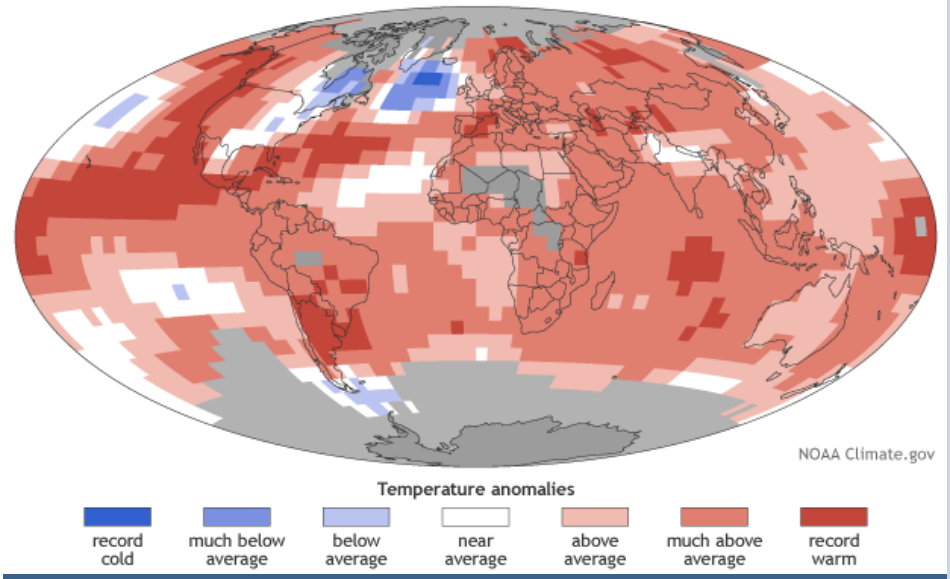
THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM



Much of the globe was record warm (darkest red) from January-July 2015, setting the stage for a new warmest year on record. Map by NOAA Climate.gov, based on NCEI data

Are Warmer Winters Ahead for Florida?

Global surface temperatures have remained at or near record-warm levels throughout 2015, leading many to prognosticate that 2015 will eclipse 2014 as the warmest year on record, perhaps by a relatively large margin. This according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Based on the latest data from NOAA's global surface temperature dataset (NOAAGlobalTemp), the 2015 global temperature average through July is running 0.09°C (0.16°F) above the 2014 average and 0.13°C above the January-July 2014 average. That might not seem like a lot, but 2014 eclipsed 2010 as the warmest year on record by an even smaller margin, 0.04°C.

The strong El Niño event currently underway in the tropical Pacific Ocean is another leading indicator that 2015 may become the warmest year on record: El Niño events typically coincide with warm conditions globally.

These circumstances raise an interesting question: given the global surface temperature data through July 2015, what is the likelihood that 2015 will be the warmest year on record? A few of us at NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) decided to investigate.

To answer this question, we consider two approaches that rely only on historical statistics that describe how the remainder of the year may play out.

(See *Temperatures*, page 2)

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Cancer Drug for Dogs No Longer Conditionally Approved*
- *UF/IFAS Hosting Florida Agricultural Policy Outlook Conference in January*
- *Florida's Reportable Equine Diseases – Online Mapping Resources*

We will work "with the [U.S. Department of Agriculture] on the damage assessment to assist growers as much as possible."

— Adam Putnam
Florida Commissioner of Agriculture

In reference to flooded farmland in December, 2015. See page 7 for the story.

Temperatures (continued)

In other words, we don't rely on any physical predictors such as El Niño conditions or forecasts of future weather or climate. We use only the well-documented, quality-controlled historical monthly global surface temperature data archived at NCEI.

Many youth sports have a so-called "mercy rule" in which a game can end early —and a victor declared—if one team has built a sizeable lead, e.g., when a little league baseball team leads by 10 runs after 5 innings. Of course, the atmosphere and oceans observe no such mercy rule, but is it too early to declare a victor?

Rather than calling the game early, climate scientists prefer to dabble in the world of probability. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) Fifth Assessment Report uses specific labels to characterize the probability that certain statements are statistically true.

