



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

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Animal Rescue and Florida's

First Line of Defense

FDACS's Bureau of Uniform Services in the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement operates 23 Agricultural Interdiction Stations. Stations are located on every paved highway that crosses the Suwannee and St. Mary's rivers ... with an additional station on Interstate 10 in Escambia County. Agricultural vehicle inspections are conducted at each location 24/7, 365 days a year, by 209 officers.



Officers inspect shipments of agricultural, horticultural, aquacultural and livestock commodities to ensure a quality food product and help control specific plant and animal pests and diseases which could negatively impact Florida \$100 billion agriculture industry.

If you are assisting with animal rescue following a hurricane over New Orleans or a tornado in Joplin and returning to Florida with a truck loaded with homeless rescued pets ... you must stop for inspection at the Agricultural Interdiction Stations. It's not just courtesy; it's the law.



Dr. Bill Jeter (left) discusses agricultural issues with John Court at SART's 2011 Planning Meeting.

Dr. Bill Jeter, Bureau Chief for FDACS' Bureau of Animal Disease

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Control william.jeter@freshfromflorida.com says that after a disaster, FDACS would normally issue a directive allowing passage of a truck or van hauling rescued animals – not, however, a blanket directive. For many health and legal reasons, FDACS (and Florida SARC) must be sure that records of all imported animals are carefully maintained. Thus, some documentation is required, on the model of the equine evacuation during the 2005 hurricane season. (In this case, emergency orders allowed horses to leave Florida for certain designated states, but upon their return, a paper trail had to be established showing where they had been kept.)

A rescue effort cannot simply show up at an inspection station and say, “We’re moving these animals.” Coordination through the office of the State Veterinarian (Dr. Thomas Holt, 850-410-0900 thomas.holt@freshfromflorida.com) is required prior to loading and moving if the ultimate destination is Florida. Any animal movement that shows up without documentation or prior approval – and the state in which the disaster took place would normally issue the required paperwork – would almost certainly be quarantined until such a time as they could be inspected for disease and their immunization status could be ascertained.

Extensive Training Slate is Offered in Florida

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (FL SART) is collaborating with several training partners to offer a series of six DHS-certified Agroterrorism Prevention courses in Florida. All courses are open to U.S. citizens and are free of charge through DHS grant funding. Training partners include the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, University of California Davis, the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the University of Florida-Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences and the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces.

	<p>AWR 151 - Understanding the Dangers of Agroterrorism</p> <p>The course goal is to increase awareness among local and regional emergency response teams about the potential targets and impacts of agroterrorism. The course stresses the importance of responding to incidents of intentional contamination as well as natural disasters using the “all hazards” approach. <i>This training has been approved for 3.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">September 25 in Immokalee 8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 12:30 pm training IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Ctr., 2685 State Road 29 N</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September in 26 in Brooksville 8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 12:30 pm training Hernando County Emergency Operations Center, 18900 Cortez Blvd.</p>	

AWR 152

Principles of Preparedness for Agroterrorism and Food Systems’ Disasters

The course goal is to prepare participants with the skills and knowledge to recognize agroterrorism vulnerabilities. Topics include identifying targets, developing prevention, protection and mitigation strategies, employing the principles of building multi-disciplinary response teams, and identifying the roles of the local, state and federal agencies prior to and during an agricultural or food system disaster. This training has been approved for 6.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.

September 19, 2013 in St. Augustine

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 5:00 pm training
 St. Johns County Health Dept., 1955 US 1 South, Suite 100


November 6 in Brooksville

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 5:00 pm training
 Hernando County Emergency Operations Center, 18900 Cortez Blvd.

November 7 in Immokalee

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 5:00 pm training

IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, 2685 State Road 29 N

	<p>AWR 153 - Principles of Detection and Diagnosis, Strategies and Technologies</p> <p>The course goal is to inform members of frontline response teams about the importance of early detection and diagnosis, proper sample collection and the steps involved in an agroterrorism-related outbreak investigation. The course includes strategies to improve and increase detection and diagnosis efficiency as well as the epidemiological and criminal investigation process. <i>This training has been approved for 4.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.</i></p>
<p>November 21, 2013 in St. Augustine 8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training St. Johns County Health Dept., 1955 US 1 South, Suite 100</p> <p>December 11 in Brooksville 8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training Hernando County Emergency Operations Center, 18900 Cortez Blvd.</p> <p>December 12 in Immokalee 8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, 2685 State Rd. 29 N</p>	


AWR 154

Principles of National Incident Management System (NIMS), Team Building and Risk Communication

The course goal is to describe the operational features of NIMS, understand how NIMS is essential for community preparedness, outline the logistics of the Incident Command System (ICS), understand methods of team building and explain principles of risk communication. This course meets all of the NIMS/ICS training requirements for FEMA IS-700 NIMS. This training has been approved for 6.0 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.

