Protecting Agriculture Infrastructure

Infectious disease outbreaks in animals are one of the most serious threats to the nation’s agriculture industry. During an outbreak, decision-makers can easily become overwhelmed with industry data, news reports, official updates, spreadsheets, maps, photos, and other documentation. A coordinated decision-making process is critical to ensuring business continuity, avoiding inefficient and ineffective industry response, and minimizing the impact of an outbreak to human health and to the economy.

Suite of Products Aids in Daily Operations, Preparedness, and Response Activities

Developed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate Center of Excellence for Zoonotic and Animal Disease Defense at Texas A&M University, AgConnect® is a suite of data integration and analysis products designed to enhance situational awareness during infectious animal disease outbreaks.

AgConnect® is a portable system that can be rapidly launched and implemented. It combines a variety of data sources into customizable applications that are easy-to-use, provide updates in real time, and are based on a single common operating picture.

Features and Benefits of AgConnect®

- Supports the entire emergency cycle: planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery
- Supports sector-specific business continuity planning
- Collects, aggregates, and analyzes multiple data sources (e.g., field reports, incident details, sample collection test results, maps, live data, video feeds) that update in real time
- Can be customized to fit the specific needs of end users during an incident
- May be used as a training tool to prepare decision-makers and early responders before an outbreak occurs

AgConnect® Applications

Mobile Tools:

- **AgConnect® mHealth** provides industry-specific mobile applications for collecting and analyzing animal health surveillance data in the field. Valuable information is provided to practitioners about health reports in their state, aiding them in animal diagnosis and treatment. AgConnect® mHealth was previously known as the Biosurveillance Field Entry System.

- **AgConnect® mCVI** allows veterinarians to submit certificates of veterinary inspection to state animal health official offices from their mobile devices. AgConnect® mCVI is an updated version of iCVI and is now available for iOS and Android devices.

Analytical Tools:

- **AgConnect® HealthNet** - AgConnect® HealthNet provides a comprehensive view of animal health to aid in early detection or disease or monitor changes in animal health status. AgConnect® HealthNet was formerly known as Enhanced Passive Surveillance Analyst Workstation.

- **AgConnect® LabNet** - AgConnect® LabNet is a web-based tool that determines resource availability, allowing laboratories and laboratory networks to prioritize lab activities during an outbreak. AgConnect® LabNet was formerly known as the Laboratory Capacity Estimation Model.

- **AgConnect® ResponseNet** - AgConnect® ResponseNet is a web-based response and business continuity planning suite that supports data integration and visualization for large- and small-scale incident management to facilitate decision-making through official government systems of record. AgConnect® ResponseNet was formerly known as the Emergency Response Support System.

Real Users, Real Results

- **AgConnect® mCVI** is being piloted with more than 700 users across 16 states.
- **AgConnect® LabNet** has more than 300 users in 60 participating laboratories.

AgConnect® HealthNet view during a notional animal disease outbreak. Unaffected counties are shown in green and affected counties are shown in shades of yellow (fewest animal disease reports) to brown (most animal disease reports).

To learn more about AgConnect, contact the DHS S&T Office of University Programs at universityprograms@hq.dhs.gov.