

53. BIOSECURITY

We support:

1. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) placing agricultural screening and inspections as a high priority with its Customs and Border Patrol officers.
2. State and federal legislation to establish an indemnity program and contract relief when acts of terrorism result in losses in production and/or marketability of agricultural products.
3. Import and export protocols that prevent the introduction of foreign animal and plant diseases.
4. The concept of looking at animal health issues beyond our own borders and examining them as "North American" issues.
5. Educational programs for farmers that will assist them in the early identification, treatment, and required reporting of animal and plant diseases.
6. The testing and development of crops that are resistant to diseases not currently present in the United States. The research should be conducted in non-sensitive areas so that the spread of diseases would not cause any loss of value to U.S. agricultural production.
7. Continuing to work with state agencies such as the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Illinois Department of Agriculture to establish and implement uniform biosecurity protocol for all personnel to follow that is consistent with scientific biosecurity guidelines.