



Regional District of Nanaimo
Mass Carcass Disposal
Discussion Based Exercise

Feb 9, 2011

After Action Report

Report developed by:



Emergency Management Division

Funding provided by:



Administrative Handling Instructions

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Disclaimer

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) are pleased to participate in the delivery of this exercise funded through the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative (LWTI). We are committed to working with our industry partners to address issues of importance to the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia.

Opinions expressed in this report, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Investment Agriculture Foundation, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture or Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 9th 2011, a discussion based exercise was held in the Regional District of Nanaimo involving 35 participants from a wide range of agricultural stakeholder groups and agencies. The purpose of this exercise was to have participants explore and discuss how the Regional District of Nanaimo Farmed Animal Carcass Emergency Plan could be used to provide a framework for carcass disposal operations in an emergency situation. In this regard, participants offered their feedback about the plan as well as providing insight into additional issues that may arise during a mass carcass disposal emergency.

The participants overwhelming felt that the opportunity to meet with a majority of the stakeholders to review the plan was beneficial in being more prepared to respond to this type of emergency. A number of recommendations came out of the exercise discussions. These recommendations may be put in place in order to resolve issues related to farm animal mass carcass disposal. They are:

Priority 1 Recommendations

These recommendations are one of the following: a) highest priority b) lower priority but relatively easy to accomplish c) those where additional funding is available.

1. Provide extra training in livestock emergency response to increase the numbers of trained first responders on the island. Develop call out procedures for trained first responders who can respond to animal transportation accidents (create livestock emergency response teams).
2. Revise current RDN FAMCDEP utilizing information shared during exercise.
3. Review/revise the shortened RDN FAMCDEP reference guide which contains the key RDN FAMCDEP information ensuring it contains checklists, contact lists, resource lists, appropriate burial methods, etc and distribute to those agencies that have a direct response role.
4. Develop a "Plan B" for the disposal of bovine carcasses that cannot be shipped to a rendering plant ("Plan A") for situations where rendering is not possible (e.g. carcasses diseased, contaminated or too long deceased). There were three components to the development of Plan B:
 - a. RDN to determine that they want to proceed with determining a "Plan B" for mass carcass disposal emergency events.
 - b. RDN to investigate obtaining a permit for Specified Risk Material (SRM) emergency disposal at the RDN landfill.
 - c. Pre-determine suitable emergency burial/composting sites within the region that meet Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Ministry of Environment regulations.
5. Provide link to AgriRecovery to participants.
6. Share contact list from exercise with all participants.

Priority 2 Recommendations

These recommendations are either lower priority or will take considerable time/resources to complete

7. Inform public and local elected officials of the importance of supporting local producers in developing solutions to mass carcass disposal emergencies in order to maintain a viable local agriculture community.

8. Combine the recommendations from all the mass carcass disposal exercises being held in BC and distribute them to the participants.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Administrative Handling Instructions.....	1
Acknowledgements	1
Disclaimer	1
Executive Summary	2
Table of Contents.....	4
Part 1 – Exercise Overview.....	5
A. Date and Location	5
B. Scenario.....	5
C. Type of Exercise	5
D. Purpose of Exercise	5
E. Exercise Objectives	6
F. Exercise Evaluation	7
G. Participating Organizations	7
H.. Exercise Conduct.....	7
Part 2 – Evaluation	8
A. Overview	8
B. Recommendations	8
C. Participant Feedback on Response Discussions	14
D. Participant Feedback on Exercise Design.....	15
Appendices (attached as separate documents)	17
A. List of Participants	
B. Regional District of Nanaimo Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Exercise Materials	

PART 1 – EXERCISE OVERVIEW

A. Date and Location

The Regional District of Nanaimo Mass Carcass Disposal Exercise was held on Feb 9, 2011 at the Regional District of Nanaimo Council Chambers.

B. Scenario

The scenario was a dairy cow transport accident during a very warm May long weekend on Hwy19 just west of the Nanaimo River resulting in a requirement for mass carcass disposal of dairy cows.

While we were using a transportation accident scenario in this exercise the discussion covered mass carcass disposal for other risks outlined in the plan (flood, wildfire, disease, etc)

C. Type of Exercise

This exercise is best described as a Hybrid Workshop –Tabletop exercise.

This exercise utilized a scenario to guide a large group discussion creating a unique training and exercise experience which allowed participants to explore and provide feedback on the Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan.

The scenario and questions had been sent to the participants before the exercise for them to review and prepare (Appendix B)

D. Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to explore and discuss the following emergency operations as outlined in the Regional District of Nanaimo Farmed Animal Carcass Emergency Plan (RDN FAMCDEP):

- Concept of operations for mass carcass disposal operations
- Methodologies for carcass disposal
- Resources for carcass disposal
- Compensation and recovery

by involving the following players:

- Regional District of Nanaimo
 - Public works including waste management staff
 - EOC staff
 - Fire (for a fire or transportation scenario)
 - RCMP (for a fire or transportation scenario)
 - Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Other local authority representatives
- First Nations

- Producers (one from each area of the regional district)
 - Dairy Farmers
 - Cattle Farmers
 - Poultry Farmers
 - Other animal farmers
- Industry
 - BC Milk Producers Association
 - West Coast Reductions
 - BC Farm Animal Care Council
 - Local Veterinarians
 - Cattle haulers
 - Composting services/equipment suppliers
 - Insurance Providers
 - SPCA
- BC Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Environment MOE
- Emergency Management BC
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Investment Agriculture Foundation

in a tabletop/workshop exercise utilizing a dairy cow transport accident in the Regional District of Nanaimo.

