



Biosecurity and Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Preparedness



Contact us at www.ses-corp.com or (913) 307-0046

Protecting Livestock and Profits

When it comes to foreign animal diseases, the critical question isn't if there will be an outbreak, it is whether responders and producers have the right mitigation strategies in place to minimize the impact to animals and industry. SES is a leader in emergency response program development for the food and agriculture industry. Since 2005, SES has worked with industry as well as state and federal partners, to develop solutions for mitigating the impacts of a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak.

SERVICES

- Policy, procedure and strategy development for emergency preparedness
- Continuity of Operations planning (Secure Food Supply)
- Evaluation of current emergency response and standard operating procedures
- Emergency response training and exercises
- Emergency preparedness audits for supply chains
- National Movement Standstill protocols and planning

Strategic Services for the Livestock Industry

- Identification of critical control points for producers, relative to natural and manmade disasters, including a foreign animal disease outbreak (supply chain resiliency assessments)
- Review of current risk mitigation policies and their interoperability with current state and federal plans, policies, and procedures
- Training program development and implementation
- Development of emergency response or mitigation plans and enhanced biosecurity plans
- Assessment of program implementation/maintenance at the producer or processing level
- FAD preparedness exercise development and facilitation
- Development of continuity of operations plans (COOP) and Secure Food Supply planning
- Organization and business planning relative to foreign animal disease outbreaks
- Permit review, development, and compliance with CAFO regulations



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Training and Preparedness for Public Sector

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Project Experience

Technical and Administrative Support for the National Training and Exercise Program (NTEP), USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Service (VS)

SES supports and directs various projects for the USDA, APHIS, VS National Training and Exercise Program. Under this contract, SES provides technical expertise in the areas of policy; response planning; exercise development, conduct and evaluation; and training design. SES develops state plans, policies, and procedures relative to implementing Secure Food Supply Programs for applicable commodities.

As part of this contract, SES conducted the Foreign Animal Disease Southern Agriculture Functional Exercise (FAD SAFE) in 2021. Eleven states and Puerto Rico took part in the four-day functional exercise, which simulated an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The exercise design drove play to include resource management, incident management, and coordination at state and federal levels.

Agriculture Response Management and Resources (ARMAR) for USDA APHIS VS NTEP

SES led the exercise development team and was the lead Controller for the national-level functional exercise addressing foreign animal disease response and associated resource management. This exercise engaged six states, both lead and support agencies, and federal lead and supporting agencies, in a simulated multi-regional outbreak of FMD. Exercise conduct involved more than 1,500 players, over four days of play.

Agriculture Movement Control Planning, Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture (MSPSA) and USDA APHIS VS

SES worked with multiple state and local agencies, including departments of transportation, emergency management, natural resources, environmental quality, public health and law enforcement to create an emergency contact guide. SES developed a model agriculture movement control permit for emergency circumstances. SES authored guidance for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between border states for agriculture movement control during a disease outbreak. SES developed the protocols and exercise for a National Movement Standstill and conducted MOU workshops with participating states.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Planning Workshop and Tabletop Exercise (TTX) for West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

SES assisted WVDA with developing and validating a CWD response plan appendix. SES led a workshop to draft the CWD appendix and led a socialization webinar on the CWD plan for WVDA and WDFW. SES then developed, planned, and led a TTX to validate WVDA's and WDFW's plans. Based on evaluations and feedback from the TTX, SES developed an After-action Report and Improvement Plan for each department's preparedness planning.



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California virulent Newcastle Disease After-Action Report and Improvement Plan

SES developed the After-Action Report and Improvement Plan (IP) for the CDFA and USDA response to the 2018-2020 outbreak of virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) in California. The year-long project included review and analysis of over 4000 documents, data analysis of response data, and over 70 interviews with responders and impacted parties. SES conducted qualitative analysis on the interview feedback, then further validated our findings through survey input from over 500 responders, support agencies, and impacted parties.

The final report covered all facets of the response. The report included additional infographics, timelines, and images in format that was usable, clear, and accessible to all audiences. SES developed an Improvement Plan with over 160 recommendations. SES and responders from USDA and CDFA reviewed and finalized the IP in a four-day workshop with over 80 participants. The process led to creation of an actionable improvement plan with specific dates and assigned resources.

Seven Day Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Response Timeline for Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)

SES developed a timeline and a plan to address preparedness gaps for the first week of an FAD outbreak in Iowa. SES and IDALS conducted this project in two distinct parts. The first part focuses on timeline development and validation, and the second focuses on preparedness analysis and future planning. Both pieces required a detailed analysis of IDALS's plans, policies, and procedures. SES also planned and facilitated workshops to validate the draft products from both parts.

SES compiled all data into a generalized timeline, identifying disease-specific tasks. SES developed a survey for preparedness feedback from key stakeholders for the gap analysis. SES then compiled the information from the documents and survey to create an Improvement Plan (IP). SES provided IDALS with a seven-day FAD response timeline and an emergency preparedness IP.

