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Department of Homeland Security/Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency/National Risk Management Center (DHS/CISA/NRMC) RFI #3350 Regarding COVID-19

Food and Agriculture Sector Submission, May 18th, 2020

Updates are in bold:

1. What current impacts, if any, is your sector experiencing from COVID-19:
   a. Product or Commodity Shortages
      1. Shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) needed for non-COVID-19/steady state operations (e.g., construction, manufacturing)
         - Animal drug manufacturing is negatively impacted by delays in delivery of PPE for employees engaged in the production of sterile injectable and other drug products. (CVM, 5/11)
         - Parts of the animal food industry need to wear PPE (masks or gloves) to safely do their job and need protection from normal job hazards such as dust or chemical inhalation or to aid in the safe handling of certain chemicals. (CVM)
         - Veterinary and animal care (both in veterinary clinics and on farms) are being negatively impacted by the declining availability of PPE required for normal operations. (CVM)
         - Personnel require PPE to perform routine public health related activities, including activities related to preventing the spread of zoonotic and other infectious diseases in animals. (CVM)
      2. Shortage of PPE for COVID-19 related workforce protection purposes (e.g., face masks for workers)
         - The animal food industry and food supply chains are concerned about the shortage of PPE (masks and gloves) and disinfectants/cleaners needed for workforce protection and workplace sanitation purposes. This week CVM provided them with the FEMA list of PPE suppliers for their awareness. (CVM, 5/4)
         - Veterinary and animal care (both in veterinary clinics and on farms) are being negatively impacted by the declining availability of PPE needed for workforce protection purposes. Many veterinary practices have already cut back on non-essential procedures and adopted telemedicine. (CVM)
         - Limits on the amount of facemasks that agricultural businesses may purchase for their workforce, such as facemasks and gloves. (NMDA, NMSU)
      3. Shortage of commodity or product needed for COVID-19 response (e.g., ethanol to produce hand sanitizer)
         - Shortage of hand sanitizer for employees. Monitoring surface sanitizing products related to food production. Initially we received some indication that PPE was hard to find for some farmers, but switched vendors and received. EOC then put out a list of local distillers that where producing hand sanitizer so that industry could purchase through those locally. Most mask are bandanas in the farm workers and social distancing is being promoted. (NMDA, NMSU)
      4. Shortage of other critical commodity or product(s) supporting a National Critical Function
         - Due to the decreases in meat processing, there are decreases or sporadic unavailability of animal protein ingredients for animal food use (e.g., meat and bone meal, tallow, blood and plasma ingredients, poultry meal, poultry by-product meal). These ingredients would normally be created from the by-products of slaughter facilities. (CVM, 5/11)
         - Industry partners are reporting a shortage of wheat middlings due to a decreased demand for flour to make human bakery food. There are also shortages in bakery waste ingredients and used cooking oil, which are used to make animal food, due to decreased restaurant and retail
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foodservice operations. Adjustments are having to be made to livestock rations to replace this ingredient in the formulations. (CVM, 5/4)

- Poultry processors that supply foodservice are experiencing a great deal of difficulty. Many do not have retail packaging capability and cold storage is over capacity. (USDA)
- There are shortages of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used to manufacture certain animal drugs. (CVM)
- As a result of reduced fuel ethanol production, there is a shortage of food-grade CO2 used to manufacture and process food, including hogs. (CVM)
- As a result of reduced fuel ethanol production, major by-products that enter the animal food stream [dried distillers grains (DDG) and dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGs)] are not available. Adjustments are having to be made to livestock rations to replace this ingredient in the formulations. (CVM)
- There is a shortage of isopropyl alcohol necessary to manufacture some animal food and drugs. (CVM)
- There is a shortage of laboratory supplies (swabs, testing reagents, etc.) that are normally used for animal disease testing, including zoonotic and reportable diseases. (CVM)

b. Workforce Shortages/Absenteeism – None reported at this time, but limited number of cases in rural NM. (NMDA, NMSU, 5/4)

1. Are there vacancies within your sector that could be readily filled on either a temporary or permanent basis by displaced workers from other sectors?
   - Yes, there are vacancies in animal food manufacture, including rendering plants, pet food and feed mills. (CVM)
   - In some instances, vacancies can be filled quickly by unskilled workers. Other vacancies require specialized training. (NMDA, NMSU)

