



EMERGENCY SALEYARD RESPONSE PLAN

NARRABRI SALEYARDS

1. INTRODUCTION

This Emergency Saleyards Plan is aimed at setting out procedures that will be followed if an emergency animal disease e.g. foot and mouth disease (FMD) is detected in the saleyards or a national livestock standstill occurs. It may also be activated for other emergency animal diseases where approved by the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

The Emergency Saleyards Response Plan should be read in conjunction with:

- The local counter-disaster plan (DISPLAN) 2014, and
- the NSW Biosecurity (Animal and Plant) Emergency Sub-plan which is a supporting plan to
- the NSW State Emergency Management Plan.

The Emergency Saleyards Plan should also be read in conjunction with the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) and in particular the Operational Documents on:

- Destruction of Animals
- Decontamination
- Disposal Procedures
- Public Relations
- Valuation and Compensation
- Enterprise Manual on Saleyards and Transport
- Enterprise Manual on Meat Processing
- and the specific disease strategy.

The plan will be activated during an **Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) event**. This may take the form of:

- suspicion/diagnosis of an EAD e.g. Foot and Mouth disease, in animals at the saleyard
OR
- a national livestock standstill

An outbreak of an EAD in the saleyards will have a significant impact on both the local community

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

For normal operational activities, authority in the saleyard rests with the Waste and Saleyards Coordinator.

NSW DPI has the role of lead agency for animal health emergencies under the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN).

Local Land Services (LLS) are signatories as participating organisations under the EMPLAN arrangements, accordingly LLS staff in this situation will operate under the control of the CVO and may conduct any or all functions described herein, as deemed appropriate by the CVO or his delegate.

Overall authority for animal health emergency related activities at the saleyard rests with the CVO of NSW or delegate.

Once an EAD is suspected or a national livestock standstill has been declared authority for local disease control rests with the Local Control Centre (LCC) controller who will usually need to work closely with

the Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON) and District Emergency Operations Controller (DEOCON) to obtain supporting resources. At the beginning of a response NSW DPI will liaise directly with the LEOCON/DEOCON to obtain supporting resources. Liaison will be through the LLS.

3. SUSPICION OF AN EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE AT THE SALEYARD

(Based on AUSVETPLAN – ENTERPRISE MANUAL SALEYARDS AND TRANSPORT - APPENDIX 4, VERSION 3.0; 2013)

Overview:

If an EAD is suspected, the local district vet or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888 must be notified. **DO NOT** leave a message. **YOU MUST** speak to someone.

An investigation will be undertaken at the saleyard by LLS to determine whether the suspicion of an EAD is warranted.

The district veterinarian (or biosecurity officer) in consultation with NSW DPI will determine whether movement controls at the saleyard will need to be put in place and what further action needs to be undertaken.

Procedure:

i. Before government staff assume control

When an EAD occurs or is suspected the only people who can give lawful directions to people, or impose lawful movement controls over animals, are those authorised under NSW's relevant animal diseases legislation, and include government veterinarians or gazetted inspectors of stock.

There may be a delay from when an EAD is suspected by a person working in a saleyard and when the government veterinarian or gazetted inspector of stock takes control of the situation and issues lawful directions. Under these circumstances, the Waste and Saleyards Coordinator needs to seek full cooperation from people entering and leaving the premises, especially livestock transporters.

In seeking cooperation, the manager should ensure that all people who leave without following advice (such as decontamination or, simply, awaiting the arrival of the government veterinarian) are aware that they could be subsequently liable for any costs from the spread of disease as a result of their negligence.

The manager should not delay in setting up facilities to allow people to leave the premises. If people choose to leave (and they may have good reasons for doing so), they will then be able to do so with less risk. Also, if the government veterinarian or gazetted inspector of stock decides that formal quarantine is warranted (sometimes requiring the declaration of the saleyard as an infected premise), preparations already made will assist movements of people off the premises.

