



# The Sentinel

Newsletter of  
the Florida State  
Agricultural  
Response Team



The Sentinel reviews the important work and accomplishments achieved in 2022.

## Special Features of this Issue:

- *SPECIAL SECTION: Hurricane Ian Response for Animals and Ag*
- *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza*
- *Edibles to Plant in December*

## In the know...

On October 18, 2022, the ESF 17 IMT demobilized after a 19-day deployment. On November 22, 2022, the SEOC moved to Level 2 Activation in support of Hurricane Ian.

## Florida SART: 2022 Year-in-Review

Thanks to our many State Agricultural Response Team (SART) Partners, 2022 was a marked success in terms of training, equipping and coordination. Despite the lingering impact of COVID-19 and the Hurricane Ian response this fall, many achievements were made. Below are some of the highlights we've reported on this past year.

Q1: January – March

### FDACS' LeiAnna Tucker Highlights Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training to GovTech's Eric Holdeman

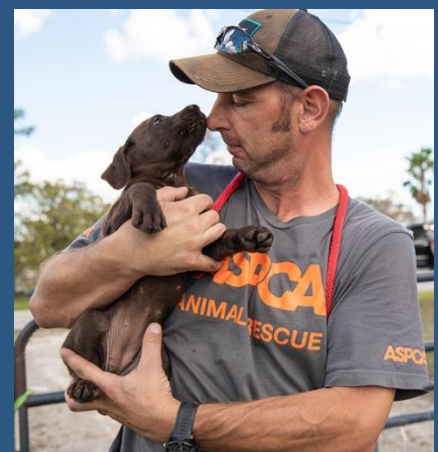
Emergency Programs Manager LeiAnna Tucker recently wrote to GovTech's Eric Holdeman in response to his most current Disaster Zone podcast. "My most current Disaster Zone podcast, [Protecting Pets from Disasters](#),"

Holdeman wrote, "prompted an email from LeiAnna Tucker. You can read what she wrote below. In sum, it is another resource you can tap into." ([January 2022](#))

### Animal Disease Update

There have been recent detections of African Swine Fever in Italy: [Case of African swine fever reported in northern Italy \(jamaicaobserver.com\)](#), Chronic Wasting Disease in Alabama: [Wasting disease confirmed in Alabama deer for first time \(weartv.com\)](#), and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detected in wild birds in North Carolina and South Carolina, and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) was detected in a wild bird in Florida. ([February 2022](#))

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## SPECIAL SECTION: Hurricane Ian Response

On September 30, 2022, after Hurricane Ian made landfall, **FDACS deployed a 72-person, Type III, ESF17 Incident Management Team (IMT)** to Arcadia (Desoto County) and set up its Incident Command Post, Logistical Staging Area, and Donation Staging Area. IMT members consisted of staff from the Division of Animal Industry primarily, Florida SART Agency Representatives, Forestry, and USDA. Additional partners from Code 3 and ASAR also supported the IMT with animal search and rescue.


The ESF17 IMT operated a full Operations Section consisting of an:

- Animal Health Assessment Group
  - Livestock Support Group
  - Veterinary Support & Sheltering Group
  - Donation & Distribution Group
- Coordinated with Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations to issue an emergency order that waived the application fee for **out of state veterinarians** to apply for a 30-day license to practice in FL to assist with response and enroll in Florida Veterinary Corp.

**Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation** + Follow  
dbpr 5h • Edited • 🌐

Out-of-state veterinarians who wish to come to Florida to provide relief veterinary services can apply for a 30-day temporary license. #DBPR Emergency Order 2022-02 (<https://bit.ly/3rrBzyt>) waives the application fee. Apply now at <https://bit.ly/3rIBCw4>.

Florida licensed veterinarians interested in offering volunteer services should contact the **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**, Florida Vet Corps at <https://bit.ly/3dWYmPQ> or 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352) for information.

