A Personal Story: Importance of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

Matt Swantek, ISU Extension and Outreach Swine Program Specialist

The PQA Plus version 2.0 was rolled out in June at the world Pork Expo. A section from the Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) on Emergency Action Plans (EPA) was included in the new PQA Plus version to address the needs for each swine production site’s barn and buildings. The EAP prepares producers to be able to take immediate action if someone is hurt, a fire starts, tornados are imminent or other foreseeable crises.

The minimum EAP should include: listing of who to notify telephone numbers for owner, veterinarian, electric power company, fire and police; address of the facility; directions to facility; evacuation site plan (where to meet for head count); and what to say to officials; and an emergency farm map of fire extinguishers and location of hazardous materials. Other monthly checks to include are the fire extinguishers age and charge status and the emergency backup alarms/auto-dialers for power outages or water shortage.

All employees and family members need to be familiar with the EAP procedures and regularly reviewed and practiced. Some members should be trained in first aid available on farm and even including CPR. I try to stress these needs because if situations/accidents were to occur, clarity and clear heads may hinder actions. Time is always critical in an emergency.

This July I experienced my own personal crisis. I thought I had a plan written out and into my family’s hands. I had not updated it after my family’s move to Iowa two years ago. I spent 12 days in a hospital with a lung infection, five of those not knowing what was going on because of the anesthesia required to help me through the healing process. I was fortunate that my brothers knew to check my cell phones (both home and work) to let people know where I was, about my condition, and that they could call them for updates. I hadn’t put my emergency contact lists and account numbers into the hands of my family. A personal EAP includes home address, telephone numbers, family doctors, medication needs and allergies, immediate supervisor, the kid’s schools and teachers, neighbors and local law enforcement who might be needed to check on your home during your absence. My children and I left late July 3 for a family get together in Nebraska three hours away and we did not return until July 20. Our three day trip turned into an 18 day of uncertain outcomes for my family and six days where I did not know what was transpiring or where I was hospitalized.

To sum up my July experience, don’t take things for granted. Not only have an EAP for your farm and business, but remember family comes first. They can only do so much without having knowledge of who, what, where, when and how things need to be covered in case of an emergency.
Managing Forage Supplies
Beth Doran, ISU Extension and Outreach Beef Specialist

A cool, wet spring followed by a warmer and drier summer has bee producers in a scramble to put up forage supplies for winter. But, several options are available to producers.

1. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will open up state land (primarily upland grassland areas) to haying and grazing to help farmers impacted by severe weather conditions. Farmers wanting to use the land for grazing would be responsible for setting up temporary electric fencing and watering tanks. Haying and grazing can start after July 15. Contact IDNR at 515-281-5918.

2. Each year, land owners and others are allowed to harvest hay out of highway rights of way by permit. Although the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) begins the permitting process in the spring, harvesting of hay is not allowed until July 15 to protect bird habitat. There are two periods for harvesting grass within the state-maintained highway right of way:

   July 15-Sept. 1 – For cool season grasses and forage legumes
   July 15-Aug. 15 – For warm-season native grasses

An Iowa DOT Harvesting and Mowing Permit Application is available at https://forms.iowadot.gov/forms/MgtExternal/810050.pdf

The application covers three types of operations: 1) mowing only; 2) harvesting hay in large or small bales; or 3) harvesting plant material other than hay with machinery, by hand or with hand tools. Check out the application and visit with Mary Beth Banta, Iowa DOT representative for Northwest Iowa, at 712-202-0802.

3. Consider a cover crop. There is a listing of mixes on the Agronomy section of the Iowa Natural Resources and Conservation (NRCS) website at www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov or visit your local NRCS office. Corn (40,000 plants/A or 30#/A) has been added to the list of cover crops to improve soils on prevented planting fields. Cover crop biomass cannot be grazed or harvested before Nov. 1. Producers are also advised to check with their crop insurance agent on prevented planting requirements and harvest restrictions for cover crops.

4. Last, don't overlook putting up some corn silage for winter feed. However, be sure to check with your Farm Service Agency and crop insurance agent before cutting to determine how this will impact your crop insurance.

2012 Drought Survey – Northwest Iowa
Cow-calf producers were asked to complete a short survey asking them how the 2012 drought impacted them. We thank the 110 producers kind enough to respond and share their data.

Note that as of July 16, 2013, five counties in Northwest Iowa are listed as abnormally dry. Does drought impact the reproductive status of the cowherd? This article reports what producers experienced in 2012. Table 1 points out that most operations used natural breeding as a follow-up to any breeding method they had in place.

Table 1. Breeding Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent of Operations*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations using AI:</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With estrus synch</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without estrus synch</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Followed by natural breeding</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations using only natural breeding</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Some operations used more than one breeding method

The average pregnancy rate reported was 93.7%, which is similar to the national average for the past 10 years. However, many of the NW Iowa operations surveyed stated that heat stress on the female in 2012 was a major factor affecting pregnancy rates (Table 2), followed by heat stress on the bull which impacted sperm viability.

