

Companion to Publication: [Foreign Investment in U.S. Agriculture Raising National Security, Critical Infrastructure, and Key Resources Concerns](#), April 2016.

**FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN U.S. AGRICULTURE
SNAPSHOT OF RECENT NATIONAL SECURITY, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND KEY RESOURCE CONCERNS**

2016 ChemChina-Syngenta, National Security Concerns

- A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators request a CFIUS national security review of ChemChina's proposed acquisition of Syngenta.
- The same group of senators call for the Secretary of Agriculture's participation in the CFIUS review.

2015 Water Implications of Foreign Ownership of U.S. Farmland, Key Resource Concerns

- An April 2015 investigative reporting piece discussed the ownership of Arizona farmland by a Saudi dairy producer. The article focused on the water use implications of that foreign farmland ownership.
- The April 2015 piece was picked up in/covered by local, regional, and national media through March 2016.
- Some commentators and policy advocates have called for updating water laws in response to the article.
- An official of the relevant Arizona county has raised the idea of a water taxation scheme.
- One economist called for the exercise of eminent domain.

2014 Foreign Investment and Economic Security Act Introduced in House, Proposed CFIUS (National Security) Process Amendments

- Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) introduced the Foreign Investment and Economic Security Act of 2014 (FIESA). The FIESA would require, among other things, the Secretary of Agriculture's participation in CFIUS reviews of foreign investments deemed by the President of the United States to affect the agriculture sector.

2013 Shuanghui-Smithfield, National Security and Critical Infrastructure Concerns

- A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators wrote to the Treasury Secretary requesting a CFIUS review of the Smithfield transaction.
- The senators called for the Secretary of Agriculture/USDA's participation in the review of the transaction.
- Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA) wrote to President Obama requesting the appointment of the Secretary of Agriculture to CFIUS, and expressed his belief that the food supply and food safety are "critical infrastructure" that must be viewed "through a lens of national security concern."
- The Senate Agriculture Committee held a hearing on the Smithfield transaction and future foreign investment in U.S. agriculture.
- The House Appropriations Committee, in its report on legislation for Treasury Department appropriations, called on the Treasury Secretary and relevant federal agency heads to consider the impact of the Smithfield transaction on the United States' long-term ability to protect, among other things, the safety and security of the U.S. food supply system.