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Strengthening Community Agrosecurity Preparedness (S-CAP) Program

Overview and Evaluation Results
October 1, 2013

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Below is a brief description of the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Strengthening Community Agrosecurity Preparedness (S-CAP) program.

**WORKSHOPS: (page 5)**

EDEN S-CAP workshops provide a foundation for local jurisdictions to address agricultural emergencies and disasters. The workshops empower local Extension personnel and other community partners to:

- build capacity to handle agricultural issues during an emergency or disaster;
- improve networking among stakeholders who can plan for and respond to emergencies; and
- develop Community Agrosecurity Planning (CAP) teams to establish or enhance agrosecurity components within existing local emergency operations plans.

**TABLETOP EXERCISES: (page 11)**

The EDEN S-CAP discussion-based planning exercise program is compliant with Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines, including an evaluator briefing and debriefing, hot wash, and use of Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs) and situation manuals.

**AGROSECURITY SYMPOSIUM: (page 11)**

The Agrosecurity Symposium is a face-to-face meeting held in Washington, D.C. to bring together federal, tribal, state and local agricultural emergency planning stakeholders; commodity representatives; Extension, and non-governmental organizations to identify strategies for cohesive agricultural emergency preparedness across the nation.

**VIRTUAL FORUM: (page 12)**

The Virtual Forum provides an environment for local, state, and federal agricultural emergency planning and exercise stakeholders to learn new information and exchange ideas across interdisciplinary and jurisdictional lines. Webinars highlight recent disasters to discuss lessons learned and identify best practices to implement in future emergencies.
WORKSHOPS

The S-CAP Planning workshop was developed through a collaborative partnership under the leadership of the University of Kentucky and New Mexico State University and supporting institutions Clemson University, Colorado State University, Montana State University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, The University of Tennessee, and Utah State University. Oversight and artwork was provided by Purdue University.

The workshop provides an opportunity for emergency planning stakeholders from individual communities or local jurisdictions to address the issues relevant to their specific agricultural vulnerabilities. CAP teams are recruited for participation that include representation from the following stakeholder groups:

- Extension educators
- Emergency management
- Public health
- Voluntary organizations
- Animal Control
- First Responders
- Veterinarians
- Producers
- Commodity organizations
- Agribusinesses
- Local, State, Federal government
- Others as locally applicable

Over 21.9 million inhabitants of the counties have been represented at 43 S-CAP Planning Workshops. Whole community emergency planning teams' participation in the workshops and their sustained efforts enhance the agricultural components of their local emergency operations plans.
43 S-CAP Planning workshops have been conducted in 20 states since its inception:

- Las Cruces, NM (January 13 - 15, 2009)
- Kalamazoo, MI (February 24 - 25, 2009)
- Chattanooga, TN (March 3 - 4, 2009)
- Logan, UT (April 14 - 16, 2009)
- Alliance, NE (April 28 - 30, 2009)
- Lake Barkley, KY (June 1 - 2, 2009)
- Lancaster, PA (June 23 - 24, 2009)
- Montgomery, AL (November 4 - 5, 2009)
- Vernal, UT (January 25 - 26, 2010)*
- Honolulu, HI (February 22 - 23, 2010)
- Hilo, HI (February 25 - 26, 2010)
- West Point, NE (March 9 - 10, 2010)
- W. Lafayette, IN (March 16 - 17, 2010)
- Wichita, KS (March 22 - 23, 2010)
- Liberal, KS (March 25 - 26, 2010)
- Richfield, UT (April 27 - 28, 2010)*
- Ellensburg, WA (May 4 - 5, 2010)
- Glen Jean, WV (May 25 - 26, 2010)
- Monticello, UT (August 24 - 25, 2010)*
- Lamar, CO (November 9 - 10, 2010)
- Scott County, KS (November 18 - 19, 2010)*
- Price, UT (December 8 - 9, 2010)*
- Beulah, ND (January 11 - 13, 2011)
- Topeka, KS (January 19 - 20, 2011)*
- Coalgate, OK (January 20 - 21, 2011)
- Bonner Springs, KS (April 4 - 5, 2011)*
- Billings, MT (May 5 - 6, 2011)
- Rutland, VT (May 13 - 14, 2011)
- Benton, KY (July 25 - 26, 2011)
- Kinston, NC (July 28 - 29, 2011)
- Herriman, UT (August 29 - 30, 2011)*
- Salt Lake City, UT (October 3 - 4, 2011)*
- Seymour, IN (December 13 - 14, 2011)*
- Missoula, MT (March 6 - 7, 2012)*
- Tulsa, OK (April 9 - 10, 2012)*
- Whitehall, MT (April 25 - 26, 2012)*
- Lewistown, MT (May 8 - 9, 2012)*
- Opelousas, LA (April 25 - 26, 2012)
- Sidney, MT (November 7 - 8, 2012)*
- Gonzales, LA (December 6 - 7, 2012)
- Great Falls, MT (January 8 – 9, 2013)*
- Americus, GA (June 4 – 5, 2013)
- Wasilla, AK (June 10 – 11, 2013)

Workshops designated with an asterisk (*) were conducted by trainers through the S-CAP Train-the-Trainer Program.

