

**HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN  
ANNEX K - EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #11 —  
AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS**

**COORDINATING:** Ohio State University Extension Service

**SUPPORT:** Hamilton County SPCA  
Hamilton County Emergency Management/Homeland Security  
Hamilton County Public Health  
Local Veterinarians  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)  
Private Boarding Kennels, Dog Clubs, Stables, and 4-H Clubs  
Cincinnati Veterinary Medical Association  
Hamilton County Animal Shelter

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**A. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 — Agriculture and Animals, is to provide for the coordination of services to animals and the agricultural community. The primary and support organizations of ESF #11 coordinate with animal service agencies, agricultural service agencies and related governmental, non-governmental, and private organizations to provide information and support for county-level assessment, response and recovery operations that may impact the animal or agricultural communities in Hamilton County during disasters.
2. To protect domesticated and wild animal resources, the public health, the public food supply, the environment and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals in case of a large scale emergency.
3. To protect and/or preserve the agricultural resources, the public health, the public food supply, and the environment in case of a large scale emergency.
4. ESF #11 addresses the following concerns for Hamilton County during a disaster:
  - a. Animals lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, or a danger to themselves or the public.
  - b. Livestock that is lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, or a danger to themselves or the public.
  - c. Crops that are destroyed by the disaster.
  - d. Environmental issues relating to runoff from agricultural fields.
  - f. Assessment of agriculture needs of affected areas.
  - g. Agriculture surveillance of the affected areas throughout the disaster.
  - h. Provision of agriculture related services and supplies.
  - i. Testing of food products for public consumption.
  - j. Agriculture recommendations and related releases to the public.
  - k. Identification and application of appropriate agriculture assistance programs.
  - l. Livestock disease and assistance programs.

Each ESF representative is responsible for the dissemination of information that may be of value to other ESF representatives located in the Hamilton County Regional Operations Center

(ROC). This information sharing contributes to the response and recovery during an emergency/disaster of any type.

## II. SITUATION

### A. The Ohio State University Extension Office will:

1. The Ohio State University Extension Office will notify the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency concerning the status of any agricultural emergency which affects Hamilton County

### B. The Hamilton County SPCA is responsible for domestic and non-domestic animals, including livestock that are lost, strayed, and incapable of being cared for by their owners, or a danger to themselves or the public.

1. These animals will be sheltered, fed, and returned to their owner if possible.
2. If the animal cannot be returned to its owner they will be processed in accordance with established HAMILTON COUNTY SPCA procedures.
3. Wild animals out of their natural habitats that are a danger either to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife in cooperation with Hamilton County SPCA.
4. Livestock loose or in need of assistance will be referred to the Hamilton County SPCA.
5. Exotic wildlife, not natural to this region, would be referred to the Hamilton County SPCA.

### B. Assumptions

1. Disasters occurring have the potential to affect crops, livestock, food supplies, domestic and non-domestic animals.
2. The owners of pets or livestock, when notified of an upcoming emergency, will take reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their care and/or control.
3. The sheltering and protection of domestic and non-domestic animals (including livestock) is the responsibility of the owner.
4. Area hospitals maintain pet cages for patients who cannot leave their pet at home.
5. Veterinarian hospitals in the immediate and surrounding areas will serve as primary medical facilities.
6. Each animal shelter will identify resources for potable water, food, medical, cleaning, and shelter supplies in advance of an emergency.

## III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. Overview

1. The Hamilton County Emergency Management/Homeland Security will activate ESF #11 as needed for operation in the Regional Operations Center.
2. ESF #11 personnel will begin communications with the support agencies and the agricultural community for situation monitoring and staging of resources and personnel.

3. Each agency will assist ESF #15 — Public Information with providing public advisories in reference to locations where domestic and non-domestic animals may be accepted during emergency situations, emergency veterinary care, and animal welfare issues.
4. ESF #11 primary and support agencies will communicate through telephone, facsimile, email, 800 MHz radio, and cellular telephone capabilities.
5. Evacuated citizens will be responsible for the transportation of and should shelter their domesticated animals at private kennels or veterinarian hospitals as close to the evacuation shelter as possible.
6. Pets with significant injuries or illnesses will be transported to an animal hospital by the responsible owner.
7. The Hamilton County SPCA will be responsible for ensuring that a tracking system is in place to unite sheltered pets with their rightful owners.
8. Stranded or isolated livestock that cannot be sheltered in place may require outside resources for feeding operations. These will be handled on a case by case basis.
9. In the event that established shelters are destroyed or incapable of functioning, private boarding kennels, veterinarian hospitals, or other support agencies can be requested to open as boarding and/or medical facilities.
10. The Hamilton County SPCA may elect to open temporary shelters as needed.

