



2008 Annual Update to the Agriculture and Food Sector-Specific Plan



Homeland
Security



Department of
Agriculture



Food and Drug
Administration



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2008 Annual Update to the Agriculture and Food Sector-Specific Plan

Overview

The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) provides the unifying structure for the integration of critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) protection efforts into a single national program. The NIPP provides an overall framework for integrating programs and activities that are currently underway in the various sectors, as well as new and developing CIKR protection efforts. The NIPP is supported by 18 sector-specific plans (SSPs) that detail the application of the overall risk management framework to each specific sector.

Protecting the Nation's agriculture and food CIKR is an important responsibility shared by Federal, State, local, territorial, and tribal governments and private industry. Given the open nature of many portions of the Food and Agriculture Sector (hereafter referred to as the Sector), attacks against the Nation by using food or agricultural infrastructure or resources as weapons could have a devastating impact on public health and the economy. Traditional physical security practices alone cannot protect the Sector. A protection plan for food and agriculture infrastructure and resources must focus on planning and preparedness, as well as early awareness of an attack. Science-based surveillance measures are essential to recognizing a possible attack on the sector so that rapid response and recovery efforts can be implemented to mitigate the impact of an attack. A protection plan must also be coordinated closely with response and recovery plans.

In accordance with the NIPP requirements, this Food and Agriculture Sector-Specific Plan (SSP) Update is a stand-alone document that provides a brief overview of the most significant and relevant issues or changes to the SSP since its release in May 2007.

One important change is the consolidation and merging of the two complementary portions of the SSP; the Agriculture and Food (Meat, Poultry, and Eggs Products) SSP submitted by the USDA and the Food SSP submitted by the FDA. Annex 1 presents a crosswalk of the USDA SSP, FDA SSP, and the 2008 Annual Update table of contents.

The following represent global changes throughout the SSP:

- Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR) is now written as Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR)
- The number of CIKR sectors is changed from 17 to 18 with the recent creation of the Critical Manufacturing Sector
- The National Asset Database (NADB) is now referred to as the Infrastructure Data Warehouse (IDW)
- The National Response Plan (NRP) is now the National Response Framework (NRF)

- The Food and Agriculture Criticality Project is now referred as the Food and Agriculture Sector Criticality Assessment Tool (FASCAT)

Specifically, this 2008 Food and Agriculture SSP Update provides updates on the following sections:

- 1.4.3 Sector Security Goals (joint goals): The use of Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) to Enhance and Improve Two-way Communication
- 3.1 Use of Risk Assessment in the Sector: The CARVER + Shock Software Tool for the Food and Agriculture Sector
- 4.1 Food and Agriculture Sector Criticality Assessment Tool (FASCAT)
- 5.3 Protective Program Implementation: The Food Protection Plan
- 7.3 Sector R&D Plan: Joint Committee on Research (JCR)

Executive Summary

There are no changes or updates to this section.

Chapter 1. Sector Profile and Goals

1.1 Sector Profile

There are no changes or updates to this section.

1.2 Security Partners

There are no changes or updates to this section.

1.3 Government Coordinating Council and Sector Coordinating Council

There are no changes or updates to this section.

1.4 Sector Security Goals

1.4.3 Sector Security Goals (Joint Goals)

Enhance and Improve Two-way Communication (Using HSIN)

The Food and Agriculture Sector, via the GCC and SCC, has opted to use the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) as the basis for its Sector-wide communications. Before the Sector centralized its communications at the network, it had to review the network to determine its capabilities and understand the needs of its users. To accomplish this review, the GCC collaborated with DHS leadership to acquire a State agriculture official who had a one-year assignment focused on the HSIN. This State official was brought to DHS to work for a period of one year, from February 2007 through February of 2008. Through this combined effort of the GCC and the DHS State assignee, much was accomplished. The end goal was to have the Sector's HSIN portal used regularly for communications and collaboration. As of February 2008, the assignee had completed numerous tasks with the interaction and collaboration of the GCC. The most important of these tasks were:

- Complete the redesign and reconfiguration of the HSIN-FA portal to make it more user friendly and relevant to Food and Agriculture Sector users;
- Produce a draft Sector Communications Plan to include incident communications; and
- Conduct outreach to solicit the Sector's new use of the portal. This outreach resulted in nearly doubling the number of Sector members signed up to use the site.