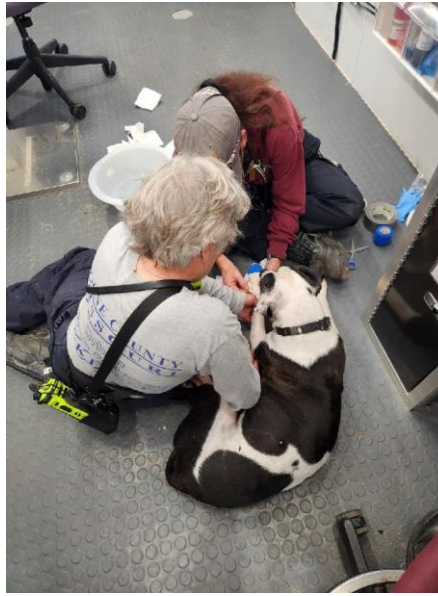


- **Deployed two mobile animal clinics** and all supporting equipment to Fort Meyers (Lee County) and Port Charlotte (Charlotte County), provided by our Florida SART partners at UF VETS Team and Humane Society of the United States. Lee County clinic treated 422 animals and Port Charlotte treated 881 animals. The Port Charlotte clinic gave >1,000 individuals preventative (heartworm, flea and tick medication) and averaged 600 cars per day in drive thru for pet food and pet supplies.
- Enrolled 174 new volunteers and deployed 86 volunteers during Hurricane Ian into the ESF 17 **Florida Veterinary Corps**, which is a listserv of veterinarians and veterinary technicians willing to serve as a volunteer for ESF17 during emergency response. The Florida Veterinary Corps is a cooperative effort of FDACS, Florida Veterinary Medical Association, and the UF College of Veterinary Medicine.
- **Deployed over 100 Florida SART volunteers** and responders to assist at county pet-friendly shelters and animal shelters.

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## SPECIAL SECTION: Hurricane Ian Response

- First time coordinating with ESF 15, **Volunteer Florida, and their 'Volunteer Connect'** network that includes Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). They promoted messaging about our Florida Veterinary Corps on their Volunteer Connect webpage to encourage new volunteers to apply. ESF 15 provided ESF 17 with 25 CERT volunteers to support pet-friendly sheltering in Hillsborough County pre-landfall.
- Deployed the **Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)** to provide veterinary support and HAZMAT decontamination for the **81 USAR Task Force canines**. This team came with 3 small animal mobile medical platforms all with gas anesthesia, ultrasound, and ancillary equipment and supplies, 2 mobile veterinary trucks, 5 logistics trailers and trucks.



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## SPECIAL SECTION: Hurricane Ian Response



- Completed **420 total Animal Health Assessments** wherein 54 assessments required urgent care, 104 required follow up within 48 hours, and **44,634 total animals were assessed**.
- ESF17 Donation Staging Area **received ~15,000 units of donated products** from Florida SART partners and major donors such as The Greater Good, Wal Mart, Purina, Chewy, and PetSmart. Donations included pet food, pet cages, livestock feed and hay, fencing material, vaccinations and prevention, pet supplies, and bee pollen.
- ESF17 Donation and Distribution Group **distributed all the donated products** to the county and state Points of Distribution (PODs) established across various impacted counties, animal shelters, pet-friendly shelters, beekeepers, livestock producers, and locations identified by the Animal Health Assessment Group.
- Activated a **water hotline** to provide water for animals in critical need. Received less than 10 requests on the hotline.

On October 18, 2022, the ESF 17 IMT demobilized after a 19-day deployment. On November 22, 2022, the SEOC moved to Level 2 Activation in support of Hurricane Ian.

## Florida SART: 2022 Year-in-Review (continued from front page)

### FDACS ESF 17 Team Attends FEPA Annual Conference

From January 31 - February 4, 2022, emergency coordinators of the FDACS Divisions of Animal Industry and Food Safety, LeiAnna Tucker, Ben Motes, Jeremy Dunkley, and Nick Morrow, attended the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) annual conference in Miramar Beach, FL. The FEPA annual conference trainings, workshops and panel discussions highlighted recent Florida emergency activations such as the national response to the Surfside building collapse and important issues facing Florida such as wildfire threats, federal disaster funding, and mental health for emergency management. ([March 2022](#))

