THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Working together to guard against agro-terrorism.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *FDACS Conducts County Visits for ESFs 11 and 17*
- *Enrollment Open: Multiple Levels for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering*
- *Training Video Helps Veterinarians Treat Opioid Overdoses in Dogs*

Risk of Agro-terrorism Small, but with Impact is Severe

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 agro-terrorism.

According to a New York Post story in January, "[t]errorists could employ chemicals or explosives to accomplish their goals, but our livestock, crops and foods are especially vulnerable to biological agents.

Of chief concern is the potential for foot and mouth disease (FMD), an infectious and sometimes fatal viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals, including domestic and wild bovids.

As the Post story reports, "The paucity of agro-terrorism events to date suggests that the risk to the US is small. But deliberate disruption to our agriculture should concern all of us."

But as former Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson said in 2004, "For the life of me, I cannot understand why the terrorists have not attacked our food supply, because it is so easy to do."

To read the full story, visit:

http://nypost.com/2017/01/07/its-alarmingly-easy-for-terrorists-to-contaminate-our-food-supply

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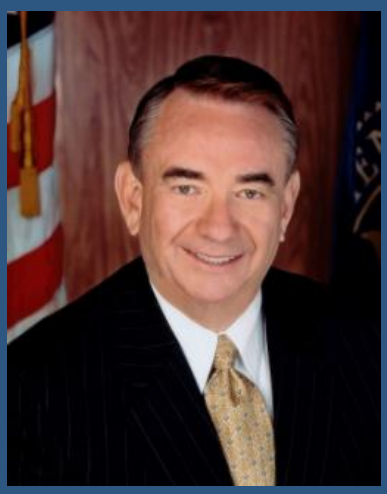
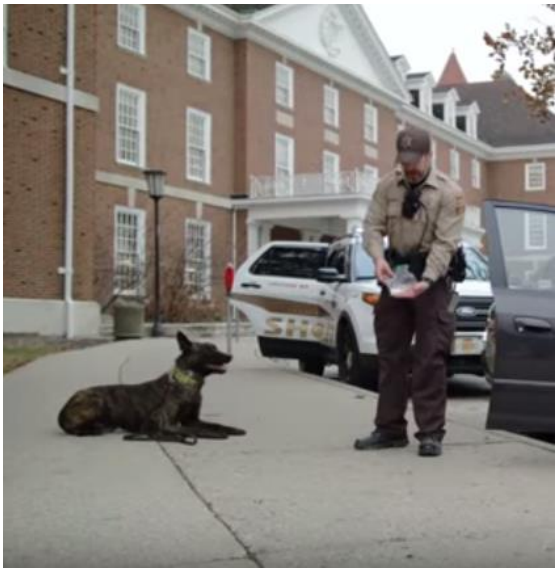
— Tommy Thompson
Former Secretary of Health and Human Services, as said in 2004



Training Video Helps Veterinarians Treat Opioid Overdoses in Dogs



Overdoses from extremely potent illegal opioids are on the rise across America – but not just for humans. These drugs are now endangering working dogs who encounter them in the line of duty. As a result, veterinarians are increasingly asked to consult by phone for dogs suffering from overdoses in the field.

To ensure veterinarians have the resources they need to respond to this emerging health threat, and in response to law enforcement requests, the University of Illinois reached out to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and other organizations for help in creating educational materials.

The result is a comprehensive training video to help veterinarians and law enforcement teams provide potentially life-saving treatment for dogs (AVMA).

View the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI108zZF6nc

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 opportunities.

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

FDACS Conducts 60 County Visits for ESFs 11 and 17

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services personnel from Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 and ESF 17 recently completed county meetings to discuss emergency preparedness and response issues and to continue collaboration between state and county ESF 11 and ESF 17 personnel.

The meeting objectives included identifying state and county contacts and resources that could be used during an emergency coordinated information flow between state and county ESFs 11 and 17, SART, and FLIRRT partners. Over 529 people attended the meetings across 60 Florida counties. County personnel that attended these meetings were representatives from emergency management, law enforcement, animal control, animal shelter, mosquito control, and health department agencies and organizations. Also in attendance were the University of Florida, IFAS Extension, the Florida Cattlemen's Association, the Salvation Army, Humane Societies, and other supporting agencies and organizations.

