

SMS Plan Overview 2015

Introduction

In the event foot and mouth disease (FMD) is diagnosed in the United States, a national animal health emergency will be declared. Livestock and allied industries will feel the immediate impact of animal and animal product quarantine and movement restrictions. These measures, along with biosecurity protocols, are designed to contain and control the disease and minimize virus spread.

The Secure Milk Supply Plan focuses on developing approaches to the safe, timely, risk-based, permitted movement of animals and animal products for the dairy industry while controlling and containing the outbreak.

Goals

The overall goals of the voluntary national Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan are to:

- Maintain business continuity for dairy producers and processors during an FMD outbreak,
- Minimize disease spread, and
- Assure a continuous supply of milk and milk products to consumers.

Raw Milk Movement

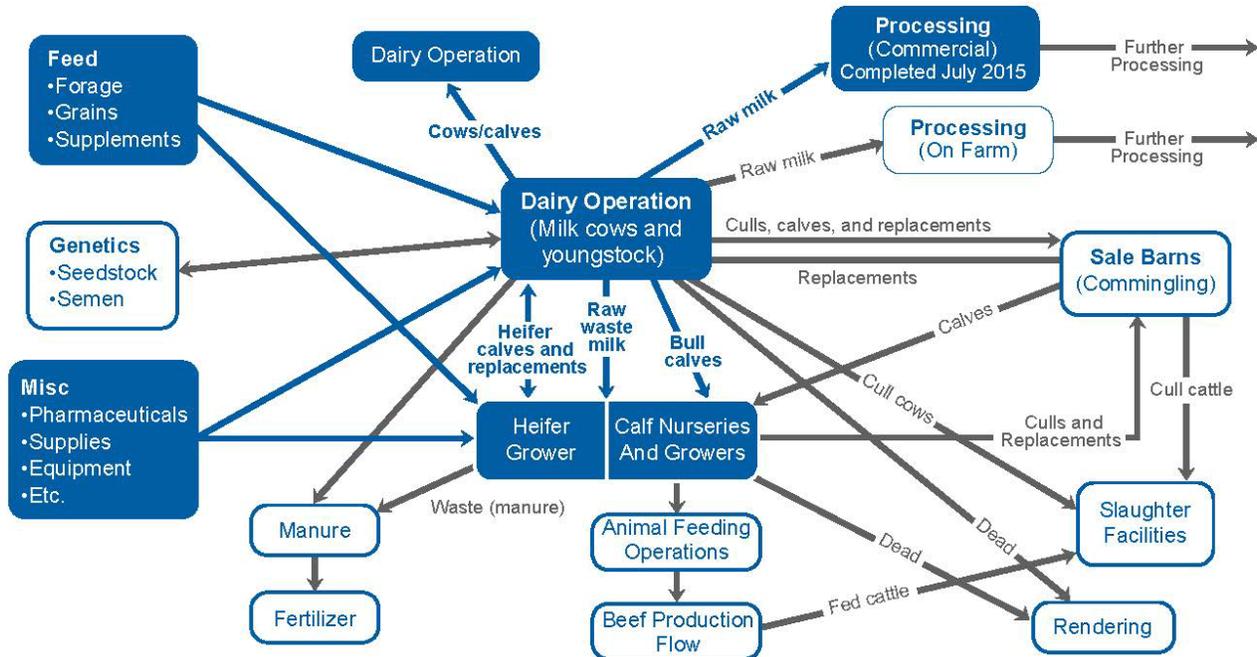
The dairy industry operates using a just-in-time supply practice for milk movement in the U.S. and could be significantly impacted by stop movement measures. Without continued movement of raw milk from a dairy premises, transported over the road to processing, where it can be pasteurized for commercial consumption, there could be significant milk disposal and animal welfare issues on dairies. Most dairy operations and processing plants do not have the capacity to store milk for more than 48 hours; some have less than 24 hours storage capacity. Therefore, the initial focus of the Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan was to develop agreed upon Biosecurity Performance Standards for Raw Milk Collection and Transport (July 2015 document available).