E. Exercise Objectives

1. Review activation procedures of RDN FAMCDEP
 - Expected actions
 - Discuss when the FAMCDEP would be activated
 - List who could activate
 - Outline steps taken to activate
 - Determine if activation process in plan realistically outlines what would happen
2. Validate the concept of operations for disposal operations as outlined in the RDN FAMCDEP
 - Expected Actions
 - Identify roles and responsibilities for a mass carcass disposal event
 - List tasks that need to be completed
 - Outline the response structure for a FAD and non FAD response
 - Discuss the safety and environmental issues
 - Outline how media information will be developed and disseminated

3. Review and assess methodologies and resources for mass carcass disposal as outlined in the RDN FAMCDEP
 - o Expected Actions
 - Define the disposal methods that are available
 - Discuss the issues that are related to disposal of bovine carcasses
4. Identify any potential improvements to the RDN FAMCDEP
 - o Expected Actions
 - Identify any areas where improvements can be made to the RDN FAMCDEP
5. Develop recommendations for solving the resource shortfalls and disposal challenges listed in RDN FAMCDEP
 - o Expected Actions
 - List resources needed for disposal
 - Identify resource shortfalls
 - Identify solutions to the resource shortfalls
 - List disposal challenges
 - Identify solutions to disposal challenges
6. Review framework used for compensation and recovery
 - o Expected Actions
 - Identify who would pay for the different components of the carcass disposal operation
 - Outline the process for private or government support (provincial or federal)
 - List what records must be kept

F. Exercise Evaluation

The exercise was not formally evaluated, as its purpose was simply to provide a venue to carry out specific conversations. During these conversations, key points were captured on a flip chart. Additionally, all exercise participants were provided the opportunity to complete a Participant Feedback Form which solicited written feedback on the Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan as well as on the design of the exercise.

G. Participant Attendance

There were 35 participants to the exercise. The attendees are listed in Appendix A

H. Exercise Conduct

The scenario was provided to the participants by means of PowerPoint slides after which a series of questions were asked to guide the discussion. Participants responded as to what they or their agency would be doing. It was run as a large group discussion. The scenario and questions are provided in Appendix B

PART 2 – EVALUATION

A. Overview

As mentioned previously, the purpose of this exercise was to allow participants to explore and discuss how the Regional District of Nanaimo Farmed Animal Carcass Emergency Plan could be used to provide a framework for carcass disposal operations. In this regard, participants offered their feedback about the plan as well as providing insight into additional issues that may arise during a mass carcass disposal event

Most, if not all, the expected actions within each objective of the exercise were realized during the exercise therefore the exercise met its objectives.

The participants overwhelmingly felt that the opportunity to meet with a majority of the stakeholders to discuss the plan was beneficial in being prepared to respond to this type of emergency. The following are recommendations that resulted from the discussions during the exercise.

B. Recommendations

Based on the input from participants a number of recommendations have been developed. These have been grouped into two priority groups. Priority One recommendations are those that are high priority or may be lower priority but are easy to accomplish or are ones where additional funding is available. Priority Two recommendations are either lower priority or high priority but will take considerable time/resources to accomplish

Please note: This document does not serve to bind participating agencies to complete these actions; rather, these actions have been identified as addressing a problem, issue or request arising from participant conversations and subsequent exercise design team analysis.

Where one or more “Responsible Agencies” have been identified, it is not to bind these agencies to completing these tasks. Instead, these agencies have been deemed by the exercise design team to be most the most appropriate or best prepared to complete the identified task.

Finally, the exercise design team should review and confirm the validity of these recommendations before any action is taken.

Priority 1 Recommendations

These recommendations are one of the following: a) highest priority b) lower priority but relatively easy to accomplish c) those where additional funding is available.

- 1. Provide extra training in livestock emergency response to increase the numbers of trained first responders on the island. Develop call out procedures for trained first responders who can respond to**

animal transportation accidents (create livestock emergency response teams).

While the focus of the exercise was on farm animal mass carcass disposal there was a discussion on first response to an animal transportation accident (livestock emergency response). The importance of all the first responders having some training/experience in handling animals in transportation accidents for their safety was identified. Training courses have been held in BC covering proper procedures for first response (removal of trapped animals, etc) however it was felt that training additional people would be beneficial. The livestock emergency response courses are offered through the BC Farm Animal Care Council.

