

2011-2012 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Food Protection & Defense Committee

***Chair:** David Read, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, St. Paul, MN

Co-Chair: Mike Starkey, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, St. Paul, MN

Charge 1: Monitor Food & Agriculture Sector activities at DHS and of the Government Coordinating Council/Sector Coordinating Council (GCC/SCC) and report any items impacting AFDO members to the Board as encountered.

Discussion: Mike Starkey has attended, in-person or via webinar, the Food and Agriculture Sector Government Coordinating Council (FASGCC) quarterly meetings as Co-Chair of the AFDO Food Protection and Defense Committee. This year's focus at FASGCC was the development of a Strategic Plan as well as Immediate Next Steps Identified in the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan (See Attachment 1, See Attachment 2).

Strategic goals to be advanced include:

- nurture productive partnerships;
- facilitate information sharing, best practices and outreach;
- leverage and promote tools and resources; and
- lead plan, and coordinate on food and agriculture resilience

Immediate Next Steps include:

- Host an interdependency summit with other critical sectors
- Establish an membership support working group
- Continue creating the FASGCC risk reduction toolkit
- Identify FASGCC achievements and develop a template for communications

June 13-14, 2012 FASGCC Quarterly Meeting Proposed Meeting Agenda Topics:

- PCI;
- International Food Protection Institute Presentation;
- GMA Food Defense Committee;
- Multi-Sector Infrastructure Protection;
- Introduction of FASGCC State Co-Chair Position and Alternate;
- **AFDO Annual Education Conference (report out from Mike Starkey);**
- Update on the FMD Outbreak in Egypt
- Criticality Working Group - HIRAC Update
- Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Update
- PPD-8 Update
- Microbial Forensics

Following Quarterly Meetings: September 19 & 20, 2012, and December 12 & 13, 2012.

Recommendation: Continue monitor FASGCC activities

Executive Committee Action:

Approval



Disapproval



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Charge 2: Monitor the progress and implementation of the food emergency and food defense aspects of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Discussion: The Partnership for Food Protection (PFP) Training and Certification (T&C) Work Group has focused its efforts on FSMA Section 209 Improving the Training of State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Food Safety Officials. This section also includes training for food defense capabilities. The PFP Work Groups which includes a number of other workgroups working on the Integrated Food Safety System and components related to FSMA implementation met in Nashville in November, 2011, to further develop work plans for the year. The T&C Work Group identified the need to develop a foodborne illness investigation traceback course with work underway to develop it and mapped all of the training provisions in FSMA to the IFPTI Curriculum Development Framework. The framework outlines comprehensive curriculum needs in a number of food safety and defense areas. The T&C Work Group is also working on a process to identify training and certification priorities.

Other food defense updates for FSMA includes:

FSMA Section 108 National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy - A Federal Interagency Working Group is preparing a Draft of the National Food and Agriculture Defense Strategy which will be circulated to Food and Agriculture Sector Government Coordinating Council and Sector Coordinating Councils members for review and comment.

FSMA Section 109 Food and Agriculture Coordinating Councils - The 2011 Food and Agriculture Sector Annual Report was prepared by FDA and submitted to the Department of Homeland Security in September 2011. DHS has the responsibility to submit the report to Congress.

FSMA Section 210 Enhancing Food Safety - Grants to Enhance Food Safety have been submitted to the FDA Office of Acquisitions and Grants for review and approval to post. DFRS may be funding some of the Sec 210 grants in FY 12 and a budget request for FY 13 is currently under development.

Recommendation: Continue this charge.

Approval



Disapproval



Date

5/23/12

Charge 3: Develop several recommendations for low/no-cost actions that can be taken by local/state/federal partners, that would lead to risk mitigation in the food and agriculture sector, or that would enhance and support the development of food defense roles at the local/state/federal levels.

Discussion: To encourage the continued development of risk mitigation in the food and agriculture sector, we propose the following low/no-cost efforts:

- A. Make outreach efforts through existing agency and industry food defense channels to expand participation on the quarterly conference calls of the AFDO Food Protection and Defense Committee. Ideas that could lead to increased attendance:
 - i. A coordinated e-mail outreach campaign through existing food defense channels (federal agencies, association partners, AFDO state contacts, industry groups)
 - ii. Opening the conference call to non-AFDO members
 - iii. Covering one topic in a bit more detail on each call (like FAS-CAT, or Free B, or FARM Toolkit) and advertising this in advance

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- B. Encourage state agencies to work together to name a statewide, interagency Food Defense point of contact (POC).
 - i. Include more discussion on the Food Protection and Defense Committee on how to make this an on-the-ground reality, not just a paper or electronic list.
 - ii. Encourage POCs to be active participants on the quarterly calls, perhaps having 2 or 3 introduce themselves on each call with a couple minutes worth of detail.

- C. Encourage statewide Food Defense POCs to jointly pursue food defense initiatives annually, from an agreed-upon menu of options. These could include:
 - i. Coordinated statewide (potential regional) use of FAS-CAT
 - ii. Coordinated, statewide/regional exercises using FREE-B
 - iii. Coordinated, statewide use of the FARM Toolkit
 - iv. Coordinated and strategic use of existing homeland security funded courses (NCBRT, CAFSP, WIFSS, KCC, etc.)
 - v. Coordinated use of FERP, FoodShield, CoreShield, other initiatives.
 - vi. Engage state Fusion Centers

- D. Encourage attendance at an annual Food Defense Planning meeting.
 - i. This meeting could be added to an existing annual conference, perhaps by tagging on an extra day before or after.
 - ii. Even partial funding for travel to this event (in the neighborhood of \$25,000 to \$50,000) could perhaps be the carrot to stimulate the rest of this list.

End Goal: Creation of a national group of Food Defense professionals who have shared goals, collaborate regularly, and freely share ideas and resources.

Recommendations: Continue this charge.

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Charge 4: Participate in the revision of the Food Emergency Response Plan Template.

Discussion: The Food Emergency Response Plan (FERP) Template is completed and is being distributed. NASDA has expressed interest in developing a FERP training module. NASDA has reached out to DHS/OHA concerning the feasibility of funding such a project.

Recommendations: Continue to work with NASDA and other partners in the FERP roll-out.

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Charge 5: Work with DHS representatives to determine a role for AFDO in promoting and advancing CoreShield.

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Discussion: CoreShield is striving to:

- Capture and maintain recall effectiveness data in one system available to all involved in the recall which would allow analyzing data in real time and providing situational awareness.
- Create a national database of local/state/federal/private sector critical contacts.
- Developing a Web-based traceback data sharing system that would allow state and local commissioned staff in states involved in a traceback to see that data at the same time as FDA headquarters staff.
- Create a national database where all inspection and sample information from FDA and the States participating in this project is included. All partners would share data and use it for trend analysis and planning future activities.

In speaking with Bill Krueger, DHS and CoreShield project manager, DHS is preparing to unveil a new and improved CoreShield. These improvements will focus on items discussed above. We should look for these updates in the coming weeks.

Recommendations: Continue the charge to identify AFDO's role in CoreShield.

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