

Agribusiness Security Working Group

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AGRIBUSINESS SECURITY WORKING GROUP SECURITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL SELECTED FOR SOUTH CAROLINA HOMELAND DEFENSE PROJECT

Washington, D.C. – The Agribusiness Security Working Group, as comprised of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), CropLife America (CLA) and The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), today announced its Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) tool was chosen by Clemson University to survey the security needs of 220 agricultural locations in South Carolina.

The Agribusiness Security Working Group tips its hat to Clemson University for its successful effort to secure grant funding to improve state-wide security awareness. South Carolina is setting the standard by being the first state to implement a state-wide SVA program.

The SVA tool, which was developed by Asmark, Incorporated, and the Agribusiness Security Working Group, has been determined to meet the Center for Chemical Process Safety security vulnerability assessment design criteria. As a result, retailers who use this program to assess facility security can do so with confidence that their assessment is based on sound risk assessment principles. Retailers who complete the plan will receive a security assessment, along with a list of recommended security measures.

The SVA is available through state fertilizer, agricultural chemical or agribusiness associations. A list of sponsoring state organizations is available at the following Agribusiness Security Working Group partner Web sites: www.aradc.org, www.croplifeamerica.org or www.tfi.org.

The Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) is a national trade organization providing a national voice for the retail sector of the agricultural industry. With offices in Washington, D.C., the ARA is focused on issues and programs that affect the profitability and professionalism of ARA members.

Established in 1933, ***CropLife America*** represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CropLife America member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers.

The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) represents the nation's fertilizer industry. Producers, retailers, trading firms and equipment manufacturers which comprise its membership are served by a full time Washington, D.C., staff in various legislative, educational and technical areas as well as with information and public relations programs.