Another State official has been selected to continue the progress made this past year.

1.5 Value Proposition

There are no changes or updates to this section.

Chapter 2. Identify Assets, Systems, Networks, and Functions

2.1 Defining Information Parameters

There are no changes or updates to this section.

2.2 Collecting Infrastructure Information

There are no changes or updates to this section.

2.3 Verifying Infrastructure Information

There are no changes or updates to this section.

2.4 Updating Infrastructure Information

There are no changes or updates to this section.

Chapter 3. Assess Risks

3.1 Use of Risk Assessment in the Sector

Standardize CARVER + Shock Proposal (GCC Specific)

The Food and Agriculture Sector agreed that CARVER + Shock will be its main vulnerability/consequence/risk assessment tool. FDA, in collaboration with USDA, developed an interactive software version of this assessment tool to assist individual company representatives in assessing their manufacturing/processing operations. The CARVER + Shock software has a user-friendly interface that prompts the user to answer a series of questions, including multiple choice and short answer formats, and then offers a relative risk ranking of production steps and supporting information related to key vulnerabilities. Version 1 of the software was released in June 2007 and is focused primarily on manufacturing operations. Version 2 of the software is currently under development and will expand the scope of businesses addressed (retail, food service, and agriculture) and will be completed in 2009.

3.2 Screening Infrastructure

There are no changes or updates to this section.

3.3 Assessing Consequences

There are no changes or updates to this section.

3.4 Assessing Vulnerabilities

There are no changes or updates to this section.

3.5 Assessing Threats

There are no changes or updates to this section.

Chapter 4. Prioritize Infrastructure

4.1 Food and Agriculture Sector Criticality Assessment Tool (FASCAT)

With guidance and direction from the Food and Agriculture Sector, the National Center for Food Protection & Defense has created FASCAT, an advanced Excel application, to help identify critical assets in the Food and Agriculture Sector and provide reporting mechanisms to DHS. The tool is designed to assist States, in partnership with both the private sector and other regional States as appropriate, in determining the most critical elements, nodes and sub-systems in the food and agriculture infrastructure. Specifically, FASCAT seeks to:

- Improve the overall process for food and agriculture critical system/sub-system identification;
- Provide greater equity in cross-sector critical system identification for DHS;
- Enable the States to identify critical food and agriculture system components;
- Provide a common methodology to the process; and
- Improve critical asset reporting to DHS.

More information about FASCAT, including the tool itself and a video tutorial, can be found at www.foodshield.org or www.ncfpd.umn.edu.

Chapter 5. Develop and Implement Protective Programs

5.1 Overview of Sector Protective Programs

There are no changes or updates to this section.

5.2 Determining Protective Program Needs

There are no changes or updates to this section.

5.3 Protective Program Implementation

The Food Protection Plan

In November 2007, FDA released the Food Protection Plan (FPP), an integrated strategy for protecting the Nation's food supply. The FPP addresses both food safety

and food defense for domestic and imported products. FDA is working collaboratively across the agency to address the three core elements of protection: prevention, intervention, and response. This summary provides an update on the accomplishments under the FPP in the first six months and an overview of activities planned to begin in the near future.

Prevention

Several key prevention initiatives have been started since November 2007. These began with outreach to explain and involve others in FDA's FPP. This outreach has included multiple meetings with various foreign countries, State and local organizations, and industry and consumer groups. To further the interaction with Federal, State and local partners, FDA announced a meeting to share information and develop strategies and future activities between them. As a cross-cutting activity, FDA has formed a Risk-Based Steering Committee with the charge of focusing FDA's risk-based prevention, intervention and response activities to focus on the needs, processes, and timelines to ensure that a comprehensive risk-based approach is taken with regard to food protection. Specific risk-based prevention activities include FDA working in collaboration with States, universities and industry on a Tomato Safety Initiative. In an effort to increase foreign capacity and FDA's presence beyond our borders, FDA has engaged with India and begun implementation of the China Memorandum of Agreement. The first bilateral meeting with China was held in Beijing in March 2008.

