

## The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team



An ESF 17 first responder provides aid to a horse following Hurricane Ian.

#### **SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Ian Response**

On September 25, 2022, FDACS Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 activated at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and launched its Florida State Agricultural Response Team (Florida SART) to provide relief for animal and agriculture sectors impacted by Hurricane Ian.

During the response, ESF 17 responded to a total of 103 mission requests.

On September 30, 2022, after lan made landfall as a Category 4 major hurricane, the 72-person ESF 17 Incident Management Team IMT) deployed to Arcadia (Desoto County) and set up its Incident Command Post (ICP), Logistical Staging Area, and Donation Staging Area. IMT members consisted of staff from the Division of Animal Industry primarily, Florida

On September 25, 2022, FDACS SART Agency Representatives, Emergency Support Function (ESF) Forestry, and USDA.

Florida SART Agency Representatives who deployed to the ESF 17 ICP in Arcadia included the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, UF IFAS Extension, ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States, and the Florida State Animal Response Coalition/SPCA.

ESF 17 deployed two mobile animal clinics to Fort Meyers (Lee County) and Port Charlotte (Charlotte County). Lee County clinic treated 422 animals and Port Charlotte treated 881 animals.

In this special edition, we'll highlight on the following pages the response delivered by Florida SART's partners.

#### Special Features of this Issue:

- Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training
   Registration Open!
- SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

"This has been a historic response for the state of Florida, ESF 17 and Florida SART – one of the most efficient responses we have been a part of. I couldn't ask for a better team."

LeiAnna Tucker
 Emergency Programs Manager
 ECO for ESF 17 and FLSART
 Division of Animal Industry, FDACS



The ESF 17 IMT focused incident objectives on animal search and rescue, animal health assessments, animal and agricultural operational status assessments, establishment of distribution points for agricultural supplies, receiving and distributing animal feed and water, supporting pet-friendly shelters and animal shelters, operating mobile animal clinics, and providing veterinary emergency teams for 81 USAR search and rescue canines.

In total, ESF 17 deployed 86 volunteers from its Florida Veterinary Corps and over 100 Florida SART volunteers to assist at county pet-friendly shelters and animal shelters. ESF 17 veterinarians and an animal rescue team member conducted an air operations mission with Florida National Guard to Pine, Sanibel and Captiva Islands to conduct on-the-ground recon of animal needs.

#### North Florida Sending Fencing Supplies to Hurricane Ian Battered Areas



Pictured left to right: Jeremy Rolling, Holmes County Farm Bureau President, Chris Jernigan, Arnold Lumber owner, Jeff Pittman, Jackson County Farm Bureau President

Efforts have been underway the past couple of weeks in the Florida panhandle to put together a truck load of fencing supplies to help producers in Southwest Florida that were affected by Hurricane Ian. Southeast AgNet's Randall Weiseman talked to Holmes County Farm Bureau President, Jeremy Rolling, about this effort. He says they are now up to four semi-loads being sent to the area.

For anyone who would like to donate to this effort, contact the Holmes County Farm Bureau office at 850-547-4227.

https://southeastagnet.com/2022/10/11/north-florida-sending-fencing-supplies-hurricane-ian-battered-areas/



#### **UF VETS Team Responds**

In 2004, Hurricane Charley ripped through the state of Florida, leaving behind damaged veterinary infrastructure and exposing a greater need for disaster response for pets and livestock. Subsequent to this and other hurricanes, the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Created the Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team. Eighteen years later, Hurricane Ian took a devastating toll across Charley's historic path, with broader and deeper impacts. The University of Florida VETS Team stood ready.



In the days leading up to the storm, UF VETS joined in conversations with ESF 17 and Florida SART partners around the state. Dr. Larry Garcia inventoried and prepared medical and pharmaceutical supplies, while the logistics team prepared equipment and supplies and purchased food and fuel to maintain a field hospital. UF VETS Team members assisted ESF 17 in coordinating resources for animal search and rescue and helped to identify needs of pet and livestock owners in the state while flooding persisted. Soon after Ian's landfall, Lee County requested veterinary support in the Fort Meyers area to provide emergency animal care to small animals in the area. ESF 17 at the SEOC jumped into action to organize the deployment of the UF VETS Team. On October 3rd, a team of 12 VETS team members deployed and set up a base of operations at the Terry Park Sports Complex in Fort Myers.



