

Biological Risk Management Key for Sioux County Producers

Sioux County leads Iowa in many areas of livestock production, presenting great economic opportunities but also challenges. As a result, biological risk management is an issue that needs to be on the forefront for every producer and local decision maker.



County Extension Education Directors in the Northwest Iowa Counties of Sioux, Lyon, Osceola, O'Brien, Plymouth and Cherokee have been cooperating with their local county emergency managers since 2003 to educate producers and local decision makers regarding biological risks and appropriate responses. Efforts have included tabletop exercises to educate producers on appropriate steps should a biological risk event occur, providing weather radios to rural families so they can stay in touch in the case of an event, and most recently the development of an emergency response manual that has been distributed county-wide in each of the counties. Citizen Corp Grant funding was made available through emergency management because of the collaboration between each county's emergency manager and their local Extension Office.



Program participant evaluations included these statements: "It's important to pre-plan", "I will be cautious about how much traffic is allowed on my farmyard", "As a township trustee, I will question my county's preparedness plan", "I will change my boots before I go near my livestock if I've been to the sale barn", "I will look for acceptable areas on my property to bury carcasses" and "I will continue to work with Extension on a community disaster plan".

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For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Sioux County Office at 712-737-4230. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at www.extension.iastate.edu.

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