Stop Movement Planning Workshop and Tabletop Exercise (TTX) for Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA)

SES assisted GDA in developing a standard operating guide (SOG) to coordinate, implement, and enforce a stop movement/standstill order during an FAD outbreak. SES developed, coordinated, and led a workshop to develop the stop movement SOG and a TTX to validate the guide. SES provided GDA with the final stop movement SOG and an actionable TTX After-action Report and Improvement Plan.



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Solutions for Producers and Industry

As the leading private sector company with over 50 years combined experience in livestock disease response planning and exercises, SES can review and update corporate biosecurity plans and develop an auditing program to assess grower implementation and mitigate risk from foreign animal disease. SES can facilitate drills and exercises to prepare operations to respond during a disease outbreak.

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ASF policy, planning and exercise series for APHIS VS and Pork Production Industry

The series was conducted with top 14 swine producing states to further their capacity to respond to and mitigate an outbreak of ASF. The series included four key activities which culminated in one drill and three functional exercises (FE) for federal, state, and industry participants. Key activities:

1. An ASF Response Policy Workshop in which SES worked with industry, state, and federal personnel to identify and review existing policies for ASF response, identify policy gaps, and develop possible policy fixes.
2. A Plan Review and Revision Workshop in which SES and industry, state, and federal personnel conducted a gap analysis on ASF response plans.
3. Spring Fever, an ASF Response Tabletop Exercise (TTX) validated ASF response plans and set the stage for a four-day series of FEs and drills.
4. Swine Fever Exercise for Agriculture Response (SFEAR) in which SES, after the initial planning and TTX activities, led the design and conducted the SFEAR exercise series over four consecutive days. Twenty private swine producers, representing 18 companies, participated by having real swine production operations play in the drills and functional FEs.

ASF swine meat harvest facility policy, planning and exercise series

The series examined policy and planning for swine meat harvest facilities and associated renderers. In coordination with National Pork Board and the North America Meat Institute, two large swine meat harvest companies, and USDA APHIS VS, SES facilitated a policy review and development workshop, a planning workshop and a TTX to validate facility response plans.

Rapid Response Corps (RRC) Process Refresher for the Swine Health Information Center (SHIC)

SES developed a drill to refresh and review FAD emergency preparedness skills for SHIC's RRC investigators. The project included three phases; a pre-drill assessment, drills to simulate various scenarios the RRC Investigator may face during an actual FAD investigation and make a risk assessment, and a post-drill assessment. SES provided SHIC a full report and assessment analysis at the project conclusion.



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Depopulation and Disposal Exercise Series for the National Pork Board

SES developed a four-day exercise series for the National Pork Board to validate plans for depopulation and disposal activities in the event of an African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak. Exercise participants included National Pork Board, pork producers, departments of animal health, and the USDA. The exercise series had four phases:

Design: SES identified five participating states for the exercise and facilitated planning meetings with state organizations, pork producers, the NPB, and the USDA.

Development: SES developed the exercise evaluation guides and the scenarios to initiate and facilitate exercise play.

Conduct: SES facilitated the exercises and provided support personnel. Day 1 included initiation of the foreign animal disease investigation. Day 2 involved response coordination between the impacted producer, state animal health organizations, and USDA. On Days 3 and 4, exercise participants staged the sites and conducted depopulation and disposal.

Evaluation: SES collected data during exercise conduct, conducted hot washes, and administered a participant survey. SES conducted the analysis and completed project deliverables including a “best practices” document.

Biosecurity Plan Generator

SES developed the technical content for an online biosecurity plan generator program for members of a large milk cooperative. The program addressed all aspects of biosecurity, including transport.

Criticality Ranking and Food and Agriculture Sector Criticality Assessment Tool (FAS-CAT) Scoring for Alabama Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Industries

SES analyzed Alabama’s 72 agriculture industries for criteria including annual economic output, employment, point of concentration, distribution cycle, iconic target, and distribution footprint. SES ranked the industries by priority for infrastructure protection. The data analysis included mapping Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers for sector-specific facility information.



Our Clients

Private Entities

SES provides services for major livestock producers, *Farm Journal*, and various law firms

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Investigative Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); U.S. Department of Defense (DoD); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

State Agencies

Animal Health and Agriculture Agencies and Boards in: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Washington

Organizations

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, Southern Animal Health Association, Border Governors' Agriculture Worktable, Cultivation Corridor

Trade Associations

Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), Kentucky Corn Growers Association, U.S. Soybean Board and Export Council, National Pork Board, National Pork Producers Council, Western Equipment Dealers Association

"I have worked with SES for more than 15 years on a variety of projects and have come to rely on their expertise in developing management systems, standards, training and auditing programs. SES has consistently delivered high-quality projects, on-time and on schedule."

– VP Environmental Engineering for a Large Livestock and Poultry Company



Contact SES

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SES has over 50 years of combined experience managing the risks of foreign animal disease and developing emergency response programs for food and agriculture.

SES helps companies manage their triple bottom line through actionable, science-based sustainability programs that improve the resiliency of operations and supply chains.

SES is a leader in the field of GHG accounting and offset verification, as well as verification for sustainability metrics and regulatory compliance for livestock and poultry production operations.