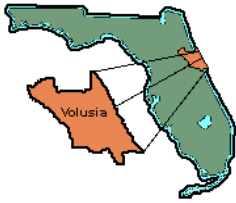
September 18, 2013 in Daytona Beach

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 5:00 pm training
Volusia County EOC, 3825 Tiger Bay Rd.

	<p>AWR 155 Principles of Frontline Response to Agroterrorism and Food Systems' Disasters</p> <p>The goal of this course is to demonstrate how an effective frontline emergency response can reduce or mitigate the effects of an agricultural emergency, an act of agroterrorism or other food systems disaster. This course includes a plan that can be used as an "all hazards" approach against a wide variety of potential problems and occurrences within the agricultural community. <i>This training has been approved for 5.0 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.</i></p>
<p>November 22, 2013 in Daytona Beach 8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 5:00 pm training Volusia County EOC, 3825 Tiger Bay Rd.</p>	

If you have questions regarding any of these courses, or about registration, contact Art Johnstone at ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org or (850) 251-4184. To register you're your name, agency/company name, e-mail address and telephone number to ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org. Be sure to specify which course(s)/location(s) you want to attend.

Training in Volusia County Lays Out Welcome Mat



We believe Volusia County Emergency Management offers an ideal site for hosting training. We have a brand new Emergency Operations Center

(<http://www.volusia.org/services/public-protection/emergency-management//>) that is state-of-the-art with an abundance of different sized training rooms with all the necessary audio visual support equipment. A location near the Interstate crossroads of I-95 and I-4 makes our EOC accessible to those in nearby counties; plus we're in the geographic center of our own county's 500,000 people.

But there's more to it than location and space. We've found that a benefit of hosting training is the ability to stretch our training dollars. There was a time we could send a lot of people to training. Not anymore. Now we have to justify each trip just to send one person. By viewing ourselves as a training site we have been able to develop a cadre of instructors from the community and neighboring counties with broad-based experience and knowledge. Our instructors come from the Volusia County School District, Volusia County Health Department, police and fire departments, as well as our own emergency management staff.

A cycle has developed. By growing our own instructor base we can offer more classes. Offering more classes means less travel money spent by our community partners. Thus our community partners are more willing to participate by providing more instructors. The cycle builds on itself.



Volusia County's 43,000 sq/ft EOC. At a cost of \$21 million, it is designed to withstand winds of 180 mph and a Category 3 tornado.

We especially like hosting workshop series, such as the Agricultural Terrorism programs. These "series" courses allow participants to gain a depth of knowledge that would not come from an isolated course on the same topic. Community partners in Volusia and our neighboring counties are learning to count on us to offer courses that develop a skill set and knowledge base in those they send to our training.

Another benefit of hosting training is that of building a density of understanding. When you send someone to training, they return with x, y or z knowledge. But they may be the only person in the area with that knowledge and the ability to utilize it. By hosting training, community partners join you in learning together. Now, instead of having one person with the knowledge, you have a group of people from different organizations who understand and can apply what they learned together. I look at it like a strand of material compared to a rope. A strand of material is a strand of material. But several strands together make a strong rope.

We are sold on the benefits of being a host county for training. It's addictive. Once you try hosting a class you can't wait for the next one!

*Richard Moore,
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Florida SARC Teaches in West Virginia



"Melissa Forberg, Lori Piper and I were invited to West Virginia by Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management in Kearneysville.

We taught the first Florida SARC "Emergency Animal Sheltering Awareness" course presented outside the state of Florida. We have had many queries since the training was accepted by FEMA, but this is the first where they got the grant money to host it.

"The first day – when we presented the SARC/FEMA course – we had about 30 people and, the second day – a half day for the presentation of additional HSUS emergency sheltering information – about 20. The complementing courses gave the people a better handle on what they needed to organize for, especially the mechanics of mass sheltering and coordination. A specific thing on procedures was the correct type of cat cages – they had bought cat carriers and those are excellent for taking the cat to the vet but not very good for a multi-day in a shelter."

