

Richland County Emergency Operations Plan

ESF 11: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Primary Agency: Richland County EMA

Supporting Agencies: Richland Public Health
Shelby City Health Department
Ohio Department of Agriculture
OSU Extension Service - Richland County
Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District
USDA – Farm Service Agency
USDA - Natural Resource Conservationist Service

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to provide for community economic recovery as it pertains to food and agriculture, and to ensure the integrity and security of the supply chain involving food and agriculture.

This section will outline and describe the emergencies and disasters that affect agriculture in Richland County, and will identify and assign responsibilities to the departments, agencies, and entities that provide assistance in those cases. Emergencies and disasters may include incidents that result from weather related occurrences like prolonged drought; severe wind and precipitation that may destroy crops, farm buildings and equipment, and perhaps livestock; and disease or pestilence outbreaks that adversely affect the safety of the food supply.

The purpose of this section is to identify roles and responsibilities in surveillance operations and processes that capture the impact of an agricultural incident; to assign and describe initial assessment of farm related damages and losses; to identify the response resources and process to help agriculture during an emergency incident or shortly thereafter; to identify assistance programs available to help farmers recover from disasters, and to provide linkages to resources that will help farmers and agriculture recover from a disaster.

This section is intended to ensure and monitor surveillance actions during times of widespread animal disease and other pestilence affecting crops and as a result endanger the food supply; to provide guidance and coordination in the management of widespread animal illnesses and disease and to provide guidance for the disposal of contaminated food, plants, and animals; to provide associated guidance in maintaining the safety of the food supply as it applies to processing and distributing foodstuffs; and to provide and implement effective testing of products for public consumption and

specimens for animal health when necessary due to a localized or regional threat to same.

This section will describe the roles and responsibilities for the sheltering of domesticated pets during evacuations, providing assistance independent of Red Cross shelters that do not allow pets. Service animals will be allowed in Red Cross shelters.

Lastly, this section intends to provide guidance in the management of non-domestic animal escapes and emergencies that endanger the general public, and to outline the resources and actions to be taken when wild or untrained non-domesticated animals threaten public safety.

2. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

a. Situation

- i. Richland County has approximately 121,773 residents; approximately 32% (38,967) of those residents live in rural areas.
- ii. There are approximately 497 square miles in Richland County; the average farm is 159 acres in size, and there are approximately 1010 farms. Of all the land in Richland County, 40-65% of the land is held as farmland.
- iii. Richland County plants approximately 44,000 acres of corn, 43,000 acres of soybeans, 8,600 acres of wheat, 1200 acres of oats, 16,000 acres of alfalfa and hay, annually according to USDA statistics. There are also approximately 294 acres of vegetables, and 191 acres of orchards in Richland County.
- iv. There are 20,000 cattle and calves and 6,100 milk cows in Richland County according to the 2013 agriculture statistics report by USDA. There are 20,500 hogs and 1,400 sheep being produced in the county. Statistics for poultry were not available.
- v. There are 383 food service operations and 176 retail food centers in Richland County. Roadside food stands are not regulated and numbers are not known.
- vi. There are 10 registered sanitarians working in Richland County under public health.

- vii. There are 24 actively licensed veterinarians registered with the State of Ohio as doing business in Richland County, and there are 25 registered veterinary assistants actively licensed in Richland County.
- viii. The Richland County Humane Society is a licensed non-profit veterinary facility registered with the State of Ohio. It is assumed that other veterinary offices are privately owned businesses.
- ix. Family farms are private businesses; there is no county department of government that is comparable to the state or federal department of agriculture. Therefore, emergency planning for farms will fall under the guidance of the Emergency Management Director who will utilize numerous services and agencies to assist in planning, to provide expertise, and to implement solutions for disaster-caused incidents affecting agriculture.
- x. Agriculture and food production is served by and regulated by a unique combination of local, state, and federal resources. In some cases, federal resources have local offices in Richland County and provide services directly to the farmers in the county; in other cases, state offices and representatives are housed locally. These entities all have specific authorities and responsibilities regarding agriculture and food.
- xi. Staff members representing the USDA and the Ohio Department of Agriculture have the authority to enter farms and properties in the interest of production issues, damage assessment after disaster incidents, during incidents involving herd health and wellness or food safety, and at other times deemed appropriate. Their authority is derived from federal executive orders and procedures, and overrides any local limitation on their authorities.
- xii. The Richland County Health and will serve as the lead agency in the testing of food supplies, preparation, and products for consumption safety; Shelby Health Department will perform this task in the City of Shelby.
- xiii. The Ohio Department of Agriculture inspects and stamps with approval all meat slaughtered, processed, and sold in Richland County.
- xiv. The Ohio Department of Agriculture will be involved in local issues of animal disease, crop production, and other disaster situations that affect the health and safety of the general public through referrals as well as through associated agencies and partner organizations like The Ohio State University Extension Service and others.

- xv. Severe weather will destroy or damage crops due to wind, heavy precipitation, or drought; yields may be totally destroyed or partially destroyed based upon the time of the impact in relation to growth stages of the crops, severity and duration of the events, and preceding and following weather conditions that do or do not facilitate crop recovery.
- xvi. Grain stores can be destroyed or damaged in severe storms, and power outages during harvest and drying can destroy harvested grain in bins lacking proper ventilation and specific times. Storage facilities are not only owned by commercial grain dealers like cooperatives and commercial dealers, but some large farms have constructed on-site grain storage facilities that are equally large compared to commercial facilities.
- xvii. Power outages can result in operational problems for livestock facilities with underground and/or aerated manure processing systems. Ventilation components are critical for safety of not only the farmers operating the facilities but also the livestock housed in the facility.
- xviii. Manure pits can leak and leech into waterways during floods or due to failure of a management system.
- xix. Severe weather will place stress and strain on livestock through temperature extremes and severe storms including heavy precipitation and severe winds. Livestock may become injured or ill, or die, due to weather conditions.
- xx. Stored grain commodities or livestock and other farm assets can be destroyed by severe storms like tornadoes and derechos.
- xxi. Livestock can be isolated from food, water, and shelter during adverse weather conditions.
- xxii. Power outages for extended periods of time can adversely affect farm assets including livestock, stored and processing grain, and feed stores and planting supplies. Severe winds can damage farm equipment stored or temporarily kept out of doors, or by damaging buildings in which the equipment or assets are stored.
- xxiii. Livestock often pasture on land not in proximity to farm homes, and therefore escape of animals can occur when fences are damaged or deteriorate, animals are scared and charge through fences, or if a gate is accidentally opened for some reason. These animals are frequently in close proximity to roadways and highways, and upon escape can end up in the way of vehicles and pedestrians.