In addition, it was felt that call out procedures for activating the trained/experienced people need to be developed (create livestock emergency response teams). These call out procedures would be useful to have at fire departments, RCMP detachments and at the EMBC Emergency Coordination Centre. Liability coverage for these livestock emergency response personnel, especially if volunteers, was brought up as a concern.

Timely notification of RDN is important for RDN to get ramped up to support site. Notification of RDN should be part of call out procedures

Responsible Agencies: Producer/Industry Associations, RDN, EMBC, CFIA, AGRI. BC Farm Animal Care Council

2. Revise current RDN FAMCDEP utilizing information shared during exercise.

- Revise plan to have shipping to rendering plant as first option to consideration for mass carcass disposal of cattle (poultry would still be composting).
- Revise EOC check list that is in the full plan and the shortened version of the plan. Currently there is a point on the checklist that states "Develop and implement public relations/communications strategy and plan." Add "Consider establishing a RDN call center" to that point.
- Incorporate most current protocols/regulations for burial/composting from MOE, AGRI, CFIA from Protocol 1.
- Include the use of fairground for livestock evacuation
- Clarify who is site I.C. (could be unified command) to deal with the mass carcass disposal and when is the pass over point from RCMP.(traffic accident) to other agencies
Three phases:
 - 1) immediate response (traffic/life safety) –RCMP
 - 2) animal assessment/livestock emergency care/mass carcass disposal- in a non disease event that exceeds the capacity of individual producers/industry then the

local government most likely will be the lead agency working with other agencies in a unified command structure

3) post response/action phase transitioning to recovery producers/industry/local authority.

- Include section that outlines that the current CFIA registered euthanizing drugs are broken down in the rendering process so carcasses are suitable for rendering.
- Include additional contacts for SRM pick up on Vancouver island
 - West Coast Reductions (Kevin Wise)
 - 604 861 3283
 - 604 252 2067
- Include information about local incineration in plan
 - Vancouver Island Animal Crematorium
 - 1 866 540 6481
 - can accommodate smaller animals but not cows or horses
- Create 1-2 page resource/contact list
 - Currently contacts and resources are spread throughout the
- Include information on role of Recovery Team in:
 - support for stress, practices to maintain mental health, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing(CISD) for farmers/responders
 - Donation management

Responsible Agency: RDN, MOE, AGRI, CFIA

- 3. Review/revise the shortened RDN FAMCDEP reference guide which contains the key RDN FAMCDEP information ensuring it contains checklists, contact lists, resource lists, appropriate burial methods, etc and distribute to those agencies that have a direct response role.**

It was brought to the participant's attention that a reference guide of the RDN FAMCDEP has been created and is part of the larger RDN Emergency Response Plan. The reference guide should be reviewed to ensure it contains:

- Any revisions from the exercise, see recommendation 2
- Checklist (key response steps)
- Resource lists
 - This would be a more specific resource list than in the larger RDN Response Plan and would include resources such as available pasture space, livestock trailers, carcass handling equipment, etc.
- Key contact list
 - Currently the key contact information is spread throughout the larger FAMCDP and a 1-2 page contact list would be helpful that contains specific

contacts for farm animal mass carcass disposal such as livestock emergency response trained personal, agency representatives, industry representatives.

- Appropriate burial methods and practices (or who to contact to get the information)
- Acceptable methods of disinfection, (or who to contact to get the information)
- Clarify in the reference guide that in a non disease event that exceeds the capacity of individual producers/industry that the local government most likely will be the lead agency working with other agencies in a unified command structure.

There was discussion on who should have the reference guide and it was felt that the RDN would be the keeper of the guide and that it would be distributed to those agencies with a direct response role. Livestock emergency response team members should also have the reference guide so they know to contact RDN.

Responsible Agency: RDN

4. Develop a “Plan B” for the disposal of bovine carcasses that cannot be shipped to a rendering plant (“Plan A”) for situations where rendering is not possible (e.g. carcasses diseased, contaminated or too long deceased). There were three components to the development of Plan B:

d. RDN to determine that they want to proceed with determining a “Plan B” for mass carcass disposal emergency events.

During the exercise it was determined that shipping the carcasses to a rendering plant would most likely be the first option (Plan A) as it is the most straight forward and is reusing the material instead of just disposing of the material. However, the second option (Plan B) for situation where rendering is not possible was not clear. In order to determine Plan B RDN would need to determine that it has the political will to find the answers. If this is determined to be the case then the following two options could be considered.

Responsible Agency: RDN

e. RDN to investigate obtaining a permit for Specified Risk Material (SRM) emergency disposal at the RDN landfill.

The RDN landfill is an engineered landfill and there is the potential that it could meet the requirements to be used for the disposal of SRM in an emergency. RDN would have to go through the permitting process with CFIA to be able to accept SRM

Responsible Agency: RDN

f. **Pre-determine suitable emergency burial/composting sites within the region that meet Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Ministry of Environment regulations.**

The RDN FAMCDEP provides an overview of the site selection requirements when identifying a suitable location for the burial of carcasses. However, the plan stops short of actually identifying where these suitable locations exist to meet MOE and CFIA regulations. Pre-determining these sites has the potential to mitigate the environmental and health risks of having to determine these sites quickly during an actual crisis.

