



NATIONAL VACCINE TABLETOP EXERCISE

Vaccine Program Preparedness & Implementation

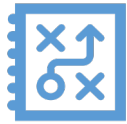


Post-Exercise Webinar Report

Special Thanks

- Dr. Tyler McAlpin, our USDA program manager
- Dr. Barbara Porter-Spalding, NTEP
- Dr. Darrel Styles, USDA SME
- Dr. Columb Rigney, USDA CEAH SME
- Drs. Susan Culp, Brandon Dominguez, Glennon Mays, facilitators
- Dr. Daniel Foster, technical wizard and music man
- Jessica Cargill, evaluator, Rachel Whisenant, Justin Buenger, Sarah Manning, breakout hosts
- Sarah Caffey, exercise coordinator

Focus areas for event



Planning
resources, draft
plans, tools



IMT > consensus
on event
management >>
regional/network
approaches



Various
operational
capabilities

Vaccine logistics (cold
chain, distribution)

Vaccine oversight

Animal identification

Surveillance



Readiness

Capability

Capacity

Timeliness

Break-out
discussions
provided
participants
the
opportunity
to evaluate

- Status of state-specific written plans
- Gaps in information needed
- Ability to prep/implement activities stated in plan
- Ability to ground truth or validate proposed tasks/capabilities in plan (readiness)

- Short-term goals and where should we strive to be in 5 years, 10 years versus low hanging fruit?

Categorization of observations from discussions

- A. Are there templates/planning components provided that would allow states the opportunity to construct a written, state-specific plan?
 - ✓ Identify deficiencies and gaps
 - ✓ Build plans consistent with the rest of the nation?
- B. Are state plans developed/oriented to begin implementation pre-event of preparatory activities, equipment, training, capacity, etc. for capabilities critical to a successful vaccine program? Can these be expanded to regional/network plans?
- C. Does planning include methodology to allow for validation of capacity, timeliness (readiness) of capabilities to ensure that proposed strategies and capabilities are realistic options?
- D. Do planning efforts include current, 2, 5-year goals that allow for addressing gaps/deficiencies as well as development of capacity and timeliness (readiness)?



