

# Agriculture Suppliers:

*Your role in agricultural emergencies*



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# What's an agriculture emergency?



- ◆ Natural disasters
  - ◆ Droughts/floods/tornado
  - ◆ Crop failure
- ◆ Pest infestations
  - ◆ Emerald ash borer
- ◆ Food contamination
  - ◆ Raw milk cheese curds
  - ◆ Spinach
- ◆ Animal diseases
  - ◆ Avian influenza
- ◆ Toxic Responses





# All Agriculture Emergencies are not Agro-terrorism

- ◆ Intentional contamination
  - ◆ Law Enforcement lead on criminal investigation

# Why is food/agriculture a target?

- ◆ *Economic, health, societal, psychological and political* significance
- ◆ Deliberate contamination could cause:
  - ◆ Significant public health consequences
  - ◆ Widespread public fear
  - ◆ Devastating economic impacts
  - ◆ Loss of public confidence in safety of food and effectiveness of government





# Economic consequences

## ◆ Direct losses

- ◆ Medical costs to victims
- ◆ Containment costs
- ◆ Decontamination and disposal
- ◆ Lost products and sales

## ◆ Indirect multiplier effects

- ◆ Compensating producers
- ◆ Affiliated industries such as suppliers, transporters, distributors

## ◆ Losses in international trade





*"For the life of me, I cannot understand why the terrorists have not attacked our food supply because it is so easy to do."*

*~Tommy Thompson, Dec. 3,*

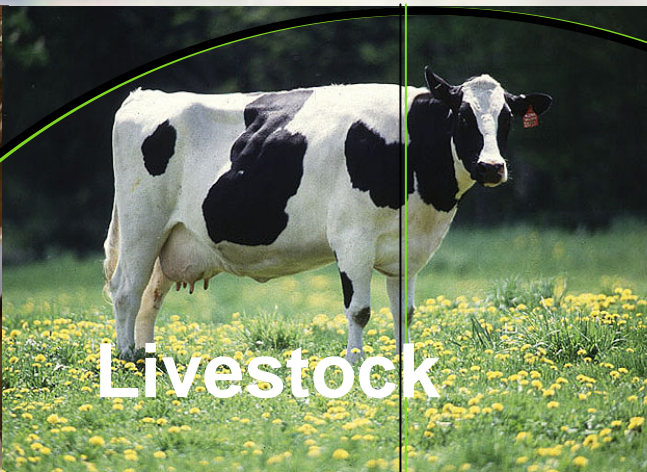
*2004*



Crops



Livestock



Processing



Transportation



Distribution



Storage



Retail





# What makes a good target?



## ◆ Foods at high risk are:

- ◆ Made in large batches
- ◆ Mixed uniformly
- ◆ Have short shelf lives
- ◆ Are easily accessible



# It's already happened

- ◆ 1984 Contaminated salad bar
- ◆ Sept. 1994 Schwann's ice cream
- ◆ Oct. 1996 Texas medical center
- ◆ Dec. 1996 National Byproducts  
(homegrown incident)
- ◆ Jan. 2003 Pesticide-laced ground beef
- ◆ April 2003 Arsenic-laced coffee after church

# What makes a good target?

## ◆ Livestock

- ◆ Animals in close proximity
- ◆ Diseases with long incubation times
- ◆ Animal movement
- ◆ Zoonotic impacts
- ◆ Accessibility
- ◆ Feed supplies/  
distribution





# What makes ag responses different?

- ◆ Usually **longer term** than traditional emergencies
  - ◆ Symptoms may not appear for days, weeks or years
  - ◆ Often wait for analytical results
  - ◆ Response actions are longer – containment and/or eradication may take years
- ◆ Types of responders tend to be **non-traditional first responders** (vets, entomologists, etc.)
- ◆ **Scope of response** beyond individual county/site
- ◆ The need to **integrate home rule** when first responders are not local responders

# Emergency Response

## ◆ What is Home Rule?

- ◆ Cities and villages have the power to act for the good order of the city, for its commercial benefit, and for the health, safety, and welfare of the public...
- ◆ Our responses must respect local officials responsibilities

## ◆ Incident Command System

- ◆ An incident management system for all responders (public and private) to use to respond to and manage emergencies
- ◆ Unified Command – involves those who have responsibility for the response
- ◆ ICS position irrespective of program expertise
  - ◆ Your supervisor may report to you if you're in a command position



# Emergency Response



- ◆ No agriculture emergency is isolated
  - ◆ Disease outbreak -> food safety/animal health/agriculture development
  - ◆ Feed contamination -> food safety/animal health
  - ◆ Food contamination -> animal health/toxic response

# Wisconsin's Critical Infrastructure

- ◆ Food and Agriculture one of four top infrastructure for WI Homeland Security
  - ◆ Planning/Training/Exercising
    - ◆ State level/county level/industry
  - ◆ Private/public partnerships
    - ◆ WARN
  - ◆ Regionalization
  - ◆ Sustainability





# What can you do?

- ◆ Make sure your facility is not an easy target!
- ◆ Meet and know your local emergency managers
- ◆ Think about how you can be a resource in an agriculture emergency
- ◆ Understand the ICS management system
  - ◆ <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/is/is100.asp>





Any questions?