- xxiv. Livestock is untrained, and therefore when loose cannot simply be called back to pasture. They can become scared and erratic in behavior; the livestock are animals of prey that will flee when afraid, leading them to areas that are detrimental to their safety such as roads and highways.
- xxv. Indirect losses of farm equipment, stored commodities, or production animals can threaten or destroy the financial stability of a family farm for many years, or can be severe enough to close the farm to business permanently.
- xxvi. During sudden and severe disasters, the family farm is hard pressed to adequately cover the protective actions and work to be done to save assets because there are few workers on each farm. Additional staffing for emergencies is not generally available except for neighbors and other family members.
- xxvii. As evacuation is exercised, domesticated pets (mostly cats and dogs) will need to be evacuated with families. Those pets will be housed at a separate shelter and not allowed with owners in Red Cross shelters unless they are service animals.
- xxviii. Farm losses impact the entire community through the progression of commerce and interruptions due to disasters. When farmers are unable to earn dollars in their community, they no longer spend those dollars in the same community.
- xxix. Disease can spread in livestock herds quickly and without notice until animals become obviously sick to the observer. By the time a farmer is able to assess the illness, the rest of the herd has been exposed. Disease can progress quickly and become severe.
- xxx. Animal disease can endanger the food supply at the point of production or at the point of processing. Herds can be quarantined or destroyed to limit the spread of a disease determined to originate at the production point, and processing plants can be closed if a problem is thought to be part of the processing step. If processing is stopped, animals ready for market may be adversely affected.
- xxxi. If mass destruction of herds is encountered, disposal of the carcasses would necessitate public health involvement. There are specific approved methods of carcass disposal in the State of Ohio that must be followed.

b. Assumptions

- i. Family farms and farmers will have connections to warning and notification systems that allow them to prepare for storms and emergency incidents well in advance of the impact.
- ii. Farmers and agricultural workers will stay abreast of current weather conditions, and will take timely action to protect their farmsteads, crops, and herds when weather turns bad.
- iii. Family farms will need to shelter-in-place for many disasters so they are able to care for livestock and farm property during and immediately after inclement events.
- iv. Family farms will have emergency plans in place for interruptions in power, extreme temperatures, and other incidents when they need to protect farm assets and crops or livestock.
- v. Many family farms will have properly installed generators to operate critical facilities on their farm during extended power outages.
- vi. Generators that operate farm facilities will likely need additional fuel to operate if power outages are extended; some use propane, others use natural gas or gasoline and farm equipment.
- vii. Some farmers, for religious reasons, do not use cell phones, electricity, or mechanized equipment. Warning and notification can be challenging when trying to warn these individuals of impending dangers. Outdoor warning sirens are used to the degree they are available and within audible distance.
- viii. Livestock farmers will have plans in place to rescue stranded livestock in the aftermath of floods and other bad weather events; they will include in the plan access to fellow-farmers' transport equipment and barns.
- ix. Farmers will carry casualty insurance on crops and livestock that is appropriate to the value of the asset or crop.
- x. The Richland Public Health will assist farmers in the management of animal carcasses in the case of mass fatality or destruction of herds.
- xi. Most damage assessment to farmsteads and farm equipment will be done by private insurance company representatives.

- xii. Livestock farmers will continually assess their herds to identify escapes and pasture problems before herds are subjected to running loose on highways and roadways. Farmers will act immediately to contain their animals when escapes take place.

3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

a. General Overview

- i. The Richland County Emergency Management Agency is the primary agency in ESF 11 Food and Agriculture because of their position in overall disaster resource coordination; the EMA has little or no authority to direct agricultural and food issues, but is responsible for disaster preparedness and response coordination. Because actual authorities and responsibilities are scattered between various levels of government, private business, and individuals, the EMA is in the position of most effective coordination as the primary agency.
- ii. Supporting agencies each have a role in a specific incident as defined by the federal, state, and local laws that govern food and agriculture.
- iii. Animal and crop related incident responses and considerations should be managed according to the organizational principles included in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). All government and private entities should function as a part of the ICS structure, and fall under the direction of the Incident Commander.

b. Relationship Between Levels of Government

- i. A variety of county, state, and federal resources are available to assist farmers when damage assessment is needed, and when disasters cause significant losses to agriculture in Richland County. These parties all have legal authority to enter disaster scenes and to gain access to farm property, and to issue appropriate assistance to farms or food suppliers. Federal authority may equal or override local authority in some cases.
- ii. Farm products or assets may fall under the control of the local health department, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Health, or the United States Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control.
 - 1. Governmental entities (local, state, and federal) may hold authority and jurisdiction over livestock, crops, or other farm-owned assets or products when they endanger the public's safety

for some reason. Examples may include, but not be limited to, large animal escapes, pestilence, or crop contamination.

2. In cases of food safety, public health agencies may hold absolute and ultimate control over crops and livestock.
 - iii. In the interest of establishing accurate and comprehensive assistance programs after disasters, the federal government (USDA or CDC) may have authority or responsibility in providing damage assessment services after storms and other disasters, and may help with the process of post-incident need for assistance.
 - iv. State resources (OSU Extension, ODNR, ODA, OEPA, etc.) may be available after significant disasters to assist farmers with damage assessment, research and development, engineering, or other technical help when needed.
 - v. Local resources (SWCD, ASCS, etc.) may help farmers assess damages, craft resolution to problems, provide technical advice, or assist in obtaining financial assistance for problems related to disasters.
 - vi. Farm agencies, cooperatives, and associations may be able to provide assistance through the expertise of their employees and members within the ICS roles. Examples may include OFBF and its members, county departments such as the dog warden or game warden, or state departments like the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- c. Phases of Emergency Management
- i. Individual farmers (business owners) are responsible for their property and assets during a disaster, and should engage in individual preparedness such as establishment of evacuation or shelter-in-place plans and development of redundant critical resources.
 - ii. Individual farmers are responsible for situational awareness and for heeding of emergency warnings and notification in a reasonable fashion to protect themselves and their business.
 - iii. Farmers should engage in mitigation efforts, to include purchase of various insurances to cover extreme loss and casualty.
 - iv. Farmers should recognize that response may necessitate the use of highly specialized and expensive equipment, and should take responsibility for being able to manage a reasonable response on their own property.

- v. Richland County officials should responsibly be aware of agriculture and food emergency response needs in the county, and should plan responses to include the initiation and utilization of those resources as needed. Collaboration with state and federal resources should be planned and anticipated.

4. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

- a. Richland County Emergency Management Agency will act as a coordinating agency in food and agriculture emergencies; the EMA lacks statutory authority that extends beyond coordination of resources but does have responsibility to insure proper disaster preparedness efforts, compliance with the NIMS training as well as during response and recovery, and insures a reasonable response to disasters, including those that affect food and agriculture.
- b. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through either the Farm Service Agency or the Natural Resource Conservationist Service holds authority through federal law to enter farm property for purposes of disaster damage assessment and response, to provide technical assistance and research, and to assist farmers with agricultural loss response and recovery.
- c. USDA is responsible for insuring the safety of the food supply. USDA governs food-processing facilities and the supplies used in production as well as the ultimate products for consumption.
- d. USDA provides assistance in natural resource conservation, conservation practices, and technical issues related to natural resources.
- e. The Ohio Department of Agriculture is an extension of the USDA as well as a government agency of its own authority. ODA inspects food processing facilities, livestock herds, animals for public display, and investigates animal health and crop health issues. In cases of animal illness or crop infestation, the Ohio Department of Agriculture is responsible for technical advice, oversight of operations, and enforcement of standards and protections.
- f. The Ohio Department of Agriculture provides veterinarians to treat, euthanize, or otherwise manage ill and contagious herds or individual animals.
- g. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency provides guidance and technical information regarding the disposal of euthanized herds or animals, contaminated crops or components, or contaminated production supplies. The Ohio EPA can provide assistance in obtaining bio-hazard supplies and equipment.

- h. The Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service provides technical information and research applications for farmers and the community, advising on technical issues related to crops and livestock.
- i. Richland Public Health and the Shelby Health Department have authority over public health as it pertains to communicable disease related to the food supply. The health departments identify and track communicable disease, and monitor the spread of communicable disease. They are responsible for the safety of the water supply for consumption and use, and have jurisdiction over water wells and systems to insure the potability of the water.
- j. Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District has authority and responsibility in establishing and maintaining drainage across the county; the department manages watershed issues like ditch cleaning and maintenance of ditches and streams under county maintenance programs. They also provide conservation assistance to farmers for farm ponds, erosion control, and other protection of natural resources.

5. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

In a disaster response, it is necessary that food and agriculture authorities be included in the overall response system and the planning, execution, and evaluation of the response.

- a. The Incident Commander/Unified Command/Area Command must include agriculture-based operations as a part of the incident response when relevant, and should include the appropriate parties within the ICS organization.
- b. Agricultural representatives might be included in Incident/Area Command as a part of unified command. This might be as an Incident Commander when the incident falls primarily under the jurisdiction of agricultural officials; as a part of a Unified Command when the incident falls significantly but partially under the jurisdiction of agricultural officials; or as a technical advisor to the Incident Commander when farms, crops, or livestock are a significant factor in the incident.

When an incident is significantly affected by or impacted by agricultural issues, consideration should be given to including agricultural experts in Command Staff functions, including safety, liaison, intelligence, and public information functions.

- c. Agricultural representatives should be included in the Operations Section when specific response actions must be taken to serve farms and farmers.

1. An Agriculture Branch or Division may be established for operations related to this response, and an appropriate director/manger be appointed to direct tactical operations.
 2. Various strike teams and task forces may be established to carry out operations to serve these functions.
 3. If an incident has to do with potential intentional contamination of the food supply, agriculture experts may be included in the Intelligence Branch or Division, or intelligence staff may be included in agriculture units.
- d. Agricultural representatives should be included in the Planning Section when livestock, crops, or other agricultural components are a significant part of the incident and when resource and situational management requires knowledge and response specifically for agricultural entities.

Agricultural representatives may include resource planners, situation assessors, and/or technical advisors. A situation status unit may be established for agriculture and food issues.

- e. Agricultural representatives may be included in the Logistics Section for various reasons, including but not limited to, the safe and proper operation of farm equipment used in response; the appropriate supply and handling of livestock feed and supplies, animal care or maintenance, agricultural chemicals and crop treatments, and other response actions related to the incident.
- f. Agricultural representatives should be included in the Administrative Section to insure the proper documentation and procurement, as well as payment of agriculturally related costs.
- g. An agriculture representative should be included in the Emergency Operations Center, under the direction of the EMA director, for incidents that involve significant agricultural or food issues.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- a. Resources needed for food and agriculture will be requested by the Planning Section on behalf of the affected operations sections of the ICS organization. The appropriate Branch Director/Group Supervisor will place requests for resources to the Incident Commander who will relay that request to the Planning Chief. The Food/Agriculture Resource Unit in the Planning Section will address the resource need, and report findings and solutions to the Planning Chief.

- b. A Food/Agriculture Liaison can function as part of Command Staff, or an Agriculture Technical Expert can work within the Planning Section. There may be a Food/Agriculture representative who functions as part of the Emergency Operations Center for the purpose of linking to other local, state, and federal resources. The Logistics Section may include a Food/Agriculture Supply Unit or a technical expert to aid in the specification and procurement of animal food and supplies as well as to guide the distribution and use of agricultural supplies or the care of farm equipment.
- c. The Richland County Resource List will include the names and contact information for all agriculture and food professionals, appointed volunteers or officials, and other key community members with a role in ESF 11. Some state and federal resources may appear on the local resource listing because in spite of their level of government, they are the most local resource available.
- d. The Agriculture Liaison or technical expert will assist in the prioritization of operations as an advisor to the Incident Commander included in the ICS structure.
- e. Requests for agriculture mutual aid will be submitted to the Richland County EOC and acted upon through the process and link with other county agencies and entities as well as contact with the State of Ohio EOC.
- f. Mutual aid agreements with entities having necessary resources to carry out agricultural operations is strongly encouraged but may be too wide-reaching to practically obtain prior to an incident due to the specificity of needed resources at the time of an incident.
- g. An Agriculture Safety Officer may be appointed to serve the Incident Commander, Operations Chief, Branch Director, or other unit in the case of handling livestock, large animals, or large farm equipment.
- h. All parties will participate in after action review and corrective action implementation; lessons learned and best practices should be recorded and incorporated into this section when reasonably feasible.

7. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ESF

- a. The supporting agencies, including public and private, should be included in training and exercises as part of emergency preparedness in Richland County.
- b. Richland County should participate in and take advantage of training offered by supporting agencies like the various agricultural entities.

- c. NIMS and ICS training sessions should be opened to all agencies and private or public entities in this section, and their participation should be encouraged.
- d. All parties involved in this section should have the opportunity to comment and suggest revisions to this plan on a regular basis, and should participate in the development of the initial plan.
- e. The parties involved in this plan should be listed with appropriate detail in the Resource List for Richland County; contact points and person should e maintained and periodically verified through exercise.

8. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- a. This ESF should be reviewed annually at a designated time. It should be reviewed by all parties involved in the section, and any suggestions should be considered and acted upon appropriately by the EMA director.
- b. This plan should be periodically reviewed by a community wide committee of stakeholders. Changes suggested by that committee of stakeholders should be considered appropriately by the EMA director for adoption.
- c. This plan should be reviewed and revised as necessary after any incident of significance or any declared incident by the committee of stakeholders. The EMA director should act appropriately on any suggested changes.
- d. The Richland County Commissioners should review and promulgate this plan initially and as needed thereafter.

9. ADDENDA

- a. Tab A – Animal Disaster Response and Protection Plan (Evacuation)
- b. Tab B – Dangerous and Wild Animal Response Plan

10. AUTHENTICATION

Date of Adoption

Richland County EMA Director

Richland County Emergency Operations Plan

ESF 11: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Tab A: Animal Disaster Response and Protection Plan

Primary Agency: Richland County EMA

Supporting Agencies: USDA Farm Service Agency – Mansfield Office
Humane Society of Richland County
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation – Richland County
Richland County Agricultural Society
Richland County CERT
Richland County Dog Warden

1. PURPOSE

This plan will provide direction and assignment of responsibility for animal issues before, during, and after a disaster affecting animals, to facilitate overall coordination of animal protection and care. The goal of this plan is to protect domesticated animals (including pets and livestock), the public health, the public food supply, the environment, and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals in the event of a major disaster.

This tab separates animals into five major categories:

Domestic pets include domesticated cats and dogs. These are animals that regularly interact with humans, and are considered a family pet. This category includes dogs and cats of breeders, even though they are used for production of puppies and kittens.

Large recreational animals include ponies, horses, llamas, alpacas, goats, donkeys, and other large animals that provide recreation and interaction for their human owners. These may be show animals, large pets, or other animals that are not raised for commercial reasons of slaughter and other production.

Commercial animals and livestock include animals like cattle, pigs, chickens, sheep, and others raised on farms for purposes of production and/or slaughter. These are typically also considered farm business assets and are the owner's responsibility to insure. Specially bred animals for sire are included in this group. This group also may include animals in sanctuaries and zoos that are there for the enjoyment and entertainment of the public for an admission fee. Some may also be considered exotic or wild.

Exotic animals include snakes, other reptiles and amphibians, and animals that typically reside in the wilderness such as lions, tigers, chimpanzees and monkeys, wolves, squirrels, chipmunks, coyotes, and other uncontained wild animals. These animals are non-commercially owned for the purpose of personal enjoyment and are not a part of a commercial zoo or sanctuary.

Wild uncontained animals include wild rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, ground hogs, raccoons, skunks, fox, muskrat, and other similar animals that live in the wild and feed of the land. These animals are not considered domesticated, nor do they have the capability to co-exist with other domestic pets or humans.

It is the intent of this tab to ESF 11 Food and Agriculture to outline the care of domesticated pets, large recreational animals, and to some degree, livestock and commercial animals. The owners of exotic or wild animals are required to establish and maintain their own disaster plans. Uncontained wild animals are not covered in this plan and are considered a part of the natural habitat of Richland County and not the responsibility of government unless they become part of communicable illnesses or disease transmission. In such a case, these animals become the responsibility of public health agencies.

2. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

a. Situation

- i. Local governments in Richland County, including its municipalities, recognize the proactive need for disaster planning throughout their agencies and employees. This plan is intended as guidance for use by local governments to take immediate action in providing a means of care and control to minimize animal suffering in the event of a major disaster or emergency.
- ii. The Richland County Emergency Management Director or designee may place established plans and procedures into effect, and direct both the response and recovery aspects of a major disaster or emergency involving animals. The plan may deviate from these procedures when it is assessed that immediate and direct action is necessary to protect the public safety.
- iii. Emergencies and disasters that involve animals may require the involvement and action of a variety of individuals, including but not limited to local, state, and federal workers, private businesses and individuals such as veterinarians, veterinary pharmacists, veterinary technicians, pet caregivers and groomers, and pet trainers and handlers.

- iv. Emergencies and disasters that involve animals may require the involvement and action of a variety of organizations, including but not limited to the local humane society, local animals shelters and sanctuaries, and statewide or national organizations such as Humane Ohio mobile care units, Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), or similar units from other regions. Additionally, organizations such as breed advocacy groups or other associations may have needed resources, capabilities, and personnel.
- v. Standard emergency actions for animal protection may include searching for and extracting animals from specific locations; herding, leashing, and/or leading animals to a specific location; driving vehicles and trailers containing large or small animals to various shelter locations; corralling and kenneling animals in pens or cages; and caring for animals by feeding, watering and medicating them as needed.
- vi. The decision may be made to shelter some animals out-of-doors in pasture land, or in land that is an acceptable alternative to pasture land when the situation is such that the animals will be safer and more likely to survive if not confined to structures. This is an acceptable means of sheltering animals under some circumstances.
- vii. Ancillary actions that may need to take place in animal search and rescue or sheltering operations includes cleaning animals, providing simple first aid for minor cuts and scrapes or other injuries, obtaining and handling animal or pet supplies and equipment, providing health assessments for evacuated or found animals or pets, assisting persons with functional needs with all phases of animal/pet evacuation or care; searching for and/or identifying lost or stray pets; unifying owners with lost or stray pets; conducting security actions at animal shelters; and any other actions deemed necessary by the Incident Commander or coordinating staff.
- viii. Should a disaster occur that necessitates the evacuation of any area of Richland County, a portion of the evacuees will own pets or other animals. Those pets may or may not be evacuated, dependent upon the type emergency that exists.
- ix. According to the Humane Society of the United States, approximately 60% of all households owned at least one pet in the year 2014.
- x. If evacuation occurs because of structural fires or other damages to specific buildings, hazardous materials potential or actual exposure in

specific neighborhoods, or other housing issues, the pets that live in those structures will be evacuated under nearly all circumstances.