### Q2: April – June

#### ESF 17 Tests Poultry Related Animal Disease Response Equipment

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Division of Animal Industry's Emergency Programs Section tested the type of foaming apparatus that can be used for the humane depopulation of domestic poultry in a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) animal disease response. No live poultry were involved in this exercise. As expected, the foaming equipment is fully operational and the ESF 17 team is prepared in the event of an HPAI outbreak in domestic poultry in Florida. With the recent outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza across the country, it is critical for Florida's animal producers to stay situationally aware about the HPAI outbreaks in the US and implement strict biosecurity measures on all poultry premises to prevent HPAI in our state's domestic poultry. FDACS hosts an Avian Influenza Webpage that is loaded with information. To access the site, click [here](#). ([April 2022](#))

#### Statewide Emergency Operations Exercise – Under Siege 3

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) attended a 4-day Statewide Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) exercise. The exercise was designed to test the state's capabilities to respond to natural and man-made disasters around the state. The SEOC simulated many disaster events related to cyber events and events unrelated to cyber. FDACS activated Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 and the State Agricultural Response Team (SART), simulating response to cyber-attacks on natural gas pipelines, train derailments, hazardous material spills, catastrophic flooding, and wildfires. ([May 2022](#))



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## Florida SART: 2022 Year-in-Review (continued)



### **FDACS Staff Attend Governor's Hurricane Conference**

On May 9-13, Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 staff from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Divisions of Animal Industry, Food Safety, Aquaculture, and Agricultural Environmental Services attended the Governor's Hurricane Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida. The conference is the largest and most well attended tropical cyclone conference in the nation, according to [www.flghc.org](http://www.flghc.org). The conference hosted over 300 hours of training and workshops covering topics relating to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. While attending this conference, ESF 17 staff had the opportunity to attend incident command system trainings. Nick Morrow and Ben Motes attended the Liaison Officer training for the first two days of the conference to help better prepare for their roles on the ESF 17 incident management team. ([June 2022](#))

### **SART Partners Present Mental Health First Aid Online Training at National Summit**

This year's National Alliance for State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) 2022 Summit shared amazing resources for preparing community animal and ag sectors for hazards. Local, state and federal Ag partners from around the nation came together to discuss how to overcome challenges the animal and agriculture sectors might experience during emergencies while developing meaningful relationships. LeiAnna Tucker with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services represented the Florida contingent alongside Dr. Angela Lindsey of University of Florida IFAS Extension and Dr. Lawrence Garcia of University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. They presented to the NASAAEP about Florida's Online Disaster Response and Recovery Mental Health Training for Agricultural Stakeholders and Disaster Responders. This training was made possible by our Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART). ([June 2022](#))



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## Florida SART: 2022 Year-in-Review (continued)

### Q3: July – September

#### **FDACS Hosts Quarterly Florida Animal Carcass Management Working Group Meeting**

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, Emergency Programs Section hosted the quarterly Florida Animal Carcass Management Working Group (ACMWG) meeting. During this meeting, the ACMWG reviewed and made edits to the *Florida Department of Health's Wild Bird Carcass Management Flowchart* that provides guidance for how to dispose of wild bird carcasses that are found in areas accessible by the public such as beaches, parks, and shorelines. The ACMWG received an animal disease update for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Birds provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Lastly, the ACMWG reviewed its new project for creating an animal carcass management site selection plan that may be used during high-consequence animal disease incident response. The goal of this initiative is to develop and write a Site Selection Plan Document that identifies specific areas in Florida as potential sites for disposing of animal carcasses. This project is funded by SART and will take approximately 6-7 months to complete. This will strengthen Florida's ability to respond to animal carcass management during animal disease incidents. ([July 2022](#))

#### **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Found in Non-Commercial Backyard Flock in Seminole County**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a non-commercial backyard flock (non-poultry) in Seminole County, Florida. Samples from the flock were tested at the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, and confirmed at the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa. ([August 2022](#))

#### **SART Holds Planning Section Chief Training**



The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) funded and held the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certified Incident Command System (ICS) All Hazards Planning Section Chief training on July 19 – 22, 2022, in Fort Myers Florida. Twenty-two Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) staff attended representing the divisions of Animal Industry, Plant Industry, Food Safety, Agricultural Environmental Services, and Forestry. This course provided FDACS Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) personnel with the information necessary to understand the roles and responsibilities of the Planning Section Chief for managing all documentation and planning processes for the ESF 17 Incident Management Team (IMT) in all-hazards incident response. ([August 2022](#))

