THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Visit IFAS' Agroterrorism resources

Special Features of this Issue:

- *SART Asks Counties to Update Emergency Contact Information*
- *Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team Announces the Official FLIRRT Webpage*
- *Canine Influenza Confirmed in Eight States.*

Agroterrorism in the US: An Overview

The Sunshine State is no stranger to natural disasters — hurricanes, floods, droughts and wildfires have done their share of damage in Florida. With 14 seaports and over 800 airports and airfields, the state is also at risk for man-made disasters.

75 million tourists and billions of tons of freight enter Florida each year, making it vulnerable to threats like disease introduction and agroterrorism.

The University of Florida IFAS Extension team has developed a whitepaper, *Agroterrorism in the US: An Overview*, to advise on vulnerabilities of the nation's infrastructure, including ways to defend against attack on agriculture networks.

According to the paper, "In the aftermath of 9/11, many resources were shifted from food safety to food biosecurity, with the intent to try to install sufficient deterrents that would lead to an improved condition of readiness within the agriculture and food sector."

Further, the "FDA estimates the benefits of averting an actual terrorist attack on the US food supply would be approximately $130 billion. Thus, the cost of prevention is far less than a single large agroterrorism event."

The report may be accessed at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/FS/FS12600.pdf

"[Canine Influenza] is a virus that is highly contagious and easily transmitted within a population of dogs such as those housed in shelters."

— Dr. Cynda Crawford
Clinical Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine
Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, University of Florida
(Story on page 4.)

Rainy Conditions Lead to Zika and other Mosquito-borne Diseases

As we transition from drought to rainy conditions, mosquitoes will have more places to emerge. Some female mosquitoes need to take a blood meal to produce the next generation. In doing so, these insects can pass along infectious diseases such as Zika, West Nile virus, St. Louis Encephalitis virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus as they sip your blood.

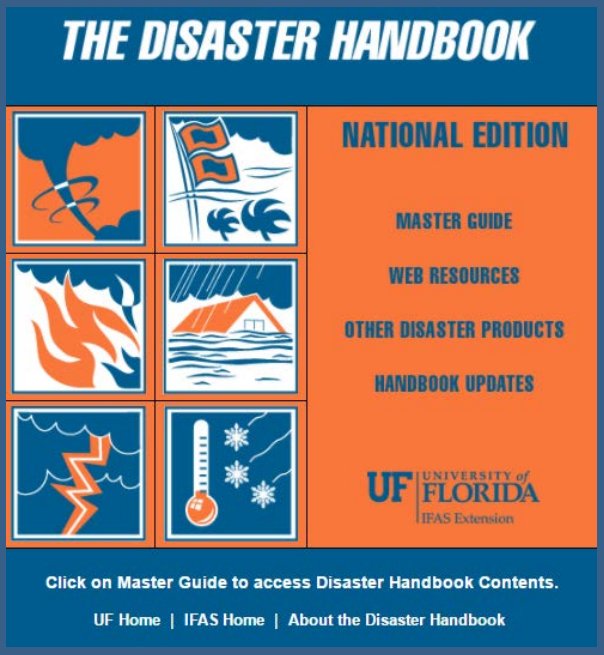
It is important to remember that any standing water from rain storms or even everyday watering from irrigation can serve as breeding grounds for these vectors.

The newest mosquito-borne disease to be recognized in our state, Zika virus, spreads to people primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito but can also be transmitted through sexual contact and passed from a pregnant woman to her unborn child.

Zika virus is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. Most people never know that they have been infected with the virus.

(See *Zika Virus,* page 7.)

Looking for All-Hazard Disaster-Related Resources?



If you're looking for online resources, consider visiting the University of Florida's IFAS Extension *Disaster Handbook* at http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/default.htm

The purpose of this tool is to help Extension personnel assist their communities in times of disaster. These materials refer not just to disaster preparedness, but to surviving disaster situations and recovering from them. Their intention in this lengthy work is to give Extension personnel a full view of disaster-related activities during each phase of a disaster, at each level of government, and with various community-based resources.