This map depicts the year in which S-CAP workshops were launched in each state. Three states (Kentucky, Louisiana and Nebraska) hosted workshops twice. Kentucky conducted workshops in 2009 and 2011; Louisiana conducted two workshops in 2012, Nebraska conducted workshops in 2009 and 2010.
Train-the-Trainer Program

The S-CAP Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Program was created in February 2010 to expand dissemination of the workshops. Trainers who receive a certificate of completion in the 20 hour S-CAP Train-the-Trainer program receive an instructor guide with detailed instructor notes, multimedia files for presentation, guidance documents for presenting a successful workshop, and mentorship from the national S-CAP teaching team.

To date, 52 subject matter experts from 19 states are active members of the S-CAP training team:

1. Alabama
2. Colorado
3. Georgia
4. Hawaii
5. Indiana
6. Kansas
7. Kentucky
8. Louisiana
9. Montana
10. Nebraska
11. New Mexico
12. North Carolina
13. North Dakota
14. Oklahoma
15. Tennessee
16. Utah
17. Vermont
18. Washington
19. West Virginia

The map illustrates the quantity of trainers located in each state.
**Stakeholder Participation**

Workshop participants represent a multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders that add value to local emergency managers’ efforts to enhance the agricultural portion of their local emergency operations plan.

**Stakeholder Knowledge Level**

Workshop participants learned new information based on self-assessments of their knowledge level prior to the workshop and after the workshop:

- 88.2% of workshop participants had a knowledge level of intermediate, above average, or expert after the workshop
- 46.5% had a knowledge level of intermediate, above average, or expert prior to the workshop
**Stakeholder Outcomes**

Participants identified the following outcomes as a result of their involvement in the workshop:

- 92.7% agreed or strongly agreed they met and networked with new individuals that will aid community emergency planning efforts in the future
- 90.5% agreed or strongly agreed the workshop established and/or strengthened their opinion that their community needs a CAP Team
- 91.2% agreed or strongly agreed the workshop provided tools needed to continue development of a local agricultural emergency operations plan and/or start a CAP Team
- 89.9% agreed or strongly agreed the workshop motivated them to collaborate with community leaders to pursue further readiness, response, and/or recovery capabilities
Stakeholder Future Training Needs

Participants were asked to identify possible future training needs that would enhance their local emergency planning efforts. The following areas were identified as important to workshop participants:

- 88.1% of workshop participants agreed or strongly agreed that their community would benefit from additional training and assistance in development of agricultural discussion-based exercises.
- 86.5% of workshop participants agreed or strongly agreed that their community would benefit from additional training and assistance in creation of local agricultural response teams.
- 86.0% of workshop participants agreed or strongly agreed that their community would benefit from additional training and assistance in establishment and/or support of a local Agrosecurity planning committee.
- 82.2% of workshop participants agreed or strongly agreed that their community would benefit from additional training and assistance in development of agricultural operations-based exercises.

![Future Training Needs Chart]
TABLETOP EXERCISES

In Spring 2013, the S-CAP program launched the complementary Pilot Tabletop Exercises (TTX). The TTX project uses a variety of planning-based scenarios that participants can choose from to assess the adequacy of their local emergency operations plan to address specific agricultural emergency-related capabilities. Three states participated in the pilots: Utah, Indiana, and Montana. Currently, funding is being sought to incorporate feedback derived from the TTX exercises into a final product that can be disseminated to S-CAP trainers for use in their states.

AGROSECURITY SYMPOSIUM: BUILDING NATIONAL NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The University of Kentucky hosted the EDEN Agrosecurity Symposium: Building National Networks and Partnerships in Washington, DC, on April 22 – 23, 2013. Participants from 21 states included representatives from federal (DHS, DOD, DOE, DOJ, EPA, USDA), tribal, state (departments of agriculture), and local (animal control, emergency management, first responder, public health) entities; academia (including Extension, research, education); commodity organizations, veterinary medicine, and government contractors.

The Symposium was designed to build relationships across a variety of disciplines to synchronize disaster preparedness efforts affecting the food and agriculture sector. On the first day, participants collaborated in working groups to address agricultural challenges in existing preparedness efforts to identify gaps and report their findings. On the second day, participant working groups discussed the identified gaps and proposed strategies to build networks and partnerships at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels to improve preparedness measures and aid response and recovery.

A working group of agriculture stakeholders is currently being formed to work on implementing the strategies derived at the Symposium. More information about the Agrosecurity Symposium is online: www.eden.lsu.edu/s-cap/symposium.
SUPERSTORM SANDY ANIMAL AND AGRICULTURE RESPONSE: LESSONS LEARNED FOR IMPROVED PLANNING

The University of Kentucky hosted the EDEN S-CAP Superstorm Sandy Animal and Agriculture Response: Lessons Learned for Improved Planning webinar on April 30, 2013. Participants from Canada and 37 US states attended the webinar, representing: Cooperative Extension System (family and consumer sciences, agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, and community and economic development), local, state, tribal, and federal public/private health organizations, local, state, and federal emergency management/homeland security agencies, local, state, and federal departments of animal health, agriculture, and/or natural resources, volunteer groups (animal rescue, faith-based organizations, medical reserve corps, voluntary organizations active in disaster, etc.), commodity/producer organizations, and private businesses.

The webinar was designed to provide an opportunity for local, state, and federal animal responders to share their experiences with Superstorm Sandy, which rocked the east coast in October 2012. Dialogue addressed how lessons learned from response efforts can be applied to preparedness activities to mitigate impacts of future disasters. The webinar is archived on the EDEN website: www.eden.lsu.edu/s-cap/virtualforum.

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