Written State Plans

Readiness Evaluated

Regional / Network plans

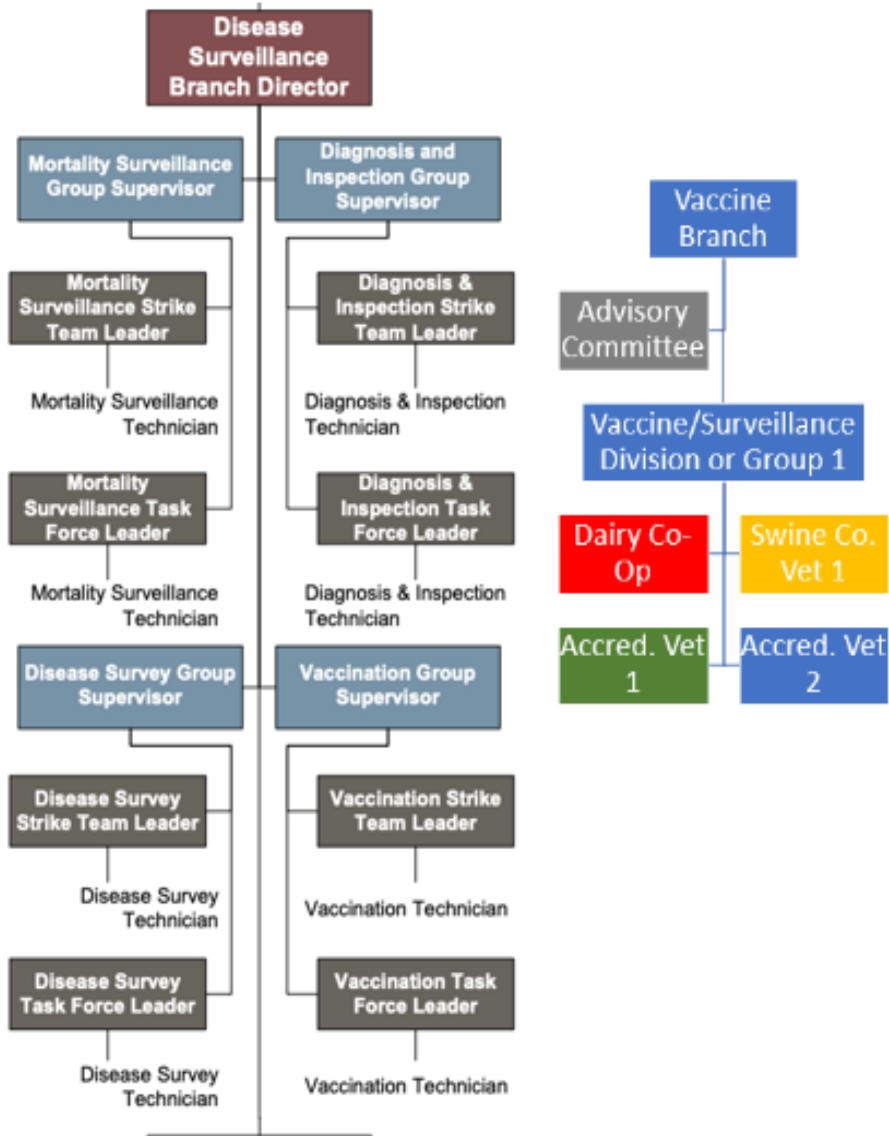
Domestic >> Export
Markets

Great news...as a nation we are in the early pupa stages...



- Have drafts (Iowa and California, Kansas (revision)) and the NTEP materials and guidance (Red Book, FADPReP, Secure Food Strategies, etc.) are abundant
- Similar starting point and opportunity to advance together understanding that we need plans “larger” than our state borders
- Ready to drill into operations components to pair with strategy

IMT Construction:



California

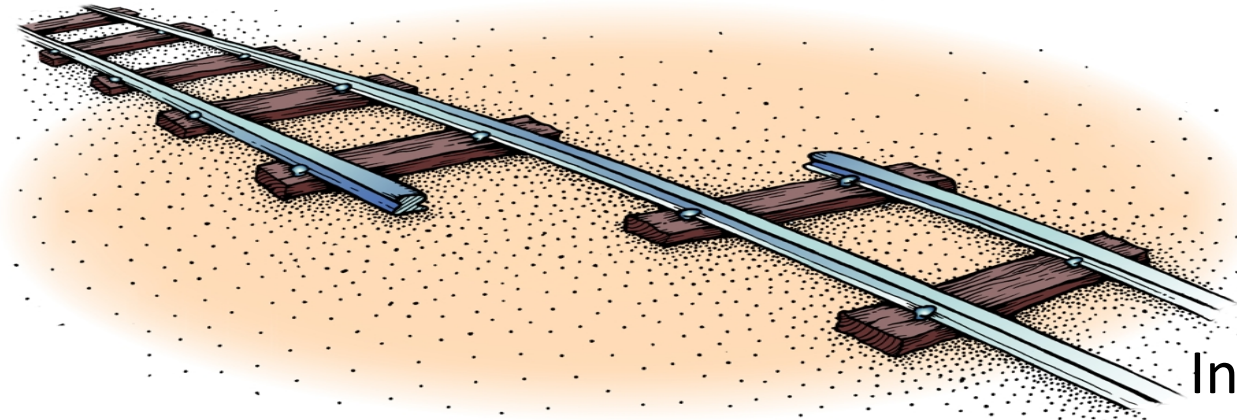


Considerations:

- ? Partnering with EM, Fire, PH for personnel
- ? How to include industry (VAG vs IMT- state specific)
- ? USDA Expertise (Tech Specialist vs Team)
- ? Where to position Vacc Surveillance: in Vacc Branch or along with other surveillance?
 - ? Who is performing the surveillance (same Cat II Vets?)

