

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3293

To establish a coordinated program of science-based countermeasures to address the threats of agricultural bioterrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 14, 2001

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma (for himself and Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish a coordinated program of science-based countermeasures to address the threats of agricultural bioterrorism.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Agricultural Bioterrorism Countermeasures Act of
6 2001”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.

- Sec. 3. Biosecurity upgrades at Department of Agriculture and related facilities.
- Sec. 4. Intramural agricultural bioterrorism research and development.
- Sec. 5. Consortium for countermeasures against agricultural bioterrorism.
- Sec. 6. Agricultural bioterrorism competitive research grants.
- Sec. 7. Expansion of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service activities.
- Sec. 8. Expansion of Food Safety Inspection Service activities.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

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

3 (1) The events of September 11, 2001, have
4 heightened awareness of the threat of acts of bioter-
5 rorism, including attacks directed at the domestic
6 food supply and underlying agriculture.

7 (2) Evidence of access to and rudimentary ex-
8 periments with chemical and biological agents and
9 the reported interest in the operation of cropdusting
10 aircraft point to possible terrorist intent to use bio-
11 logical or chemical weapons.

12 (3) An attack of agricultural bioterrorism would
13 pose serious challenges such as—

14 (A) hazards to human health;

15 (B) erosion of public confidence in the
16 safety of the domestic food supply; and

17 (C) damage to the economy.

18 (4) It is important to develop short- and long-
19 term strategies and supporting technology to more
20 effectively and efficiently protect the domestic food
21 supply from acts of bioterrorism.

1 (5) A program of ongoing research and develop-
2 ment is required to reduce the vulnerability of plant
3 and animal agriculture and the food supply.

4 (6) It is critical to bring Federal, academic, and
5 private sector capacities to bear on the threat of ag-
6 ricultural bioterrorism.

7 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to strengthen the research and development
9 capacity of the United States to respond to the
10 threat of agricultural bioterrorism;

11 (2) to promote the collaboration between the
12 Federal, academic, and private sectors in addressing
13 agricultural bioterrorism; and

14 (3) to strengthen the capacity of regulatory
15 agencies to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the
16 consequences of a bioterrorist attack.

17 **SEC. 3. BIOSECURITY UPGRADES AT DEPARTMENT OF AG-**
18 **RICULTURE AND RELATED FACILITIES.**

19 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agri-
21 culture \$870,000,000 to enable the Agricultural Research
22 Service to comply with the requirements of the Depart-
23 ment of Agriculture’s biosecurity responsibilities under
24 Presidential Directive 67 with respect to the conduct of
25 activities to secure existing facilities where potential ani-

1 mal and plant pathogens are housed or researched and
2 to improve food safety research activities.

3 (b) DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.—The amounts ap-
4 propriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
5 in subsection (a) shall be made available as follows:

6 (1) \$220,000,000 shall be made available for
7 renovation, update, and expansion of the Biosafety
8 Level 3 laboratory and animal research facilities at
9 the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (Greenport,
10 New York).

11 (2) \$385,000,000 shall be made available for
12 the Agricultural Research Service/Animal and Plant
13 Health Inspection Service facility in Ames, Iowa.

14 (3) \$106,000,000 shall be made available for
15 the planning and design of an Agricultural Research
16 Service biocontainment laboratory for poultry re-
17 search in Athens, Georgia.

18 (4) \$9,000,000 shall be made available for the
19 planning, updating, and renovation of the Arthro-
20 pod-Bome Animal Disease Laboratory in Laramie,
21 Wyoming.

22 (5) \$120,000,000 shall be made available for
23 collaborative research with the Oklahoma City Na-
24 tional Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Ter-
25 rorism, the Department of Justice, and other law

1 enforcement and emergency preparedness organiza-
2 tions.

3 (6) \$10,000,000 shall be made available for the
4 purchase of rapid detection field test kits to be dis-
5 tributed by the Secretary of Agriculture to State and
6 local agencies engaged in defending against
7 agroterrorism and the training of appropriate au-
8 thorities.

9 (7) \$20,000,000 shall be made available for the
10 updating, expansion, and renovation of the Bio-
11 sensor Technologies Research Center at Oklahoma
12 State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

13 **SEC. 4. INTRAMURAL AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM RE-**
14 **SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
16 expand Agricultural Research Service programs to protect
17 the domestic food supply by—

18 (1) enhancing the capability to respond imme-
19 diately to the needs of regulatory agencies involved
20 in protecting the food supply;

21 (2) cooperating with academic and private sec-
22 tor partners to maximize the impact of research and
23 development;

1 (3) strengthening linkages with the intelligence
2 community to better identify research needs and
3 evaluate acquired materials;

4 (4) expanding the involvement of the Agricultural
5 Research Service with international organiza-
6 tions dealing with plant and animal disease control;
7 and

8 (5) taking other appropriate measures.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 \$140,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

12 **SEC. 5. CONSORTIUM FOR COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST**
13 **AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture
15 shall establish a Consortium for Countermeasures Against
16 Agricultural Bioterrorism to help form stable long-term
17 programs of research, development, and evaluation of op-
18 tions to enhance the biosecurity of United States agri-
19 culture.