Federal and state disaster preparedness agencies view the land-grant program in each state and its personnel as important links to local communities. Naturally, in conducting Extension programs, we must develop close ties to our communities and the regions we serve.

With Hurricane Season in Force, SART Asks Counties to Update Emergency Contact Information

The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season is an ongoing event in the annual formation of tropical cyclones in the Atlantic basin. The season officially began on June 1, and will end on November 30, 2017.

All State agencies and volunteer organizations that comprise the State Emergency Response Team, are grouped into 18 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) to carry out coordination and completion of assigned missions. These functions represent specific response activities that are common to all disasters. Each ESF is comprised of one or more Primary agency (s) as the lead and several other agencies and organizations providing support.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the lead agency for animal and agricultural emergencies. To fulfill its responsibilities as lead to emergency support function seventeen (ESF-17), the Department facilitated the development of the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) as a planning, training, and response support group.

Counties, please update your Emergency Contact Information. As we begin hurricane season, it is imperative that we assure all contact information is accurate and up-to-date before an activation. County contact information such as your County Emergency Operation Center, Emergency Support Function 17 Coordinator, and County Extension Office is a resourceful and highly-utilized feature on the SART website, especially during an activation or exercise. In the event of a disaster, proper preparation will pay off.

If you need to make changes to your county contact information, please send a request to LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Are You and Your Pets Prepared?

The following are Public Service Announcements provided by Hillsborough County.

- *Prepare your Pets for a Disaster*: https://youtu.be/W7ZjPBsPpdE
- *Interviews of Emergency Pet Shelter Partners* – Red Cross, Burnett Middle School, and Hillsborough County Emergency Management: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hwgaby1lf0sf0yt/AAAAQDqkTl6-omADG_z6n3Aja?dl=0

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state…

Florida Cattlemen's Association Convention

In June, the annual Florida Cattleman's Association Convention was held in Buena Vista. It was attended by over 1,400 cattle producers and their families, more than 300 allied industry representatives, and various department divisions. Commissioner Putnam, Dr. Lisa Conti, Ms. Erica Field and Dr. Joe Fisch attended, with Dr. Diane Kitchen providing an update during the Animal Health Committee meeting. Stephen Monroe managed a booth for producer outreach in the Allied Trade Show. The Trade Show was heavily supported with more than 170 booths.

Strangles Affects Horse in Lake County

On June 1, one a property in Lake County, Florida was placed under quarantine for strangles after one horse with confirmed testing and clinical signs of the disease. Strangles is a contagious, infectious, upper respiratory disease of horses. This is the second reported case of strangles for Lake County, and the twenty-third case for Florida in 2017.

Wildfire Update

Florida's wildfire season is over and drought conditions are lifting across the state. The rain has been welcomed by crews who spent months battling wildfires, which burned more than 250,000 acres of state and federal lands, the worst year for fires since 2011. "We feel very good about what these rains have meant in alleviating the severe fire conditions," said Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, whose department includes the Florida Forest Service. "And now, in true Florida fashion, we can go from one extreme to the other and prepare for tropical storm activity."

Canine Influenza

The University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine is keeping residents of Florida informed on the dismal onset of the canine influenza (H3N2). With cases of H3N2 confirmed in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, and Illinois it is imperative for dog owners, shelter employees, and rescue groups to be aware of the symptoms and treatment of the virus. (See *Canine Influenza,* page 8.)

Enrollment Open: Operations Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Course

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FL SARC) has upcoming opportunities for participation in their *Operations Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering* course.