The field hospital included a climate-controlled medical treatment tent and two air-conditioned treatment trailers, including a mobile hospital unit. Additional UF and SART trailers contained medical supplies, carts, surgical lights, exam tables, food, and meal prep supplies to support the team. The team is also equipped with a bunk unit to serve as living quarters. This unit was made possible by a generous gift from both PetSmart Charities and Banfield Foundation.







The first day of operations brought 38 patients, the need for expansion was clear. Thanks to the Florida Veterinary Corps – a cooperative program of FDACS ESF 17, UF, Florida Veterinary Medical Association and the Florida Veterinary Technician Association – more than 60 volunteers came to support the Terry Park field hospital, providing free veterinary care to fill the need in veterinary infrastructure. In total, 422 pets received care over the 10-day deployment. Veterinarians and technicians came from as far away as Tallahassee and as near as half a mile from Terry Park.

Veterinary students from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine learned firsthand how to provide patient care with limited resources. Zoetis provided medications and diagnostic equipment for the team to run bloodwork in the field and enhance patient care. Over the course of the deployment, six FDACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement officers served with the team, providing 24-hour protection. While at the field hospital, these great officers also helped to direct citizens to other local disaster relief services and facilitated distribution of donated pet food and supplies that were generously donated by numerous organizations and individuals around the state.











Floodwater exposure created gastrointestinal issues and skin irritation for many animals. Numerous animals returned home dehydrated and malnourished after being missing for several days in the aftermath of the storm, like Rocket the pit bull and Maverick the Maine Coon. Still more patients had ongoing medical concerns whose treatment was disrupted with the absence of their primary veterinary care provider impacted by the storm, like Jojo the cat. Stress and displacement resulted in bite injuries from other animals, including one dog named Kiwi who survived a conflict with an alligator.

Many animals suffered from the effects of stress and anxiety from enduring the storm, helicopters rescuing stranded island residents, and unfamiliar housing due to displacement, many of which were cars or tents. Cats and dogs, rabbits, goats, bearded dragons, and a pig named Jezebel were brought to the Terry Park field hospital for ailments in need of veterinary support.





In the nearly two decades since the formation of the UF VETS Team, Hurricane Ian has been the team's largest deployment. As Southwest Florida is in its recovery phase, we are glad to see our veterinary colleagues returning to practice and rebuilding. The success of this field hospital would not have been possible without the dedication of our team members and volunteers, along with support from FDACS ESF 17, Florida SART, UF College of Veterinary Medicine, the FVMA, and our generous donors. For more information about the UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service team, visit our website at www.ufvets.com.

Dr. Lawrence Garcia, medical director of the VETS Team said, "This was an amazing and powerful experience, it was honor to be part of such an amazing hard working and dedicated team fueled by the outpouring of kindness and gratitude of the local community, despite experiencing such immense devastation."

#### ESF 17 and Florida SART in Action









Above: The ESF 17 IMT Donation Staging Area is a major operation of our IMT response; it puts animal and ag resources directly in the hands of our citizens and producers in critical need.



#### Thank You!

FDACS' LeiAnna Tucker, Emergency Programs Manager and ECO for ESF 17 and FLSART said, "This has been a historic response for the state of Florida, ESF 17 and Florida SART – one of the most efficient responses we have been a part of. Our response has improved every storm since Hurricane Irma in 2017, and this has been made possible by our Florida SART partners. They were deployed with ESF 17 near and far for Hurricane Ian, all pitching in to help our animal and agricultural sectors recover as quickly and efficiently as possible. I couldn't ask for a better team."

To the many responders who dedicated so much of themselves — along with many long hours — in service to the citizens of the State of Florida, a sincere thank you.



## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST 🗹



#### General Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices Batteries Flashlights Do not use candles NOAA Weather Radio Battery operated or hand cranked Cash Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm Cell phone chargers Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children **Phone Numbers** Maintain a list of important phone numbers including: County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family Clothing Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves Special Needs Items

Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly,

and family members with

disabilities

#### **First Aid** First Aid Manual Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes Sterile gauze pads Hypoallergenic adhesive ☐ Triangular bandages Scissors Tweezers Sewing needle Moistened towellettes Antiseptic Disinfectant wipes Hand sanitizer Thermometer Tube of petroleum jelly Safety pins Soap Latex gloves Sunscreen Aspirin or other pain reliever Anti-diarrheal medicine Antacid Laxative Cotton balls Q-tips **Food and Water** Food Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages. snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days 1 gallon per person per day ■ Non-electric can opener Paper plates Napkins Plastic cups

