

Training Program Title: Training to Enhance Regional Collaboration and Utilize the National Credentialing Standards for Animal Emergency Responders to Effectively Manage All Hazards Disaster Response and Recovery

Funding: \$2,322,493, Awarded September 15, 2008, 3 Year Program

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Executive Summary: Implementation of the National Credentialing Standards for Animal Emergency Responders will be supported through development and delivery of a collaborative national training program targeted towards state and local officials with a responsibility for management of all hazards disaster response and recovery. These standards were finalized in 2007 and are intended to be used to support collaboration and the utilization of regional, state, local, private sector, and academic resources to build capabilities for an effective response and recovery from an all hazards animal related disaster. A national credentialing system is mandated by HSPD 5 and is intended to improve the methods, capabilities and coordination of emergency responders to deal with response and recovery from all hazards domestic incidents. Credentials are baseline criteria representing the *minimum* requirement for response personnel to participate in the National Incident Management System Integration Division, National Emergency Responder Credentialing System. A credential provides for a quick and accurate verification of an individual's identity and helps ensure that personnel representing various jurisdictional levels and functional disciplines possess a minimum common level of training, experience, and physical and medical fitness for any incident management or emergency responder position that they may be asked to fill. This training program can serve as a model for the implementation of national credentialing standards for other disciplines once developed, such as for public health, food response and others. **Collaborative planning to share resources between the public-private sector and between states in the event of an animal-related disaster will be one of the primary measurable outcomes of this training program.**

The training program will include two components: A) a 4 hour online course at the awareness/performance level; and B) a 1 ½ day instructor-led management level course that will be delivered in the local community. The instructor-led course will be primarily exercise-based with scenarios and video injects to illustrate the process of resource typing and use of the credentialing standards to facilitate effective management of resources between the public-private sectors and across state lines. 54 deliveries of the instructor-led course (51 deliveries and 3 pilots) will be offered nationwide. Total estimate of individuals to be trained is 7400. Our partners on the project include: UT Extension, TN and NM Depts. of Agriculture, New Mexico State University, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, USDA/APHIS, and DHS.