Partnership with Industry and Private Sector

Regulatory framework



Industry infrastructure

Private Sector and Industry are the operational resources

- ✓ Industry needs to be more involved going forward
- ✓ Roles of Category II Accredited Vets need to account for availability
- ✓ Roles of contractors (USDA versus state versus industry-organized)
- ✓ Long-term response dynamics need to be thought through

Vaccine Advisory Groups

Balancing act based on government's approach

Food is a critical infrastructure:
It is a regulatory disease
It is our job
We have to answer for plan
We will propose solutions
This is the plan

It is your industry, we are regulators:
You know your business best
You have the resources
You propose solutions
Your plan needs to fit our
regulatory framework



Key Planning Components Needing Additional Work

Farm Oversight

- **Who:** Initial response are Cat II Accredited Vets, possibly govt case managers, then contingency for shortages
- **What:** Is already defined in USDA guidance, training activities for personnel

Vaccination/Tagging

- **Who:** Commercial crews have their model, independents working with private practitioners (more work perhaps through Cooperative Extension training programs, producer programs such as QA and Dairy's FARM program)
- **What:** Is already defined in USDA guidance (final agreement on guidance in animal ID)

Surveillance

- **Who:** Cat II Accredited Vets already working with farm or surveillance teams
- **What:**
 - Existing guidance combined with comprehensive plan related to why testing is being done (permitting vs. program)
 - Laboratory plans that accommodate DIVA testing with confirming positives as needed

Addressing Trained Personnel Capacity

- States shared that they are lacking personnel trained specifically in:
 - Vaccine strategies specific to their state
 - Modeling, initial containment strategies based on production facilities, contingency planning involving status assessment
 - Operational components
 - Have IMT and Category II Accredited Vets but not nearly enough, and they will likely need additional training for their roles
 - Long term operations in addition to other duties

Suggestions to Meet the Need for Trained Personnel

Request

>

Federal SMEs

Who
should
attend?

>

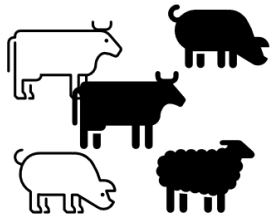
Targeted Training

>

Certificate Course

Cold Chain Logistics

Number of participants suggested that a Vaccine Program is primarily logistics with an embedded vaccinate/ID operations



Assess
how
much
vaccine



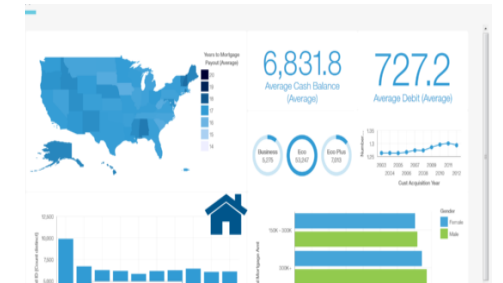
Distribute
in cold
chain



Vaccinate
and ID
animals



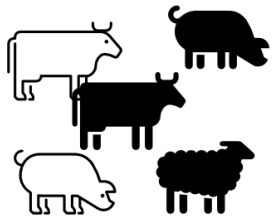
Record



Report to
system >>
Progress

Challenge

How does Department of Ag/Industry leverage all that logistical companies can offer to help each of these activities move faster/more efficiently and not tie up limited government veterinary personnel?