Utensils

Insurance cards				
Medical records				
Banking information				
Credit card numbers				
Copies of social security cards				
<ul><li>Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates</li><li>Other personal documents</li></ul>				
				Set of car, house, and office keys
<ul> <li>Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership</li> </ul>				
☐ Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and				
dosage				
Copy of Will				
*Items should be kept in a water proof container				
Vehicle				
☐ Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline				
☐ Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline  Pet Care Items				
tanks filled with gasoline				

**Important Documents** 

FloridaDisaster.org

## Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training (FL-017)



The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) has published an online, state-certified training on pet-friendly sheltering—the first of its kind to be offered in Florida. The online training provides guidance on how to plan for and operate a pet-friendly shelter to ensure that individuals evacuating from a disaster with household pets are accommodated.

This training will include useful information on how to:

- Use the Incident Command System in pet-friendly shelter planning and operations;
- Plan for a pet-friendly shelter;
- Understand the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act);
- Establish partnerships for resource coordination;
- Deliver a unified message to the public before, during and after an emergency, and;
- Set up, operate and demobilize a pet-friendly shelter.

Students will receive a downloadable **Tool Kit** that offers guidance and plan templates, and a **state-certified Certificate of Completion** approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

#### **COURSE DATE**

August 2020

#### **COURSE LENGTH**

4 hours

#### **COURSE FEE**

Free

#### COURSE MODE

100% online at www.FLSART.org

#### PRIMARY AUDIENCE

Emergency Managers County Employees Veterinary/Animal Services Shelter Volunteers

#### PROVIDED BY

Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART)

#### CERTIFICATE

State-Certified Course Code FL-017

#### POINT OF CONTACT

LeiAnna Tucker Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (850) 410-0920 LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov



#### Avian Influenza Update – As of October 19, 2022



Since July 2022, there have been multiple backyard flocks in Florida confirmed with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). In addition, HPAI has been detected in wild birds in multiple states along the eastern seaboard, including Florida. For more information on avian influenza and the current situation, visit the USDA website at USDA avian influenza.

Approximately two-thirds of the states in the United States, have at least one confirmed domestic poultry flock infected with HPAI during the 2021-2022 outbreak, however, some of the affected states have been released from additional movement requirements. For the current list of affected states, please visit APHIS at USDA APHIS | 2022 Confirmations of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial and Backyard Flocks.

Due to the recent Avian Influenza detection, it is recommended that Florida poultry producers and enthusiasts (commercial and backyard) take the following precautions to minimize the risk of introduction of influenza into our Florida poultry flocks. For more information regarding avian health please visit: USDA APHIS | Avian Health.

- 1. Implement strict biosecurity measures on all poultry premises.
  - Alert all company personnel, growers, farmworkers, and service personnel of the increased risk of HPAI.
  - Focus biosecurity methods on preventing any exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
  - Always keep current biosecurity, especially relating to essential visitors and entry biosecurity.
- Avoid any contact with wild birds of any kind, especially waterfowl, their habitat, or their droppings.
- 3. Take the necessary precautions around any congregation points for growers or backyard owners do not bring disease back to your poultry flock.
- 4. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs consistent with HPAI and report any concerns immediately. To date, the consistent clinical sign in all the current reported cases has been a marked, rapid increase in mortality over several days.
- 5. Consider making a contingency plan for moving outdoor poultry into bio-secure housing.
- 6. For more information regarding reporting sick domestic birds, please visit: Report Sick Birds.
- 7. To report sick or dead wild birds, please visit: www.MyFWC.com/bird.

#### Avian Influenza Update (continued)

If you have any questions, please contact the FDACS, Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410-0900. Please visit our website for additional information regarding Avian Influenza and the requirements for moving poultry into the state at www.FDACS.gov/AvianInfluenza.

#### **Background**

Avian Influenza viruses are classified by proteins of the virus: "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and "N" proteins, of which there are nine (N1–N9). Many different combinations of "H" and "N" proteins are possible. Like all influenza viruses, Avian Influenza viruses are known to easily re-assort and mutate (to change) into new Avian Influenza subtypes. They can even change in their ability to infect within a subtype. Only H7 and H5 subtypes have been found to change from Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) to HPAI.

