

## WARN E-News...

March 31, 2008 - Issue No. 3

*Highlighting some of the activities in which the Wisconsin Agro-Security Resource Network (WARN) has been involved to continue to build a stronger and more effective network for agricultural and food security between industry and government.*

### Message from WARN Chair, Matt Mathison



As many of you will recall, Tom Thieding moved to a new position within Rural Mutual Insurance Companies last November, leaving the WARN Chair position vacant. I was approached by the WARN Board and asked to consider the position.

I'd like to express my thanks to the Board for being selected as the new WARN Chair. I'd encourage all of you to express your thanks to Tom Thieding, the former WARN Chair, who did a great job in taking WARN from the conceptual stage to a vibrant and relevant organization. Tom, my personal thanks as well.

#### Introduction to Matt Mathison:

- Actively involved in the dairy and food industry for more than 30 years
- With Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board past 11 years; currently serves as VP-Technical Services
- Involved in food defense and emergency preparedness planning during past five years
- Currently coordinates two industry-led committees with focus on food safety and food defense/emergency preparedness issues
- Past president of Wisconsin Association for Food Protection (WAFP)
- Certified Agroterrorism Preparedness instructor through Department of Homeland Security
- Member of FBI Agro-Security Working Group for WI
- Trained in ICS100, ICS200 and ICS300; IS700 (NIMS)
- Participated in numerous county/regional preparedness exercises
- Panel member of numerous industry programs covering agro-security

### WARN Board of Directors and Strategy Partners

On January 7, 2008, the WARN Board of Directors met to approve two new Directors. A complete listing of the WARN Board and Strategy Partners is included on the WARN website

(<http://www.wisconsinagroresource.net/warnboardandmembers.html>).

If you have questions about WARN, would like a presentation to your business, have ideas about WARN's involvement in food and agriculture security, or want to become active in the organization, contact [Matt Mathison](#) or [John Petty](#).

### WARN Member Profile



**Darlene Konkle, DVM, MS**

**Veterinary Emergency Program Manager for the Division of Animal Health  
WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
608-224-4902**

Dr. Darlene Konkle became the veterinary emergency program manager for the Division of Animal Health in August 2007, after working for one and a half years in the Johne's Disease Control Program. In her new position, she is part of a team committed to assuring a healthy animal population and a safe food supply for Wisconsin. Darlene helps coordinate Wisconsin's response to new and emerging diseases that could threaten animals and animal agriculture. This involves reviewing and updating the state's emergency response plans and providing training to division staff. She also provides education and outreach to the public on animal health emerging issues, emergency management, disease control programs and biosecurity practices. She works closely with USDA-APHIS, the Wisconsin Veterinary

# Wisconsin Agro-Security Resource Network

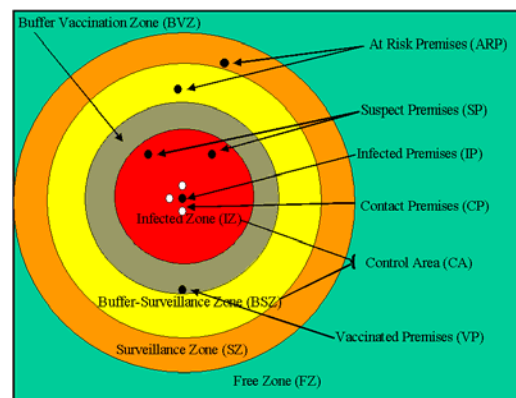
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Diagnostic Laboratory, the Division of Public Health, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, UW-Extension and WARN.

One project of special importance for which Darlene is responsible is updating the Wisconsin Animal Health Emergency Management System (WAHEMS) strategic plan. WAHEMS represents a public-private partnership. The goal is to minimize the impact of an animal disease outbreak or a disaster affecting animal health by maximizing all resources in the state. There are many stakeholders in Wisconsin's animal health system – the agriculture industry, DATCP, UW-Extension, and private veterinarians, to name a few. WAHEMS brings these stakeholders together with a shared understanding of their roles and responsibilities in an animal health emergency. Since the WAHEMS strategic plan was drafted in 2004, there have been changes. New stakeholders have emerged, and others have dropped out. By working together, industry can plan, prepare and respond to protect Wisconsin's animal health and animal agriculture from any threat. Contact [Dr. Konkle](#) for more information regarding these DATCP programs.

