THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

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October 2014

SART Advisory Board Meeting

The fall 2014 SART Advisory Board met on Tuesday, September 16th at the Alachua Regional Service Center.

Dr. Michael Short (FDACS), Kim Duffiney (USDA) and Dr. Diane Kitchen (FDACS).

Dr. Ashby Green (FDACS) and Susan Smith (FAKC).

1 Joe Kight introduced Dr. Michael Short, DVM the new Florida State Veterinarian. As we reported in the August issue of the *SART Sentinel*, Dr. Short will also serve as Director, Division of Animal Industry, FDACS. As the State Veterinarian and Division Director, he is responsible for the department's animal disease control and prevention efforts, which include investigating outbreaks, providing laboratory diagnostics and containing the spread of animal diseases. this month's *Sentinel* and note a few agenda revisions.)

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2 Progress toward completing arrangements and agenda for the 2015 SART Planning Meeting was reviewed. (Please see separate item in this month's *Sentinel* and note a few agenda revisions.)

3 Debbie Folsom and Debbie Hendricks of USDA/FSA discussed the Margin Protection Program, a voluntary risk management program for dairy producers authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. Dairy sign-up runs through November 28.

Question: How many counties in Florida have dairy operations?
Answer: 31 (USDA/FSA).

The Dairy Margin Protecton Program replaces MILC and will be effective not later than September 1, 2014, through December 31, 2018. The margin protection program offers dairy producers: (1) catastrophic coverage, at no cost to the producer, other than an annual $100 administrative fee; and (2) various levels of buy-up coverage. Catastrophic coverage provides payments to participating producers when the national dairy production margin is less than $4.00 per hundredweight (cwt). The national dairy production margin is the difference between the all-milk price and average feed costs. Producers may purchase buy-up coverage that provides payments when margins are between $4.00 and $8.00 per cwt. To participate in buy-up coverage, a producer must pay a premium that varies with the level of protection the producer elects.

In addition, the 2014 Act creates the Dairy Product Donation Program. This program is triggered in times of low operating margins for dairy producers, and requires USDA to purchase dairy products for donation to food banks and other feeding programs.

For additional information, dairy operations can visit FSA offices or go online to www.fsa.usda.gov and click on "Price Support."

4 Dr. Greg Christy was scheduled to talk about the National Veterinary Stockpile Exercise scheduled for November 19-20 at the State Logistical Resource Center in Orlando, but in his absence, ESF-17 ECO Joe Kight filled in explaining that the purpose of the exercise was to coordinate a 24-hour response to the 10 most threatening livestock and animal diseases. A USDA/APHIS/VS "Fact Sheet" about The National Veterinary Stockpile's Exercise Program is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2013/faq_nvs_exercise.pdf. A brief report in pdf format titled "Southern States, National Veterinary Stockpile - Successfully Test Capabilities for Responding Logistically to a Damaging Animal Disease - April 2010" is also online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/saadra-nvs_exercise_logistics_readiness.pdf.

For a PowerPoint presentation about the National Veterinary Stockpile, look here: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/acah/downloads/nvs_sacah_presentation.pdf.

The State Logistics Response Center in Orlando is a 200,000 square foot, climate controlled cross-dock logistics management facility. Situated on 13 acres, the complex includes a heliport, staging for semi-truck/trailers, 197,850 square feet of climate controlled warehouse areas and a 19,196 square foot Logistics Operations, Movement Control and Training Center.

The facility affords the State of Florida the ability to provide immediate resource support to any event in the state, as well as coordinate the logistics operations of local, state and federal agencies. The facility maintains around $38 million in resources to support 500,000 persons for the first 3 days of a disaster. This facility also acts as the State's Logistics Laboratory providing advanced logistics training for State and county personnel.

5 Dr. Joan Dusky, UF/IFAS and Scott Eubanks gave an update about the LECALE project. Designed to train law enforcement officers for large animal emergencies, Dr. Dusky and her staff (especially Ed Jennings, Pasco County; Bridget Carlisle, Polk County; Dr. Matt Hersom, UF/IFAS) have been working toward a certified, comprehensive program for two years. She said she hopes that by the end of the year they can have the results of the initial test program and the workbooks prepared for more wide-spread use in 2015. Tentatively, it appears that each course could accommodate about 30 students and she believes that more than 200 law enforcement officers would be interested in the course.

The Livestock Education and Certification for Agricultural Law Enforcement (LECALE) program was initiated by UF/IFAS Extension faculty in partnership with the Florida Farm Bureau in response to a need expressed by law enforcement (LE) personnel across Florida. Currently, Florida LE personnel who desire animal science training and certification to perform their jobs better must enroll in out-of-state courses, resulting in additional agency expense. UF/IFAS Extension has the resources to train Florida LE personnel through the development of the LECALE program.

