THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Sumter County's Engine 21 responds to a stuck cow on June 22.

Cow in Sumter County Rescued with SART Equipment by Fire and EMS Officials

On June 22, Sumter County Fire & EMS Technical Rescue responded to a citizen assist in reference to a large cow stuck in the mud in a field at the intersection of CR470 and CR419.

Upon arrival, crews found a cow that had become stranded in the mud at the edge of a watering pond.

The animal was struggling to breathe and was unable to stand due to the slippery mud and total exhaustion.

Sumter County's Engine 21 recognized the need for the Special Operations Team to be activated. and moved to deploy the State-issued "Large Animal Rescue Equipment apparatus."

Upon arrival of the Special Operations Team with the large animal rescue equipment, a system was constructed and the cow was pulled from the mud without injury.

John Haven, Director of the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine, said that these rescuers "attended the UF/FL SART two-day operations level animal technical rescue course a year ago," further noting that "SART positioned an available state animal technical rescue cache with them."

(See *Sumter County Cow Rescue,* page 7)

Special Features of this Issue:

- *The National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) Seeks Vet Techs*
- *Holmes County Emergency Management Hosts Emergency Preparedness Day*
- *Australia Successfully Eradicates Equine Influenza,*

"With the height of mosquito season fast approaching, and the number of travel-related cases of Zika in Florida leading the nation, it is paramount that we use every tool available to protect Floridians and visitors."

— Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture
(Story on page 2)

Commissioner Putnam Tours Department's Zika Testing Lab

In May, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam toured the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, which has recently been equipped to test mosquitoes for the Zika virus.

The laboratory, located in Kissimmee, can now test for the virus in the vector mosquito species, Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus, and it has tested samples from four counties to date. All results were negative.

The laboratory routinely tests for diseases that affect both animals and humans, such as Avian Influenza, Tuberculosis and West Nile Virus. In response to the Zika public health crisis in Florida, Commissioner Putnam had the laboratory updated to be able to test mosquito samples.

"With the height of mosquito season fast approaching, and the number of travel-related cases of Zika in Florida leading the nation, it is paramount that we use every tool available to protect Floridians and visitors," said Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam. "We will continue to support the Florida Department of Health and local mosquito control programs in this collaborative effort."

While the Florida Department of Health is the lead agency in this public health crisis, FDACS has continued to support the efforts.

For more information, visit http://www.freshfromflorida.com/News-Events/Press-Releases/2016-Press-Releases/Commissioner-Adam-H.-Putnam-Tours-Department-s-Zika-Testing-Laboratory

Australia Successfully Eradicates Equine Influenza, Results in Great Achievement for Veterinary Medicine

The successful eradication of equine influenza from Australia was one of the greatest achievements of veterinary medicine in recent years, a recently published review suggests.

The review by Dr Romain Paillot, who is head of immunology in the Infectious Diseases Department at Britain's Animal Health Trust, and Dr Charles El-Hage, from the Centre for Equine Infectious Diseases at the University of Melbourne, examined the use of a recombinant canarypox-based equine flu vaccine during the 2007 outbreak.

The pair, writing in the journal Pathogens, said it was the most extensive equine influenza outbreak observed in recent years.

Extraordinary measures were rapidly implemented in order to control and prevent the spread of the highly contagious disease, they said.

For more on the story, please visit http://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2016/06/18/australias-equine-flu-eradication-triumph-veterinary-medicine-review/#axzz4C9MgLNxY

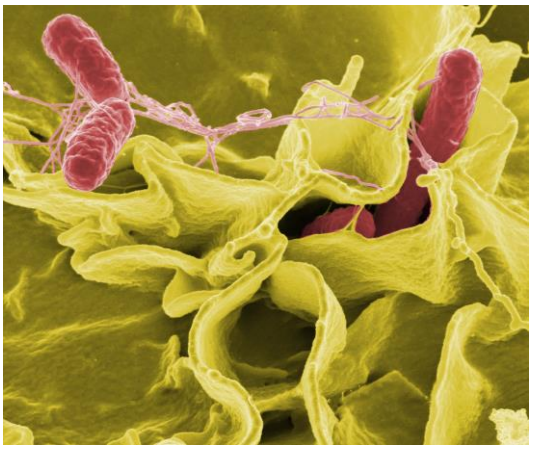
IFSAC Analysis Improves Understanding of Foodborne Illness Attribution

Scientists from the Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration (IFSAC) recently published "Comparing Characteristics of Sporadic and Outbreak-Associated Foodborne Illnesses, United States, 2004–2011," a paper in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* that compared some characteristics of outbreak and sporadic (non-outbreak) human illnesses caused by *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *Campylobacter*.

The analyses help assess the usefulness of outbreak data in estimating which major food categories are linked to foodborne illnesses.

