



# The Sentinel

Newsletter of  
the Florida State  
Agricultural  
Response Team



Photo Courtesy of Kelly Ave.

## Recovery Efforts for Agriculture at the Forefront of Florida Legislature

After Hurricane Idalia made landfall in the Big Bend area of North Florida it was made clear that this hurricane had devastating effects on Florida's agriculture. Nursery growers, vegetable and citrus crops, livestock, and aquaculture suffered all together an estimated \$447 million in loss. While these farmers and ranchers recover their livelihoods, they are looking to the Florida Legislature to help agriculture get back on its feet through grant funding.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Wilton Simpson highlights the efforts of the Legislature to pass the House Bill 1-C during the 2023 Special Session C, which provides support to Florida's agricultural producers. Within this bill are two major

programs of support: The Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers National Disaster Recovery Loan Program and the Timber Landowner Assistance Cost-Share Grant Program. These programs support \$75 million and \$37.5 million respectively in funding to assist in the agricultural recovery process.

Upon signature of the bill and per the bill's timeline, FDACS will open the application process for producers effected by Hurricane Idalia within 60 days. This bill states that any affected agricultural equipment will be assessed at salvage value on the 2024 property tax roll.

*The story continues on page 2.*

### Special Features of this Issue:

- *Mosquito Control Incident Response Team Activates Following Hurricane Idalia*
- *Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida*
- *Florida SART: 2023 Year-in-Review*

***"I have such gratitude to have been selected to receive the Citizen of the Year award. Thank you all so much for being here to share in this occasion. I am honored to have my work recognized in this way by the FVMA."***

— LeiAnna Tucker (May 2023)  
Emergency Programs Manager  
ECO for ESF 17 and FLSART  
Division of Animal Industry, FDACS

Read more stories in our *Florida SART: 2023 Year-in-Review* feature, included in this month's edition.



## Recovery Efforts for Agriculture at the Forefront of Florida Legislature (continued)

Estimated Agricultural Production Losses due to Hurricane Idalia (Thousands of 2023\$)

Commodity Group	TS1		TS2		Cat. 2		Cat. 3		Total	
	Low Scenario	High Scenario	Low Scenario	High Scenario	Low Scenario	High Scenario	Low Scenario	High Scenario	Low Scenario	High Scenario
	Citrus	\$0	\$21,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Field and Row Crops	\$0	\$27,100	\$11,100	\$33,400	\$500	\$1,300	\$19,100	\$31,900	\$30,700	\$93,600
Fruit (Non-citrus) and Tree Nuts	\$0	\$1,200	\$500	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$600	\$2,600
Greenhouse/Nursery	\$0	\$56,300	\$2,200	\$6,600	\$100	\$100	\$2,500	\$5,800	\$4,700	\$68,800
Animals and Animal Products	\$0	\$38,400	\$15,600	\$46,800	\$400	\$1,000	\$14,900	\$37,200	\$30,900	\$123,400
Vegetables and Melons	\$0	\$33,200	\$2,500	\$6,100	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$7,900	\$18,300	\$11,800	\$60,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$177,900</b>	<b>\$31,900</b>	<b>\$94,200</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$5,300</b>	<b>\$44,500</b>	<b>\$93,400</b>	<b>\$78,800</b>	<b>\$370,900</b>

Source: Authors' calculations based on preliminary analysis of baseline data and survey data along with observations from previously analyzed tropical cyclone events (Irma [2017], Michael [2018], Sally [2020], Ian [2022]). Values rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Per the HB 1-C, grants will refund sales tax for fencing and building materials used to replace and repair damage from Hurricane Idalia. There is also grant refund for fuels used in the shipping of agricultural products and debris removal.

This house bill is the steppingstone to agricultural recovery by those producers who sustained damage from Hurricane Idalia. Florida agriculture is on the road to recovery.

Source Material:

- [Preliminary Assessment of Agricultural Losses and Damages Resulting from Hurricane Idalia \(ufl.edu\)](#)
- [Commissioner Wilton Simpson Applauds Florida Legislature for Prioritizing Hurricane Idalia Recovery Efforts for Agriculture \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

## Did You Know? SART Offers Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team 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 includes 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 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.

The four-hour course is designed for emergency managers, county employees, veterinary and animal services, and shelter volunteers. There is no charge for this 100% online course. For more information, please visit [www.FLSART.org](http://www.FLSART.org).

## 2023 COOP Tabletop Exercise



On November 7th, 2023, your Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 staff (LeiAnna Tucker and Emily Nolen) participated in the 2023 Continuity of Operations (COOP) Tabletop Exercise. Also, in attendance were other ESFs, Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), and partner organizations.

When the State Emergency Operations Center is compromised during an emergency, the staff working to respond to the situation are moved to a different location to continue their duties. During this exercise the responders were able to become familiar with the COOP location and review the COOP plans for any needed improvements.

### 3 Billion Dollars Provided by the USDA to Commodity and Specialty Crop Producers Impacted by 2022 Natural Disasters

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has set aside over 3 billion dollars in funding to help producers of commodity and specialty crops impacted by a natural disaster event in 2022. These producers can apply for the assistance through the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) 2022. Financial impacts of the crop yield and value losses from natural disasters that happened in 2022 will be addressed by this program in efforts to help farmers and producers get back on their feet.

