

**From The Office of the Director
Clemson University Regulatory and Public Service Programs
Response to Homeland Security**

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, may have made time stand still, but they didn't stop Clemson University. Clemson University's Regulatory and Public Service Programs has been at work for years serving and protecting South Carolina citizens. And they're not about to stop now. With the added threats of bioterrorism and agroterrorism staring South Carolina and the nation in the face, our agency is working harder than ever in the area of homeland defense.

Regulatory and Public Service Programs (RPSP) falls under the leadership of Dr. Neil Ogg. It is comprised of three units: the Department of Pesticide Regulation (Dr. Von McCaskill, Department Head), the Department of Plant Industry (Dr. H.B. "Jack" Jackson, Department Head), and the Department of Fertilizer and Seed Certification Services (Dr. David Howle, Department Head).

Since 1890, Regulatory and Public Service Programs has been an integral part of the Clemson University mission by ensuring the safe use of agricultural products such as pesticides, fertilizer, and lime. This is accomplished through its service and regulatory programs involving combating invasive species, performing nursery inspections, enforcing pesticide laws, and ensuring pesticide, seed, and fertilizer quality.

RPSP is a part of Clemson University's Public Service Activities (PSA). These programs, which include regulatory, research, and extension, are committed to assist citizens, private enterprises, and public agencies to solve the problems they face day to day. It has never been as important as it is now.

Clemson University's Regulatory and Public Service Programs are instrumental in protecting against the use of agrochemicals and fertilizers as a means of terrorism.

Less than a week after the tragedy of September 11, RPSP began meeting with Clemson University President James Barker and Vice President John Kelly to discuss homeland defense and the prevention of bioterrorism and agroterrorism. There are several areas of concern for terrorist attacks in the agricultural and biological realms of the United States.

These include the misuse of fertilizers as explosives, the misuse of other materials as precursors for chemical weapons; and the misuse of pesticides and aerial aircraft. Another concern is the introduction of etiological agents vectored by

insects and the subsequent needed pesticidal control of them. The introduction of invasive species or diseases that would negatively affect food and feed production is also a key concern.

Immediately following the September 11th tragedy, Regulatory and Public Service Programs coordinated closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), providing them with information on all 104 South Carolina aerial applicators. The aerial applicators were requested to secure all aircraft to prevent theft and to report any suspicious persons to the FBI. RPSP also contacted all South Carolina pesticide dealers and asked them to report any suspicious persons or purchases to the FBI and to request that they heighten security of highly toxic pesticides and fertilizers.

The efforts and vigilance of RPSP don't only occur on the Clemson campus. Regulatory and Public Service Programs Director Neil Ogg, Clemson University President James Barker, Clemson University Vice President for PSA John Kelly, and Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health Director Jones Bryan met and began coordinating university-wide efforts on bioterrorism prevention. This series of meetings included General Steve Siegfried, Special Advisor to the Governor for South Carolina Homeland Security.

RPSP also contacted South Carolina fertilizer manufacturers and distributors asked them to report any suspicious sales of certain chemicals that are used to mix fertilizer. In March of 2002, SC Bill H4944 was introduced into the Senate and House. The Bill's purpose is to increase the safety and security of the citizens of South Carolina by safeguarding the sale of materials misused as dangerous explosives.

South Carolina is the first state in the nation to have a Bill like this. It will require fertilizer manufacturers and dealers to have sales permits for products containing anything over a determined percentage of some chemicals. The fertilizers that are prone to misuse as explosives will require a "restricted fertilizer" sales permit. Fertilizer dealers will be required to hold a permit to sell fertilizers. This will also allow for the development and maintenance of a database identifying fertilizer dealers in South Carolina. Using identification and information required by this law, sales of restricted fertilizers will be easily tracked.

A website created by Dr. Robert G. Bellinger of Clemson University Extension has been extremely helpful in getting the word out about the heightened awareness and need for extra pesticide security precautions (clemson.edu/pesticid/Issues/security.htm).

