



AGROTERRORISM – Implications and Concerns for the U.S. and Global Community

Presented by:

Dr. Kimothy Smith, DVM PhD

Chief Veterinarian

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



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Agriculture – A key economic pillar for both industrialized and developing nations.

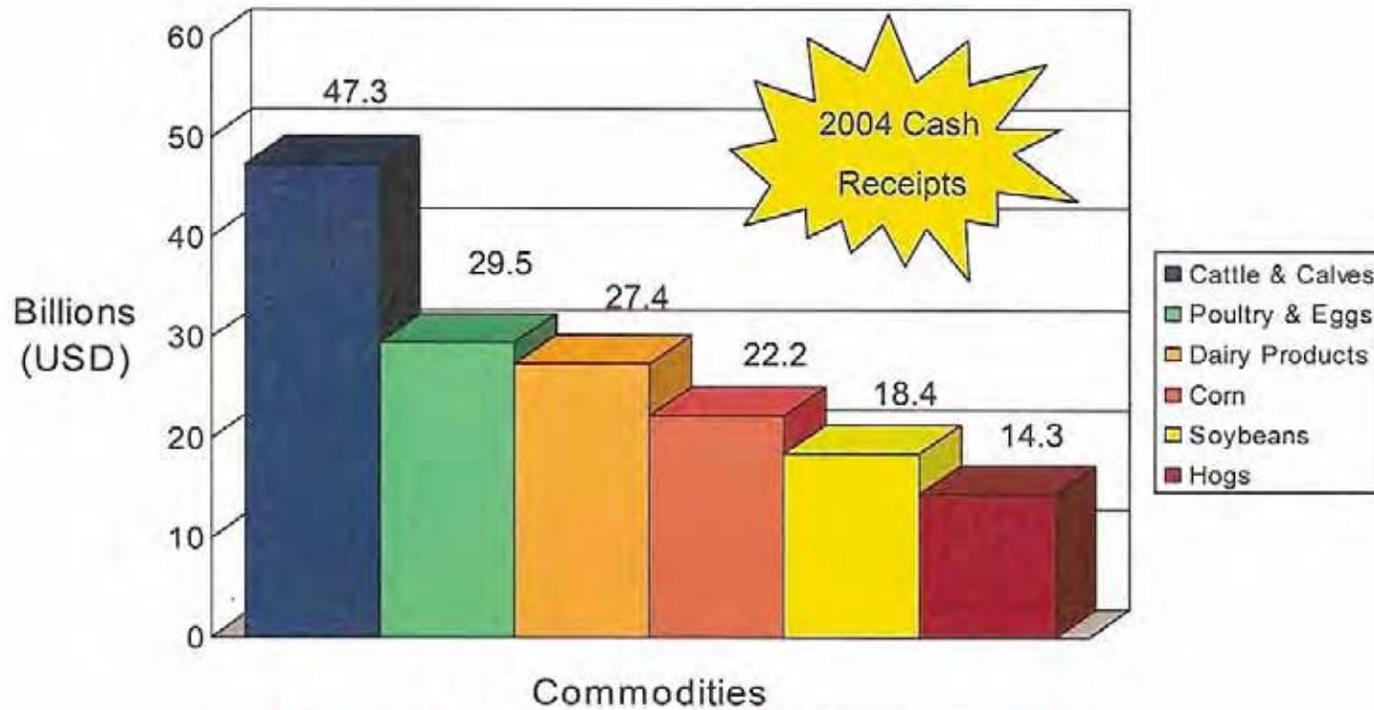
- All nations have a stake in the trade of disease-free agricultural commodities.
- Enormous currency values at stake.
- Global trade in agriculture presents new challenges in management of invasive species and disease prevention.



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Agriculture and the US Economy



The top 6 generated 159.1 billion in 2004



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Attaining and Maintaining a Disease-free Status is Paramount

- During 2004, 33% of global meat exports were affected by AI or BSE outbreaks.
- Import bans are a leading cause of higher prices.
- Agricultural trade directly tied to absence of disease in affected commodity.



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The Global Threat to Agriculture

- Intentional introduction of disease agents is an ever present threat.
 - Threat originates from animal rights extremists, lone wolf individuals, economic competitors and terrorist groups.
 - Signatures of an intentional introduction difficult to distinguish from natural occurrence but may include location/nature of index case, whether disease agent is endemic or access by unauthorized persons.



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The Anti-biotechnology Movement

- The US is a frequent target of attacks by groups and individuals opposed to use of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) in agricultural food products.



- As a locus for GMO R&D, CA has been frequently targeted.
- U-CA San Diego incident resulted in some 75k damage.



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Animal Rights Extremism

- The Earth Liberation Front is designated a domestic terrorist group by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Use of incendiary explosives serves as method of choice for arson.
- Previously targeted agricultural infrastructure, including USDA facilities for destruction.
 - - Research facilities
 - - Animal control facilities
- Constitutes a homeland security threat greater than just the agriculture sector
 - - 1998 Vail CO ski resort arson

ARSON	32 incidents
SABOTAGE	19 incidents
VANDALISM	36 incidents
TREE SPIKING	2 incidents
CYBER	2 incidents
OTHER	1 incident



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Economic Sabotage

- Anonymous “tip” forwarded to DHS in Aug 2004.
 - - Information indicated possible contaminated lemons originating from South America onboard ship bound for Canada.
 - - Container ship intercepted. Lemon products tested and found to be negative for any disease contaminants.
- This incident may be a “poison pen” incident possibly related to economic competitiveness issues.
Definitive cause inconclusive.