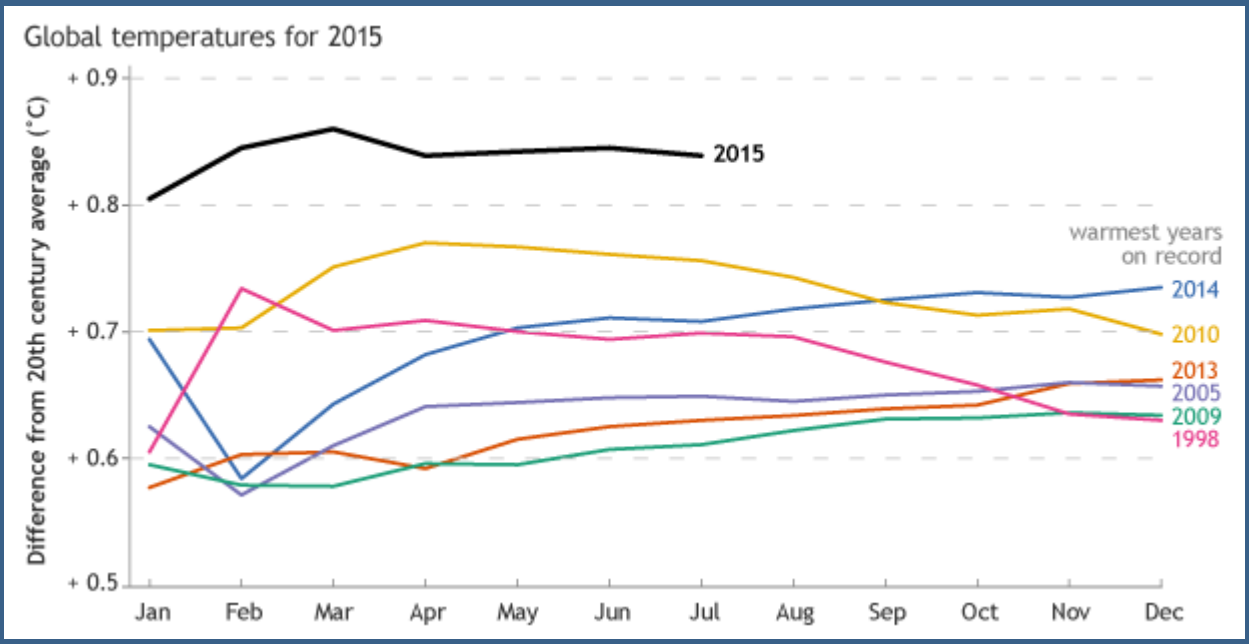
Using the IPCC definitions, we would state that it is "extremely likely" that 2015 will eclipse 2014 as the warmest year on record.

Based on the analyses presented in their findings, the historical data suggest it would take a remarkable and abrupt reversal in the NOAAGlobalTemp time series over the remainder of the year to upend 2015's drive toward record-breaking status.

In other words, it appears extremely unlikely that 2015 will lose its commanding lead.

Read the complete story on NOAA's site at https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/somewhat-very-extremely-how-likely-it-2015-will-be-new-warmest-year

Monthly temperatures for 2015 to date compared to the twentieth-century average (black line). This year's temperatures are running well above the current warmest years on record. Climate.gov graph, based on data from Deke Arndt, NCEI.



Cancer Drug for Dogs No Longer Conditionally Approved

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is giving notice that the conditional approval for Kinavet-CA1 (masitinib mesylate) to treat mast cell tumors (a type of cancer) in dogs is no longer in effect as of December 15, 2015. Kinavet-CA1, marketed by AB Science, is now an unapproved animal drug with no legal marketing status and further sales of the drug are illegal.

Only animal drugs intended for minor species, such as ferrets or fish, or for minor uses in a major species, such as to treat certain types of cancer in dogs, may be eligible for conditional approval. To receive a conditional approval, a drug company must prove, among other things, that the animal drug is safe and has a "reasonable expectation of effectiveness" when used according to the label for the conditionally-approved use.

Conditional approval allows the drug company to legally sell the animal drug for up to five years. During this period, the company develops and submits to the FDA—and the agency reviews—the necessary data to prove that the drug meets the "substantial evidence" standard of effectiveness for full approval.

Conditional approval does not always lead to full approval.

Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, a conditional approval is no longer in effect if the FDA does not approve the drug before the conditional approval period terminates. The conditional approval period for Kinavet-CA1 terminated today—five years after the drug's initial conditional approval date.

The FDA did not approve Kinavet-CA1 by December 15, 2015, and therefore, the drug's conditional approval is no longer in effect as of that date.

