

**I. PURPOSE**

- A. The purpose of this plan is to coordinate the effective use of public and private partnerships for the care and well being of animals during and after a natural or technological disaster. This plan does not contain standard operating procedures; instead it consists of guidelines for the coordination between its partners. Organizations within this plan are encouraged to develop their own emergency operations plan with standard operating procedures.

**II. PET POPULATION ESTIMATES**

Based on the American Veterinary Medical Association’s 2002 studies, the following are the estimated number of pets per household:

Percentage of households owning a pet	
Dogs	58.9
Cats	27.3
Birds	4.6
Horses	1.5

2002 census estimates indicate Mower County has 5,092 households. Based on these numbers the estimated pet population and figures for Mower County are:

Dogs	3,200	
Cats	1,390	
Birds	234	
Horses	153	(2002 US Agriculture Census)
Cattle	24,697	(2002 US Agriculture Census)
Hogs	220,759	(2002 US Agriculture Census)
Sheep	1,857	(2002 US Agriculture Census)

Mower County also has an undetermined number of exotics and pocket pets.

**III. RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. Emergency Management Director**

- a. The Emergency Management Director is responsible for plan activation.
- b. The Emergency Management Director will assist in providing resource coordination between the public and private sector.
- c. The Emergency Management Director is responsible for coordinating the dissemination of information to the public on mitigation and recovery actions for domestic animals.

**B. County Agricultural Extension**

- a. Mower County Extension can be contacted for possible livestock sheltering. An attempt will first be made by the livestock owner to find sheltering. If sheltering is not available to the owner, Mower County Extension will be contacted for possible sheltering at the fairgrounds.
  - i. Transportation of livestock will be the responsibility of the farmer/owner of the livestock.
  - ii. Feeding, care and medical concerns are the responsibility of the farmer/owner of the livestock
  - iii. The County Fairgrounds will only be used as a temporary shelter facility.

**C. Animal Control Officers**

- i. Local Law Enforcement will be called upon to assist with animal control.

**D. Veterinarian Community**

The veterinarian community is responsible for the treatment of minor and severe injuries, illness, and contamination. The Triage Veterinarian on scene will determine whether to provide care at the clinic or the shelter facility.

- A. Austin Veterinarian Clinic  
3100 Oakland Ave W  
Austin MN 55912  
507 433-5225
- B. Veterinary Medical Hospital  
803 18<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Austin MN 55912  
507 433-2353
- C. Stateline Veterinary Service  
17 4<sup>th</sup> ST S  
Adams MN 55909  
507 582-1244

Responding Animal Assistance Organizations are **required** to establish and maintain contact with EOC/Incident Command staff.

**E. Transportation**

Small Animal – Pet owners shall be encouraged to transport their own animals to an animal shelter site.

Large Animal - Large animal owners shall be encouraged to transport their own animals to an animal shelter site.

Service Animals- Service animals will remain with their respected handlers.

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**1. Animal Disposal**

- A. Burial of animals requires great care in site selection because as carcasses decompose, they release materials that can pollute ground water, particularly if large volumes are buried. This practice is most suitable for small amounts of materials. It is recommended to contact MN Pollution Control for current guidelines.
- B. Animal carcasses must be disposed of as soon as reasonably possible, i.e.: within 48-72 hours. Burying a carcass requires that the carcass be 5 ft. above the height water level and covered with 3 ft. of dirt. Sandy or gravelly areas or areas within 10 ft. of bedrock should be avoided.
- C. Incineration must be in an incinerator that is approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- D. Hauling over the road, carcasses or discarded animal parts must be in vehicles or containers that are leak proof and covered. The vehicles also need to be inspected and have a permit, unless the vehicle belongs to the owner of the animal before it died.
- E. Composting is the process of placing carcasses in layers with carbon source and manure to allow the natural heating process to break down the carcass and reduce its mass. As of January 1996, composting of swine, sheep, goats and poultry is allowed.
- F. Fur farms need a permit and inspected vehicle to haul carcasses or discarded animal parts over the road.
- G. Each carcass used as pet food must pass an inspection by a veterinarian and must be processed under clean and sanitary conditions. Carcasses left at an off-site pickup point must be in an animal-proof enclosed area that is at least 200 yards from a neighbor's buildings. Carcasses must be picked up within 72 hours, except if the enclosed area is refrigerated to less than 45 degrees. In these cases they must be picked up within 7 days.

