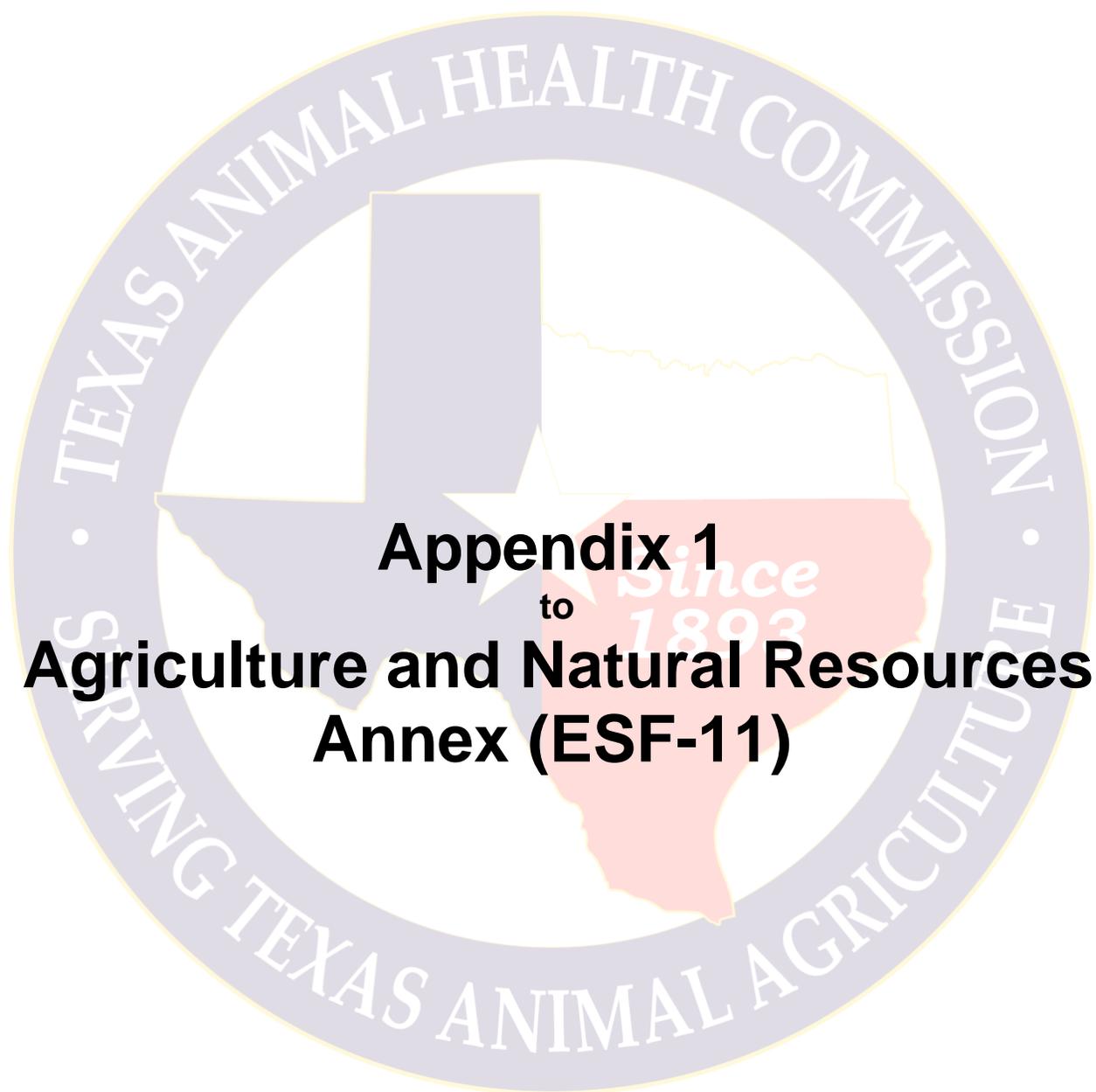


# Animal Response Plan



**Appendix 1**  
to  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
**Annex (ESF-11)**

**STATE OF TEXAS**  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## Appendix 1

# ANIMAL RESPONSE PLAN

## APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Appendix is hereby approved for implementation and supersedes any and all previous editions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Schwartz, D.V.M.  
Executive Director  
State Veterinarian  
Texas Animal Health Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## RECORD OF CHANGES

CHANGE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF CHANGE	INITIALS AND DATE CHANGED
1	Change "Texas Military Forces" to "Texas Military Department": Section VI Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities	04-29-2016 Olivia Hemby
2	Add "Texas Military Department" to Section III Explanation of Terms list	04-29-2016 Olivia Hemby
3	Change "Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service" to "Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service": Section VI Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities	04-29-2016 Olivia Hemby
4	Change "assistive animals" to "service and assistance animals": Section III Explanation of Terms, Section IV Situation and Assumptions	04-29-2016 Olivia Hemby
5	Correct formatting in Attachment C	04-29-2016 Olivia Hemby
6	Add AgriLife Mission Ready Packages (MRPs) and Texas A&M Veterinarian Emergency Team (Texas A&M VET) resources to Attachment C	04-29-2016 Olivia Hemby
7	Change Approving Signature from former Executive Director Dee Ellis to current Executive Director Andy Schwartz	04-13-2017 Olivia Hemby
8	Update "Annex O" to "Agriculture and Natural Resources (ESF-11)": Approval page	04-13-2017 Olivia Hemby
9	Change "Livestock Supply Points" to "Animal Supply Points", in Section VI	06-20-2017 Olivia Hemby
10	Update Section III, Acronyms and Definitions	06-20-2017 Olivia Hemby



**APPENDIX 1**  
**ANIMAL RESPONSE PLAN**  
**(For Non-disease, Animal-Related Events)**

**I. AUTHORITY**

- A. 44 CFR, § 206.225 (a) (3) (J): *Work and Service to Safe Lives and Protect Property*
- B. 44 CFR, § 611 (e) (4): *Emergency Preparedness Measures*
- C. 44 CFR, § 611 (j) (2): *Financial Contributions*
- D. 44 CFR, § 613 (g): *Standards for State and Local Emergency Preparedness Operational Plans*
- E. State of Texas: *Emergency Management Plan*
- F. State of Texas: *Emergency Management Plan, Annex O: Animals, Agriculture, and Food & Feed Safety*
- G. Texas Administrative Code, Title 4, Part 2: *Texas Animal Health Commission*
- H. Texas Agriculture Code, § 2: *State Agricultural Policy*
- I. Texas Agriculture Code, § 161.0416: *Emergency Management*
- J. Texas Government Code, § 418.190: *Agriculture Emergency Response Plan*

**II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

- A. The purpose of this appendix is to provide an integrated strategy for implementing and coordinating animal response operations for non-disease animal-related incidents.
- B. This appendix will:
  - 1. Describe the coordination and procedures necessary for the protection and care of animals prior to, during, and subsequent to a non-disease emergency event.
  - 2. Describe the processes necessary for the effective evacuation, transportation, sheltering, feeding, and safe return of livestock, poultry, service and assistance animals, and household pets to their place of origin or to another appropriate location if required by a non-disease incident.
  - 3. Outline governmental and other organizational actions necessary to accomplish animal response operations for non-disease animal-related incidents.

### III. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

#### A. Acronyms

The background of the page features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the Texas State Seal. The seal is circular and contains the text "TEXAS STATE SEAL" at the top, "COMMISSION" on the right, and "NON-AGRICULTURE" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a map of Texas with the text "Since 1893" overlaid on it.

ABMT	Animal Branch Management Team
AFO	Animal Feeding Operation
AgriLife	Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service
AHT	Animal Health Technician (USDA-VS)
AIC	Animal Issues Committee
AIMT	Animal Branch Incident Management Team
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA)
APHIS-AC	USDA-APHIS-Animal Care
APHIS-FSIS	USDA-APHIS-Food Safety and Inspection Service
APHIS-VS	USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services
APHIS-WS	USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services
ANAT	Animal Needs Assessment Team
AROCC	Animal Response Operations Coordination Center
ART	Animal Response Team
ASP	Animal Supply Point
BRT	Basic Response Team
CARP	Community Animal Response Plan
CEA	County Extension Agent
CEP	Cooperative Extension Program
CPA	Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
DDC	Disaster District Chair
DDC	Disaster District Committee
DSHS	Department of State Health Services
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FSA	USDA Farm Service Agency
HERT	Horseback Emergency Response Team
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
IC	Incident Commander
ICA	Independent Cattleman's Association
ICS	Incident Command System
IMT	Incident Management Team
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
JIC	Joint Information Center
LSHT	Livestock Handling Team
LVT	Licensed Veterinarian Technician
MRP	Mission Ready Package
NDMN	National Donations Management Network
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
OTSC	Office of the Texas State Chemist
PIO	Public Information Officer
PVAMU	Prairie View A&M University
SAHO	State Animal Health Official
SEMC	State Emergency Management Council
SITREP	Situation Report
SOC	State Operations Center

SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TACA	Texas Animal Control Association
TAD	Texas Association of Dairymen
TAHC	Texas Animal Health Commission
TAMFS	Texas A&M Forest Service
TAMU	Texas A & M University
TAMU,CVMBS	Texas A&M University, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TCFA	Texas Cattle Feeders Association
TDA	Texas Department of Agriculture
TDCJ	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
TDEM	Texas Division of Emergency Management
TFB	Texas Farm Bureau
TMD	Texas Military Department
TPF	Texas Poultry Federation
TPPA	Texas Pork Producers Association
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSCRA	Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
TSGRA	Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association
TSSWCB	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
TVMA	Texas Veterinary Medical Association
TVMDL	Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VET	Veterinary Emergency Team

## B. Definitions

1. Animal: Any living organism, except humans, having sensation and the power of voluntary movement and requiring for its existence oxygen and organic nutrients.
2. Animal Response Operations Coordination Center (AROCC): A physical facility and/or virtual site where representatives of key animal-related agencies and organizations collaborate to develop strategy and policy guidance, prioritize, coordinate, and manage resources and/or field operations in support of Animal Response activities and operations.
3. Animal Response Team (ART): A group of TAHC partner agency personnel and animal industry stakeholder organizations working together in an incident command system (ICS) structure to respond to an animal-related non-disease emergency incident.
4. Animal shelter: A temporary, generally covered, facility for housing animals during a disaster. Animal shelters can be for large animals or small animals, livestock, service and assistance animals, and/or household pets, and are generally identified, activated, and managed in accordance with local emergency management plans.
5. Animal Supply Point (ASP): A temporary location where livestock-related supplies can be provided to ranchers and farmers because sufficient feed, forage, and fresh water are not available to the animals due to a disaster.