Assess
how
much
vaccine



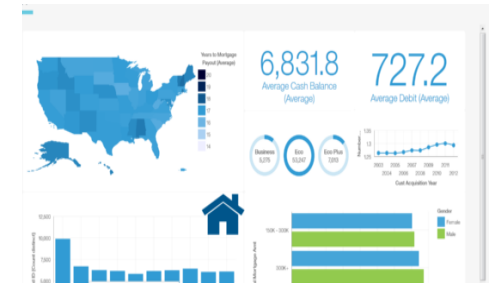
Distribute
in cold
chain



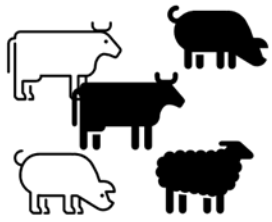
Vaccinate
and ID
animals



Record



Report to
system >>
Progress



How
much
vaccine



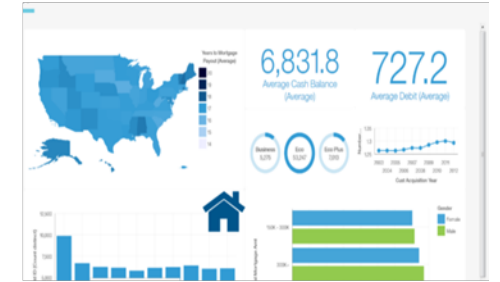
Distribute
in cold
chain



Vaccinate
and ID
animals

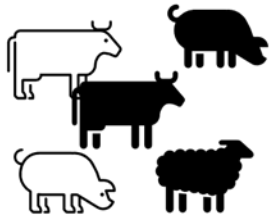


Record



Report to
system >>
Progress

Potential solutions proposed during discussions



How much vaccine



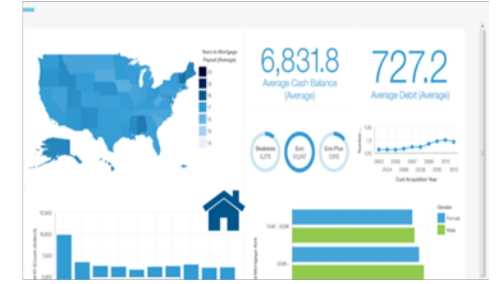
Distribute in cold chain



Vaccinate and ID animals



Record



Report to system >> Progress

Potential solutions proposed

Databases

++++ for states that have them

Phone banks, email, survey

---- labor and time

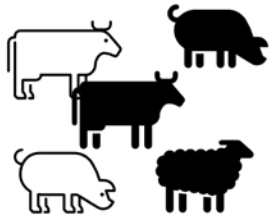
Portal

--++ not prepped

Portal with assessment

future

As some state govts are limited, can industry assist?



How much vaccine



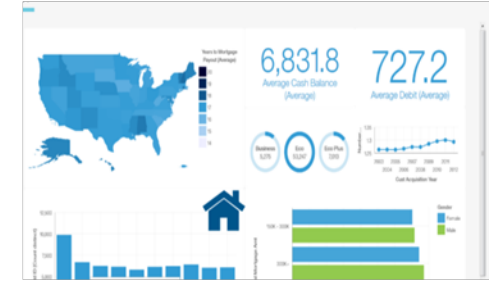
Distribute in cold chain



Vaccinate and ID animals



Record



Report to system >> Progress

Potential solutions proposed

Contracted Resource **

Partnership with Public Health**

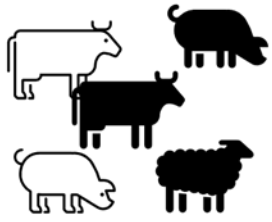
State based or regional

State based for now

What is Industry's role.....Boosters are on Industry's Dime

**** California (MWI)**

****North Dakota (PH)**



How much vaccine



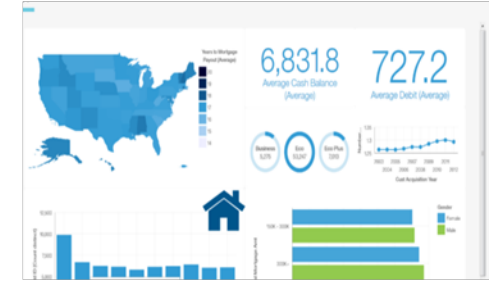
Distribute in cold chain



Vaccinate and ID animals



Record



Report to system >> Progress

Potential solutions proposed

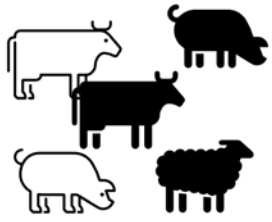
E-forms

Application that also documents farm vaccine plan

Private Practitioners not in EMRS

Ties into EMRS

Reporting needs to be real time to allow for assessment and changes in strategy/operations



