

Model of Animal Emergency Management Plan For Propel County

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The Propel County Animal Issues Committee (AIC) identified and included in the animal emergency management plan two types of disasters that can potentially affect the livestock industry in the county. The plan is final, complete and ready to be incorporated into the local emergency management plan. The mitigation, preparedness and prevention components are ready to be implemented immediately. The response and recovery components are ready for exercise test and can be activated immediately in chance that either one of the two disasters occurs.

Members

The local emergency management coordinator (EMC) of Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) with the assistance of county agents representing Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) and area livestock inspectors representing the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) recruited and appointed members to serve on the AIC for Propel County. Members volunteer their time and resources to participate on the AIC. Members identified areas where they can be most influential and serve this committee to the best of their potential. Appendix A contains the individuals' contact information as well as areas where how that individual can best serve this committee.

- a. John Smith, Chair
Serving as chair of this committee, John is responsible for ensuring that the plan is complete and rehearsed. He reports to the EMC the functions of the AIC and recommendations to activate components of the animal emergency management plan.
- b. John Doe, Propel Co. Extension Agent
In coordination with the TCE Emergency Management Plan, he carries out educational roles and responsibilities assigned to county Extension agents (CEAs) in Appendix B.
- c. Jane Brown, Veterinarian
She coordinates volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technicians for the proper welfare of animals rescued and/or sheltered in the county. The provisions for proper welfare include veterinary consultations, facilities and technical assistance.
- d. Joe Whatever, Propel Co. Feed Store Owner
He coordinates suppliers of pastures, feed, hay and other products with assistance of TAHC and Texas State Animal Resource Team (TXSART) Program of the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation (TVMF).

- e. Sally Payne, Propel Co. Fair Association Director
She coordinates organizing shelters for both livestock and companion animals along with the Propel Co. Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Fair Association (PCFA).
- f. Tom Bull, TAHC Area Livestock Inspector
He coordinates regulatory animal health and carcass disposal procedures with TAHC and Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
- g. Tammy Cow, Propel Co. SPCA Director
She coordinates organizing animal rescue, shelters and evacuation with PCFA.

Non-Disease Issues

The animal non-disease issues identified in Propel Co. are natural disasters since we are located here on the Gulf of Mexico. Propel Co. is a primarily livestock county that is comprised of roughly 300,000 head of cattle, 2,000 goats, 500 sheep, 2,000 hogs and 2,000 horses. The total area in the county is somewhere near 2,226 km² with half of that area used for farming/ranching. The Ojo de Agua River runs through our county and spills into the Gulf. The potential for flooding in low lying areas is highly possible. Animals in these areas will need to be evacuated. In the main town in the county, Propel Co. has an auction barn facility as well as a meat packing facility that can be utilized to dispose of carcasses that can not be either burned or buried.

Operations and Communications

- a. It is imperative that we have up and running an operations and communications of the local Incident Command Post (ICP) for animal non-disease response activities. In the event of an animal disaster the chair will inform the committee where the ICP will be located once he confirms with the local EMC.
- b. A phone bank will be established in the ICP once the local EMC declares the emergency management plan active. There will be a representative present at the phone bank the entire time during the pre- and post-disaster events. Members of the AIC will take turns (10 hour shifts manning the phone bank during emergencies). They will receive calls and dispatch them through the proper chain of command to alter officials of where aid is needed and to send representatives out to do an official disaster report (to be completed by the Farmer's Organization). All information will be filtered up to the AIC chair who will in turn report directly to the local EMC.

Volunteers

Individuals who want to volunteer their time and/or donations will all be handled in a orderly fashion. Individuals wanting to volunteer will sign a waiver (Appendix C) that releases the county from any expenses that the individual might incur if they should get hurt. Once the waiver is assigned the committee chair will appoint the volunteer to any committee member

that is needing assistance. At no point in time will the individual act on their own on behalf of the committee.

Donations

If individuals want to donate items to the AIC, they must fill out the donations form (Appendix C). If monetary items are received they will be placed in the Animal Issues Savings account and dispersed as needed to purchase items for animal emergencies. It is up to the AIC to establish mechanisms for monetary donations (such as who will accept the money and handle this account). A record must be kept on all items.

