

# Regional Animal Agrosecurity Conferences

With support from the USDA-CSREES, EDEN offered six regional animal agrosecurity conferences during 2007 and 2008. The goal of these regional conferences was to understand the role of Extension, and other stakeholders in an animal agrosecurity event. The following is a brief overview of the conference outcomes.

## Preconference Perception of Extension's Role

Prior to the conferences, the understanding of Extension's role in such an event was lacking and inconsistent. Differences in perspectives existed within state systems, as well as among county educators in the same state.

## Understanding of Extension's Role During and After Conferences

**Internally** – All conferences attendees agreed there is a need for additional, more consistent, and higher quality agrosecurity training for Extension professionals. Many regions took the opportunity to identify who, within each state's Extension system, would play an active role in an animal agrosecurity incident, but lack the necessary training. In addition, key administrative personnel attended, which (1) allowed them to see the importance of Extension's role; and (2) begin the necessary discussion regarding expectations of their Extension staff, as well as the educators' diverse abilities at the county level.

**Externally** – With multiple players from the local, state, and national/federal levels present at the conferences, the individual roles and the opportunities to collaborate at all levels and all phases (with and without Extension) were identified. As Extension's ability and capacity was more clearly defined, collaborators agreed that Extension should play a critical role, and be included in the emergency management framework. For example, the typical rapport that Extension has with local producers, identifies the local educator/agent as the logical first contact in a response effort.

## Where Does Extension Go From Here?

An internal discussion within each state's Extension system needs to take place to better understand and collectively define Extension's role in an animal agrosecurity event. This may involve working with collaborating agencies and organizations to better define that role as it fits into the comprehensive emergency management plan. In addition, Extension administrators are encouraged to provide support to field staff to take a more active role in preparedness

education for producers, prepare plans of work, and promote cooperation across state lines. Overall, more consistent and quality agrosecurity training opportunities need to be made available for Extension professionals to fulfill the understood role.

## EDEN Can...

- Continue to provide opportunities, such as regional conferences, that encourage multi-agency coordination and an understanding of Extension's role in an animal agrosecurity event.
- Continue to provide curriculum/training events.
- Promote discussion among EDEN members via various media (i.e. Webinars and teleconferences).
- Task the EDEN agrosecurity committee to provide leadership for future directions and efforts.
- Provide guidance in the development of competencies for Extension in agrosecurity.
- Be proactive in enhancing relationships between and among various agencies that also have a role in animal agrosecurity.
- Partner with other agencies to facilitate multi-agency jurisdictional training opportunities.

## Productive Outcomes (to date)

**Midwest** – Several attendees plan to increase cooperation across agencies and involve Extension in agrosecurity planning. Participants learned of available training that would qualify them to participate in agrosecurity functions.

**North Central** – In a 90-day post-conference survey of all participants, 86% of participants had used information received at the conference at the conference and 52% had changed or enhanced their animal agrosecurity-related activities.

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## Productive Outcomes (cont.)

**Northeast** – EDEN contacts in several of the participating states continue to collaborate in agrosecurity education. At least four multi-institutional grants, emphasizing agrosecurity for producers, have been awarded to EDEN participants.

**Southeast** – Local educators/agents are using conference information to educate producers; and livestock and poultry Veterinarians reference the materials from the EDEN conference as they prepare the livestock and poultry industry for an FAD incident.

**Southwest** – Interagency projects were initiated in many of the states that attended. Extension has taken a much more active role in emergency management issues largely due to discussions that took place at this conference. At least four states are actively involved in agrosecurity planning.

**Western** – Extension will provide ICS and NIMS training to new agents; and include biosecurity topics to field day presentations to livestock producers.

### Six Regional Conferences at a Glance...

Region	Dates	Location	Host	# of States Involved
Northeast	3/27-28/07	Grantville, PA	Dave Filson (Penn State Univ.)	10
Southwest	4/3-4/07	Las Cruces, NM	Bill Dictson (NMSU)	10
Southeast	1/8-10/08	Clemson, SC	Howard van Dijk (Clemson)	12
Western	5/21-22/08	Denver, CO	Tom McBride (Colorado State Univ.)	10
North Central	6/4-6/08	Fargo, ND	Charlie Stoltenow (NDSU)	16 (+4 CA Provinces)
Midwest	10/7-8/08	St. Louis, MO	Conne Burnham (Univ. of Missouri)	12

**Participants:** In addition to numerous Extension professionals and university personnel, the following are a list of agencies, organizations, industry and others that were represented at one or more of the conferences as attendees and/or presenters.

#### National Level

American Assoc. of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians  
 American Veterinary Medical Association  
 Animal Health Association  
 APHIS  
 Beef Council  
 British Columbia Provincial Veterinarian's Office  
 Canadian Animal Health Coalition  
 Canadian Cattlemen's Association  
 Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 CSREES  
 Department of Homeland Security  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Livestock Marketing Association  
 Manitoba Pork Council  
 Manitoba Provincial Veterinarian's Office  
 Midwest Dairy Association  
 National Cattlemen's Association  
 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
 National Pork Board  
 NCBA Beef Quality Assurance  
 Pork Council  
 Rocky Mounty Regional Center of Excellence  
 U.S. Animal Health Association  
 US Attorney's Office  
 USDA  
 USDA-APHIS

Veterinary Reserve Corps  
 World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

#### State Level

Beef Commission  
 Beef Industry Council  
 Board of Animal Health  
 Cattlemen's Association  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Department of Health  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 Division of Fire Safety  
 Emergency Management  
 Environmental Protection Agency  
 Farm Bureau  
 Farmers Union  
 Fusion Center/Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
 Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office  
 Law Enforcement  
 Mental Health  
 National Guard  
 Poultry Federation  
 State Animal Response Team (SART)  
 Stockmen's Association  
 USDA-APHIS  
 Veterinarian's Office  
 Veterinary Medical Association  
 Wildlife Officers

#### Local Level

Animal Control  
 County Animal Response Team (CART)  
 Emergency Management  
 FBI  
 Health Department  
 Humane Society  
 Sheriff's Office

#### Industry

3M Company  
 Agri Business Group, Inc.  
 American Food Groups, Inc.  
 Archer Daniels Midland  
 Colorado Serum  
 EquiMedic USA  
 PennAg Industries  
 SES, Inc.  
 Wyeth

#### Publications

Dairy Today Magazine  
 Farm Journal Magazine

#### Producers (Local)

Dairy Producers  
 Livestock Producers

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