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## Florida SART: 2022 Year-in-Review (continued)

### ESF 17 In Action – North Port Hurricane Expo, Sarasota County

FDACS Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) District Specialist, Melody Belanger, hosted an exhibit at the North Port Hurricane Expo in Sarasota County. The exhibit highlighted disaster preparedness for pets along with State Agricultural Response Team (SART) trainings and initiatives. This was the first Hurricane Expo hosted in North Port in over 10 years. Melody represented ESF 17 and SART, providing expert insight into disaster preparedness for pets. Melody handed out Florida SART's Canine Go-Kit Checklist, Disasters and Mental Health Online Training flyer, Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training flyer, checklists for dog and cat evacuations, SART brochures, and other SART materials. ([September 2022](#))



### Q4: October – December

#### **Continuing Biosecurity Measures for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a non-commercial poultry in Florida. With the potential for HPAI infections on the rise, it is important to take steps to ensure your poultry flock, whether it is commercial or non-commercial, is protected. One way to ensure you are protected is by joining the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). NPIP helps protect Florida's poultry industry from serious disease outbreaks by conducting disease surveillance. This surveillance looks for diseases such as Pullorum-Typhoid, Avian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle Disease. This is not a guarantee that joining the NPIP program will prevent you from a possible HPAI infection. Poultry owners still need to follow strict biosecurity to ensure their flocks are as protected as possible from diseases. Previous HPAI infections have been noted on farms that allow free-range poultry. ([October 2022](#))

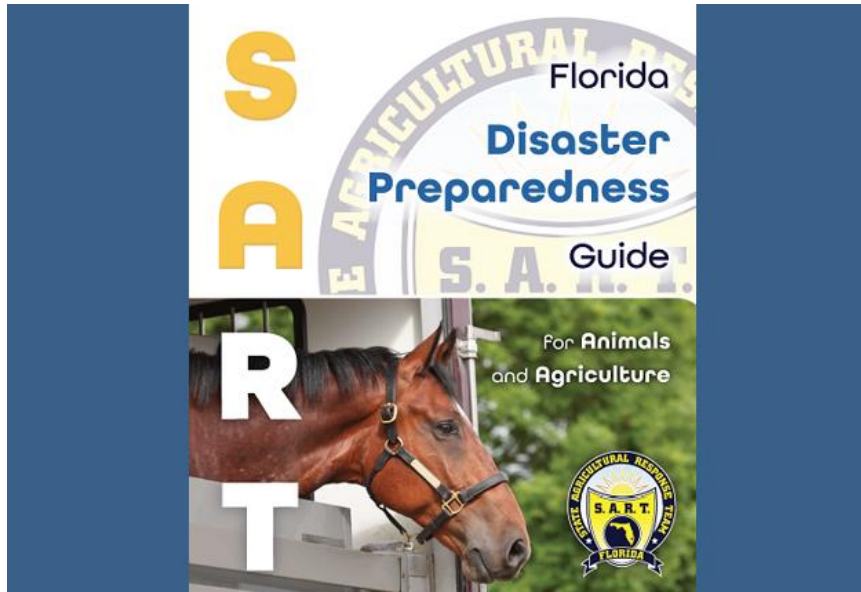
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## Florida SART: 2022 Year-in-Review (continued)

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

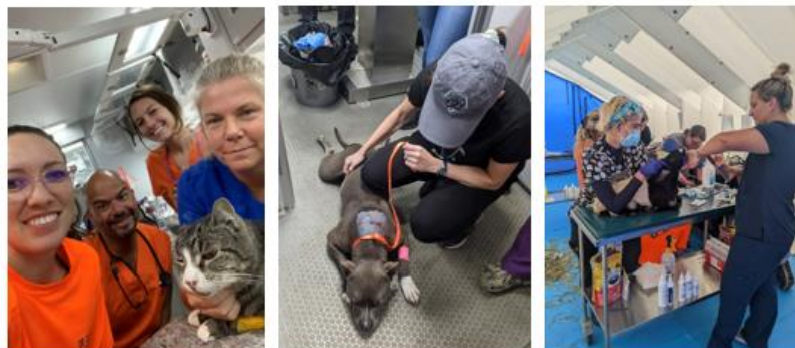
FDACS The Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture developed by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) has been complete and posted to the SART website, [flsart.org](https://flsart.org) under the "Resources" tab. This Guide has been 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 \(flsart.org\)](https://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. Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture was a collaborative effort and would not have been possible if it were not for their contribution. ([October 2022](#))

### Florida SART Responds to Hurricane Ian

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 Ian 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 SART Agency Representatives, Forestry, and USDA. ([November 2022](#))



# 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](http://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

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## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza



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.
2. 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](http://www.MyFWC.com/bird).

