

STATE BORDER AND INTERSTATE TRAFFIC SECURITY FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD)

2024 (Pre-Helene)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This tab establishes plans to monitor traffic entering North Carolina to assure infected animals are not imported and that those animals without proper permits are removed, quarantined, or denied entry into North Carolina. The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) will work to secure North Carolina's borders and major highway thoroughways to an extent sufficient to reduce the risk of spread of FADs from other states. The success of this mission depends on close coordination with USDA, other state Departments of Agriculture and Emergency Management Agencies in adjacent states along with clear communication of policies and permitting requirements to the impacted industries and the public.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

1. If a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) is diagnosed in another state, it is important to secure North Carolina's borders to prevent introduction of the disease causing agent. Border security focuses on efforts that will prevent interstate movements of infected or contaminated susceptible animals, equipment, etc. from states that are infected with a FAD. Movements of animal or animal products, equipment, and personnel from control areas that are established around infected premises will be done through a permitting process utilizing the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Emergency Management Response System 2.0 (EMRS2). Intrastate movements are currently handled through permits issued by the State Veterinarian (SV) and interstate movements are coordinated through USDA. Animals found in transit on NC roadways from areas infected with a FAD must be addressed through quarantine or controlled transportation routing actions that would remove them from the state.
2. There has been an extensive outbreak with control measures in place for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) throughout the United States including North Carolina since 2022. It has been necessary to closely monitor and control entry of susceptible animals along with any movement of them within NC. This would be the same response with any other FAD detection in the country.

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B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. All FADs are highly infectious and could be devastating for large portions of North Carolina's susceptible animal populations and economy.
2. An outbreak of a FAD that has zoonotic potential may bring significant human health problems and may significantly impact North Carolina's agricultural economy.
3. Strict control of North Carolina's borders and the movement of susceptible animals through a permitting process within the state will be an effective measure for reducing risk of a FAD introduction into NC. Restricting the importation of susceptible animals/animal products through permitting and monitoring the entry of equipment, personnel and vehicles from infected areas will lessen the probability of a FAD introduction to NC.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. ORGANIZATION

The SERT Emergency Services Branch, through appropriate SERT Branch Offices, will establish locations, schedules, and identify personnel necessary to secure borders.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) through the SV is the lead technical agency for FAD incidents and is responsible for providing appropriate criteria by which certain animals, equipment, and personnel are to be denied entry into or evicted from North Carolina.
2. The SERT Operations Section, Human Services Branch, is responsible for supporting the SV in FAD incident response and coordinating FAD border and throughway control activities statewide. Emergency Services Branch will support Human Services Branch with law enforcement coordination as needed.
3. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) is responsible for staffing border monitoring points and paying particular attention to animal transport vehicles within the state as a part of normal patrol activities.

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4. County and local law enforcement are responsible for manning border control monitoring points as required and appropriate according to instructions from the SERT Emergency Services Branch, NCSHP, and the applicable field branch offices.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. Monitoring points will be established at appropriate locations including weigh stations and visitor centers. Entry points to North Carolina on the five major Interstate Highways (I-26, I-40, I-77, I-85, and I-95) will receive priority attention with regard to placement of law enforcement personnel to monitor movement of vehicles carrying livestock, produce, equipment, etc. Visitor centers and weigh stations may also be used as information dissemination sites.
2. The NCSHP and county and local law enforcement officers will maintain other highway and road surveillance activities through routine patrol. Patrols may also be implemented if a neighboring state becomes infected. The SV will provide screening criteria and help in determining the risk of questionable shipments for law enforcement officers.
3. Monitoring will include vehicles that normally haul livestock (including horse trailers). Animal transport vehicles may be stopped and inspected for proper permits. Any officer who detects susceptible animals without proper permits will promptly notify the appropriate state or Ag EOC point-of-contact to provide information to the SV (or designee) of the origin of the animal shipment in question. The SV (or designee) will determine the disposition of the offending vehicle which may be escorted across the border and out of North Carolina or to designated quarantine areas.
4. Officers may stop any other vehicle containing produce, livestock, animal products and/or equipment from an infected area. Drivers hauling such items should have proof of origin and if traveling through or out of the Control Areas, have required movement permits. The SV will be notified of vehicles lacking proper paperwork. If the SV determines contamination is likely, the offending vehicle may be escorted across the border and out of North Carolina into the state from which it entered or to a designated quarantine area. The SV will notify the appropriate neighboring state's veterinary office before an offending vehicle leaves North Carolina.