

"No where is agriculture more vital to its citizens and no where does America's agricultural strength exceed the San Joaquin Valley. Agricultural production not only feeds the nation, but serves as an economic bulwark against increasingly aggressive foreign competition. Yet, little national attention has been paid to the problem of agricultural crime that, if left unchecked, endangers an entire industry that is vital to America's future role in the world.

The ACTION Project intends to meet this challenge."

Phil Cline
Tulare County District Attorney



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ACTION

Agricultural Crime Technology Information & Operations Network is a federally funded regional crime prevention program administered by the Office of the Tulare County District Attorney.

This project is supported by Award No. 2005-DD-BX-1039 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs.

The **ACTION Project**



ACTION IS...

the acronym for a specialized law enforcement program using an innovative concept in multi-agency cooperation and coordination for the protection of the agricultural infrastructure from criminals and terrorists. It supplements and enforces the work of the Central Valley Rural Crime Prevention Program in California. This federally funded regional program stands for and targets:

Agricultural Crime Technology Information & Operations Network

ACTION DOES...

create positive technological, strategic, and financial support to improve the detection, arrest, prosecution and punishment systems for agriculturally related crimes committed in the rural areas of the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast.

ACTION WILL...

serve the greater agricultural community and infrastructure. The program embraces unified cross-agency cooperation between the Agricultural Commissioner's Offices, District Attorney's Offices and Sheriff's Departments in the counties of Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo and Monterey. The State of Florida is a network partner with other states planned for the near future.

ACTION SUPPORTS...

new technologies either developed or adapted by ACTION staff to agricultural settings. Such tools include the extensive use of computers, crime analysis, GPS (global positioning systems), GIS (global information systems), remote surveillance and detection equipment, and specialized tracking systems.

ACTION DAN's YOU...

for identification and return of valuable property. ACTION encourages widespread use of the nationally recognized Owner Applied Number (DAN) identification system. It will make the DAN concept as well known in the agricultural community for property identification as the automobile license plates system is to the general public.

DAN's will be issued quickly and conveniently through the ACTION web site for participating counties. For other counties, the ACTION website will make a direct referral.

ACTION REACHES...

out to the public and participating agency personnel. ACTION takes advantage of computer technology for communication, training and public education.

The ACTION Project is strategically partnered with UC Davis/Veterinary Medicine Training and Research Center, Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, Sandia National Laboratory, US Army T3i Program, and the California State Rural Crime Task Force.

THE GENESIS OF ACTION

The genesis of the state's Rural Crime Prevention Task Force can be traced to the Tulare County District Attorney, Phil Cline. He generated awareness of the need by the agricultural community to deter crime and recover tremendous financial losses caused by thefts, frauds and property damage.

In 1994, Cline rallied legislative support for a three-year multi-agency pilot program in Tulare County. It wasn't long before eight San Joaquin Counties were enrolled in the project with state supported funding and regional coordination.

Once again Tulare County led the charge for an improved program, this time at the federal level. In 1999 funds were granted for the ACTION Project through the Federal Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

As a result of these two programs, the Valley's No.1 ranked agricultural industry has achieved the attention it has needed and deserves from law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys.