- xi. If evacuation occurs due to floods or other road or highway access issues, large animals, farm pets, and livestock may be contained in barns or unaffected pastures. Some residents may choose to stay behind and not evacuate to care for these animals.
- xii. Large recreational animals like horses, ponies, llamas, alpacas, and others require a barn-type shelter with individual pens; this resource can be planned for but may or may not be available for evacuated animals during an emergency. These shelters would assume the care for animals is given exclusively by the animal owners.
- xiii. Due to the general lack of appropriate caregivers, exotic or wild animals may not be accepted into shelters or other animal care facilities; the owners of those animals will likely be required to develop and implement their own emergency plan for care of those animals.
- xiv. Wild animals, animals with aggressive behavioral habits, and other animals inappropriate for mass care shelters will remain in the care of and the responsibility of the owner.
- xv. Animals that are ill or injured, or that have significant health related disabilities requiring highly specialized care may not be cared for in animal shelters when the resources to care for them appropriately do not exist. In such cases, the animal owners will be solely responsible for those animals.
- xvi. Animals, excluding service animals, are not generally accepted into shelters operated by the American Red Cross. Pet shelters may be located nearby these shelters, or at locations that provide for the structural needs of an animal shelter even though the location is not nearby a Red Cross shelter.
- xvii. Commercial boarding facilities and shelters may operate at higher capacity than normal during a disaster, and may charge for their services as a for-profit business like at any other time. These businesses will continue to operate as feasible during a disaster and therefore some animal owners may house their animals there for a fee. These facilities will operate under their own daily procedures as a private business.
- xviii. Not all animal sheltering locations may have an on-site veterinary. While an attempt will be made to staff each shelter with a veterinary or

licensed veterinary technician, the appropriate personnel may not be available. The shelter operator(s) will staff shelters to the best possible levels, and will make the necessary adjustments to provide the best overall service possible without an absolute standard for such service.

- xix. Sheltering for dogs and cats will be coordinated by the Humane Society of Richland County (HSRC).
- xx. The Richland County Dog Warden will manage and control stray dogs and cats during the disaster, and may house them in a shelter operated by the HSRC or utilize an alternate location like the county dog pound.
- xxi. Unclaimed dogs may be handled according to state law regarding stray and abandoned dogs (O.R.C. 951.02).
- xxii. Livestock and large recreational animal shelters will be coordinated by the Richland County Agricultural Society. Facilities such as Producer's Livestock in Bucyrus, although outside the boundaries of Richland County, may be practically and functionally accessible to support the sheltering of large animals.
- xxiii. The Ohio Medical Board of Veterinary Licensing maintains a list of licensed veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary hospitals. This list will be consulted to verify the credentials of any licensed professional providing services under this section.
- xxiv. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife will respond to animal disaster events involving wildlife that are endangering the public health or safety using the guidelines and protocols set forth in its "Administrative Policy Regarding Nuisance Wildlife which is on file at each of the Department's administrative offices

b. Assumptions

- i. Natural or manmade disasters will affect the well-being of all types of animals in Richland County, including small pets, large recreational animals, livestock, and exotic animals.
- ii. The owners of pets or livestock, when notified of an upcoming emergency should take reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their care and/or control, and could be held legally responsible for care of or damages caused by those animals if not properly cared for.

- iii. During disaster evacuation many people may not evacuate without their pets, or they will delay their own evacuation in an attempt to make preparation for their animals left behind. They may refuse to evacuate to care for large animals that cannot be easily evacuated, or for exotic animals that are not readily accepted into shelters.
- iv. The County should plan for responding to emergency situations involving animals by utilizing local resources. By identifying hazards and resources in the county in advance of a disaster, relief efforts will be more efficient and expedient. Relationships that enable serving the animal needs in Richland County should be developed during planning, and resource lists should include animal care resources such as feed suppliers, veterinarians, and technicians.
- v. Animal protection planning should ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency. These plans may include measures to identify housing and shelter for animals, communicating information to the public and proper animal release.
- vi. A major disaster or emergency in the County may warrant immediate response from state and local personnel, agencies, and organizations. Emergency situations may also require activation of additional specialized agencies through mutual aid. These special resources should be identified during planning activities.
- vii. Shelter locations should be identified during planning for the temporary sheltering of family pets and large recreational animals. Livestock sheltering options should be identified as well, making sure the size, location, and capacity of the facility is adequate to house anticipated numbers of livestock. Exotic animals will not be sheltered and remain the responsibility of the owner.
- viii. Shelter procedures should include assignment of care of animals to owners or others, sources of food and supplies, availability of veterinary care, and maintenance of the facilities.
- ix. Shelter procedures should establish medical screening and occupancy standards for animals in cases of behavioral issues, medical and/or communicable disease issues, and or injury due to the disaster.
- x. The Ohio Department of Agriculture will be called for any suspicion of Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) in livestock or poultry. Appropriate protocols will be followed in these circumstances under ORC 941.07.

- xi. Emergency disposal of all domestic animal carcasses including pets, livestock and poultry should follow Rules for the Disposal of Animal Carcasses (O.R.C. 941.14).
- xii. Animal owners should include copies of animal medical records, such as immunizations and medications, as part of personal preparedness. These records should ideally include a picture of the pet with the name visible on the picture, as well as basic information written on the picture for the purpose of identification and linking to the owner.
- xiii. Public information statements will be issued through the various media outlets. This information will include locations where domestic and non-domestic animals may be accepted during emergency situations.

3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- a. The animal owner is responsible for the care and shelter of their animals.
- b. The Richland County EMA Director, in communication with various animal experts and authorities, will decide when the procedures in this plan should be implemented and notify the appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies upon the activation of this plan.
- c. During a major disaster or emergency the overall responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander may identify and appoint an Agriculture-Animal Specialist to serve in several spots within the ICS, including Command Staff (technical expert, Agriculture Liaison, Assisting Agriculture PIO, Agriculture Safety Officer), Operations (Animal Management Branch Director, Animal Management Group Supervisor, Unit Leader), Planning Section (Animal Management Expert Advisor, Situation Leader, or Resource Leader), or Logistics Supply Unit.
- d. The primary and support agencies for ESF 11 Food and Agriculture will manage and coordinate local animal protection activities during major disasters or emergencies.
- e. The shelter needs for supplies such as food and medicines will be served through the Logistics Section of the operation. Medications will be prescribed by and ordered through an appropriately licensed veterinarian; other supplies will be jointly ordered through a single point of purchase when feasible.
- f. Requests for assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter material, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary medical professionals beyond

the ability of the county to provide will be transmitted to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency ESF 11 Food and Agriculture representative. Should the need for Federal resources exist, the State Emergency Operations Center will coordinate the requests.

- g. Animal protection and rescue operations shall be managed under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS).
- h. An Emergency Animal Shelter is defined as an *ad hoc* facility created during or following a disaster for the purpose of providing shelter to animals displaced by the disaster.
 - i. In the event that animals are relinquished to emergency animal shelters, the owner will be required to sign a release form, and provide proof of vaccinations.
 - ii. In the absence of records, the animals will be screened by a veterinarian to determine whether the animal may enter the shelter or be transported to a veterinary hospital.

4. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- a. This plan and implementing procedures will be activated in the event of a major disaster or emergency causing a significant need for animal protection.
- b. The Richland County EMA Director will determine when these procedures will be implemented and notify the appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies.
- c. The Richland County EMA Director will be the lead coordinator of animal emergency response, and will be assisted by a variety of organizations. The director may appoint an Agriculture or Animal Liaison to serve as his subordinate to ensure coverage of animal based operations.
- d. The American Red Cross will coordinate a process with the Richland County EMA Director to properly and correctly refer all evacuated animals that present to any shelter, with the exception of service animals for disabled shelter residents, to the appropriate operations within the ICS of the incident.
- e. The Richland County Agricultural Society (RCAS) will coordinate the sheltering of large animals, including livestock and large recreational animals. The RCAS may utilize staff provided by other animal organizations and other volunteers in the care of these animals.

- f. The Richland County Agricultural Society, if they determine that they have the capacity to do so, may temporarily shelter exotic animals until other more appropriate shelters may be found IF this does not endanger either the workers performing duties on the grounds or the other animals that are housed there. Exotic animals will be isolated from other animals in a separate building and in individual pens, kennels, or aquariums.
- g. The Humane Society of Richland County will coordinate the sheltering of domestic pets including cats and dogs. This may be done at the Richland County Fairgrounds in a building provided by the Richland County Agricultural Society. The HSRC may utilize staff provided by other animal organizations and agencies in the care of these pets.
- h. The Richland County Dog Warden will coordinate the care of stray and found dogs and cats, and may do so at a separate location at the Richland County Fairgrounds so as to isolate animals with unknown communicable disease or vaccination status.
- i. The Agricultural Extension office, Ohio Farm Bureau office, animal advocacy groups, kennels, boarders, and sanctuaries, and private individuals with expertise in animal management may be called upon to assist within the ICS driven response. They will support the response with the resources they have available and capable at the time.
- j. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, game warden and others, can be called upon to assist with appropriate animal issues in a response.
- k. At least one licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician will be identified to serve as part of the Planning Section as a technical advisor, and to coordinate the emergency veterinary care of animals in any of the emergency shelters.
- l. The veterinary/veterinary technician will make available to all animal caregivers the contact information for the pet poison control center operated by the ASPCA.
- m. All animal caregivers and others with animal response duties will perform under the Incident Command System (ICS) as established for the current incident. Volunteers and other workers may be deployed through a Volunteer Reception Center to credential and categorize according to capabilities.
- n. Animals that are lost, found stray, or missing will be registered through an established system in the EOC. This system may be electronic (PetFinder, etc.) or

may amount to posting of pictures at a lost and found location established for the operation.

- o. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife will respond to animal disaster events involving wildlife that endanger the public health or safety using the guidelines and protocols set forth in its "Administrative Policy Regarding Nuisance Wildlife which is on file at each of the Department's administrative offices.
- p. The Ohio Veterinary Medical Response Team, the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps, or other state and federal resources can be requested through the Planning Section to the Richland County EOC. The county EOC will communicate with the ESF 11 Food and Agriculture representative in the State of Ohio EOC.
- q. The United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service will provide assistance in the disposal of poultry and livestock as well as general assistance in an agriculture emergency.
- r. State of Ohio animal response teams may include Disaster Animal Response Teams (DART), Community Emergency Response – Animal Units (CERT), and other private and public entities with expertise and experience in animal management.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- a. Communications
 - i. Communications between the primary and support agencies will occur primarily through two-way radios, cell phones, telephone, and facsimile.
 - ii. Amateur radio will be used as a backup system if other communication is impossible due to the nature of the emergency situation. Volunteer amateur radio may also be set up at the County's designated animal shelters

6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- a. The primary responsibility for coordinating the Animal Disaster Response and Protection Plan development and maintenance rests with the Richland County Emergency Management Director.
- b. A periodic review will be conducted on this plan for revalidation and necessary changes. Revisions to this plan will be identified by appropriate signatures and

approval dates. The revision process will include incorporation of necessary changes based upon periodic tests, drills and exercises as appropriate.

- c. A current copy of SMART Animal Response Resource System can be found online and linkages to it should be maintained by the EMA to have ease of access as needed.
- d. All departments and organizations within the County providing animal protection or control will develop and maintain their own updated SOP's, personnel rosters with 24-hour emergency contact numbers, and appropriate mutual aid agreements that are supportive of the County plan. This information will be coordinated with and provided to the County Emergency Management Director.

7. ADDENDA

- a. Attachment 1 – Pet and Livestock Disaster Planning Tips

Richland County Emergency Operations Plan

ESF 11: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Tab A: Animal Disaster Response and Protection Plan Attachment 1: Pet and Livestock Disaster Planning Tips

Domestic Pets

- If you evacuate your home, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. Pets will not survive independently and/or you may not be able to find them when you return.
- For public health reasons, American Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets. The pets will be sheltered in separate shelters especially for pets.
- If possible, make prior arrangements to shelter your pet at a local animal shelter or with other family or friends outside the affected area should you be forced to evacuate your home.
- Include the local animal shelter you plan to use as well as an alternate shelter, your veterinarian, and other pet resources' contact numbers in your list of emergency contacts.
- Find out which hotels in your area allow pets.
- Find neighbors and friends who can possibly assist with or share animal responsibilities during a disaster or catastrophe.
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet and you together for identification and linking purposes.
- Maintain current dog licenses for each of your dogs to aid in the ability to identify a lost or stranded pet.
- Have a secure pet carrier, blanket, muzzle, harness, and leash for each pet. Cats can sometimes share a kennel.
- Take pet food, bottled water, medications, veterinary records, a blanket or bed, chew toys and/or treats, cat litter / pan, pet waste bags, a can opener, food and water dishes, zip lock plastic bags, a pet first aid kit and other supplies with you when you evacuate.
- Make sure you have a copy of your pet's medical records with you. If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Most boarding kennels,

veterinary shelters, and animal shelters require that your pet's vaccinations are current, and you must have a document to prove that.

- Contact friends, family, veterinarians, or boarding kennels to arrange for emergency care of your animals, in case emergency animal sheltering is unavailable locally. Make sure medical and feeding information, food, medicine and other supplies accompany your pet to its foster home.

Livestock and Large Recreational Animals

- Evacuate livestock as early as possible.
- The evacuation sites should have or be able to readily obtain food, water, veterinary care, handling equipment and facilities. Take food, water, and all daily supplies with you.
- Evacuation of large animals requires the use of trucks, trailers, and other vehicles. Prior to an emergency ensure that those vehicles are fueled and operational. An additional source of on-site fuel is recommended when possible.
- If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be determined based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter.
- Make friends with others in the area who have similar livestock, and devise a plan to help one another when emergencies happen. Be as self-sufficient under adverse conditions as possible because large animals are difficult to move when they are anxious or afraid. The best chance to have the resources you need is to rely upon people in similar settings.
- When evacuating large herds, take count as animals are loaded or moved, bearing in mind individual markings or identity as much as possible. This will help identify animals lost during the operation, and will help link found livestock to the proper owner.
- All animals should have some form of identification that will help facilitate their return.

