



Iowa Rapid Response Team Update

THAO SCHLICHTE, RAPID RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATOR

NOVEMBER 3, 2025



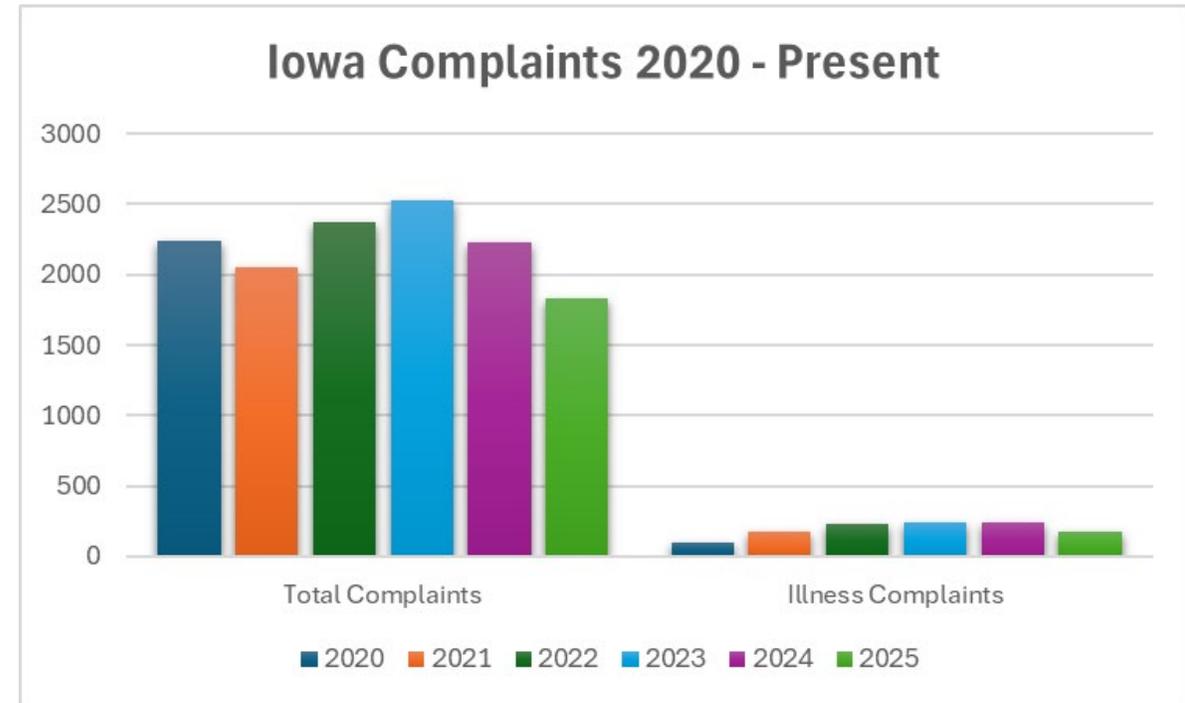
Department of Inspections,
Appeals, & Licensing

Complaint Response



Iowa Complaints

Year	Total Complaints	Illness Complaints	Environmental Assessments Conducted	Emergency Responses
2020	2243	94	6	52
2021	2054	178	21	119
2022	2370	230	15	100
2023	2532	244	28	120
2024	2231	238	16	82
2025	1834	181	4	31



