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BIO-SECURITY, A NATIONAL PRIORITY IN A NEW ERA
A FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE PERSPECTIVE ON
BIO-SECURITY AND SAFE FOOD

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Food Security Preparedness and Response



**Food Safety and Inspection
Service**

Biosecurity Group Organization

Protection of Agriculture/Food Supply
(USDA Chairs for Administration-wide
WMD Preparedness Group)

USDA Homeland Security
Council
(Subgroup -- Protection of Food
Supply and Agriculture
Production)

FBAT
FSIS' Food Biosecurity
Action Team

PrepNet
Food Threat Preparedness Network
(Interdepartmental)

USDA Homeland Security Council



- Coordinates department-wide homeland security issues
- Tracks USDA progress on homeland security objectives
- Ensures information, research, and resources are shared, and activities are coordinated with other Federal agencies

Biosecurity Preparedness Groups: Where Does FSIS Fit In?

- **USDA Homeland Security Council**
 - Subcouncil for Protection of the Food Supply and Agriculture Production
- **F-BAT (FSIS Food Biosecurity Action Team)**
- **PrepNet (FSIS, APHIS, FDA, CDC, EPA, DOD)**

FBAT

Mission Statement



- The mission of FBAT is to coordinate and facilitate all activities pertaining to biosecurity, countering terrorism, emergency preparedness and emergency response within FSIS.

F-BAT

Focus of Activities



- Ensure the continuation of FSIS essential functions during emergencies;
- Ensure employee safety pertaining to terrorism, bioterrorism and catastrophic emergencies;
- Ensure FSIS is prepared to prevent and respond to agricultural terrorism or attacks on the food supply;

F-BAT

Activities (continued)



- Ensure proper communication with FSIS employees, USDA, industry, trade associations, consumers, media and Congress; and
- Ensure the security of our laboratories, and adequate laboratory capability.

FSIS Biosecurity Actions



Improving Ability to:

- Prevent threats to food safety
- Ensure early detection
- Assure containment

FSIS Biosecurity Actions - continued



- Assessing vulnerabilities in the meat, poultry & egg products supply
- Encouraging and cooperating with private security measures
- Strengthening laboratory security and capabilities
- Enhancing communications and coordination with other agencies

FSIS Biosecurity Actions - continued



- Placed inspectors on heightened awareness at ports of entry and in meat, poultry and egg products establishments
- Adding responsibilities to new humane slaughter positions in District Offices to serve as information source and response team for bioterrorism

FSIS Biosecurity Actions - continued



- Strengthened FSIS coordination and cooperating with law enforcement agencies
- Developed capacity of Athens laboratory to test for anthrax in food and will develop capacity to test for other biological agents

FSIS Biosecurity Actions - continued



- Reviewing our web site to determine what information should be removed
- Developing training for our field force and coordinating with other agencies in joint training

Coordination with APHIS



- Work closely with APHIS at ports of entry, surveillance, detection.
- Coordination on training opportunities for APHIS and FSIS veterinarians in surveillance for foreign animal diseases

2002 Winter Olympics



- FSIS Olympic Team personnel conducted compliance-related activities in preparation for the Olympics
- Coordinating with USDA Command Center in Utah, ATF and military personnel, and various food suppliers to Olympic venues.
- Coordinated procedure for public communications in event of emergency.