This process all started back in December of 2022 when President Biden signed the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2023 that opened 3.7 billion dollars in funding to use for financial assistance from agricultural producers. The ERP 2022 helps to cover industry losses within crops, trees, bushes, and vines that have been affected by natural disasters of 2022. Wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, and drought related conditions are all some of the examples of the 2022 qualifying natural disasters of this bill.

Any and all producers who do qualify for the ERP 2022 assistance must purchase crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage in places where crop insurance is not offered within the next two crop years. The coverage purchased by the producers must be at the 60/100 or higher level of coverage.

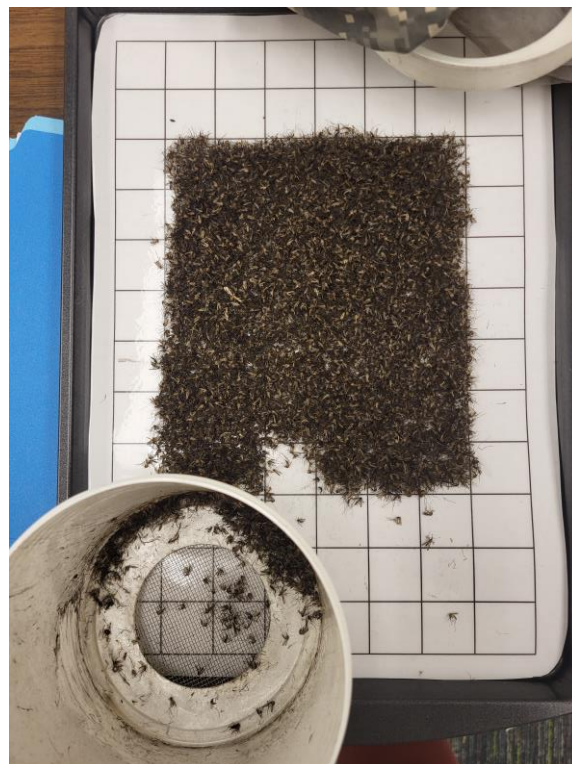
Source Material:

[USDA to Provide More Than \\$3 Billion to Commodity and Specialty Crop Producers Impacted by 2022 Natural Disasters](#)

## Mosquito Control Incident Response Team Activates Following Hurricane Idalia



The Mosquito Control Incident Response Team (MCIRT) was activated on September 8, 2023, in response to vector control pressures following the landfall of Hurricane Idalia. Comprised of members from FDACS Division of Agricultural Environmental Services (AES), the MCIRT assists Florida counties undergoing repair and recovery activities following a disaster with mosquito control abatement once Public Assistance eligibility requirements are met. The response to Idalia entailed aerial vector control activities in five counties impacted by the storm: Citrus, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor. Over 678,000 acres were sprayed by two contractors, and 24 members of AES participated in this activation.



# Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida



## CWD DETECTED IN FLORIDA

The FWC has confirmed that a road-killed 4.5-year-old female white-tailed deer in Holmes County sampled during routine surveillance activities has tested positive for CWD.

### EVENT RESPONSE INFORMATION

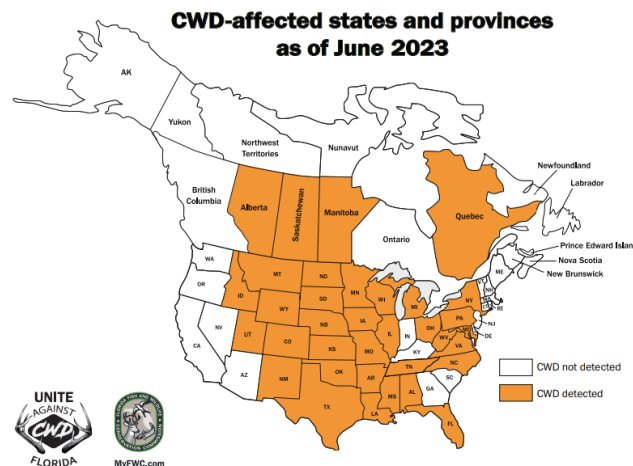
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has confirmed that a road-killed 4.5 year-old female white-tailed deer in Holmes County sampled during routine surveillance activities has tested positive for [chronic wasting disease \(CWD\)](#). It is the first known case of CWD in Florida. CWD is a contagious disease of the brain and central nervous system that is always fatal to deer. FWC and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) have implemented response and management actions to protect against the possible spread of CWD.

On Sept. 8, the FWC issued a new executive order outlining regulations designed to increase sampling and slow the spread of CWD in Florida deer. Existing regulations pertaining to the establishment of the zone, baiting and feeding restrictions, prohibition of rehabilitating or releasing injured or orphaned deer and export of high-risk parts remain in effect. New actions include:

- All deer harvested from Dec. 9-10, 2023, in Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties shall be checked at a staffed FWC check station prior to transporting the deer to the possessor's domicile or a processor or taxidermist, except deer harvested on licensed game farms or hunting preserves.
- Take of antlerless deer shall be allowed throughout Deer Management Unit (DMU) D2 during the entirety of the open season for antlered deer established in Rule 68A-13.004, Florida Administrative Code, for DMU D2. Additionally, the take of antlerless deer shall be allowed from Dec. 9-10, 2023, in those portions of Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties located within DMU D1. These regulations shall not apply on commission-managed lands.