How much vaccine



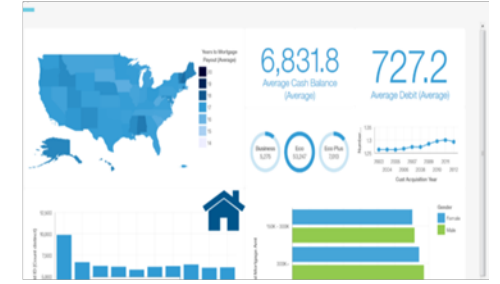
Distribute in cold chain



Vaccinate and ID animals



Record



Report to system >> Progress

Potential solutions proposed

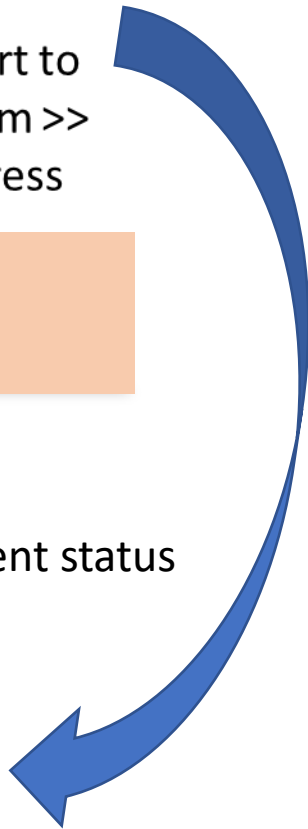
Dashboard showing key metrics (EMRS or other)

Readiness Assessment oriented > Current status

Forward Operations assessment (+ request time)

Evaluate response >>> future

Reporting needs to be real time to account for next days operations and logistics tasking



Custom-Built Tools

- States and Industry utilizing vision and expertise to build tools
- Great use of Farm Bill NADPRP funding
- Incorporating tools into IMT roles (Planning, Ops, Logistics, Finance)
- Jim Roth, Iowa State built theirs as a part of their NADPRP-funded vaccine plan building effort
- Rapid Access Biosecurity (RAB) app Machado Lab, NC State
- Who? Universities/Industry

FMD Potential Spread Estimator								
Ranking Element	Value of 0	Value of 1	Value of 3	Value of 5	Value Assigned	Weight Factor	Total Points	
Location of known infected premises								
Date			Time					VAxWF=TP
Animal density in and around the Control Area	N/A	Low	Moderate	High	0	4	0	
Extent of FMD spread	N/A	Contained to 1-2 premises and Control Areas with susceptible animals	Moderate number of premises (3 to 5) are infected with multiple control areas.	Large number of premises (>5) are infected with many control areas.	0	5	0	
Anticipated incidence and prevalence of the disease outbreak	N/A	There are few premises (1-4) in close proximity (10 km with susceptible species.	There are several premises (5-9) in close proximity (10 km radius) with susceptible species.	There are many premises (>10) in close proximity (10 km radius) with susceptible species.	0	5	0	
Animal species infected	N/A	Sheep/goats (shed low amounts of virus)	Cattle (shed moderate amounts of virus)	Swine (shed high amounts of virus)	0	3	0	
Weather during the infectious period	N/A	Hot, dry, sunny	Moderate between hot/dry and cool/humid	Cool, humid, cloudy	0	3	0	
			Predominant wind					

Exercise Evaluation Survey Results II

#	Field	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Total
1	The exercise was well structured and organized.	0.00% 0	2.33% 1	2.33% 1	20.93% 9	74.42% 32	43
2	The questions posed reflected realistic and relevant topics.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11.63% 5	20.93% 9	67.44% 29	43
3	The materials shared before the exercise were useful and prepared me for the exercise.	0.00% 0	2.38% 1	9.52% 4	28.57% 12	59.52% 25	42
4	The prep-webinars were helpful in providing information useful during the exercise.	0.00% 0	2.33% 1	6.98% 3	27.91% 12	62.79% 27	43
5	The exercise improved my understanding of the components of an effective vaccine response plan.	0.00% 0	4.65% 2	11.63% 5	18.60% 8	65.12% 28	43

