

Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2013 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Alachua Regional Service Center, 14101 Hwy 441, Alachua, Florida

Attendance

Edward Aschliman, USDA/FSA
Stephen Barineau, FDACS
Laura Bevan, HSUS
Chris Brooks, FDACS/Aquaculture
Mark Carlton, USDA/FSA
Steve Cook, Novartis
Dale Dubberly, FDACS/AES
Kim Duffiney, USDA/APHIS/AC
Mark Cunningham, FWCC
Joan Dusky, UF/IFAS
Consie von Gontard, Florida SARC
Ashby Green, FL Cattlemen's Assn.
Frankie Hall, Florida Farm Bureau
Amanda Hodges, UF/IFAS/SPDN
Joe Kight, FDACS/DAI, ESF-17/ECO

Larry Mack, Florida Feed Association
Richard Miranda, FDACS/DPI
Gary Newton, FDACS/DAI
David Perry, FDACS/DAI, Co-Chair
Roger Rankin, FDEM/Preparedness
Sue Rantuccio, FDACS/AgLaw
Danny Raulerson, FDACS/Mkt-Dev
Greg Sanders, Novartis
Rick Sapp, SART Sentinel
Kendra Stauffer, USDA/APHIS/VS
Paul Studivant, FACA
John Terry, FDACS/AgLaw
Cpt. James Wiggins, FDACS/AgLaw
Paul Wotherspoon, FDEM/Preparedness
Jiannong Xin, UF/IFAS

- 1 Joe Kight called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Alachua Regional Service Center, Alachua, Florida. The meeting's purpose was to focus on radiological emergencies and the need for effective animal and plant agricultural response. Site host Dale Dubberly welcomed the group. Each attendee introduced him/herself and referenced their relationship to the SART mission.
- 2 SART Planner Stephen Barineau showed the new Florida SART video (soon to be available on the SART web site at Flsart.org). The video explains the SART function as a MAC and how it develops a coordinated network of response entities, because SART, per se, is not a response unit.
Joe Kight mentioned the positioning of MARE units and livestock panels in each region. Of particular note was the development of SARC, the State Agricultural Response Coalition, which is capable of responding with trained volunteers to small animal emergencies. Consie von Gontard reported that more than 1,000 people have now been qualified through the DHS-approved small animal emergency sheltering course, which was written and tested in Florida.
- 3 Roger Rankin previewed an outstanding power point presentation titled "Response to

a Nuclear Plant Incident in Florida.” There followed general discussion of studies concerning decontamination of farm animals. The group voiced unanimous agreement that more studies needed to be done and additional techniques developed for large animals. (More information is available through FloridaDisaster.org.) Rankin mentioned that the term “shelter in place” was gradually being replaced by the term “remain indoors,” which is both specific and descriptive.

- 4 Dale Dubberly presented a power point presentation on FDACS’ “Radiological Emergency Response.” He and Joe Kight noted that the Florida Department of Health was the lead agency for radiological emergencies. He stressed that in the event of any emergency, and especially one that involved radiological contamination (fallout), it was incumbent on producers to document their losses.

A brief discussion followed about raw milk and the legal status of selling it directly to the public. There was general consensus that raw milk, which must be labeled “not for human consumption,” is routinely drunk by consumers who have a wary view of governmental control and mandates such as pasteurization.

- 5 Kendra Stauffer discussed large animal decontamination, noting that few advances in the science had been made since 1960 and that the area was problematic. The only substantial science in “the dairy area” concerned breast feeding of infants. Not only would animals need to be dealt with following a disaster, but their food and water and the resulting radiological contamination – whether washed or brushed or vacuumed away – would need to be dealt with and any news of a radiological emergency could cause panic among the public.

She and Joe Kight showed a webinar from Dr. Thomas Johnson of Colorado State University. “Strategies for Radioactive Decontamination of Livestock” presented state-of-the-art information, but admitted that a great amount of work still needed to be done in this area. Generally, Joe summarized, livestock would have to shelter in place, in a covered area if possible, but given the great numbers of large animals in Florida this was impractical for anyone other than a very small operation and efficiently moving huge numbers of cows and goats and horses was not practical or possible.

- 6 A number of items were briefly discussed prior to Joe Kight bringing the meeting to a conclusion at 1:00 pm.
- The Turkey Point radiological exercise coming in June.
 - The May 20 state Hurricane Exercise and the hands-on animal sheltering component in Osceola County at which SARC will assist.
 - Funding availability for 2014 and the development of an operations/management level small animal sheltering course through Joan Dusky and her staff and students at the University of Florida.