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## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (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](http://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/AI](http://www.FDACS.gov/AI)
- [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/](http://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 \(myfwc.com\)](#)



## ✓ 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.

- Wear personal protective equipment** or 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.
- 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 before cleaning.
- Remove all litter, manure, and other debris.**
- “Dry” clean all areas**—brush, scrape, and shovel off manure, feathers, and other materials. Disinfectant will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.
- “Wet” clean all surfaces**—scrub with water and detergent. Work from top to bottom and back to front.
- Rinse all surfaces carefully with water.**
- 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.
- 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.
- When you’re done, remove and discard** your protective gear. If using dedicated clothing and boots, change clothing and clean and disinfect your boots.
- Wash your hands thoroughly** with soap and water. Wash and dry your dedicated clothing.

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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).



## 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](mailto: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

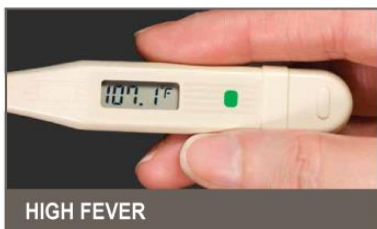


Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

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...

- [Giant African Land Snail](#) (FDACS)
- [Simpson elected as Florida agriculture commissioner](#) (WTSP)
- [Giant tortoises stolen from the St. Augustine Alligator Farm](#) (First Coast News)

# EDIBLES TO PLANT IN *December*



	North	Central	South
 <b>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</b>	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 <b>TRANSPLANT WITH CARE</b>	Celery, Mustard, Spinach	Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes
 <b>USE SEEDS</b>	Carrots, Onions (bunching), Radish, Turnips	Carrots, Onions (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon



**UF** IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Gardening SOLUTIONS

GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu  
Text only: go.ufl.edu/EdibleText

## 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](mailto: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 style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 28, 2023</li><li>• February 11, 2023</li><li>• March 11, 2023</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• February 18, 2023</li><li>• March 25, 2023</li><li>• April 22, 2023</li></ul>

To register, visit: <https://f sarc.org/training>

## SART Partners “In Person” Meeting – December 13, 2022

SART will hold its quarterly Advisory Board in-person meeting on December 13, 2022, 10am-1pm EST, in Gainesville, at the Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Agenda topics include general business, 2023 event schedule, the debut of the new UF-SART Partnership video, and a demonstration and hands-on activity of Animal Technical Rescue equipment and skills by our UF VETS Team. This meeting is for SART partner agency representatives and is not for the general public. Please contact LeiAnna Tucker at [LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov](mailto:LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov) for additional information.

## Coming Soon!

- Animal Technical Rescue Training – Awareness and Operations Level. February and March 2023, in Ocala, at the Florida Fire College. Registration details coming soon!
- Plans for the 2023 SART Planning Conference is underway! A save the date will be sent in early 2023 and county ESF 17 contacts will be contacted for invitation.



