

# Better Training for Safer Food BTSF

Information exchange on veterinary issues

PhD, DVM Sten Mortensen and MVPH, DVM Maren Holm Johansen Danish Veterinary Services





### **OBJECTIVES** on information exchange

- Information exchange with stakeholders
- Information exchange with general public
- Information exchange with international organizations
- Information exchange between veterinary services and "supporting sectors"
- Information exchange between central and local level (internal communication)





## OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- 1. Legislative aspects
- 2. External communication
- 3. International communication
- 4. Internal communication
- 5. Communication plan
- 6. Conclusion





## Legislative aspects Ex. ASF

Council Directive 2002/60/EC

- Article 3: Notification of suspicion to competent authority and to the Commission and MS
- Article 21: Contingency plan (transparency in plans)
- Article 22: Disease control centers (demands on providing information)
- Annex I: Notification of disease to EU and OIE (how to..)
- Annex VI: Training in communication techniques in order to organize information campaigns





#### **External Communication**

<u>AIM:</u> to provide appropriate, clear and accurate information to the key audience

A proactive communication approach can:

- reduce pressure on press office
- acting in advance of future situation
- be forward looking

Alternative: wait-and-see option (will usually result in need for damage control..)



#### **External Communication**

Key audiences

- A. Persons directly involved in the outbreak
- B. Other farmers
- C. The public in the general



#### **External Communication**

#### Communication channels

- Press releases
- Mail shots
- Stakeholder group meetings
- Stakeholder e-mail updates
- Text messaging service
- Public events
- Social medias









#### The stakeholders I

**Farmers directly involved** (IP's and farmers in restriction zones) – push..push information!

Main topics - to order restrictions..

Direct communication

Registration i databases

Direct telephone numbers

Fast hotlines

Websites registrations



## The stakeholders II

Farmers "at risk" (farmers with susceptible animals)

- push information...

Main topics – to raise the alertness and to minimize the risk of spreading the disease

**Hotlines** 

Websites

Farmer magazines

Youtube, facebook, twitter





#### **General external communication**

push and pull information

Communication channels

- Press conferences (description of the situation)
- Videos from e.g. simulations exercises
- Press/News release
- Radio broadcasts
- Articles and adverts in Agricultural trade press
- Public Websites
- Public hotlines



#### Website

- pull information

#### Website may contain:

- disease background
- the current situation
- latest update page
- clinical signs
- biosecurity advice
- minutes of stakeholder meetings







#### Website

#### Website may contain:

- maps of zones with protective measures
- copies of letters sent to producers
- trade issues
- zoonotic aspects of the disease
- FAQ (frequently asked questions)
- links to legislation (control, welfare, economy)
- links to News Releases



## **Examples 1**

Utube upload

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2W9CgAooM&list=UUXV14pQStNln11pjSgZEeoA&index=4& feature=plcp



### **Openness and transparency**

All actions must be carried out in an open and transparent manner Important for:

- increasing disease awareness
- a better understanding of roles and responsibilities by the industry, the public and other countries



## Openness and transparency - an example





#### **International Communication**



Communication relates to:



The European Union (EU)
The World Organization for Animal Health
Neighboring countries
Trading partners
World Health Organization
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Delay in reporting can have serious consequences for control and trade



#### International communication

Messages on disease outbreaks can be received via:

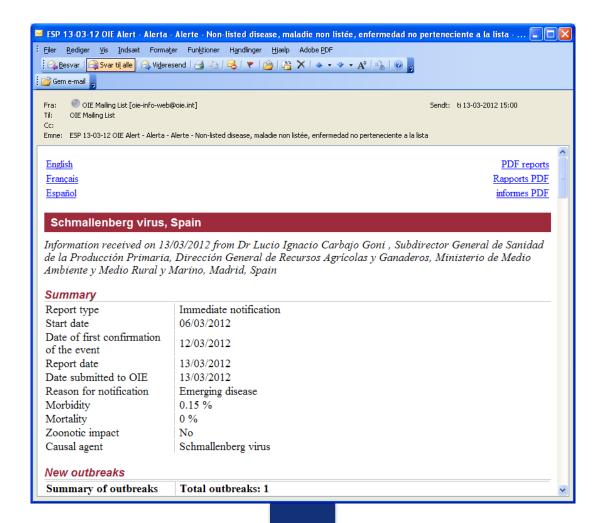
- OIE: www.oie.int

- ProMED-mail: <u>www.promedmail.org</u>





#### **OIE Immediate notification**





## **OIE** Weekly information



file:///C:/Users/Jørgen/Documents/CROATIA2010/WAHID%20Interfa... 12-12-2011



## Communications between veterinary services and "supporting sectors"

Lab, police, civil forces, local authorities, the military ..

Staff meetings

Daily updates

Common picture of the situation

Coordination of press handling!



#### **Internal Communication**

#### Key audiences:

- Minister
- Chief Veterinary Officer
- Head office
- Field offices (Regional and Local)
- National Diagnostic Laboratory
- Press office





#### **COMMUNICATION - MINISTER**

#### Peace time work:

The Minister to be informed about the significance of most important epidemic diseases with regard to:

- the impact on livelihoods
- commerce
- disease control/eradication obligations



#### **COMMUNICATION - MINISTER**

Disease suspicion/confirmation
The Minister shall be informed about:

- The current disease situation
- Salient facts about the specific disease
- The legislation covering disease control
- The budget for disease control
- Communication within the Government, International organizations, stakeholders, trade partners and the media



#### **Internal communication**

- top level

Daily Communication meeting Agenda: strategy, messages, media handling

- communication section of the NDCC and the ministers press officer
- a daily forum for identifying and agreeing on key points in communication of the situation



#### **Internal communication**

- lower level

Communication between local and central level "making a communicative high way"

Liaison officers

Daily conferences

- by video or telephone

Common daily description of the situation



## How to make a good communicative highway?

Peace time training in communication conferences

Plans for how to communicate efficiently between LDCC and NDCC levels

Good communication infrastructure in NDCC and LDCC

Liaison officers training in peace time (e.g. exercises and small scale training)

Knowledge of one another





## **Communication plan**

- a guide to the communication to be provided by the veterinary service
- a living working document and should be up-dated periodically
- -contains a training component
- -explains how to convey the right messages from the right communicator, to the right audience, through the right channel at the right time.



## Communication plan (Cont).

- 6 basic elements

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"Who" – the target audience
"What" – the message to be transmitted
"When" – time
"Why" – the desired outcome
"How" – the communication vehicle
"By whom" – the sender
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#### CONCLUSION

A Communication plan should be an integrated part of the Contingency Plan

The Communication plan should cover Internal, External and International Communications

Make use of multiple media and channels

Ensure that key audiences are targeted

Provide appropriate, clear, accurate and consistent information confined to the truth





## Many Thanks for your attention - any questions?