Tornado Summit 2017

Byron Schick DVM
USDA Veterinary Services
February 2017

Mike Wiley DVM
Faja-Center Veterinary Hospital
February 2017

County/State/Federal Response
ODAFF and County respond within hours
ODAFF requested APHIS assistance
APHIS initial response was two Technical Specialist
Incident Expanded Additional Resources requested
Additional resources allowed ODAFF to deploy more response to the scene
Federal assets demobilized in 10 days

Incident Objectives
1. Ensure Responder Safety: first priority at all times
2. Maintain Companion Animal SAR, Triage, sheltering and reunification operations
3. Establish a process for large animal disposal and complete the removal within 48.
4. Coordinate producer’s reacquisition of lost and/or stray livestock and horses.
5. Maintain Operational Security at all times
6. Coordinate Shelter Volunteers
7. Conduct livestock fatality assessment utilizing grid surveillance.

Private Practice Response
• Medical Issues – Violent Injuries
• Practice Issues – Staffing, supply, cost, volunteers, fatigue
• Clientele on hold

Who...Owns...This...Horse???

Our response was organized by Functional Group

SA GROUP
Small Animal(SA) SAR
SA Triage and Transport
Shelter Support
Note: Facilitation of reunification was a big job
Volunteer Management
Veterinarians
Veterinary Technicians
Psychological First Aid
Data Entry...

LA GROUP
Livestock Loss Assessment
Carcass Removal
Equine Reunification
Note: 2 large horse farms were directly in the tornado path, many of these horses were expensive and insured and had owners from many locations; all horse carcasses were identified by location found, all identifying marks, tattoos, brands were photographed to facilitate identification and adequate claim information
Lessons learned

“Relentless preparation is the key to emergency performance” ..... Mayor Rudy Giuliani

Use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Websites) is critical

Competing priorities – jurisdictional, political and financial

Where all available State assets deployed

Organizing multiple entities (county, state, federal, volunteer, NGO) is challenging

Pre-Incident relationships are essential

POTUS may visit the scene