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Lone-wolf Attacks

- Supermarket employee contaminated ground beef w/nicotine-based insecticide, poisoning 111 people.
- Perpetrated as an act of disgruntlement.
- Poured toxic liquid into meat grinder.
- Charged and convicted.
- This case shows vulnerability of the general public to acts of post-harvest food contamination.



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MMWR
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Vol. 18, No. 18

Nicotine Poisoning After Ingestion of Contaminated Ground Beef — Michigan, 2003

On January 3, 2003, the Michigan Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Food and Dairy Division and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) were notified by a supermarket of a planned recall of approximately 1,700 pounds of ground beef because of customer complaints of illness after eating the product. On January 10, the supermarket notified MDA that their laboratory had determined that the contaminant in the ground beef returned by customers with reported illness was nicotine. This report summarizes the investigation of these cases, which identified approximately 100 affected persons, and discusses actions taken to prevent additional illness, including the arrest of a person charged with deliberately poisoning the ground beef at the supermarket.

The recall was prompted by complaints from four families comprising 18 persons who became ill immediately after eating product sold on December 31 or January 1. Reported symptoms included burning of the mouth, nausea, vomiting, and dizziness. One person reported having been seen in the

respiratory at are clinical-based community-monitor and umonia with etiologies is conducted for cases on the 1 persons who tional contacts traced to identified during lation are traced rdine.

ases of SARS and re 1). The date of ble case was April RS, the median age ged <12 years); 132 nes are Singaporean

Syndromes — United ion of Contaminated i Health-Care Provider United States, 2001 King, Civilian Smallpox 2003

417 Vaccination — Univ...
420 Notices to Readers

* Persons who directly infected ≥10 other persons.
† This report is being published concurrently in the Weekly Epidemiological Record.

Terrorist Groups

- **Al-qaida food contamination “scare” in 2003:**
 - - Operative captured near Afghan border in Feb 2003 with information mentioning McAllen, TX.
 - - Initial thought was that a major military MRE facility had been penetrated and MREs contaminated.
 - - Subsequent FBI investigation proved these concerns to be false although immigration violations were uncovered.



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Protective Measures and Mitigation Strategies

- Agriculture sector government and private sector coordinating councils (GCC and SCC) serve as an executive forum for regular interface between federal agencies and private sector owners and operators.
 - - Stood up in 2004.
 - - DHS is an alternating GCC chair with USDA and FDA.
 - - Very effective venue for discussion of agrosecurity concerns/developments.



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Protective Measures cont'd

DHS Agrosecurity Milestones:

- - The agriculture Sector Specific Plan was published in 2005 and serves as a blueprint for interagency and private sector coordination of disease introductions affecting the food supply/public health.
 - - - Delineates role of DHS, vis-à-vis USDA and FDA, as well as other agencies.
- - DHS HITRAC published a strategic sector assessment regarding the agriculture sector in September 2006.
- - DHS HITRAC published an information bulletin regarding the first ever soybean rust outbreak to hit U.S. agriculture in January 2005.
- - OCMO created the position of Chief Veterinarian and Director, Agriculture Security, in 2006



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National Biosurveillance Integration System

Mission: The National Biosurveillance Integration System provides early recognition of biological events, accidental or intentional use of biological agents, and emergent biohazards through the acquisition, integration, analysis and dissemination of information from existing human disease, food, agriculture, water, meteorological, and environmental surveillance systems and relevant threat and intelligence information.

Vision: A national biological situational awareness capability with a global view to protect the United States and its interests.



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NBIS Partners

International



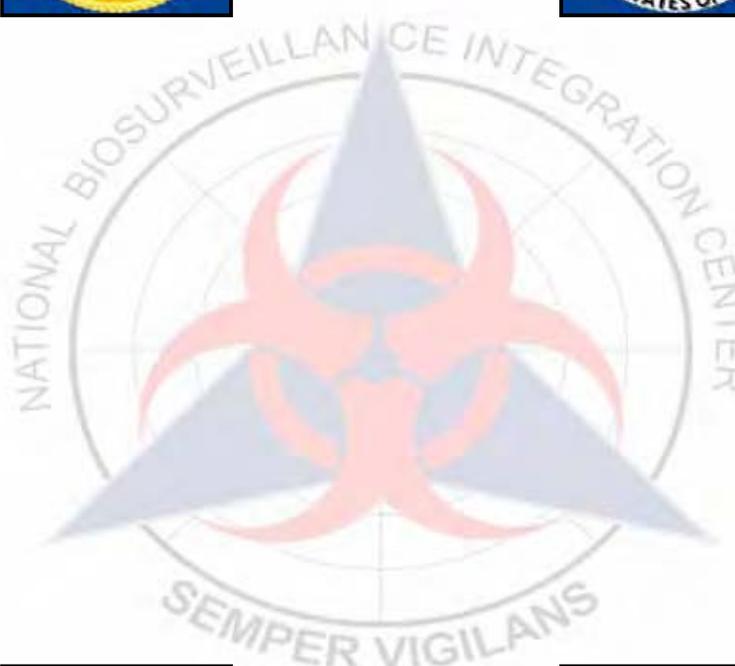
Private-Sector



State and Local



Non-governmental



Conclusions

- DHS agrosecurity program is robust and expanding.
- Department responsibilities include threat and vulnerability analysis, surveillance, as well as consequence management and mitigation.



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