## **F. PLAN ACTIVATION PROCEDURES**

### **Emergency Management Director**

1. The Emergency Management Director will call the Infectious Disease Supervisor for Mower County Public Health.
2. The Public Information Officer will disseminate public information to evacuees and evacuation personnel.
  - A. Notify evacuees, via the media, instructing them on the location of the animal care facilities.
  - B. Notify Law Enforcement on the location of the animal care facilities.
  - C. Notify the Red Cross that the plan has been activated, so that they can direct evacuees to the appropriate shelter for their animals.
3. Coordinate with the MN Board of Animal Health on the removal and disposal of dead animals.
4. Make request for additional assistance and support – When a disaster situation in the county exceeds its locally available resources the Emergency Management Director will request assistance and support from other recognized agencies providing animal care and shelter.
5. Continue monitoring the Disaster Animal Plan, making necessary adjustments and assigning and disseminating public information.

### **G. Event Coordinator**

1. The Plan Coordinator will be the on-scene coordinator for the Disaster Animal Plan. The plan coordinator will direct, manage and oversee operations of the plan.
2. The Plan Coordinator will notify appropriate animal control officers to assist with animal rescue. The plan coordinator will coordinate search and rescue for animals in the disaster area.
3. The Plan Coordinator will contact veterinarians needed for the management and care of the animals.
4. Submit situation reports to the County Emergency Manager in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to inform the Emergency Manager of activities, operations and plans.
5. Continue directing, managing and overseeing the operations of the Disaster Animal Plan.

## VI. FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE

- A. The purpose of this section is to ensure Mower County Emergency Management includes response to an actual or impending Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). This is a guide for support rather than response because in the case of FMD, response authorities are held by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) and the county is responsible for support and resources defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- B. This does not include disease proven to be zoonotic as these diseases fall under the primary jurisdiction of Mower County Public Health and Minnesota Department of Health.
- C. This section also does not apply to animals that are abandoned or neglected and those injured or killed by natural or technological disaster. Those guidelines are previously addresses.
- D. The County Emergency Management Director is responsible for coordinating local government and private resources in support of FAD outbreak response under the direction and control of BAH.
  - Coordinate local resources in support of FAD outbreak response under direction of BAH;
  - Activate the EOC if required
  - Maintaining contact with ICP to coordinate requests for local support;
  - Keeping affected jurisdiction informed and providing advice in support of response measures;
  - Provide liaisons to affected jurisdictions
  - Prepare situation reports for HSEM;
  - Coordinate local activities with the state agencies in accordance with this plan;
  - Coordinate disaster related PIO if needed;
  - Locate local resources including equipment and personnel;
  - Mapping can be obtained from Public Works Department
- E. Mower County has identified an animal storage facility in the event that it is needed. Attachment A, Attachment B and Attachment C for mapping
- F. Trusted Agents List:
  - a. Mower County Sheriff
  - b. City of Austin Chief
  - c. City of Austin Fire Chief
  - d. Mower County Emergency Management
  - e. Mower County Commissioners
  - f. City of Austin Mayor
  - g. Feed Lot Officer
  - h. Public Works Director
  - i. Industry
- G. See Attachment D for State of Minnesota FMD Emergency Plan..

### **Additional Resources**

**Minnesota Animal Control Association (MACA)** – <http://minnesotaanimalcontrol.org>

**Minnesota State Government (North Star)** – [www.state.mn.us](http://www.state.mn.us)

**MN Division of Emergency Management (DEM)** – [www.dem.state.mn.us](http://www.dem.state.mn.us)

**MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** -

*Homepage* – [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

*Wildlife Area Officers* – [www.dnr.state.mn.us/fish\\_and\\_wildlife/wildoff.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fish_and_wildlife/wildoff.html)

**MN Department of Agriculture** – [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)

**MN Board of Animal Health (MN BOAH)** – [www.bah.state.mn.us](http://www.bah.state.mn.us)

**MN Department of Health (MDH)** - [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

**MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)** – [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)

**USA, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS)** –

[www.nass.usda.gov/census/census97/highlights/mn/mn.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census97/highlights/mn/mn.htm)

**USDA, Farm Service Agency (USDA FSA)** – [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**American Humane Association (AHA)** – [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)