Using data collected by CDC's Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), the study compared outbreak illnesses with sporadic illnesses. The results of the analysis provide evidence that:

- *Campylobacter*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *E. coli* O157 outbreak illnesses are not significantly different from sporadic illnesses with respect to patients' illness severity, gender, and age.
- *Salmonella* outbreak illnesses are not significantly different from sporadic illnesses with respect to illness severity and gender. For age, the percentages of outbreak and sporadic illnesses that occur among older children and adults are also similar. However, the percentage of outbreak illnesses in the youngest age category (0-3 years) was substantially lower compared with the other age groups.



FoodNet data include only a portion of reported U.S. illnesses (about 15% of the U.S. population); therefore, the number of outbreaks and illnesses available for analysis was limited.

For example, fewer *Campylobacter* illnesses were associated with outbreaks compared with the other three pathogens, which limits the strength of conclusions about *Campylobacter* attribution.

This study's finding that outbreak and sporadic illnesses have similar characteristics indicates that using outbreak data to estimate which foods are most often linked to specific foodborne illnesses is reasonable for most age groups among the pathogens examined in this analysis.

Analyses, such as this study, help us better understand the relationship between sporadic foodborne illnesses and those that are identified as a part of an outbreak. Such analyses are essential to advancing scientific progress in this field. IFSAC also developed a research brief on the article.

More information is available at http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/ifsac/?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Enrollment Open: Operations Level for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

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

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

The Operations Level course will give you many new job options, in addition to leadership skills and team lead opportunities. This course expands upon information covered in FL-003-RESP and ICS-100 courses. These earlier courses are prerequisites for FL-607-RESP.

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

August 6,7 Course – Naples, FL (Operations Level)

Details: For information, email pamburnssarc@gmail.com

Florida SARC team members must complete the following FEMA course to deploy to certain non-disaster related events.

- IS-100.b Introduction to Incident Command System

In order to be able to deploy to federally declared disasters or to advance to Operations Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering, you must also complete:

- IS-200.b ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-700.a NIMS an Introduction

These courses are self-study online courses and are free of charge.

All volunteers must also have a current Tetanus Vaccination within the past 10 years, within 5 years is preferable. It is also recommended that you receive vaccinations for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Rabies.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2017 SART Planning Meeting

March 28-30, 2017

Stay up-to-date at www.FLSART.org!

Holmes County Emergency Management Hosts Emergency Preparedness Day

On May 20th, the Holmes County Emergency Management agency hosted their annual Emergency Preparedness Day.

The Emergency Management Director asked local first responders in the area if they can set up a booth and pass out educational information to the public. Some of the agencies brought emergency response equipment to display.

This year two of the Holmes County Schools brought their 5th grade classes to view these exhibits.

Submitted by James Picher
Agriculture Consumer Protection Inspector
Division of Animal Industry
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) Seeks Vet Techs

The National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) is currently hiring veterinary technicians to begin to fill vacancies. Like all NDMS members, NVRT employees are intermittent Federal employees who get paid only when they are deployed for training or responses. The positions close on July 12.

Technicians who have disaster deployment experience and/or belong to state or local response teams are encouraged to apply.

More details are available at https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/437875700

Source: National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs

Texas Cave Reveals Eyeless Catfish

By Mallory Nanny

First spotted in Mexico in the early 1950s, the Mexican eyeless catfish has since navigated its way into the caves of the Amistad National Recreational Area, near Del Rio, Texas. The underwater migration thus indicates that an open network of caverns connects Mexico to the United States.

The three-inch eyeless catfish sports a translucent skin that slightly masks its insides, not unlike other species of blind catfish whose lack of pigmentation is a product of their deep subterranean habitat. Scientists propose ties to the skeletal widemouth and toothless blindcats, members of the "Satan" genus, both indigenous to the caves of San Antonio.

Like these species, the Mexican eyeless catfish possesses what biologist Peter Sprouse describes as "extra-sensory abilities to succeed in total darkness (Guardian)." Having evolved without eyes or pigmentation, these cave-dwelling fish rely on extra-sensitive hearing and touch to detect food sources.

Unlike its supposed relatives, the Mexican blindcat is already endangered and it faces further dangers of contamination and depletion of groundwater.

For the full story, visit https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/19/blind-catfish-discovered-texas-cave-mexico

Source: www.theguardian.com

Sumter County Cow Rescue (continued)

According to Haven, "They put the equipment to good use in a rescue this week."

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition also commented, "Our partners in all things animal, Florida S.A.R.T., put together caches of large animal rescue equipment for each region and train fire fighters in technical large animal rescue and retrain as required. So proud of our association with this our amazing Florida S.A.R.T. partners! They make rescues like this possible!"

Story and Pics courtesy of Battalion Chief Rick Pitts and Battalion Chief Damon Allen.

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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