Live Animal Movement

Movement of cattle to other operations, specifically young stock and replacement heifers, is another important component of the dairy industry. Some dairy premises focus solely on the lactating herd and work with operations who specialize in raising newborn calves and/or growing and breeding heifers, and then return heifers to their birth farm just before calving. Calf ranches, heifer growers, and the dairy beef industry all rely on cattle movement, sometimes interstate, to sustain their businesses. These are movements that could be stopped in an FMD outbreak. Dairy premises that have their newborn calves raised off-site may not have facilities, personnel, or equipment to care for young stock should a stop movement order be implemented. Likewise, heifer growers may not be able to accommodate possible calving or lactation of heifers that cannot be transported to their home dairy premises. A Working Group is evaluating live animal movement options that ensure animal health and well-being, while minimizing disease spread, considering the continuity of business issues that will arise during an FMD outbreak.

Working Groups are made up of engaged stakeholders including industry representatives, State and Federal personnel, and academia and are making progress to accomplish these goals. For more information, visit the Secure Milk Supply website at www.securemilksupply.org

The National Partners are expanding the SMS Plan to include live animal movement and essential inputs (blue boxes), recognizing there are other critical and ancillary movements on/off dairy operations.



Plan Components

Biosecurity Performance Standards (BPS)

National biosecurity performance standards (BPS) for the collection of raw milk at dairy premises and transported over the road to processing plants were developed for implementation during an FMD outbreak (July 2015). BPS are being developed for the transportation of live animals (young stock, replacement heifers) and feed. Compliance with these performance standards is intended to significantly reduce the chance of spreading FMD virus while permitting raw milk, live animal, and feed movement from dairy premises (not known to be infected with FMD) in a Control Area to processing (raw milk) or other dairy operations (live animals). To aid planning, the national SMS partners have listed specific “factors for consideration” that require further pre-event communication, coordination, and planning on a more local/regional level prior to an actual event.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Dairy operation owners and processing plants are encouraged to take each BPS and develop more detailed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for their operation. These SOPs should be reviewed and accepted by local/regional decision makers who will provide leadership and oversight to the Incident Command.

Decision Support Tools

Classification of Phases and Types of an FMD Outbreak and Response

The magnitude and characteristics of an FMD outbreak must be considered and the response strategies quickly adjusted as the outbreak unfolds. Having pre-defined phases (time course of the

event) and potential types (scale or magnitude of the event) of a FMD outbreak will facilitate development of adaptable emergency response and business continuity plans for the U.S. livestock industry. The Phase and Type of the FMD outbreak is expected to change over time and could be designated by the authorities responsible for managing the response.

<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/pdf/phases-and-types-of-an-fmd-outbreak>

Raw Milk Handling and Processing Recommendations

A set of recommendations (and supporting scientific justification and rationale) pertaining to raw milk handling and processing in an FMD outbreak has been drafted for pre-event review, discussion, and eventual incorporation into local/regional/national response plans. Pre-outbreak discussion and agreement on issues will greatly enhance timely decision making, response and the implementation of continuity of business plans.

Active Observational Surveillance Training Materials

In addition to meeting the biosecurity performance standards, dairies in an FMD Control Area will need to implement a formalized process for daily herd inspection, or “Active Observational Surveillance” (AOS). AOS as part of the SMS Plan is “*an active process for the detection of foot-and-mouth disease on dairy premises, utilizing trained observers (herd managers or workers) who are routinely monitoring animals on a daily basis for abnormal or increased occurrence of clinical signs compatible with FMD, or changes in food or water consumption, or milk production.*”

Observation of clinical signs consistent with FMD should trigger a report to Incident Command; likely resulting in further investigation, and perhaps lab-based testing. AOS does not replace the need for periodic inspection of the herd by animal health officials; it increases the likelihood of early detection of FMD by trained Herd Health Monitors.

