



# STATE OF ALABAMA

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

1445 Federal Drive  
Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123



*Ron Sparks*  
Commissioner

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Dear Agriculture Stakeholder;

We need to remain vigilant in our attempts to maintain a safe environment within Alabama. Everyday, there are attempts by terrorist, both foreign and domestic, to harm our country, our state, and our way of life. Threats to our agriculture community are no exception to this risk. Recently, some rural Alabama communities have been reporting suspicious activity to the Alabama Fusion Center and the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, centering on the attempted acquisition of agriculture chemicals. I encourage you to remain alert for things that are out of place in your local community, and to report any suspicious activity to the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, the Alabama Fusion Center or the FBI immediately. This should include an initial call to local law enforcement for an immediate first response. To assist in reporting and surveillance, we have attached listings of some potential indicators that will help you detect potential issues, as well as important contact information for the state & federal agencies.

### **Suspicious activity might include, but is not limited to the following:**

- Unscheduled or unusual outdoor spraying, particularly during periods of darkness
- Abandoned spray devices
- Odd delivery or purchase requests; for example: large quantities of chemicals, fertilizers, or other agricultural supplies purchased with cash or by people who don't seem educated in farming practices
- Contractors unfamiliar with basic procedures
- Increased applicants for low level jobs (overqualified)
- Unexplained thefts of animals, equipment or supplies, such as sprayers or chemicals
- A group or individual inquiring about samples of agricultural pathogens or asking specific questions about toxicity of a chemical
- A group or individual with excessive curiosity about equipment details, such as spray range
- A group or individual with unusual interest in the acquisition of vaccines and medications for a crop or livestock disease
- Suspicious activities reported at or near livestock feedlots, processing plants or poultry plants
- Unexplainable loitering near pesticide storage areas
- Interest in specific locations of agricultural asset concentrations, such as foreign requests for detailed data or travel plans to rural areas
- Noxious or unusual odors, not routinely associated with the area

The Alabama Fusion Center compiles, analyzes and disseminates terrorist and criminal information to identify, prevent and monitor terrorist and criminal activity. The Center processes information to show patterns and trends in suspicious incidents for multijurisdictional crimes. With that in mind, it is the local areas that will better know what is suspicious in each jurisdiction. When these incidents are reported to the Fusion Center, our analysts will review those leads/tips and chart any trends in activity. The Fusion Center will be able to use intelligence gathered from this information and other sources to help prevent future incidents.

Alabama Fusion Center Hotline:

- 1-866-229-6220

Federal Bureau of Investigation

- 334-263-1691 (Montgomery)
- 205/326-6166 (Birmingham)
- 251-438-3674 (Mobile)

Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries

- 1-800-642-7761



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