An outbreak of a foreign animal disease could cripple the entire agricultural sector and have long-lasting ramifications for the economic viability of U.S. livestock production.

The 2018 Farm Bill needs to establish a three-tiered program to deliver the development and timely deployment of all measures necessary to prevent, identify and mitigate the potentially catastrophic impacts an animal disease outbreak would have on our country’s food security, export markets, and overall economic stability.

**ANIMAL PEST & DISEASE DISASTER PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Modeled after the highly successful Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program, a new Animal Pest and Disease Disaster Prevention Program, administered by APHIS, would provide a proactive and concerted preventative effort focused on early detection and rapid response to protect the nation’s animal agriculture industry.

**ANIMAL VACCINE BANK**

Congress should provide funds to establish and maintain a rapidly deployable vaccine bank for high consequence animal diseases. The efficient and reliable delivery of sufficient vaccines to meet needs in the early stages of an outbreak is crucial to mitigate the potential impacts of an animal disease outbreak.

**NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK**

Building upon the 2014 Farm Bill’s authorization of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), the Animal Disease and Disaster Prevention Program will help support NAHLN and bring together the federal government with states, industry, universities, and other interested groups to reduce disease impact, support research needs, and develop disease prevention and mitigation resources.

**CONTACT US**

Aline DeLucia | aline@nasda.org | (202) 296-9680 | 4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 910, Arlington, VA 22203 | www.nasda.org  @NASDANews  @NASDADC