THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Rescuers from the Louisiana State Animal Response Team "rescue" Torque the Appaloosa during an undated training. These skills have been used during the state's historic flooding in August.

Louisiana State Animal Response Team Responds to Historic Flooding

Last month, devastating floods affected various parts of Southern Louisiana and Mississippi in what the Red Cross said was the worst US disaster since Hurricane Sandy.

The U.S. Coast Guard, National Guard, local emergency responders and even neighbors have helped rescue more than 30,000 residents and 1,400 pets. A major partner in the rescue operations was the Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART).

LSART developed from the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association (LVMA) Disaster Committee. After the response to Hurricane Katrina, LSART became a division of the Dr. Walter J. Ernst Veterinary Memorial Foundation (WJE). WJE is the nonprofit foundation associated with the LVMA.

LSART is a team of groups and individuals with an interest in animal well-being related to emergencies or disasters. Veterinarians, animal control officers, humane organizations, and citizen volunteers make up LSART's membership list.

During a disaster like this, LSART works similarly to Florida's system. According to the organization, "Animal owners who need help with assistance during disasters are asked to contact their local Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Parish Animal Control Office, or Sheriff's Office.

(See *Louisiana SART,* page 2)

Special Features of this Issue:

- *UF Extension Service Spotlight: Citrus County*
- *U.S. Beef Exports Continue to Outperform Pre-BSE Levels*
- *Florida Forest Service Welcomes Home Wildland Firefighters, Sends 20 More to Battle Washington Wildfire*

"Many out-of-state wildland firefighters have aided Florida during the times when we needed it most and we are proud and honored to be able to return the favor."

— Jim Karels
Director, Florida Forest Service
(Story on page 5)

Louisiana SART (continued)

All emergencies and disasters begin at the local level. Local agencies can request help directly from LSART, or from the state, who in turn may request LSART to assist. LSART works within the state/federal system to have an organized and efficient response."

LSART makes resources available to parishes for emergency planning, response and recovery. LSART also assists local jurisdictions in planning and preparing for all types of emergencies involving all animals.

LSART provides training in NIMS, ICS, evacuation protocols, shelter management and other aspects of emergency planning.

They also provide community public

information and messaging for emergency preparedness.

LSART responds to emergencies by assisting with evacuation, sheltering, and search and rescue.

Additional information may be found online at http://www.lsart.org

Left: A man pulls to safety a small boat full of sheep. (Photo courtesy of the Denham Springs Animal Shelter.)

Right: LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital crew working with LSART response Operations and taking care of business in the hospital. (Photo courtesy of the Equine Health Studies Program at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, via Facebook.)

UF Extension Service Spotlight: Citrus County

Responding to Zika Close to Home

In August, UF/Citrus County Extension gave presentations at 3 locations to update citizens about what can be done outdoors to combat the spread of diseases such as the Zika virus and about its life cycle. A total of 48 citizens participated. Citizens were informed about what is occurring locally as well as statewide to combat the spread of this disease, as well as the specific actions that individuals can take to reduce the number of mosquitos of all types, whether they are spreading diseases or simply being a nuisance. A reporter from the local newspaper attended, writing a follow-up piece for the *Citrus County Chronicle* the following week, which appeared on the front page of the newspaper, calling citizens to take action to reduce locations that are favorable for mosquito development near their home, school, church, or community center.

Large Animal Responses Planned Long Before an Emergency Hits

Citrus County UF Extension Service has partnered with the county sheriff's office, other agencies and agricultural stakeholders to prepare a multi-incident Large Animal Emergency Response Plan. This will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners. The planning document was activated when the county's animal services staff responded to an animal hoarding case. In addition to many, many small pet animals the hoarding case included 3 large horses which the county did not have facilities to house or equipment to transport effectively. Plan team members had already identified a number of local stables and equipment operators who were contacted to assist with the rescue while the owner worked through the legal process.

Following the plan's adoption, phase II implementation is planned to identify locations, tools, human resources, and model agreements that can be used when a Large Animal plan activation occurs. This implementation document will assess a large number of parameters, including what types of animals a particular location can house and how many, are their limits to the size of animal that a trailer can transport, what areas of the county or outside the county is an animal handler willing to respond to, and what specific facilities are available at preplanned holding facilities (barns, types of fencing, watering feeders) and the ability to assist with sick or injured animals.

Enrollment Open: Multiple Levels for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

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

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

The Awareness Level course 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 course is certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and is required to respond in Florida to help companion animals and their owners during a disaster.

