EDEN S-CAP SUPERSTORM SANDY WEBINAR

The University of Kentucky hosted the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Strengthening Community Agrosecurity Preparedness (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
- Private businesses

PRESENTERS & TOPICS

- **Scott Cotton**, Moderator
- **Ann Swinker**, Penn State University (“Planning for your Equine Before the Disaster“)
- **Keith Tidball**, Cornell University, and **Dave Chico**, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (“Cornell Extension's Role in Disaster Communication and Reporting: NY EDEN and Hurricane Sandy“)
- **Anne McCann**, USDA-APHIS, **Dave Chico**, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and **Roy McCallister**, West Virginia Department of Agriculture (“Multi-Disciplinary Response to Commodity Distribution of Donated Pet Food/Supplies“)

OVERVIEW & LESSONS LEARNED

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. A variety of lessons learned were identified during the webinar. The primary lessons learned were:

- Prepare a travel emergency kit for animals in disasters
- Ensure animals have appropriate identification prior to a disaster
- Educate animal owners about preparedness and response issues before, during, and after disasters
- Coordinate animal assistance with human response activities
- Leverage Extension resources to maximize response capabilities, such as providing situational awareness for command authorities and public information distribution
- No single agency has overall authority in animal emergencies, so multi-agency coordination is essential including utilization of public/private partnerships

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A post-webinar focus group identified specific topics to complement the Superstorm Sandy webinar dialogue:

- Roles of Extension in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery
- Information-sharing during emergencies and disasters
- Mental health resources

Interactive discussions among webinar participants and presenters identified animal and agriculture response resources:

- National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP): http://www.nasaaep.org/
- National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC): http://narsc.net/
- EDEN Strengthening Community Agrosecurity Planning (S-CAP) workshops: http://eden.lsu.edu/s-cap
- Penn State University Ag Damage Assessment Form: http://extension.psu.edu/prepare/agdamage
- American Humane Association Disaster Sheltering for Companion Animals Training: http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/professional-resources/training/disaster-sheltering.html
- Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) downloadable training materials: http://www.flsart.org/SART/tm?pageID=2
- Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) at Iowa State University emergency response training tools and resources: http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/emergency-response.php
- University of Georgia training for agricultural emergency operations: http://www.caes.uga.edu/center/CAED/agrosecurity/training/index.html
- Penn State University Large Animal Rescue Training: http://extension.psu.edu/business/ag-safety/farm-emergencies/rescue-training/modules/lart
- FEMA National Planning Frameworks: http://www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks

The webinar was presented by the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Strengthening Community Agrosecurity Preparedness (S-CAP) Program, under the direction of the University of Kentucky. This project was supported by the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (FADI). The continued financial support from federal partners helps communities prepare for and increase resiliency to future agricultural disasters.

The webinar is archived online and accessible at:
http://www.eden.lsu.edu/s-cap/virtualforum

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