

International Simulation Exercise „Red Alert” for FMD, 07-10-th of September 2009, Suceava County, Gura Humorului locality

General data concerning the organizing

During 07–10-th 2009, National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority organizes, in cooperation with TAIEX, in Suceava County, Gura Humorului locality, the International Simulation Exercise „Red Alert” for FMD.

Data regarding the accomodation and lunch will be provided in a latter stage on this page.

The scope of the exercise is to test the Romania’s Contingency Plan for FMD and to establish the steps to be made to control the disease during a FMD outbreak. Also, follow to be tested the response capacity to stop the spreading of the disease in the neighboring territories and the efficacy of the communication means. The exercise’s Agenda is posted on this page to be consulted.

Participants at the FMD simulation exercise

- The National Committee for Emergency Situations (NCES) within the National Disease Control Center (NDCC) is organized;
- The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA);
- The European Commission through it’s experts and speakers (EC);
- The Institute for Diagnostic and Animal Health (IDAH), through the National Reference laboratory for FMD;
- The Prefecture of the county which organizes the FMD simulation exercise and members of the County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IES);
- The county Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorates (SVFSD);
- The National Veterinary administrations from Bulgaria, Moldova, Ungaria, Serbia and Ucraina.
- The stakeholders and the representatives of the College of Veterinarian in Romania.

Legislative provisions for organizing this simulation exercise

This FMD simulation exercise is organized under provisions of Council Directive 2003/85/EC which establishes community measures for the control of FMD in the Member States, the obligativity of testing the efficacy of the Contingency Plan for FMD every two years and obligativity of actualizing these every five years.

In the preamble of this exercise were carried on the following activities:

- An evaluation mission of the FMD Contingency Plan and of the Operational Manual by the three experts of EC, in June 2008;
- A study visit at DEFRA, in September 2008, where participated four councilors from General Sanitary Veterinary Directorate in view of improving their skills for updating the Contingency Plan and the Operational Manual;

- A TAIEX Mission with an expert from DEFRA in view of verifying the Contingency Plan and the Operational Manual updated by Romanian colleagues during October-January;
- An intermediate preparatory Mission with three EC experts during 16-18-th of February for drawing up the FMD simulation exercise scenario and the last verifying of the Contingency Plan and the Operational Manual.

For the evaluation of the risk which poses for Romania the FMD, a risk analysis was released and posted on this web page, to be seen.

Key objective of the exercise

- The training of the personnel for taking decision process at the local level;
- The testing of the technical intervention capacity at the local level;
- The testing of the procedures which assures the cooperation between all local operational partners;
- Testing of the response of the county SVFSD when a suspicion of FMD is noticed;
- Testing the response of the Local Disease Control Center (LDCC) operational partners when disease is confirmed, concerning the valuation of animals, culling, rendering and installing the restriction zones;
- Testing the communication capacity between the authorities and the public in the affected zones;
- Testing the cooperation capacity between operational partners members of LDCC;
- Testing the way of filling in the specimens in the operational manual;

Inclusions

- The activities developed in the orange and red alert stage: phase of suspicion and of confirmation of the disease response, at the command, tactical and operational levels;
 - The operational procedures for instaling the LDCC;
 - The chapters of the Contingency plan and of the Operational Manual which follow to be tested, as follows:
 - The application of the control measures for FMS;
 - The relationship and communication with operational partners and implications of the animal owners associations and of the industry at the local level;
 - The level of preparation of the prefectures for upholding the veterinary authorities in combating the diseases;
 - The level of understanding of the role which comes to the CLCB members in extinction of the outbreaks and the way of reacting in appliance the control measures;
 - The implication and the role of the local administration (at locality level) in combating the disease, and, also, human resources;
 - The verifying of the efficacy of the communication and media information , of infrastructure and technology of the information;
 - The capacity of observing the requirements concerning animal welfare in appliance the control measures;
 - The testing of the rendering methods;

- The verifying the bio-safety systems and of the way of performing the cleaning and disinfection within outbreaks;
- The verifying of the sampling for testing and of the transportation to the laboratory, and the effectiveness of the response when the disease is confirmed;
- The verifying of the way of processing epidemiological data in a FMD outbreak;
- The testing of the alert capacity and internal notification;

The scenario for developing the exercise was drawn up by NSVFSA.

The benefits of organizing the FMD Simulation Exercise

- Proving that the Government give importance the to the FMD treat and that has established efficient policies and contingency plan for combating;
- The opportunity of testing the governmental strategic response to an exotic disease outbreaks;
- The opportunity to prove an integrated operational response for an exotic disease outbreak, including the operational partners and information of the interested stakeholders;
- The increasing of the way in which population is informed, and also the stakeholders, and their preparing for emergency situations.