Public Service Activities isn't acting alone in its homeland defense plan. Responding to public concern about bioterrorism, Clemson University officials assembled a team of experts to provide information. Named the Clemson University Biosecurity Team (CUB Team), this resource provides the media and

public with names, contacts, and answers to frequently asked questions about biological materials that can cause harm to humans (clemsont.edu/news/biosecurity/index.htm).

The following is a detailed list of the contacts made by each Department of RPSP following the September 11th tragedy:

Department of Fertilizer and Seed Certification Services (FSCS)

- All South Carolina fertilizer registrants (**470**) and dealers (**227**) have been contacted in writing to inform them of the need to increase security measures involving the sale and storage of ammonium nitrate and urea fertilizers and to contact the FBI if they notice any suspicious activity.
- Chris Ray, Program Manager for FSCS, attended the Fertilizer Administrator’s Seminar in Los Angeles (~**30** attendees) to discuss issues and hear industry concerns.
- Dr. David Howle, FSCS Department Head, made a presentation at the SC Ag Expo (~**300** attendees) on concerns and proposed regulations.
- Dr. David Howle attended a meeting with national fertilizer industry leaders (TFI) and state fertilizer regulatory officials in Lakeland, FL (~**60** attendees) to discuss issues and potential regulatory action.
- Number of contacts made by FSCS field staff with fertilizer dealers who:
 1. offer ammonium nitrate or urea for sale; **235**
 2. have been contacted by the FBI, our department, or someone else regarding the threat of terrorist acts; **138**
 3. have increased security relative to sales and storage of ammonium nitrate and urea; **26**
 4. received a briefing paper from us regarding security issues concerning ammonium nitrate and urea. **79**

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

- SC Aerial Applicators (48)
All active SC aerial applicators have been visited individually by DPR Regulatory Specialists and informed of the necessity of maintaining the highest level of security for their aircraft. They have been instructed to devise some system of making the aircraft “tamper proof” so they can determine if someone has attempted to place anything in the holding tanks without their knowledge. Also, each aerial applicator has been advised to take special measures to secure any pesticides that may be in storage. A list of all N-numbers for aircraft owned by SC applicators has been compiled.
- Meetings / Presentations (366)
 - SC Governor’s Summit on Agriculture (35)
 - Presentation to SC Master Gardeners (30)

- Pee Dee Plant Professionals (20)
- Pee Dee Pest Control Association (18)
- Florence Co. Tobacco Growers Meeting (140)
- WPS presentation in Hemingway (45)
- WPS panel discussion in Hemingway (60)
- Homeland Security presentation to SC aerial applicators (18)

- Agency Contacts (40)
 - Blackville Research Station (pesticide and equipment security) (30)
 - Charleston Mosquito Abatement (pesticide security) (1)
 - Spartanburg Co. Library (investigation of white powder on returned videotape) (1)
 - Clemson Cooperative Extension Service (8)

- Law Enforcement Contacts (5)
 - Spartanburg Co. Sheriff's Department (1)
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation (4)

- Individual Contacts (77)
 - Agricultural / Farm (24)
 - Homeowner (27)
 - Business / Marketplace (26)

Department of Plant Industry (DPI)

Several internal planning meetings discussing appropriate DPI response to this threat have been conducted. Dr. Ogg held a meeting on April 8, 2002 with Dr. Dan Smith, Director of the CU Cooperative Extension Service and Dr. James Blake, Department Head of the Plant Problem Clinic to discuss University-based response to agroterrorism. During that meeting capabilities of the Plant Problem Clinic were discussed. A team of plant specialists has been contacted for a future meeting. The goal of this group is to identify Clemson University's capabilities, identify pests most likely used by terrorists, identify taxonomists able to confirm plant disease, assemble a rapid response team, and devise a suitable response for identification, action, notification, containment, and control.

Total DPR Contacts: 536

Total FSCS Contacts: 1087

Total RPSP Contacts: (not including duplicate meetings DPR and FSCS) 454

Total Regulatory Service Contacts: 2,077

**Please bookmark the Regulatory and Public Services
web page for the latest on South Carolina's
response to Homeland Defense.**