During their daily routines, LE officers encounter numerous cases where judgment calls are required to determine if current Best Management Practices are being properly applied to advance the agricultural industry and the public at large. This training program will be tuned for Florida-specific conditions. The program will improve the skills of this clientele group and it will enable them to do their jobs more efficiently and uniformly across the state. In addition, the accompanying certification program (backed by FDACS, UF/IFAS and Florida Farm Bureau) will add to the credibility of this clientele group as they make difficult decisions in cases that may depend on their testimony in a court of law.

"The LECALE program will provide law enforcement personnel and district attorneys with knowledge regarding acceptable animal well-being and the ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills in the field and during litigation proceedings."

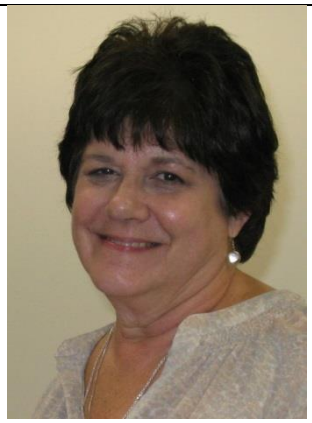
6 Kim Duffiney, USDA/APHIS/AC, reported on new USDA regulations.

A. RETAIL STORES: Over the years, APHIS has received increasing complaints from the public about the lack of monitoring and oversight of the health and humane treatment of dogs and other pets sold sight-unseen, often via the Internet.

Our primary goal is to ensure that people who sell pets at retail sight-unseen, are regulated under the 1966 Animal Welfare Act, so that these animals can be monitored by our Agency for their health and humane treatment. To do that, we revised the definition of "retail pet store" in our regulations to bring the animals involved in these transactions under regulation so that they receive basic standards of care. We also provided greater regulatory latitude for certain types of small breeding operations consistent with this change.

www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_welfare/2013/faq_retail_pets_final_rule.pdf

FDACS' Stephen Barineau (l) and Sue Rantuccio (r). USDA's Kim Duffiney (above)



B. IMPORT OF CATS AND DOGS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regulates the importation of dogs and cats. To protect public health, dogs must be adequately vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to entry. Puppies must not be vaccinated against rabies before 3 months of age, so the youngest that a puppy can be imported is 4 months. For puppies, importers may need a confinement agreement from the CDC prior to arrival. Without this agreement or vaccination, animals may be refused entry.
http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/dogs.html

The USDA restricts the importation of dogs. Collies, shepherds, and other dogs imported from any part of the world except Canada, Mexico, and regions of Central America and the West Indies and that are to be used in the handling of livestock must be inspected and quarantined at the port of entry for a sufficient time to determine their freedom from tapeworm.

APHIS/VS also has requirements for dogs from countries affected with screwworm. Pets may enter if they are accompanied and have a certificate stating they are screwworm-free signed by a full-time salaried veterinary official of the region of origin stating that the dog has been inspected for screwworm within 5 days prior to shipment.

Dogs imported from areas affected with Foot-and-Mouth Disease must take certain precautions to prevent the introduction of FMD into the U.S.

The CDC regulations pertaining to cats can be found by following this link:
http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/cats.html

SART – Turning Visions into Action

The tentative seminar and workshop agenda for the 4th Florida SART Planning Meeting has been crafted around the theme *SART – Turning Visions into Action*.

Schedule your attendance and book your room soon. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm on Monday, January 12 and will conclude by noon on Wednesday. The host hotel is the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746. (To see photos from former SART Conferences, Exercises and Planning Meetings please go to http://www.flsart.org/photogallerylist/.)

Monday, January 12

1:00 Call to Order – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
Welcome – Richard Collins, Director, Osceola Co. Emergency Mgt.
Greetings – Dr. Lisa Conti, FDOH
1:30 SERT Program – Bryan Koon, Director, FDEM
2:00 Brevard County Large Animal Plan – Lacie Davis, Coordinator, Brevard Co. Emergency Management
2:30 New Animal Courses
LECALE: Dr. Matt Hersom, Dept. of Animal Sciences, UF
Animal Emergency Sheltering – Operations Level: Consie von Gontard, SARC
3:00 Break
3:15 Social Media in an Emergency – David Merrick, Director, Center for Disaster Risk Policy, FSU
6:00 Attendee Gathering
7:00 Adjourn

Tuesday, January 13
8:00 Announcements – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
8:15 Radiological Planning – John Williamson, Administrator, Bureau of Radiation Control, FDOH
11:30 SART Awards Luncheon
1:30 Radiological Planning continued
5:00 Adjourn

Wednesday, January 14
8:00 Breakout Session: Invited IFAS and FDACS staff personnel
8:15 "Don't Pack a Pest" – FDACS/DPI
9:30 The Lee County Animal Decontamination Workshop – John Haven, Director, College of Veterinary Medicine, UF
10:30 Break
10:45 Federal Partner Reports – USDA – Dr. George Chambliss, Moderator; Dr. Chris Young, VS; Kim Duffiney and Dr. Allan Hogue, AC; Tony Duffiney, WS; Rick Dantzler, FSA
12:00 Adjourn

Insurance Study Fears $100-$150 Billion Hurricane Loss

SART member and veterinary ambassador Kendra Stauffer, DVM, Dipl. ACPM kstauffer@cdc.gov, is now on station for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Republic of Georgia.