**Animal Humane Society (Golden Valley, MN)** – [www.animalhumanesociety.org](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org)

**Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)** – [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

**MN Horse Council** – [www.MNHorseCouncil.org](http://www.MNHorseCouncil.org)

**American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)**

*Home Page* – [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

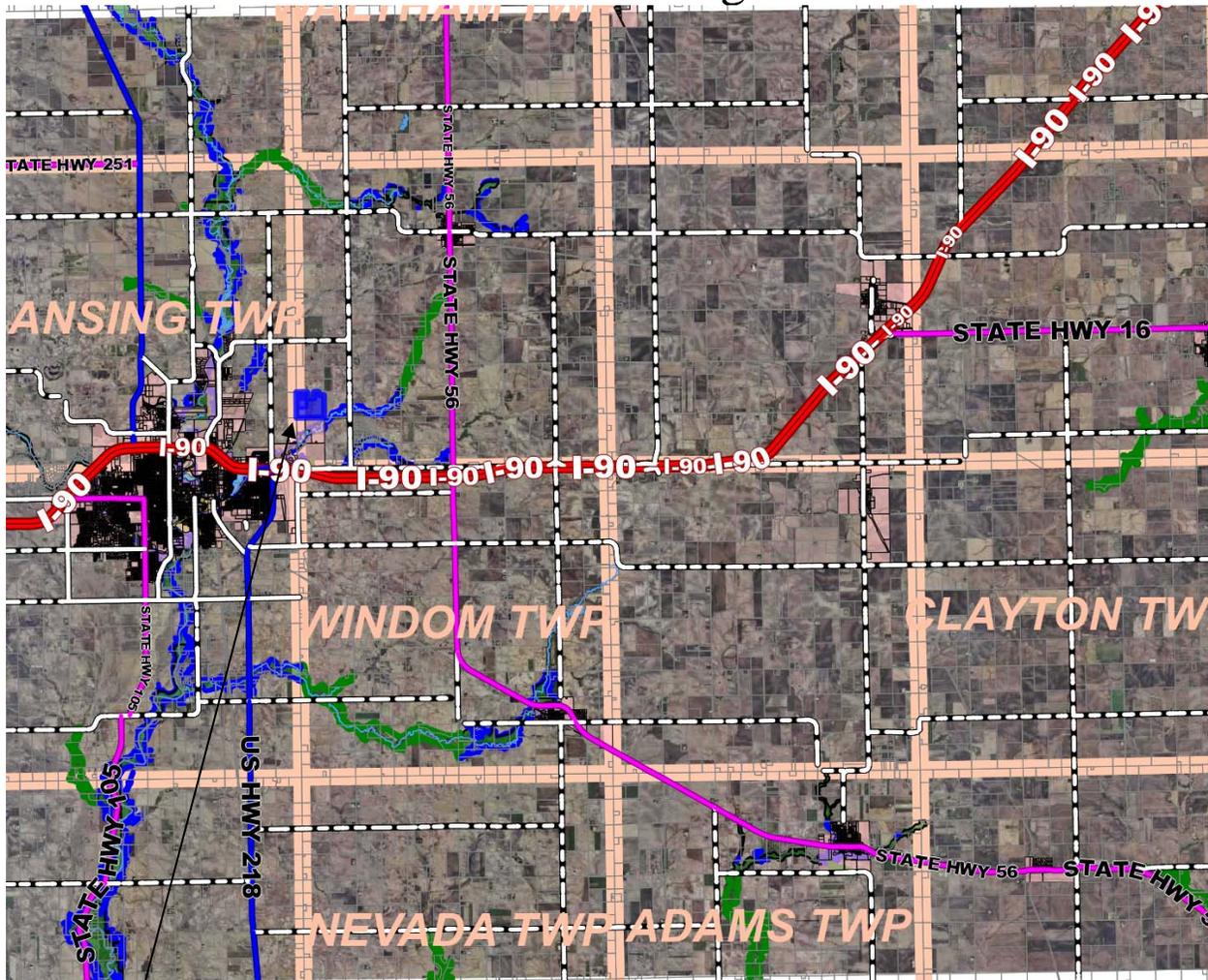
*Formulas for Estimating Pet Numbers* – [www.avma.org/cim/estimate.htm](http://www.avma.org/cim/estimate.htm)

