



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Agriculture and Food Sector

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7) identified 17 critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) sectors and designated Federal Government Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs) for each of the sectors. Each sector is responsible for developing and implementing a Sector-Specific Plan and providing sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable assessment of national cross-sector CIKR protection program gaps. SSAs are responsible for collaborating with private sector security partners and encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms within the sector. Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD-9) establishes a national policy to defend the food and agriculture system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Sector Overview

The Agriculture and Food Sector has the capacity to feed and clothe people well beyond the boundaries of the Nation. The sector is almost entirely under private ownership and is composed of an estimated 2.1 million farms, approximately 880,500 firms, and over one million facilities. This sector accounts for roughly one-fifth of the Nation's economic activity and is overseen at the Federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The USDA is a diverse and complex organization with programs that touch the lives of all Americans every day. More than 100,000 employees deliver more than \$75 billion in public services through USDA's more than 300 programs worldwide, leveraging an extensive network of Federal, State and local cooperators. One of USDA's key roles is to ensure that the Nation's food and fiber needs are met. USDA is

also responsible for ensuring that the Nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, as well as protecting and promoting US agricultural health.

The FDA is responsible for the safety of 80 percent of all of the food consumed in the United States. While FDA's mission is to protect and promote public health, that responsibility is shared with: Federal, State, and local agencies; regulated industry; academia; health providers; and consumers. FDA regulates \$240 billion of domestic food and \$15 billion of imported food. In addition, roughly 600,000 restaurants and institutional food service providers, an estimated 235,000 grocery stores, and other food outlets are regulated by State and local authorities that receive guidance and other technical assistance from FDA.

The Agriculture and Food Sector is dependent upon: the Water Sector for clean irrigation and processed water; the Transportation Systems Sector for movement of commodities, products, and livestock; the Energy Sector to power the

equipment needed for agriculture production and food processing; and the Banking and Finance, Chemical, Dams, and other sectors as well.

Sector Partnerships

In 2004, the Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council (FASCC) was formed. The FASCC is comprised of a Government Coordinating Council and a private sector coordinating council. The FASCC hosts quarterly joint meetings that provide a public-private forum for effective coordination of agriculture security and food defense strategies and activities, policy, and communications across the entire sector to support the Nation's homeland security mission. It provides a venue to mutually plan, implement, and execute sector-wide security programs, procedures, and processes; as well as to exchange information and assess accomplishments and progress for defending the Nation's food and agriculture critical infrastructure. It is a central forum for introducing new initiatives for mutual engagement, evaluation and implementation, issue resolution, and mutual education. Joint initiatives include identifying and prioritizing items that need public-private input, coordination, implementation, and communication; coordinating and communicating issues to all members; and identifying needs/gaps in research, best practices/standards, and communications.

Priority Programs

- **Strategic Partnership Program Agroterrorism Initiative.** To assist in protecting the Nation's food supply, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, DHS, USDA, and HHS/FDA developed a joint assessment program—the Strategic Partnership Program Agroterrorism (SPPA) Initiative. The initiative included a series of assessments of the Agriculture and Food Sector in collaboration with private industry and State volunteers. These assessments supported the requirements for a coordinated food and agriculture infrastructure protection program as stated in the NIPP, Sector-Specific Plans, and HSPD-9. SPPA assessments were conducted on a voluntary basis between one or more industry representatives for a particular product or commodity; their trade association; and Federal and State government agricultural, public health, and law enforcement officials. Together, a threat assessment of that industry's production process was conducted, allowing the participants to identify nodes or process points of highest concern; protective measures and mitigation steps that may reduce the susceptibility of these nodes; and research gaps and needs. Between November 2005 and May 2008, the teams completed 36 assessments in 28 States with industry partners, and identified generic protective measures or mitigation strategies that could be beneficial to many sector industries. The first and second year status reports for the SPPA initiative are available at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/defprog.html>.
- **Food and Agriculture Criticality Assessment Tool (FASCAT).** The Food and Agriculture Government Coordinating Council has partnered with one of the DHS' Centers of Excellence, the National Center for Food

Protection and Defense (NCFPD) to develop an assessment tool to assist States in determining and documenting the most critical elements and systems/sub-systems of food and agriculture infrastructure at the state level. This tool is called the Food and Agriculture Sector Criticality Assessment Tool (FASCAT). This tool provides

- a means to identify sector elements and systems that are critical to key state commodity chains or food distribution systems,
- a method of prioritization for further state or private sector vulnerability assessment and possible protective measure(s) or mitigation strategy development,
- documentation and improved characterization of a state's food and agriculture sector risk profile, and
- an effective response to future DHS National Data Calls for information on critical Food and Agriculture infrastructure components.

The complete FASCAT module, its instructions, and an online video-tutorial are available at the University of Minnesota's NCFPD website: www.ncfpd.umn.edu.

- **Tabletop Exercises.** As part of the sector's goal to improve preparedness, it is committed to conducting tabletop exercises to demonstrate how government and industry can work together more effectively during a food contamination incident or a foreign animal or plant pest or disease outbreak. The sector will continue to host tabletop exercises that focus on response and recovery coordination among Federal, State, tribal, local, and industry stakeholders.
- **Training.** FDA and USDA developed an online Food Defense Awareness training course targeted to Federal, State, and local regulators; local law enforcement; food program administrators; and industry. The goal of the course is to increase awareness of the potential for intentional adulteration of the food supply. The course is available online at www.fda.gov/ora/training/orau/FoodSecurity/startpage.html. In addition, FDA has launched the ALERT initiative. The ALERT initiative is intended to raise the awareness of state and local government agency and industry representatives regarding food defense issues and preparedness. It is generic enough to apply to all aspects of the farm-to-table supply chain and is designed to spark thought and discussion with a variety of stakeholders. ALERT identifies five key points that industry and businesses can use to decrease the risk of intentional food contamination at their facility. More information on ALERT is available online at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/alert.html>.



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