If you are a permitted captive Cervidae premises and have any questions regarding CWD, please reach out to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410-0900.

Visit the FWC [CWD website](#) for more information, updates, and resources.

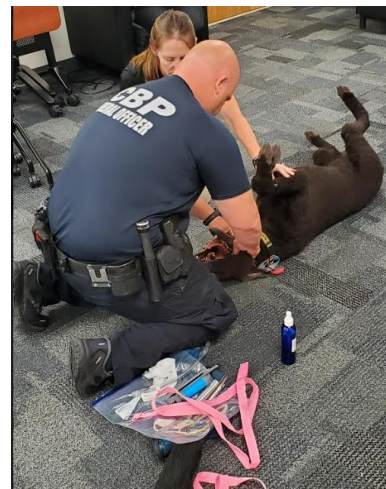
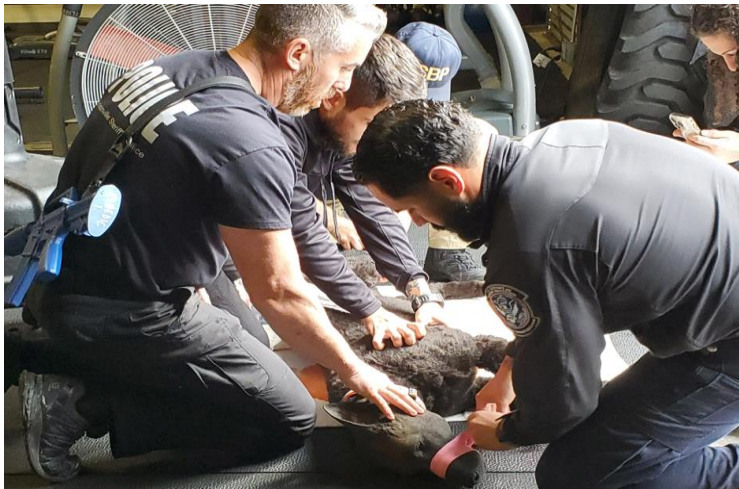


## Florida SART: 2023 Year-in-Review

Thanks to our many State Agricultural Response Team (SART) Partners, 2023 was a marked success in terms of training, equipping and coordination. Below are some of the highlights we've reported on this past year.

### K9 Handler Training Sponsored by SART

The K9 First Responder and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Training is sponsored by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and in partnership with the Florida National Guard Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force and K9 Medic. This training was hosted at Camp Blanding, the primary military reservation and training base for the Florida National Guard, on February 1st – 3rd. Over the course of three days K9 handlers from a variety of jurisdictions including local, state, and federal law enforcement and regulatory agencies participated in in-person training. The topics covered in the training ranged from safe K9 handling and comprehensive vital assessments to treating the most common emergencies such as heat stroke and bloat/Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (GDV), along with tactical injuries such as gunshot wounds. Some handlers were able to bring their K9s to participate in hands-on trainings and mock emergency scenarios.



"Partnering with K9 MEDIC and the Florida National Guard, SART has worked to bring a comprehensive, hands-on training experience that focused on protecting and caring for K9 first responders in the field before they could get the K9 to a veterinary facility," said Emily Nolen, Florida SART Coordinator, FDACS Division of Animal Industry. "By providing better training the handler can feel confident in learning to apply these emergency medical skills for their K9 partner. They can prepare themselves and their K9 partner for all situations, whether a vehicle accident, a hurricane, or even a mass casualty situation that they're called to assist with." (March 2023)

### Animal Technical Rescue Trainings 2023

This past February and March, emergency personnel from across the state of Florida joined together at the Florida Fire College in Ocala to learn about Animal Technical Rescue. Animal Technical Rescue, or ATR, is defined as the rescue efforts for animals which require resources, equipment, and skill sets outside of standard emergency response capabilities.

The ATR trainings are comprised of a Level 1 Awareness course able to host 40 participants for an eight-hour training, and a Level 2 Operations course made up of 21 participants for a total of 24 hours of training. The 2023 participants were made up of Fire/Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), livestock stakeholders, animal services, veterinary professionals, and law enforcement staff from over 22 counties in Florida.

ATR training and techniques have proven to be important as multiple animals over the recent months have gotten into situations requiring the expertise of trained personal to rescue them with no further injury. In January of 2023, a call was received by rescuers that a horse was found stuck in a swamp like area and had been there for several hours unable to free itself. With the knowledge gained from the December ATR awareness training two past participants were able to save this horse without further injury. (April 2023)

## Florida SART: 2023 Year-in-Review (continued)

### Red Tide in Florida

What is Red Tide? According to the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA), red tide "...is one type of harmful algal bloom." These blooms, "...are caused by microscopic algae that produce toxins that kill fish, make shellfish dangerous to eat...and can make the surrounding air difficult to breathe." Unfortunately, Florida's Gulf Coast has at least one Red Tide occurrence every summer.



