

 **Project 8.1.3 I'm in Charge Here!****Purpose**

Governmental regulatory agencies exist to protect public safety. Some regulatory agencies establish policies to prevent and limit the spread of potentially harmful diseases and products. In the case of a disease outbreak, the agencies work to control the spread of the disease, recall products, and eliminate the threat.

Regulatory agencies often overlap in their responsibilities. Determining which agency is in charge is sometimes difficult. Many agencies treat and prevent diseases, epidemics, and outbreaks. All of which seek credit for their accomplishments. The difficulty lies in determining which agency should lead the process. Could you persuade an administration to put your agency in charge?

Materials**Per team of three students:**

- Computer with Internet access

Per student:

- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

Procedure

Your team of three will represent one of the following regulatory agencies concerned with handling a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in a new state. Your teacher will assign you an agency from the list below.

APHIS	FDA
CPSC	FSIS
CDC	OSHA
EPA	USDA

Part One – Understanding Your Agency

Research the agency you have been assigned. Determine the purpose and functions of the agency. Use the questions below to guide your research.

- What do the initials of your agency stand for?
- What is the main function or purpose of your agency?
- What does it regulate?
- How does the agency relate to animal production?

Part Two – Identifying the Problem

Read *Project 8.1.3 Case Study*. As you read, develop a list of questions about events of the outbreak. Look for ties to your agency and how the agency may be in charge of eliminating the risk from the FMD outbreak to other areas of agriculture.

 **Project 8.1.3 Case Study**

A new state has been admitted to the United States. Agriculture is the main industry in the new state and it is a major producer of beef and pork. Prior to admission, this state was unregulated and United States officials are leery of some of the prior practices and protocols of the state.

Just two weeks into statehood, it is discovered that Foot-and-Mouth Disease has been running rampant across the state. Already, animals have been shipped across newly deregulated state lines, livestock have been harvested and processed, and thousands of visitors have traipsed across the verdant state. Regulatory organizations are in an uproar and livestock producers across the country are concerned about their animals.

In a poorly devised, but effective effort, the President of the United States promises to double the budget for the next ten years of the regulatory organization that resolves and handles this issue the most quickly and efficiently. This would finally allow the organization to be fully staffed, research and development could progress, and the organization would be world-renowned.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals. It can be spread by humans, birds, and other animals that are not affected by the disease. The disease is identified by a high fever, blisters in the mouth, and sores on the feet and legs. FMD is not typically fatal, but recovery is a very slow process and the disease is so contagious that destruction of infected animals is used to prevent the spread of the disease.

Activities of the new state:

- Mass slaughtering of infected animals just before final inspections for statehood.
- Farm workers have been working double shifts to keep infected animals out of the public eye, sending them to slaughter and burying those too sick to transport in deep hastily dug pits.
- Meat and by-products were salvaged from carcasses prior to disposal.
- Three cattle auctions sent exposed steers to Midwestern states.
- Insulin from cattle and pigs was shipped to a major pharmaceutical company.
- Three shipments of pork were made to the Northeastern states.
- Four truckloads of assorted pigskin products ranging from gloves to chew toys for dogs were shipped to the distribution center of a national retailer.
- Twelve tons of meat and bone meal were sent to an organic fertilizer company on the West Coast.
- Over 8,000 visitors representing all 50 states have visited farms and toured the surrounding areas.