Composting could be used to buy some time and reduce the volume of SRM material to be dealt with however the finished compost is still considered SRM. It was felt that pre-determining some sites for composting would be helpful although it was noted that there was public opposition to garden waste composting sites.

If the RDN determines that this is the strategy they would like to follow there is funding available from the IAF to conduct the GIS/soil analysis studies to find suitable burial/composting sites.

Responsible Agency: RDN, IAF

5. Provide link to AgriRecovery to participants

During the exercise AgriRecovery program was mentioned in terms of providing support to farmers. It was suggested that the link to the program be sent to participants.

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1200408916804&lang=eng>

Responsible Agency: RDN

6. Send contact list from exercise out to all participants.

One of the key accomplishments of the exercise was the familiarization of the stakeholder agency staff with each other. This will be extremely valuable if an emergency situation ever occurs. The importance of contact lists and the challenges of keeping them up to date were discussed. Sending out the contact sheet from this exercise was requested to assist everyone in maintaining their contact lists.

Responsible Agency RDN

Priority 2 Recommendations

These recommendations are either lower priority or will take considerable time/resources to complete

7. Inform public and local elected officials of the importance of supporting local producers in developing solutions to mass carcass disposal emergencies in order to maintain a viable local agriculture community.

The importance of local agriculture production was recognized and that having plans to deal with farm animal mass carcass disposal is part of maintaining a viable responsible agriculture community. The challenge of finding solutions to farm animal mass carcass disposal and communicating the solutions to the public at large as well as elected officials was discussed. It was recognized that finding solutions to some of these emergencies is not easy however waiting until the emergency to occur to find solutions was not seen as an appropriate response either.

The importance of producers, producer organizations and other agencies involved in agriculture informing the public and elected officials of the challenges producers face is key to finding solutions to carcass disposal. The local government needs to be able to allocate staff time to assist with finding solutions.

Responsible Agencies: Producer/Industry Associations, related industries, other agencies involved in agriculture in region

8. Combine the recommendations from all the mass carcass disposal exercises being held in BC and distribute them to the participants.

The suggestion of combining all the recommendations from the mass carcass disposal exercises that have already occurred or will occur in BC and distributing them to the participants would be beneficial to many participants as there are differing discussions/recommendations occurring in each exercise.

Responsible Agency: IAF

C. Participant Feedback on Response

What is your assessment of the response efforts discussed during the exercise?

*Please rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, your overall assessment of the response efforts relative to the statements provided below, with 1 indicating **strong disagreement** with the statement and 5 indicating **strong agreement**.*

<u>Assessment Factor</u>	Rating of Agreement					Average of Responses
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>				<i>Strongly Agree</i>	
a. The roles and responsibilities during a farm animal mass carcass event are well defined	1	2	3	4	5	3.8
b. It is clear which tasks need to be completed to deal with a farm animal mass carcass event	1	2	3	4	5	3.8
c. There is a straightforward process for determining which methodology would be best for dealing with a farm animal mass carcass event.	1	2	3	4	5	3.2
d. There are sufficient resources available for dealing with a farm animal mass carcass event.	1	2	3	4	5	3.2

Comments on any of the above assessment factors:

- We have a great start and the revisions that will come out of this exercise will solidify the plan

2. What areas of the response to a farm animal mass carcass disposal event need further research, resources or methodologies?

- Alternate local disposal methods
- Disposal options w/SRM
- Clarification on regulations re composting-dispatching animals
- Initial response – areas of responsibility-contact lists, etc
- Burial sites (suitable)
- Clarify responsibilities
- Plan “B” – landfill permitted?
- GIS mapping of areas within the RD where mass carcass disposal are appropriate (on farms) as well as permitted crown lands
- Investigation of whether Cedar Landfill can be permitted for SRM

- Disposal!
- Burial/composting sites identified
- Disposal methods available for Central Vancouver Island
- Option for the actual disposal
- Allowable site criteria for burial or composting

3. What improvements/changes could be made to the Regional District of Nanaimo Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Plan.

- See notes taken by Jani
- Work to strengthen it
- Review in more detail by all ministries, LA, etc

4. What further exercises or training could be done to better prepare for a farm animal mass carcass disposal event

- None for me, just call when it happens
- Jennifer Woods training
- Further tabletops
- Course for those who could round up animals i.e coastal animal control members
- Livestock training for animal control
- Simulation
- Hauler training

D. Participant Feedback on Exercise Design

Following the exercise, participants were invited to provide their feedback about any item not discussed, as well as about the exercise itself. The following charts consolidate all rankings and responses.