### Impacts of Florida's Red Tides can include:

- Toxic waters
- Marine life death
- Unusable beaches
- Marooning of sea turtles, manatees, and dolphins

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has an up-to-date web page titled, *Red Tide Current Status*, that can be accessed at: <https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide>. This site is updated weekly (on Fridays), due to the rising number of Red Tide sightings already reported in Pinellas and Manatee Counties and reported fish kills in Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee, and Collier Counties.

FWC also has a page dedicated to Red Tide-Related Hotlines and Information Sources, that can be found at: [Red Tide-Related Hotlines and Information Sources \(myfwc.com\)](#). Please report any sightings, fish kills, wildlife effects, or human exposures. (April 2023)

### FDACS ESF 17 and SART Partners Awarded at the 2023 Florida Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conference for Disaster Preparedness and Response

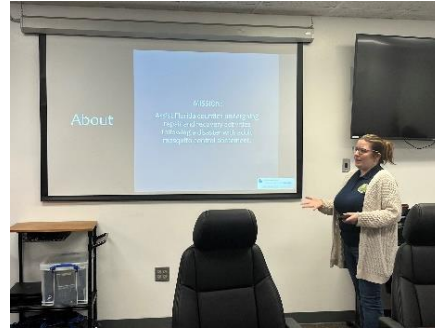
LeiAnna Tucker, ESF 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer and SART Administrator, is 2023 recipient for CITIZEN OF THE YEAR award – To be awarded to any non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the Association and veterinary medicine.



"I have such gratitude to have been selected to receive the Citizen of the Year award. Thank you all so much for being here to share in this occasion. I am honored to have my work recognized in this way by the Florida Veterinary Medical Association. Many hours, days and nights, went into building readiness and responding to support our animal and agricultural sectors and the veterinary community who protect them. And it means so much to me that the work I am passionate about also resonates with others. This accomplishment is not something I did alone, and there are many others who deserve to share in this award. I would like to thank Dr. Terry Clekis of our FVMA for being my champion since the beginning when we responded during Hurricane Irma and his unwavering support for answering to the call of duty, building stronger partnerships for disaster preparedness between our agencies, and his friendship." (May 2023)

## Florida SART: 2023 Year-in-Review (continued)

### ESF 17 Annual County Meetings



Each year all six ESF 17 District Specialists meet with each county's emergency management staff, UF/IFAS Extension personnel, and local animal services to talk more about the county's preparedness for a disaster effecting animals and agriculture. Counties are given information about local FDACS resources, what trainings and resources Florida SART has to offer, information about their local vector control resources, how the Division of Food Safety assesses risk within their areas, and meet some SART partners. Meeting with each county's emergency management helps our ESF 17 staff and SART team become better prepared to respond and build relationships with counties about each other's resources.

These meetings have become important in building relationships with local officials and about ESF 17 staff, that when disaster strikes, we are ready to respond. We want to thank each of Florida's county personnel for giving us their time to meet and gain a better understanding of their county. ([June 2023](#))

### That's a Wrap for the 2023 SART Planning Workshop!

On June 6th we kicked off the workshop by welcoming over 125 attendees from across the state to learn more about emergency response for animals and agriculture. This three-day workshop is sponsored by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART). This bi-annual event hosts Florida's county emergency management staff and SART partner agencies.



This workshop served as an opportunity for those who work in emergency response for animals and agriculture to gain more knowledge about best practices for response, and network with others from across the state. Through the multiple workshop sessions, trainings, and demonstrations attendees were able to work through different emergency situations to create a best practice plan for their home county or area to enhance their emergency preparedness. It should be noted that 50 of the 67 counties in Florida were represented! ([July 2023](#))



## Florida SART: 2023 Year-in-Review (continued)

### FVMA Honored by Florida SART for Hurricane Efforts

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) was recognized for their service and dedication in protecting Florida's animal and agricultural sectors before, during, and after disaster by Florida SART at their planning workshop in Daytona Beach, Florida on June 8, 2023. With SART, the FVMA has deployed numerous volunteers with the Florida Veterinary Corps during catastrophic events to assist with veterinary assessment teams and support mobile veterinary hospitals that serve thousands of residents and pets in need. The FVMA and its network of volunteers have worked with local animal services and veterinary clinics to coordinate immediate needs and continuity of operations for veterinary infrastructure during these catastrophic disasters.



Florida SART says, "The FVMA has been an instrumental partner for Florida SART during disaster response. The FVMA has made great strides in revamping key programs like the Florida Veterinary Corps to assist the state with building veterinary leadership in disaster response. They continue to keep this partnership engagement alive for excellent things to come." ([July 2023](#))

### Florida SART Responds to Hurricane Idalia

On the morning of Wednesday, August 30, 2023, Hurricane Idalia made landfall near Keaton Beach in the Big Bend region of Florida. The storm struck the coastline as a Category 3 hurricane, with winds of 125 miles per hour. ESF17 activated at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and launched its Florida SART ) to provide relief for animal and agriculture sectors impacted by the storm.

On August 31, 2023, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provided an update on Hurricane Idalia response and recovery efforts.