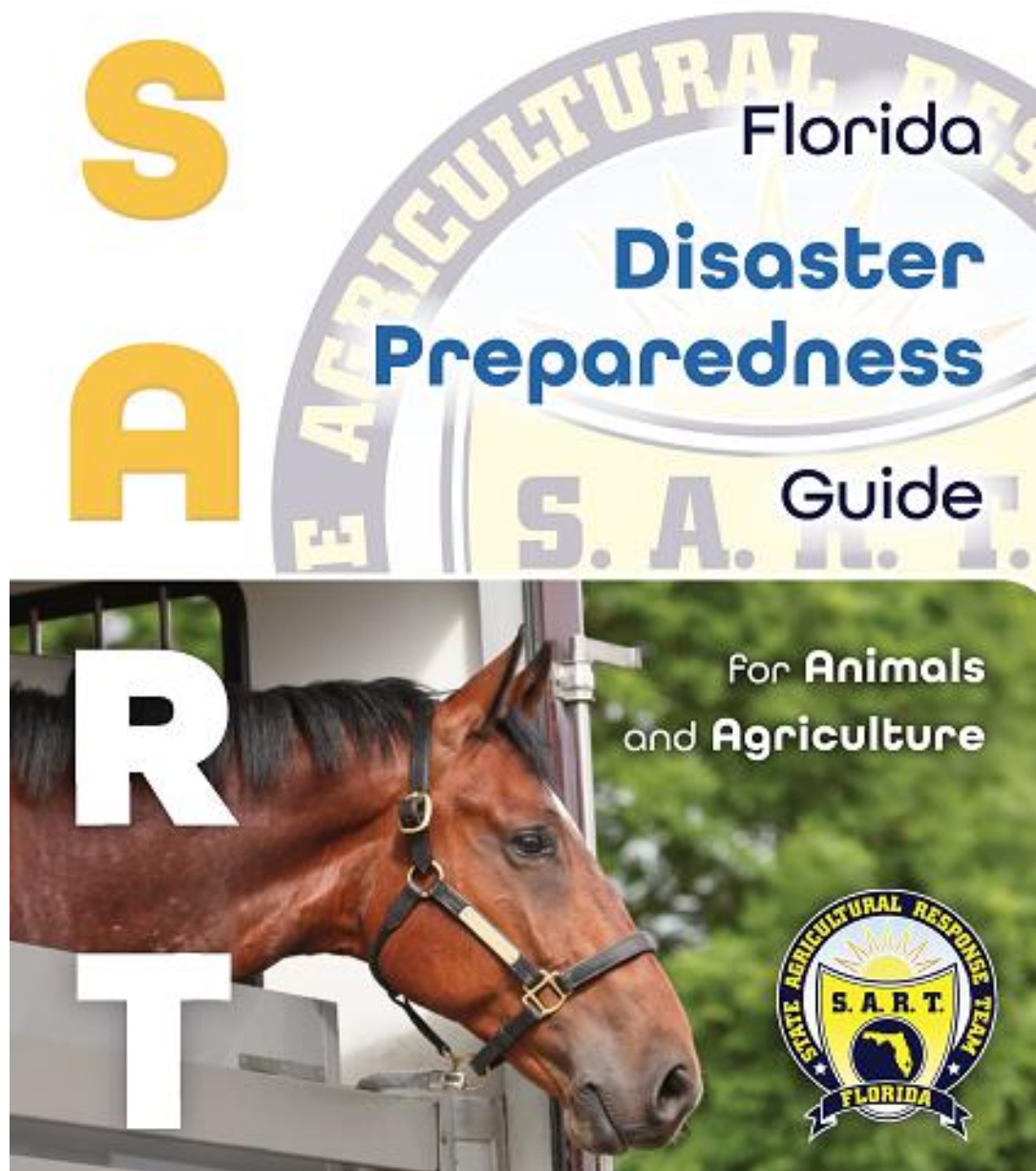


# SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

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](http://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](#).

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.



# Disasters and Mental Health Online Training



Over the course of four modules, this 2.5-hour training sponsored by Florida SART and carried out by University of Florida Family, Youth, and Community Sciences (FYCS) faculty members Drs. Heidi Radunovich and Angie Lindsey provides focused information on mental health stress and disaster recovery within the agricultural sector. It is geared towards:

- Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) members and partners
- UF/IFAS Extension faculty and staff
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services employees
- Farmers, ranchers and their families
- Agricultural workers
- First responders
- Organizations providing services within agricultural communities
- Any community members who are active during disaster response

Training can be accessed at <https://e-learning.ag/courses/disasters-mental-health/>

1

## Disaster Stress & Mental Health

45 min. content + 15 min. activity

- The unique impacts disasters have on agriculture
- Stress and the impacts it has on the body
- Disaster stress
- Coping skills to manage stress
- The differences between stress & trauma
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Case study activity

