



NOTICE TO THE INDUSTRY - BCD-14

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

Farm Service Agency

Kansas City
Commodity Office
P.O. Box 419205
Kansas City, Missouri
64141-6205

DATE: October 18, 2001

TO: All Warehouse Operators Approved Under the Cotton Storage Agreement (CSA)

SUBJECT: Biosecurity

The terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, have changed the country and the world. Although America is one of the strongest and safest nations worldwide, intruders were able to carry out reprehensible terrorist actions ... and now the confidence of some Americans has been shaken. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is focused on this crisis and we are working to assess all systems and programs to ensure that we have adequate Biosecurity measures in place.

As a handler and protector of this nation's agricultural products, the USDA is strongly recommending that you review your plant security plans and conduct a prudent risk assessment. You should pay particular attention to threats that you may not have considered significant in the past, such as restricting access to your facilities to authorized personnel only. We further recommend that your security plan include biosecurity measures designed to protect the food products that you handle and store. These security measures may include effective methods of protection and identification of security breaches, and response procedures such as contact information for local authorities in the event security incidents affect your facility. These types of preventative actions will reduce the risk of the intentional use of detrimental biological agents.

USDA is recommending these actions as strictly precautionary measures. We have utmost confidence in the commodity storage system in this country, and we believe that taking these few extra steps will increase the safety of food and feed stocks here and abroad. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

George Aldaya
Director
Kansas City Commodity Office