Exercise Evaluation Survey Results II

#	Field	Strongly Disagree		Somewhat disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Somewhat agree		Strongly agree		Total
6	The exercise helped me understand my state's vaccine planning strengths and gaps.	0.00%	0	2.33%	1	6.98%	3	27.91%	12	62.79%	27	43
7	The exercise helped me to identify some of my strengths as well as some of the gaps in my understanding of response systems, plans, and procedures.	0.00%	0	2.33%	1	11.63%	5	25.58%	11	60.47%	26	43
8	The virtual format/platform allowed for conducive discussion and advancement of states' efforts to build effective vaccine plans.	2.33%	1	2.33%	1	11.63%	5	27.91%	12	55.81%	24	43
9	Overall, I am satisfied with the tabletop exercise.	2.38%	1	2.38%	1	2.38%	1	21.43%	9	71.43%	30	42

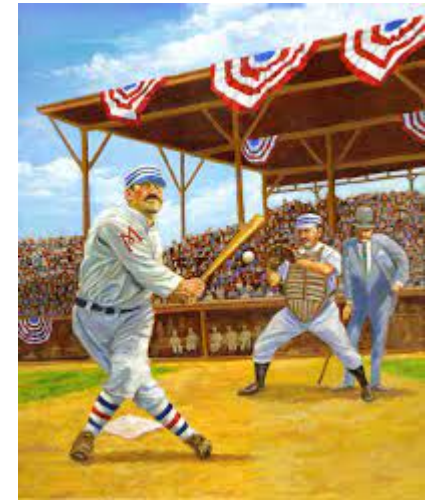
What was that sign?



- I registered ahead of time but was unable to find the link in the tab to join the exercise. The email was sent from a no-reply email, so I was unable to ask for help in joining the exercise. Therefore, I was unable to observe the exercise. >>> **COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS COMMUN.....!** (Yes, we see that we have much work to do... we noticed that a number of you were having everything from the invites go to spam, to some actually went to Mars and Pluto. So got to figure that out.)
- It seemed that some questions were so similar we came up with the same answers. Perhaps more in-depth review of possibilities when developing a secure plan. (We knew we would get this question... how did the 3 species differ in planning? So, a consensus and not much difference at all at this level of planning. Iteration II will not have any duplicate questions.)
- I struggled a little with the Whova site and navigation through all the materials as well as finding my way to the actual zoom conference and break out rooms. I am not the most tech savvy but I'm not terrible either. It just seemed a bit clunky to me. (Great point and one that we discussed. First, if we use the same link and folks leave it on, could privacy be an issue on break... Second, if we put too many links it will be a little crazy to navigate... we actually did both... i.e., it was the same link in actuality so if someone left theirs on, they could just pick right up, but listed a link back in for privacy and tracking purposes. I do not know which is best at this point.)

Mighty Casey has struck out!

- There will need to be more states with plans if one wants a more meaningful TTX. Perhaps a national template to exercise? (YES!, we wanted to change the title to Workshop but the proposal originally went in as “TTX” before Covid and before we found that only three states had plans with two in revision...original TTX was to only have 6 states in person with 3 having plans, so this title was definitely not in line with a conventional TTX)
- I don't think it is conducive, due to the amount of states participating, but it would be nice to have all states together that way we can hear each states feedback and perspectives, unless all sessions will be available after the exercise to view and listen to, which I would highly recommend. This will only help us all in developing our state plans. (YES, my biggest negative as well also for every exercise I have ever been in...lack of exposure to all that was said and learned! The duplicate questions was one way that we tried to expose participants to as much discussion as possible while being in different groups... but it was still too much duplication!!) This is a huge issue for us to work through as the next iteration will be to invite all states and having went through 36 hrs of discussion to prepare this ppt and the report is tough! Lol! A possible solution may be to see if the report and this webinar helps).
- I wish we could have seen who all the attendees were in all of the sessions. It was disappointing that we were limited to only seeing who was in our selected workshop. **Unfortunately, there was very minimal interaction on the website. I really tried to post questions and create discussion. Sadly, I only got one or two replies. Maybe there could be an incentive (a special certificate of participation) for the person with the most comments, posts, interactions, etc.** (Great points >>> Our hope was that COVID would improve to the point that states could have their Teams in the same room and could show them on their camera during the event....Question to 2nd point: would there be more likelihood that if such a platform was used in a longer time frame event, that people would use it more especially if it was used as a collaboration tool?)



