

§ 2202. National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy

(a) Development and submission of strategy

(1) In general

Not later than 1 year after January 4, 2011, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall prepare and transmit to the relevant committees of Congress, and make publicly available on the Internet Web sites of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture, the National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy.

(2) Implementation plan

The strategy shall include an implementation plan for use by the Secretaries described under paragraph (1) in carrying out the strategy.

(3) Research

The strategy shall include a coordinated research agenda for use by the Secretaries described under paragraph (1) in conducting research to support the goals and activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b).

(4) Revisions

Not later than 4 years after the date on which the strategy is submitted to the relevant committees of Congress under paragraph (1), and not less frequently than every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall revise and submit to the relevant committees of Congress the strategy.

(5) Consistency with existing plans

The strategy described in paragraph (1) shall be consistent with—

- (A) the National Incident Management System;
- (B) the National Response Framework;
- (C) the National Infrastructure Protection Plan;
- (D) the National Preparedness Goals; and
- (E) other relevant national strategies.

(b) Components

(1) In general

The strategy shall include a description of the process to be used by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Homeland Security—

- (A) to achieve each goal described in paragraph (2); and
- (B) to evaluate the progress made by Federal, State, local, and tribal governments towards the achievement of each goal described in paragraph (2).

(2) Goals

The strategy shall include a description of the process to be used by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Homeland Security to achieve the following goals:

(A) Preparedness goal

Enhance the preparedness of the agriculture and food system by—

- (i) conducting vulnerability assessments of the agriculture and food system;
- (ii) mitigating vulnerabilities of the system;
- (iii) improving communication and training relating to the system;
- (iv) developing and conducting exercises to test decontamination and disposal plans;
- (v) developing modeling tools to improve event consequence assessment and decision support; and
- (vi) preparing risk communication tools and enhancing public awareness through outreach.

(B) Detection goal

Improve agriculture and food system detection capabilities by—

- (i) identifying contamination in food products at the earliest possible time; and
- (ii) conducting surveillance to prevent the spread of diseases.

(C) Emergency response goal

Ensure an efficient response to agriculture and food emergencies by—

- (i) immediately investigating animal disease outbreaks and suspected food contamination;
- (ii) preventing additional human illnesses;
- (iii) organizing, training, and equipping animal, plant, and food emergency response teams of—
 - (I) the Federal Government; and
 - (II) State, local, and tribal governments;
- (iv) designing, developing, and evaluating training and exercises carried out under agriculture and food defense plans; and
- (v) ensuring consistent and organized risk communication to the public by—
 - (I) the Federal Government;
 - (II) State, local, and tribal governments; and
 - (III) the private sector.

(D) Recovery goal

Secure agriculture and food production after an agriculture or food emergency by—

- (i) working with the private sector to develop business recovery plans to rapidly resume agriculture, food production, and international trade;
- (ii) conducting exercises of the plans described in subparagraph (C) with the goal of long-term recovery results;
- (iii) rapidly removing, and effectively disposing of—
 - (I) contaminated agriculture and food products; and
 - (II) infected plants and animals; and
- (iv) decontaminating and restoring areas affected by an agriculture or food emergency.

(3) Evaluation

The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall—

(A) develop metrics to measure progress for the evaluation process described in paragraph (1)(B); and

(B) report on the progress measured in subparagraph (A) as part of the National Agriculture and Food Defense strategy described in subsection (a)(1).

(c) Limited distribution

In the interest of national security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, may determine the manner and format in which the National Agriculture and Food Defense strategy established under this section is made publicly available on the Internet Web sites of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Agriculture, as described in subsection (a)(1).

(Pub. L. 111-353, title I, §108, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3910.)

Editorial Notes**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Secretary, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), probably means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

§ 2203. Food and Agriculture Coordinating Councils

The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall within 180 days of January 4, 2011, and annually thereafter, submit to the relevant committees of Congress, and make publicly available on the Internet Web site of the Department of Homeland Security, a report on the activities of the Food and Agriculture Government Coordinating Council and the Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council, including the progress of such Councils on—

(1) facilitating partnerships between public and private entities to help coordinate and enhance the protection of the agriculture and food system of the United States;

(2) providing for the regular and timely interchange of information between each council relating to the security of the agriculture and food system (including intelligence information);

(3) identifying best practices and methods for improving the coordination among Federal, State, local, and private sector preparedness and response plans for agriculture and food defense; and

(4) recommending methods by which to protect the economy and the public health of the United States from the effects of—

(A) animal or plant disease outbreaks;

(B) food contamination; and

(C) natural disasters affecting agriculture and food.

(Pub. L. 111-353, title I, §109, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3912.)

§ 2204. Building domestic capacity**(a) In general****(1) Initial report**

The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall, not later than 2 years after January 4, 2011, submit to Congress a comprehensive report that identifies programs and practices that are intended to promote the safety and supply chain security of food and to prevent outbreaks of foodborne illness and other food-related hazards that can be addressed through preventive activities. Such report shall include a description of the following:

(A) Analysis of the need for further regulations or guidance to industry.

(B) Outreach to food industry sectors, including through the Food and Agriculture Coordinating Councils referred to in section 2203 of this title, to identify potential sources of emerging threats to the safety and security of the food supply and preventive strategies to address those threats.

(C) Systems to ensure the prompt distribution to the food industry of information and technical assistance concerning preventive strategies.

(D) Communication systems to ensure that information about specific threats to the safety and security of the food supply are rapidly and effectively disseminated.

(E) Surveillance systems and laboratory networks to rapidly detect and respond to foodborne illness outbreaks and other food-related hazards, including how such systems and networks are integrated.

(F) Outreach, education, and training provided to States and local governments to build State and local food safety and food defense capabilities, including progress implementing strategies developed under sections 2202 and 2224 of this title.

(G) The estimated resources needed to effectively implement the programs and practices identified in the report developed in this section over a 5-year period.

(H) The impact of requirements under this Act (including amendments made by this Act) on certified organic farms and facilities (as defined in section 350d of this title).¹

(I) Specific efforts taken pursuant to the agreements authorized under section 350j(c) of this title (as added by section 201),² together with, as necessary, a description of any additional authorities necessary to improve seafood safety.

(2) Biennial reports

On a biennial basis following the submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(A) reviews previous food safety programs and practices;

(B) outlines the success of those programs and practices;

¹ So in original. Probably should be “title).”

² See References in Text note below.