Rescue

- a. Livestock may need to be moved from low lying areas or completely out of the county. Ronnie Jones has offered his ranch of 1000 acres to hold 300 additional cattle and 50 horses with supplementation coming from the feed store. Once the National Weather Service has issued that a hurricane is imminent to strike Propel Co, animal in low lying areas will be evacuated to higher areas. If no higher area can be found on their home place, animals will be transported by We Haul Cattle Co. to Ronnie Jones' land in the north part of the county. Animals abandoned or stranded will be rescued by Propel Co. SPCA. Johnny Cash has volunteered the use of his air boat to help rescue animals in water as well as deliver feed to stranded livestock.
- b. Livestock that are rescued will be housed at either Ronnie Jones (if cattle or horses) or at the fair grounds (sheep, swine and goats). Waylon Jennings has offered the use of his dogs to help round up stray animals. Propel Feed Store will supply portable pens that the animals can be contained in until We Haul Cattle movers can come by and pick the animals up and take them to the designated facilities. These animals will be considered county property until the owners can come by and properly identify the animals.
- c. Animals will have a digital image taken of them and placed in the ICP, sheriff's office, county Extension office and at the local shelters. Information about finding lost animals will be disseminated through the county Extension office's print and web publications.
- d. Livestock that are injured and are in need of treatment will be cared for by Jane Brown. Any expenses that she incurred during this emergency will be paid for out of the savings account. Euthanasia of livestock will be coordinated by Jane Brown. Once the animal has been destroyed it will be properly disposed as outlined in the carcass disposal section below.

County Animal Response Team

The County Animal Response Team (CART), which is formed from AIC members and volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technicians, will be deployed to rescue abandoned, injured animals and provide medical assistance if need be. The CART is under the direction of Willie Nelson. Willie will coordinate CART activities with TXSART Program and identify financial and physical resources to support the team. John Smith will be in contact with him

when the call comes into the phone bank and he will coordinate with the CART who will handle the situation.

Sheltering

- a. Cattle and Horses will be sheltered at Ronnie Jones' pasture while sheep, goats and swine can be sheltered at the fair grounds in the pens. Ronnie Jones will allow 300 additional cattle and 50 additional horses to graze his land. At the fair grounds we are equipped to accept 75 pigs, 80 sheep and goats. All animals will require proper identification. The local veterinary technicians association headed by James Hitchenson will man the shelter areas. They will ensure that animals will have proper health care. If Propel Co. is out of danger and is the site that other counties are evacuating to the same standards will apply. Animals that are sheltered will be cared for (feed/water) by the local veterinary technicians association (VTA). Any treatment needed will be coordinated by Jane Brown. Individuals leaving animals at the designated shelters will be required to fill out an animal shelter form (Appendix C) when dropping off the animal and will resign the form once the animal has been picked back up. Animals that are not claimed and no information has been heard from the owners will be sold at the county auction barn within a week after the all clear signal has been given. The money earned to be deposited into the Animal Issues Savings account to help with emergency management costs.
- b. Livestock that are sheltered at either Ronnie Jones' or the livestock barn will have to sign an entrance and a release form that can be found in Appendix C.
- c. As stated earlier in the plan, members of the local VTA will be responsible for feeding and overall care of the animals. They will report twice a day to Jane Brown who will monitor the animals once a day. If Dr. Brown is unable to check the animals, June Cash will fill in for her. Pastured animals will be fed accordingly to the status of grass in the pasture.

Carcass Disposal

If animals need to be buried, the county has twelve acres next to the air strip that can be used as burial grounds. Merle's equipment service will provide the machinery to accomplish this task. To properly dispose of carcasses the TCEQ representative, Johnny Paycheck, will be called in to test the ground water. Guidelines will be followed according to their protocols.

Public Information

The county Extension agent will be responsible for disseminating public information as part of the guidelines in Appendix B.

Animal Disaster Damage Assessments

The Farmer's organization representative Will Rogers will be brought in to determine and write up animal damage assessment reports. All reports will be formally written and submitted to the appropriate agency via the Farmer's Organization. Money will then be reimbursed to individuals that qualify.

Disease Issues

Since Propel County is largely agriculture with over 300,000 head of cattle, 2,000 goats, 500 sheep, 2,000 hogs and 2,000 horses, it is important to understand who in the county will be affected during a disease outbreak. This part of the plan will only be implemented at the request of TAHC or USDA. The local emergency management of an animal disease outbreak is under the jurisdiction of state and federal government.