Laura Bevan, Director, Southern Region, HSUS
lbevan@humanesociety.org



Outdoors Thursday – Biosecurity and PPE Rodeo – Team 1.



David Perry, FDACS-DAI (left) and Dr. Anita R. Kiehl (clinical pathology).



Dr. Fiona Maunsell, UF-CVM.

Photos from the Foreign Animal & Emerging Diseases Awareness Course – June 10-13, 2013



Capt. Dave Walesky, FACA (left) and Dr. Dan Wolf, FWC.



Dr. Vishnu Ramnarine, USDA-Food Safety & Inspection.



Dr. John Orthoefer, EPA (retired) attended to observe the rodeo.



Dr. Peter Mundschenk (left) took the hot rodeo day in stride.

FAD Mystery Photos

Can you identify the individuals covered in PPE in the following pictures? Send your answers to The Editor (rickyriter1@gmail.com).



Vibrio Vulnificus

A bacterium you never have probably never heard of has caused life-threatening problems for a vacationing woman in the Gulf of Mexico's warm sea waters. Margaret Freiwald cut her leg and became infected by vibrio vulnificus. The bacterium has attacked all her organs, caused kidney failure and a heart attack. The infection is so aggressive that doctors were forced to amputate Freiwald's leg to save her life.

<http://www.nbc-2.com/story/23024041/woman-suffering-from-bacteria-in-naples-icu#.Ufu-tuBxtUt>

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) *V. vulnificus* is underreported, but is fatal 50 percent of the time:

- lives in warm seawater – a member of cholera family.
- infects through a cut – or even if you only eat contaminated seafood (especially raw oysters, though it does not alter the appearance, taste, or odor).
- minimal infection - vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain.
- medial infection – skin breakdown and ulceration.
- major infection – severe, life-threatening illness with fever and chills, decreased blood pressure (septic shock), and blistering skin lesions.

Between 1988 and 2006, CDC received reports of more than 900 *V. vulnificus* infections from the Gulf Coast states, where most cases occur. In 2007, infections caused by *V. vulnificus* became nationally notifiable.



A. Characteristic skin lesions associated with *Vibrio vulnificus* infection on the leg. Septic shock and bacteremia soon developed. **B.** *V. vulnificus* bacteremia developed one day after a fish bone injury on the fourth finger of the left hand (arrow). **C.** Gram-negative curved bacilli isolated from a blood sample. (Photos from Hsueh, et al. *Vibrio vulnificus* in Taiwan. CDC Emerging Infectious Diseases Vol. 10 # 8.

The take away for responders? First, be careful out there because family and community depend on you. Secondly, treat all injuries because even a slight wound or bite can become infected with disastrous consequences.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Pro-Growth and Pro-Agriculture (504)

Earlier this year, the U.S. Senate passed a commonsense immigration reform measure in a strongly bipartisan fashion. This was an important step in the right direction – especially for producers, farm workers and rural communities.

The historic legislation passed by the Senate provides a pathway to earned citizenship for the 11 million people who are in our country today without authorization. They will have to go to the back of the line, pay fines and settle taxes they owe our nation.

It would modernize the system that we use to bring skilled workers into the U.S. and it would put in place the toughest border security plan that America has ever seen – building on steps that have reduced illegal border crossings to their lowest level in decades.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office found that the Senate bill would reduce the deficit over the next 20 years by nearly \$850 billion, and the Social Security Administration estimates that this immigration bill would add nearly \$300 billion to the Social Security system in the next decade.

This bill is also important for rural America. Recently, the White House economic team released a new report highlighting the positive economic benefits that commonsense immigration reform would provide for agriculture and rural communities.

The report highlights research showing that without a stable workforce, America's record agricultural productivity will decline in coming years. In Florida, for example, eliminating the immigrant labor force would cost more than \$560.4 million in short-term production losses.



The Senate bill addresses this concern by taking much-needed steps to ensure a stable agricultural workforce, and a fair system for U.S. producers and farm workers. In particular, it would give qualifying farm workers an expedited path to earned citizenship, as long as they continue to work in agriculture. A new temporary worker program would replace the current H-2A visa program over time, and allow farm workers a three-year visa to work year-round in any agricultural job. This commonsense system wouldn't just prevent a decline in production – it would grow the economy. Research highlighted in the White House report projects that an expanded temporary worker program would increase both production and exports across our agriculture sector.

