develop, maintain, and implement programs and plans for the protection of the state's forests and forestry industries in response to an emergency.
2. Develop public service announcements for forestry disaster planning and safety, and provide outreach as needed related to forestry in an emergency to internal and external stakeholders.
3. Maintain a resource list and coordinate resources requested by localities for forestry support.
4. Coordinate forest damage assessment and incorporate this information into ESF-17 reporting procedures.
5. Provide resources and technical assistance upon request during animal/agriculture emergency response.
6. Maintain and coordinate salvage programs for forest products damaged by disease and pests or other disaster.
7. Collaborate with RPSP and SCEMD to make declaration of containment of forest diseases and pests after the emergency is contained.

**VI. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

- A. This Annex aligns with Federal ESF-11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) in the NRF. The contents of the Annex are supported by the FEMA Community Lifeline "Food, Water, Shelter, Agriculture" and by the federal Government Coordinating Council's critical infrastructure sector "Food and Agriculture Sector."
- B. The United States Department of Agriculture
  1. Animal Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the coordinating agency for Federal ESF-11. Veterinary Services, Wildlife Services, Animal Care, and Plant Protection and Quarantine are APHIS agencies that may assist. Veterinary Services provides an Emergency Coordinator who serves

South Carolina.

2. Food Safety Inspection Service
  3. Natural Resource Conservation Service
  4. Farm Service Agency
  5. Rural Development
  6. Forest Service
- C. Other Federal ESFs through which assistance may be requested for agriculture and animal emergency response and recovery issues include ESF-3 (Public Works and Engineering), ESF-8 (Public Health and Medical Services), ESF-10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response), and ESF-14 (Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure).
- D. Support may be available from Federal ESF representatives in the JFO or from other FEMA groups related to the FEMA Region IV Regional Resource Coordinating Center (RRCC) Atlanta. APHIS provides a full-time ESF-11 Coordinator for Region IV.