

# BUSINESSSAFE

*BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.*

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## BusinessSafe Highlight: Food and Agriculture

### Criminal Activity

The food and agriculture sector is comprised of complex production, processing, and delivery systems that contribute to feeding billions of people worldwide. Although unlikely, criminal activity within this sector may impact food safety or the agricultural community.

1. **Food Contamination** – Food contamination incidents, whether intentional or unintentional, have the potential to cause illness and may result in mass product recalls. Due to several layers of food safety defense programs, these incidents are rare. Continued vigilance when producing, processing, or purchasing food can help prevent the spread of contaminants.
  - [E. Coli Outbreak Sickens 196, Including in Florida: CDC](#)
  - [Another Person Was Caught on Camera Licking Ice Cream in a Store, Police Say](#)
2. **Cyber Intrusions** – The food and agriculture industry continues to integrate precision agriculture components into operations. These components rely heavily on information technology and interconnected systems. While these systems assist in increasing productivity and efficiency, without the proper protections in place, they can be vulnerable to cyber intrusion and may leave operations susceptible to data theft or manipulation.
  - [FBI Warns Farmers of Cyber-Security Threat with Precision Ag Use](#)
  - [Threats to Precision Agriculture](#) (PDF)
3. **Labor Trafficking** – Individuals who are abused and exploited by employers who use force, fraud, or coercion may be victims of labor trafficking. In agriculture, victims may be isolated in rural areas with restricted communication, may face threats of deportation or harm to one's family, and may be subjected to physical abuse.
  - [Prosecution of Labor Trafficking in South Florida Results from Community Outreach and Collaboration](#)
  - [National Human Trafficking Hotline: Agriculture](#)



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4. **Chemical Theft** – Some chemicals commonly used in agriculture have dual purposes and may be used for illegal activity including illegal drug production. Not only are some of these chemicals flammable and explosive, but contact with or inhalation of these chemical can have serious health implications.

- [Preventing Theft of Anhydrous Ammonia](#) (PDF)
- [Agrochemicals on Your Farm: Security](#) (PDF)

#### Resources

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) offers advice on safe food handling practices.

[FDOH: Don't Let a Foodborne Illness Spoil Your Holiday](#)

The link below provides fact sheets with information on food and agriculture-specific indicators of use in identifying suspicious activity and potential indicators of pre-attack mobilization.

[BusinessSafe Fact Sheets: Agriculture and Food](#)

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