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Agroterrorism Threat Briefing

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# WMD Directorate



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# AGROTERRORISM THREAT BRIEFING

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# Agroterrorism

So what's the deal?



“Agriculture ranks among the most crucial of our nation’s industries; yet its reliability and productivity are often taken for granted.”

President George W. Bush

# Definition

- Agroterrorism is the deliberate introduction, use, or threatened use, of a biological, chemical, toxic, nuclear, radiological, or explosive (CBRNE) agent against one or more components of the food or agriculture sectors, with the goal of causing mortality & morbidity, generating fear, inducing economic losses, or undermining sector stability and confidence in government.

# Criminal Statutes (WMD)

- Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Statute of 1989 (BWAT), Title 18 USC §175-178
- Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998, Title 18 USC §229
- Prohibited Transactions Involving Nuclear Materials, Title 18 USC §831
- Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction Statute, Title 18 USC §2332a



# Intel Background on Terrorists

## Bottom Line

No known or articulated threat to  
U.S. agriculture or food!!!

# Why Agroterrorism?

- Enemies of the U.S. may target food and agriculture as a means of waging asymmetric warfare.
- Any group could satisfy the political goal of gaining publicity for their cause by claiming responsibility for an act (or threat) of agroterrorism.
  - Conversely, a group might believe they could evade attribution for an act of agroterrorism.
- A determined terrorist could find a great deal of factual information on food, animal, and/or plant pathogens and dissemination techniques.
- Food and ag industries and commodities are soft targets compared to other critical infrastructure.

# Why Target U.S. Agriculture?

“It’s the economy!!!”

# The Value of US Agriculture

<b>Value Toward GDP</b>	<b>\$1.24 Trillion or 12.3% of GDP</b>
<b>Direct and Related Employment</b>	<b>16.7% or 1 in 6 Jobs</b>

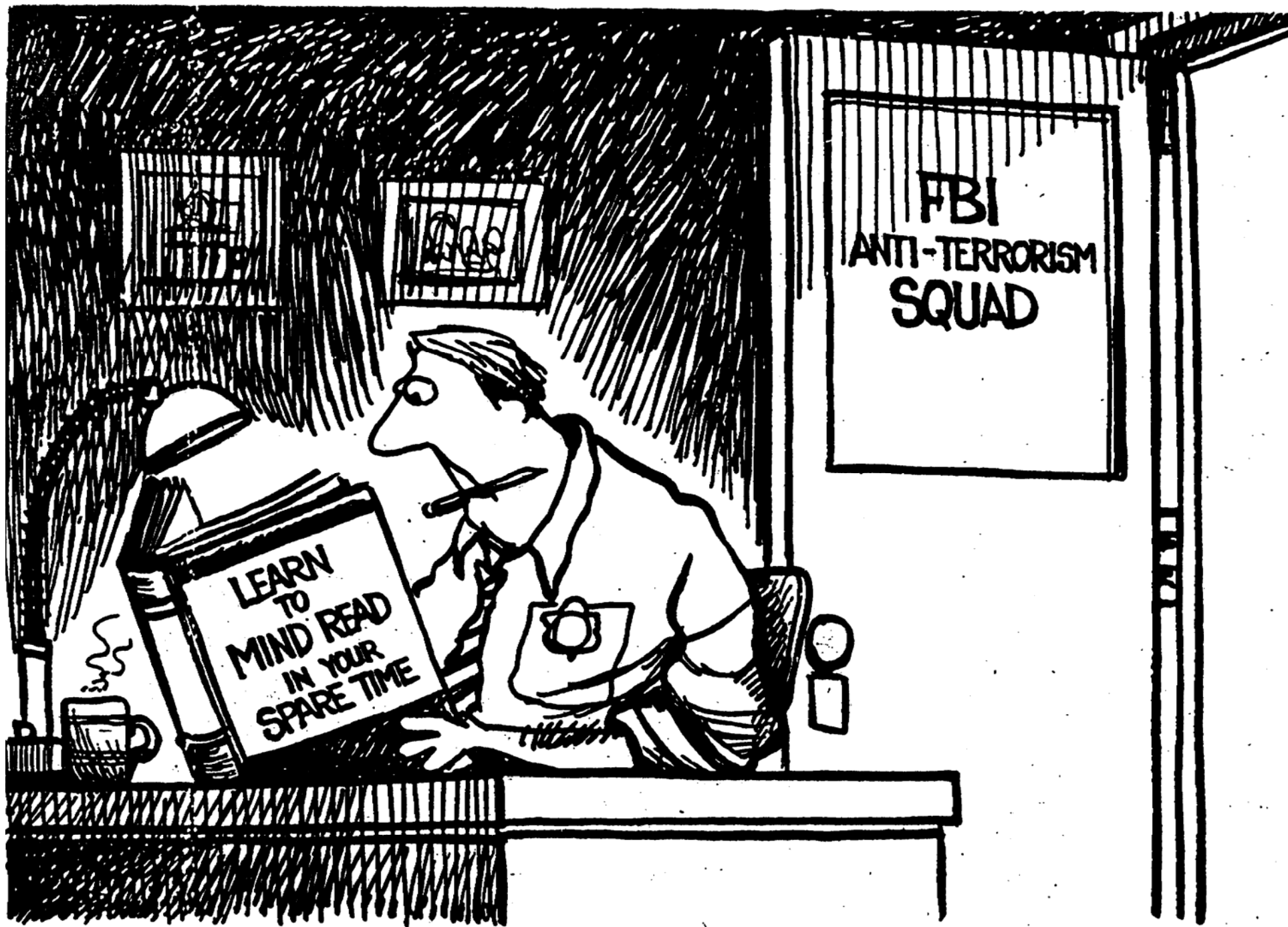
“Most reliable, secure and safe supply of food at a reasonable cost that the world has ever known.”