- Fuel inspectors are responding to impacted areas to ensure retail fuel dispensers are working properly and testing the quality of fuel.
- Food safety inspectors are responding to impacted areas to conduct damage assessments and ensure the safe operation of permitted food establishments.
- The Florida Forest Service (FFS) has deployed 13 chainsaw crews (more than 100 total personnel) to support search and rescue operations and power restoration. Heavy equipment - like front-end loaders, skid steers, excavators, and dump trucks – has been deployed to assist with road clearing activities
- The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement has deployed a 20-man search and rescue team to impacted areas. ([September 2023](#))

## Florida SART: 2023 Year-in-Review (continued)

### HSUS Mobilizes Disaster Response Team in Response to Hurricane Idalia

As Hurricane Idalia made landfall in Florida, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) mobilized a disaster response team to stage just across the border in Alabama. Working closely with Florida SART, we were prepared for a possible water rescue operation, but also brought equipment to set up a point of distribution (POD) for pet food and supplies. In addition, a few days before the storm, we provided support for Madison County Animal Control in evacuating all their animals (about 20 dogs) to partners in our shelter network as a precautionary measure.

It was the right call, as their shelter and its outdoor kennels suffered significant structural damage – as did many homes and businesses across the region. At their request, we deployed to Madison County to set up a POD site and a temporary animal shelter, coordinating the mission request through state ESF 17 and Florida SART. While temporary sheltering was an essential need, our main objective for the POD was to prevent surrenders and support families in caring for their pets.



Over the course of two weeks, we served over 800 families and 9,000 animals – including peacocks, guinea pigs, and even baby squirrels! At the temporary shelter we also assisted the county in receiving about a dozen dogs, most of who were thought to be strays. After a few weeks, as power came on and businesses reopened, the demand for supplies dropped off. As we began to demobilize, we were grateful to receive positive feedback from Madison County Animal Control, who posted a thank you on Facebook stating, "The team has been a true breath of fresh air to us as we worked through this disaster. The donations of pet and livestock food has truly helped our community and relieved the residents who had been out of work and unable to financially care for their animals."

We successfully fulfilled our mission, and the cooperation among animal rescue groups, led by state ESF 17's Florida SART, was fantastic. We were proud to be a part of the response!  
(Story by Celia Jackson, HSUS Disaster Response Program Manager - [October 2023](#))

# Become a Volunteer of the Florida Veterinary Corps Today!



Florida veterinarians and animal health technicians have volunteered to assist animal owners and local officials in responding to animal emergencies. The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state.

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) is assisting the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in maintaining the roster of volunteers and serves as the point of contact for calling volunteers after a disaster. You can agree to be listed as a Florida Veterinary Corps volunteer, a helper in times of need for your fellow veterinary professionals. Read the following information to submit your application for the Florida Veterinary Corps.



## Why a Florida Veterinary Corps?

- *The Florida Veterinary Corps (The Corps) has been established to enlist veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are willing to volunteer their services in responding to animal emergencies in the state of Florida.*
- *During activation, Corps volunteers will work within an incident command structure under state Emergency Support Function 17 as part of the State Emergency Response Team.*
- *The Corps will be a component of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, under its Florida State Agricultural Response Team, in cooperation with the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.*
- *Corps volunteers will be kept informed as to the status of emergencies and the need for volunteers depending upon the specific emergency.*
- *Volunteers may serve in veterinary infrastructure assessment teams, triage or emergency animal treatment teams, and animal disease surveillance or control teams under an incident command system.*

## Rationale

- *Protecting agriculture in Florida begins locally and requires cooperation, participation, and partnership.*
- *Federal or other outside assistance to deal with an animal disease emergency may not be available for hours or days.*
- *Animal agriculture in Florida is highly vulnerable to severe disruption and financial loss through natural disasters and exotic or zoonotic diseases.*
- *Counties and state agencies must be prepared to respond to animal disasters through planning and identification of human and material resources.*
- *Natural disasters are unpredictable and cannot be prevented.*
- *Florida has a high risk for introduction of a foreign animal disease.*

For more information and to join, visit: <https://fvma.org/tools-resources/disaster-relief>

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

## Be Sure to Check Out the FDACS and UF IFAS Partnership Video

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) teamed up to create a new video on their disaster response partnership.

Published in December 2022 on [YouTube](#), the video features interviews with LeiAnna Tucker (FDACS Emergency Programs Manager), Dr. Saqib Mukhtar (UF/IFAS Associate Dean for Extension, Agriculture, and Natural Resources), and Dr. Angie Lindsey [Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)].

EDEN is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is a collaborative multi-state effort by cooperative extension services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters.



Dr. Lindsey highlighted the important connection that agricultural extension agents have throughout the State of Florida. “We learn so much from our Extension agents and the work that they’re already doing throughout the state and the work that they do within their own communities for disaster preparedness, recovery, and response,” said Dr. Lindsey.

To view the video for yourself, and to like or comment, please visit:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S11Xsjd-FCw>

# AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND YOU?



You are invited to participate in an African Swine Fever (ASF) virtual education and outreach program.

## What is ASF and why are Florida hogs particularly at risk?

ASF is highly contagious and deadly. This viral disease that affects domestic and feral (wild) pigs reached the Caribbean in 2021.