The Waste and Saleyards Coordinator should:

- ensure that notes are made of the exact clinical signs they observe in the affected stock
- immediately call their Local Land Services district veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (1800 675 888), explaining what they can see
- compile a register of all people in attendance at the saleyard

- isolate the affected animals, to minimise exposure of any other animals or people to the affected stock until the government staff arrive
- cease loading any stock, and make every effort to ensure that transports do not leave the premises until the situation is clarified by a government veterinarian
- where transporters refuse to wait, encourage them to use the truck-wash facility to decontaminate their crates and assist them to do the job properly (including by providing disinfectant); request information on where they intend to go
- request that people who are wishing to move off the premises remain until approval is given
- establish a decontamination point so that people who refuse to wait may decontaminate their skin and footwear
- give each person a classification based on their contact, or suspected contact, with the affected stock
 - for people classified as low risk, provide decontamination at the exit point, with a request that they go home immediately, shower and wash clothing and footwear
 - for people classified as high risk, encourage them to shower and change on the premises and to bag their clothes for subsequent laundering
- advise any early leavers that they should not have contact with other livestock for a period of time recommended by the relevant Disease Strategy
- lock all exits other than the one through which people may be processed
- await the arrival of a diagnostic team (if one is dispatched by the CVO) to closely examine the animals and plan for providing the team with assistance with restraint and sample collection
- prepare a map of the saleyard to assist management of any response
- begin compiling a register of stock on the premises and their origin, and stock that have left and their transporter and destination
- identify a quarantine area that will provide a 100-metre buffer between affected animals and other animals in the saleyard, for use if the veterinarian requires animals to be further isolated
- restrict other animal movements; stock should be moved using as few people as possible, to minimise contact between people and affected animals.

ii. When the premises is quarantined or declared an infected premises

Once a saleyard has been quarantined no animals, people, vehicles or things may enter or leave the saleyard without approval of the inspector. Police may be on hand to assist. During this period, the saleyard manager and staff will be requested to help with:

- padlocking or blocking all exits
- decontaminating people off the premises
- maintaining a register of people leaving the premises and their potential to contact susceptible livestock
- preventing the movement of animals and vehicles
- decontaminating vehicles
- decontaminating or confining dogs
- ensuring that any people who are hired to work on the premises do not live on a farm or come into contact with susceptible animals as part of their day-to-day activities
- providing roving patrols around the boundary

- staffing vehicle disinfection points
- collating records of animals that are present in the saleyard, as well as preliminary tracing information on movements from the saleyard, including
 - the origin and ownership of all stock in the saleyard
 - vehicles and people that have had contact with the affected stock, and their movements
 - stock that have left, and their transporters and destinations
- organising feed and water for detained stock
- informing all people present on the complex about how they can cooperate
- ensuring that all media enquiries are transferred to the relevant and designated Local Control Centre public relations officer
- planning for the destruction of livestock, so that advice can be given to the LCC Controller on the best methods for destruction as soon as the CVO authorises slaughter
- planning and undertaking the valuation process
- planning for the disposal of carcasses and product
- planning for cleaning and disinfection of the complex
- advising owners of any stock that are still on-farm not to send the stock to the saleyards
- advising stock transports that are loaded with stock in transit to the saleyard to pull over to the nearest rest area and await further instructions
- negotiating with other saleyards where in-transit stock caught in a standstill need to be unloaded and rested before the return journey
- tracing stock vehicles and people, based on a risk assessment undertaken on all movements; priority will be given to tracing movements that have the highest risk of spreading disease
- cleaning and disinfecting the saleyard to eliminate any possible source of the disease agent, without causing environmental damage and without further spreading the agent.

4. NATIONAL LIVESTOCK STANDSTILL

(Based on AUSVETPLAN – ENTERPRISE MANUAL SALEYARDS AND TRANSPORT - APPENDIX 6, VERSION 3.0; 2013)

Overview:

Following diagnosis or strong suspicion of foot-and-mouth disease, state and territory governments will implement a livestock standstill across Australia, including in unaffected regions. This means livestock susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease (cloven-hooved animals such as cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, buffalo, camels, alpaca, llama and deer) may not be moved from the time the standstill is declared until the standstill ceases.

The livestock standstill will be in force initially for 72 hours in order to minimise the potential spread of the disease around Australia

Procedure:

i. Livestock Standstill Order released on a non-sale day

The Order will have been received at Narrabri Shire Council fax or email council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au attention to the manager of Environmental Services. All parties involved with the saleyard must be informed of the provisions of the Order as soon and as effectively possible to prevent stock leaving

their properties of origin and potentially being exposed to, or spreading, disease at a saleyard and to save producers, transporters and saleyards financial losses. The Waste and saleyards Coordinator is in charge of informing all the stakeholders, including stock agents.

Stock agents must inform their clients and transporters. The Order will also be widely publicised on the radio, television and the print media.

ii. Announcing a Livestock Standstill Order and provisions for sales in progress

The Order will have been received at the saleyard office by fax or email. All parties involved with the saleyard must be informed of the provisions of the Order as soon and as effectively possible to minimise any unauthorised livestock movements with attendant risks of disease transmission.