6. Branch: The organizational level having functional or geographic responsibility for major parts of the Operations or Logistics functions of ICS. The Branch level is organizationally between Section and Division/Group in the Operations Section, and between Section and Units in the Logistics Section. Branches are identified by the use of Roman numerals or by functional name.
7. County Extension Agent (CEA): A Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service employee working at the county level, who serves as a professional educator, subject matter expert, and resource provider for livestock and poultry.
8. Emergency: Any incident(s), human-caused or natural, which requires responsive action to protect life, property or the environment, including animals.
9. Incident Command System (ICS): A standardized on-scene emergency management construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents. ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, to organize field-level incident management operations.
10. Inspector: Any person who works in the field with animal issues including; but not limited to: TAHC animal health field inspectors, USDA-APHIS-VS animal health technicians (AHT), USDA-APHIS-AC animal care inspectors, and TDA field inspectors.
11. Investigator: A person employed for the purpose of investigating violations and/or enforcing compliance with the Agriculture Code and federal, state, and/or Agency rules and/or regulations up to and including prosecution of violators, as appropriate.
12. Joint Information Center: A physical facility and/or virtual site established to coordinate all incident-related public information activities. It is the central point of contact for all news media at the scene of the incident. Public information officials from all participating agencies should collocate at the JIC.
13. Livestock Specialist: A state or federal employee working at the regional and/or state level, who serves as a professional educator, subject matter expert, and/or resource provider for livestock and poultry.
14. Mission Ready Package (MRP): TAHC animal-specific response and recovery capabilities that are organized, developed, trained, and exercised prior to an emergency or disaster. Generally based on NIMS resource typing definitions, but expanded to include animal-related mission considerations, impact, and limitations, required support, staging, and personnel, and/or costs.

#### **IV. SITUATION & ASSUMPTIONS**

## A. Situation

1. Natural and manmade disasters will adversely affect both humans and animals.
2. In a disaster, animal and human issues are inextricably linked. Responsibilities for animals are a factor in individual decision-making regarding whether and how to follow evacuation recommendations.
3. Animal owners are responsible for caring for their own animals in an emergency or disaster incident.
4. If an animal owner is unable to care for his or her animal(s) in a disaster situation, the owner may ask the local government for assistance.
5. Many animals, livestock, poultry, and/or household pets will be left to fend for themselves when their owners evacuate and/or if their owner(s) cannot return to an impacted area after a disaster. Some may be confined in a building, barn or other enclosed area; others may be in a fenced area or attached to a restraining device.
6. Livestock may escape from confinement or be involuntarily moved during an incident due to various factors. These animals will pose a threat to public safety if they stray on to active roadways and may cause other safety problems if left unconfined.
7. Animal species have different handling requirements. Some animals may need special care and/or be isolated from other animals and/or humans. Other animals, such as large livestock, will need to be housed in separate or specialized facilities.
8. There may be no animal confinement methods immediately available following an emergency or disaster.
9. Proper disposal of animal carcasses may present a significant problem after certain disasters. Decaying carcasses, although rarely a major public health concern, serve as a nuisance and potential safety hazard. The sight and odor of animal carcasses may be offensive and upsetting to people. Timely and appropriate disposal of animal carcasses can eliminate and/or reduce these concerns. Carcasses may be removed with other debris under most situations.
10. Animal carcasses may be buried on-site, burned, composted, or taken to appropriate landfills, depending on the speed, cost, and suitability of the disposal method. Burial is generally the preferred method, either on-site or at approved landfills.
11. Other state and federal agencies, non-government organizations, and animal agriculture producers and stakeholder organizations may assist and support animal response activities and/or operations.

## B. Assumptions

1. Not all requests for animal-related assistance or resources can be met by the State due to the limited availability and/or lack of resources, skills, funds, and/or time in which to respond, and potential threats to responder safety, etc.
2. Animal partner agencies and organizations will identify and ensure their assigned and back-up personnel are trained in accordance with NIMS and ICS guidelines, appropriate to their responsibilities.
3. Individuals and local government may request help with animal evacuation, transportation, and sheltering, including livestock and poultry, service and assistance animals, and household pets.
4. Many evacuees will want to take their animals with them and remain with their animals.
5. Persons having their own transportation out of an at-risk area, and taking service or assistance animals, household pets, or selected poultry and livestock with them, will generally use their own vehicle(s) and associated trailers, if able to do so.
6. People without transportation may either seek evacuation transportation assistance for themselves and their animals from government entities, or choose not to evacuate. People who choose not to evacuate may create safety concerns for themselves, the public, and/or emergency responders.
7. Many evacuees will need appropriate sheltering for their livestock, poultry, service and assistance animals, and household pets.
8. Shelter facilities for animals may not be available. Therefore, local jurisdictions will have to establish shelters for both small and large animals. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to develop shelters co-located with human shelters, when feasible.
9. Livestock may have been evacuated or displaced and may need food, water, and appropriate shelter.
10. Displaced livestock may not be able to be rapidly located, identified and/or confined due to the lack of available resources.
11. Animal agriculture production operations, research facilities, shelters, zoos, veterinary clinics, etc., may need assistance and/or support to maintain and/or restore business operations.
12. Returning or abandoned animals may need suitable shelter, food or feed, forage, and drinkable water. Livestock needing to be moved from impacted areas may need transportation assistance.
13. Lines of succession for personnel with non-disease animal-related emergency management responsibilities will be in accordance with existing policies and

emergency management standard operating procedures (SOPs) of each agency or organization participating in the non-disease animal-related response.

14. The federal government, through the State, may be able to provide reimbursement to not-for-profit organizations that provide evacuation, transportation, and sheltering assistance to service and assistance animals and household pets during non-disease animal-related incidents.

## **V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **A. General**

1. The TAHC is the primary coordinating agency for animal response operations to non-disease animal-related incidents and the ESF-11 animal-related actions.
2. TAHC and its partner agencies will provide trained personnel to staff DDCs and/or the SOC ESF-11 function, as requested.
3. Animal response operations will be conducted in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). An Incident Command Structure (ICS) and/or Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) will be established, as appropriate to the incident.
4. For non-disease, animal-related incidents, the TAHC will conduct operations based on the size, scope, and complexity of the emergency event; the number and type of animals affected by the emergency; and the type of tasks needed to support local and state jurisdictions, as requested through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM).
5. An animal operations branch may be implemented, as appropriate to the incident. The Branch Director will be selected based upon their qualifications and/or expertise required to fulfill incident objectives. See Attachment A.
6. TAHC may request resources from its partnering agencies and organizations, other state agencies, and/or federal resources, as necessary to carry out mission tasking(s) and/or animal-related activities and/or operations.
7. TAHC will constitute and/or deploy its Mission Ready Packages (MRPs) based on the availability of resources required to staff the package(s).
8. TAHC will send a complement of response equipment, sufficient to provide for working space for the Animal operations branch staff, as appropriate to the incident.

### **B. Animal Response Operations Coordination Center (AROCC)**

1. The AROCC may be activated by the Executive Director of the TAHC, or his designee; based upon an actual or anticipated natural or man-made disaster, and/or a request for a disaster declaration, and/or at the request of the SOC.

2. The TAHC Animal Response Operations Coordination Center (AROCC) will be physically and/or virtually activated and staffed, as appropriate to the incident. See Attachment B.
3. Once activated, state and federal agencies, animal industry partners, and/or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) will be asked to respond to the AROCC, as appropriate to the incident.
4. The AROCC will:
  - a. Provide policy guidance and assist in setting priorities for ART field operations.
  - b. Provide coordination and/or support for animal response operations, as necessary.
  - c. Coordinate activities to ensure adequate resources, personnel, equipment, and/or supplies are available, or can be obtained, to support field animal response operations.
  - d. Fill requests for assistance and/or resources received through proper emergency management channels from affected jurisdictions or from field ART(s).
  - e. Compile, collate, and forward animal response situation information for the SOC daily SITREP, as appropriate to the incident.
5. Specific information on when and how personnel will be deployed, and to what location at what time, will be coordinated with the requesting jurisdiction, the DDC, and/or the SOC, as appropriate to the incident.

#### **C. Animal Response Team (ART) and Mission Ready Package (MRP) Operations**

1. The TAHC will activate ARTs after notification from either the DDC and/or the SOC, based upon the availability of resources required to staff these teams/packages.
2. The TAHC will activate and/or deploy its MRPs based upon the availability of staff and/or resources required to staff these packages (See Attachment C). The TAHC MRPs include:
  - a. Animal Branch Management Team(s) (ABMT), which integrate into local and/or area ICS structure to conduct animal-related objectives.
  - b. Animal Needs Assessment Team(s) (ANAT), which perform animal-related assessments in affected areas; perform immediate interventions (capture, secure, triage, etc.), as necessary; and integrate with local animal facilities to assess needs of local animal infrastructure and biosecurity (veterinary clinics, animal shelters, animal industry partners, etc.).
  - c. Basic Response Team(s) (BRT), which integrates into local ICS structure; provides guidance; responds to animal-related response need requests (rescue, secure/capture, triage, and/or transport), as possible.

- d. Horseback Emergency Response Teams (HERT), which perform animal assessment needs in remote areas; uses specialized livestock handling skills to capture, identify, secure, move, and/or triage large animals and/or livestock.
  - e. Livestock Handling Team(s) (LSHT), which assist in the capture of livestock; sorts, evaluates, identifies, and/or segregates livestock; and assists in the movement and/or relocation of livestock.
3. The TAHC will coordinate the activation and/or deployment of its partner agencies MRPs through its AROCC, based upon the availability of staff and/or resources required to staff these packages.
  4. Responding animal and agriculture partner agencies, other state agencies, and non-governmental organizations are responsible for maintaining appropriate identification, contact, training, and credentialing information for their personnel and preparing such personnel for deployment.

#### **D. Animal Response Disaster District Committee (DDC) Operations**

1. TAHC and its partner agencies will provide a representative(s) for DDCs, as requested by the Disaster District Chair and/or the AROCC, as staffing constraints allow.
2. When a request for animal-related assistance and/or resources is received at the DDC ESF 11 desk, the TAHC and/or partner agency representative will determine:
  - a. If the request can be accommodated from agency resources.
  - b. If assistance will be required from animal and agriculture partner agencies, animal industry, and/or NGOs to fill the request.
  - c. The request and the assigned agency(ies) will be forwarded to the AROCC and posted on the appropriate Web-EOC board or similar software.
3. If a request for animal-related assistance and/or resources cannot be filled at the DDC, it will be forwarded to the SOC, as appropriate.

#### **E. Animal Response State Operations Center (SOC) Operations**

1. Texas animal and agriculture state agency members of the Texas Emergency Management Council coordinate their activities in the SOC during disaster operations, either physically and/or virtually.
2. When a request for animal-related assistance and/or resources is received at the SOC ESF 11 desk, the TAHC and/or partner agency representative will determine:
  - a. If the request can be accommodated from agency resources.
  - b. If assistance will be required from animal and agriculture partner agencies, animal industry, and/or NGOs to fill the request.

- c. The request and the assigned agency(ies) will be forwarded to the AROCC and posted on the appropriate Web-EOC board or similar software.
3. Animal-related operations, requiring the support of non-animal and agriculture agencies and/or organizations on the Emergency Management Council, will be coordinated with those agencies.
4. Activities which cannot be coordinated by direct communication with other state agency or organization personnel at the SOC will be forwarded to the AROCC for resolution.
5. Agriculture members on the DDC should also pass the information regarding any unresolved requests for assistance to animals to their representatives in the SOC and in the AROCC in order to give advance warning of an incoming request from the DDC.