2. If yes, what specific training might be required for them?
   - Animal food facility workers would need training to become “qualified individuals,” which includes job-specific training and training in the principles of animal food safety and animal food hygiene as it pertains to the work they are doing. (CVM)
   - Food safety training, heavy equipment operation, pesticide or herbicide application and safety. (NMDA, NMSU)
   - Food safety and essential worker guidelines for ppe have been drafted and sent out to producer list. FSMA produce safety trainings still being coordinated. (NMDA, NMSU)

c. Increased Demand
- Poultry retail is up by 20-30 percent. (USDA)
- On public health officials, including state veterinarians and state public health veterinarians. (CVM)
- For laboratory supplies (swabs, testing reagents, etc.) that are being used for human testing for COVID-19. (CVM)
- Increased demand for shelf-stable products. (NMDA, NMSU)

d. Decreased Demand
- Wine - Revenue losses for the more than 10,000 wineries and more than 8,000 wine grape growers in the U.S. due to COVID-19 could reach $5.94 billion on an annualized basis in 2020, according to a new analysis by wine industry expert Jon Moramarco. This is largely due to lost sales at restaurants, hotels, etc., as well as tasting room sales. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of all U.S. wineries produce less than 50,000 cases and are estimated to experience annual revenue losses of between 36% to 66% with smaller wineries most impacted.
- **Grains and oilseeds:** U.S. corn, wheat, and soybean prices fell on Tuesday due to the spill-over effect from the crash in crude oil prices to historic lows. Corn remained near 10.5-year lows as the slump in U.S. crude oil demand is expected to reduce demand for corn-based ethanol. (USDA)

- **Poultry Foodservice sales** are off by about 70 percent. (USDA)

- For certain human food commodities, especially those that are normally supplied to the restaurant industry. The decreased demand in these industries can impact animal food supply, as by-products from human food production usually are sent to animal food. (CVM)

- For routine veterinary and animal care. (CVM)

- A significant decrease in demand for perishable items whose primary consumer were schools and the foodservice industry. (NMDA, NMSU)

### e. Cybersecurity

- Increased instances of scamming related to governmental programs (NMDA, NMSU)

### f. Other?

- **North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Annual Meeting** is postponed until sometime later in 2021. A notice to stakeholders is posted on the NAPPO website. (USDA)

- **The Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA) Annual Meeting and the Western United States Trade Association (WUSATA) Board Meeting** scheduled for July 2020, have been canceled. (USDA)

- **World Fruit Industry Expo postponed:** The world fruit industry expo, originally scheduled to be held in July, will be postponed to September 24-26, 2020 in the Guangzhou Canton Fair Exhibition Hall. (USDA)

- **Western China International Fair (WCIF) 2020** was scheduled to take place in Chengdu from September 20-24, but has now been cancelled. (USDA)

- The [National Incident Coordination Center](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/niss/ncic) website is now live on the APHIS website. The website will provide information on support to producers whose animals cannot move to market as a result of processing plant closures due to COVID-19. (USDA, APHIS)

- Monitoring for and taking action to remove from the market unapproved animal drug products claiming to treat, prevent, mitigate or diagnose COVID-19 in animals or that may be diverted for use in humans against COVID-19. (CVM, 5/11)

- **Poultry exports** face a shortage of containers, particularly on the West Coast, as many are in China waiting to be filled with manufactured goods. Ocean carriers are not cooperative in resolving the shortage. (USDA)

- China’s State Council issued a notice requesting that all exhibitions and trade shows be further postponed. The notice does not give a specific date for when these types of activities can resume. (USDA)

- Agricultural trade between Canada and the United States continues to flow relatively unimpeded and in response to market signals. (USDA)

- **GLOBAL** - One coronavirus related matter receiving little attention is the effect of restrictions on the movement of bees for pollination. Normally bees are moved via trucks throughout areas where pollination is needed but most transport is now stopped or severely restricted. While bee pollination is not an important factor in the grain business, the restrictions may complicate production of some specialty crops. (USDA)

- One of the country’s largest pork processing facilities is closing until further notice as employees fall ill with Covid-19. The Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Smithfield facility accounts for 4% to 5% of the country’s pork production and employs about 3,700 people, according to Smithfield.

- Mexico has included foods among its list of priority items to receive import permits, alleviating U.S. concerns that agricultural trade would slow to a trickle. Foodservice importers report cheese demand down 30-40% in March and expect further erosion in the coming months.
- On April 16, the National Sunflower Association (NSA) conducted a virtual trade seminar with baking demonstrations for Mexican consumers for 70 participants. NSA is hopeful that utilizing virtual activities will actually end up being more beneficial to the industry since it is easier to reach a wider-range audience at the same time.

