

# Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation, 700 SW 34<sup>th</sup> St., Gainesville, Florida

## Attendance

Laura Bevan, HSUS  
Kim Duffiney, USDA/APHIS/AC  
Tony Duffiney, USDA/APHIS/WS  
Debby Folsom, USDA/FSA  
Steve Furst, Florida Feed Association  
Linda Harrison, FWCC  
John Haven, UF/CVM  
Adam Jackanicz, Southeast Milk  
Joe Kight, FDACS/DAI, ESF-17  
Gary Newton, FDACS

David Perry, FDACS/DAI, Co-Chair  
Sue Rantuccio, FDACS/DAI  
Eric Rubenstein, UF/IFAS  
Rick Sapp, SART Sentinel  
Melinda Springer, USDA/APHIS/VS  
Kendra Stauffer, USDA/APHIS/VS  
Mel Stephens, USDA/APHIS/VS  
Paul Studivant, FACA  
Michael Turner, FDACS  
Jiannong Xin, UF/IFAS

- 1 Florida SART co-chair [David Perry](#) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation in Gainesville, Florida.
- 2 [Melinda Springer](#), reported on MIM animal tracking systems technology. MIM stands for Mobile Information Management. Springer suggested there could be a use for this type system in pet sheltering where many animals quickly arrive at or are dropped off at a shelter. Given the pressure to account for all of the animals and the difficulty of keeping paper records, the possibility of using two identical bar codes on Tyvek bands placed around the pet's neck and the pet owner's wrist seems simple. The bar code is scanned and uploaded to a laptop and is immediately available. One issue is determining where the information will be safely and permanently stored. Another issue might be electricity availability in a disaster scenario. There is no need for internet access and most of the equipment can be fully charged for use prior to disaster needs. The MIM equipment will run for 8-10 hours on a fully-charged battery. There are also optional capabilities for recharging through an automobile.

Joe Kight said the system to track animals without doing everything on paper and by hand ought to be a bonus in an emergency. It is, after all, very user friendly. He mentioned that it is proven technology, but at the present might be expensive to purchase and maintain the system. It would also be possible for people to pre-register through this system.
- 3 [Eric Rubenstein](#), UF/IFAS graduate student, specializing in adult education/learning methods, reported on the courses that he (and two other students) had worked on: Small Animal Sheltering, an 8-hour introductory or "Awareness Level" course, and Large Animal Technical Rescue, a 2-day responder or "Operations Level" course. Rubenstein worked with John Haven and Consie von Gontard, FLSARC, to develop

learning objectives, best methods of delivery, etc., and put these courses into booklet and powerpoint format.

The plan is to have them become DHS-approved, said Joe Kight, and when that happens, federal support dollars can help pay for training. The goal is to have more than 1,000 people trained in Florida. The beauty of DHS approval is that training will be consistent and thorough and it can be shared across the U.S.

“If we’re all training the same way,” Kight said, “it makes resource sharing so much easier.”

Step 1 is to have them approved by Florida’s Division of Emergency Management and then they can go – with any required changes – to DHS for approval. “We can teach them now, but we just can’t support them with funding until DHS approves.”

4 Mel Stephens discussed the tornadoes that hit Alabama in April 2011 and how emergency response was coordinated, especially when twisters tore apart poultry farms. He reminded the Advisory Board that Alabama ranks very high in poultry production in the U.S.\*

Difficulties encountered after the tornadoes were disposal of chicken carcasses and the debris from shattered poultry houses. Ultimately, most birds were buried on-site in pre-approved USDA/NRCS sites (to prevent groundwater pollution). Getting rid of the debris sometimes proved more difficult and it was handled locally.

One lesson he emphasized was keeping the executives/decision-makers well- and continuously-informed. This helped keep incorrect and confusing information from getting into the news.

Stephens recommended:

- A. Know in advance what industry and other partners can provide.
- B. Educate responders, industry and politicians about your capabilities.
- C. Have pre-written EMACs (emergency management assistance compacts).
- D. Leverage the USDA State Emergency Board.
- E. Work continuously to improve communications at all levels of response and especially with politicians.

\* According to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (April 2011 data), the top broiler producing states – in order – are Georgia, Arkansas and Alabama, closely followed by Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas.

5 Kendra Stauffer discussed the recent Miami-Dade Airport exercise (see SART Sentinel story at <http://www.flsart.org/newsletter/sent-11-09.jsp#f1> and showed a powerpoint presentation. “There is a very narrow window of opportunity to salvage animals here,” she said. [Exotic animals enter the U.S. through private import centers.]

6 Additional Notes and Discussion Items

1. David Perry and Joe Kight discussed the pilot SART meeting in Region III.
2. Michael Turner and Joe Kight reviewed the funding request from DHS for 2012.

3. Michael Turner is leaving FDACS to work with Booz, Allen, Hamilton Consulting in Washington, DC. His last day at FDACS is 9/23. Sue Rantuccio will be increasing her duties and taking on some of Turner's work load.
4. Jiannong Xin reported that the Florida SART web site at [www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org) receives in excess of 6,000 hits a day and Rick Sapp emphasized that it was important for members to keep their listings and contact information up-to-date.
5. Joe Kight discussed "Operation Bovine Reclamation," a full-scale exercise scheduled for December 6 and a screwworm table-top exercise to be run out of the EOC in January 24-26, 2012.
6. Representing FSA State Director Tim Manning, Debby Folsom reviewed FSA emergency programs.
7. Kim Duffiney discussed lessons and issues from the devastating EF5 multiple-vortex tornado Joplin, Missouri late in the afternoon of Sunday, May 22, 2011.
  - a. Need better liaison between government and NGOs.
  - b. Need to encourage animal control officials to work in ICS system. There was a lack of standardized ICS awareness and training.
  - c. Need generators for air conditioning. It got very hot, very fast.
  - d. Identification and tracking of animals was a huge problem. Many animals were lost. Someone must be assigned to do tracking.
  - e. There were not enough bathrooms for people.
  - f. PetSmart Charities donated many cages and when volunteers put cardboard between cages, it kept animals quieter and calmer. The adoption response after the disaster was great.
8. Paul Studivant of St. Johns County said his county was seeing a 33 percent increase in owner surrenders of animals. They cut the owner surrender fee and it is now free. This encourages people to bring animals to the shelter rather than just turning them loose on the street. Unfortunately, animal control is down 50 percent in staff and financing so helping all of the incoming animals is difficult.

7 Co-chair David Perry adjourned the Advisory Board meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Rick Sapp  
September 26, 2011