



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM



SART members engaging in a radiological exercise during the 2015 Planning Meeting.

Special features of this issue

- 2015 SART Planning Meeting highlights
- Mike Turner, new editor of the SART Sentinel
- Animals can predict disasters?
- SART members participate in a radiological exercise

2015 SART Planning Meeting Turns Visions into Action

On January 12, SART's Biennial Planning Meeting kicked off from the Embassy Suites in Lake Buena Vista. With 148 attendees present, agency representatives, government and private sector leaders, and animal and agricultural response team members joined for a packed two and a half days of information exchange, training, and

collaboration. With SART Vice-Chair **David Perry** opening the event, **Dr. Lisa Conti**, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Science Officer of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services welcomed the attendees while emphasizing the planning meeting's tagline. "It's great that this meeting is about 'turning visions in action,'" Conti said.

(See **2015 Meeting**, page 2)

"It's great that this meeting is about 'turning visions in action.'"

—Dr. Lisa Conti, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Science Officer, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Reintroducing Michael Turner, Editor, *The Sentinel*

In the three, fond years from 2009 through 2011 I served as lead planner for the State Agricultural Response Team, my hope was to eventually—in some capacity—return to work for the organization I so loved. A Floridian at heart, my dream has been realized as the new editor of *The Sentinel*.

For 10 years, **Rick Sapp** served passionately and tirelessly reporting on the most important animal and agricultural issues throughout the State. Waving goodbye to Rick as he

begins his next chapter in retirement, we'd like to extend a special nod of appreciation for all of his work and dedication throughout the years.

More on this transition may be found on page 8 (**SART Editor**). In the meantime, thanks for reading *The Sentinel*.

Sincerely,

Mike



2015 Meeting (Continued)



148 members attended the 2015 SART Planning Meeting.

"The partnership between agencies is critical." That theme would continue over the remaining two days of the assembly, which ended on January 14.

With a carefully flushed-out agenda of speakers, **Jim Roberts** of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) was first to speak to audience members about the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, also known as the CEMP. "The CEMP sets the 'overall framework,'" said Roberts. He iterated the importance of the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) in disaster response, highlighting the work that ESF-17 does in support of animal and agricultural disaster response.

Roberts said, "There are three rules we follow with regards to

emergency response in the State of Florida: [1] Meet the needs of survivors; [2] Meet needs of the responders; and when all else fails, [3] go back and see item #1." In reference to how SERT and ESF-17 interact with counties throughout the state, **Joe Kight**, ESF-17 Emergency Coordinating Officer with FDACS said there are many things that SART and FDACS do to facilitate the exchange of information. "For starters," said Kight, "we hold this SART Planning Meeting every two years." Then we "take time to visit every county within Florida to discuss current issues." Recently the areas of focus have been on pet-friendly sheltering and large animal response efforts.

(Continued, **2015 Meeting**, page 3)

Birds Sensed Impending Tornado

Did you Know?

Animals can predict disasters. This according to new research published in the Journal of Current Biology. Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, found that golden-winged warblers were evacuating an area where only 24 hours later a devastating tornado killed 35 people.

Researchers suspect that the birds accomplished this task by listening to infrasound—levels well below the range of human hearing—associated with the severe weather. For years, there has been anecdotal evidence that animals could predict natural disasters, but emerging research in the field could, in the future, help people plan in advance of coming problems.

Read more at Science Daily:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/12/141218131413.htm>

Discovery News has a slideshow on the 10 animals that can predict disasters:

<http://news.discovery.com/animals/10-animals-that-can-predict-disasters-photos-141218.htm>



Golden-winged warbler.



Jim Roberts highlighted SERT's Mission Statement: "Working together to ensure that Florida is prepared to respond to emergencies, recover from them, and mitigate against their impacts."

2015 Meeting (continued)

"Each ESF functions differently, [and] ESF-17 depends heavily on volunteers—that is our approach," said Kight.

The planning meeting highlighted some new animal-related training courses currently available or coming soon to attendees throughout the state. **Dr. Matt Hersom** with the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida spoke about the pilot program for LECAL, the Livestock Education & Certification for Agricultural Law Enforcement training. Dr. Hersom said that, "For law enforcement, we have a high value education opportunity" for those looking to increase that agricultural knowledge.

