

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



Potential Economic Impact/Loss from Selected Agricultural Sectors

National Statistics

Total number of farms in the United States: 2,100,990 (2005)

Total Land in Farms: 938,279,056 acres

Total Net Cash Farm Income: \$40,514,055,000

Value of Sales for Selected Agricultural Sectors:

- Grain (includes soybeans): \$95 billion
- Cattle and Calves: \$45 billion
- Poultry: \$28.9 billion
- Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture, Sod: \$14.7 billion
- Fruit, Nuts, Berries: \$13.8 billion
- Vegetables: \$12.8 billion

(From National Agricultural Statistics for 2004.)

Impacts of Recent Agricultural Incidents

- 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

(Excerpt from Homeland Security Training Course “Preparedness and Response to Agricultural Terrorism,” 2005)