AB Science must cease marketing Kinavet-CA1 and distributors must cease distributing the drug to veterinary clinics. Veterinarians may want to discuss other available approved treatments with dog owners. For example, the drug Palladia (toceranib phosphate, NADA 141-295), which is FDA-approved for the treatment of mast cell tumors in dogs, may be appropriate in some cases. Also, other FDA-approved animal and human drugs may potentially be used legally in an extralabel manner in dogs with mast cell tumors.

Read more at http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm477006.htm

Enrollment Open: Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Class

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition has upcoming opportunities for their *Awareness Level Small Animal Sheltering class.*

When disaster strikes, the team of trained volunteer responders will be there to shelter and protect Florida's companion animals.

This Awareness Level class gives students the knowledge necessary to work in an emergency animal shelter. This class provides expertise and practical experience required to become a professional disaster animal responder. The Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering class is certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and is required to respond in Florida to help companion animals during a disaster.

Course topics include: Personal Preparedness, Overview of the Incident Command System, Deployment Preparedness, Assisting in Shelter Set Up, Daily Care and Feeding, Proper Cage Cleaning and Disinfection, Animal Behavior, Stress Management, Zoonotic Diseases, and Personal Safety.

For more information about the courses, and to register, please visit: http://flsarc.org/Training.html

February 6th Course - Tampa

When: Saturday February 6, 2016 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Where: Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center, 2711 E Hanna Avenue, Tampa, FL 33610

Stay up-to-date of all Florida State Agricultural Response Team news and information at www.FLSART.org!

UF/IFAS Hosting Florida Agricultural Policy Outlook Conference in January

Florida agriculture and food industries are among the largest economic contributors in the state. Agricultural producers manage 9.5 million acres, growing more than 300 commodities, including everything from citrus and cows to peanuts and potatoes. Agricultural products are shipped to national and international markets.

On January 28, some of the state's top agriculture thinkers will gather at the University of Florida's Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka for the Florida Agricultural Policy Outlook Conference scheduled for 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Cost is $50 and includes a catered lunch.

Florida Agricultural Policy Outlook Conference
UF/IFAS FOOD AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

The event is organized by the UF Food and Resource Economics Department, under the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"This event will be the kickoff for a new agribusiness policy center in the Food and Resource Economics Department," said Spiro Stefanou, UF Food and Resource Economics Department chairman. "The conference will address some of the critical policy issues facing agribusiness in Florida currently and over the long run, such as land development, water resources, sea level rise and healthcare for the agricultural workforce," he said.

"We expect to have an exciting exchange of opinions from a diverse group of industry leaders with different perspectives. We anticipate that this conference will become an annual headline event in the state."

More than 100 industry executives, association leaders, elected local and state policy makers, private and public sector economists, and other allied professionals are expected to attend.

For more information, please visit
http://www.fred.ifas.ufl.edu/FlAgPolicyOutlookConference/

Florida's Reportable Equine Diseases – Online Mapping Resources

Florida's reportable equine disease map is a fresh, interactive way to look at disease occurrence within the state. Disease information can be viewed by county, with monthly and calendar year information available.

Provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, the map uses GIS (Geographic Information System) technology to visualize the data and allows veterinarians, horse owners and others in the industry to identify at-risk areas. This information can then be used to assist with disease prevention strategies to better protect Florida's horses.