Kendra recently forwarded a link to Swiss Reinsurance's publication based on the 1821 Norfolk and Long Island hurricane which predicts damage to the U.S. East Coast of $100-$150 Billion. Swiss Re based its forecast and models on the 1821 weather event and Hurricane Sandy, two years ago. (Reinsurance, by the way, is insurance that is purchased by an insurance company from one or more other insurance companies as a means of risk management.): http://www.swissre.com/rethinking/climate_and_natural_disaster_risk/The_big_one_The_East_Coasts_USD_100_billion_event.html

Nearly 200 years ago a major hurricane pummeled the entire Mid-Atlantic and Northeast - from Norfolk to Washington, DC to Boston. The 1821 Norfolk and Long Island hurricane made landfall on the coast of North Carolina with wind gusts above 156 mph and carved a path of devastation [along] the Eastern Seaboard, making subsequent landfalls in Delaware, New Jersey and New York. Only 136,000 people lived in New York City and Washington at the time and losses were modest by today's standards. There was no such thing as radar, satellites or the National Weather Service, yet there were many vivid accounts and records, which can be extrapolated to the present to create instructive assumptions.

A new report from Swiss Reinsurance, *The big one: The East Coast's USD 100 billion event* (PDF, 730 KB) examines how the 1821 hurricane would impact the region today. Trillions of dollars of assets and infrastructure would lie in the storm's path, much of it aging and along the coast. Using our in-house, proprietary tropical cyclone model we reconstructed the storm track, wind field and potential storm surge and concluded that a large area of the most heavily developed Eastern Seaboard would be exposed to hurricane force wind gusts.

Storm surge comparable to Sandy would inundate New York City, accompanied by powerful winds gusting over 100 mph. Norfolk, Virginia - home of critical US Navy installations - would be completely flooded. Coastal counties would sustain wind damage alone in excess of $1 billion. Combined physical damage from both storm surge and wind would exceed $100 billion, while the storm's total potential economic impact is on the order of $150 billion.

Hurricane Sandy was a wake-up call; if left unheeded, the 1821 Norfolk and Long Island hurricane would be the nightmare.

Under the Radar

Florida SARC Course Schedule

Small Animal Emergency Sheltering – Awareness Level

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition is teaching this course to promote effective response for animals during disasters. Registration is required, but due to grants from Florida Division of Emergency Management and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, no fee is charged for attendance. This course is certified by FDEM as course code FL-003-RESP.

Date & Time: Saturday, October 25, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: Cat Depot, 2542 17th Street, Sarasota

For information and registration go to http://www.flsarc.org/Training.html or contact Melissa Forberg training@flsarc.org (352) 658-1224, Pam Burns pamburnssarc@gmail.com, Andy Bass training@flsarc.org or Consie Von Gontard training@flsarc.org.

Introduction to "Development of a Bovine Emergency Response Plan"
North Dakota State University Extension Service

Florida ESF-17 ECO Joe Kight, FDACS-DAI, and North Dakota's Lisa Pederson, NDSU-Extension Service discuss animal response issues at the 2013 SART Planning Meeting.

Annually, more than 50 million head of domestic and imported cattle and calves are marketed and transported for breeding, feeding and slaughter in the U.S. Nearly all of these cattle are transported via truck and semitrailer. The number of livestock transported in the U.S. via truck and semitrailer has increased significantly since the mid-1950s. The transport of livestock is an integral part of the beef cattle industry.

According to a 2007 news article, in a seven-year period, more than 400 livestock transport accidents were reported in the U.S. and Canada. Of these accidents, 56 percent involved cattle trucks. Of the 169 documented cattle truck accidents, 23 percent involved trucks hauling finished cattle to slaughter and 70 percent involved the transport of feeders and calves. Only 1 percent of the reports identify weather as a cause of the accident. In fact, most of the accidents occurred in October, followed by November, August, April and May (Duckworth, 2007).

In the U.S., standard operating procedures for addressing accidents involving the transport of livestock do not exist. In several states, animal health authorities, law enforcement, livestock industries, first responders and livestock transport industries have identified a need for a "plan" or set of standard operating procedures to address cattle transportation accidents.

