

Diocese of Wakefield ~ Rural Affairs

CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR AN ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK

PREPARATION FOR AN OUTBREAK

- Build and maintain links with all relevant agencies (eg Defra, Farm Crisis Network, Rural Officers Network, National Farmers' Union, Arthur Rank Centre, West Yorkshire Rural Support Network, Farming Support Agencies etc).
- Share contingency planning information with bishops, senior staff team, rural deans, clergy and parishes.
- Ensure that channels of communication within the diocese will be available and used effectively.
- Obtain information about how many farms and what kind of farming takes place within the diocese and parishes.
- Provide information about biosecurity.

RESPONSE TO AN ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK

- Inform bishops, senior staff, rural deans, Board of Responsibility, clergy that we are in a contingency situation.
- Ensure communication links are open with Defra, Arthur Rank Centre, Farm Crisis Network and other farming help agencies.
- Provide relevant information updates throughout the diocese.
- Update diocesan website.
- Circulate prayer points as appropriate.
- Issue press releases as appropriate.
- Monitor impact closely and arrange for extra assistance as needed.

IMMEDIATE PASTORAL RESPONSE

- Supply a briefing which will include:
 - An explanation of what the disease is
 - How it is spread
 - What effect the news of an outbreak will have on the farm and community
 - What is the impact of restrictions on livestock movement and the closure of markets
 - Who needs our support
 - How best can support be given
 - Supply suggested prayers to parishes