Are you prepared to work with State and Federal Animal Regulatory Agencies and industry stakeholders during a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak that threatens US livestock production?

## What is being done to prevent ASF entry into the US?

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has partnered with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine to host a USDA sponsored online educational program to bring a broad spectrum of livestock industry stakeholders together to work in collaboration to improve our capability to respond to the threat posed by African Swine Fever.

**WHAT:** Each week for five weeks a new educational module will be posted. Review the material at your convenience. This program is interactive. You will have opportunities to pose questions to your state regulatory officials and subject matter experts from across the country. Share your perspectives and experiences with other stakeholders. Retain access to the material for use in the future.

**WHEN:** September 5 – October 6, 2023.

**HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE:** Register using the URL or QR code, below. Feel free to share this invitation with others who may be interested.

**HOW MUCH:** Through the generous support of USDA, we are offering this opportunity to you FREE of charge.



Register at [vetmed.illinois.edu/asf-ed/](https://vetmed.illinois.edu/asf-ed/)

## What will you gain from your participation?

Learn:

- The clinical signs of ASF.
- How to prevent ASF.
- How to keep ASF out of your herd.
- How to strengthen your disease prevention and biosecurity plans.
- Your role in the disease response.

Target Audience:

- Anyone who owns, works with, shows, or hunts pigs for work or as a hobby.

This course will assist you in understanding your role in a disease response.

Sponsored by:



## FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

Yvette Johnson-Walker DVM, MS, PhD  
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine  
Center for One Health Illinois  
[Yjohn38@illinois.edu](mailto:Yjohn38@illinois.edu)

This work is funded through the 2018 Farm Bill and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response program.

## 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 deadly pig disease that spreads rapidly and affects domestic and wild swine. While not a threat to human health, the virus could devastate America's swine, pork industry, and food supply. Whatever pigs mean to you—your livelihood or a pet—we're all in it together. Protect our swine and keep the disease out of the United States. 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

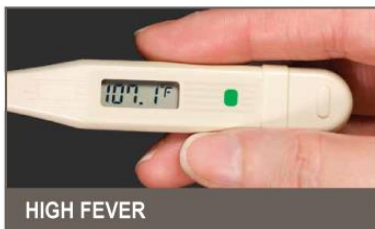


Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

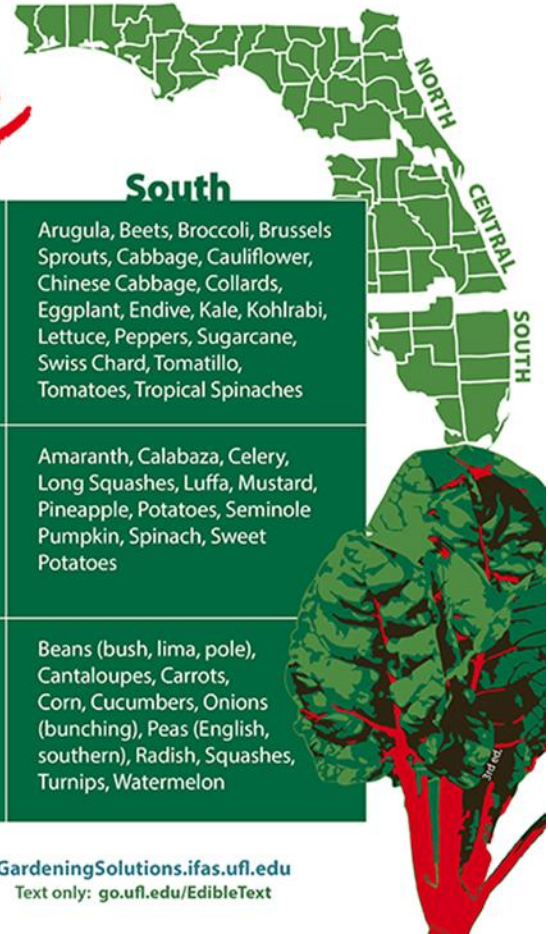
It is important to note that Classical Swine Fever has been present in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for many years and, therefore, the U.S. does not receive pork products or live swine imports from either country. The highest risk of ASF introduction into the U.S. is from pork products brought in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

- [Can I Bring It? - Don't Pack a Pest! Travelers Campaign](#) (FDACS/DPI)
- [Mysterious Respiratory Disease Reportedly Spreading Among Dogs Across the Country](#) (UF/College of Veterinary Medicine)

# 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 December - 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). During an emergency, ESF 17 and SART provides necessary food and water to affected areas to help protect animals, agriculture, and pets.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training

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. This training is state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Awareness Level 1	Operations Level 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>December 16, 2023</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>March 2, 2024</li></ul>

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

## SART Partners Meeting

The following meetings are by invitation only to primary representatives of SART partner agencies:

- In-Person Quarterly Meeting – December 19, 2023, in Ocala, Florida
- Virtual Team Meeting – January 17, 2024





# Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - Awareness Level

Thanks to a grant from the Florida State Agricultural Response Team, we are partnering with Osceola County to provide training on how to respond to local, state and national disasters, save animals, and operate temporary emergency shelters.