Avian Influenza (LPAI) normally resides in the North American wild bird population. Wild waterfowl (ducks, geese, and shorebirds) are known to be carriers of the virus. They do not get sick, but spread the virus wherever they go. Any contact with wild birds of any kind, especially waterfowl, their habitat, or their droppings, should be avoided. The virus is shed in the droppings and by direct contact. Florida is associated with both the Mississippi and Atlantic migratory flyways.

In 2014 and 2015, Highly Pathogenic (H5N8 and H5N2) caused the largest animal disease outbreak in United States history. This outbreak affected both commercial and backyard poultry. The outbreak affected 21 states, caused over 50 million bird deaths, and cost an estimated \$3 billion economic impact. This outbreak was caused by an Asian lineage avian HPAI virus brought by wild waterfowl from Asia. The virus re-assorted with a North American subtype to produce HPAI in the USA. Factors involved with the spread of the virus included wild waterfowl migration and breakdowns in biosecurity.

In 2016, HPAI (H7N8) and LPAI (H7N8) infected several premises in Indiana and caused the loss of 43,000 commercial poultry. The viruses were identified as North American origin. It is thought that the LPAI (H7N8) mutated into HPAI (H7N8).

In 2017, HPAI (H7N9) and LPAI (H7N9) infected several premises in North and South Carolina. The viruses were identified as North American origin. It is thought that the LPAI (H7N8) mutated into HPAI (H7N8).

In 2020, LPAI (H7N3) was detected on several premises in North and South Carolina, causing the loss of 337,000 commercial turkeys. The virus was identified as North American wild bird lineage from the Mississippi flyway.

#### Resources

- www.FDACS.gov/Al
- USDA APHIS | 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- USDA APHIS | Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
- Influenza | Florida Department of Health (floridahealth.gov)
- www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/
- How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People (cdc.gov)
- Frequently Asked Questions about Avian Influenza | Avian Influenza (Flu) (cdc.gov)
- United States Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center
- Recent Bird Flu Infections in U.S. Wild Birds and Poultry Pose a Low Risk to the Public
- Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission: Avian Influenza | FWC (myfwc.com)



#### **United States Department of Agriculture**



## Checklist: Tips To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

Ш	Wear personal protective equipment or	$\Box$	Rinse all surfaces carefully with water.
	clothing and shoes that you only use when caring for your poultry. This includes boot covers or boots that can be disinfected. Change into fresh protective gear between poultry houses or coops.		Apply disinfectant according to the directions on the label. Be sure to use a disinfectant that is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and indicates that it is effective against avian influenza and other poultry diseases.
	Enclosures must be empty for a thorough cleaning. If you have a poultry house, wait until the house is empty to start the cleaning process. If you have a coop or other type of enclosure, move the birds to a separate area		Leave the enclosure empty until it is completely dry. Use fans and/or open doors and windows to help speed the drying process. Wet surfaces can be harmful to poultry.
	before cleaning.		When you're done, remove and discard your
	Remove all litter, manure, and other debris.		protective gear. If using dedicated clothing and boots, change clothing and clean and disinfect your boots.
	"Dry" clean all areas—brush, scrape, and shovel off manure, feathers, and other materials. Disinfectant will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.		Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. Wash and dry your dedicated clothing.
	"Wet" clean all surfaces—scrub with water and detergent. Work from top to bottom and back to front.		

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow Defend the Flock on Facebook and Twitter and visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.



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#### **African Swine Fever Update**

In 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic (Announcement below). ASF is a foreign animal disease. Increased biosecurity and vigilance is warranted. Please report any sick swine with clinical signs consistent with ASF to the State Veterinarian's Office through the e-mail address RAD@FDACS.gov, or by calling (850) 410-0900 (during office hours) or 1-800-342-5869 (after hours). You can also file a report online.

Clinical signs of ASF in swine can include reddening of the skin, listlessness, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, conjunctivitis, lack of an escape response, trembling, complete loss of hind leg functioning, and high death loss.

### Clinical Warning Signs of an ASF Infection

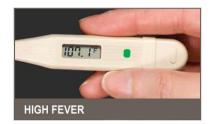










Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

It is important to note that Classical Swine Fever has been present in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for many years and, therefore, the U.S. does not receive pork products or live swine imports from either country. The highest risk of ASF introduction into the U.S. is from pork products brought in by international travelers via sea or air. The U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has increased inspections of products and personal items brought into the U.S from affected countries.

More information regarding ASF can be found on the USDA website. Click here for the FDACS Announcement on ASF.