- On April 16, Horticultural Crops participated in the American Pecan Council’s International Committee meeting. The committee discussed their Program Year (PY) 2020 Market Access Program activities and their plans for PY 2020.

- Need for extensive messaging around animal health related to COVID-19 – susceptibility, transmission, clinical and testing guidelines, etc. (CVM)

- Seafood Expo Global (SEG) 2020: The Seafood Expo Global 2020 trade show, scheduled for April 21-23 in Brussels, has been canceled. SEG has been USDA-endorsed since 2011 and continues to be the leading USDA-endorsed trade show in sales. In 2019, the USA Pavilion’s 43 exhibitors generated a record 12-month projected sales of over $1.2 billion and on-site sales of nearly $195 million. Next year’s SEG will be held on April 27-29, 2021 in Barcelona, Spain. (USDA)

- China’s State Council issued a notice requesting that all exhibitions and trade shows be further postponed. The notice does not give a specific date for when these types of activities can resume, but it does note that no exhibitions and trade shows should be held at this time. (USDA)

- China’s 29th HOTELEX has been further postponed (from June 15-18 to November 10-12) and will now be held in various cities, including, Chengdu: August 13-15; Tianjin: September 23-25; Shanghai: November 10-12; and Guangzhou: December 15-17. (USDA)

- The China Food & Drinks Fair (CFDF) also known as “Tangjiu Hui” further postponed their spring show from the initial postponed dates of May 21-23, but no new new date has been set. The CFDF’s spring show may be combined with the autumn show scheduled for the September-October time frame. (USDA)

- VinExpo Hong Kong is canceled. It was originally scheduled in May but postponed to July. It is a biannual tradeshow and the largest wine show in Asia. (USDA)

- Germany has cancelled Oktoberfest! (USDA)

- The 2020 International Wine Technical Summit (IWTS) in Napa, California had to be cancelled. The organizers developed a two-part global webinar that will take place over the same time period as the IWTS was previously scheduled – June 1-4, 2020 (USDA, 5/4)

2. What additional impacts do you anticipate your sector will experience from COVID-19 over the next:
   a. 30 Days?
      - Continued impact from fuel ethanol facility closures that result in decrease in DDG and DDGs availability for animal food and CO2 for humane slaughter (CVM, 5/4)
      - Animal welfare issues are possible as production facilities and farms struggle with decreased market demand, overcrowding, and insufficient workforce. (CVM, 5/4)
      - Culling of large numbers of healthy food animals (CVM, 5/4)
      - Carcass disposal (e.g., environmental) problems (CVM, 5/4)
      - Animal processors (e.g., renderers) overwhelmed by carcass processing demand (CVM, 5/4)
      - Animal food safety concerns, if food animals euthanized in an unsuitable manner are used for animal food (CVM, 5/4)
      - More food waste if markets don’t open up. (NMDA, NMSU)
      - Potential shortages of PPE (such as masks, swabs, gloves) (CVM)
      - Supply chain issues with animal food requiring reformulations (CVM)
      - Increased instances of absenteeism as workers become sick or must care for family members (NMDA, NMSU)
      - Increased financial pressure on businesses experiencing a sharp decline in demand for their products and other economic variables. (NMDA, NMSU)
b. 60 Days?
- (same as for 30 Days, but more pronounced) (CVM)
- Potential shortages of PPE (such as masks, swabs, gloves) (CVM)
- Supply chain issues with animal food requiring reformulations. Specifically, CVM is currently monitoring the animal protein ingredient supply chain as many slaughter facilities go off-line. While most livestock food can be reformulated, protein ingredient shortages could create more significant challenges for pet food manufacture. (CVM, 5/4)
- Continued financial pressure on businesses that have lost connections to upstream and downstream business interactions. (NMDA, NMSU)

c. 90 Days?
- (same as for 30 Days, but more pronounced) (CVM)
- Potential shortages of PPE (such as masks, swabs, gloves) (CVM)
- Supply chain issues with animal food requiring reformulations (CVM)
- Protein ingredient shortages for animal food (CVM, 5/4)

