

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: Food and Agriculture Sector

Florida's Food and Agriculture Sector is comprised of more than 47,000 commercial farms and ranches using nearly 9.7 million acres across the state. This sector plays a critical role in the food supply and in Florida's economy. It also works closely with other critical infrastructure sectors such as, the water and wastewater sector, the chemical sector responsible for producing fertilizers and pesticides, and the transportation sector, which is vital to moving food and livestock from Florida to destinations across the U.S. and around the world.

Threats and disruptions

The Food and Agriculture Sector is complex with multiple interdependencies. A disruption to any of these interdependencies can cause operational issues for food production and distribution. Increasing cyberattacks and ongoing supply chain disruptions have created unique threats to this sector.

- **Cyber:** The Food and Agriculture Sector continually increases its use of technology and automated procedures and software to ensure ongoing productivity and environmental stability. Cyber criminals may use a variety of cyberattacks to target the Food and Agriculture Sector to exploit system vulnerabilities for profit, disrupt operations, or steal data or proprietary information. These cyberattacks, particularly if targeted, can impact the ability to feed and care for animals or plants, and sustain and harvest crops. The Food and Agriculture Sector has increased its mitigation efforts to continue to be resilient against these attacks.

[Ransomware Attacks on Agricultural Cooperatives Potentially Timed to Critical Seasons
Iowa farm services firm: systems offline due to cybersecurity incident](#)

- **Supply chain disruptions:** Supply chain disruptions continue to impact the Food and Agriculture Sector across the globe. Geopolitical tensions and conflicts, ongoing pandemic restrictions, and production, manufacturing, and transportation issues across the global supply chain have caused disruptions throughout the sector. These disruptions can impact a farm or ranches ability to buy or repair equipment, update outdated systems, receive and import necessary products, and distribute harvests in a timely manner. Still, the Food and Agriculture Sector is resilient and works to find new methods to ensure continued food production and distribution.

[Supply chain crunches affecting agriculture
Farm Sprayer Firm Feels Supply Chain Bottleneck](#)



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FFC: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.7, 6.5

Steps you can take if experiencing a cyberattack:

- If your organization experiences a data breach, network intrusion or ransomware attack, contact your local police department, the [Florida Department of Law Enforcement](#), or the nearest [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\) field office](#).
- Other unusual cyber activity can be reported to the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#), the [FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center](#) or [Florida Department of Law Enforcement Computer Crimes Center](#).

Resources:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is the main federal agency responsible for overseeing the food and agriculture sector. Their [website](#) offers tips, guidance, news, and policy information.
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services assists and oversees Florida agricultural and food producers and distributors throughout the state. Their [website](#) offers information about agricultural and food safety in Florida.
- **“If You See Something, Say Something®”** – For potential indicators of suspicious activity and fact sheets with information on food and agriculture-specific indicators of use in identifying suspicious activity and potential indicators of pre-attack mobilization visit [BusinessSafe Fact Sheets: Agriculture and Food](#). Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the FDLE website using our tool kit or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911. [Florida’s See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#).
- Visit [Shields Up](#) and [StopRansomware.gov](#) for information and resources related to protecting your organization from cyberattacks.



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