B. Relationships between Levels of Government

1. Federal
  - a. Coordination with federal ESF #11 may occur in the Regional Operations Center, Ohio ROC, at the site of the emergency and/or in the Disaster Field Office (DFO).
  - b. The state ESF #11 will interface with the federal ESF #11 during assessment, response, and recovery operations in order to ensure coordinated activities.
2. State
  - a. The state ESF #11 will maintain communications with animal and agriculture suppliers, associations, and related organizations throughout the state of Ohio.
3. Local
  - a. The Hamilton County ROC will direct local-level requests related to ESF #11 for action.

#### **IV. ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

All ESF #11 organizations are responsible for development of internal Standard Operation Guidelines (SOG) that support ESF #11 and ROC operations.

- A. The lead agency for ESF #11 is the Ohio State University Extension. The lead agency acts as the spokesperson for the ESF on animal and agriculture issues and maintains an overview of countywide operations during emergencies. The lead agency may defer to support organizations for briefings and information releases related to support agency's specific programs or areas of concern.

## B. Assignment of Responsibility

### 1. Ohio State Extension Office will:

- a. Be the point of contact for agricultural aspects of the disaster.
- b. Conduct agriculture assessments at the site of the disaster to determine agriculture needs and priorities.
- c. Provide logistical support for farm bureau personnel in the field.
- d. Provide agriculture advisories and related information as required.
- e. Maintain ongoing agriculture surveillance of affected communities in order to rapidly identify and address agriculture-related problems.
- f. Coordinate requests from the National Veterinary Stockpile.

### 2. Hamilton County SPCA will:

- a. Coordinate support agencies to manage animal protection.
- b. Provide and coordinate personnel, equipment, and shelters as required for domestic animals.
- c. Provide and coordinate personnel, equipment, and shelters as required for sick and/or injured non-domestic animals.
- d. Coordinate with Hamilton County Public Health for the disposal of deceased animals that may impact the public health.
- e. Provide services to control injuries, bites, and diseases related to the protection of animals.
- f. Provide animal tracking capabilities.
- g. Provide Dog License database for identification purposes.
- h. Provide a list of volunteers to aid in the protection of animals.

### 3. Hamilton County Emergency Management/Homeland Security will:

- a. Request activation of FEMA programs for pet sheltering and needs.
- b. Assist with the coordination of ESF #11 agencies.

### 4. Hamilton County Public Health will:

Consult with the appropriate state agencies in order to:

- a. Coordinate food inspections, investigations, and advisories.
- b. Test and/or coordinate disposal of contaminated food, livestock, and agricultural products.

### 5. Jurisdiction Public Works Agencies will:

Coordinate removal of animal carcasses from public areas

6. Local Veterinarians and the Cincinnati Veterinary Medical Association may:
  - a. Provide staff to support ESF #11.
  - b. Provide Mobile Surgical Unit for animals.
  - c. Provide a list of volunteers to aid in the protection of animals.
  - d. Provide animal tracking capabilities.
  - e. Provide equipment as needed.
  - f. Shelter and care for pets of evacuated citizens, as needed.
  - g. Assist with non-companion animal species (live stock, wildlife, and exotic animals).
7. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife will:
  - a. Provide personnel and equipment as required to protect wildlife.
  - b. Provide information on the care or handling of wild animals affected by disasters.
8. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will:
  - a. Work to identify potentially hazardous material impacts on food supplies.
  - b. Monitor environmental issues relating to runoff from fields.
9. Private Boarding Kennels, Dog Clubs, Stables, and 4-H Clubs may:

Provide personnel, equipment, shelter, and care for pets of evacuated citizens, when possible.
11. Hamilton County Animal Shelters will:
  - a. Provide personnel, equipment, shelter, rescue, and care for domestic and non-domestic animals.

## **V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS OF ESF #11 — ANIMALS and AGRICULTURE**

- A. ESF #11 organizations will be responsible for the maintenance of their own agreements, SOPs, SOGs, MOUs, and Resource Listings that document the equipment, supplies, and services available to them during emergencies. Additional support needs during an emergency may be requested through the Hamilton County ROC to ESF #7 — Resource Support.