

## Emergency Phases

A disease-related sector-wide emergency will generally move through the following phases – some of which are more complicated than others. Depending on the disease and particular incident, some phases may occur quickly and go unnoticed, while others may last an extended period of time due to heightened risk of contracting a disease or difficulty managing an outbreak.

### Alert

Following an unusual animal health event, industry may be asked to remain vigilant and to take precautions to minimize serious animal disease risk.

### Suspicion

A formal notice of suspicion may be issued by the CFIA or the provincial government and industry may be asked to adopt voluntary movement controls.

### Confirmation

A formal notice of confirmation from the Chief Veterinary Officer (Canada), Chief Provincial Veterinarian, or either federal or provincial Ministers will verify the presence of a serious animal disease. Mandatory containment strategies may follow.

### Response

Industry professionals, government and farmers may all have a role to play in various key response components including: containment, investigation/tracing, vaccination, depopulation/disposal, valuation/compensation, cleaning/disinfection, and lifting of restrictions.

### Recovery

With the emergency situation now resolved, farmers and industry may focus on demonstrating absence of disease and regaining market access.

### Prevention

Industry is unaffected by serious animal diseases but must remain aware and continue to take steps to minimize risk.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease • Rift Valley Fever • Bovine Tuberculosis

This document is part of a suite of tools that have been developed in partnership with farmers and industry associations across Canada.

For more in-depth information and specific serious animal disease resources in your province please visit:

[animalhealth.ca](http://animalhealth.ca)

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## Preparing for Animal Disease Emergencies

## FARMER SUMMARY

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP  
PARTENARIAT CANADIEN pour l'AGRICULTURE

Canada

**AHEM**  
Animal Health Emergency Management Project



## Disease Emergencies

Serious animal disease outbreaks are recognized as the industry's greatest vulnerability because they have the potential to:

- **WEAKEN** our livestock sector as a whole
- **RESTRICT** Canada's trade relationships and export capacity
- **UNDERMINE** public trust

The disease landscape is ever changing. Whether known or evolving diseases, farmers must stay informed and aware of the signs and symptoms of serious animal diseases.



The farmer HANDBOOK helps those on the ground understand, prepare and respond to serious animal disease events.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy • Rinderpest • Brucellosis

# UNDERSTAND

**A serious animal disease outbreak will put our industry's livelihood at risk. As a farmer, you know your operation inside out. When an animal is unwell, there will be signs and it is your responsibility to take appropriate action.**

## Share Concerns

Farmers have a duty of care as well as a legal requirement to report all suspected cases of certain diseases\*. Notifying the appropriate authorities as early as possible not only helps reduce animal and human health impacts, it is integral to protecting our industry.

## Work Together

If a serious animal disease is suspected, an Emergency Operations Centre may be established by first response organizations. Industry organizations will be a part of broader emergency management discussions and should be the first point of contact for updates and information.

## Protect Others

Biosecurity module in the proAction initiative can help safeguard your operation and the industry at large. Farmer commitment to good animal husbandry, hygiene practices, vehicle management and staff training is paramount.

Once a disease is confirmed, control zones may also be established to keep unaffected areas free from disease. These movement restrictions are essential to managing risk, maintaining trade relationships and ensuring continued industry viability.



\* For more information visit [animalhealth.ca](http://animalhealth.ca)

# PREPARE

**By being proactive, your operation will be in a better position to respond and convey key details to emergency personnel as an emergency situation unfolds.**

## Know Your Objectives

During an emergency, government priorities will be human health safety and public infrastructure. Farmers will need to focus on minimizing the risk to people directly involved and maintaining the health and safety of animals.

## Have a Clearly Defined Plan

A diagram setting out the unique features of the property and location of key items will help first responders be more efficient and effective.

## Document Your Work Cycle

Regular onsite activities, the flow of people and the frequency of deliveries and shipments are important considerations during an emergency.

## Assign Key Decision Makers

Primary and secondary contacts should be authorized and able to make quick decisions on behalf of the operation.

## Keep Up-to-Date Inventory and Contacts Lists

First responders and other emergency management will benefit from knowing how many livestock are onsite as well as what equipment, personnel, resources, and professional services are available.



# RESPOND

**Whether directly affected or not, operators may have distinct roles and responsibilities during a serious animal disease emergency.**

## Containment

Be it voluntarily ceasing movement of animals, personnel, products and equipment in and around the potentially affected area, complying with mandatory movement controls, holding animals longer or implementing heightened biosecurity protocols, there are ways to protect your farm and the industry at large.

## Investigation and Tracing

Part of containing a disease is determining how it was introduced and how far it has spread. Effective traceability is essential for disease tracking and control. Traceability requires animal identification, premises identification and movement recording. Farmers facilitate an effective response by keeping up-to-date records, registering their premises and implementing traceability options.

## Vaccination

Mass vaccination may be ordered during a disease event to establish a buffer area around an infected place, to protect animals at risk and to safeguard the industry. The CFIA or provincial government will provide farmers with a detailed protocol to follow. Compliance is a legislated requirement under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada) or provincial legislation.

## Depopulation and Disposal

Regulatory authorities may order mass depopulation and disposal of carcasses in response to a major outbreak. These are emotionally and financially challenging activities that may be necessary to stop disease spread and to protect the industry. Compliance with such orders is also a legislated requirement.

**Seek credible and current information on potential risks and any actions required, from your veterinarian, industry association and from government.**

## Financial Considerations

While depopulation orders are never welcome, farmers may be compensated for some of their losses. There may also be support available through other sources such as insurance and government aid.

**Compensation** is paid in accordance with the *Health of Animals Act* or provincial legislation. This amount includes fair market value of animals ordered destroyed less any salvage value, disposal costs, and other things that require destruction such as feed or animal products.

Fair and accurate valuation of the animals is a necessary step in determining compensation. A process agreed to by industry will be overseen by CFIA. Accurate and up-to-date animal records will help farmers to streamline the process and substantiate the value of their animals.

*The current limit for non-registered cattle is up to \$4,500 or up to \$10,000 for registered animals.*

## Cleaning and Disinfection

An operation will continue to be designated as an infected place until this step has been completed to the satisfaction of the province or CFIA. Farmers will need to develop a standard operating procedure for barns, pens, equipment, service rooms, etc. on the premises. CFIA will provide advice and complete inspections throughout the process, and prior to any restocking.

## Lifting of Restrictions

Once the situation has stabilized and the risk has diminished, the appropriate regulatory authority will begin lifting disease response conditions. The focus will then shift to the recovery process. Farmers should continue to look to their respective associations for updates and information.

## RECOVERY

**CFIA, the federal government and industry leaders will be working diligently to gain formal recognition of Canada's 'disease-free' status by our trading partners around the world and to re-establish market share. This is an involved process that can take months or even years.**