When disaster strikes, a 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 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

July 15th - 16th Course – Sarasota, FL

When: Saturday, July 15 - Sunday, July 16, 2017
Where: Cat Depot Education Resource Center, 2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234

Enrollment Open: Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE)

The objective of the ***Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE)*** program is to provide law enforcement and state attorney personnel rigorous and relevant training curriculum regarding generally accepted livestock production practices, skills to discern acceptable animal well-being, and ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills in the field and during litigation proceedings.

Specific learning objectives include: Basic Animal Husbandry, Identification, Behavior and Handling, Nutrition, Pastures, Disease and Biosecurity, Euthanasia, Body Condition Scoring, and Live Animal Evaluations. Attendees will receive both classroom and hands-on education

For more information, or to register, visit: http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/LECALE/lecale.shtml

December 11th - 15th Course – Gainesville, FL

When: Monday, December 11 - Friday December 15, 2017, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Where: Department of Animal Sciences, 2250 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611

The FLIRRT Report

A special section dedicated to feed and food emergency planning and response.

Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) is a multi-agency coordination group responding to feed and food emergency under the Rapid Response Team Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Cooperative Grant Program.

Florida is one of 21 states participating in this program, beginning in 2008. Partner agencies include the FDA, the Florida Department of Health, and Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

FLIRRT consists of technical experts in food manufacturing, food inspection, environmental health and epidemiology. FLIRRT is an active partner in Emergency Support Function 11 (Food and Water) at Florida's State Emergency Operations Center.

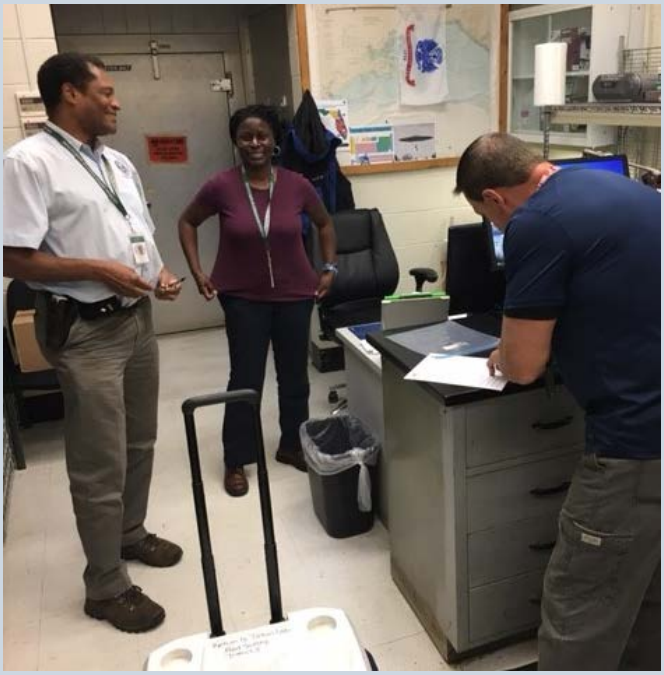
For more information, please visit: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Food-Safety/Food-Emergencies-and-Disaster-Preparation

Food Defense and Safety

During the last week of May, Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) received a request from Georgia's Rapid Response Team to test samples of Neapolitan ice cream collected from Cairo, Georgia. Samples were collected due to investigation of a Listeria monocytogenes cluster that was potentially associated with ice cream.

Due to the long distance of the Georgia Department of Agriculture lab in Atlanta to Cairo, it was much faster to drive the ice cream samples to the FDACS lab in Tallahassee. The FDACS Food Safety Bureau of Food Laboratories was able to accommodate this request and analyzed the samples for the presence of Listeria monocytogenes.

Georgia Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Compliance Specialists, Tamika Lane and William Jones dropped five half gallons of ice cream for testing on Friday May 26. Lab reports were completed on June 9 and tested negative for the presence of Listeria monocytogenes. This was the first time Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services tested a food sample for an



Steve Ganey (FDACS Food Lab) checking in the samples of ice cream dropped off by Georgia's Rapid Response Team members.