2

## Community Recovery After Disasters

30 min. content + 15 min. activity

- The four phases of community response
- Factors impacting individual recovery
- Long-term problems in disaster recovery
- Factors impacting community recovery
- How different types of disasters impact recovery
- Ways in which a community can plan for a successful recovery
- Case study activity

3

## Coping & Providing Support After Disasters

30 min. content + 10 min. activity

- Ways to manage stress
- Specific physical and mental coping techniques
- Providing support after disasters
- Best practices in supporting children
- Self care key practices for first responders
- Resources for additional help and referrals
- Knowledge Check Quiz

4

## Disaster Stress & Mental Health Resources

15 min. content

- The final module discusses special programs for disaster health & mental health resources, resources for producers and farmworkers, and resources for the general public. It also includes a Mental Health Resource guide which can be downloaded.

**Free, self-paced training with certification!**

Access training through QR code



UF/IFAS  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



Center for  
Public Issues Education

FYCS

FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES  
the science of helping people. together.



FLORIDA  
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EXTENSION DISASTER  
EDUCATION NETWORK

# Food Safety and Food Defense Report

*A special section dedicated to feed and food emergency planning and response.*

FDACS Division of Food Safety is responsible for assuring the public of a safe, wholesome, and properly represented food supply through permitting and inspection of food establishments, inspection of food products, and performance of specialized laboratory analysis on a variety of food products sold or produced in the state. The Division of Food Safety monitors food from the farm gate, through processing and distribution, to the retail point of purchase.

## **FDACS Food Safety for Holiday and Festivals**

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Food-Safety-Consumer-Resources-and-Outreach/Holidays-and-Festivals>

## **CDC Foodborne Germs and Illnesses**

<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/foodborne-germs.html>

**Meal Preparation Experiment Related to Poultry Washing:** FSIS and its research partners conducted meal preparation studies to evaluate consumer food handling behaviors in a test kitchen. This report describes the results of the second iteration of the meal preparation experiment that examined consumers' washing of poultry when preparing a meal of chicken thighs.

- [Meal Preparation Experiment](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)

## **What is the relationship between Food Defense, Food Safety, and Food Security?**

In order to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats and hazards of greatest risk to the food supply, it is important that preparedness efforts encompass food safety, food defense, and food security. While there are distinct differences between these three concepts, a comprehensive approach that addresses food safety, food defense, and food security considerations improves resilience and protects public health.

- Food Defense - the protection of food products from contamination or adulteration intended to cause public health harm or economic disruption
- Food Safety - the protection of food products from unintentional contamination
- Food Security - when all people, at all times, have both physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2014)

## **Holiday Food Storage Tips**

'Tis the season for holiday meals and holiday leftovers! Before you shop, be sure there's enough space in the refrigerator and freezer. Follow these Food Storage Essentials tips to help you and your family prevent foodborne illness this holiday season. Check out more holiday food safety information, tips, and resources from the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website like our Holiday Roasting Temperature Cheat Sheet and more!

# Food Storage Essentials



- ◆ Plan on enough storage space in the refrigerator and freezer. In the refrigerator, air needs to circulate to keep the temperature at 40°F or below. Keep your freezer at 0°F or below.

- ◆ Monitor your refrigerator and freezer temperatures with thermometers. Place one in your refrigerator and one in your freezer in easy-to-read locations and check the temperature regularly—at least once a week.

- ◆ Refrigerate meat, poultry, seafood, eggs and other perishables as soon as you get home from the store.

- ◆ Stick to the “two-hour rule.” Remember to not allow foods needing refrigeration to sit out longer than two hours—one hour if the temperature is above 90°F. This includes leftovers, “doggie bags,” and take out foods.

- ◆ Check food storage directions listed on food labels. If something hasn’t been properly refrigerated, it is usually best to throw it out.

- ◆ After cooking, divide large amounts of leftovers into shallow containers for quicker cooling in the refrigerator.



## SART Resources and Links



### Large Animal Incident Response Plan Template

<https://flsart.org/resource/TLAER>

### 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](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/disaster_preparedness_and_recovery)

### Get Involved! Florida Veterinary Corps

<https://flsart.org/getInvolved/vetcorps.jsp>

Please log in and update  
your membership  
information online at:

[www.FLSART.org](http://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](http://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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