#### In the News...

- How Does the FDA Respond to Foodborne Outbreaks?
- FDACS: Hurricane Ian Information and Resources
- Giant African Land Snail FDACS Pest Alert and Emergency Response



#### **UF/IFAS Florida Gardening Calendars**

The Gardening Calendar publications on the UF/IFAS Solutions for Your Life website gives Florida gardeners a monthly guide for what to plant and do in their gardens and includes links to useful gardening websites, all based on University of Florida research and expertise. Three different editions of the calendar provide specific tips for each of Florida's climate zones—North, Central, and South.

What to Plant in November - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (ufl.edu)

#### Counties, Is Your Contact Information up to date on the SART Website?

Please review your county emergency contact information at https://flsart.org/resource/countyinformation.jsp.

If you need to make changes to your county contact information, please send a request to LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov.



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS



#### Florida State Animal Response Coalition

Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC) provides **Small Animal Emergency Sheltering training** for Florida communities. These courses teach the unique procedures, skills, and knowledge necessary to build and operate a temporary emergency animal shelter in response to natural disasters and animal cruelty cases. These courses were created and designed by experts from many organizations including Florida SART, University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team, and leadership of FLSARC.

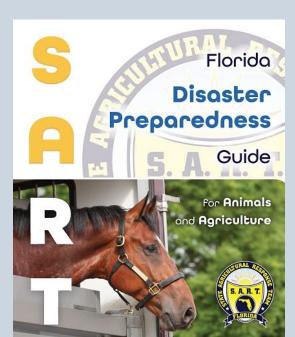
Awareness Level	Operations Level
<ul> <li>December 3, 2022</li> </ul>	TBD
<ul> <li>January 28, 2023</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>February 11, 2023</li> </ul>	

To register, visit: https://flsarc.org/training

#### **SART Partners Meeting**

Due to the ongoing response to Hurricane Ian, the next SART Partners Meeting is scheduled inperson for December 13<sup>th</sup> in Gainesville, Florida, at the Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Agenda will include SART partner updates and an Animal Technical Rescue demonstration by the UF VETS Team. The SART Partners Meeting is for SART partner agencies and is not intended for the public. Please contact LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov for additional information.

## SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture



The FDACS Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture developed by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) has been complete and posted to the SART website, flsart.org under the "Resources" tab.

This Guide has been developed to help County Emergency Managers respond to disasters that impact animals and agriculture within the state of Florida. Please use the link provided to take you directly to the new Florida SART Disaster Preparedness Guide, Florida SART - State Agricultural Response Team (flsart.org).

This Guide was developed with the collaboration of the Florida SART partners from across Florida. Many Florida SART partner agencies and FDACS staff contributed to this Guide through their expertise, editing and review. These Florida SART partners are recognized throughout the Guide by their logos.



# TRAIN WITH FLORIDA SARC

## WE HAVE THE SKILLS TO SAVE THEM

Florida SARC is the only FEMA-approved organization that teaches people how to build and operate a temporary emergency animal shelter in response to natural disasters and large cruelty cases.

Join us on Saturday December 3rd 2022 At Bay County Dept of Emergency Services







THIS TRAINING IS MADE
POSSIBLE BY BAY COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES
AND FLORIDA STATE
AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE
TEAM

#### Florida SARC will teach you:

- Disaster management.
- Ensuring you are ready to deploy.
- Designing an emergency animal shelter.
- Responding appropriately to animal behavior.
- Recognizing diseases and parasites.
- Cleaning and disinfecting appropriately.
- Tearing down ready for the next disaster.

This class is offered for FREE for a limited time - use code SART at check out

To sign up, visit FLSARC.org or scan the QR code

**BECAUSE THE ENTIRE FAMILY MATTERS** 

#### **SART Resources and Links**



**FEMA National Resources Hub:** 

National Resource Hub - Preparedness Toolkit FEMA Resources on YouTube

Veterinary Services Training and Exercise Program (VSTEP):

USDA APHIS | Veterinary Services Training and Exercise Program

**Pet Sheltering Resources** 

https://flsart.org/resource/petshelter

Ask IFAS: Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/disaster\_preparedness\_and\_recovery

Please log in and update your membership information online at:

www.FLSART.org

#### **About the SART Sentinel**

The SART Sentinel is an email newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the **Florida State Agricultural Response Team** on the Florida SART website at 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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