YOUR ROLE AS FARM PROTECTOR

We are reaching out to you to create awareness of the potential signs of terrorism and suspicious activities. Farm employees are among those who are most likely to discover the first signs of harm done to the food system. We recommend that you report any recognized signs of potential terrorist activities to your farm supervisor, local law enforcement, and/or to the New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline at 1-866-723-3697 (1-866-SAFE-NYS).

Individuals seeking to commit acts of terrorism may utilize community organizations and businesses, including farms, to acquire certain chemicals, materials, skills, or training in order to succeed with their intentions. By posing as farm workers or suppliers, terrorists could gain access to the food supply. Our food supply may be attacked at any point in its journey, starting at the farm, and ending at the table in a restaurant or home. Only a small portion of the food supply would need to be tampered with to create mass illness, and significant economic and psychological damage. Many different plant and animal bacteria, viruses, and harmful organisms exist that can negatively impact our food.

Early recognition and reporting of potential terrorist activity can serve as the first line of defense against those who intend to harm the citizens of New York State or its resources. Instances of suspicious activity or behavior observed by members of the community may not be criminal, but may be peculiar and unusual because it does not match the usual pattern of daily activity found within the community. The intent is not to question people’s daily routines and way of life, or to distrust members of the community; but rather to provide a resource to recognize and report those things that may not necessarily fall into the norm.

Any signs of suspicious activity may be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline at 1-866-723-3697 (1-866-SAFE-NYS).
HOW YOU CAN HELP PREVENT TERRORISM

• Know the Routines.
• Be aware of what is going on around you.
• Take what you hear seriously.

If You See Something, Say Something!
Report any suspicious activity to the New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline at 1-866-SAFE-NYS (1-866-723-3697). All calls are toll free and will remain strictly confidential. To report emergencies or crime in progress, dial 911.

Now you can See Something, Send Something!
“See Something, Send Something” allows anyone to capture suspicious activity as a photo or written note, and send the information to the New York State Intelligence Center. From there, the tip will be reviewed and if relevant, sent to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The application, which can be downloaded for free for iPhone and Android phone users, also includes information on what to look for and when to report suspicious activity. Download the app at NY.gov/SeeSendNY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO GATHER

• Exact location and description of suspicious activity.
• Was there a weapon involved such as a gun or knife?
• Was there a vehicle involved? If so, provide the most accurate description possible including the color, make, model and style. The license plate (including state and number), along with the direction the vehicle was traveling, is also important.
• Description of the person(s) involved, including race, approximate age, height and weight, and any other description that may be used to help identify them, such as an accent, the clothing they were wearing, tattoos and scars.
• Any other information you were able to gather.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN ANIMALS

• Unusual symptoms or behavior, or sudden unexplained death.
• Severe illness or death in large numbers of animals.
• Unusual ticks or maggots.
• Blisters or ruptured blisters around mouth, nose, teats, or hooves.
• Neurological disorders that prevent the animal from rising or walking normally.
• Loss of appetite or other eating disorder.
• Swelling around eyes and neck in poultry, drop in egg production, or hens producing thin-shelled eggs.
• Drop in milk production in dairy cows.
• Large numbers of dead insects, rodents, or wildlife.
• Vesicular disease, blistering disease, or disease resulting in bleeding in ruminants or horses.
• The same disease symptoms appearing to affect animals in multiple locations.
• A disease that presents with new symptoms not previously recognized in that type of animal; or a disease occurring out of season.

EXAMPLES OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TARGETS

• Livestock
• Crops
• Water supplies
• Food and agriculture transportation systems

THINGS THAT WORKERS SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR

• Persons asking specific questions about a facility or the farm’s activities.
• Unauthorized photography of activities in or around facilities or farms.
• Unauthorized persons handling chemicals, biological agents, vaccines, or medication.
• Books, documents, or websites relating to chemicals, biological agents, or fertilizers.
• Persons who attempt to rent or borrow agriculture-related equipment for no logical reason or purpose.
• Thefts of anhydrous ammonia or other chemicals.
• Thefts of livestock, crops, chemicals and fertilizers, or farm equipment such as spraying devices.

KNOW THE EIGHT SIGNS OF TERRORISM

1. Surveillance: Individuals recording, watching, unusually photographing or monitoring activities, especially near critical infrastructure.
2. Suspicious Questioning: Seeking information about manpower and staffing, facility specific information, response protocols and security without an obvious need to know.
3. Tests of Security: Breaches of security or attempted intrusions as a test; may include numerous or unexplained false alarms, and/or individuals in secure areas claiming to be lost.
4. Funding: Suspicious transactions involving large cash payments, deposits, withdrawals, or transfers of money; bulk cash smuggling; suspected financial fraud; sale of counterfeit goods; or misleading charities.
5. Acquiring Supplies: Purchase, theft, loss, or stockpiling of supplies needed for an attack; may include explosives, weapons, chemical precursors, computers, blue prints, maps, fake identification cards, security plans, training materials, etc.
6. Suspicious Persons Out of Place: Persons who do not seem to belong, exhibiting unusual behaviors or unauthorized possession of uniforms, credentials, or cloned/stolen/repurposed vehicles.
7. Dry or Trial Run: Individuals practicing for a later attack, to determine timing and escape routes.
8. Deploying Assets: Positioning equipment and/or personnel in preparation for an attack.