

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3198

To respond to the vulnerability of the United States agricultural production  
and food supply system to international terrorism.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2001

Mr. PUTNAM of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to  
the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To respond to the vulnerability of the United States agricul-  
tural production and food supply system to international  
terrorism.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Agricultural Terrorism  
5       Prevention and Response Act of 2001”.

6       **SEC. 2. ENHANCED SECURITY FOR UNITED STATES AGRI-**  
7                       **CULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FOOD SUPPLY**  
8                       **SYSTEM.**

9       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The agricultural production sector of the  
2           United States economy accounts for approximately  
3           13 percent of the United States gross national prod-  
4           uct.

5           (2) The strength, importance, and value of the  
6           United States agricultural production and food sup-  
7           ply system increases the possibility that the system  
8           could become a target for international terrorism,  
9           particularly a terrorism incident specifically targeted  
10          to key animal or plant commodities used in the pro-  
11          duction of food.

12          (3) Targeted terrorism activities could include  
13          the deliberate introduction of chemical or biological  
14          agents that would be harmful or infectious to crops  
15          or livestock and could disrupt the processing and  
16          distribution of food products.

17          (4) A successful terrorist attack against the  
18          United States agricultural sector involving the re-  
19          lease of a contagious agent against crops or livestock  
20          could damage public confidence in the safety of the  
21          United States food supply.

22          (5) The United States agricultural sector is  
23          particularly susceptible to a foreign crop or livestock  
24          disease, against which domestic animals and plants  
25          do not have a natural resistance. With crops and

1 animals concentrated in fewer production facilities,  
2 and with the frequent transport among these facilities,  
3 a single pathogen introduction could cause  
4 widespread infection.

5 (6) Terrorism threats to the agricultural production and food supply system need to receive the  
6 same level of priority as other terrorism threats, and  
7 should be treated in a highly coordinated and integrated manner.  
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9

10 (7) An awareness of the terrorism threat  
11 against the United States agricultural sector has increased within the intelligence and counterterrorism  
12 agencies of the Federal Government, and efforts  
13 must be undertaken to position the agricultural sector to anticipate and defend against such a threat.  
14  
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16 (8) The internal and external agency structures  
17 of the Department of Agriculture must be strengthened to enable to the United States agricultural sector  
18 to fully realize its strengths and vulnerabilities in  
19 the face of international terrorism.  
20

21 (9) The Department of Agriculture is a critical  
22 component of the collaborative infrastructure needed  
23 to deal with terrorism threats to the United States  
24 agricultural production and food supply system.

1 (b) INTERAGENCY AGRICULTURAL TERRORISM COM-  
2 MITTEE.—(1) The President shall establish an Inter-  
3 agency Agricultural Terrorism Committee to coordinate  
4 the counterterrorism effort for the protection of the  
5 United States agricultural production and food supply sys-  
6 tem. Greater coordination between Federal and State gov-  
7 ernment agencies is necessary to effectively address poten-  
8 tial terrorism threats against the system. Primary agen-  
9 cies of concern include—

10 (A) The Department of Agriculture, in par-  
11 ticular the Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
12 Service of the Department of Agriculture.

13 (B) The United States Customs Service.

14 (C) The Food and Drug Administration.

15 (D) State departments of agriculture.

16 (2) The responsibilities of the Interagency Agricul-  
17 tural Terrorism Committee shall include—

18 (A) preparing a plan defining the role of each  
19 agency in safeguarding agricultural production,  
20 processing and marketing systems;

21 (B) improving domestic crisis planning and  
22 management criteria;

23 (C) safeguarding critical infrastructures in agri-  
24 cultural production and food supply system; and

1           (D) supporting research efforts to enhance  
2           counterterrorism capabilities related to the agricul-  
3           tural production and food supply system.

4           (c) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATION  
5 WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
6 shall continue and strengthen cooperation with the Na-  
7 tional Security Council, the Department of Justice, and  
8 other departments and agencies with responsibilities under  
9 Presidential Decision Directive 62 concerning the role of  
10 the Department of Agriculture in counterterrorism pro-  
11 grams of the Federal Government. The Secretary of Agri-  
12 culture shall engage in active partnership with the Weap-  
13 ons of Mass Destruction Preparedness Group of the Na-  
14 tional Security Council focusing on the role of the Depart-  
15 ment of Agriculture regarding food and agricultural pro-  
16 tection issues.

17          (d) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
18 COUNTERTERRORISM POLICY COUNCIL.—The Depart-  
19 ment of Agriculture Counterterrorism Policy Council, es-  
20 tablished in 1999 and chaired by the Deputy Secretary  
21 of Agriculture, shall continue to serve as the Department  
22 of Agriculture’s senior policy forum for coordinating and  
23 leveraging departmental-wide support regarding terrorism  
24 issues. The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint an agri-  
25 cultural liaison on terrorism to report to the Homeland

1 Security Office and serve as a liaison on all agricultural  
2 matters involving security and agricultural terrorism  
3 threats.

4 (e) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT.—The  
5 Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an Industry Work-  
6 ing Group on Agricultural Terrorism comprised of agricul-  
7 tural producer, processing, distribution, and retail organi-  
8 zations to serve in a consultative manner with the Depart-  
9 ment of Agriculture to develop measures to counteract ter-  
10 rorist threats against the agricultural production and food  
11 supply system. The Secretary shall also establish training  
12 and information programs for agricultural producers to  
13 counter the threat of pests and disease at the farm level  
14 and to convey counterterrorism information to agricultural  
15 producers.

16 (f) INCREASED SURVEILLANCE, DETECTION AND  
17 INTERDICTION.—Greater financial and staff resources  
18 should be dedicated at the State and Federal Government  
19 levels for the detection and interdiction of agricultural ter-  
20 rorism threats. Critical among these priorities are increas-  
21 ing the number of inspectors and detection devices at  
22 ports of entry for the interception of prohibited and dam-  
23 aging agricultural products or agriculturally related prod-  
24 ucts.

1       (g) DIAGNOSTIC FACILITIES.—To improve the capa-  
2   bility of Federal diagnostic facilities to accurately and effi-  
3   ciently identify diseases and substances that are haz-  
4   ardous to plants and animals used in food production, the  
5   Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a Biosafety Level  
6   4 facility within the Department of Agriculture at the  
7   Plum Island Diagnostic Laboratory, to create the diag-  
8   nostic tests and vaccines needed to protect the United  
9   States swine industry from acts of biological terrorism and  
10   disease, such as the Nipah virus. The Biosafety Level 4  
11   facility shall be designed to prevent contact between micro-  
12   organisms and personnel as well as escape into the envi-  
13   ronment. A database shall be established to link animal  
14   and human disease information systems.

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