**TRAINING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!**



**SATURDAY  
DEC 16TH, 2023**



**9 AM - 5 PM**



**2586 PARTIN SETTLEMENT ROAD  
KISSIMMEE, FL 34744**



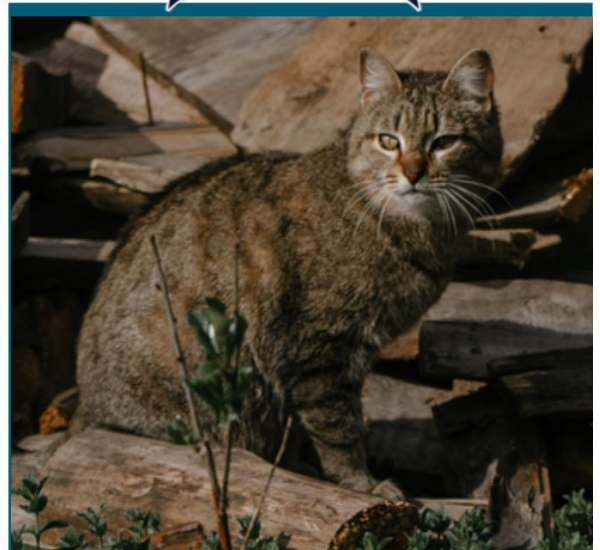
Use code **SART** at check out to receive FREE registration!



To register with your mobile device, scan the code to the left, or go to

<https://bit.ly/OSCEOLALVL1>

OSCEOLA LVL1



# Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - OPERATIONS Level

Thanks to a grant from the Florida State Agricultural Response Team, we are partnering with The University of Florida's IFAS Extension Center and Pasco County to provide training on how to respond to local, state and national disasters, save animals, and operate temporary emergency shelters.



**TRAINING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!**



**SAT & SUN**  
**MAR 2 & 3, 2024**



**8:30 AM - 5 PM**



OSS STALLINGS BUILDING COOP EXT.  
15029 14 ST. DADE CITY, FL 33525



Use code **SART** at check out to receive a full registration fee discount!

To register with your mobile device, scan the code below, or go to <https://bit.ly/2024PASCOLVL2>



## FL SARC Helps Lake City Humane Society Regroup



Staff at the Lake City Humane Society in Columbia County reached out to the Florida State Agricultural Response Coalition (FL SARC) in October when personnel departures left remaining staff and volunteers unable to care for over 160 animals on site, nearly double their maximum capacity. SARC then reached out to ESF 17 partners, including HSUS, ASPCA, and the University of Florida Shelter Medicine Team, led by Dr. Cynda Crawford and Cameron Moore, to assist. Other organizations contacted for assistance included Halifax Humane Society in Daytona Beach, Florida, the Peggy Adams Rescue in West Palm Beach, Florida, and Big Bend DART (Disaster Animal Response Team). SPCA Florida and Greater Good Charities provided food and flea treatments. SARC volunteers mobilized from as far away as Tampa and Destin, Florida, and donated 30 airline carriers.

The team assisted with daily care and feeding while helping shelter staff to address daily care protocols. On the spot training was conducted to ensure the safety of staff and animals. Coordination was facilitated with local vets to get as many animals spayed and neutered as possible. All animals were given a thorough medical evaluation, including receiving any treatments and testing for such issues as heartworms (dogs), Feline Immunodeficiency Virus/Feline Leukemia Virus for cats, flea treatments, vaccinations, and more.



Operation Cat Nip made nearly 40 spots available to spay and neuter nearly their entire cat shelter population! Upon successful spay/neutering of cats and kittens, Halifax Humane Society assumed responsibility for adoption and fostering of at least 22 cats and kittens.

*Continued on the next page.*

## FL SARC Helps Lake City Humane Society Regroup (continued)

A nearby Suwannee County veterinarian assumed responsibility for fostering and adopting out 10 more cats and kittens. Five more felines were adopted out, while Cameron Moore took another nine for adopting out in a local Jacksonville network, leaving just over six cats remaining in Lake City's care!

The Peggy Adams Rescue arrived to take in over 18 dogs (including two moms with a combined total of 11 newborn puppies) to their rescue in West Palm Beach. As of mid-November, the total number of animals in Lake City's care went from 158 to 64 in just under three weeks, making it much more manageable and safer for both shelter staff and animals to work safely and receive attentive daily care, feeding and enrichment!



The collaboration to assist Lake City is a phenomenal testament to SART partners coming together. A huge THANK YOU goes out to our SARC responders Leslie Long, Melissa Forberg, Lois Shumanski, and Linda Fleming for putting in some long hours and travel to help keep things moving at Lake City Humane Society. To Halifax Humane Society, THANK YOU for stepping in and helping move their feline population! To the University of Florida Shelter Medicine Team and Operation Cat Nip – what an amazing bunch of lifesavers! To Big Bend DART – your assessment was crucial in helping SARC work with our partners to devise a plan of action. To Halifax Humane and the Peggy Adams Rescue, dozens of adoptable pets now have a chance at an amazing life thanks to your response! And a huge thank you also goes to SPCA Florida and Greater Good Charities – the food and flea medication donations were extremely crucial to keeping all of Lake City's animals in their care fed and treated.