Amongst other factors, objectives of the training include animal identification and nutrition, body condition scoring, and health and disease. Meanwhile, **Consie von Gontard** of the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) updated the team on the Small Animal II course and SARC's other animal trainings.

(Continued, **2015 Meeting**, page 4),



"ESF (Emergency Support Function)-17 depends heavily on volunteers—that is our approach."

-Joe Kight, Emergency Coordinating Officer with FDACS



SART partners during the networking event of the 2015 Planning Meeting.

2015 SART Planning Meeting Radiological Exercise

On day two of the 2015 SART Planning Meeting, attendees were treated to a full day radiologic awareness course presented by John Williamson, Administrator, Bureau of Radiation Control, Florida Department of Health. The program introduced participants to the fundamentals of radiation and radioactivity.

The morning session consisted of a lecture covering the basics of radiation sources, threats, and response techniques. Radiation equipment was also distributed throughout the session so SART members could get a feel for what was involved. Other topics of the lecture included biological effects of radiation, radiation protection, decontamination, the environmental impact of radioactivity, and responding to radiation emergencies.

By the afternoon, the course transitioned to a hands-on lab where participants tried their hands measuring alpha, beta, and gamma radiation sources.



2015 Meeting (continued)

Lacie Davis and **David Merrick** rounded out the first day of meeting activities with their presentations on the Brevard County Large Animal Plan and Social Media During an Emergency Event, respectively.

Day two of the meeting was largely dedicated to the radiologic exercise (as noted above). Attendees were also treated to the SART Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the **Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC)**. Check out the award winners and photos, **2015 SART Awards and Honors**, page 7.

The final day of the 2015 SART Planning Meeting included **Denise Feiber's** (FDACS/DPI) "Don't Pack a Pest" presentation; meanwhile **John Haven**, Director, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, presented on the Lee County Animal Decontamination Workshop which was a multi-day/multi-agency event that included over 100 participants from across agencies.

Dr. George Chambliss (USDA) moderated the Federal Partner Reports session that concluded the 2015 Meeting. Panelists included **Dr. Cris Young**, Veterinary Services; **Dr. Allan Hogue**, Animal Care; **Rick Dantzler**, Farm Service Agency; and **Dr. Ty Vannieuwenhoven**, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



2015 ESF-17 County Visits Announced

As mentioned during the 2015 SART Planning Meeting, the annual ESF-17 county visits are set to commence this winter and spring. The meetings are designed to further bridge the open dialogue between county-level emergency management staff and their State-level counterparts.

Division of Animal Industry, as lead agency for ESF-17, plans to visit county emergency management offices through April to discuss county ESF-17 needs.

These meetings foster discussion of each county's current abilities to address animal and agricultural response needs in any event.

The focus of meetings this year will be on many department programs and support activities. Agenda items include:

- Animal Technical Rescue
- LECALC course
- Food Safety response
- Vector Control
- Carcass Disposal
- SART Web Site updates

Staffs will be working with county Emergency Management Directors and/or ESF-17 coordinators to schedule 90-minute meeting. Invites include staff from county law enforcement, animal control, vector control, and the Department of Health; as well as county agricultural extension offices.