The objectives of the Bovine Emergency Response Plan were to: 1) develop a framework local law enforcement, first responders and emergency management could use to more appropriately address accidents involving cattle transport vehicles (The development team understood that this plan needed to be rigid enough to cover all of the critically needed areas but flexible enough to fit the needs of local municipalities.); 2) identify further educational materials and curriculum related to the project; and 3: identify future funding needs related to the development and sustainability of the Bovine Emergency Response Plan and its associated educational materials and program.

Lisa Pederson, NDSU Extension Service
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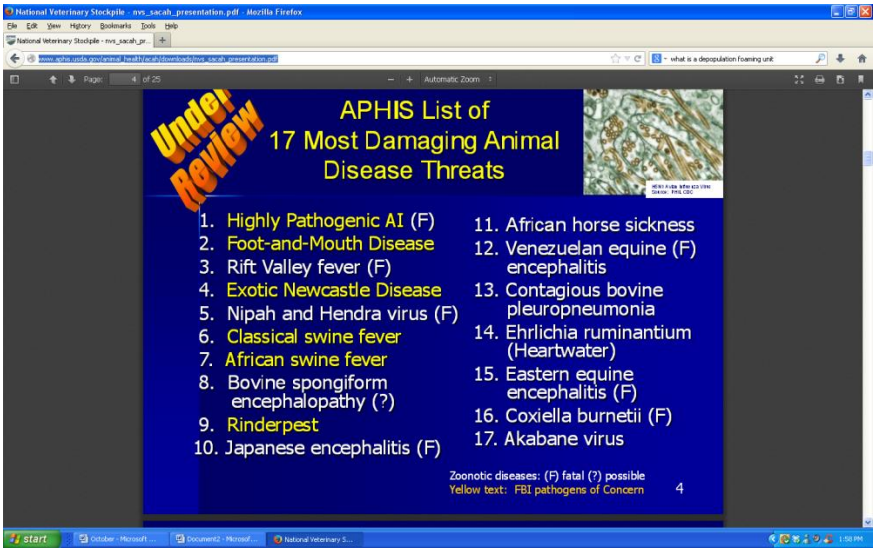
USDA/APHIS: 17 Most Damaging Animal Disease Threats



Florida Integrated Rapid Response Teams

The Food Protection Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) conduct integrated, multiagency responses to all-hazards food and feed emergencies. RRTs are developed through a multiyear cooperative agreement between FDA and state food regulatory partners. There are currently eighteen (18) RRTs in the program. The cooperative agreement requires these teams to engage partners across disciplines and jurisdictions to build core capabilities and explore innovative approaches to response. The RRTs vary from each other in accordance with differences in government structures, geographies, laws, resources, etc.

The RRTs activate in response to food emergencies in their states, drawing on the resources and partnerships developed through this project to accomplish responses characterized by improvements in areas such as interagency communication, established plans and procedures, and jointly trained and exercised staff.

Florida was one of the original states chosen to develop an RRT. For more information, go to the Food and Drug Administration web site at http://www.fda.gov/ForFederalStateandLocalOfficials/CooperativeAgreementsCRADAsGrants/ucm297407.htm.

AVMA Statement on Poultry Depopulation

The AVMA supports the use of water-based foam as a method of mass depopulation for poultry in accord with the conditions and performance standards outlined by USDA-APHIS. The following summarizes the conditions under which USDA-APHIS has approved the use of water-based foam for depopulation of poultry.	

1. Use of water-based foam is considered an appropriate method of depopulation of floor-reared poultry (i.e., broiler chickens and turkeys) in accord with USDA-APHIS performance standards.
2. Animals are infected with a potentially zoonotic disease; or
3. Animals are experiencing an outbreak of a rapidly spreading infectious disease that, in the opinion of state or federal regulatory officials, cannot be contained by conventional or currently accepted means of depopulation; or
4. Animals are housed in structurally unsound buildings that would be hazardous for human entry, such as those that may result from a natural disaster.

Mass depopulation refers to methods by which large numbers of animals must be destroyed quickly and efficiently with as much consideration given to the welfare of the animals as practicable, but where the circumstances and tasks facing those doing the depopulation are understood to be extenuating. Euthanasia involves transitioning an animal to death in a manner that is as painless and stress-free as possible. The AVMA currently considers that destruction of poultry using water-based foam is a method of mass depopulation and not a form of euthanasia. The AVMA supports additional research to evaluate whether water-based foam can be accepted as a form of euthanasia.

About the SART Sentinel

The SART Sentinel is an e-mail newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the **Sentinel** are archived on the Florida SART Web Site *www.flsart.org*.

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in **the SART Sentinel**, please contact the editors.

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