

Agrosecurity

It's Everybody's Business

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Why now?



Perimeter on the after terminal area







What is Agrosecurity?

- Agricultural Terrorism
- Criminal Activity
- Biosecurity
- Natural Disasters

Agroterrorism

- Use of biological, chemical, radiological or other agents against pre- or post-harvest food and fiber production (Use of the **food-chain as a weapon**)
- **Intentional** threats from international or domestic terrorist groups
- Acts that inspire **fear**, cause economic damage, public health or other adverse impacts

Criminal Activity

- Property crime
- Violent crime
- Motivation

Biosecurity and Biocontainment

- Threat to plant, animal, and/or human health, food safety, economics
- Threat caused by diseases, insects, or other biological organisms
- Can be naturally occurring or as a result of human activity
- A series of best management practices employed to prevent the movement of infectious agents from entering or leaving a farm or other facility

Natural Disasters



Why should we care?

- **Food/Agriculture is a “Critical Infrastructure”** –
- systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.
- USA PATRIOT Act



- 1 in 8 Americans work in an occupation supported by agricultural industry
- In 2001, food production = 9.7% of the U.S. GDP generating cash receipts of \$991 billion
- \$50 billion in farm-related exports

Some Special Challenges in Protecting Food Systems

- The Agricultural Industry is widespread and diverse (includes food processing and distribution).
- Animals and plants are sold and moved throughout the country and the world on open markets.
- Most cities have a 5-day or less food supply on the shelf.
- Many agroterrorism agents are zoonotic.
- In responding to a foreign animal disease, carcass disposal presents public health and environmental concerns.
- National premise and animal i.d.



Foreign Animal Disease

A Major Concern

- U.S. Animal Population
 - 909 million beef cattle
 - 10 million dairy cattle
 - 10 million sheep
 - 60 million hogs
 - 8 billion poultry
- Cattle/dairy farmers earn \$50 billion/year through meat and milk sales



- Results of the 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak in Essex, England
 - 4.5+ million animals slaughtered during eradication
 - 2+million animals destroyed as part of the Livestock Welfare Disposal Scheme
 - Cost estimate over \$10 billion
 - Numerous bankruptcies
 - 85+ suicides directly attributed to the disaster
 - Over 10,000 civil servants, veterinarians and soldiers involved at the peak of the outbreak

What can we do?

- Develop new **research and information** to prevent, respond and recover from incidents
- Identify local, state and federal resources **prior** to an event
- Farmers, the agricultural industry, and citizens must be **partners**
- **Relationships** must be built and strengthened

What is your Role?

What can Volunteers Do?

- Get yourself trained and prepared
- Be a “first detector”
- Assist in local community assessments
- Help find resources for recovery
- Educate others about agrosecurity issues
- Help families, businesses and others plan and prepare
- Evaluate damaged landscapes and make recommendations
- Help cleanup, plan and replant damaged public landscapes
- Join your County CERT

What should our Organization Do?

- Get connected
 - State Plans
 - County Plans
- Family and Individual Plans

Biosecurity and Biocontainment

Remember IRS

- **Isolation** - constantly monitor for problems
- **Resistance** – health practices to resist disease
- **Sanitation** – a key component
 - Eradication
 - Disinfection

Use Biosecurity Procedures when Visiting Farms

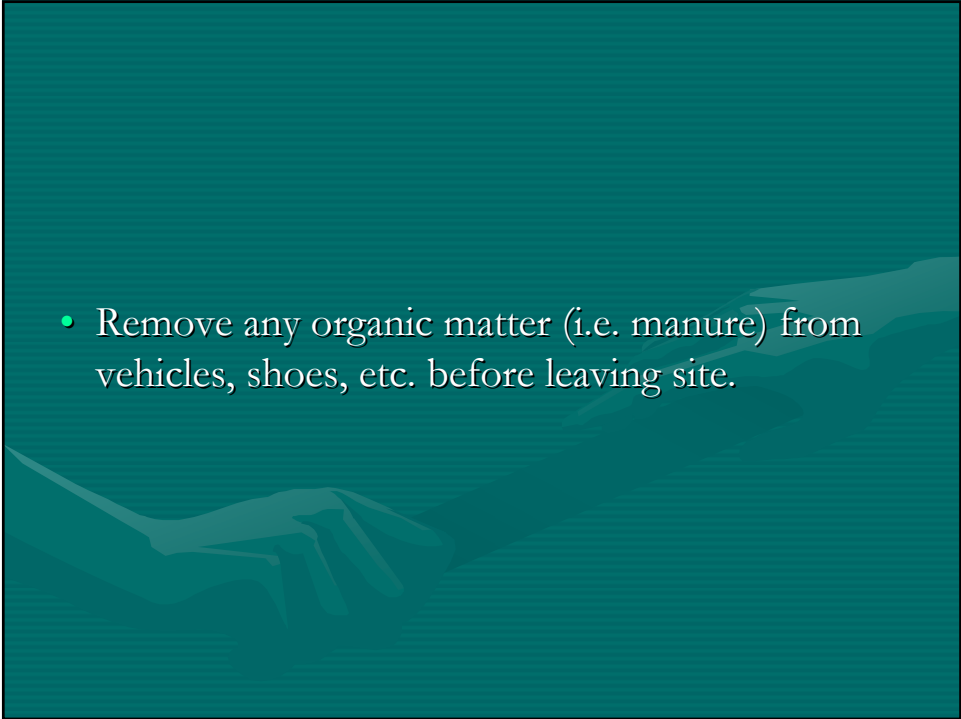
Animal and plant diseases can potentially be spread by people. When visiting field sites take biosecurity precautions---

- For routine visits carry and wear a washable light jacket and hat.
- Wash exposed areas-hands, face, arms- after visit.

- Carry single-use disposable coveralls and boots. Wear if you will be entering animal contact or other at-risk areas. Remove before entering car and put in sealed plastic bag before leaving.

- If you become contaminated or suspect problems at a site, shower between visits. Consider not making additional visits that day.

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- Do not bring vehicles inside animal production areas.

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- Remove any organic matter (i.e. manure) from vehicles, shoes, etc. before leaving site.

- Respect the owner's right to limit access to vulnerable areas.

Report Suspicious Activities

Call 911 or local law enforcement authorities about suspicious activities *before* you try to rationalize what is happening. If something doesn't "feel" right, **report it**.

Maryland Joint Terrorism Task Force (MD CAC)
1-800-492-Tips (8477) or cybertips@mdsp.org



- A unique partnership in agriculture between University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the agricultural community: creating a network for emergency communication, education, and outreach
- To provide education and training for community preparation, response and recovery from man-made and natural disasters
- To coordinate Agricultural Local Emergency Response Team (ALERT) members and State Animal Response Team (M-SART) volunteers

ALERT Connection:

ALERT members will assist in “outreach” to the agricultural and rural community for:

- emergency preparedness,
- agrosecurity,
- terrorist awareness



Maryland – State Animal Response Team (M- SART)

M-SART is designed to address all types of animal emergency issues, involving natural disasters, disease outbreaks or intentional acts of terror, serving companion animals, livestock and wildlife.

These teams will be “first responders” to all types of animal related incidents.



- The State of Maryland is a major hub for world travel and its close proximity to Washington, DC makes it a potential target for acts that threaten agro-security. And natural disasters are a fact of life. Our communities must be able to identify potential threats and act appropriately to eliminate them, as well as be prepared to respond to and recover from all types of hazards.

“Vigilance is our best protection.”

Because it's not a
question of *if*,
It's a question of
when...



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