20 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Consortium shall be
22 comprised of institutions of higher education posi-
23 tioned to partner with Federal agencies to address
24 agricultural bioterrorism.

1 (2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Agri-
2 culture shall designate for membership in the
3 Consortium—

4 (A) 3 institutions of higher education that
5 are national centers for countermeasures
6 against agricultural bioterrorism; and

7 (B) not more than 7 additional institutions
8 of higher education with existing programs re-
9 lating to agricultural bioterrorism.

10 (3) NATIONAL CENTERS.—The national centers
11 shall be selected using the following criteria:

12 (A) Co-location of Department of Agri-
13 culture laboratories or training centers with
14 member institutions.

15 (B) Demonstrated expertise in the area of
16 plant and animal diseases.

17 (C) Located at Land Grant Institutions
18 that have a College of Veterinary Medicine, an
19 on-site animal disease diagnostic laboratory,
20 and the capability to conduct on-site training
21 and training via distance education technology.

22 (D) Close coordination with State coopera-
23 tive extension programs that work in coopera-
24 tion with industry, farm and commodity organi-
25 zations, and regulatory agencies.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

4 **SEC. 6. AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM COMPETITIVE RE-**
5 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
7 enhance the National Research Initiative of the Competi-
8 tive Grants Program of the Cooperative State Research,
9 Education, and Extension Service by awarding grants fo-
10 cused on the science and technology needed to protect
11 against and deal with acts of bioterrorism directed at the
12 domestic food supply and agriculture.

13 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

16 **SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH IN-**
17 **SPECTION SERVICE ACTIVITIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
19 enhance and expand the capacity of the Animal and Plant
20 Health Inspection Service by—

21 (1) increasing inspection capacity at inter-
22 national points of origin;

23 (2) improving surveillance at ports of entry and
24 customs;

1 (3) enhancing methods of protecting against in-
2 troduction of plant and animal disease organisms by
3 terrorists;

4 (4) adopting new strategies and technology for
5 dealing with outbreaks of plant and animal disease
6 arising from acts of terrorism or from unintentional
7 introduction, including establishing cooperative
8 agreements among entities described in subsection
9 (b) to enhance the preparedness and ability of Vet-
10 erinary Services of the Animal and Plant Health In-
11 spection Service and such entities to respond to out-
12 breaks of such animal diseases;

13 (5) strengthening the planning and coordination
14 with State and local agencies, including the entities
15 described in subsection (b); and

16 (6) taking other appropriate measures.

17 (b) COOPERATING ENTITIES.—The entities referred
18 to in paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a) are the fol-
19 lowing:

20 (1) Veterinary Services of the Animal and Plant
21 Health Inspection Service.

22 (2) State animal health commissions and regu-
23 latory agencies for livestock and poultry health.

24 (3) State agriculture departments.

1 (4) Accredited colleges of veterinary medicine
 2 that are co-located with an accredited animal disease
 3 diagnostic laboratory and connected via high speed
 4 internet to national animal disease laboratories (to
 5 facilitate telemedicine sharing of necropsy images
 6 and histopathology images), animal diagnostic cen-
 7 ters, State departments of public health, and the
 8 Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

9 (5) Private veterinary practitioners.

10 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 11 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 12 \$140,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

13 **SEC. 8. EXPANSION OF FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION SERVICE**

14 **ACTIVITIES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
 16 enhance and expand the capacity of the Food Safety In-
 17 spection Service by—

18 (1) enhancing the ability to inspect and ensure
 19 the safety and wholesomeness of meat and poultry
 20 products;

21 (2) developing new methods for rapid detection
 22 and identification of diseases and other hazardous
 23 agents;

24 (3) applying new technologies to improve ante
 25 mortem and post mortem inspection procedures;

1 (4) improving the capacity to inspect inter-
2 national meat and poultry products at points of ori-
3 gin and at ports of entry; and

4 (5) strengthening collaboration among agencies
5 within the Department of Agriculture and in other
6 parts of Federal and State government through the
7 sharing of information and technology.

8 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 \$140,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

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