Intervention

FDA is working to improve the targeting of risk-based inspections and sampling to focus resources where they will have the greatest impact. FDA has completed a three-year plan to increase state inspections and will hire an additional 130 employees to conduct food field exams, inspections, and sample collections. FDA issued a Federal Register Notice to solicit input on third-party certification programs and is interacting with a variety of industry groups to explore this further. FDA is working to develop better tools to identify food safety threats at the border, including the development of an advanced screening system. This system, known as PREDICT, was piloted on a small scale in recent months and the assessment of the pilot is currently under agency review. FDA has established a research coordinating committee to develop a collaborative research agenda that supports activities under prevention, intervention and response, such as mitigation strategies and rapid detection systems.

Response

In order to improve the response to a threat to food safety, FDA is engaging with stakeholders to identify traceability best practices to be able to quickly identify where a contaminated product came from and where it has been distributed. FDA is working with States to improve response through Incident Command System training and is preparing to issue a Request for Applications for States interested in establishing Rapid Response Teams to enable rapid, localized response to incidents. In an effort to improve communication with the public, FDA developed templates for recall communication and presented them to FDA's Risk Communication Advisory Board for input in March 2008.

5.4 Protective Program Performance

There are no changes or updates to this section.

Chapter 6. Measure Progress

6.1 CIKR Performance Measurement

There are no changes or updates to this section.

6.2 Implementation Actions

There are no changes or updates to this section.

6.3 Challenges and Continuous Improvement

There are no changes or updates to this section.

Chapter 7. CIKR Protection R&D

7.1 Overview of Sector R&D

There are no changes or updates to this section.

7.2 Sector R&D Requirements

There are no changes or updates to this section.

7.3 Sector R&D Plan

The Joint Committee on Research (JCR)

In July 2006, the Food and Agriculture Sector, mandated by HSPD-7 to coordinate critical infrastructure protection (CIP) activities across the spectrum of systems and activities that move agricultural and food products from “farm-to-fork,” established an owner/operator-led Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) working group known as the Joint Committee on Research (JCR). Reflective of the entire Sector, the JCR includes representatives from Federal, State, and local government, and the private sector.

Created to establish priorities and commonalities in Sector security shortcomings and to identify applicable recent or ongoing research initiatives, the Sector charged the JCR with collecting information to identify and study potential gaps in agricultural security and food defense (“security/defense”) research and development (R&D) efforts.

As reported in the 2007 JCR Annual Report (appended to the 2007 Sector Annual Report), the JCR proposed a number of recommendations to address both short-term and long-term deliverables regarding R&D for the Sector. In addition to these R&D

recommendations, the JCR also recommended improving its own efficiency and productivity. Specifically, JCR members felt that they lacked the fiscal and personnel resources necessary to collect, review, and categorize relevant information in a timely, thorough manner. To that end, the JCR recommended expanding support for the JCR, to include staff and software-supported data collection.

This past year, the JCR determined that this recommendation to seek support for the JCR is of utmost importance to achieve any further success with its R&D goals. Data management challenges have proven prohibitive to JCR's progress without investment in functional methods to review and quantify incoming information. Additionally, the JCR has neither the internal resources, such as dedicated staff or analytical tools, nor monetary wherewithal to fund the support needed to move forward. Moreover, the JCR is reluctant to engage in soliciting industry for their identified research gaps until the capacity exists to do something useful with the collected information.

The JCR's first year revealed both the complexities of its mission (including the JCR's inability to successfully complete its mission given operational support levels) and the Sector's R&D integration with the overall DHS priorities at the time. This situation resulted in a second year marked by relative inactivity of the JCR as a group while JCR leadership attempted to follow up on first year recommendations and consider a redirection of effort to allow for more progress towards the accomplishment of the critical mission originally envisioned for the Committee. The JCR has recently prepared and finalized a White Paper requesting resources/support from DHS to accomplish some of its identified priority tasks. Please see the 2008 JCR Annual Report in Appendix 6 to the USDA portion of the 2008 Food and Agriculture Sector Annual Report.