The Waste and Saleyards Coordinator or a DPI official is responsible for announcing the provisions of the Order to all present at the saleyard, preferably over a public address system. (Appendix B). A handout and copy of the order prepared by DPI is to be posted in prominent places and distributed to all present.

iii. Securing the saleyard

The first priority is to minimise the spread of disease within and beyond the saleyards and is achieved by preventing the unauthorised movement of livestock and loaded transports into or out of the saleyard premises.

Control of movements is undertaken by NSW DPI/LLS officers, the Waste and Saleyards Coordinator, assisted by saleyard staff and NSW Police. This will be achieved by closing and locking gates, blocking roads with vehicles, barriers or boomgates. (Note: please attach a map of the saleyard and associated roads, fences, boundaries and drainage lines to this plan — see Appendix A)

iv. Assisting DPI

DPI/LLS officers will require considerable assistance (for example, details of the ownership and origin of each consignment, the name of the transporter, a list of number and class of livestock by vendor and their Property Identification Codes [PICs]). Stock agents, assisted by saleyard management, will be expected to assist DPI to obtain this information as soon as possible.

The Waste and Saleyards Coordinator should work with stock agents to provide DPI with the information required.

v. People issues

There are no laws restricting movement of persons (unless infection is actually suspected in the Narrabri Saleyard). However, advice to all present on precautions for personal biosecurity will be provided by DPI (see Appendix B). The Waste and Saleyards Coordinator will distribute the information provided by public announcement backed up by pre-prepared paper handout.

vi. Livestock transports

Loaded transports still at saleyards must be unloaded; stock must be confined. Recommendations for cleansing all unloaded transports before they leave saleyard are given in Appendix B. A separate parking lot should be provided for personal (nontransport) vehicles.

Note: There is no law preventing the movement of transporters in the situation where FMD is diagnosed in another state, but it is in the interests of the industry that all transports, clothing and footwear be cleansed before leaving the saleyard.

vii. Livestock already trucked from saleyards (in transit to destination(s))

Livestock movements that commenced before the Livestock Standstill Order came into effect may be completed, provided completion is within 12 hours. DPI will specify procedures for loaded trucks in transit and perform risk assessments on a case-by-case basis.

Stock agents, assisted by saleyard manager and staff, are to contact and inform drivers, to record all details and to pass these details on to DPI for risk assessment and possible surveillance visit.

viii. Livestock in saleyards

Livestock are to be held in the yards for the minimum term specified in the Order. Note: Individual consignments may be released under permit before the expiry of the Order.

ix. Feeding and watering arrangements

Stock must have access to drinkable water at all times. Fodder (hay) will have to be brought in on the second day of confinement. Bobby calves must be fed within 24 hours of leaving their home farm. This will be a particular challenge; humane destruction may be required if they cannot be fed within this time. NSW DPI will task feed merchants and contractors to supply fodder.

x. Security

Stock must be prevented from leaving the confines of the saleyards until termination of the Order or until official DPI approval or a permit allows their movement. Security must be maintained at the checkpoints (locked gates or blocked roads).

xi. Release of livestock from saleyards

Stock will be released from saleyards when official approval from DPI is given. This may be by individual permit issued by a government veterinarian or gazetted inspector of stock or by expiry of the Order. Expiry of the Order will be widely publicised on radio and television and in local newspapers.

APPENDIX A

SALEYARD DETAILS

Name:	Narrabri Saleyards
Address:	Saleyards Lane on the corner of Namoi Street
Postal Address:	Po Box 261 Narrabri NSW 2390
GPS Coordinates (Decimal Degrees):	149.7891, -30.3142
Stock Type:	Cattle
Maximum Capacity:	28 Holding Pens, 200 Selling Pens with Concrete Floor
Water Source:	Town Water
Effluent Disposal Method:	Discharge to Federation Farm
Wash down Facilities (Yes/No):	Yes
Fodder Options Available:	Through the Agents only
Other Relevant Information:	Sales occur Wednesdays Every Fortnight

APPENDIX B

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLICITY FOR A SALEYARD LIVESTOCK STANDSTILL ORDER

When a livestock standstill order is imposed on a sale day, this statement should be read out by the saleyard manager or by a DPI officer. It should be posted with a copy of the Livestock Standstill Order at multiple locations around the saleyard.

‘This notice is to inform all interested parties that a Livestock Standstill Order was received from the Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW at(time) on/...../20.....(date).

The Order is signed by the Minister of Agriculture(insert name) at(time) on/...../20.....(date). The order is issued under Section XX of NSW’s Animal Diseases and Animal Pests (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991.