#### **F. Animal Response Field Operations**

1. The size and scope of animal response field operations will be conducted according to NIMS incident complexity types:
  - a. Type 5: The incident can be handled with one or two single resources with up to six personnel.
  - b. Type 4: The incident is usually limited to one operational period, several resources are required to mitigate the incident, including a task force or strike team and command and/or general staff functions will be activated if needed.
  - c. Type 3: The incident may extend into multiple operational periods, may require an IAP for each operational period, some or all of the command and general staff positions may be activated as well as division/group supervisor and/or unit leader-level positions.
  - d. Type 2: The incident extends beyond the capabilities for local control and is expected to go into multiple operational periods. It may require the resources of regional and/or national resources to effectively manage the operations, command, and/or general staffing.
  - e. Type 1: The most complex incident, requiring national resources for safe and effective management and operation.
2. State agencies and associated organizations having a specific role in an animal-related response operations may be part of the animal operations branch.
3. An animal operations branch may be established regardless of the incident complexity.
4. Animal operations branch and planning functions will reflect ICS operations, as appropriate to the incident.

5. Personnel supporting the animal response field operations will check in and demobilize through the Incident Planning Section so all agencies and organizations working at the AROCC and the SOC level are knowledgeable of where their personnel are located.
6. All agencies and organizations supporting the animal field operations shall ensure appropriate personnel and resource inventory records are kept and maintained for their resources.
7. The Animal Operations Branch Section may be divided into four major Divisions to support animal operational needs, as appropriate to the incident (see Attachment A). These divisions may be further subdivided, as appropriate, to accomplish animal operations (see Attachment B). The below listed Team(s) and/or Taskforce(s) will be staffed based upon the nature and scope of the response; and the availability of qualified personnel, equipment, and resources.
  - a. Large animal/livestock support
    - 1) Animal-Agriculture Industry Assistance Team/Taskforce determines what, if any, State assistance is needed for animal/agriculture production facilities.
    - 2) Carcass Disposal Taskforce coordinates operations with local jurisdictions, animal owners, disposal contractors, and/or animal industry partners to locate, identify, and properly and quickly dispose of animal carcasses.
    - 3) Decontamination Team/Taskforce conducts clean-up and/or decontamination of animals that have been subjected to, or affected by, hazardous materials and/or toxic substances, as practicable.
    - 4) Impact Assessment Team/Taskforce conducts initial large animal and livestock assessment operations in the impacted areas to determine current conditions.
    - 5) Large Animal Care Team/Taskforce coordinates activities with producers and/or local jurisdictions to ensure livestock are provided with appropriate shelter, feed, and water, if needed.
    - 6) Livestock Rescue Team/Taskforce coordinates and/or conducts livestock search and rescue operations with local jurisdictions, animal owners, and/or animal industry partners.
    - 7) Livestock Supply Distribution Taskforce coordinates animal transportation, containment, care, and feeding resources to Livestock Supply Points (LSPs), as necessary.
  - b. Small animal support
    - 1) Animal Owner Reunification Team/Taskforce coordinates activities to identify and contact animal owners to support reunification and/or fostering and/or adoption efforts.

- 2) Carcass Disposal Team/Taskforce coordinates operations with local jurisdictions, animal owners, disposal contractors, and/or local animal care and/or local veterinary practitioners to properly dispose of animal carcasses.
- 3) Decontamination Team/Taskforce coordinates and/or conducts clean-up and/or decontamination of small animals that have been subjected to, or affected by, hazardous materials and/or toxic substances, as practicable
- 4) Fostering / Adoption Support Team/Taskforce coordinates activities to identify potential temporary animal shelter facilities and/or animal adoption processes.
- 5) Impact Assessment Team/Taskforce conducts initial animal assessment operations in the impacted areas to determine current conditions.
- 6) Small Animal Search and Rescue Team/Taskforce assists local jurisdictions to coordinate and/or conduct service and assistance animal and household pet rescue operations and/or transportation with animal owners, animal shelter facilities and/or veterinary practitioners.
- 7) Temporary Sheltering Team/Taskforce coordinates activities with local jurisdictions and/or NGO animal care organizations to ensure service and assistance animals and household pets receive humane care and shelter until they can be reunited with their owners. Animal identification, registration, rescue, and/or reunification of household pets may also be part of this function.

c. Veterinary support

- 1) Technical Expertise Team/Taskforce provides technical and veterinary medical information to local emergency management officials, agencies, organizations and/or veterinary practitioners.
- 2) Animal Triage, Health Care, and Euthanasia Team/Taskforce provides veterinary medical triage, care for distressed, ill, and injured animals, and/or humane animal euthanasia.
- 3) Mobile Veterinary Services Team/Taskforce provides technical expertise, triage and immediate health care to ill, injured and/or distressed animals, performs humane euthanasia as needed, develops and/or implements preventative measures to reduce and/or contain the spread of animal diseases within sheltering facilities, and/or provide veterinary support for animal search and rescue operations.
- 4) Veterinary Infrastructure Support Team/Taskforce determines what, if any, State assistance is needed for local veterinary practitioners to maintain and/or resume business operations.
- 5) Veterinary Animal Decontamination Team/Taskforce coordinates the development of animal clean-up and/or decontamination protocols relative to the non-disease incident and/or coordinates the clean-up and/or

decontamination of animals that have been subjected to, or affected by, hazardous materials and/or toxic substances, as practicable.

- 6) Disease Spread Reduction Team/Taskforce coordinates the development and/or implementation of medical and veterinary protocols to prevent and/or contain the spread of animal disease(s) in shelters, feeding, and/or holding facilities in areas affected by the incident.

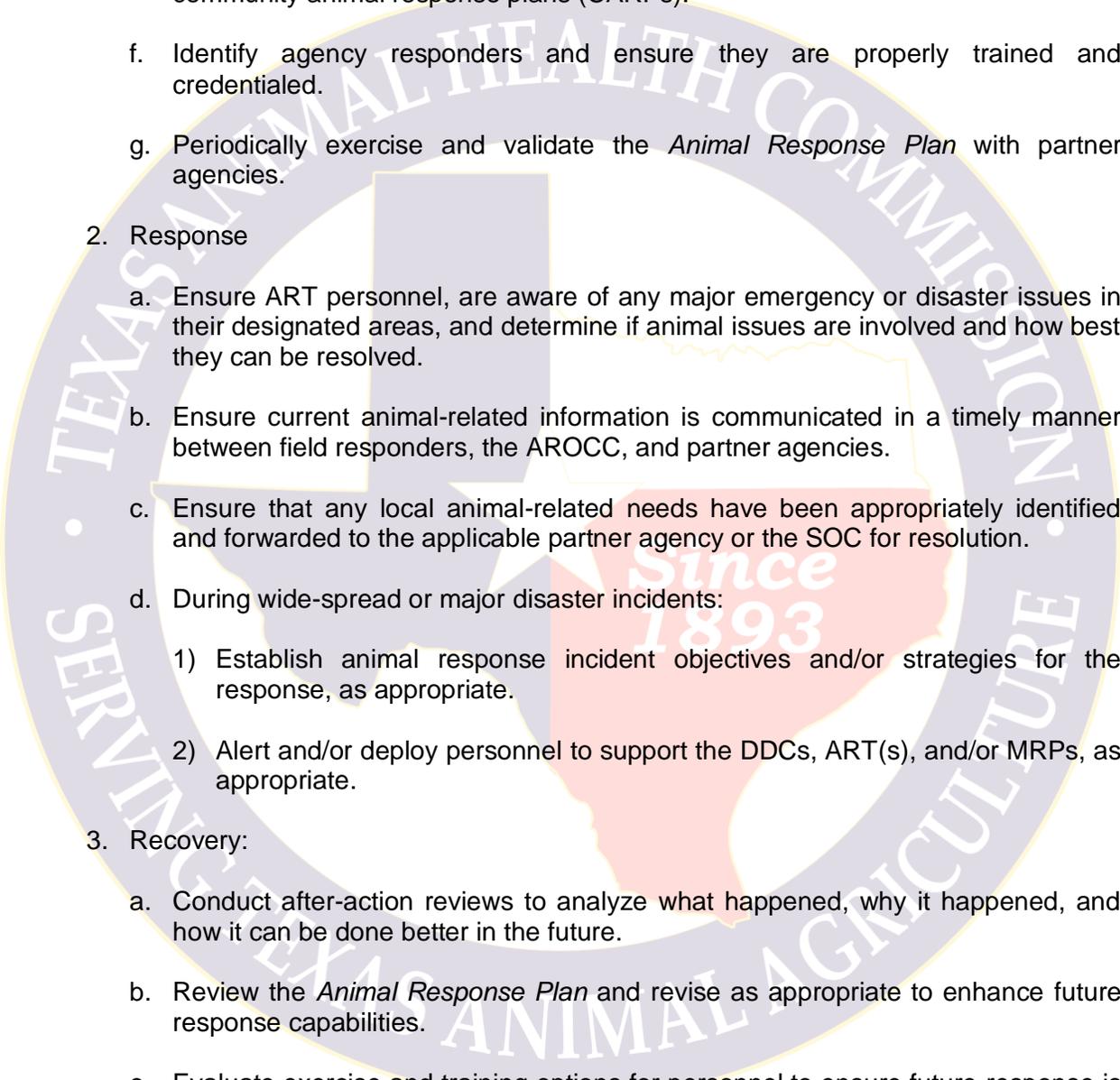
d. Miscellaneous support

- 1) Donations Management Team/Taskforce coordinates animal-related donated resources:
  - a) TDA personnel will coordinate the Hay Hotline and resource donation operations involving agriculture production animals and livestock.
  - b) AgriLife personnel will assist local officials with Livestock Supply Point operations.
  - c) Local governments will manage financial donations, and the storage, staging, and distribution of donated goods and services.
- 2) GIS/Mapping Services Team coordinates collection of mapping data and preparation of incident mapping; answers calls for assistance or information, assists the Branch Director and staff in obtaining information on ongoing field operations.
- 3) Information Outreach Team/Taskforce coordinates messaging activities with the physical and/or virtual JIS/JIC, 2-1-1 Texas, and/or local 3-1-1 systems to prepare and disseminate animal-related emergency information through a variety of electronic, traditional, and social media outlets, as appropriate to the incident.
- 4) Specialized/Exotic Animal Support Team/Taskforce coordinates activities with local jurisdictions and/or private sector animal owners to ensure animals in zoos, animal research facilities, etc., are safe, properly confined, and have access to basic animal husbandry care, feed, water, and appropriate temperature control, where needed.

## **G. Actions by Phases of Emergency Management**

### 1. Preparedness

- a. Animal Response Team (ART) partner agencies meet to develop and revise the animal response strategy, as appropriate.
- b. Periodically review the *Animal Response Plan*, obtain concurrence by all appropriate partnering agencies and organizations, and revise the document, as necessary.

