

# FARM SECURITY IS NATIONAL SECURITY

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*



# NATIONAL FARM SECURITY ACTION PLAN

Agriculture is foundational to our nation. Our Founders saw agriculture as the essential pursuit to the cultivation of republican ideals. Americans, after all, must eat. Today, threats to American agriculture not only expose us to risks of shortages, foreign dependencies, and higher prices, but they also strike at one of the most essential pillars of the American republic.

Defending access to American abundance and preserving the American experiment is the essence of agriculture security. And it is why farm security is national security.

As part of the next pillar of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) *Make Agriculture Great Again Initiative*, we are launching the **National Farm Security Action Plan**, which will help protect our borders, enhance domestic agricultural production, and improve outcomes for American consumers. This Action Plan will serve as the launching off point for USDA to work in further unison with governors, state legislators, and other partners to integrate agriculture into the broader national security efforts over the coming months and years. Together, we can and must protect and expand the resilience and durability of the U.S. food and agriculture supply chain.

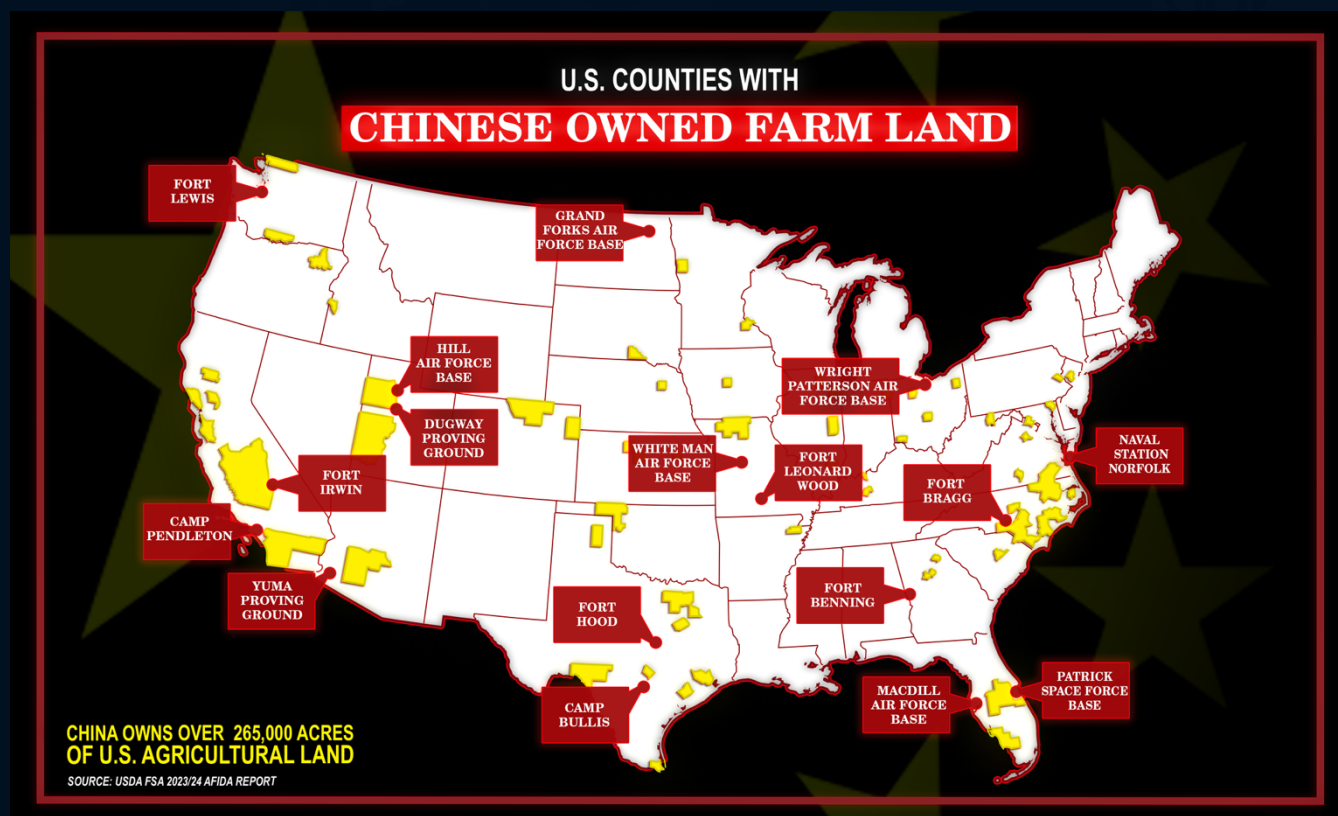




## Promote Agricultural and Economic Prosperity

### 1. Secure and Protect American Farmland

- Implement key reforms to the USDA Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act process, including increasing the civil penalty imposed for late and knowingly false filings to the highest statutory maximum of 25%.
- Work with State partners to take swift legislative or executive action to end the purchase of American farmland by nationals for countries of concern or other foreign adversaries.
- Work in partnership with the Department of Treasury Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to ensure regular coordination concerning foreign transactions that involve the agriculture industry.
- USDA has launched a new online portal for farmers, ranchers, and others to report possible false or failed reporting and compliance with respect to AFIDA. The portal will receive and review claims of adversarial foreign influence on federal, state, and local policymakers with respect to purchases of U.S. farmland and business dealings in other facets of U.S. agricultural supply chains.



## **2. Enhance Agricultural Supply Chain Resilience**

- Collaborate with Federal partners to create a list of critical agricultural inputs and materials required for successful agricultural production and national security, including advocating for the inclusion of important inputs on critical mineral lists.
- USDA will conduct regular assessments to identify risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector, including transport vulnerabilities.

## **3. U.S. Nutrition Safety Net Must be Protected from Fraud, Abuse, and Foreign Adversaries**

- USDA will ensure all relevant programs comply with associated laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. USDA will make certain no funds across the Department's 16 nutrition programs are being used to fund activities related to terrorism or criminal activity in conjunction with federal partners.

