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Elements for Surveillance Scheme Design in U.S. Animal Health

Last Modified:

1. Surveillance Objective

- Describe the hazard management goal and the response objective or activity supported by the surveillance. State the specific surveillance objective with a measure of precision.
- 2. State the measurable outcome of the surveillance scheme. Describe the action that will result from the information gathered through surveillance.
- 3. Describe the consequences of making a wrong decision using the surveillance information.

2. Surveillance Context

- 1. Describe the setting in which surveillance is carried out. Include:
 - 1. The species of animal
 - 2. The production type or environment in which the animals are found including the region or State(s) that are the focus of this surveillance
 - 3. The health hazard of primary concern
 - 4. Historic presence/absence of the health hazard
 - 5. All response actions that are in place at the time of the surveillance (such as biosecurity measures, movement restrictions, isolation periods, and similar.)
- 2. Indicate items from the list above that impact the level of surveillance needed to achieve the surveillance objective.

3. Inference Group

- 1. Carefully define the inference group (the group of units the surveillance provides information about), making it clear which units are included in the inference group and which ones are not.
- 2. Note if the inference group differs in any way from the population included in the hazard management goal, what those differences are, and why there is a difference.

4. Unit Selection

- 1. Identify the specific units (animals, pens, barns, premises, areas, zones, etc.) to collect measurements from.
- 2. Describe the hierarchy of units to select and measure. For example, to collect measurements about disease on a premises might require selecting barns within the premises, pens within the barns, and animals within the pens.
- 3. Explain the processes for selecting units from the inference group, such as selecting all units (census), random selection, targeted selection, or a combination.
- 4. When using targeted selection, describe and justify the use of the targeting criteria.

5. Measurements

- 1. List the primary measurements required to achieve the surveillance objective.
- 2. List additional measurements (contextual data) required.

6. Measurement Tools

- 1. Describe the tools (instruments, devices, processes) to be used to take the measurements.
- 2. Provide references to other material as necessary so that the measurements can be collected correctly.

7. Number of Units

- 1. Provide the number of units (at all levels of the hierarchy) to collect measurements from to achieve the surveillance objective(s).
- 2. Include the level of precision or the uncertainty in the inference or predictions. Specifically, state the chances of making a wrong decision using the surveillance information provided by this scheme and list the conditions that could result in an error.
- 3. Describe how quickly the measurements need to be collected (the period of time for taking the key measurements) to be considered one measurement event.

8. Frequency of Repetitions and Duration

- 1. Explain whether the measurement event needs to be repeated and how often.
- 2. Describe the duration of surveillance (or number of repeats) to achieve the surveillance objective(s).

9. Data Recording

- 1. Describe any processes or systems for recording data such as approved forms, electronic forms on hand-held devices, or official data systems.
- 2. Provide details on how specific data fields should be entered or provide a link to special instructions for each official system used.

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