The Order has been issued following the diagnosis of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in(insert state).

The purpose of the Order is to provide authorities with the time to assess disease risks and minimise the chances of spread through livestock trade and movements. DPI will be working closely with all parties, particularly agents, to determine the origin of all stock yarded and whether any present a risk of spreading FMD in NSW.

The provisions of the Order relevant to this saleyard are:

1. That the whole state of NSW is declared a control area in respect to the exotic disease foot-and-mouth disease.
2. Movement of all susceptible livestock — that is, cattle, sheep, goats, deer, pigs or alpaca— to or from any premises within NSW is prohibited unless in accordance with a written permit issued by a government veterinarian or gazetted inspector of stock.
3. No susceptible livestock are to enter or leave this saleyard, with immediate effect, unless in accordance with a permit issued by a government veterinarian or gazetted inspector of stock.
4. No shows, sales or gatherings of susceptible livestock are to be held for the duration of this Order.

5. All susceptible livestock are to be held at this saleyard until expiry of the Livestock Standstill Order on/...../20.....(insert date) or until a permit is issued for the entry or release of any consignment by a government veterinarian or gazetted inspector of stock.

6. The Order may, if necessary, be extended for a further period.

7. DPI and saleyard management seek the cooperation of all persons — livestock owners, transporters, agents and buyers — to implement the provisions of this standstill.’

The following advice is given to all people present within the premises of this saleyard:

1. All persons are advised that before leaving this saleyard, they should ensure that their footwear and clothing are not contaminated by dung. A pressure hose should be used to cleanse private vehicles contaminated by animal manure before leaving these premises. Special attention should be directed at tyres and the undersides of mudguards and the bottom of trays. Roll the vehicle forward slightly to cleanse the underside of tyres. A pressure hose will be made available at.....

2. All persons are advised to shower and to change their footwear and all clothing at their first opportunity BEFORE having any contact with livestock. Footwear should be disinfected and clothes laundered in a hot wash.

3. Transport operators are advised to follow the personal recommendations listed above. In addition, they are advised to wash their truck with a pressure hose before leaving these premises. Particular attention should be paid to the tray, tyres and undersides of mudguards. Roll the vehicle forward slightly to cleanse the underside of tyres. After pressure hosing, these should be free of visible dung. Mats from the interior should be hosed down and be free of dung. A pressure hose is available at the truck wash.

4. All livestock have or will have access to drinking water today. Contractors will be hired to feed livestock as soon as possible. Owners and buyers are asked not to return to this saleyard until their stock are released.

APPENDIX C

CONTACTS

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

DPI Emergency Disease Hotline - 1800 675 888

Emergency Police - 000 Notify of standstill to assist with road blocks, secure premises and traffic controls

Narrabri Shire Policy - 02 6799 6866 Notify of standby

Local Land Services - 02 6790 7600 Notify of standby. If onsite, will take control.

SALEYARDS CONTACT

ORGANSIATION	CONTACT PERSON	POSITION	PHONE	MOBILE	FACSIMILE	EMAIL ADDRESS
STAFF CONTACTS						
Narrabri Shire Council	Marcela Lopez	Manager Environmental services	02 6799 6851	0428 428 859	02 6799 6888	marcelal@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Narrabri Shire Council		Waste and Saleyards Coordinator	02 6799 6866			
Narrabri Shire Council	Francis Wales	Saleyards Operator	02 6792 6189	0409 101 175	02 6792 6189	
Narrabri Shire Council	Emma Gould	Administration Officer	02 6799 6854		02 6799 6888	cfadmin@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
	Shane Wheeler	System Operator			0429 925 033	
	Allan Hogett	Deliveries			0428 921 276	
AGENTS						
Bill Smith Livestock	Bill Smith		02 6795 4115	0427 651 136	02 6795 3272	
Landmark	Matt Collett		02 6799 1111	0427 311 415	02 6792 3955	
Landmark	Bruce Evans		02 6799 1111	0428 921 599	02 6792 3955	bruce.evans@landmark.com.au
Davidson Cameron & Co	Hunter Harley		02 6792 2000	0447 925 700	02 6792 4666	hharley@dcco.com.au
Hamilton & Mortimer Agency	Scott Hamilton		02 6792 3163	0447 449 912	02 6792 3074	hmaoffice@bigpond.com
Hamilton & Mortimer Agency	David Mortimer		02 6792 3163	0447 449 913	02 6792 3074	hmaoffice@bigpond.com
LLS/DPI						
Local Land Services			02 6790 7600		02 6792 1738	admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au