



Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

**VS Bulletin 2014.04**

**Date: October 30, 2014**

Veterinary Services

4700 River Road

Riverdale, MD 20737

**Availability of VS Training/Exercise Strategy and Plan  
Fiscal Year 2015-2017**

**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 USDA APHIS VS Emergency Preparedness and Response Training/Exercise Strategy and Plan Fiscal Year 2015–17 (VS TEP)* 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 TEP outlines a three-year implementation of VS T&E priorities, objectives, and specific events. VS holds an annual T&E workshop to update the multi-year VS TEP 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.

**2. Document Status**

- A. Valid through September 29, 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 Federal, State, Tribal and Territory agencies; and members of the public.

#### **6. Message**

The complete VS TEP 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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/prof_development/downloads/VS_Training_and_Exercise_Plan_document.pdf)

#### **7. Inquiries**

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