



IOWA  
**RAPID  
RESPONSE**  
TEAM

# The Iowa RRT Update

THAO SCHLICHTE, RAPID RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATOR  
APRIL 30, 2025



# Deliverables

2025 - 2026

# Year 3

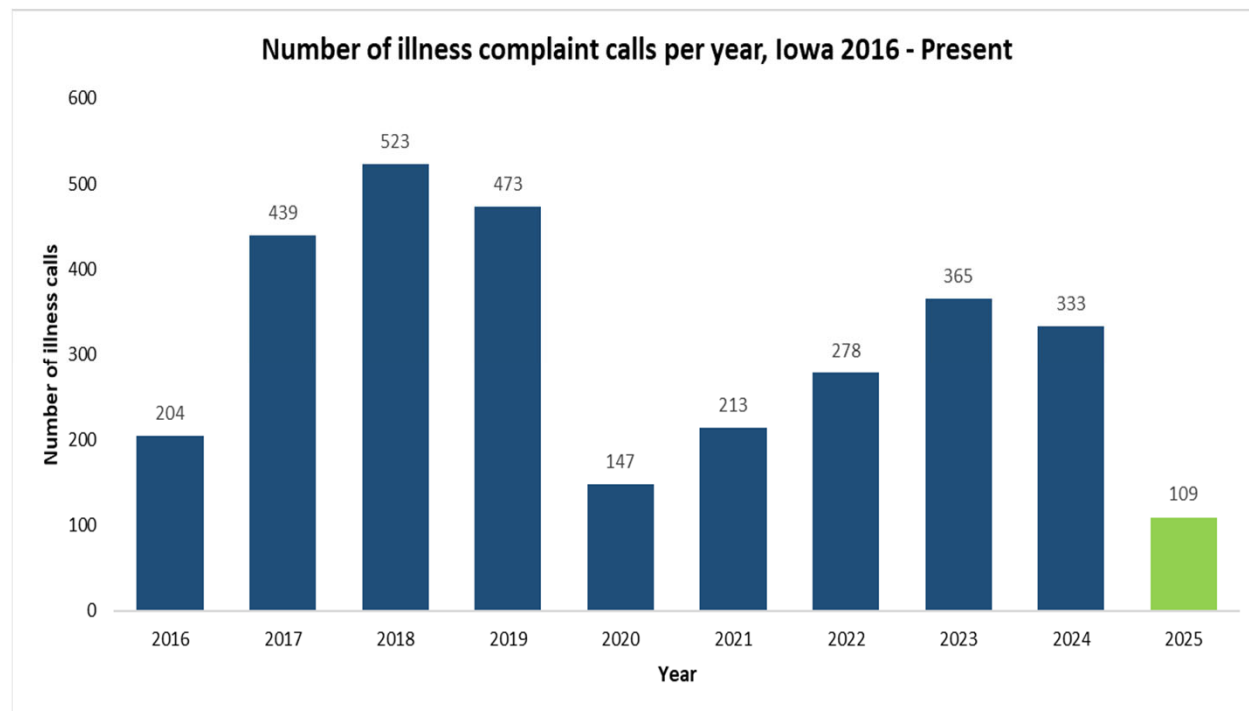
2025 - 2026

- ▶ Maintain written framework
- ▶ Maintain and Coordinate the Team
- ▶ Annual RRT Exercises
- ▶ Work with federal, state local partners, and activate
- ▶ Conduct and document AARs
- ▶ Complete a Capability Assessment Tool review
- ▶ Foodborne Illness Outbreak investigations:  
Environmental Assessments

# Complaint Response

# Illness Complaint – Iowa HHS

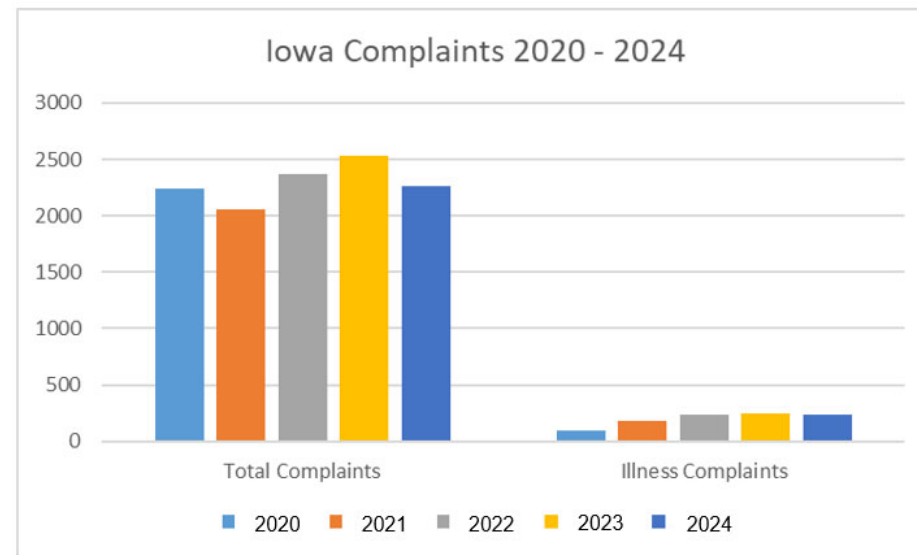
- ▶ Established in 2016
- ▶ Since the launch of the centralized complaint line in 2016, Iowa HHS has received over 2600 illness complaints and investigated over 200 outbreaks





# Iowa Complaints 2020 - -2024

Year	Total Complaints	Illness Complaints	Environmental Assessment Conducted
2020	2243	94	6
2021	2054	178	21
2022	2370	230	15
2023	2532	244	28
2024	2266	238	16