1. What is your assessment of the design and conduct of this discussion based exercise?

Assessment Factor	Rating of Agreement					Average of Responses
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>				<i>Strongly Agree</i>	
a. Having the scenario and questions ahead of time better prepared you for the discussion in the today's exercise.	1	2	3	4	5	4.1
b. This discussion based exercise was well structured and organized.	1	2	3	4	5	4.1
c. Discussion based exercises, such as this, are a valuable component in developing an integrated response.	1	2	3	4	5	4.4

<u>Assessment Factor</u>	Rating of Agreement					Average of Responses
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>				<i>Strongly Agree</i>	
d. The exercise achieved its identified objectives.	1	2	3	4	5	4
e. The exercise achieved your personal exercise objectives.	1	2	3	4	5	3.6

Comments on any of the above assessment factors:

Comments:

- Great

2. What components of this exercise worked very well and should be retained in future exercises?

- Advanced distribution of materials
- Facilitator did a great job of taking comments from participants and drawing out the valuable/useable information
- Flow
- Open discussion/info sharing
- Good cross section of participants – right players
- All. Yes!
- Having all the experts in one room with their knowledge and resources
- Stuart was well able to keep discussion on track and focused
- Interaction and information from various players. Clarification of what could be done. Rendering, Composting? Burial
- The large group format helped familiarize the group with each other – agencies will collaborate more effectively as a result
- Liked having all the players in the room much clearer on peoples responsibilities
- Actual scenarios and looking at variants and real case history

3. What suggestions would you make to improve an exercise such as this?

- Worked fine as is
- Perhaps a bit more time
- Refer to LA plan sections
- Include insurers
- None
- Round table seating arrangement would feel more inclusive (but this was great!)
- Big group maybe pressed for time at the end
- Reg's clear direction of what to do

APPENDICES

Appendices

- A. Exercise Attendance List
- B. Regional District of Nanaimo Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal
Exercise Materials



Participant Contact list

9 February, 2011, Mass Livestock Carcass

Funding provided by:



Organization	Name	Area of Expertise	Email	Phone
RDN/ District of Lantzville	Jani Drew	Emergency Coordinator	jdrew@rdn.bc.ca	250-390-6526
Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC	Rick Van Kleek	Emergency Planning/ Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative	rvankleek@iafbc.ca	604-556-0128
Ministry of Agriculture	Holly Annand	Waste Management Engineer	Holly.annand@gov.bc.ca	
Justice Institute of BC	Stuart MacDonald	Exercise Design	smacdonald@jibc.ca	604-866-2321
Vancouver Island Health Authority	Doug Glenn	Public Health Protection/Drinking Water Officer	dglenn@viha.ca	250-752-5588
RDN Agricultural Advisory Committee	Joanne MacLeod	Farmer's Institute/Livestock		250-722-2730
RDN Agricultural Advisory Committee	Albert Benson	Farmer's Institute/Livestock		250-722-2730
West Coast Reduction	Kevin R. Wise	Rendering/Transportation	kwise@wcr.com	604-252-2067 250-616-8657 24/7 cell
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	Susan Deyoung	Animal health, S.R.M.	Susan.deyoung@inspection.gc.ca	250-248-4772 Ext. 229
BC Chicken Marketing Board	Brian Hoven	Poultry	brianhoven@bcchicken.ca	604-859-2868

Emergency Management BC	Clare Fletcher	Emergency Management	<u>Clare.fletcher@gov.bc.ca</u>	
Coastal Animal Control	Trevor Hughes	Live animals (domestic)	<u>cacs@telus.net</u>	250-754-1397
E.A. "F" Director	Lou Biggemann	Livestock	<u>lwb@shaw.ca</u>	250-248-9078
Environmental Farm Planning	David Tattam	Advisor	<u>dtattam@shaw.ca</u>	250-746-7666
BS SPCA	Tina Heary	Special Provincial Constable/Animal Cruelty	<u>theary@sPCA.bc.ca</u>	250-616-2669
Alder Mountain Farm	Don Alberg	Cattle	<u>aldermtn@shaw.ca</u>	250-752-2475
Comox Valley Reg. Dist.	Mike Fournier	Emergency Coordinator	<u>cvep@shawcable.com</u>	250-334-6488
Ministry of Agriculture	Jill Hatfield	Agriculture	<u>Jill.hatfield@gov.bc.ca</u>	250-897-7518
RDN	Maggie Warren	Solid Waste/Landfill	<u>mwarren@rdn.bc.ca</u>	250-722-2044
Island Processing	Don Kryskow	Animal Recycling	<u>dkryskow@wcrI.com</u>	250-722-4770
Ministry of Environment	Conrad Berube	Waste Management	<u>Conrad.berube@gov.bc.ca</u>	250-751-3167
Cedar Farmer's Institute	Jim Fiddick	Livestock	<u>fiddick@island.net</u>	250-722-2507
Nanaimo RCMP	Cpl. Norm Smith	Traffic Services	<u>Norm.smith@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</u>	250-754-2345
FARSHA	Ken Lacroix	Farm/safety coordinator	<u>kglacroix@bcdf.ca</u>	250-758-9807
BC Milk Producers Association	Dr. Rehanni Khaseipoul	Disease control/producer contact	<u>rkhaseipoul@bcdf.ca</u>	604-603-7872

