

Agro Terrorism Training Planned Southwest Nebraska Emergency Management and Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department are sponsoring a Foreign Animal Disease Response Training on April 24 in McCook and April 25 in Imperial.

This agro terrorism preparedness course for responders is certified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and approved by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Registration.

The training is free of charge but class sizes are limited.

An attack on the food system can happen anytime, anywhere. Training and preparing today could protect communities from economic and agricultural destruction.

"The training is an excellent opportunity for the responders in southwest Nebraska. The last training we hosted for southwest Nebraska on agro terrorism was held in 2005. This training will provide an opportunity for refresher on quarantine, personal protective equipment, euthanasia and disposal of animals and cleaning and disinfection operations," said Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator of Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department.

Responders, veterinarians, livestock producers and feeders are vital in detecting, containing, and recovering from a foreign animal disease outbreak. Responders assess the local situation, assist state, federal and tribal agencies; coordinate local resources and may remain on the scene to control and prevent future contamination.

This new Train-the-Trainer Foreign Animal Disease Response course provides the information needed to train responders in the community.

Local responders who need to take this course include agriculture and food producers, law enforcement officers, firefighters, veterinarians, emergency medical services personnel, emergency management, public health officials, public works personnel, livestock producers/groups, elected officials and local officials.

The training in Imperial will be at the fairgrounds' 4-H Building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To register, contact Heidi Wheeler at 308-882-4269 or by e-mail [heidi@swhealthdept.com](mailto:heidi@swhealthdept.com).

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Furnas, Frontier, Red Willow, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins, Chase and Dundy Counties.