Source: Agricultural Statistics Board (National Agricultural Statistics Service)

# Potential for New Victims of Terrorism....





# Agroterrorism

Strategic Partnership Program  
Agroterrorism

# SPPA Objectives

Form a partnership with industry and the States to:

- Identify and/or validate vulnerabilities in the critical infrastructure of the food and agriculture sector
- Identify indicators and warnings that could signify planning for a terrorist attack
- Develop mitigation strategies to:
  - Reduce threat
  - Prevent attack
  - Assist in recovery
- Inform Centers of Excellence of identified research and development (R&D) needs
- Catalog lessons learned



# SPPA Results

- Vulnerabilities, possible mitigation strategies, and potential warnings and indicators reported to government and industry
- Best practices compiled
- National Infrastructure Protection Plan supported
- National Asset Data Base populated
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive - 9 implemented
- Intel collection and analysis on food & ag sectors refined
- Vulnerability assessment tools for food & agriculture sub-sectors validated
- Sector-specific investigative templates and field guides prepared and issued
- Industry-validated R&D initiatives for food and ag sector advanced w/i USG Departments and Centers of Excellence

# **InfraGard**

**Food/Agriculture  
Special Interest Group (SIG)**

# Food/Agriculture Special Interest Group (SIG)

- A combined effort of the FBI Cyber Division and Counterterrorism to partner with the Food/Agriculture Sector for communication, Information Sharing, and investigative purposes.
- Intended to enhance information sharing among public and private sector and subject matter experts who can be called on to assist in detecting, deterring, assessing, and preventing threats and attacks targeting the food and agriculture sectors of our nation's critical infrastructure.

# Food/Agriculture SIG

- Participation in the Food/Agriculture InfraGard special interest group (SIG) requires pre-vetted membership in InfraGard and demonstrated occupational interest in the food or agriculture sector or currently employed by a law enforcement agency.
- The website has sector-specific assessments, news, related links and a message board, allowing members to communicate in a secure environment about protection issues related to the protection of the food and agriculture sectors.

# Food/Agriculture SIG

- Subject matter experts may submit articles or offer relevant content for posting on the secure website; content must address timely topics or issues related to the protection of the food and agriculture.
- The website will have a “Specialist’s Corner” where members can pose sector –specific questions to the subject matter experts and known professionals.

# Food for Thought

## Baader – Meinhoff Terrorist Group

(active in the 1970's & early 1980's)

*“When we have a free path, we go forward. If we meet an obstacle, we go around it. If the object cannot be overcome, we retreat. When the enemy is unprepared, we surprise him. If he is alert, we leave him alone!”*



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