

**Food & Agriculture Security Task Force**  
**Chairman: Bill Even, South Dakota**  
**Vice Chairman: Roger Allbee, Vermont**  
**NASDA Mid-Year Conference**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**Task Force Report**

**Summary of Task Force Action**

Commissioner Gene Hugoson (MN) served as acting chairman during the task force meeting.

**Update on Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Activities Related to Food & Agriculture**

*Gregory. S. Christy, DHS Food & Agriculture Sector Liaison*, discussed DHS-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding guidelines for 2008 grants/training. More emphasis is placed on preparedness and a state risk formula will determine funding allocations. Applications are due May 1, 2008. The National Response Framework, which describes federal bioterrorism response and recovery activities, has been reworked and streamlined. The document becomes effective in March 2008 and is intended as a tool for state and local governments. Mr. Christy also discussed efforts to upgrade and develop the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).

*Lyle Jackson, DHS Food & Agriculture Program Manager*, described the DHS Critical Infrastructure Project, which is intended to help states determine vulnerabilities in their agricultural infrastructure and key assets. Additional information will be provided to state agriculture departments in coming weeks.

*Dennis Deziel, DHS Office of Chemical Security Compliance*, outlined recently issued Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards. DHS has placed an indefinite hold on requirements for agricultural operations until further study and discussion with stakeholders. Another rulemaking on safe handling of ammonium nitrate is being developed in 2008.

**Update on USDA Activities on Homeland Security**

*Jessica Fantinato, USDA Office of Homeland Security*, outlined USDA efforts on food and agriculture defense, including vulnerability assessments, mitigation strategies, response planning, and guidance documents.

**Update on Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Activities on Homeland Security**

*LeeAnne Jackson, FDA Office of Food Defense, Communication & Emergency Response*, reported that FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) recently reorganized to better coordinate the agency's homeland security efforts. A new software tool was released in summer 2007 to help develop state vulnerability assessments in the food and agriculture sector. The agency has also issued numerous guidance documents, conducted emergency exercises, and launched a new food defense awareness initiative (ALERT).

**Homeland Security Activities and Priorities on Animal Emergency Management**

*Keith Roehr, U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA), Assistant State Veterinarian, Colorado*, discussed preparedness efforts to address foreign animal diseases. More state funding and resources are needed to employ animal health officials, develop emergency plans for various livestock sectors, and local government coordination activities.

### **Consideration of Policy Amendments and Action Items**

No policy amendments or action items were offered.