



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

VS Bulletin 2014.01

Date: March 11, 2014

Veterinary Services

4700 River Road

Riverdale, MD 20737

**Availability of VS Training and Exercise Strategy and Plan
Fiscal Year 2014-2016**

1. Purpose and Background

Veterinary Services (VS) has a long history of responding to animal health emergencies and incidents, and its mission continues to support the prevention and control of select domestic and foreign animal diseases (FAD) that can threaten U.S. public health, animal health, animal agriculture, the food supply, and the economy. Our Federal, State, Tribal, territory, private sector, non-governmental organization, and other partners expect that VS will continue to lead emergency preparedness and response for FADs and emerging disease incidents. Comprehensive training and exercises (T&E) provide the much-needed practice before an actual animal disease incident occurs. VS recognizes the wisdom in developing a T&E strategy and identifying program-wide T&E priorities to ensure the emergency preparedness and response mission will continue to be achieved.

The VS T&E plan is designed to enhance the preparedness of VS and its partners to respond to livestock and poultry health incidents and other hazards. It follows the principles of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and embraces a strong alliance with emergency preparedness and response partners. The VS T&E Strategy and Plan Fiscal Year plan for fiscal years 2014 – 2016 outlines a three-year implementation of VS T&E priorities, objectives, and specific events. VS intends to conduct an annual T&E workshop. The second workshop will be held in the spring of 2014. The purpose of the workshop according to HSEEP is to update the multi-year training and exercise plan that translates the agency's preparedness strategic goals and priorities into specific T&E activities, and to coordinate and de-conflict all training and exercise activities on a schedule. A fiscal year 2015 – 2017 strategy and plan is expected by late summer of 2014.

2. Document Status

- A. Valid through March 11, 2015
- B. This is a new document.

3. Reason for Reissuance

Not applicable.

4. Authority and References

- A. Authorities (*Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR)):
7 CFR 371.4

5. Audience

VS employees, other affected Federal and State agencies, and affected members of the public

6. Message

The complete VS T&E Strategy and Plan Fiscal Year 2014 – 2016 is available for download on the VS Professional Development Staff training website http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/prof_development/downloads/VS_Training_and_Exercise_Plan_document.pdf

7. Inquiries

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