**League of Minnesota Cities** – [www.lmnc.org](http://www.lmnc.org)

**University of Minnesota Extension Service** – [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu).

ATTACHEMNT A

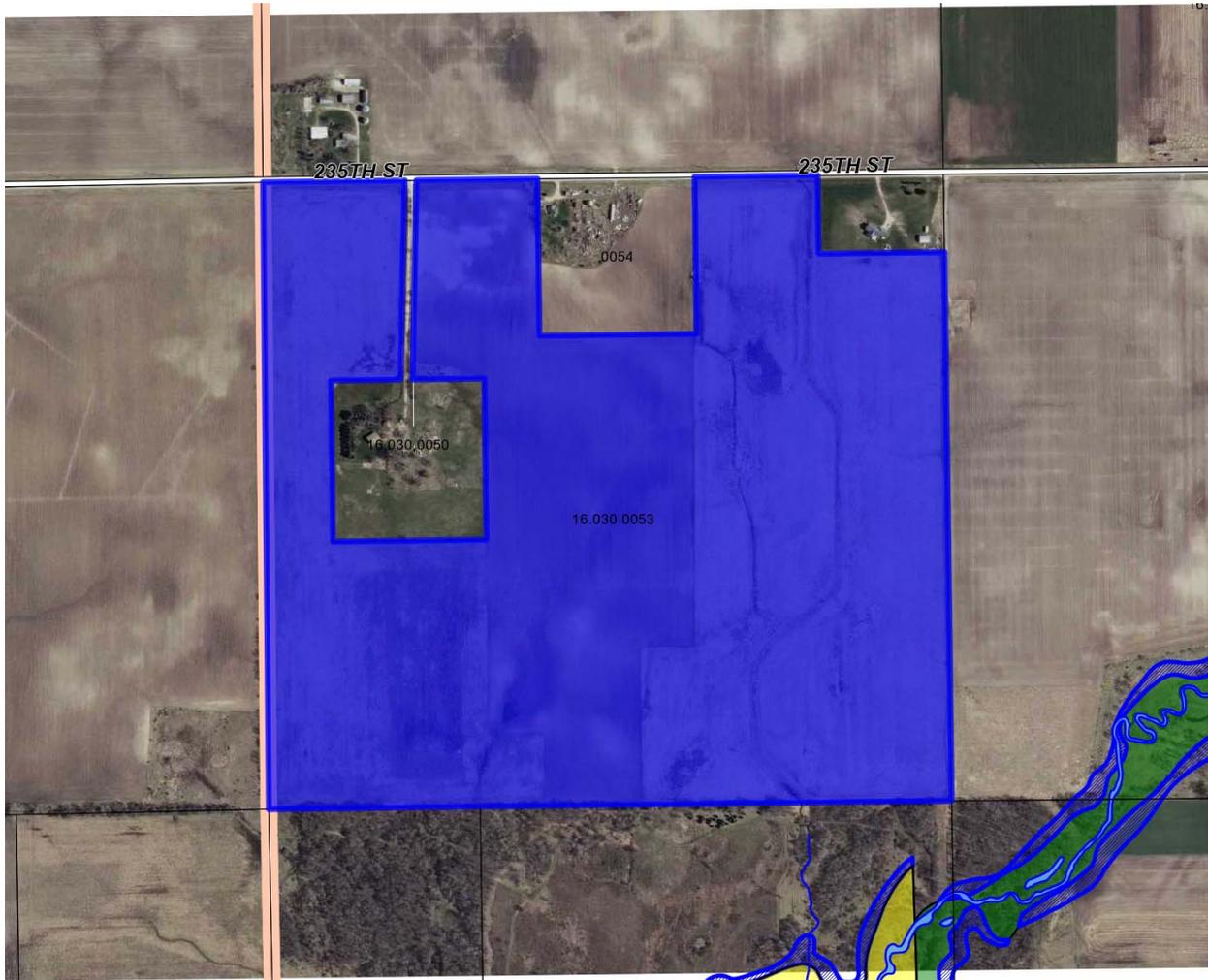
### Animal Storage



Red Rock Township  
Section 30  
SW Corner

ATTACHEMNT B

## Animal Storage Closer View



## Within 6 Mile Radius (Please note, radius falls into Freeborn County)