City of Nanaimo/RDN Board	Diana Johnstone	Agricultural Advisory Committee	Diana.johnstone@nanaimo.ca	250-754-9996
RDN Bylaw Enforcement	Brian Brack	Emergency Program-Alternate	bbrack@rdn.bc.ca	250-390-6552
RDN Bylaw Enforcement	Jack Eubank	Emergency Program-Alternate	jeubank@rdn.bc.ca	250-390-6553
Springford Farm	Colin Springford	Local producer/beef, poultry	springfordfarm@telus.net	250-468-7510
Little Qualicum Cheese Works	Clarke Gourlay	Cows/dairy	Clarke@cheeseworks.ca	250-954-3941
RDN	Adrienne Mercer	Communications Coordinator	admerc@rdn.bc.ca	250-390-6554
RDN	Tiffany Moore	Finance/emergency response reimbursements	tmoore@rdn.bc.ca	250-390-6548
RDN	Dale Lindsay	Land use planning	dlindsay@rdn.bc.ca	250-390-6510
EMCON Services (MoT service provider)	Rob Heaslip	Highway maintenance	rheaslip@yahoo.ca	250-722-9494
RDN	Tom Armet	Emergency Planning, Bylaw, Building Inspection	tarmet@rdn.bc.ca	250-390-6535

Regional District of Nanaimo

Tabletop Exercise

February 9, 2011

Exercise Details

Purpose

The purpose of this exercise is to explore and discuss the following emergency operations as outlined in the Regional District of Nanaimo Farmed Animal Carcass Emergency Plan (RDN FAMCDEP):

- Concept of operations for mass carcass disposal operations
- Methodologies for carcass disposal
- Resources for carcass disposal
- Compensation and recovery

by involving the following players:

- Regional District of Nanaimo
 - Public works including waste management staff
 - EOC staff
 - Fire (for a fire or transportation scenario)
 - RCMP (for a fire or transportation scenario)
 - Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Other local authority representatives
- First Nations
- Producers (one from each area of the regional district)
 - Dairy Farmers
 - Cattle Farmers
 - Poultry Farmers
 - Other animal farmers
- Industry
 - BC Milk Producers Association
 - West Coast Reductions
 - BC Farm Animal Care Council
 - Local Veterinarians
 - Cattle haulers
 - Composting services/equipment suppliers
 - Insurance Providers
 - SPCA
- BC Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Environment MOE
- Emergency Management BC
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Investment Agriculture Foundation

in a tabletop/workshop exercise utilizing a dairy cow transport accident in the Regional District of Nanaimo.

Exercise Objectives and Expected Actions:

7. Review activation procedures of RDN FAMCDEP
 - Expected actions
 - Discuss when the FAMCDEP would be activated
 - List who could activate
 - Outline steps taken to activate
 - Determine if activation process in plan realistically outlines what would happen
8. Validate the concept of operations for disposal operations as outlined in the RDN FAMCDEP
 - Expected Actions

- Identify roles/responsibilities for a mass carcass disposal event
 - List tasks that need to be completed
 - Outline the response structure for a non animal disease and an animal disease event
 - Discuss the safety and environmental issues
 - Outline how media information will be developed and disseminated
9. Review and assess methodologies and resources for mass carcass disposal as outlined in the RDN FAMCDEP
- Expected Actions
 - Define the disposal methods that are available
 - Discuss the issues that are related to disposal of bovine carcasses
10. Identify any potential improvements to the RDN FAMCDEP
- Expected Actions
 - Identify any areas where improvements can be made to the RDN FAMCDEP
11. Develop recommendations for solving the resource shortfalls and disposal challenges listed in RDN FAMCDEP
- Expected Actions
 - List resources needed for disposal
 - Identify resource shortfalls
 - Identify solutions to the resource shortfalls
 - List disposal challenges
 - Identify solutions to disposal challenges
12. Review framework used for compensation and recovery
- Expected Actions
 - Identify who would pay for the different components of the carcass disposal operation
 - Outline the process for private or government support (provincial or federal)
 - List what records must be kept
 - Outline what the recovery objectives would be.

Rules:

- This is a no-fault exercise.
- *Answer questions based on what you or your agency would do*
- *If you need to consult someone outside the tabletop please leave the room to make the call*
- *Answer questions thoroughly but quickly.*

Additional Considerations:

- Each discussion will focus on a specific set of questions – these may or may not reflect the order in which issues are dealt with during a real emergency.
- The scenario may move faster than it would actually play out in reality.
- Some questions may be answered easily by one member of the group; questions such as these were included to share knowledge about particular issues and processes that may not be widely known
- The exercise is designed to focus conversation on specific aspects of response and how the RDN FAMCDEP could be used to organize these efforts

Format:

- A scenario will be presented by PowerPoint and a series of questions asked

- The exercise participants will respond to the questions in one large group with agencies providing their component of the answer to each question presented
- Facilitators will provide clarification and guidance as necessary.
- Responses to the questions will be recorded

Outcomes:

- Players are familiarized with how agencies may coordinate efforts during this type of scenario
- Players have opportunity to theorize how plans and procedures may be applied to this type of hazard
- Recommendations may be developed for improvements to the RDN Plan
- Recommendations may be developed to resolve resource shortfalls and disposal challenges.