## Dairy Industry Business Continuity Response Planning

Each day sixty-six (66) million lbs. of raw milk moves across the state of Wisconsin. In the event of a foreign animal disease (such as foot and mouth disease [FMD]), this movement of milk would be stopped for likely a minimum of 72 hours. Six Wisconsin cheese companies, WMMB and DATCP have begun work on drafting an animal health incident response plan that focuses on this important business continuity issue. The plan will develop a set of best management practices for farms, milk transporters and processing plants to 1) proactively prevent or mitigate an outbreak, and 2) effectively respond to an outbreak. A coordinated public sector and private industry response with identified roles and responsibilities for each sector will help ensure continued dairy industry viability. Contact [Matt Mathison](#) for more information on this project.



## Pork Producers Ethical Principles Include Food Safety Element

Delegates at the National Pork Industry Forum recently adopted "Ethical Standards for U.S. Pork Producers" (<http://www.pork.org/NewsAndInformation/docs/IR1NPBTfEthicalPrinciples.pdf>), a statement showing that U.S. pork producers recognize their obligation to build and maintain the trust of customers and the public in their products and their practices.

Food safety is included in the statement as one of the ethical principles and code of conduct. Other areas defined in the document include animal well being, environment, public health, employee care, and the local community. Contact [Tammy Vaassen](#) for more information on this program.

## WARN working with DATCP on Food System Flow Charts

As reported in the last issue of the WARN E-News, several members of the ag and food industry had worked with Kristin Gunther, Planning Analyst with the Wisconsin DATCP, to develop a food system flow chart entitled *Characterizing Wisconsin's Food Systems from Production to Consumption: A Reference Document* (<http://datcp.state.wi.us/fs/business/food/publications/pdf/CharacWIFoodDistribSystem.pdf>) that describes the movement of livestock, milk, vegetables and cranberries through processing and delivery to consumers. The purpose was to document the flow as part of a statewide emergency food response plan and for the Homeland Security protocols that require DATCP to identify and characterize critical food resources in the state.

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## Recent WARN Activities

- Participated at Multi-State Agroterrorism Preparedness Workshop, La Crosse, November 14-15, 2007
- Presented WARN at the EPA Region 5 Homeland Security Workshop, Chicago, January 29, 2008
- Presented WARN to the Wisconsin Homeland Security Council, Madison, March 12, 2008
- Met with World Dairy Expo officials to help develop animal health-related emergency response plans for WDE, Madison, March 20, 2008

## On-Line Resources

- FEMA (<http://www.fema.gov/about/training/index.shtml>) provides on-line training for Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- The Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) ([http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/section\\_detail.asp?linkcatid=79&linkid=30&locid=18](http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/section_detail.asp?linkcatid=79&linkid=30&locid=18)) provides a schedule of Emergency Preparedness Exercises.
- The National Response Framework (NRF) (<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nrf/>) officially replaced the National Response Plan on March 22, 2008.

## WARN Member Meeting, May 29, 2008

Save the date! Plans are currently underway to hold the next WARN Member Meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2008. Location is yet to be finalized but will be on the west side of Madison. Forward any agenda items you would like to have included for the meeting to [Matt Mathison](#).

## WARN Website Updates

While the WARN website has undergone some recent remodeling and updating, the WARN Board welcomes your input as to how to continually improve this site. Forward your comments or suggestions to [Gina Bauer](#).

## Upcoming WARN Activities

- April 2: Present WARN to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Board in Madison.
- April 4: Meet with the Iowa Agriculture Emergency Response Team (AERT) to discuss a WARN-type organization for the state of Iowa in Des Moines.
- Meet with State of Minnesota Agriculture Board; postponed with no new meeting date yet set.
- May 29: WARN Member Meeting (see detail in newsletter).

## Upcoming Industry Activities

- April 22-24: The Third International Symposium on Agroterrorism (<http://www.fbi-isa.org/>), presented by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Heart of America Joint Terrorism Task Force; Kansas City, MO.
- The Western Institute for Food Safety (<http://wifss.ucdavis.edu/agroterrorism/classes/classesbydate.php>) (WIFSS) and Racine County Emergency Management, Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant, WI, will sponsor:
  - May 7: *Principles of Detection and Diagnosis—Strategies and Technologies*
  - May 8: *Principles of National Incident Management System (NIMS), Team Building and Risk Communication*
- Regional Animal AgroSecurity Conferences sponsored by The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) (<http://www.eden.lsu.edu/LearningOps/Workshops/AnimalAgroSecurity2007/default.aspx>)
  - June 4-6: North Central Region hosted by North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
  - October 7-8: Midwestern Region, St. Louis, MO

*The Wisconsin Agro-Security Resource Network (WARN) is a network of agriculture and government groups gathered to facilitate an industry-wide awareness and response to an animal health emergency or incident involving Wisconsin agriculture.*

[www.wisconsinagroresource.net](http://www.wisconsinagroresource.net)