



MISSION STATEMENT:

The Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture was created by states to ensure that America's agricultural system is secure, its citizens are safe and its economy is strong. Through this interstate agreement, states will collaborate on surveillance of, preparation for, and response to threats in agriculture, whether intentionally introduced or naturally occurring, and coordinate these efforts with all levels of government.

PARTICIPATING STATES AND AGENCIES:

- ♦ Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin.
- ♦ Departments of Agriculture, State Veterinarian Offices, Homeland Security Advisors and Emergency Management Divisions.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture was kicked off with a Summit in August 2003 in Des Moines, IA. At the summit, the group developed key principles and a workgroup structure. Since that time, it has divided into subgroups to identify priorities and address more detailed issues such as information sharing, communication, planning/incident command and resource sharing. The partnership also has developed advisory committees to guide its grant work and a steering committee to make decisions on behalf of the partnership.

The partnership was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security to support its efforts and ensure participation by all states. Beginning in 2008, funding to support the partnership was provided by the participating states through their state applications. The partnership encourages collaboration between states, federal partners and state agency associations and, within this collaborative structure, has addressed many of the priorities established by the subgroups. In addition, the partnership has produced tools that help states address many of the challenges involved in securing the agriculture sector.

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES:

With grant funding, the partnership has addressed the following broad priorities:

- ♦ Risk communication during agricultural emergencies
- ♦ Interstate and intrastate planning for agricultural emergencies, including food, crop and animal health events
- ♦ Joint training on preparedness, response and recovery issues
- ♦ Exercising and testing plans both interstate and intrastate
- ♦ Promoting collaboration and information and resource sharing among all states
- ♦ Addressing agriculture emergency response policy issues