Visit FLIRRT's new website today at:
http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Food-Safety/Food-Emergencies-and-Disaster-Preparation

Zika Virus (continued)

It is estimated that four out of five people with Zika virus infections have no symptoms at all. When symptoms do occur, the most common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes).

Even in those who develop symptoms, the illness is usually mild, with symptoms lasting from several days to a week.

More serious symptoms may include severe brain defects and developmental issues in fetuses (collectively known as Congenital Zika Syndrome), Guillain-Barre syndrome, and ocular effects in adults.

Understanding Zika vector control is an important step to reducing your exposure to mosquitoes that can transmit the virus. Please see the attached document for information on the primary Zika vector species. You can reduce mosquito breeding habitat around your homes and protect yourself from exposure.

For more information, visit http://www.fda.gov/EmergencyPreparedness/Counterterrorism/MedicalCountermeasures/MCMIssues/ucm485199.htm?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

UF VETS Launches On-Line Animal Technical Rescue Course

Have you been seeing training events and rescues in the news about animal technical rescue, and wished there was an on-line affordable, entry-level course available?

UF VETS heard you! After initially focusing on the Operations Level and Technician Level live courses for first responders; which are small, highly technical, and very expensive, UF VETS just launched the first of its on-line courses.

This course, a collaboration of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, and UF IFAS, and hosted through the UF Distance Education Center, meets all of the National Fire Protection Association standards for large and small animal technical rescue. The NFPA standards are the learning objectives for the course, and addresses ICS (Incident Command System) issues for animal technical rescue, teach knots, how to identify certain rigging and anchors, identify equipment used in animal technical rescue, learn animal harnessing and movement techniques for both low and high angle rescue, and address basic behavior and safety cues. At the end of the course, a person should be able to initiate a technical rescue response, know who to call, and assist in a technical rescue.

The course is designed to take between 5-6 hours, but sections can be repeated as necessary. This on-line course costs $100, and participants will receive 7 hours of credit from the Florida Fire College. To register, visit www.UFVETS.com and click on the training tab, or access the UF Distance Education site at http://pd.dce.ufl.edu/course-search/.

Canine Influenza (continued)

As noted on the University of Florida's website there are some precautions with dogs suspected of carrying the influenza. Shelters and rescue groups should be vigilant and obtain all information possible while rescuing dogs. Some precautions include; asking owners about prior illness, testing for H3N2, observing new-comers on a regular basis, and quarantining any dogs that have been exposed to the influenza.

Symptoms of H3N2 include coughing and sneezing, rapid breathing, loss of energy, fever, and excessive mucus. If you believe that a dog in your care is showing symptoms of the influenza it is encouraged to swiftly bring him or her to a Veterinarian. While this can be scary for dog owners, rest assured that there is a remotely quick recovery time and an extremely low recorded mortality rate in dogs confirmed to have the influenza.

H3N2 can spread quickly within close quarters. The influenza is transferred from coughing, sneezing, barking, water bowls, collars, leashes, and vests. Care-takers should continue to sanitize grooming stations, living environments, dog beds, and the above items such as collars. Continue to monitor dogs daily and keep in mind the symptoms of the influenza. Although there are no known cases of the transfer of influenza from dogs to humans, it is still encouraged for handlers to be cautious with infected dogs. Wash your hands thoroughly before and after handling infected canines and avoid contact with your face.

For more information, please visit:
http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/2017/06/06/canine-influenza-confirmed-in-8-states-should-shelters-and-rescue-groups-be-vaccinating/

Please log in and update your membership information online at:

www.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 at 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.

Editor: Michael T. Turner, The Turner Network, LLC (www.TurnerNetwork.com) under contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
E-mail: flsart@turnernetwork.com

Associate Editor: Dr. Greg Christy, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
E-mail: gregory.christy@freshfromflorida.com

Digital Media Intern: Matt Lilly, The Turner Network, LLC.
E-mail: matt@turnernetwork.com