Operations and Communications

- a. In the event of an animal disease outbreak in the county, state and federal officials will need to establish an ICP. Housing for this will be at the county Extension office in the conference room. The judge of the county can release the facility into the custody of these agencies.
- b. A phone bank will be established by the JIC once the TAHC declares that it is needed. In that event there will be a representative present at the phone bank the entire time until the outbreak is contained and eradicated or until the TAHC feels that there is no longer a need for the service. Committee members will rotate through the bank and answer calls and forward them to the necessary individuals.
- c. TAHC will ultimately need help to divert traffic and help maintain road blocks around the quarantine area. County Sheriff, Pinto Bean will be contacted at this point in time once the message has been relayed through the AIC. He and his deputies can call in state trooper support or other law enforcement officers from other counties to help with traffic flow and direction. The county operations director, Bell Pepper, will also be contacted at this time to send out road crews to place road signs up to show a road block, road closed or any other signs deemed necessary by the TAHC.

Donations

If during animal disease outbreak individuals want to volunteer their time and/or donations they will all be handled in a orderly fashion. Individuals wanting to volunteer will sign a waiver (Appendix C) that releases the county from any expenses that the individual might incur if they should get hurt. Once the waiver is assigned the committee chair will appoint the volunteer to any committee member that is needing assistance. At no point in time will the individual act on their own on behalf of the committee. If individuals want to donate items to the AIC, they must fill out the donations form (Appendix C). If monetary items are received they will be placed in the Animal Issues Savings account and dispersed as needed to purchase items such as hay, feed, troughs, etc. It is up to the AIC to establish mechanisms for monetary donations (such as who will accept the money and handle this account). A record must be kept on all items.

Animal Movement

Quarantined animals may need to be transferred to other pastures to provide grazing. We Haul Cattle will be called in to move the animals to several different locations. Ronnie Jones has offered his ranch of 1000 acres to hold 300 additional cattle and 50 horses with supplementation coming from the feed store. Yellow Onion has also volunteered two separate areas with 1,000 acres each if it is needed.

Carcass Disposal

For animals that are dead and need to be collected and disposed, John Deere has volunteered the use of one of their used tractors and excavators along with a dump truck to collect and haul dead animals to disposal sites. The county has the old abandoned air strip outside of Propel that can be used as a disposal site for carcasses. Bell Pepper will be contacted to have individuals in his department man the gate to allow trucks in and out. TCEQ will be present to ensure the safety of the site. Merle's Equipment will help to construct the pit and will close the pit when the TAHC advises them to do so. To ensure that the disease is contained, scavengers need to be kept away from areas where carcasses are located. Scavengers need to be controlled and with help from the local law enforcement agencies.

Public Information

The county Extension agent will be responsible for disseminating public information as part of the guidelines in Appendix B.

Animal Disaster Damage Assessment

The Farmer's organization representative Will Rogers will be brought in to determine and write up animal disaster damage reports. All reports will be formally written and submitted to the appropriate agency via the Farmer's Organization. Money will then be reimbursed to individuals that qualify

Training

Once the animal issues plan has been developed it is of utmost importance that it is updated on a quarterly basis. John Smith, or the person serving as chair at that time will be responsible for contacting all members that are listed in Appendix A to ensure that all of their contact information is still correct and that they will still participate in an animal disaster event in the county of Propel. Not only will the chair be responsible for keeping the contact information current, but he will also be responsible for holding bi-annually mock exercises to make sure that all aspects have been covered and that individuals know how operations will work. Reports will be kept after each of these exercises so in the event either a disease or non-disease issue is presented to Propel Co, they will know what works and what doesn't.