Under the Senate proposal, USDA would play a greater role in implementing farm labor programs and ensuring that farmers and ranchers have all the information they need. As Congress continues to work on this issue, Secretary Vilsack and all of us at USDA are committed to working with lawmakers to be sure they have any technical assistance they might need to finalize these proposals.

Immigration reform is very important for farmers, farm workers and communities across rural America. The majority of our agriculture workforce is made up of immigrants, and their hard work has helped America's farmers and ranchers lead the world. To remain competitive and keep driving economic growth in rural America, we need rules that work. Rural America needs Congress to act as soon as possible to carry forward the work of the U.S. Senate and fix today's broken immigration system.

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Under the Radar

A Special Thanks

Always thoughtful and working for the welfare of animals, Consie von Gontard and the folks at Florida SARC www.flsarc.org send a huge shout out – **Thank You!** – to the ASPCA. The Society gave a generous grant that assisted with the food tables and awards at the 2013 Florida SART Planning Meeting at The Shores in Daytona last January.

“They made our efforts at the Planning Meeting so much more special,” von Gontard says, “and we appreciate their partnership immensely.”



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA (www.aspca.org) was the first humane organization in the Western Hemisphere. “Our mission, as stated by founder Henry Bergh, is ‘to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States.’ While there are SPCAs and humane societies all over the country, the ASPCA is not directly affiliated with them. However, the ASPCA works nationally to rescue animals from abuse, pass humane laws and share resources with many shelters across the country.”

Florida SARC Offers Tallahassee Awareness Course

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition is teaching "Small Animal Emergency Sheltering: Awareness Level" to promote effective response for animals during disasters. Registration is required, but due to a grant from Florida Emergency Management and Homeland Security there is no fee to attend. This course is certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management, course code FL-003-RESP.

Course Topics include:

Personal Preparedness, Deployment Preparedness, Daily Care and Feeding, Animal Behavior, Assisting in Shelter Set Up, Proper Cage Cleaning and Disinfection, Stress Management, Zoonotic

Diseases, Personal Safety, Overview of the Incident Command System and more.

Date & Time:

Saturday, August 10 – 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Location:

Forest Service Conference Room, Woodcrest Office Part, Building F
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Information & Registration: Go to

<http://www.flsarc.org/Training.html> or contact Melissa Forberg training@flsarc.org, Pam Burns pamburnssarc@gmail.com or Consie Von Gontard training@flsarc.org.

Chatfield Publishes Article In FVMA Advocate



Dr. Jenifer Chatfield at 2013 SART Planning Meeting.

Dr. Jenifer Chatfield has published an article in the recent issue of the FVMA Advocate titled “Disaster Preparedness – Beyond ESF-11 and Animal Sheltering.” The article suggests that veterinarians also have a role in disaster planning and mitigation in ESF-8, public health. Read

that article [here](#).

Chatfield was also recognized by the AVMA as a “Future Leader” at its 2012 San Diego conference. The goal of the program, which is supported by Pfizer Animal Health, is to develop leadership talents among America’s veterinarians. Congratulations Jenifer!

Safe Driving Tractor Manual Available

Recently, the Pennsylvania State University’s Agricultural Safety and Health Program released a new manual designed to assist agricultural producers, employers and other experienced operators organize and conduct a hands-on safe tractor driving workshop. The manual is titled

“Organizing and Conducting a Safe Tractor Operation Workshop.”

This hands-on training is valuable as many new owners, operators and workers are entering production agriculture, agricultural services, forestry, landscaping, golf course maintenance, and other occupations where agricultural tractors are used to complete tasks.

This manual is also designed to meet the needs of safe tractor operation instruction for volunteers that mow places such school or church yards, cemeteries, athletic fields, community parks, and the grounds at civic organizations. Fewer people are growing up learning how to operate tractors and equipment or going through formal safety training programs.

The new manual is a comprehensive guide that provides sections on:

- Choosing instructors, tractors, machines and driving courses,
- Instructional content,
- Conducting training workshops, and
- Performance Evaluation Forms

Access the manual through the Farm & Ranch eXtension for Safety & Health site at

<http://www.extension.org/pages/68587/organizing-and-conducting-a-safe-tractor-operation-workshop>.

[Thanks to Dr. Carol Lehtola for the heads up!]

About the SART Sentinel

The **SART Sentinel** is an e-mail newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the **Sentinel** are archived on the Florida SART Web Site www.flsart.org.

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in the **SART Sentinel**, please contact the editors.

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