

WISCONSIN MINNESOTA COLLABORATION REPORT

MARCH 31, 2009

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATION

Project Description

- **Emergency Response.** Increased cooperation on emergency response benefits both states and improves our effectiveness in disaster response, planning and training. Potential cost savings are modest - less than \$25,000 - but the effort can significantly enhance our states' abilities to protect citizens from the impacts of disasters.

Opportunities for Improved Efficiency and/or Financial Benefits

Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture: Both states are members of the Multi-state Partnership for Security in Agriculture (MSP) and as such are able to work together on projects funded by the MSP. MSP has funded training between the states, as well as providing forums for states to share experiences. Future MSP activities include risk communication and ICS training, as well as border-state exercises testing response plans.

Border-state training/exercises: Minnesota and Wisconsin (and Iowa) have participated in a tri-state training and exercise involving local emergency responders, industry, university extension agents, and other state and local officials in fall 2007. In particular, sharing ideas about more effective inclusion with local emergency responders and local emergency operations centers benefit all involved.

Border-state planning: Minnesota and Wisconsin will develop consistent plans and protocols regarding agricultural responses so that cross-border issues are minimized and response protocols are known. The MSP has already developed templates for several types of response plans and is working on a specific plan regarding movement of animals and animal products during a disease outbreak. As this plan template is finalized, each state should develop a response plan to be consistent with the template and ensure that plans are complementary.

Nuclear Power Plant Exercises and Response: Minnesota and Wisconsin will conduct joint trainings for the teams for the Prairie Island power plant, located on the Mississippi River. During the nuclear power plant exercise, the two states could coordinate on agricultural issues and be better prepared to respond to any contingency. Also, by combining training, the field sampling teams may conduct sampling more effectively.

Natural Disaster Responses: Most incidents that occur in our two states involve natural disasters. We will work together to prepare requests to the federal government for assistance; working with the federal government to share data; and developing consistent methods for assessing agricultural damages.

Listing of Technical Experts: Each state will identify key program contacts and technical experts who can be called upon by the partner agency when responding to emergencies. This listing should be shared between programs and the states to ensure both states can benefit from the other's relevant expertise.

Pandemic Planning: In the event of a pandemic or other major emergency, the two states will jointly develop a list of qualified, critical-function staff to provide assistance when one state has limited resources. This could include inspections, lab resources and response staff. In particular, the Wisconsin pandemic plan already estimates that there are several critical functions for which the state lacks adequately trained back-ups – in particular veterinarians, food inspectors and laboratory staff.

Possible Barriers to Implementation

- No significant barriers exist to continued implementation of emergency response coordination.

Timeline for Implementation

- State Fiscal Year 2010.

Program Contacts

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