Appendix A- Contact Information

John Smith, Chair

Address: 1234 Angus Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: johnsmith@propelco.net

Jane Brown, Veterinarian

Address: 1234 Brangusd Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: janebrown@propelco.net

Sally Payne-Fair Association Director

Address: 1234 Shorthorn Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Ronnie Jones-land usage

Address: 1234 Maine Anjou Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sjhitchenson@propelco.net

Yellow Onion-land usage

Address: 1234 Palomino Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Merle's Equipment Service-Large Equipment

Address: 1234 Beefmaster Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: merlesequipment@propelco.net

John Doe, Propel Co. Extension Agent

Address: 1234 Hereford Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: jdoe@tamu.edu

Joe Whatever-Feed Store

Address: 1234 Simmental Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
mail: joew@propelco.net

John Cash-Boat

Address: 1234 Longhorn Ln.
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)456-7890
Cell Phone: (123) 789-4560
Work Phone: (123) 123-7801
Email: jcash@propelco.net

James Hitchenson-Veterinary Technician
Association

Address: 1234 Santa Gertrudis Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

We Haul Cattle- livestock haulers
1234 Simbrah Ln

Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Willie Nelson- CART Representative

Address: 1234 Angus Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Waylon Jennings-Dogs
Address: 1234 Polled Hereford Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Bell Pepper-County Operations
Address: 1234 Brown Swiss Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801

Johnny Paycheck-TCEQ
Address: 1234 Brahman Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

John Deere-Equipment Use
Address: 1234 Quarter Horse Ln.
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801

Will Rogers- Farmer's Organization
Address: 1234 Braford Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Tom Bull-TAHC Inspector
Address: 1234 Santa Gertrudis Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Tammy Cow-Propel Co. SPCA
Address: 1234 Holstein Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Chemicals R US-Chemical Supplier
Address: 1234 Jersey Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801
Email: sallypayne@propelco.net

Pinto Bean-County Sheriff
Address: 1234 Guernsey Ln
Anywhere, TX 78963
Home Phone: (123)-456-7890
Cell Phone: (123)-789-4560
Work Phone: (123)-123-7801

Appendix B-Organizational Roles

Assignment of Responsibilities for County Extension Agents

1. Provide representation in field ICP for an animal disaster.
2. Assist in applicable media support through ICP for ongoing animal disaster.
3. Assist in telephone messaging in the ICP for an animal disaster.
4. Assist in managing web communication system in the ICP for an animal disaster.
5. Assist Farm Service Agency officials to provide animal damage assessment and animal shelter information in the ICP for an animal disaster situation.
6. Assist in report preparation in the ICP for an animal disaster situation.
7. Assist in disseminating public information through ICP for ongoing animal disaster operations.
8. Assist in biosecurity communications and public information through ICP for ongoing animal disaster.
9. Assist in animal disaster management training and educational information through ICP for impacted animal owners.
10. Assist in presenting and evaluating animal economic issues related to animal disasters.
11. Assist in presenting and evaluating public sociologic and economic issues related to animal disasters.
12. Assist in presenting and evaluating air and water safety issues related to animal disasters.
13. Assist with licensing of animal movements for ongoing animal disaster operations.
14. Assist in staffing animal disaster indemnity issues.

Appendix C- Forms

Volunteer Waiver

I, _____ release the county of Propel from any liability that I might incur while volunteering. I will take responsibility for my own actions and will work cooperatively with members of the Propel County Animal Issues Committee to aid them in their quest to better care for the livestock in this county.

Print Name

Date

Signature

Donation Form

I, _____ am hereby donating the following items to be utilized by the county of Propel for the use during animal disasters. I will not hold the county liable if the item should break, be destroyed or lost. The item (s) that I am donating I would like:

The county to keep

Returned to me

Any monetary donations that I might make will go to the Animal Issues Savings Account and will be used by the Propel Animal Issues Committee as deemed necessary. The dollar amount that I am donating is:

\$ _____

Print Name

Date

Signature

DISASTER EMERGENCY CHECK-IN/RELEASE FORM

Animal ID: _____ Pen #: _____ Shelter Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Officer: _____

Owner: Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Numbers: () _____ Alt () _____

Alternative Contact Name: _____ Phone() _____

Animal: Name: _____ Dog Cat Other _____ Age: _____

Male/Female Spayed? N Y Breed/Color _____

Identifying Marks/Collar: _____

To the best of your knowledge, has the animals bitten or scratched anyone in the past ten days?

Yes No

This animal must be picked up within 10 days after admission to the _____. If this animal is not claimed within 10 days after admission to the _____, it will become property of the _____ and disposition of said animal will be determined by that agency.

I do hereby, and by these presents, forever release the _____ and its officers, agents and employees, from any and all liability for the sheltering and medical care of said animal.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Receiving agent: _____