## **Defend the Foundations of Agriculture and Food**

## **4. Enhance Research Security**

- USDA will institute a new process to ensure all research funded by USDA provides value to American farmers, ranchers, producers, and foresters. This new process will guarantee staff time and taxpayer funds have a direct benefit to those we serve, prevent collaboration with countries of concern or other foreign adversaries, and promote American leadership in innovation and ingenuity.
- Enhance research security, including a requirement that entities receiving USDA funding certify key participants are not owned or controlled by foreign adversaries, are not party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program or similar program that could result in technology or information transfer, and shall contemporaneously disclose gifts and contracts received from countries of concern or other foreign adversaries.

## **5. Evaluate USDA Programs to Ensure America First Policies**

- USDA will review program participation and prevent people and entities in countries of concern or other foreign adversaries from taking advantage of them. The Department will also identify and eliminate all agreements—both funded and unfunded—going to foreign adversaries.



- All USDA funding will be prioritized for American made technology, research, and innovation including, but not limited to, drones, biotechnology, and biomanufacturing.
- Review, identify, and subsequently eliminate all agreements—both funded and unfunded—going to people and entities from countries of concern or other foreign adversaries as well as other arrangements with foreign entities that are no longer aligned with USDA’s mission.

## **Strengthen Domestic Agricultural Productivity**

### **6. Safeguard Plant and Animal Health**

- Work with States and our Federal partners to strengthen our ability to respond to agricultural biosecurity threats and prioritize programs essential to safeguarding American agriculture by preventing, detecting, and mitigating agricultural biosecurity threats.
- Partner with Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and other Federal research agencies to ensure agricultural projects promote military readiness, protect U.S. plants and animals on farms, and enhance agricultural security.
- Focus on the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and other innovations to mitigate or eradicate priority plant and animal diseases such as citrus greening, rusts, blights, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, African Swine Fever, and Foot and Mouth Disease methods to control or eradicate invasive pests such as New World Screwworm and Spotted Lanternfly.

### **7. Protect Critical Infrastructure**

- USDA will protect food and agriculture operations from cybersecurity and ransomware attacks and ensure agricultural stakeholders have both a voice and an advocate to empower their role in national security.
- Continue working with the intelligence and law enforcement communities to identify liaisons with which USDA may directly work in order that agricultural stakeholders will have both a voice and an advocate in agricultural security.