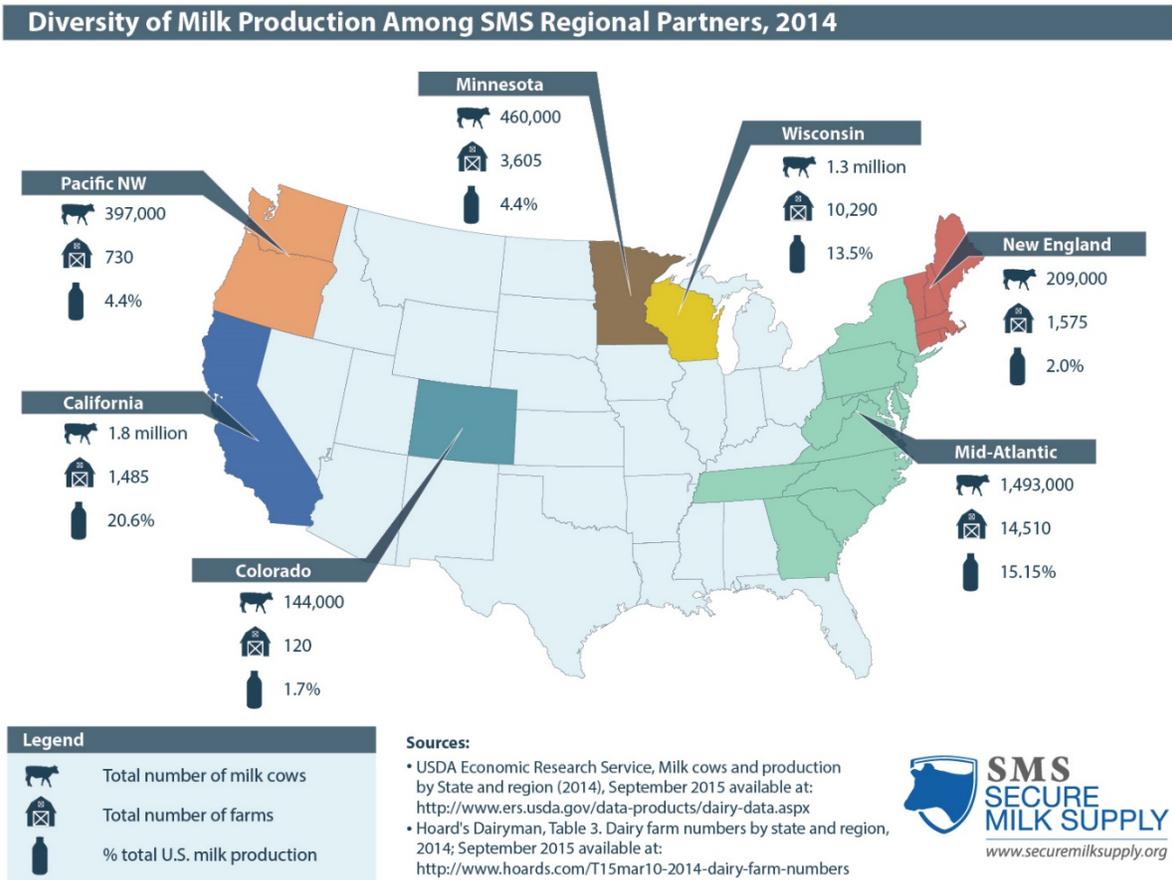
Proactive Risk Assessments

Risk assessments (RA) support managed movement and permitting of animals and animal products during disease outbreaks. Two risk assessments have been completed that evaluated the risk raw milk transport from an FMD infected, but undetected, Grade A dairy farm to further processing poses to the spread of FMD. The first (Baseline RA) identified areas of risk that could result in further spread of FMDv from an infected but undetected dairy premises through transport of raw milk to processing under current industry standards, with no additional mitigations or restrictions in place. The second (RA-BPS) evaluated the effectiveness of the BPS measures to address and mitigate the risk pathways identified in the Baseline RA. The conclusion was the risk of FMDv contamination of a susceptible farm by contaminated milk and environmental media through the transport of raw milk into, within, and outside of a Control Area to processing is *negligible to moderate* provided the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) guidance, state regulations, and the proposed BPS are strictly followed.

Regional Partners

A number of states and regions have adopted the National SMS Plan and are in the process of working with producers, haulers and processors to ensure awareness and customization to their specific resources, climate, and milk transportation needs. Below is a depiction of the various State and Regional Partners working to implement the SMS Plan.

SMS Plan Overview 2015



Summary

The national SMS Plan has made significant strides in the development of a framework and support tools to facilitate decision making and timely permitting for raw milk movement during an FMD outbreak response. Currently, this work is being extended to live animal and feed movement. However, these tools need to be tailored to specific states and regions, discussed and agreed upon by those responsible for decision making at that level, and then incorporated into state, regional, and industry FMD response plans.

If FMD is diagnosed in the U.S., it will be a major animal health emergency and severely impact the daily activities and economic viability of all livestock sectors and the U.S. economy. With enhanced contingency planning and clear communications between industry and government prior to an outbreak, we can ensure significant improvements in the national resiliency of U.S. livestock industries to transboundary animal diseases and hence enhance the security of U.S. livestock and food production systems.

For more information, visit the Secure Milk Supply website at <http://securemilksupply.org>

To contact the National SMS Plan Development Team, email smsinfo@iastate.edu

Funding for this project has been provided by USDA-APHIS National Preparedness and Incident Coordination.