Nanaimo Tabletop Exercise

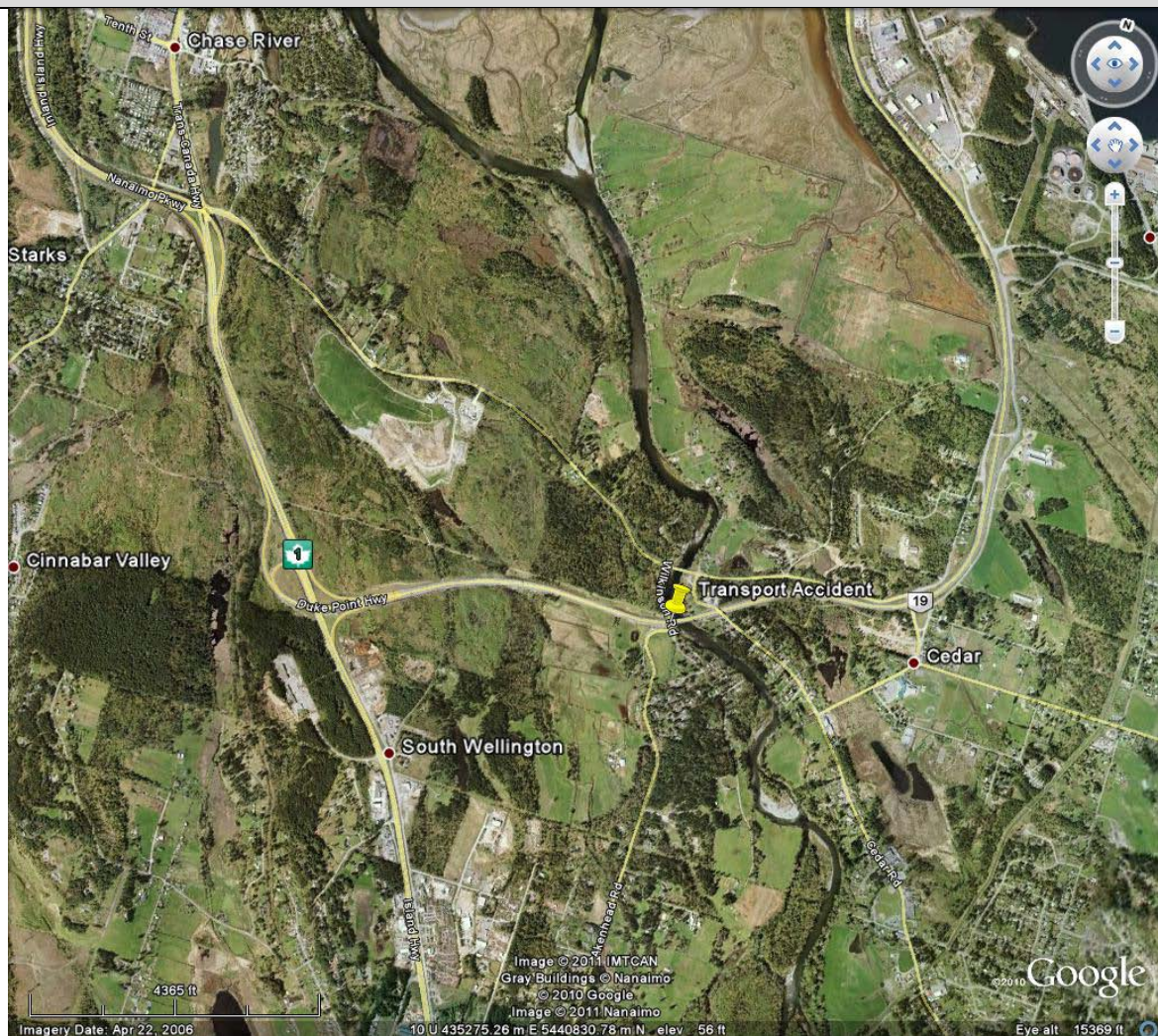
Scenario 1: Accident Occurs – May 23, 2011

Exercise, Exercise

It is Monday of the May long weekend and the weather is unusually hot with the temperature approaching the warmest May day ever in Nanaimo of 34 C (1983). Traffic on the highways is starting to become heavy with people returning home from their long weekend trips.

At 1310 the 911 dispatch receives a call from a motorist that a cattle liner has gone off the road on Hwy 19 just west of the Nanaimo River. The transport truck hit the no post and the transport portion flipped over the no post and is on the top of the embankment. against a tree. The cab of the truck hit another vehicle which spun and hit the no post. There are injured people in the second vehicle. The truck driver is also injured and there are calves on the highway and numerous calves still inside the damaged liner

Exercise, Exercise





Scenario 1 Questions:

1. What would be the initial first response steps such as who would respond and what other agencies would be initially informed (up to the point that first responders arrive at the scene)?

