

# **Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council**

**2010 Symposium on Food and  
Agriculture Security**

**Madison, WI**

**October 18-20, 2010**

**Clay Detlefsen**

Vice President & Counsel, International Dairy Foods Association  
Co-chair, Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council



# Overview

- Sector Concept & Authorities
- Food and Agriculture Councils
- Private Sector Experience
- Path Forward & Goals
- Questions

# Sector Concept & Authorities

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# Sector Concept & Authorities

## Homeland Security Act of 2002:

- Provided the basis for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responsibility for protecting the critical infrastructure
- Assigned DHS the task of creating a national plan for securing critical infrastructure

# Sector Concept & Authorities

## Homeland Security Presidential Directive #7:

- Established the framework of the national approach to critical infrastructure protection
- Established the roles for sector specific agencies, other federal agencies, state, local, tribal and private sector partners and others

# Sector Concept & Authorities

## Homeland Security Presidential Directive #9:

- Established the policy for improving intelligence, emergency response, mitigation strategies and vulnerability assessments to defend food and agriculture against terrorism, major disasters and other emergencies.

# The 18 Critical Infrastructures

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- **Food and Agriculture**
- **Defense Industrial Base**
- **Energy**
- **Public Health and Healthcare**
- **National Monuments and Icons**
- **Banking and Finance**
- **Water**
- **Chemical**
- **Commercial Facilities**
- **Dams**

# The 18 Critical Infrastructures

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- **Emergency Services**
- **Commercial Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste**
- **Information Technology**
- **Communications**
- **Postal and Shipping**
- **Transportation Systems**
- **Government Facilities**
- **Critical Manufacturing**



# Food and Agriculture Councils

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# Food & Agriculture Coordinating Councils

Government Coordinating Council (GCC)  
Sector Coordinating Council (SCC)

## Stated Goal:

A public-private effort that protects public health and that builds and sustains a protected national food supply chain where the U.S. Food and Agriculture Infrastructure is secure, resilient and prepared.

# SCC/GCC Activity

- The SCC and GCC meet face-to-face three times per year
- The Leadership of the two councils meet once per month via conference call
- The SCC and GCC periodically conduct tabletop food defense exercises. One or two per year
- At times, the contact between the GCC and SCC can be daily

# Food & Agriculture Coordinating Councils

**Food and Agriculture Government Coordinating Council (GCC)**



**Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council (SCC)**

## **Department of Agriculture\***

- **Department of Health and Human Services - Food and Drug Administration\***
  - **Department of Homeland Security**
    - **Department of Defense**
  - **Environmental Protection Agency**
    - **Department of Commerce**
    - **Department of Justice**
    - **Department of Interior**
- **American Assn of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians**
  - **Assn of Food & Drug Officials**
  - **Assn of Public Health Laboratories**
  - **Assn of State & Territorial Health Officials**
    - **Intertribal Agriculture Council**
  - **Multi-State Partnership for Agriculture Security**
- **Nat'l Assembly of State Chief Livestock Health Officials**
  - **Nat'l Assn of City & County Health Officials**
  - **Nat'l Assn of State Depts of Agriculture**
  - **National Environmental Health Association**
    - **National Plant Board**
- **Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance (SAADRA)**
  - **State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial GCC**

- **Comprised of Trade Associations and Owner Operators (including several multinational corporations)**

## Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council (FASCC)

FASCC is comprised of two representatives and one alternate from each sub-council. Coordination across sub-councils happens at the FASCC level.

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### Producers/ Plant Sub-Council

Addresses the security issues related to planting, growing, harvesting, storage, and merchandising of plants.

### Producers/ Animals Sub-Council

Addresses threats to the nation's animal agriculture that would have an impact on the integrity of the nation's food producing animals.

### Processors/ Manufacturers Sub-Council

Addresses the security issues associated with processing, manufacturing, and storing food products. Where applicable, also addresses transporting packaged food products to warehouses and distribution centers.

### Restaurants/ Food Services Sub-Council

Addresses the security issues related to preparing food at restaurants and commissaries and, where applicable, transporting food to customer facilities.

### Retail Sub-Council

Addresses the security issues related to selling food products in stores; receiving and storing food products at distribution centers; transporting food products to stores, commissaries, and other facilities.

### Warehousing and Logistics Sub-Council

Addresses security related issues associated with the distribution, warehousing, and logistics of food and agriculture products. Includes the movement and storage of food and agriculture products.

### Inputs/ Services Sub-Council

Addresses the security issues related to manufacturing, selling/supplying and using inputs, goods, and services for agricultural production.

