

Extension Public Policy Education on Agrosecurity

Leon E. Danielson

North Carolina State University

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Lack of Information

- Homeland Security a new national issue
- Federal, State & Local Programs
- ESCOP & ECOP initiatives
- CSREES interviewing for NPL
- Extension Disaster Education Network
- New issue for public policy educators

Federal Programs

- Federal Extension
 - Little information filtered down
 - NPL interviews in August
 - More information flow?
- Extension Disaster Education Network
 - Based at University of Missouri
 - Most states have representatives
 - Policy specialists not involved

USDA

- Partnering for Homeland Security underway
- \$43.5 million
 - Animal Disease Surveillance (\$4.5m)
 - Animal Disease Response (\$14m)
 - Plant Pest & Disease Detection (\$4.3m)
 - Rapid Detection & Diagnostics Network (\$20.6m)
- No reference to policy or policy education
- Are there state policy education programs?

Public Issues Education

- We offer a framework for education
 - Understand the issues & options
 - Citizen stakeholders involved
 - Implementation
- Science underlying the issue
- Natural Risk vs. Induced Risk
- Training in facilitation and collaborative problem-solving

Public Issues Education

- Diversity
 - across nation
 - across disciplines
- Politics and secrecy

Homeland Security

- Focus--“Citizen Corps” & emergency preparedness
- Limited attention to agr. & agrosecurity
- Nothing on agrosecurity education
- Little on risks of scenarios, potential costs and benefits of programs, impacts of programs, cost of doing nothing
- Creating Homeland Security will take time

EDEN: Homeland Security

EDEN is the Extension Disaster Education Network, an affiliation of Land Grant university professionals dealing with disaster education.

For more information on EDEN:

www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden



EDEN: Homeland Security

- Extension Educators from 30 states.
- 1,120 responses.
- Web based.
- July, 2002 time period
- Educators from:
 - Agriculture
 - Leadership and community development
 - Family and consumer science
 - Youth development

EDEN: Homeland Security

Which audiences are appropriate for Extension to address on the homeland security topic:

Food and ag – 87%

Local government – 80%

General public – 74%

Emergency Mgt. – 68%

Volunteer groups – 63%

Youth – 48%

EDEN: Homeland Security

Please rate the following homeland security topics as to how urgent they are to your community (scale of 1-9):

	Urgent (1-3)	Not Urgent (7-9)
Drinking water security –	78%	4%
Food Security –	64%	9%
Individual's role –	57%	14%
Government's role –	55%	14%
Animal biosecurity –	50%	12%
Personal security -	48%	13%
Farm security –	45%	12%
Financial security –	42%	15%
Plant/crop biosecurity –	37%	16%

EDEN: Homeland Security

Besides developing and delivering training and educational materials, how could Extension enhance homeland security?

- Collaboration/Networks
- Planning and facilitation
- Form coalitions and task forces
- Watch for unusual happenings in the county
- Create public awareness
- Develop good farm practices (for security)

EDEN: Homeland Security

Steve Cain

Purdue Extension

Disaster Communication Specialist

EDEN Homeland Security Project Director

1143 AGAD/AgComm

Purdue University

West Lafayette, IN 47907

765-494-8410

cain@purdue.edu



Closing

- Extension should conduct programs on agrosecurity
- Policy educators can make a contribution
- Need to indicate our interest in being involved
- What programs do we want to develop?