# ICS Activation

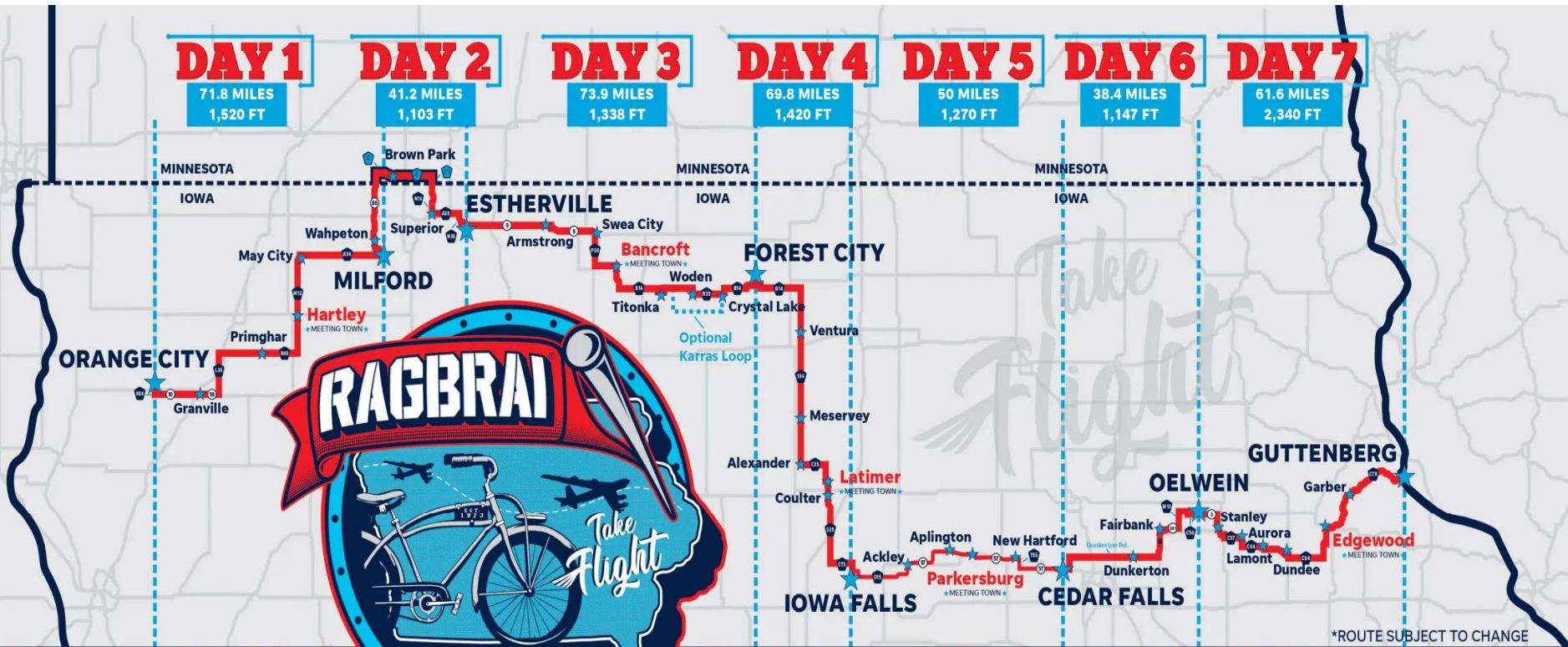




**The IA RRT annual activation will be held between July 19-26, 2025 in response to the 2025 Iowa RAGBRAI, the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.**







**ORANGE CITY to GUTTENBERG**  
**July 19-26, 2025**

\*ROUTE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



# FERP

Food Emergency Response Plan

The Center for Food  
Security & Public  
Health

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



The Center for  
Food Security  
& Public Health

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**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY®**  
College of Veterinary Medicine



RRT

IOWA'S RAPID RESPONSE TEAM



- ▶ **What is the Iowa Rapid Response Team?**
  - ▶ The Iowa Rapid Response Team (RRT) is a multi-agency team that involves interagency collaboration and communication to respond to a food emergency.
- ▶ We often use the Incident Command System (ICS) and a Unified Command Structure to respond to human food emergencies



# The FERP

- ▶ The FERP's purpose is to identify how the State of Iowa will prepare for and conduct a rapid response to significant threats to food safety and public health in coordination with federal and local governments, and also with the private sector.
- ▶ This FERP does not apply to food incidents of a limited scope that are routinely handled by a local or a state agency of authority.
- ▶ This FERP applies to food-related incidents that may involve a high mortality rate, a large number of people in a small area, or that are widespread, involving a number of localities within the State of Iowa, or multiple states.



# The FERP

- ▶ The FERP encourages multi-agency cooperation to minimize the impact of an unintentional or deliberate incident related to Iowa's food supply and preserve public confidence in food safety.
- ▶ The overarching goal is protection of public health and ensuring Iowa's agricultural industry and food security through coordinated response and recovery.



# How are we going to do this?

- ▶ Meetings held virtually
- ▶ Work through sections
- ▶ Meeting every 3 weeks
- ▶ Target Date – Final Document: June 30, 2025



## Upcoming Meetings

- **129TH AFDO ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE: JUNE 21-25, 2025, DALLAS TX**
- **MFRPS COORDINATOR'S VIRTUAL MEETING: AUGUST 25, 2025**
- **MFRPA ANNUAL VIRTUAL MEETING: AUGUST 26-27, 2025**
- **RRT ANNUAL VIRTUAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2025**
- **COMBINED RRT & MFRPS VIRTUAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**
- **2025 MCAFDO ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE: DECEMBER 2-3, 2025**





**Thank You!**

**Thao Schlichte**

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