

From: MacLean, Alex
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 12:15 PM
To: Ross, Chuck; Lofy, Bill
CC: Bothfeld, Diane; Haas, Kristin
Subject: RE: informatoin for the Governor's office on Dairy Biosecurity Survey

Has Rural Vt been brought up to speed on this or are there plans to do so? I am fine with this and think it makes sense but we need to do our homework and outreach so as to avoid confusion about why we are doing this...

Alexandra MacLean
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs
1-802-272-0443

From: Ross, Chuck
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 10:33 AM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Cc: Bothfeld, Diane; Haas, Kristin
Subject: FW: informatoin for the Governor's office on Dairy Biosecurity Survey

Bill and Alex,
Have you had a chance to read this over? WE are ready to pull the trigger and get this moving. Just want to be sure you are aware before we get things going in case there are some calls.

chuck

Chuck Ross
Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets
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Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
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From: Ross, Chuck
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 3:20 PM
To: Lofy, Bill; MacLean, Alex
Subject: FW: informatoin for the Governor's office on Dairy Biosecurity Survey
Importance: High

Below is a write up of a very important regional initiative we have mentioned in a number of weekly reports that we are involved with and need to pursue to help protect our dairy industry in the wake of a foot and mouth outbreak. The most important thing to note is the issue explained in the second bullet below. Its conceivable that some farmers will be concerned but if you remember the outbreak and response in the UK of thousands of animals being destroyed (burned) and animal industries being brought to their knees, this is what we are trying to avoid.

Happy to discuss further but need to act quickly.

Thanks for your attention

chuck

Dairy Preparedness Survey
Memo: Dairy Farm Preparedness Survey – Information for Governor's Office
From: VAAFM

The Dairy Farm Preparedness Initiative falls under the umbrella of the ongoing New England States Animal Agriculture Security Alliance (NESAASA), the charter for which was signed by all 6 New England governors during the previous Administration. The purpose of the initiative is to develop a continuity of business plan for Vermont dairy producers that would help to keep them in business during a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. A major step during an outbreak of FMD would be to suspend all traffic onto and off of farms with susceptible species as soon as an FMD outbreak is detected. This stop movement order represents a challenge for farms that need to move milk to market, accept feed deliveries, or move livestock. Fortunately, the region is now free of such a disease, but preparations for any type of disaster need to be made in advance. This initiative would result in the development of a tool that would be essential to allowing as many dairy producers as possible to ship milk during an outbreak, and the implementation of this program is important to protect Vermont's significant dairy industry during an outbreak.

The Dairy Farm Preparedness survey is a voluntary biosecurity survey that will allow the VAAFM to see where farms stand currently and what things they might need to do in order to ensure their business continuity during an outbreak. Maine, NH, Rhode Island have completed biosecurity surveys of their dairy producers with an almost 100% completion rate.

Possible areas of concern that the Governor's office should be aware of:

- Confidentiality of data collected – personal contact info and details about individual farms is collected as part of this survey. This data would remain confidential until which time there is a FMD outbreak. During an outbreak, the data that is used to determine which farms would be able to move milk and or animals. The data could be shared with other New England emergency management personnel only if we decided to give them permission to view it and at what level of detail. Information collected would also be helpful in another Irene scale event.

- * Comparison to NAIS – some producers may compare this initiative to the previous premises identification (National Animal Identification System) initiative that was received VERY poorly in Vermont and ultimately failed. Identified location, number and type of livestock and when animals were moved either by sale or to slaughter were part of the program that failed.

VAAFM is enlisting the help of Vermont dairy cooperatives along with VAAFM Animal Health and Veterinary Services field staff to inform dairy producers and to complete the surveys. The next step is to provide all dairy producers a letter, an FAQ document, and a copy of the survey in advance so they are aware of the effort. We would then contact them and set up individual appointments to visit with them and collect the necessary information.