The report information was consolidated and some of the issues and recommendations include:

- There needs to be strong line of communication between the state and county ESF 11 and 17 personnel
- County ESF 11 and 17 personnel seek information as to what response resources are available to the county for ESF 11 and 17 issues
- County ESF 11 and 17 personnel seek available training opportunities on animal care and sheltering
- Law enforcement officers suggested that medical assistance with Urban Search and Rescue canine teams should be an ESF 17 responsibility

Submitted by Greg Christy, FDACS, State ESF 17 Coordinator

UF IFAS Provides Biosecurity and Biological Risk Management for Livestock Enterprises Resource

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

The purpose of biosecurity is to establish a prevention barrier to disease-causing agents and other threats by minimizing the movement of biological organisms and external threats onto and within livestock operations. The University of Florida IFAS Extension service has published a resource entitled *Biosecurity and Biological Risk Management for Livestock Enterprises*.

The report may be accessed at:
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/AN/AN19400.pdf

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state…

Canine Influenza: The recent outbreak of canine influenza virus has led to the closure of at least four Central Florida dog-boarding and day care facilities so far, and authorities think there are likely many others that have had cases but kept them quiet (Orlando Sentinel).

Strangles: During August, a quarantine for strangles was issued for Lake County. Strangles is a contagious, infectious, upper respiratory disease of horses. The quarantine was the third for Lake County and the 27th case in the state of Florida for this calendar year.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE): During August, one horse tested positive for EEE in Okaloosa County. This is the first case for Okaloosa County and the second for Florida in 2017.

Zika Sexually Transmitted Case in Florida: Florida health officials have reported the state's first sexually transmitted Zika case in 2017. The Florida Department of Health confirmed the case in Pinellas County, and said there was no evidence that transmission through mosquitoes took place anywhere in Florida (ABC News).

Disappearing Zika: Zika has all but disappeared in the Americas. Why? http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/08/zika-has-all-disappeared-americas-why

Updated Hurricane Estimate: Colorado State University issued its updated tropical cyclone forecast today continuing to predict an active season with a 61 percent chance Florida will get hit by a hurricane. That's 10 percent higher than the historical average of a 51 percent chance of Florida getting hit (Palm Beach Post).

Enrollment Open: Multiple Levels for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition has upcoming opportunities for their Awareness Levels 1 and 2 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 1 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 Awareness Level 2 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

September 9-10 Train the Trainer Workshop – Sarasota, FL

When: Saturday, September 9-10 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Where: Cat Depot Education Center, 2525 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eef74pufd808724f&llr=cmn8hziab

September 16 Course – Niceville, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM
Where: Okaloosa County Public Safety Building, 90 College Blvd East, Niceville, FL 32578
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eedgzhqwf892a80e&llr=cmn8hziab

September 30 Course – Milton, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Where: Santa Rosa County EOC, 4499 Pine Forest Road, Milton, Florida 32583
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eedh41ao514ac5fa&llr=cmn8hziab

October 7-8 Course – Niceville, FL (Awareness Level 2)

When: Saturday, October 7 – Sunday, October 8, 2017
For more information, or to register: Contact Bud Most, Volunteer Director, via email at volunteer@flsarc.org

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

Cheese Tests Positive for Escherichia Coli

At the end of July, FDACS' Division of Food Safety, Bureau of Food Inspection, collected food product samples of Mexican ricotta style cheese from a central Florida retailer. Subsequent analysis by the FDACS' Division of Food Safety, Bureau of Food Laboratories, determined that the product was adulterated due to a presence of Escherichia coli (*E. coli*). Escherichia coli is a germ that lives in the digestive tracts of humans and animals. Inspection staff conducted follow-up visits and issued a Stop Sale and Hold Order for the implicated products. Invoices and labeling indicated the products were produced by a California food establishment. Staff provided this information to the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Food Safety Bureau Hosts Annual Meeting

The FDACS' Division of Food Safety, Bureau of Food Inspection, met July 24-27 in Maitland, Florida for their annual meeting. Attendees participated in department trainings as well as training on food related pests, emergency response, and food-borne illness investigations. In addition, John Haven, SART Co-Chair presented an overview on the Incident Command System.

