

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 28, 2010

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Indiana Joins Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture

DES MOINES – The State of Indiana has joined 13 other Midwestern states in a collaborative effort to prepare for and respond to agriculture and food safety and security incidents. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels signed the charter authorizing the state's membership in the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture.

Partnership coordinator Mark Shearer with Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) announced the signing during last week's 2010 Symposium on Food and Agriculture Security. The national conference, held in Madison, WI, was sponsored by the partnership.

David Miller, HSEMD administrator, said the partnership's success is a direct result of regional collaboration.

"This partnership is an example of how states can efficiently and effectively work together," Miller said. "By sharing scarce funding and program resources, they deliver results that benefit all states in the region."

In 2001, an animal disease outbreak in Great Britain caused agriculture leaders in the U.S. to improve disaster planning and risk communications. At that time, Iowa and five other states conceived the multi-state concept. The partnership continues to be managed by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Member agencies include state animal health, food safety and public health experts. States meet several times each year to plan and prepare for a disease or other event that could disrupt the food and agriculture system.

The 14-state partnership members are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

To learn more about the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, visit their website.



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