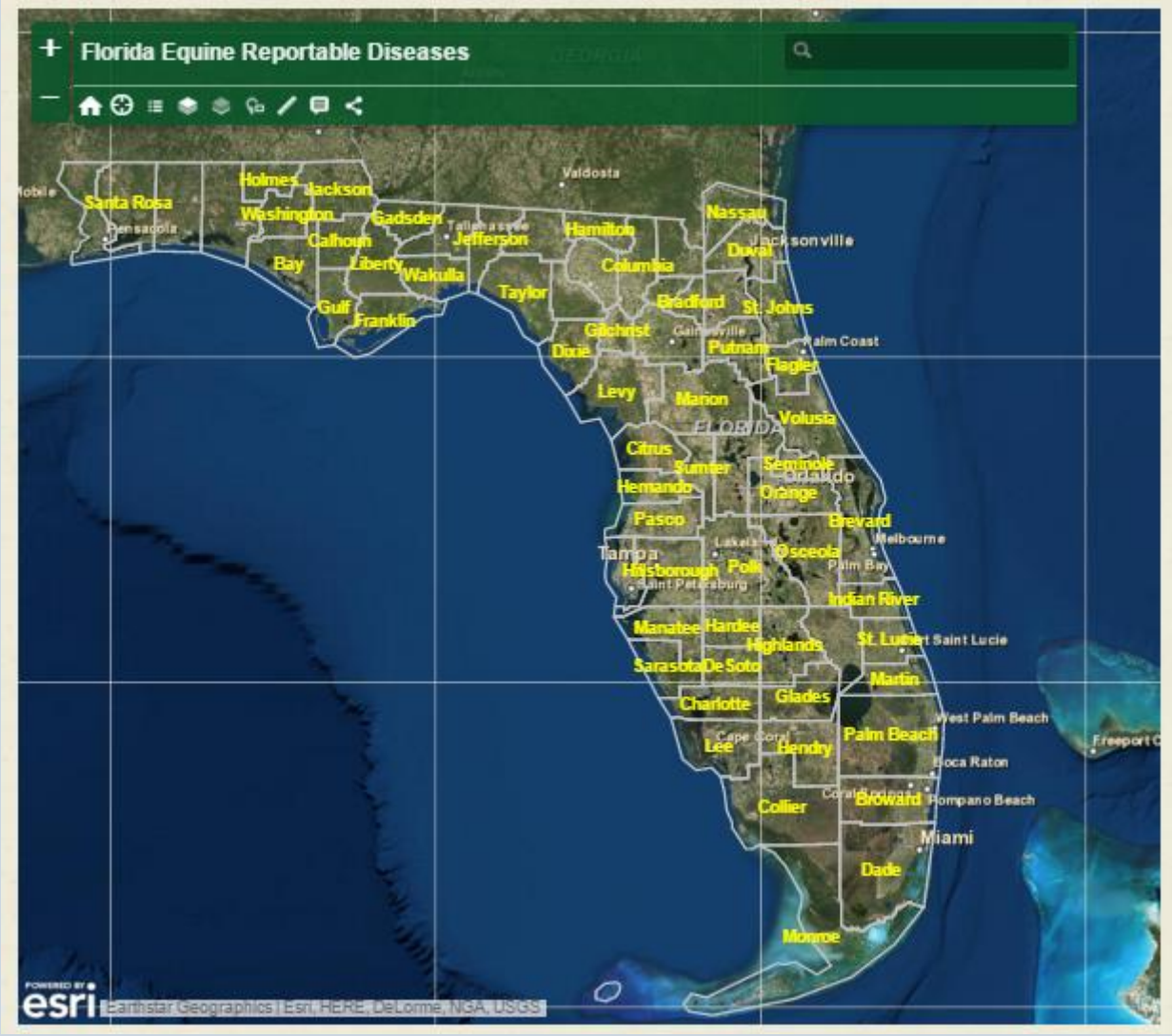
The map shows the tracking of reportable equine diseases by county in the state of Florida. Reportable diseases are for the 2015 calendar year only.

Reportable diseases currently include:

- Strangles
- Rabies
- Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)
- Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)
- West Nile Virus (WNV)
- Equine Herpes Virus (EHV)
- Equine Piroplasmosis (EP)

If you have any questions concerning equine diseases or their occurrence, please contact Dr. Joe Fisch at (850) 410-0900 or William.Fisch@FreshFromFlorida.com.

For more information, and to interact with the map online, visit http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Agriculture-Industry/Horse-Equine



Heavy Rain Leads to Flooding of South Florida Farmlands

The first week of December was not kind to certain farmers in South Florida. Some growers have reported losses of between 40 and 100 percent of their fields, which included beans, tomatoes, squash, and other winter crops. Water managers are now investigating if flood control systems are to blame.

Once they tally their losses, farmers hope to get some relief from federal officials, according to a source cited by the Miami Herald. Adam Putnam, Florida's agriculture commissioner, said that he also has assessed flooding and will work "with the [U.S. Department of Agriculture] on the damage assessment to assist growers as much as possible."

For consumers, the price of domestic vegetables this winter will almost certainly go up, said John Alger, a third generation farmer who lost at least 80 acres worth of crops and is still assessing damage to another 1,015 acres.

To read the complete story, please visit http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article49331405.html

Please login and update your membership information online at:
http://flsart.org

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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