What were you thinking?!?!?



- I think it would have been helpful having some information or background on the table from USDA on vaccine planning (i.e., higher level policies in place for vaccine planning), and then walking through actually developing a plan. (Iowa and California's plans had incorporated the latest and the strategic approaches were shared during webinars....but a great point and in Iteration II, as we drill down, there will be "walk-through approaches" for specific planning components like cold chain logistics, oversight, surveillance etc. so this comment will be put to use!)
- I would have liked some USDA interaction in the exercise and discussion questions. I didn't always know who was talking or to which state to attribute the comments as they were talking - I didn't actually know if they were state people talking or if USDA. I would have liked more identifiers to be available - maybe asking participants to add org to their screen names? (Yes, a true challenge to virtual settings... camera views of speakers could help and use of identifier backgrounds... will definitely research!)
- I would have liked a bit of a wrap up summary of what had been covered over the four days and what initial conclusions could be made. (Great point! This ppt and our report will hopefully give you both, but we are open to additional input to share as well!)
- Some visuals to go along with discussion questions would have been helpful - even if just displaying the active question(s) on the screen - some of the questions were multi-part and a little bit convoluted - I wasn't quick enough with the documents to find the questions in my participant materials to follow along. Great point. Maybe being nimble with the screen viewing (i.e., show question, then cut to each speaker. Another idea is posting question in chat function. And much more concise question writing would have helped.)

You did alright, kid...



- Participation [of states] was great. Exercise format/layout was good. Allowed states a platform to discuss & share ideas with each other. Breaking down by species made discussion more manageable. Great to talk about a tough topic; these type of events bring difficult subjects to the forefront.
- Relationship [building] and discussion in the 'room' is important. Gathered a few ideas from other participants. Helpful to know where we are [in planning] relative to others. Will help motivate all of us to plug holes in our plans or at least identify them.

Great Points



- Perhaps pairing up states without good plans with states which are further along in the process would be helpful. (A great idea as states get further along and especially as we get into regional and network planning.)
- It was mentioned, but inclusion of more logistics and emergency management professionals. I need to look at the participant list again, but I think it was veterinary-heavy. That's important, because of the subject matter, but I think that we hit on the fact that once we get past strategy and how it must be administered on-farm, the logistics of getting the vaccine where it needs to be with cold chain in mind CAN and WILL be accomplished with the expertise of our logisticians within state departments of agriculture and our partners at state emergency management agencies. The more they know about this before a bad day, the better they can integrate with us when the big thing happens. Next steps - inclusion of industry, local? And state EM, local and state public health professionals who have the experience of COVID-19 vaccination planning and execution, DHS, FEMA... These could all be separate TTXs leading up to a bigger one, or maybe one that just focuses on the logistics piece. (Preach! Support agencies should absolutely be a part of your states planning group and participate in your Vaccine Advisory Group planning sessions that are appropriate to their role. Some states had those folks sitting in their groups during this TTX/Workshop. I may not have emphasized that enough in the pre-event webinars, but I also understand that some states wanted to have just their SAHO folks present. In iteration II, we will identify when recommended support agencies, etc. should be present. We recommend that Industry become a much bigger player going forward now that you have the regulatory framework in place.)




Written state specific plans

Readiness evaluated

Regional / Network

Domestic >> Export

- 
- A sunset over a beach with people walking in the distance. The sky is filled with warm, orange and yellow hues, and the sun is low on the horizon. The beach is visible in the foreground, and the ocean waves are breaking in the distance. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.
- Share information back out to you, the participants
 - This ppt, final project report, supporting documents
 - Share information to USDA
 - Feedback, Final Project Report, Observations, Participant evaluations, supporting documents

- 
- IIAD will apply for a 2-year NADPRP grant
 - Further state plans (5 modules every 2 months)
 - Advance regional and network planning
 - Utilize National Vaccine Planning Working Group
 - State planning teams (SAHO reps (lead), USDA, EM, PH, LE, **INDUSTRY!!!**)
 - Many of the same participants from the initial TTX/Workshop)
 - National **Industry** representation
 - USDA