7.4 R&D Management Processes

There are no changes or updates to this section.

Chapter 8. Managing and Coordinating SSA Responsibilities

8.1 Program Management Approach

There are no changes or updates to this section.

8.2 Processes and Responsibilities

There are no changes or updates to this section.

8.3 Implementing the Partnership Model

There are no changes or updates to this section.

8.4 Information Sharing and Protection

There are no changes or updates to this section.

Appendix 1: List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 2: Glossary of Terms

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 3: Authorities

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 4: FDA/USDA Jurisdictional Overlap for Commercial Products

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 5: Food and Agriculture Sector GCC Charter

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 6: CARVER + Shock Primer

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 7: Farm to Table Continuum

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 8: SSP Working Group Proposed Initiatives

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 9: CFSAN's Automated Research Tracking System (CARTS) List of Intramural Foods Defense Research Projects

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Appendix 10: CFSAN's CARTS List of Ongoing or Recently Completed Extramural Foods Defense Research Projects

There are no changes or updates to this appendix.

Annex 1: 2008 Annual Update Table of Contents Cross-walk

The 2007 USDA portion of the SSP is divided by Chapters and the FDA portion of the SSP is divided by Sections. The 2008 Annual Update column presents a table of contents developed by cross-walking information contained in both plans.

The following are 2007 USDA SSP Chapters referred to as Ch1, Ch2, Ch3, and Ch4 in the 2007 USDA SSP column:

Ch1: Food and Agriculture (Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products)

Ch2: Production Agriculture

Ch3: Food Processing (Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products)

Ch4: Food Distribution

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Ch1-1. Sector Profile and Goals	1. Sector Profile and Goals	Ch1. Sector Profile and Goals
	1.1 Sector Profile	1.1 Sector Profile
Ch2-1 Introduction	1.1.1 FDA Activities	1.1.1 Agricultural Production Inputs and Services Sub-Council Profile
	1.1.3 U.S. Animal Feed Industry	1.1.2. Producers/Animals Sub-council Profile
		1.1.3 Producers/Plant Sub-Council Profile
Ch3-1 Introduction	1.1.2 U.S. Food Industry	1.1.4 Processors-Manufacturers Sub-Council Profile
Ch4-1 Introduction		1.1.5 Restaurant-Food Service Sub-Council Profile
		1.1.5 Retail Sub-Council Profile
		1.1.7 Warehousing-Logistics Sub-Council Profile
Ch1-1.2 Security Partners	1.2 Security Partners	1.2 Security Partners
Ch1-1.2.1 Sector-Specific Agency		1.2.1 USDA/SSA
		1.2.2 FDA/SSA
	1.2.1 Federal Partners	1.2.3 Other Federal Departments and Agencies
	1.2.3 Food and Agriculture Sector State Partners	1.2.4 State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments
	1.2.4 Industry Partners	1.2.5 Private Sector and Industry Partners
	1.2.2 National Food Safety Laboratory System	1.2.7 Academia, Research Centers, and Laboratories
		1.2.8 International Organizations and Foreign Countries
Ch1-1.2.2 Government Coordinating Council and Sector Coordinating Council		1.3 Government Coordinating Council and Sector Coordinating Council
	1.4.1 Authority for the GCC and SCC	1.3.1 Authority for the GCC and SCC

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	1.4.3 Joint GCC-SCC Objectives	1.3.3 Joint GCC-SCC Objectives
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Ch1-1.2.6 SCC Functions		1.3.7 SCC Functions
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Ch1-1.2.8 Number and Frequency of Meetings	1.4.6 Number and Frequency of Meetings	1.3.9 Number and Frequency of Meetings
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Ch1-3.1.2 Information Technology Systems Assessments		
Ch1-3.1.3 Department of Agriculture Facility Assessment		
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	7.2.3 Additional Needs in Support of Foods Defense R&D	7.2.3 Additional Needs in Support of Foods Defense R&D
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Homeland
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