Further Assistance

- If you see any injured or stranded animal in need of assistance, during a major emergency situation, contact the Richland County EMA.

Richland County Emergency Operations Plan

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Tab B: Dangerous Wild Animal Response Plan

Primary Agency: Richland County Law Enforcement Agencies

Supporting Agencies: Richland County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department
Richland County Fire Departments
Ohio Health MedCentral
Richland County 9-1-1

Non-Governmental Organizations: Broadcast and/or Print Media
Dangerous Wild Animal Subject Matter Expert(s)

1. PURPOSE

This plan describes how the county will plan and provide resource support before, during, and after a dangerous wild animal emergency.

This plan addresses the issues found in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 935: Possession of Wild Animals and Snakes, fulfills the requirements for a dangerous wild animal county emergency response plan, and outlines the duties of the county dangerous wild animal response team (DWARD).

The dangerous wild animal response team (DWARD) shall act as a response **planning** team, NOT necessarily as the responding entity. Agencies identified in this plan may not necessarily be directly involved in an actual dangerous wild animal response. Depending upon the way a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county (via intentional release or unintentional escape), varieties or combinations of teams and/or agency members may be needed in Richland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and at sites around the county to augment and support local law enforcement response efforts.

a. General Provisions

- i. In this plan, “dangerous wild animal(s)” refers to both dangerous wild animals and restricted snakes; “dangerous wild animal emergency” refers to any unintentional escape or intentional release of a dangerous wild animal; and “law enforcement officer” refers to a sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer of a township or joint police district, marshal,

deputy marshal, municipal police officer, state highway patrol trooper, natural resources law enforcement officer, or park ranger.

- ii. Dangerous wild animals that pose a serious threat to the safety of Ohioans are those specified by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §935.01.

b. Scope

This plan applies to all participating departments and agencies of the jurisdictions contained within the geographic boundaries of Richland County.

c. Authorities and References

i. Authorities

1. Ohio Revised Code: Chapter 935 – Possession of Dangerous Wild Animals and Snakes

- a. Per ORC §935.011, the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture has authority to recommend to the General Assembly species of animals and snakes to be included in the definition of “dangerous wild animal.” Animals may not be added to the ORC without approval from the General Assembly.
- b. Per ORC §935.16 and 22, law enforcement, or any other responsive political subdivision within the state of Ohio, may destroy any escaped or released dangerous wild animal that poses a threat to public safety. Furthermore, the officer(s) may not be held liable for damages in a civil action for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that arises from the destruction of the animal(s).
- c. Per ORC §935.16, the owner of the dangerous wild animal that has escaped or has been released is responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the animal’s capture or destruction. The owner shall reimburse the agency(s) responsible for capturing or destroying the animal.

ii. References

State of Ohio Emergency Operations Plan
Emergency Support Function-11 – Agriculture
Tab C – Dangerous Wild Animal Response Plan

2. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

a. Situation

- i. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may occur in Richland County.
- ii. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may pose a threat to the public safety of the county's citizens.
- iii. Designated Areas of Interest
There are a number of registered and unregistered dangerous wild animals within the county that may result in dangerous wild animal emergencies. Please refer to Appendix A – Known Dangerous Wild Animal Locations within the County, for a complete location listing of known dangerous wild animals.
- iv. Potential Hazards
Dangerous wild animal emergencies may be caused through human acts, inaction, or negligence, by equipment malfunction, or by natural disasters (e.g., tornadoes, earthquakes, severe wind events, flooding).

b. Assumptions

- i. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may overwhelm any one jurisdiction's response resources.
- ii. If a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in Richland County:
 1. The county will receive notification from the animal owner or the public via 9-1-1 or the ten-digit emergency line 419-524-2412.
 2. All emergency calls are answered by a public safety answering point (PSAP).
 3. All emergency telephone numbers are maintained by the public safety answering point (PSAPs) administrating agency.
 4. The receiving dispatcher will immediately notify local law enforcement.
- iii. The PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) will immediately notify and/or confirm notification with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), the chief law enforcement officer of the township or municipality where the

dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred, and Richland County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

3. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

a. Direction and Control

- i. First responders will employ incident command at the emergency site(s).
- ii. If and when a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county that exceeds the capability of local incident command, local law enforcement will act as the lead agency for dangerous wild animal response.

If local law enforcement is not available to fulfill the duties of lead agency, orders of succession will be as follows:

1. The next available local law enforcement department
 2. Fire department
 3. State wildlife officer assigned to Richland County
- iii. If necessary, Richland County EMA will activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to support the direction and control of Richland County personnel and to augment local law enforcement's response efforts. Please refer to the Basic Plan of the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) on Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation and operations.

b. Responsibilities of the Support Agencies assigned to this plan include:

- i. Providing subject matter expertise in the development and subsequent reviews of this plan.
- ii. Providing personnel to assist in response and recovery operations as needed at the site(s), staging area(s), and Richland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), as necessary.
- iii. The Richland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will coordinate with and provide logistical support to field personnel through the following activities, if needed:
 1. Activation of 24-hour emergency communications and coordination of communications with other responding organizations.

2. Coordination with first responders and recovery personnel assigned to the Incident Command Center and at sites within the high-risk zone(s).
 3. Provision of logistical support in the field for shelter, food, rest, critical incident stress debrief, and appropriate emergency response and recovery activity supplies and personal needs.
- c. **Determination of the Risk Area**
The Incident Commander will identify and set forth the specific areas at risk, at the time a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs.
- d. **Relationships among Levels of Government**
- i. **State**
State disaster assistance, when provided, will supplement, not substitute, response provided by county and local jurisdictions.
 - ii. **County**
Depending upon the way a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county (via intentional release or unintentional escape), varieties or combinations of teams and/or agency members may be needed in Richland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and at sites around the county to augment and support local law enforcement's response efforts.

4. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

- a. **Local Law Enforcement (lead)**
- i. Coordinate dangerous wild animal emergency response in the county. Receive notification from the animal owner or the public via 9-1-1 or the ten-digit emergency line. All emergency telephone numbers are maintained by the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP's) administrating agency.
 - ii. Immediately notify and/or confirm notification of any dangerous wild animal emergency occurring in the county with Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), regardless of whether Richland County or State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated, via one of the following 24-hour telephone numbers: 855-DWA-OHIO (855-392-6446), 888-456-3405, or 614-728-6220. These telephone numbers are maintained by Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

- iii. Immediately notify and/or confirm notification with the chief law enforcement officer of the township or municipality where the dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred.
 - iv. Immediately notify Richland County EMA when a dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred and/or is likely to require activation of this plan.
 - v. Coordinate with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) for the transport of confiscated and/or captured dangerous wild animals.
- b. Fire Department
 - i. Assume command as lead agency in the absence of law enforcement and make the appropriate notifications
 - ii. Assist with the coordination of fire response, including, but not limited to, providing response personnel, the identification of resources, and matching resource requests with available resources.
- c. Emergency Medical Services

Assist with the coordination of emergency medical response, including, but not limited to, providing emergency medical technicians and first aid personnel, the identification of resources, matching resource requests with available resources, and providing information to ensure emergency medical provider safety.
- d. County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
 - i. Upon local law enforcement's request, Richland County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will open the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and notify the appropriate support agencies listed in this plan, based on the needs of the event. Please refer to the Basic Plan of Richland County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Richland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) standard operating procedure (SOP) for more information on Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation and operations.
 - ii. Support local law enforcement by providing countywide coordination and deployment of assets during the dangerous wild animal response, if necessary.
 - iii. Support public information dispersal and rumor control efforts throughout the emergency.

Coordinate with local law enforcement for the identification of training to Support Agencies and provide County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) training to agency personnel designated for operations in the affected area(s).

- iv. Coordinate with Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to identify and contact veterinary personnel and other qualified volunteers, as needed.
- v. Request State resource assistance, if necessary.

e. Local Public Health Department

- i. Provide public health services, as identified by the incident commander, to minimize zoonotic disease outbreaks and other public health risks that may occur during a dangerous wild animal emergency.
- ii. Restricted snake owners are required to have access to anti-venom for each species of snake that the person owns, either at the location where each snake is confined or at a hospital. In the event that anti-venoms are needed and are not immediately available, contact the nearest Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) to locate the closest, most readily available antidote cache.
- iii. Coordinate with the Ohio Department of Health, as needed.

f. Broadcast and/or Print Media

- i. Immediately alert all print and broadcast media as soon as incident is reported.
- ii. Provide general advisories and related public information coordinated with appropriate agencies and organizations as the situation evolves.
- iii. All Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) maintain updated contact information for the media.

g. Dangerous Wild Animal Subject Matter Expert

Provide dangerous wild animal subject matter expertise in the development of this plan.

h. Richland County 911

- i. Receive incoming communications regarding Wildlife Incidents and dispatch appropriate agency.

- ii. Provide coordinated communications between incident agencies when requested.

5. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- a. Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP 9-1-1)
 - i. Receive complaint, ascertain appropriate information from the caller on type of animal, any injuries, location, and direction of travel.
 - ii. Dispatch the law enforcement agency in which the animal is located and jurisdiction to which the animal may be headed.
 - iii. Contact the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director providing details of the incident.
 - iv. Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture
 - v. Contact the Dangerous Wild Animal vet from the resource list
 - vi. Contact the Dangerous Wild Animal Subject Matter expert from the resource list.
 - vii. Upon the direction of the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director, initiate activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
 - viii. Provide responding units with updated information and/or relay information between responding units as needed.
- b. Law Enforcement
 - i. Respond with sufficient patrols to locate the animal.
 - ii. Request assistance from Subject Matter experts, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Fire Department, and veterinarian as necessary to recapture or appropriately deal with the animal.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Mutual Aid Agreements (MAA) have been put in place to supplement response efforts, should the event overwhelm any one jurisdiction's capabilities, expertise, and/or resources. Unless otherwise provided, these MOUs and MAAs remain in effect until rescinded or modified.

7. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- a. This plan serves to supplement, not substitute, Richland County's Basic Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). Please refer to Richland County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation and operations.
- b. Richland County Dangerous Wild Animal Response Team (DWARD) shall conduct subsequent annual reviews of this plan. Richland County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will initiate the review process in accordance with the review of the Basic EOP.
- c. Any time this plan is exercised or implemented during an emergency, a plan review and update process will be initiated by Richland County Dangerous Wild Animal Response Team (DWARD), with Richland County Emergency Management Agency's (EMA's) coordination and facilitation assistance.
- d. Any updates to this plan shall be submitted to the State Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Response Commission (DWAERC) through Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) If the annual review has been conducted and no updates are recommended, the Dangerous Wild Animal Response Team(DWARD) shall submit a message to the Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Response Commission (DWAERC) stating that fact.

8. ADDENDA AND NOTES

To view a list of Ohio Dangerous Wild Animals, go to

<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/DangerousWildAnimalAct/docs/Animal%20List.pdf>

- a. Attachment 1 – Dangerous Animal Registration Form
- b. Attachment 2 – Known Dangerous Wild Animal Locations within Richland County (for security reasons, this document is available to view in the EMA office only and is not attached to this plan)

Richland County Emergency Operations Plan

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Tab B: Dangerous Wild Animal Response Plan

Attachment 1: Dangerous Animal Registration Form

(Form is provided on pp. 11-37 to 11-39)



Dangerous Wild Animal Registration Form

As prescribed by Revised Code Section 935.04, a person possessing a dangerous wild animal on September 5, 2012 shall register the animal with the Director of the Department of Agriculture by November 5, 2012. Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture with any questions.

Please complete sections I-IV if applicable.

I. Person Registering the Dangerous Wild Animal(s)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Federal Employer Identification Number: _____

II. Location of the Dangerous Wild Animal(s) *Complete only if different from above section.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

III. Veterinarian Providing Care

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

IV. Description of Dangerous Wild Animal(s)

(Please use attached sheet)

V. Optional Information

Do you plan to seek a license to keep your dangerous wild animal(s) when licensing requirements go into effect?



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Do you anticipate needing assistance to find a home for a dangerous wild animal(s)?

Are you currently aware of any facts that would disqualify you from keeping your dangerous wild animal(s)?

I hereby acknowledge that I have read this form and affirm that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Print Name

Date



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IV. Description of Dangerous Wild Animal(s)

Scientific Name			Common Name		Given Name
Sex	Age	Color	Weight	Distinguishing Marks	Microchip Manufacturer & Number

Scientific Name			Common Name		Given Name
Sex	Age	Color	Weight	Distinguishing Marks	Microchip Manufacturer & Number

Scientific Name			Common Name		Given Name
Sex	Age	Color	Weight	Distinguishing Marks	Microchip Manufacturer & Number

Scientific Name			Common Name		Given Name
Sex	Age	Color	Weight	Distinguishing Marks	Microchip Manufacturer & Number

Scientific Name			Common Name		Given Name
Sex	Age	Color	Weight	Distinguishing Marks	Microchip Manufacturer & Number

Please use additional sheets if needed