- 
- c. Ensure all organizations tasked in the *Animal Response Plan* are aware of their responsibilities and can ensure their personnel are appropriately trained.
  - d. Promote and participate in the development of state and local-level animal-related plans and training of assigned, tasked personnel.
  - e. Promote the creation of local-level animal issues committees (AICs) and community animal response plans (CARPs).
  - f. Identify agency responders and ensure they are properly trained and credentialed.
  - g. Periodically exercise and validate the *Animal Response Plan* with partner agencies.
2. Response
- a. Ensure ART personnel, are aware of any major emergency or disaster issues in their designated areas, and determine if animal issues are involved and how best they can be resolved.
  - b. Ensure current animal-related information is communicated in a timely manner between field responders, the AROCC, and partner agencies.
  - c. Ensure that any local animal-related needs have been appropriately identified and forwarded to the applicable partner agency or the SOC for resolution.
  - d. During wide-spread or major disaster incidents:
    - 1) Establish animal response incident objectives and/or strategies for the response, as appropriate.
    - 2) Alert and/or deploy personnel to support the DDCs, ART(s), and/or MRPs, as appropriate.
3. Recovery:
- a. Conduct after-action reviews to analyze what happened, why it happened, and how it can be done better in the future.
  - b. Review the *Animal Response Plan* and revise as appropriate to enhance future response capabilities.
  - c. Evaluate exercise and training options for personnel to ensure future response is more effective.

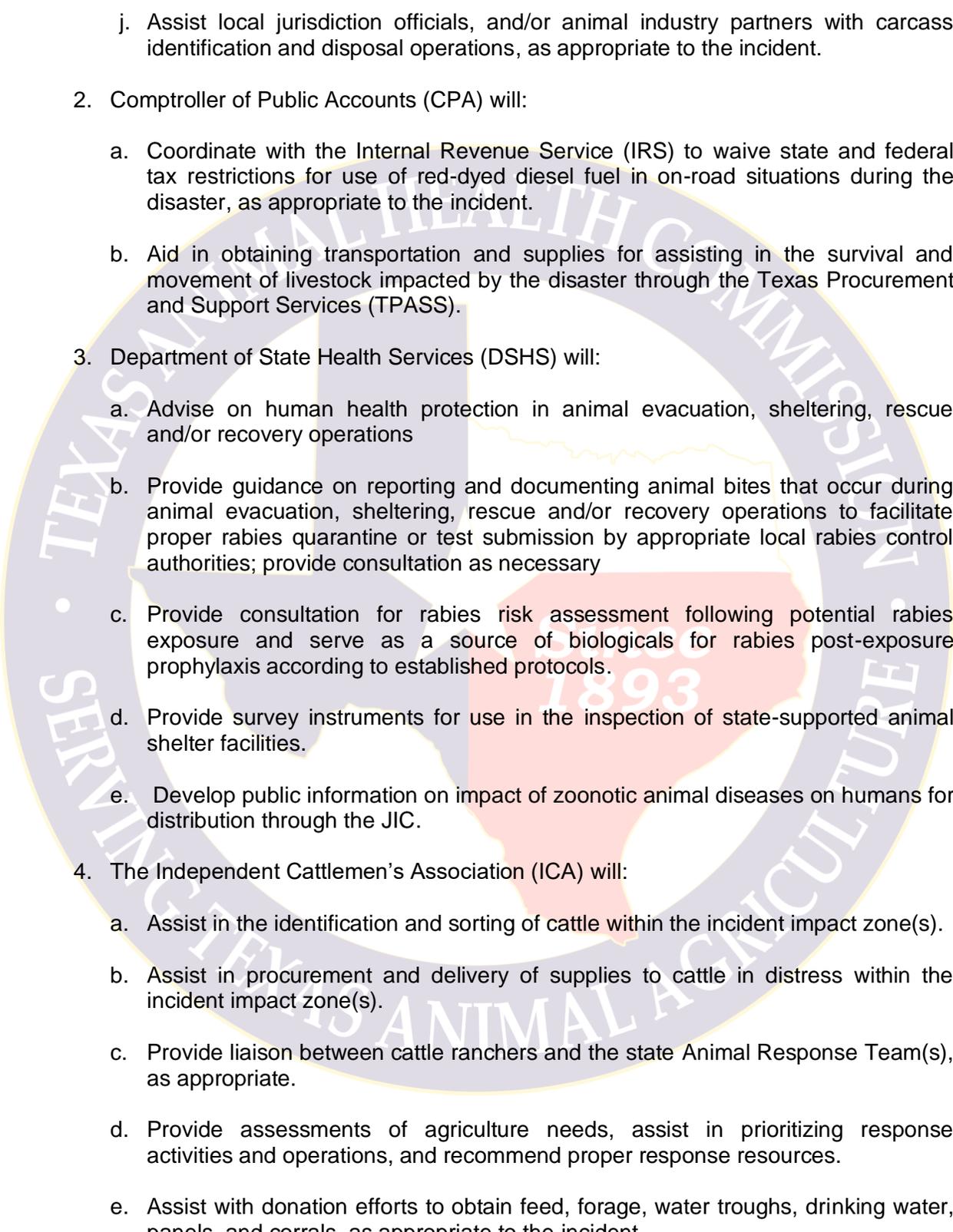
## **VI. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