Table 2. Perceived Reasons for Open Females

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceived Reasons</th>
<th>Percent of Operations</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heat stress on female</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor water quality</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortage of feed</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor feed quality</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull not active</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat stress on bull semen</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of cow</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This data stresses the importance of animal observation during and following periods of heat stress. Cows should be monitored for return to estrus, and bulls should be monitored for libido. If libido is normal but cows are returning to estrus, heat stress may have affected the fertility of both the cow and bull. With high priced feed, pregnancy checking this fall is warranted.

Submitted by Holly Enerson and Dallas Van Gelder, Dordt College Students

New Publications
How Often Can Cattle Feeders Hedge a Profit with Futures? (B2-54) at www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/livestock/pdf/b2-54.pdf

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is committed to providing you with the tools and resources you need to better communicate your story of agriculture.

New Educational DVD Released!
ISU Extension and Outreach in partnership with the Iowa Farm Bureau in Sioux, O’Brien and Lyon counties are pleased to announce the release of a newly created DVD entitled "Feeding the World: Ag-Citing Opportunities." The documentary film emphasizes the topics of feeding 9 billion people-world population projected by 2050, conservation, local foods/horticulture, global climate change and engaging new and beginning farmers through the eyes of agriculture professionals. Three Dordt College students in digital media productions and two 4-H youth produced the film as part of Iowa State University Extension’s Adobe Youth Voices in Agriculture program. Adobe Youth Voices in Agriculture was a three consecutive Saturday camp focused on strengthening communication skills amongst youth by utilizing multimedia tools allowing them to discover their own voice and perspective on life issues.

The documentary film is available for check out on DVD from me at the ISU Extension and Outreach office in Sioux County and may be utilized in educational programming to better tell the story of Agriculture. The video may also be viewed on the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl10TyFTpQ0.

The Adobe Youth Voices in Agriculture Program and documentary film was made possible through the White-Reinhardt Fund for Education mini-grant from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

For more information about the DVD or how you can use the DVD as a tool in helping tell your story, contact me at the office, 712-737-4230 or email kestroh@iastate.edu.

Save the Date!
Beef Facilities Conference

November 21
Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

The Importance of Telling Our Story
Kaye Strohbehn, ISU Extension and Outreach Agriculture Producer and Consumer Education Specialist

Did you know the United States Department of Agriculture Census of 2007 shows the number and size of farms in the U.S. continues to decrease, while the average age of farmers continues to increase? Further, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, indicates the world population will reach a record breaking 9 billion people by the year 2050. Thus, it becomes increasingly important to find ways to tell our story and improve understanding of agriculture to our consumers and neighbors as they will continue to influence demand for safe, wholesome and desired food products leading to improved local and vibrant communities in Northwest Iowa.
Cattle Feedlot Field Day Tuesday, August 27
Demonstrates Low-Cost Pumping and Flood Irrigation Options to Manage Manure Effluent

Marcus, Iowa—Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach will host a feedlot field day on Tuesday, August 27 starting at 1 p.m. at the Greg Galles feedlot south of Marcus, Iowa.

By law, small feedlots in Iowa must settle solids from runoff and then discharge effluent in a manner that does not cause a water quality violation. Kris Kohl, ISU Ag Engineer, will discuss how to install a low-cost pumping system below the settling basin that can be used to move the nutrient-rich effluent to cropland or pasture. The effluent and nutrients are then distributed through a hose or pipe via flood irrigation where both the water and the nutrients can be used for crop growth, reducing the potential impact on water quality.

Feedlot owner, Greg Galles will talk about the costs and benefits of this system. ISU Ag Engineer, Shawn Shouse, will talk about the small feedlot plan, a cooperative effort between ISU, DNR, NRCS, IDALS the Iowa Cattlemen Association and the Iowa State Dairy Association, to help educate cattle and dairy operators about manure management impacts on water quality and manure systems for small feedlots that can be used to protect water quality.

This field day will be held rain or shine. Directions to the field day, from the intersection of Hwy 3 and County Road L36 (D Ave.) south of Marcus, travel approximately 4 ½ miles south on D Ave. The feedlot is on the west side of the road, 5334 D Ave, Marcus, Iowa. Watch for signs.

Questions? Contact: Kris Kohl, ISU Ag Engineer, 712-730-5068, kkhohl1@iastate.edu
Beth Doran, ISU Beef Specialist, 712-737-4230, doranb@iastate.edu

Hotlines Available for All
Iowa Concern (800-447-1985)
Farm On (877-BFC-1999)
Teen Line (800-443-8336)
BETS OFF (800-BETS-OFF) (800-238-7633)

Hotlines Available to Iowa Residents Only
Families Answer Line (800-262-3804)
Hortline (515) 294-3108
Iowa Healthy Families (800-369-2229)
PORKLine (800-808-7675)