# SCC's Current Structure

- Singular entity -- no sub councils
- Leadership -- 3 Co-chairs
- Trade associations dominate the SCC membership, but solid participation from multinationals like ADM, Kraft, McCormick, ConAgra and others
- Food Processors/Manufacturers are the most engaged industry segment
- SCC is part of the cross sector council -- Partnership for Critical Infrastructure (PCIS)

# SCC's Underlying Owners and Operators

- 2,000,000 Farms
- 160,000 Domestic Registered Food Facilities
- 1,000,000 Restaurant/Food Service Outlets
- 35,000 Supermarkets (sales > 2M)
- 144,000 Convenience Stores
- 56,000 Pharmacies
- Plus many more

# SCC Mission

- Serves as the primary, policy-level interface with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Sector Specific Agencies (FDA and USDA) and other federal, state and local agencies on homeland security matters
- Communicates the sector's needs and requests for resources to the government



# SCC Mission

- Facilitates communications, plans, and activities with other relevant infrastructure sectors, government entities, and others necessary to further secure the nation's food supply and critical infrastructure

# Private Sector Experience

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# Private Sector Experience

## Lessons Learned

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### Sector Formation and Existence:

- Formation of the sector was and remains challenging
- Some sub councils did not see a value proposition and did not fully engage
- Too many activities, all with time and resource commitments
- Focus at times was perceived to be "checking boxes"
- Extremely diverse needs and philosophies exist within the sector

# Private Sector Experience

## Lessons Learned

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### Sector Formation and Existence:

- Sector concept created concurrent to sector formation
- Early misconceptions have alienated some valuable participants
- Enormous potential should a palpable threat materialize
- Critical relationships within the sector and with government personnel have materialized
- Mutual understandings and trust have been developed
- Progress has been made, more needs to be achieved
- Overall strong conceptual support from 18 sectors

# Private Sector Experience

## Lessons Learned

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### Strategic Partnership Program on Agroterrorism (SPPA)

- Extremely well received by industry and government alike
- Excellent opportunity for the private sector to educate officials about their operations and to interact with government
- Excellent opportunity for the private sector to understand government concerns
- Excellent opportunity for industry to learn from each other
- Numerous concerns ruled-in or ruled-out

# Private Sector Experience

## Lessons Learned

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### The SPPAs (cont)

- Valuable relationships and trust built
- Exercises resulted in improvements to industry/association/company food defense plans
- The downside
  - Significant time commitment
  - Impossible to engage the entire sector
  - Time only permits the exploration of a few agents

# Private Sector Experience

## Lessons Learned

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### Classified Communications

- Initially a problematic area
- The quality of communications is vastly improved
- The process for getting private sector individuals cleared is working well and is understood
- Need to get more representatives cleared
- Need to better understand how to communicate below the tear line information

# Private Sector Experience

## Past Accomplishments

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- SCC assisted in enhancing overall awareness of threats to food and agriculture and kept it in perspective
- SCC established a structure for collaboration with our federal, state and local partners
- SCC with our partners in numerous vulnerability assessments



# Private Sector Experience

## Past Accomplishments

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- SCC helped DHS understand the systems approach to the identification of our critical assets
- SCC beneficially influenced numerous DHS-driven projects and activities
- SCC actively participated in the development and execution of a number of excellent tabletop exercises

# The Path Forward

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# Benefits to SCC Members for Participation in Sector

- Diverse Networking Opportunity
- Having a Voice in Establishing Priorities
- Ensuring That Activities Are Well-Reasoned
- Gain Insight into Governmental Operational Issues
- Opportunity to Shape the Partnership
- Opportunity to Thwart Unnecessary Regulations

# Future Challenges for the SCC

- Most potential SCC representatives don't understand the benefits
- There are over 4 million entities in the Sector, most have never heard of the SCC, or the Food/Ag Sector
- The sector is very diverse and does not lend itself well to traditional physical asset-based security practices
- In many locations outside Washington, DC, threats are seen as theoretical or unlikely

# Future Challenges for the SCC

- There are plenty of day-to-day challenges to deal with already and resources are finite
- The National Infrastructure Protection Plan and National Response Framework are not well understood
- The economic downturn has triggered staff reductions at trade associations and owner operators and food defense is frequently lost in the shuffle
- Funding is an issue

# Future Challenges for the SCC

- The Sector and SCC lacks visibility and the Sector is largely misunderstood
- Two-way communications strategy during an event needs work
- The SCC connection with states and localities is minimal
- Private sector participation is lacking
- Efforts are disproportionately driven by the GCC, though the GCC would welcome SCC engagement

# 2010/11 Strategic Goals

- Finalize and communicate the SCC Value Proposition and Roadmap
- Development mechanisms to increase private sector use and understanding of HSIN and Foodshield
- Work to establish Sector and SCC identity
- Develop Model SCC Emergency Response Plan

# 2010/11 Strategic Goals

- Develop a livestock and poultry business continuity plan to exercise in 2011
- Produce a consolidated guide of food defense/food safety regulations



# The Bottom Line

- The partnership is far from perfect
- But, we are far better off today for it
- Volunteerism is at an all time low which limits what can be done
- Should something happen, we will be able to act more quickly and efficiently
- The investment to date has been worthwhile

QUESTIONS ?