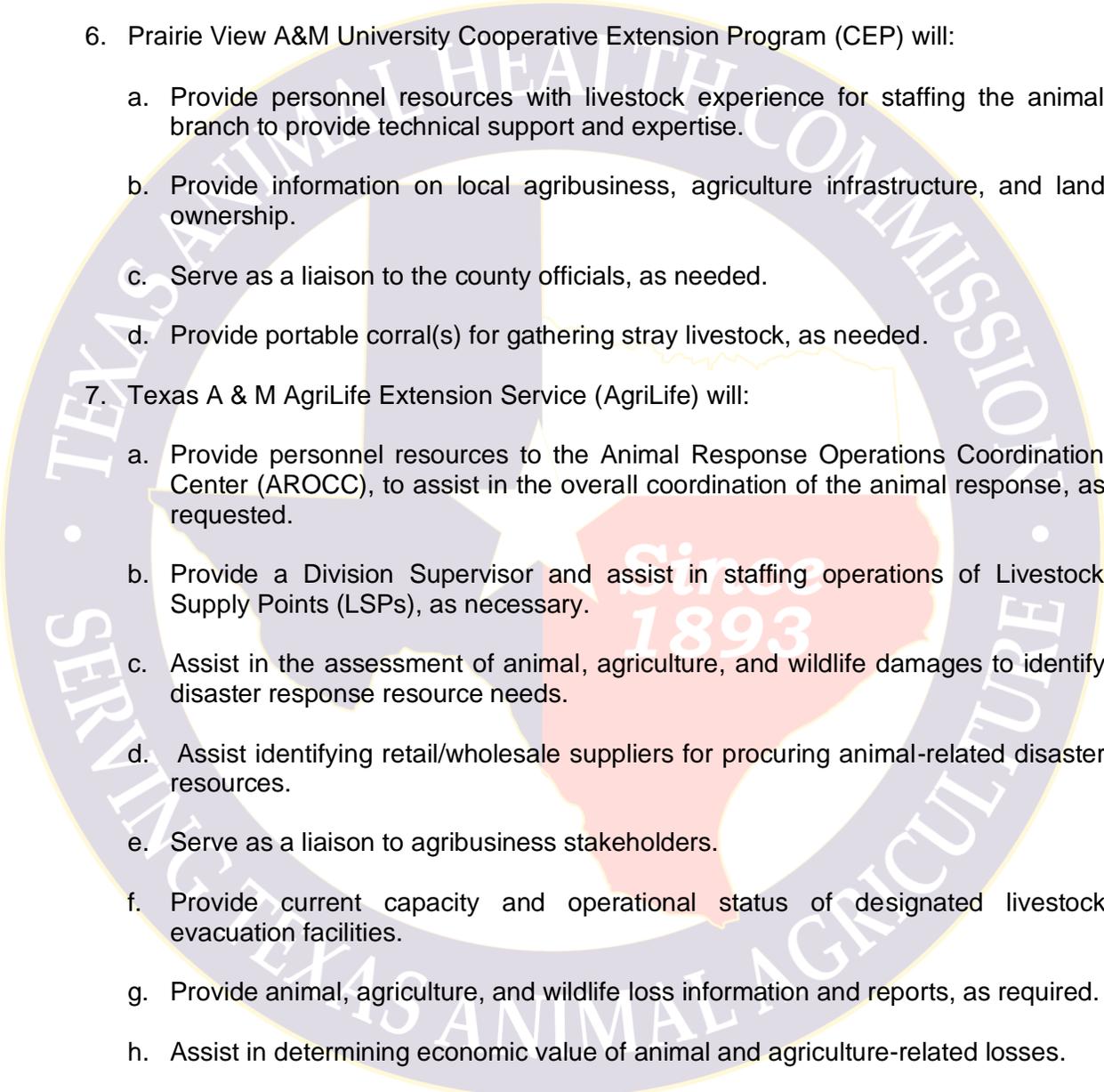
### **A. Organization**

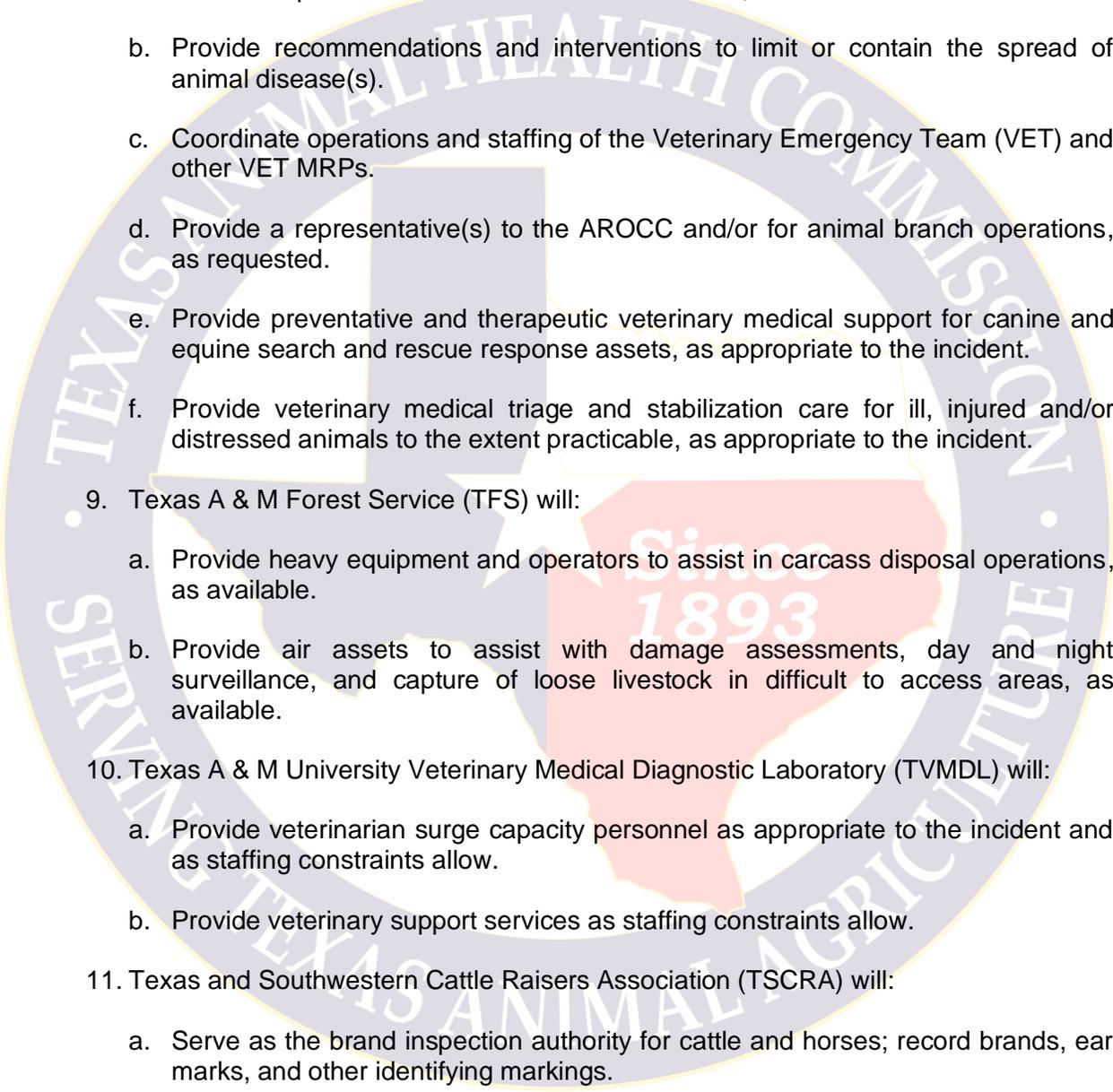
1. The Governor and local Emergency Management Directors, are statutorily responsible for the proper care of people and service and assistance animals and household pets during emergency and disaster situations.
2. The TAHC has been designated as the state agency responsible to coordinate actions necessary to ensure the safety of domesticated animals, livestock, research, and service and assistance animals, and household pets in the State prior to, during, and after a disaster incident.
3. The TAHC serves as the primary agency responsible for the coordination of animal health and animal care actions in disaster situations where animals are involved and local governments are no longer able to provide that support.
4. The TAHC supervises the actions of its response personnel and coordinates response operations of its animal agriculture partner agencies and non-governmental organizations.

## **B. Assignment of Responsibilities**

1. Texas Animal Health Commission will:
  - a. Provide animal-related information to traditional and social media outlets and coordinate animal-related operations of the JIC, as appropriate to the incident.
  - b. Assist local governments and communities to develop animal issues committees (AICs, community animal response plans (CARPs), and animal sheltering plans.
  - c. Establish, activate, and operate the Animal Response Operations Coordination Center (AROCC) to coordinate the state response to animals during non-disease animal-related incidents.
  - d. Activate and deploy TAHC Mission Ready Packages (MRPs) and Animal Response Teams (ARTs), as appropriate to the incident.
  - e. Educate local government officials that animal and agriculture production facilities are an integral part of the local, regional, state and national economic infrastructures.
  - f. Coordinate service and assistance animal and household pet-related response activities during disaster incidents.
  - g. Coordinate and monitor the activities of both in-state and out-of-state animal care organizations that desire to assist in animal-related response operations/activities.
  - h. Provide guidance on mitigating health and safety risks to humans in the evacuation, rescue, and sheltering of animals.
  - i. Provide information on what, if any, State assistance is needed for local veterinary facilities and practitioners to maintain and/or resume business operations.

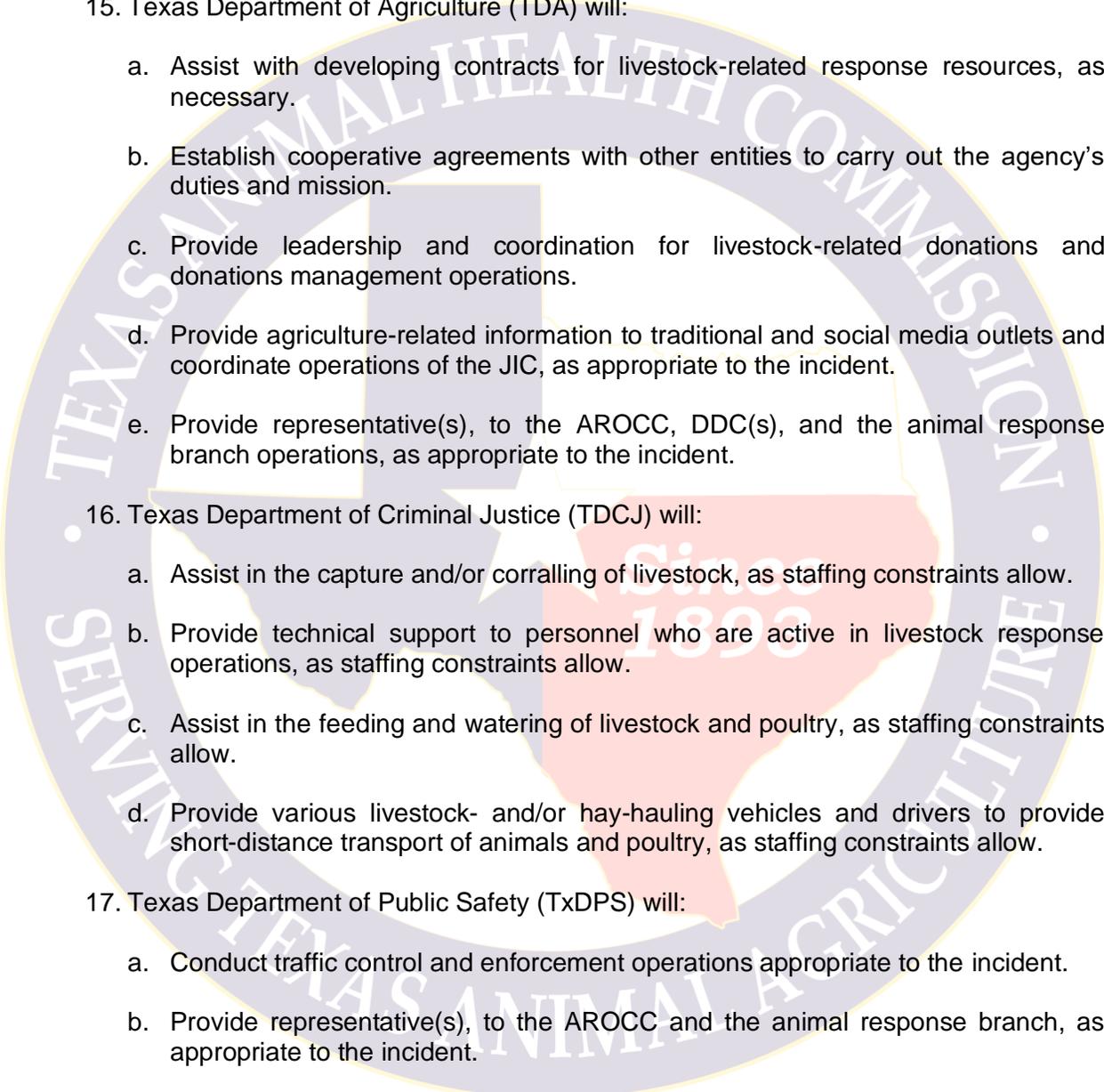
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- The logo of the Texas Animal Health Commission is a circular seal. It features a map of Texas in the center, with the year '1893' below it. The outer ring of the seal contains the text 'TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION' at the top and 'SERVING TEXAS ANIMAL AGRICULTURE' at the bottom. The seal is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.
- j. Assist local jurisdiction officials, and/or animal industry partners with carcass identification and disposal operations, as appropriate to the incident.
2. Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) will:
- Coordinate with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to waive state and federal tax restrictions for use of red-dyed diesel fuel in on-road situations during the disaster, as appropriate to the incident.
  - Aid in obtaining transportation and supplies for assisting in the survival and movement of livestock impacted by the disaster through the Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS).
3. Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will:
- Advise on human health protection in animal evacuation, sheltering, rescue and/or recovery operations
  - Provide guidance on reporting and documenting animal bites that occur during animal evacuation, sheltering, rescue and/or recovery operations to facilitate proper rabies quarantine or test submission by appropriate local rabies control authorities; provide consultation as necessary
  - Provide consultation for rabies risk assessment following potential rabies exposure and serve as a source of biologicals for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis according to established protocols.
  - Provide survey instruments for use in the inspection of state-supported animal shelter facilities.
  - Develop public information on impact of zoonotic animal diseases on humans for distribution through the JIC.
4. The Independent Cattlemen's Association (ICA) will:
- Assist in the identification and sorting of cattle within the incident impact zone(s).
  - Assist in procurement and delivery of supplies to cattle in distress within the incident impact zone(s).
  - Provide liaison between cattle ranchers and the state Animal Response Team(s), as appropriate.
  - Provide assessments of agriculture needs, assist in prioritizing response activities and operations, and recommend proper response resources.
  - Assist with donation efforts to obtain feed, forage, water troughs, drinking water, panels, and corrals, as appropriate to the incident.

