THE ISSUE - Understanding the roles that Extension and agencies have before, during, and after an animal agrosecurity event is vital to the protection and security of our food and agricultural infrastructure.

THE CONFERENCE - With support from the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is offering the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional EDEN Animal Agrosecurity Conference.

GOAL & OBJECTIVES - The goal of this regional conference is to improve the understanding of Extension’s role, and to promote dialog between states and agencies to improve intra- and interstate cooperation in an animal agrosecurity event.

The objectives of this conference will be to help Extension educators understand their role and responsibilities in the event of a major animal agrosecurity incident (i.e. a disease outbreak), to understand the resources that are available, and to become better prepared to work as a team with other agencies and producers during an agrosecurity incident. In addition, agencies and other emergency management groups will have an improved understanding of Extension’s educational and facilitation role, and the resources available through the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). The conference agenda will include time for Extension and agency representatives from states to meet as a group to discuss a state and multi-state approach to agrosecurity incidents.

THE ATTENDEES - Any Extension educator with a vested interest in emergency management will benefit from participating in this conference, especially those with dairy, livestock, poultry, or emergency preparedness responsibilities. States are encouraged to send teams that will represent their state at this conference, and carry the information back to co-workers. Teams should consider including representatives from Cooperative Extension; the State Veterinarian, Animal Health Bureau, Department of Agriculture, Emergency Management Agency, Health Department; SART; Law Enforcement; and commodity groups representing integrated dairy, livestock, and poultry production.

REGISTRATION - The CSREES/EDEN grant will cover conference registration costs for all Extension participants. Overnight accommodations and travel costs will be the responsibility of participants. For more information, and to register for this conference, visit www.EDEN.lsu.edu. Click on the conference link.