

RDN TO HOST LIVESTOCK CARCASS DISPOSAL EXERCISE

The Regional District is inviting rural farmers to help plan for the safe disposal of killed livestock in the event of a transportation accident. On February 9 the RDN will host a tabletop farmed animal mass carcass disposal exercise in the RDN Board Chambers in Nanaimo. All livestock (dairy, beef, lamb, pork and poultry) farmers in the RDN Electoral Areas are invited to provide input before the exercise and to participate on February 9.

“During a non-disease event like a transportation accident we would need to examine disposal capacity on local farms, and assess other options such as using the landfill for non-cattle carcasses,” said Regional Emergency Management Select Committee Chair Dave Bartram. “I encourage all rural livestock farmers in our region to participate in the farmed animal mass carcass disposal exercise on February 9, and help plan for such an emergency. I would also like to thank the Investment Agriculture Association of BC for funding this project.”

The exercise will be based on a transportation accident, with a full scenario to be provided on February 9. Participants will discuss and assess options for mass carcass disposal operations, identify methods and resources, and review compensation and recovery guidelines for affected farmers. The RDN’s Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Emergency Plan (FAMCEP) will also provide a framework for discussions.

In addition to RDN staff and local farmers, a wide range of stakeholder groups will participate in the exercise, including the Justice Institute of BC, the BC Milk Producers Association, the BC Cattlemen’s Association, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, Emergency Management BC, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Investment Agriculture Association of BC (IAFBC), the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, EMCON, RCMP, local cattle haulers, composting service providers, incineration equipment suppliers, meat processing/rendering companies, and insurance providers.

Prior to February 9 the RDN will also collect input from farmers and stakeholders to determine the most appropriate scenario for the exercise. All local livestock and dairy farmers are invited to participate in this stage as well by contacting RDN Emergency Program Coordinator Jani Drew at 250-390-6526, or jdrew@rdn.bc.ca.

The IAFBC, through the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative, is funding all costs for the February 9 exercise. In 2008 the IAFBC also provided 100 per cent funding for the development of the RDN’s FAMCEP.

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