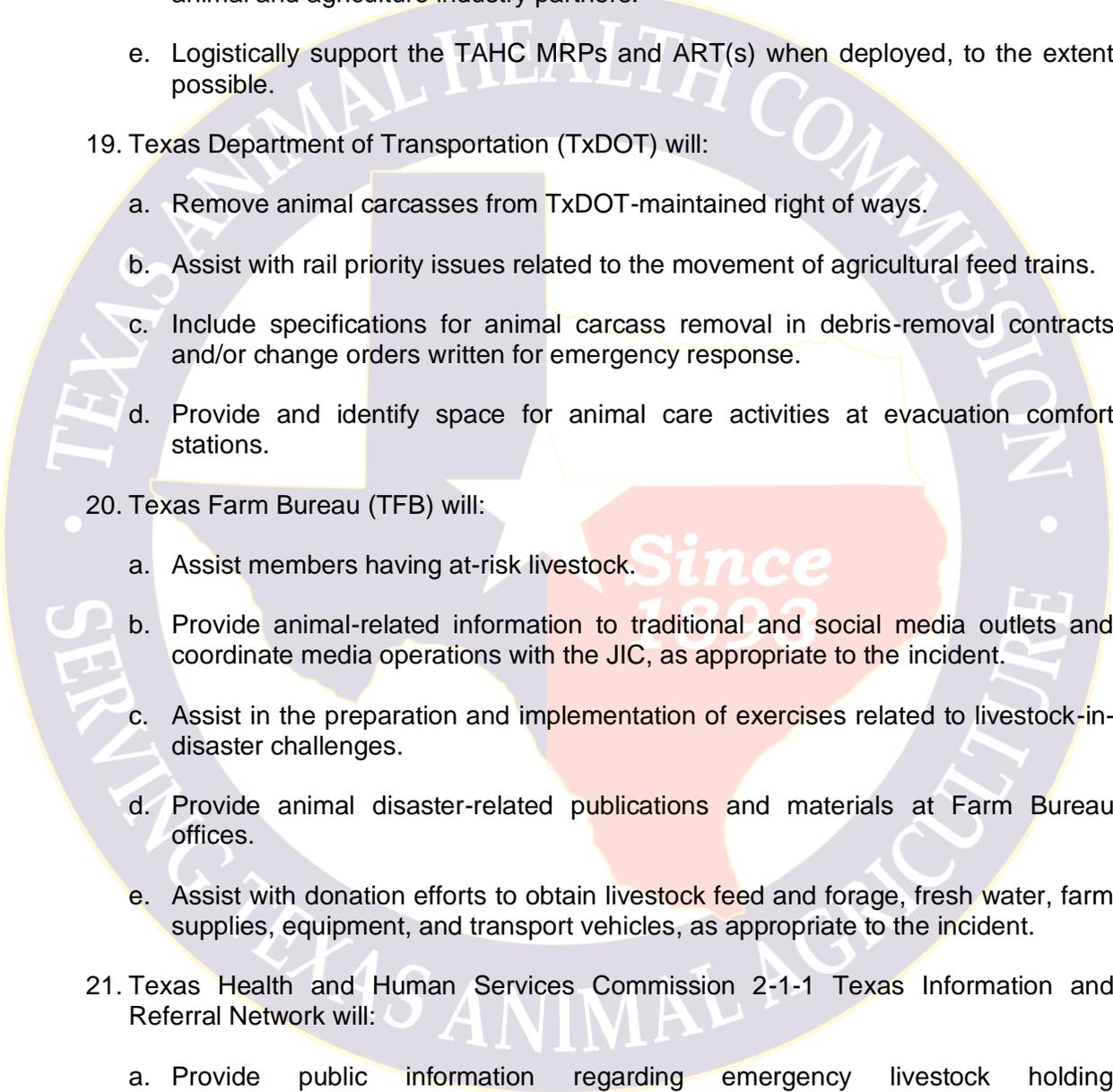
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5. Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) will:
    - a. Assess feed and fertilizer hazards related to both animal and human health and the environment.
    - b. Assist in the identification of biological, chemical, and physical hazards in the animal and agriculture infrastructure.
  6. Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) will:
    - a. Provide personnel resources with livestock experience for staffing the animal branch to provide technical support and expertise.
    - b. Provide information on local agribusiness, agriculture infrastructure, and land ownership.
    - c. Serve as a liaison to the county officials, as needed.
    - d. Provide portable corral(s) for gathering stray livestock, as needed.
  7. Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife) will:
    - a. Provide personnel resources to the Animal Response Operations Coordination Center (AROCC), to assist in the overall coordination of the animal response, as requested.
    - b. Provide a Division Supervisor and assist in staffing operations of Livestock Supply Points (LSPs), as necessary.
    - c. Assist in the assessment of animal, agriculture, and wildlife damages to identify disaster response resource needs.
    - d. Assist identifying retail/wholesale suppliers for procuring animal-related disaster resources.
    - e. Serve as a liaison to agribusiness stakeholders.
    - f. Provide current capacity and operational status of designated livestock evacuation facilities.
    - g. Provide animal, agriculture, and wildlife loss information and reports, as required.
    - h. Assist in determining economic value of animal and agriculture-related losses.
    - i. Provide leadership and education to livestock and agricultural producers.
    - j. Assist local government officials to identify appropriate facilities as Livestock Supply Points (LSP) and/or for animal branch operations for field animal operations with the approval of all AROCC representatives, as necessary.

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- k. Provide personnel and helicopter support to assist with damage assessment, surveillance, animal feeding, and animal search and rescue operations.
8. Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (TAMUCVMBS) will:
- a. Provide professional expertise regarding the potential for and treatment of animals exposed to hazardous or toxic chemicals, saltwater and brackish water.
  - b. Provide recommendations and interventions to limit or contain the spread of animal disease(s).
  - c. Coordinate operations and staffing of the Veterinary Emergency Team (VET) and other VET MRPs.
  - d. Provide a representative(s) to the AROCC and/or for animal branch operations, as requested.
  - e. Provide preventative and therapeutic veterinary medical support for canine and equine search and rescue response assets, as appropriate to the incident.
  - f. Provide veterinary medical triage and stabilization care for ill, injured and/or distressed animals to the extent practicable, as appropriate to the incident.
9. Texas A & M Forest Service (TFS) will:
- a. Provide heavy equipment and operators to assist in carcass disposal operations, as available.
  - b. Provide air assets to assist with damage assessments, day and night surveillance, and capture of loose livestock in difficult to access areas, as available.
10. Texas A & M University Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) will:
- a. Provide veterinarian surge capacity personnel as appropriate to the incident and as staffing constraints allow.
  - b. Provide veterinary support services as staffing constraints allow.
11. Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) will:
- a. Serve as the brand inspection authority for cattle and horses; record brands, ear marks, and other identifying markings.
  - b. Assist with the determination of livestock ownership.
  - c. Assist in the identification and sorting of cattle within the incident impact zone.
  - d. Assist in procurement and delivery of supplies to cattle in distress within the incident impact zone.

- e. Provide liaison between ranchers and the state animal response team
  - f. Provide assessments of agriculture needs, assists in prioritizing response, and recommends proper response assets.
  - g. Assist with donation efforts to obtain livestock feed, forage, water troughs, drinking water, panels, and corrals, as appropriate to the incident.
12. Texas Association of Dairymen (TAD) will:
- a. Contact the AROCC and/or the animal operations branch, as appropriate, as needs of affected companies arise.
  - b. Provide industry liaison(s) to the AROCC and/or animal operations branch, as appropriate, to expedite business continuity and provide subject matter expertise, public information support, state and federal coordination assistance, and communications with dairy stakeholders.
  - c. Assist the animal response team(s) in performing assessments of affected dairy facilities.
  - d. Provide liaison on behalf of dairy owners/operators in the impact zone(s) to ensure milk collected from affected cattle is salvaged and utilized, where possible.
13. Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) will:
- a. Assist in the acquisition of heavy equipment, feed trucks, transport vehicles, etc., to support the evacuation and/or movement of displaced animals, as appropriate to the incident.
  - b. Assist in identifying manpower which may be available from cattle feeding industry partners.
  - c. Assist in identifying temporary confinement and feeding facilities for evacuated and/or displaced animals.
  - d. Assist with donation efforts to obtain livestock feed, forage, water troughs, drinking water, panels, and corrals, as appropriate to the incident.
  - e. Provide industry liaison(s) to the AROCC and/or animal operations branch, as appropriate, to provide subject matter expertise, public information support, state and federal coordination assistance, and communications with in-state and out-of-state cattle feeder stakeholders.
  - f. Assists animal response team(s) with assessment(s) of affected cattle feeding facilities.

14. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will:

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- a. Provide technical guidance for the appropriate management of dead livestock and/or poultry as a result of the disaster, as necessary.
- b. Provide technical guidance for locating authorized waste disposal facilities.
- c. Provide technical guidance for identifying appropriate animal burial sites.
15. Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will:
- a. Assist with developing contracts for livestock-related response resources, as necessary.
- b. Establish cooperative agreements with other entities to carry out the agency's duties and mission.
- c. Provide leadership and coordination for livestock-related donations and donations management operations.
- d. Provide agriculture-related information to traditional and social media outlets and coordinate operations of the JIC, as appropriate to the incident.
- e. Provide representative(s), to the AROCC, DDC(s), and the animal response branch operations, as appropriate to the incident.
16. Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) will:
- a. Assist in the capture and/or corralling of livestock, as staffing constraints allow.
- b. Provide technical support to personnel who are active in livestock response operations, as staffing constraints allow.
- c. Assist in the feeding and watering of livestock and poultry, as staffing constraints allow.
- d. Provide various livestock- and/or hay-hauling vehicles and drivers to provide short-distance transport of animals and poultry, as staffing constraints allow.
17. Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) will:
- a. Conduct traffic control and enforcement operations appropriate to the incident.
- b. Provide representative(s), to the AROCC and the animal response branch, as appropriate to the incident.
18. Texas Department of Public Safety - Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) will:
- a. Promote and support the formation of local and/or regional animal issues committees (AIC).

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- The page features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the Texas Animal Health Commission logo. The logo is circular with a purple border and contains a map of Texas in the center. The text 'TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION' is written along the top inner edge, and 'SERVING TEXAS AGRICULTURE' is written along the bottom inner edge. In the center of the map, the text 'Since 1903' is visible.
- b. Encourage local governments to establish and maintain AICs and include all animals in their disaster response plans.
  - c. Support TAHC animal-related planning initiatives for local jurisdictions in preparing for animals in disasters.
  - d. Provide current animal response planning status information to TAHC and its animal and agriculture industry partners.
  - e. Logistically support the TAHC MRPs and ART(s) when deployed, to the extent possible.
19. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will:
- a. Remove animal carcasses from TxDOT-maintained right of ways.
  - b. Assist with rail priority issues related to the movement of agricultural feed trains.
  - c. Include specifications for animal carcass removal in debris-removal contracts and/or change orders written for emergency response.
  - d. Provide and identify space for animal care activities at evacuation comfort stations.
20. Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) will:
- a. Assist members having at-risk livestock.
  - b. Provide animal-related information to traditional and social media outlets and coordinate media operations with the JIC, as appropriate to the incident.
  - c. Assist in the preparation and implementation of exercises related to livestock-in-disaster challenges.
  - d. Provide animal disaster-related publications and materials at Farm Bureau offices.
  - e. Assist with donation efforts to obtain livestock feed and forage, fresh water, farm supplies, equipment, and transport vehicles, as appropriate to the incident.
21. Texas Health and Human Services Commission 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Network will:
- a. Provide public information regarding emergency livestock holding facilities/shelters.
  - b. Provide public information on emergency livestock shelters that have reached their capacity and are no longer receiving animals.

- c. Provide public information regarding the emergency evacuation, care, transportation, and sheltering of assistance animals and household pets, as appropriate to the incident.

22. Texas Military Department (TMD) will:

- a. Provide manpower and equipment to support ART operations, as available.
- b. Assist in constructing animal enclosures appropriate for isolating potentially affected livestock and wildlife in coordination with animal health officials.
- c. Provide air assets to assist with damage assessments, day and night surveillance, and capture of loose livestock in difficult to access areas, as available.

23. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will:

- a. Assist in locating fenced grazing space for evacuated or displaced livestock, as staffing constraints allow.
- b. Provide water transportation trucks to move water to livestock in areas where drinkable water is unavailable, as staffing and equipment constraints allow.
- c. Provide marine vehicles to support coastal livestock assessment operations, as staffing and equipment constraints allow.

