

# Livestock, Ontario and Emergency Preparedness

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Assessing the level of  
Emergency Preparedness of  
Livestock Producers and  
Large Animal Veterinarians  
in Ontario



# Emergency: A definition

A state of pressing necessity;  
difficult situation; urgent need

*What one individual considers an  
emergency may not necessarily be  
what others consider an emergency*







[http://outhouserag.typepad.com/hurricane\\_watch/rita\\_pictures/](http://outhouserag.typepad.com/hurricane_watch/rita_pictures/)

HURRICANE CENTRAL

# SANDY THREAT INDEX

**ALERT**

**ACTION**



The Weather Channel  
weather.com





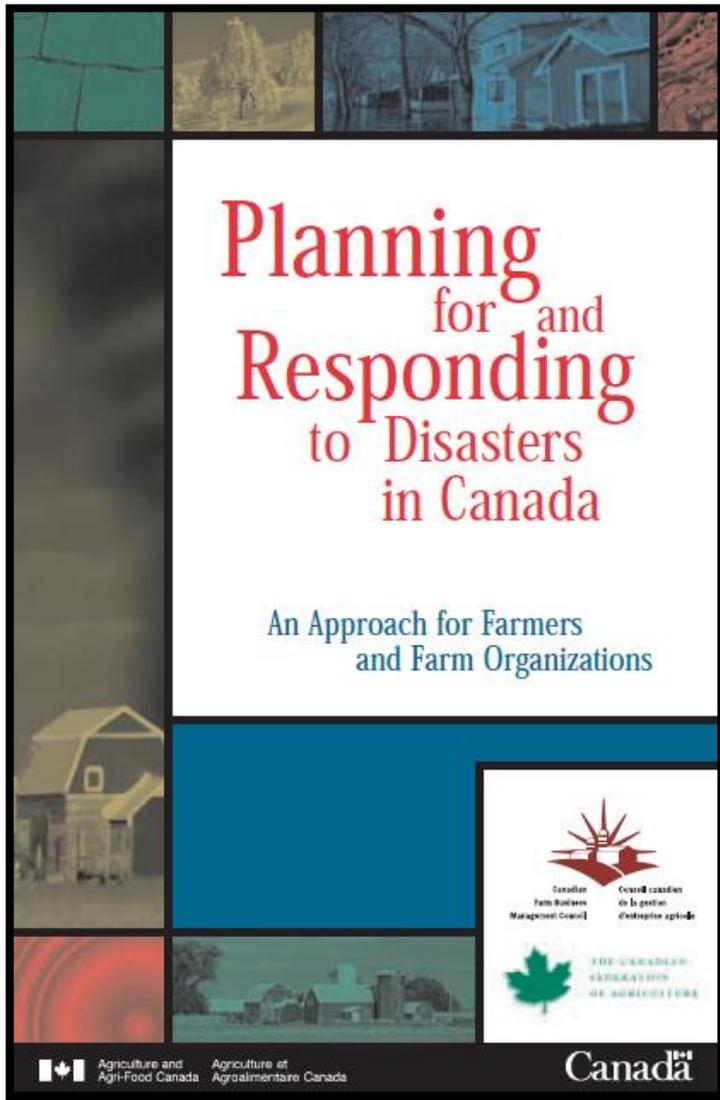
# Emergency preparedness and planning is the most critical issue facing animal health on a global scale

Torres et al., 2002

[aiddigest.wordpress.com](http://aiddigest.wordpress.com)



# So the solution is easy right?



# Question 1

Are livestock producers prepared to cope with a large scale emergency?

## Question 2

Are large animal veterinarians prepared to cope with a large scale emergency involving animals and people?

## Question 3

Are municipalities considering people with livestock in the community emergency response plan?

# How to answer these basic questions

- Survey the respective communities
  - Producers
  - Large animal veterinarians
  - Rural municipalities
- Reached out to producer groups, agriculture associations and veterinary groups within Ontario

# The Results – The Veterinary Community

- The population
- The numbers
  - 416 sent out
  - 77 returned

# The Results – Veterinary Community

- Emergency response planning has NOT been considered by Ontario's LA practitioners (**72%**)
- LA veterinarians are NOT prepared to maintain their practice during an emergency (**75%**)

# The Results – Veterinary Community

- Uncertainty with respect to roles in emergency response
  - Both parties
- Lack of awareness and interest in emergency response planning
- Lack of educational tools
- Unaware of ICS (89.0%)

# The Results – The Veterinary Community

- Eager to participate in emergency response (64.0%)
- Eager for training
  - FAD (70%)
  - Civil emergency response (64%)

# The Results – The Municipalities

- Surveys
  - 50 rural municipalities
  - 13 returned
- Municipalities
  - Livestock are not considered in community ERP
  - Uncertain of the number of animals in the community
  - Other organizations will take the lead in response

# The Results – The Producers

- Producer groups and associations
  - Ontario Pork, Alpaca Ontario, National Farmers Union
  - Other groups – in negotiations



# The Results – The Producers

- *Communication channels are not clear*
  - Decision making processes
  - Lack of understanding of ICS
- *High expectation for role of government*
- High expectation for participation of veterinary practitioner
- “Official” ERP have not been created
  - Practice more emergency preparedness than they realize

# The path forward

- Generate community awareness
- Create a culture which fosters emergency preparedness
- Educational opportunities



# Acknowledgements

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**Questions**