3. What assistance does your sector need from the federal government?
   a. Waivers for regulation
      - It would be helpful for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to issue guidance or provide a less burdensome pathway for state veterinary laboratories to get CLIA certification to support their states and assist with human sample testing. (CVM, 5/4)
      - Continued assessments of regulatory burdens that are disrupting supply chairs or keeping products from consumers. (Example requirements at meatpacking plants in New Mexico.) (NMDA, NMSU)
   b. Assistance with visa waivers for workers
      - Care and raising of livestock (CVM)
      - Animal food production (CVM)
      - The agricultural sector requires labor supplied by H2A visas. (NMDA, NMSU)
   c. Guidance on PPE prioritization
      - For food supply chain workers, including those caring for food animals, producing and manufacturing animal and human food, renderers, etc. (CVM)
   d. Guidance on prioritization of COVID-19 testing
      - Prioritization for testing workers in the human and animal food supply, including those caring for food animals, producing and manufacturing animal and human food, renderers, etc. (CVM)
   e. Other

4. What actions are parts of your sector taking to contribute to the national response?
   a. Shifting production to high demand response items (e.g., face masks, hand sanitizer)
      - Shifting production of items meant for schools and food service to other venues such as grocers or food banks. (NMDA, NMSU)
   b. Providing free resources for the public
      - Federal partners have formed a One Health working group to collaborate on response efforts and provide consistent public messaging around animal health, diagnostics, testing and care. (CVM)
      - CVM’s COVID-19 landing page – provides critical information to the public and industry, including Q and A’s on not self-medicating with animal drugs. (CVM)
      - Provision of food products to social programs. (NMDA, NMSU)
   c. Providing free resources for other businesses
   d. Providing support for testing clinics, alternate care facilities, etc.
      - As of May 14, 2020, there are eight National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories with the capability to test human samples for COVID-19. Seven of these are animal testing laboratories and one is a public health laboratory that is also approved as a NAHLN laboratory to test animal samples for several high-consequence diseases. Two additional NAHLN
laboratories are actively pursuing Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments certification, which is required to test human samples for COVID-19. (USDA, APHIS)

- CVM and other stakeholders are working with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and veterinary diagnostic laboratories to help support increased human testing capacity. (CVM)
- FDA has issued an EUA and associated guidance for ventilators to treat patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the EUA, veterinary ventilators could be repurposed for human use if the ventilators meet the eligibility criteria. (CVM)
- Animal care, including veterinary care, has been limited to only performing essential procedures to free up PPE and other medical supplies for human use. Many veterinary practices have already cut back on non-essential procedures and adopted telemedicine. (CVM)
- Work is being done to explore the feasibility of using approved animal drugs to treat humans in an emergency. (CVM)

e. Other

- CVM issued guidance on “Reporting and Mitigating Animal Drug Shortages during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” to provide recommendations on the information animal drug sponsors should submit to CVM to report and mitigate animal drug shortages during the public health emergency. (CVM)
- On April 26, USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service shared Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Labor (DOL) guidance specific to the meat and poultry processing industry in order to facilitate ongoing operations and support the food supply, while also mitigating the risk of spreading COVID-19. FSIS distributed to industry organizations, regulated establishments, and employees. These guidelines were developed recognizing that these establishments and their operations are critical to the security of the nation’s food supply. Steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 should remain in place throughout the pandemic and to the extent that companies must reduce or alter capacity, split shifts, or add additional processing days to implement the CDC and DOL recommendations, FSIS remains committed to ensuring that food safety regulations are met. (USDA, 5/4)
- CVM is coordinating across the USG and other parts of the sector for messaging around animal health related to COVID-19. (CVM)
- CVM is coordinating across FDA’s foods program on messaging (food safety, food availability, worker safety) and providing ongoing communications to the animal food industry. New messaging on how to safely resume operations that have temporarily been suspended due to COVID-19 or the seasonal nature of the operation is forthcoming. (CVM, 5/4)
- CVM is working with animal drug, device, and food industry stakeholders to anticipate and help mitigate the effects of potential supply chain disruptions. (CVM, 5/4)
- FDA has issued guidance regarding flexibility with certain requirements, such as those associated with some FSMA regulations. (CVM)
- FDA is evaluating the advisability of providing regulatory flexibility in certain circumstances. FDA has issued a guidance document on an enforcement policy that applies to specific requirements in three FDA Food Safety Modernization Act regulations. (CVM)
- On 24 April, 2020 USDA announced the publication of a Request for Proposal and the recorded webinar for the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Purchase Program. Under the new food box
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purchase program, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Commodity Procurement Program will procure an estimated $100 million per month in fresh fruits and vegetables, $100 million per month in a variety of dairy products, and $100 million per month in meat products. Distributors and wholesalers will then provide a pre-approved box of fresh produce, dairy, and meat products to food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other non-profits serving Americans in need. The Request for Proposal and other applicable attachments are available at https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/farmers-to-families-food-box. (USDA)