

Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Abbreviated Response Summary: FAD Emergency Response Levels

A Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) is described as a contagious foreign animal disease posing a serious threat as determined by the State Veterinarian. FADs are highly variable in their potential effect on agriculture. Not all reports of a FAD will result in a Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) or statewide response. When the State Veterinarian (SV) determines that a serious threat exists, the appropriate FAD level will be determined and NDA will contact the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for the purpose of activating ESF-11.

INCIDENT SEVERITY LEVELS

There are five incident severity levels relating to NDA's actions relative to animal health and maintaining the livestock and poultry industries within the state. The first two incident levels, 1 and 2, are disease management levels, and they are generally handled internally by NDA. **Incident levels 3, 4, and 5 represent FAD emergency response levels.** It is likely that action under these levels will require support from other state agencies, federal agencies, counties, humane organizations, and other relevant and appropriate entities.

- LEVEL 1:** Normal operating conditions. This level entails the daily routine activity of NDA enforcing statutory rules and regulations.
- LEVEL 2:** A disease that is not common to Nebraska either threatens to enter the state or has been identified in the state. A Level 2 disease is not considered a high-consequence animal disease. Level 2 would only apply to a disease outside Nebraska, if the State Veterinarian deemed there would be significant impact to Nebraska agriculture, if the disease entered the state.
- LEVEL 3:** **A FAD is confirmed in North America but not in a bordering state, and there is no perceivable threat to Nebraska.**
Special permitting restrictions will be implemented for all susceptible species imports into the state. The permitting requirements will apply to imports that under Level 1 or 2 situations would normally not require entry permits (i.e., imports to a market/sale barn or to slaughter). An incident could be considered a perceivable threat to Nebraska if:
- (a) the State Veterinarian has reason to believe that the permitting system is not being sufficiently protective of Nebraska Agriculture, and/or;
 - (b) if the State Veterinarian feels that the incident in the non-border state poses a significant threat to Nebraska agriculture. Under either of these circumstances the FAD level can be elevated to Level 4 or higher.
- LEVEL 4:** **A FAD is confirmed in a border state or when the incident in a non-border state has a real or perceived threat to Nebraska agriculture.**
(i.e., has spread to other areas in the impacted state with no epidemiological connections, or has spread to one or more states).
- LEVEL 5:** **A FAD is suspected or confirmed within Nebraska.**
Suspicion includes a presumptive positive determination by an accredited laboratory or a "high suspicion" (Priority 1) diagnosis by a FADD.

Definitions For NDA Abbreviated Response Summary: FAD Emergency Response Levels

1. Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) - A dangerous disease transmissible to and among livestock, which has the potential for rapid spread, serious economic impact, or serious threat to livestock health, and is of major importance in the trade of livestock and livestock products.
2. Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) – A veterinarian that is specially trained to recognize signs and symptoms of FADs and is certified to take and submit samples from animals suspected of a FAD.
3. United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services (USDA/APHIS/VS) - Veterinary Services is responsible for ensuring the health and care of animals. It is generally viewed as the counterpart to livestock disease agencies at the state level. In Nebraska, this would be the Animal and Plant Health Protection (State Veterinarian's Office) within NDA.
4. Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (AVIC) - This person is the lead Federal Veterinarian for USDA/APHIS/VS in a specified area. Nationwide, there are 42 areas that encompass one or more states. They administer the federal veterinary programs within their assigned areas, in conjunction with the State Veterinarian's Office. Cooperative agreements are in place to define roles and responsibilities. Nebraska's AVIC is Dr. Kathleen Akin, located in Lincoln.
5. State Veterinarian – This person is charged with protecting the health of livestock in Nebraska and administers the Animal Health Protection area of NDA.
6. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) - This agency is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Nebraska State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) and for coordinating emergency and disaster operations under the direction of the Governor.
7. Nebraska Livestock Emergency Disease Response System (LEDRS) - This system is being developed and will be an integral part of the response plan for Nebraska. Conceptually, it will consist of all levels of government plus private entities to assist in responding to a highly contagious disease. It will be Nebraska's state version of the Federal READEO and will be responsible to be the first response to an outbreak.