24. Texas Pork Producers Association (TPPA) will:

- a. Inform the AROCC and/or the animal operations branch of the needs of affected producers, as appropriate to the incident.
- b. Provide industry liaison(s) to the AROCC and/or the animal operations branch to provide subject matter expertise, public information support, state and federal coordination assistance, and communications with in-state and out-of-state swine-related stakeholders, as appropriate to the incident.
- c. Assist ART(s) in performing assessment operations of affected swine related facilities.

25. Texas Poultry Federation (TPF) will:

- a. Inform the AROCC and/or the animal operations branch of the needs of affected producers, as appropriate to the incident.
- b. Provide an industry liaison(s) to the AROCC and/or the animal operations branch to provide subject matter expertise, public information support, state and federal coordination assistance, and communications with in-state and out-of-state poultry stakeholders, as appropriate to the incident.
- c. Assist ART(s) in performing assessment operations of affected poultry-related facilities.

26. Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) will:

- a. Provide assistance in determining soil types for carcass disposal.
- b. Coordinate efforts with local soil and water conservation districts to support response activities and operations.
- c. Liaise with local land owners, as appropriate to the incident.

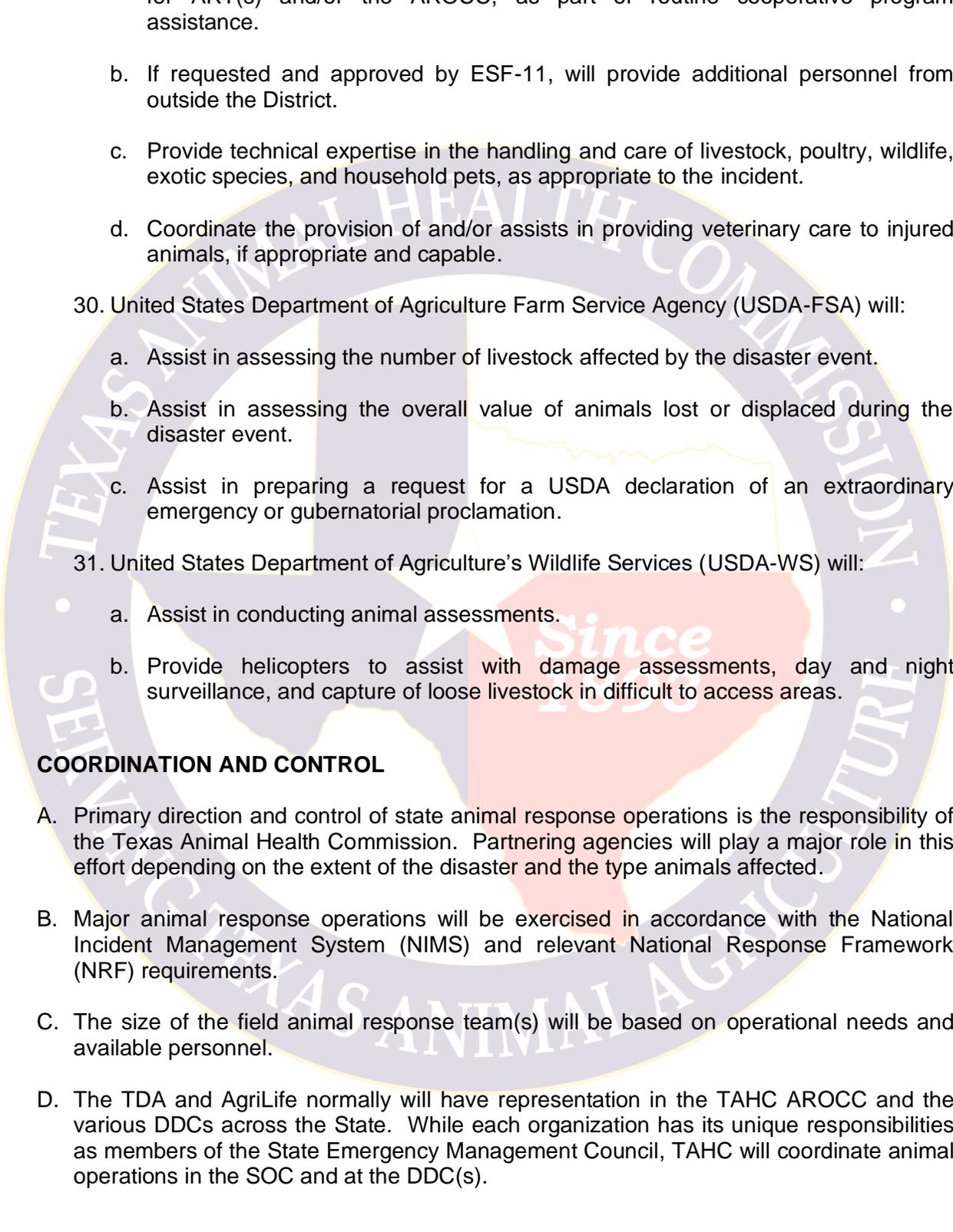
27. Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) will:

- a. Provide personnel resources, when available (as determined by TVMA), to the AROCC to assist in the overall coordination of veterinary care response, as requested.
- b. Encourage members to participate in local and/or regional animal-related disaster planning and response efforts and Animal Issues Committees (AICs).
- c. Working with the TAMU VET, the TAHC, federal/state and local NGOs designated by TAHC and local AICs, assist in the development and dissemination of standards of care and protocols for the humane care of sheltered animals.
- d. Working with the TAMU VET, the TAHC, federal/state and local NGOs designated by TAHC and local AICs, provide animal care-related information to traditional and social media outlets and coordinate media operations with the AROCC and JIC, as appropriate to the incident.
- e. Working with the TAMU VET, the TAHC, federal/state and local NGOs designated by TAHC and local AICs, assist with managing veterinary care-related donations for veterinary practitioners, supplies, and equipment, as appropriate to the incident.

28. United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Animal Care (USDA-APHIS-AC) will:

- a. Provide personnel for ART(s) and/or the AROCC, if requested and approved by ESF-11.
- b. Provide technical expertise in the handling and care of livestock, poultry, wildlife, exotic species, and household pets, as appropriate to the incident.
- c. Provide technical expertise in animal research facilities, zoos, and exotic species facilities related to the care and/or movement of animals affected by the incident.

29. United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Veterinary Service (USDA-APHIS-VS) will:

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- a. Provide Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Services, District 4 personnel for ART(s) and/or the AROCC, as part of routine cooperative program assistance.
  - b. If requested and approved by ESF-11, will provide additional personnel from outside the District.
  - c. Provide technical expertise in the handling and care of livestock, poultry, wildlife, exotic species, and household pets, as appropriate to the incident.
  - d. Coordinate the provision of and/or assists in providing veterinary care to injured animals, if appropriate and capable.
30. United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA) will:
- a. Assist in assessing the number of livestock affected by the disaster event.
  - b. Assist in assessing the overall value of animals lost or displaced during the disaster event.
  - c. Assist in preparing a request for a USDA declaration of an extraordinary emergency or gubernatorial proclamation.
31. United States Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) will:
- a. Assist in conducting animal assessments.
  - b. Provide helicopters to assist with damage assessments, day and night surveillance, and capture of loose livestock in difficult to access areas.

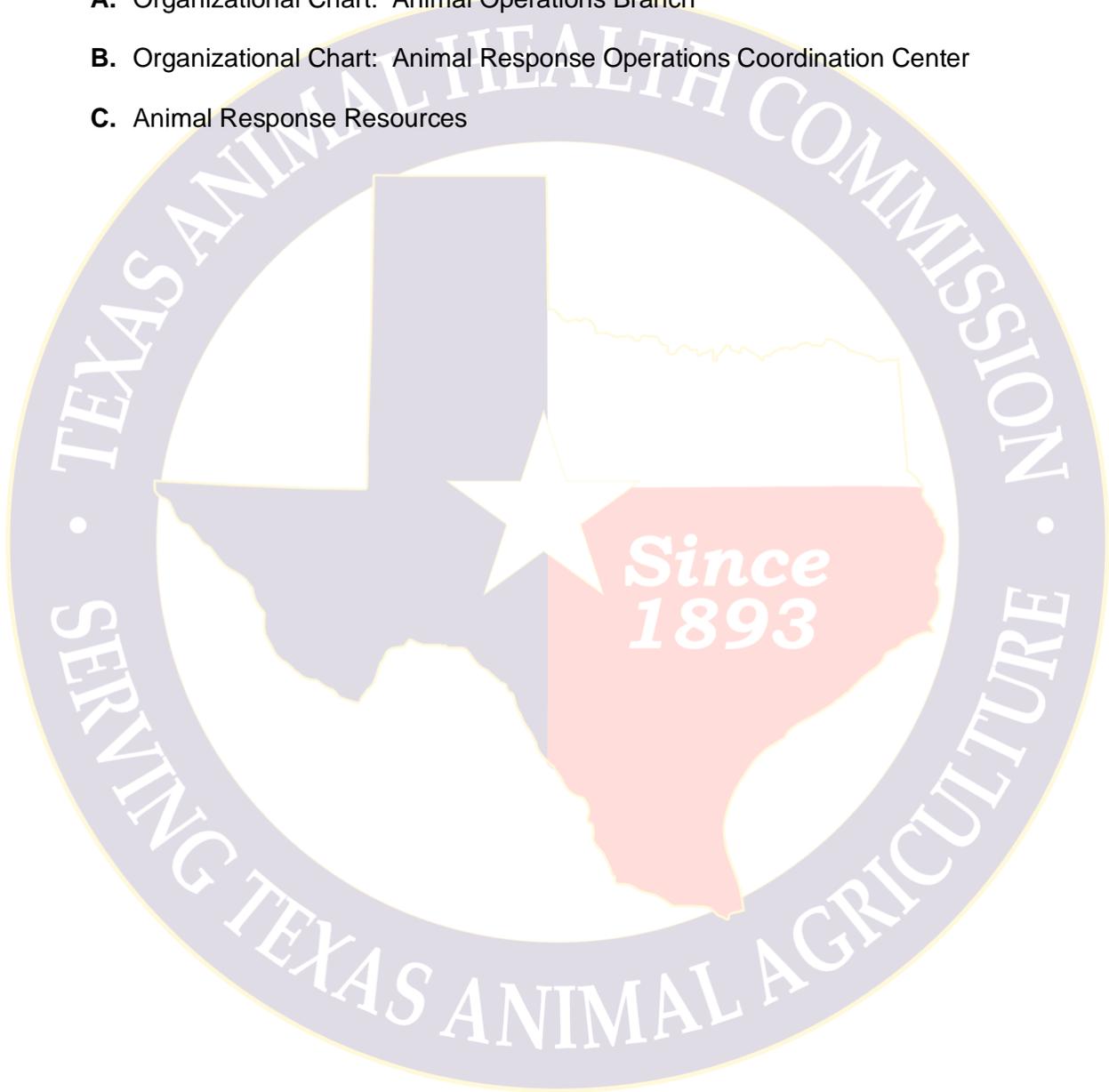
## **VII. COORDINATION AND CONTROL**

- A. Primary direction and control of state animal response operations is the responsibility of the Texas Animal Health Commission. Partnering agencies will play a major role in this effort depending on the extent of the disaster and the type animals affected.
- B. Major animal response operations will be exercised in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and relevant National Response Framework (NRF) requirements.
- C. The size of the field animal response team(s) will be based on operational needs and available personnel.
- D. The TDA and AgriLife normally will have representation in the TAHC AROCC and the various DDCs across the State. While each organization has its unique responsibilities as members of the State Emergency Management Council, TAHC will coordinate animal operations in the SOC and at the DDC(s).

