



FY 2007 CSREES and DHS Request – Agrosecurity

An expanded effort is needed to keep America's food and agriculture system safe from harm.

There is a growing recognition among local, state, and federal leaders that agrosecurity is an essential part of homeland security and that America's land-grant universities—with their nationwide network of experiment stations and extension offices—can and must provide more research, outreach, and education to producers, consumers, and others about newly arrived diseases and other threats.

Congress must provide greater funding for agrosecurity if the land-grant system is to increase its work in this arena.

■ **Diagnostic Networks.**¹ The National Plant Diagnostic Network and National Animal Laboratory Network identify dangerous pathogens that threaten crops or livestock and give county extension agents, growers, veterinarians, processors, and others necessary information to head off problems before they become widespread. ***Congress has consistently supported this effort, but more funding is urgently needed.***

■ **EDEN.**¹ The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is a collaborative, nationwide program of the Cooperative Extension System that improves the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters of all kinds. ***Often cited as one of the few successes of the 2005 hurricane season, EDEN is a valuable effort that needs and deserves additional support.***

■ **Agrosecurity Education.** The President's Budget includes \$5 million for an Agrosecurity Education Initiative to provide competitive curriculum development grants. Agriculture and veterinary schools around the country are broadening their curriculum to include agrosecurity education and working hard to encourage more students (among them future researchers) to enter this vital discipline. ***Congress must support this work by providing funds for the development of new agrosecurity curricula.***

■ **Centers of Excellence.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has selected and funded two Centers of Excellence related to agrosecurity. One center tackles foreign animal and zoonotic diseases (animal diseases that can transfer to humans), such as Avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, and Brucellosis. The other is developing strategies for post-harvest food protection and to ensure that everyone at every point in the food supply chain is equipped with the necessary information and protocols during an outbreak. ***Congress must continue to support increased funding for the Centers of Excellence program and instruct the Department of Homeland Security to make additional awards in the food and agriculture area.***

AGROSECURITY FUNDING INCREASES STILL CRITICAL

Despite the relatively quick, quiet, and widespread transformation within the agricultural research, extension, and education community that has occurred since 9/11, there is much more to be done to protect against threats to our food supply. Additional funding from the federal government is essential to maintain and expand the infrastructure that allows the land-grant university system to be proactive and responsive in the agrosecurity arena.

NASULGC'S PRIORITY REQUESTS FOR FY 2007

■ Agrosecurity Education.....	\$5.0 M
■ Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative ¹	12.0 M
■ University-Based Centers of Excellence (DHS).....	\$70.0 M

1. Funding for both the animal and plant diagnostic networks and EDEN comes through this CSREES line item.