The Operations Level course gives 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 Setup, 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)

When: Saturday, August 6, 2016, at 8:00 AM EDT to Sunday, August 7, 2016, at 6:00 PM EDT
Where: Collier County Domestic Animal Services, 7610 Davis Boulevard, Naples, FL 34104

August 28 Course – Sarasota, FL (Awareness Level)

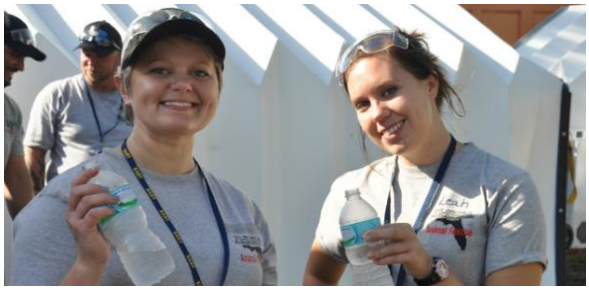
When: Sunday, August 28, 2016, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT
Where: Humane Society of Sarasota County, 2331 15th Street, Sarasota, FL 34237

September 17 Course – Orlando, FL (Awareness Level)

When: Saturday, September 17, 2016, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT
Where: Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando, 2727 Conroy Road, Orlando, FL 32839

October 15 Course – Sarasota, FL (Awareness Level)

When: Saturday, October 15, 2016, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT
Where: Cat Depot Education Resource Center, 2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234



SAVE THE DATE

The 2017 SART Planning Meeting

March 28-30, 2017

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

Florida Forest Service Welcomes Home Wildland Firefighters, Sends 20 More to Battle Washington Wildfire

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam announced last month that the Florida Forest Service is sending another crew of 20 wildland firefighters to battle the blazes out West as they welcome home 40 wildland firefighters from a recent western deployment. The latest crew travelled to Washington to fight the 4,200-acre Hart Fire.

"Thanks to sustained low fire activity in Florida, we are able to share our skilled firefighters with our western partners while continuing to provide for the safety of Florida's residents and visitors," stated Commissioner Putnam.

In addition to the latest crew deployment, there are currently 74 Florida Forest Service employees deployed to fill various wildland firefighting and management positions throughout: California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. Deployed wildland firefighters can fill a variety of roles including front-line firefighting, aviation, safety regulation, logging, heavy equipment management and more.

"The Florida Forest Service is part of a tight-knit national wildland firefighting community," said Jim Karels, Director of the Florida Forest Service. "Many out-of-state wildland firefighters have aided Florida during the times when we needed it most and we are proud and honored to be able to return the favor."

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for protecting homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres.

Learn more at FloridaForestService.com.

U.S. Beef Exports Continue to Outperform Pre-BSE Levels

Following the discovery of a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in December 2003, U.S. beef and beef product exports fell. Since 2003, USDA has led a multi-agency, full-court press, dedicating significant resources to restore foreign market access for U.S. beef. As a result, U.S. beef shipments had regained pre-BSE volumes by 2011 and even reached record values by 2014. Another central element of the U.S. strategy to maintain and expand foreign market access is insistence on policies that are based on the guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The past seven years have represented the strongest period in history for American agricultural exports, with international sales of U.S. farm and food products surpassing $1 trillion between fiscal years 2009 and the present.

FDA Issues Draft Guidances under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act for Animal Foods and the Classification of Activities for Farms and Facilities

As the implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) continues, the agency last month issued two draft guidances to assist industry with the implementation of the Preventive Controls for Animal Food rule and another draft guidance to assist businesses in determining whether the activities they perform are within the "farm" definition.

Two of the draft guidances are meant to assist domestic and foreign companies in complying with Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) requirements and with human food by-product requirements under the FSMA Preventive Controls for Animal Food Rule.

Draft Guidance for Industry #235 - Current Good Manufacturing Practice Requirements for Food for Animals is intended to help facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold animal food for consumption in the United States comply with CGMP requirements in areas such as personnel, plant and grounds, sanitation, water supply and plumbing, equipment and utensils, plant operations, and holding and distribution.

The guidance also includes information on training and related record-keeping. The CGMPs required under the Preventive Controls for Animal Food rule are flexible to address the diversity of facilities and animal foods, the wide range of animal food activities, and the potential safety risks posed by some animal foods.

Draft Guidance for Industry #239 - Human Food By-Products for Use as Animal Food will assist facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold human food and then subsequently provide the human food by-products for use as animal food in determining what requirements in the Preventive Controls for Animal Food rule apply to their human food by-product. Common examples of human food by-products used for animal food include wheat middlings, grain products from grain milling, and vegetable pulp.

FDA is planning on hosting a webinar later in September to discuss these draft guidances in more detail.

Draft Guidance for Industry for Classification of Activities as Harvesting, Packing, Holding, or Manufacturing/Processing for Farms and Facilities is aimed at helping food businesses determine which of the FSMA rules apply to their operations. In general, businesses that only perform activities within the "farm" definition are not subject to the FSMA Preventive Controls for Human Food or Animal Food rules. Instead, when their activities involve covered produce, farms may be subject to the FSMA Produce Safety rule.

(See *FDA Guidance,* page 7)

FDA Guidance (continued)

Facilities conducting activities that are outside the farm definition generally need to register with the FDA as food facilities (unless other exemption(s) apply, such as the exemptions for retail food establishments and restaurants) and may be subject to the FSMA Preventive Controls for Human Food or Animal Food rule. Farms, including those subject to the Produce Safety rule, are not required to register with the FDA as food facilities. The draft guidance includes several examples of hypothetical operations.

All three draft guidances will be available for public comment starting August 25, 2016. The FDA will consider all comments received during the periods designated in the *Federal Register* notices before completing final versions of the guidances.

Please log in and update your membership information online at:
http://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**. Past issues of the *Sentinel* are archived on the Florida SART website, 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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