- E. In the event a TAHC representative is not available for the SOC and/or a DDC, the TDA representative and/or an AgriLife representative will respond for animal-related operations.

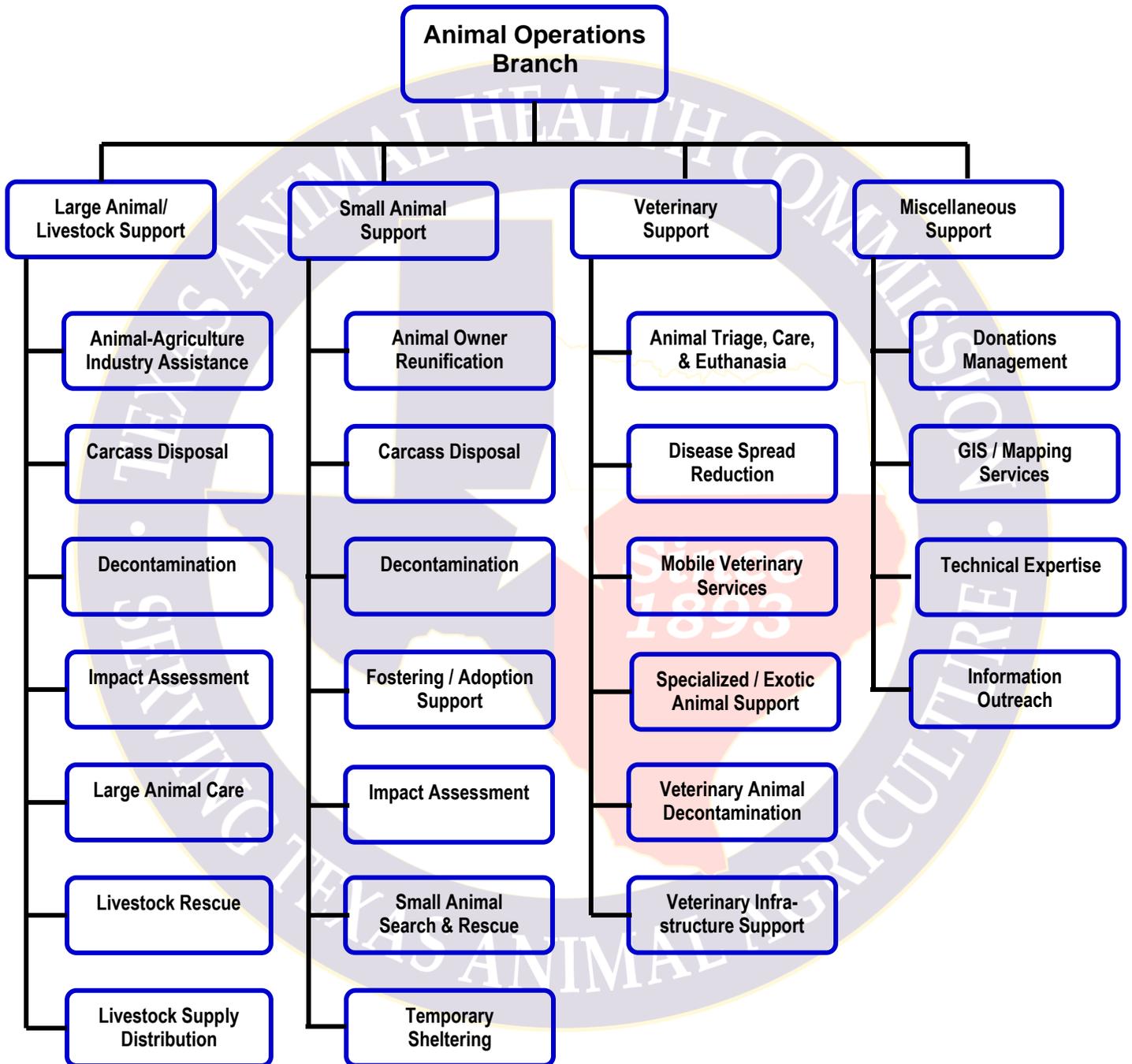
**VIII. ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Organizational Chart: Animal Operations Branch
- B. Organizational Chart: Animal Response Operations Coordination Center
- C. Animal Response Resources



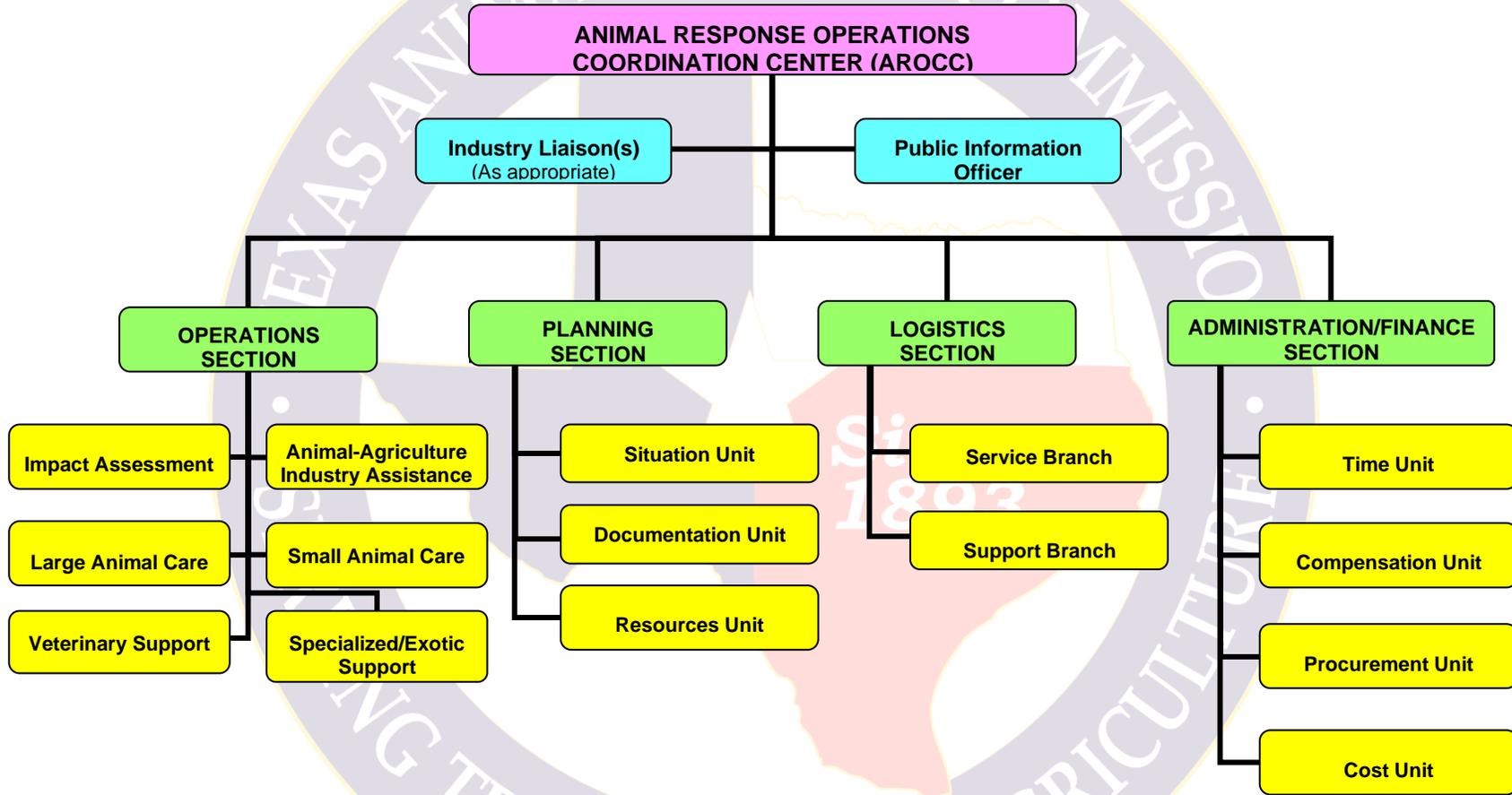
# ATTACHMENT A

## ORGANIZATION CHART: ANIMAL OPERATIONS BRANCH



# ATTACHMENT B

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART: ANIMAL RESPONSE OPERATIONS COORDINATION CENTER



# ATTACHMENT C

## ANIMAL RESPONSE OPERATIONS RESOURCES

**Note:** *Animal Response Team(s) and/or Mission Ready Packages will be staffed based upon the nature and scope of the response; the availability of qualified personnel, equipment, and resources; and the current National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) Guidelines.*

**1. Animal Branch Management Team(s) (ABMT) may include the following personnel:**

Type II / III Incident Commander  
Type II / III Command and General Staff personnel  
Type II / III Resource Unit Leader  
Type II / III Animal Branch Director  
Incident Staff Veterinarian

**2. Animal Needs Assessment Team(s) (ANAT) may include the following personnel::**

Supervising Inspector  
Livestock Inspector(s)  
Staff Veterinarian  
Technical Specialist(s)  
Liaison Officer

**3. Basic Response Team(s) (BRT) may include the following personnel::**

Supervising Inspector(s)  
Livestock Inspector(s)  
Staff Veterinarian  
Technical Specialist(s)  
Owner Liaison Specialist(s)

**4. Horseback Emergency Response Team(s) (HERT) may include the following personnel:**

Supervising Inspector(s)  
Livestock Inspector(s)  
Staff Veterinarian  
Animal Health Technician(s)  
Technical Specialist(s)  
Owner Liaison Specialist(s)

**5. Livestock Handling Team(s) (LSHT) may include the following personnel::**

Animal Health Technician(s)  
Biosecurity Specialist(s)  
Livestock Handler(s)  
Owner Liaison Specialist(s)

**6. Carcass Disposal Team**

Biosecurity Specialist(s)  
Fire Control Officer(s)  
Heavy Equipment Operator(s)  
Owner Liaison Specialist(s)  
Disposal Permitting Authorities  
Transportation Liaison(s)

**7. Behavioral Health/CISM Team**

Behavioral Health Specialist(s)  
Owner Liaison Specialist(s)

**8. Texas A&M VET**

Veterinarian Faculty Members  
Safety Officer  
Anesthesia Technician(s)  
Small Animal Technicians(s)  
Large Animal Technician(s)  
Administrative/Logistics Officer  
Logistics Assistant  
Veterinary Student(s)