2/2/2015

9:00AM - **Monroe County**

2/2/2015

3:00PM - **Broward County**

2/3/2015

9:00AM - **Miami/Dade County**

2/3/2015

3:00PM - **West Palm Beach**

2/4/2015

9:00AM - **Martin County**

2/4/2015

2:00PM - **St. Lucie County**

2/5/2015

10:00AM - **Okeechobee, Seminole Tribe, Glades**

2/5/2015

3:00PM - **Highlands County**

3/3/2015

9:00AM - **Bradford County**

3/3/2015

2:00PM - **Union County**

3/10/2015

10:00AM - **Suwannee County**

3/10/2015

2:00PM - **Lafayette County**

3/11/2015

10:00AM - **Duval County**

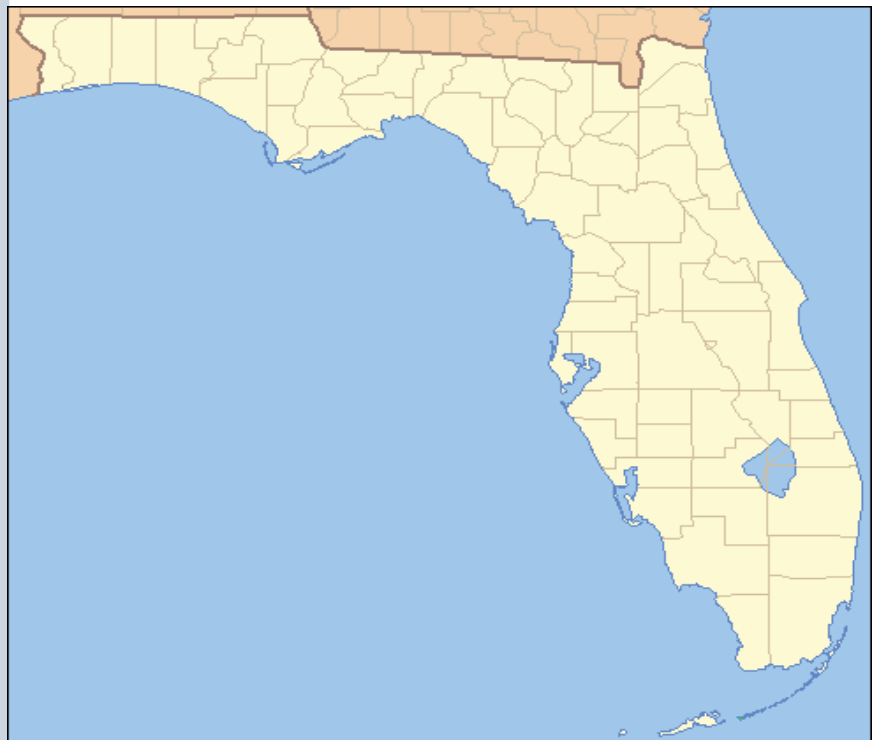
3/12/2015

10:00AM - **Madison County**

3/25/2015

2:00PM - **Clay County**

Complete and updated listings will be posted at www.flsart.org



2015 SART Awards and Honors

County Award - Lacie David (right) for her work in developing her county's large animal plan.

Volunteer Award – Proxy for Pam Burns (below) for her efforts in Florida SARC training, response, and response management.



2015 SART Awards and Honors (continued)



Volunteer Award - Andy Bass (above) for his efforts in Florida SARC training, response, and response management.

State Award - Sue Rantuccio (below) for her continued dedication to project and financial management of Florida SART.



Upcoming Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE) Program

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE) program, March 3-6, 2015 at the Straughn Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, Florida. This program will provide law enforcement and state attorney personnel rigorous and relevant training curriculum regarding generally accepted livestock production practices, skills to discern acceptable animal well-being, and ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills in the field and during litigation proceedings.

For more information about the LECALE course offering, please visit:

http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/beef_extension/index.shtml

\$349.99 includes registration fees, lunches and breaks, course materials, and certification fees.



SART Editor (continued)

As I wrote on the cover page of this issue, Editor Rick Sapp provided nearly a decade's worth of content—since the beginning of SART's creation—in support of the State Agricultural Response Team. While these are large shoes to fill, I remain committed to presenting animal and agricultural emergency response-related content to the team through our continued monthly digital publication.

While Florida-related topics will remain the top priority for news coverage, I also want to seek ways to link stories across all levels of government and the private sector. From the local issues affecting communities, to the larger tasks involving the State government and the multi-agency coordination group, and up to the happenings and connectivity at the Federal levels, I'm seeking to find synergies across an ever-expanding array of agricultural-related topics. With that comes an ask to all of the SART Sentinel readers: Please send us your ideas, content, and feedback. It matters!

Do you have a subject idea or story lead? Are you working on a project that may have meaning or applicability to other readers from throughout the state? How about upcoming meetings, presentations, or trainings? We want to get the word out! Please use this publication to help discuss ideas that are relevant to the team.

Please email us at fsart@turnernetwork.com.

Thanks for your continued work in Florida and throughout the country.

Mike Turner
Editor, SART Sentinel

2015 SART Planning Meeting Turns Visions into Action



The 2015 SART Biennial Planning Meeting was a remarkable success. With 148 in attendance, SART members engaged in workshops, presentations, an exercise, and networking opportunities. Want to view more photos? Visit the Florida SART photo gallery, <http://flsart.org/photogallery/2015SARTPlanningMeeting/index.jsp>.

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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