Incident Command System (ICS) Activation

RAGBRAI - REGISTER'S ANNUAL GREAT BICYCLE RIDE ACROSS IOWA





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



DAY 1

71.8 MILES
1,520 FT

DAY 2

41.2 MILES
1,103 FT

DAY 3

73.9 MILES
1,338 FT

DAY 4

69.8 MILES
1,420 FT

DAY 5

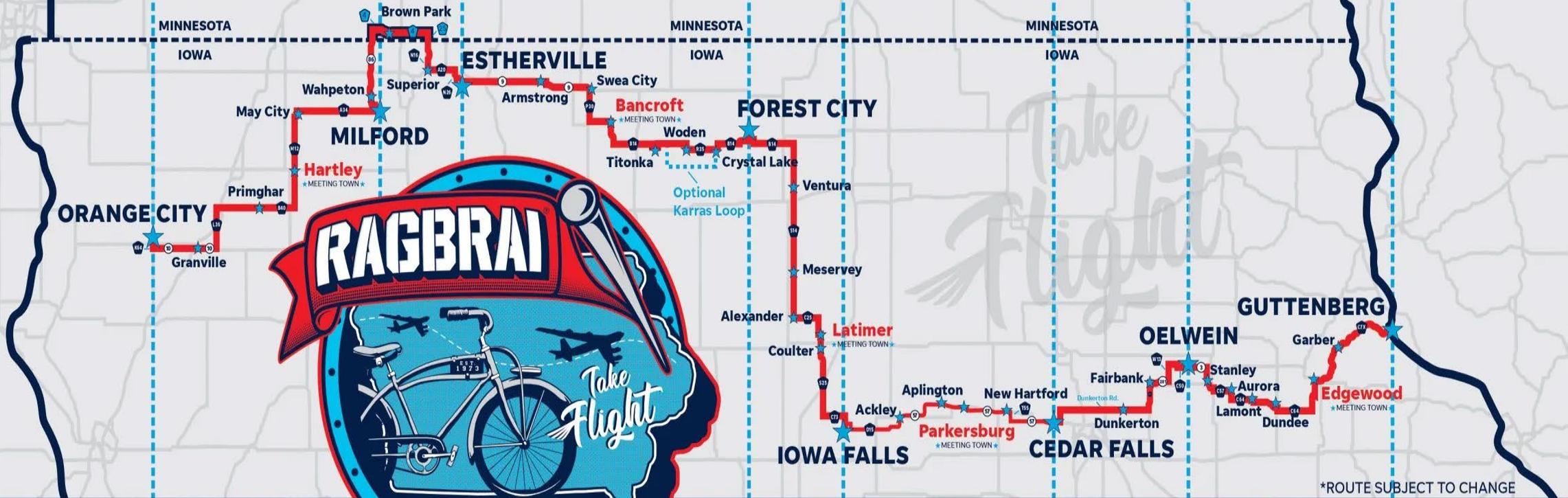
50 MILES
1,270 FT

DAY 6

38.4 MILES
1,147 FT

DAY 7

61.6 MILES
2,340 FT



ORANGE CITY to GUTTENBERG
July 19-26, 2025



Department of Inspections,
Appeals, & Licensing

After Action Review

Improvement Plan: What could be Improved on

Task	Responsible Party/Agency	Proposed Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
Explaining the use of ICS: why do we activate, why are assignments fluid, and why is the safety message repeated.	DIAL	2026	
How can we better explain the different roles in ICS? The importance of the Safety Officer and Logistics role.	DIAL	2026	
Revisit the communication guide, consider improvements in handouts/checklists and town forms	DIAL	2026	
Update the kickoff presentation - add examples from each year's pain points/issues	DIAL	2026	

FERP

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN



Food Emergency Response Plan



The Center for
Food Security
& Public Health

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY®
College of Veterinary Medicine



Food Emergency Response Plan

- ▶ 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.



STATE OF IOWA FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Annex to Emergency Support Functions:

- #6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services
- #8 Public Health and Medical Services
- #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources

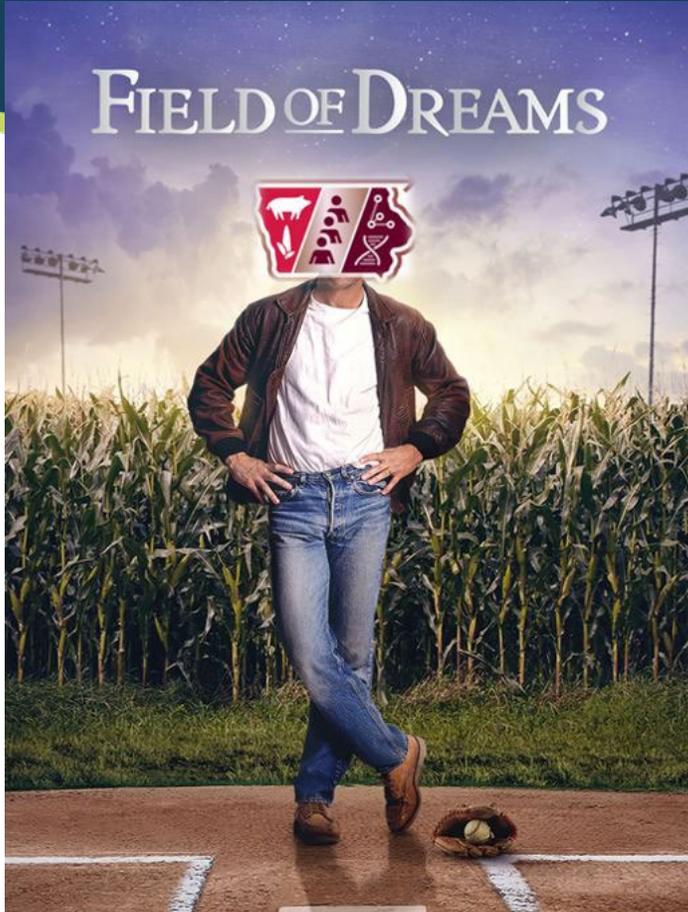
Adopted and Effective
July 2025

2025 Rapid Response Team (RRT) Annual Meeting



2025 RRT Annual Meeting

September 15-17, 2025



Department of Inspections,
Appeals, & Licensing

The Field of Dreams: Iowa 2024 Responses

Now Batting...Your Iowa Rapid Response Team



Historic Flooding: Beginning in Northwestern Iowa

On June 21, 2024, a heavy rainfall caused flooding in several counties in Northwest Iowa. As the flooding progressed, counties along the Missouri River and surrounding areas were impacted. Iowa RRT activated ICS to respond and coordinate response between June 22-July 15, 2024. A Governor's proclamation was declared for 29 Iowa Counties.



Figure 7. Map of impacted counties in Iowa.



Figure 8. Northwest Iowa impacted by flooding on June 21, 2024.

Challenges included communication with Emergency Managers, limited access to the Web Emergency Operation Center, language barriers, and large scale response for available personnel. After Action Review (AAR) tasks identified: Ensure staff has access to State Emergency Web EOC, translate emergency guidance documents into other languages, and continue to work with Emergency Managers, Department of Natural Resources, and the American Red Cross to communicate during large scale events.



“Knocking it out of the park one response at a time”

Next Team Line Up: Other 2024 Iowa Responses



Figure 3. *Salmonella* linked to live poultry.



Figure 4. *Listeria* linked to sprouts.



Figure 5. *Salmonella* Enteritidis linked to eggs.



Figure 6. *E. coli* linked to raw milk.

Batting Order:

1. EF4 tornado landed in Greenfield, IA
2. Historic flooding beginning in NW Iowa
3. RAGBRAI
4. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

RAGBRAI

A significant response in 2024 included the 51st RAGBRAI, the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, held on July 20-27, 2024. The event is an annual non-competitive bike race spanning West to East across the state. This event averages 468 miles for the entire route. The route for RAGBRAI 2024 included stops in 28 pass-through towns and 5 overnight meeting towns.

Iowa RRT activated ICS to respond and coordinate RAGBRAI on July 20-27, 2024. The Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, & Licensing (DIAL) utilized all 22 field staff inspectors to inspect the temporary food establishments throughout the event bike route, cover any complaints, illness outbreaks, and other emergency responses that occurred during the event and outside of the event response. DIAL completed 339 temporary food inspections during the event.

Challenges throughout the event included: communication, technology access, and enforcement out in the field. After Action Review (AAR) tasks identified: Explore options for communication with field staff while out in the field, training staff on ICS roles and ICS forms, and focus on enforcement procedure and guidance.



Figure 9. RAGBRAI 2024 bicycle route.



Figure 10 and 11. Cyclists on the RAGBRAI route and Food Vendors serving cyclists.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Disaster proclamation was issued for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) for five Iowa counties: O'Brien, Palo Alto, Sac, Sioux, and Worth. The USDA had confirmed positive cases of HPAI in all five counties.

The proclamation allowed state resources from Iowa Homeland Security, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, along with other agencies to track and monitor, rapid detection, containment, disposal, and disinfection.

On December 20, 2024, The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services reported the first human case of avian influenza A (H5) in Iowa. The individual was exposed while working with commercial flocks in NW Iowa. There is currently no concern about the safety of eggs and poultry products or pasteurized milk and dairy products.

EF4 Tornado and Storm Response

On May 21, 2024, a significant weather event involving multiple storms, including a Derecho, tornadoes, flash flooding, and power outages impacted Iowa. Iowa RRT activated ICS to respond and coordinate response between May 22-31, 2024. A Governor's proclamation was declared for 45 Iowa Counties.

Challenges included lack of personnel, limited access to the Web Emergency Operation Center, and access to ICS fillable forms. After Action Review (AAR) task identified: create decision tree guidance documents to help inspectors make sound judgements or critical decisions after obtaining information on impacted areas.



Figure 1. Map of impacted counties in Iowa.



Figure 2. Aerial view of EF4 damage to homes in Greenfield, IA.

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Thank You!

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