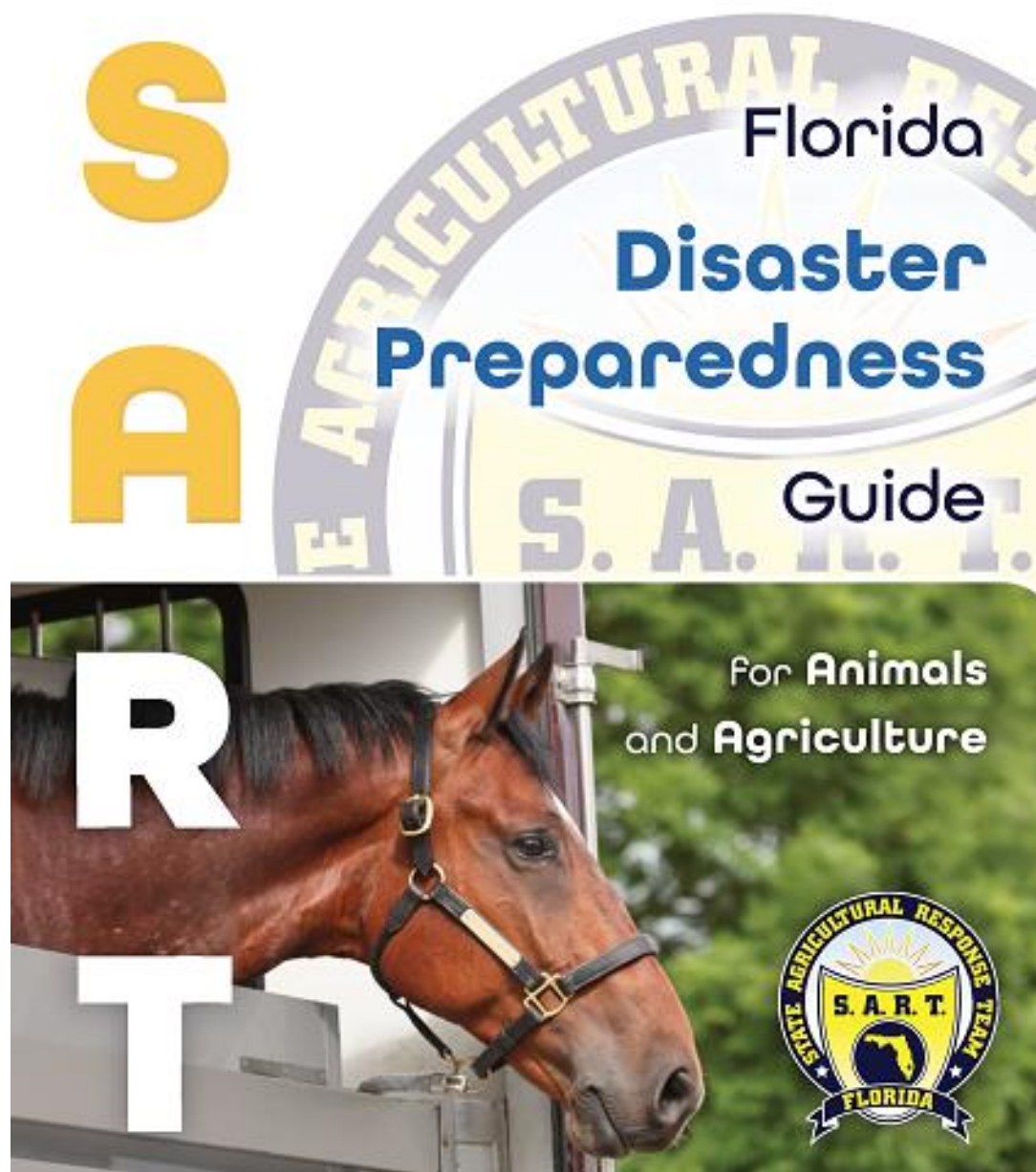
Any event which doesn't have the resources to manage it can be considered a disaster at any level – local, state, national – even international. FL SARC trains responders to assist communities affected by any disaster, natural or man-made, to ensure pets and families stay together, and to help animal shelters with daily care – Because the ENTIRE Family Matters! For more information about FL SARC, go to [www.flsarc.org](http://www.flsarc.org).

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

The SART Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture developed by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) is published on the SART website at [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](#).

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.



# Food Safety and Food Defense Report

*A special section dedicated to food 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.

## Baking Safety This Winter Season

The winter season brings delicious homemade goodies like cookies, cakes, and breads. If you enjoy making holiday treats from scratch using raw ingredients, here are a few important tips to help keep you safe from foodborne illness:

- Keep all raw foods, like eggs and flour, separate from ready-to eat foods.
- Keep raw eggs refrigerated at 40 °F or below until ready to use.
- Desserts containing eggs should be baked to a safe internal temperature of 145 °F.
- Follow package directions on baking mixes and other flour-containing products for correct cooking temperatures and times.
- Remember, flour is a powder that can spread easily.
- Wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds before and after touching raw ingredients.
- View more Baking Safety Tips [here](#).

For more information on food safety, visit the [Division of Food Safety's Holidays and Festivals website](#) and the [Division of Food Safety's Winter Food Safety website](#).



# 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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