Note: While this exercise is to focus on the carcass disposal component of the scenario having an overview discussion of the first response to a liner accident will set up the carcass disposal discussion and be beneficial to all. The challenge in the exercise will be to not spend too much time discussing all the components that are part of the first response

Scenario 2 (a): Managing Carcass Disposal 1 hour later – May 23, 2011

Exercise, Exercise

PowerPoint slide perhaps with picture)::

Fire, Police and paramedics have arrived at the accident site. The driver of the truck and people in the second vehicle are injured and being treated by paramedics who will be taking them to the hospital. The transport truck was taking dairy cows to the ferry and on to the auction in Abbotsford. There appears to be about 7 cows that are out wandering around on the embankment and highway, a few injured cows outside the liner, a couple more outside the liner that are dead and more that are still inside the liner.

Exercise, Exercise

The first 6 questions would have to be covered quite quickly so that the maximum time can be spent discussion the mass carcass disposal questions in Scenario 2 (b)

Scenario 2 (a) Questions:

1. What other agencies besides fire, police and ambulance would be on site or on their way to the site?
2. What outside agencies, individuals or governing bodies would need to be alerted to the situation? What is the alerting process?
3. What actions would your agency be taking at this time?
4. What plans would you be using to guide your actions?
5. How would the trapped animals be removed?
6. Who would determine which animals would be euthanized and who would do the euthanizing?
7. What assistance would the local authority provide? Would the local authority activate its EOC for this event?
8. At what point would the FAMCDEP be referred to?
 - a. Who could activate the plan
 - b. Outline steps taken to activate
 - c. Determine if the activation process in plan realistically outlines what would happen
 - d. Are personnel in your agency familiar with the FAMCDEP

Nanamo Tabletop Exercise

Scenario 2(b): Managing Transportation Accident – May 23, 2011

Exercise, Exercise

Four hours have passed and there are many people at the accident site. The uninjured calves have been rounded up and corralled with some temporary fence panels. An opening in the transport truck has been made and the mobile cows removed. The injured cows are being examined and so far 6 cows have had to be euthanized. It appears at this point that there are a further 9 cows that died in the accident for a total of 15 dead cows so far. There are 11 cows that are alive.

Exercise, Exercise

Scenario 2 Questions:

1. What agencies would be at the accident site now and what actions would each of the agencies be taking at this point?
2. List the tasks that need to be completed to deal with the mass carcass disposal.
3. Response structure questions.
 - a. For this scenario what is the response structure for mass carcass disposal
 - b. How would the structure differ for flood, wildfire or structural events.
 - c. How would the response structure differ for a foreign animal disease event
4. What information would be needed in order to choose the most appropriate disposal method?
5. List who is responsible for the different components of the disposal process.
6. Based on this scenario, what disposal methods would be considered? What issues are related to disposal of bovine carcasses?
7. If transporting the carcasses to a rendering facility in Alberta is selected as an option how would this option be initiated, what specific conditions would have to be met and what would be the steps in making it happen?
8. If transporting the carcasses to Alberta is not possible what would the other options be?

Potential Discussion points

- a) On farm burial – requirements/limitations/challenges
 - b) Composting – on farm verse central, requirements, resources challenges
 - c) Central burial (RDN landfill or an emergency landfill site) – challenges for cattle carcass disposal
9. List the resources that are needed for disposal both for the primary disposal method and the backup disposal methods
 10. What resource shortfalls are there for the list and any potential way to overcome the shortfall?
 11. What information will be provided to the public? How will the information be provided and by who?

Nanamo Tabletop Exercise

Scenario 2(c): Managing Transportation Accident – May 23, 2011

Exercise, Exercise

Scenario Variation (if time allows)

The accident happens a little further east, on the start of the bridge, and the trailer goes over the edge of the bridge and lands in the Nanaimo River.



Exercise, Exercise

Scenario 2 (c) Questions:

12. How does having dead animals in the Nanaimo River change the response or carcass disposal?

Nanaimo Tabletop Exercise

Scenario 3: Compensation and Recovery – February 2011

Exercise, Exercise

Two days have passed since the transportation accident. The animals both live and dead have all been removed with the uninjured animals now at their destination and the carcasses dealt with. The damaged transportation truck has been removed and it has been determined that it cannot be repaired.

Exercise, Exercise

Scenario 3 Questions:

1. Would any of the losses (including disposal costs) in this scenario be covered by insurance, provincial programs or federal programs? If so outline the process for private or government financial support
2. How would compensation differ for a mass carcass disposal event that was the result of:
 - i. a flood,
 - ii. interface fire
 - iii. foreign animal disease
3. What types of documentation should producers gather in order to aid the compensation process?
4. Would a recovery team be set up for this event? (refer to Section 7.3) If so what would the recovery objectives be?

Debrief

Debrief:

1. Strengths & Areas for Improvement
2. Next Step
3. Closing Statements