Stories continue. See FLIRRT Updates, page 8.

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

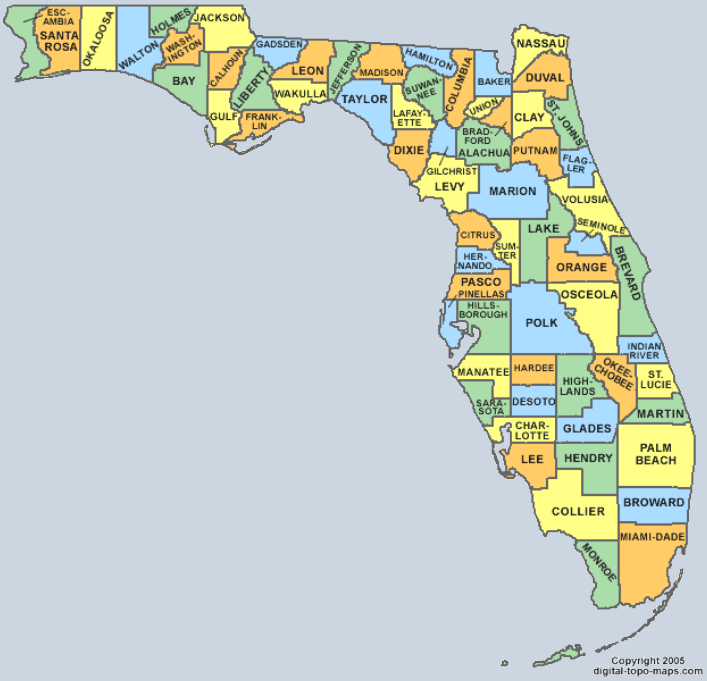
With Hurricane Season in Force, SART Asks Counties to Update

Counties, please update your Emergency Contact Information. As hurricane season continues through November 30th, 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. Please review your county emergency contact information at http://flsart.org/SART/choosecountyforview.

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



SART Offers K9 Handler/First Responder Advanced Scope 2-day Training Class

Florida's State Agricultural Response Team (SART) is happy to announce that it will host a 2-day "K9 Handler/First Responder Advanced Scope" training class for canine handlers and their working canines. This training is paid for by SART (all instructor costs and student tuition). Students will be responsible for their travel, lodging and per diem expenses.

SART has partnered with expert educators from the K9 MEDIC™ training program and SynDaver Labs, the world's leading manufacturer of synthetic humans and canines, to provide canine handlers a unique, advanced scope training format within a scenario-based and comprehensive hands-on training environment.

The "K9 Handler/First Responder Advanced Scope" training class is geared for those handlers and first responders who will face environments which require additional medical support for their canines. Students will have the tremendous opportunity to practice pre-veterinary emergency medical skills on SynDaver's synthetic surgical canines, basic and advanced veterinary manikins, and live canines (for noninvasive demos). This training will teach canine handlers the advance skills needed to prevent and treat injuries and illnesses in working dogs, and train canine handlers to become field-ready.

Students attending this course receive a K9 MEDIC™ Certificate of Completion and Continuing Education Credit for Law Enforcement and EMS providers.

For more information, or to register, visit: http://flsart.org/jsp/registration

FLIRRT Updates (continued)

Food Defense Advisory Council Met in August

Florida's Food Safety and Food Defense Advisory Council held its quarterly meeting on August 11, 2017. Meeting topics included an update of the Council's internal workgroup regarding food establishment inspection summaries, statutes and rules, the restructuring of the United States Food and Drug Administration and hurricane preparedness presentation from various FLIRRT agencies (DOH, DBPR, and FDACS). Sani-Professional also presented on food safety with tablets and digital devices.

AFDOSS Conducts Annual Conference

The Associate of Food and Drug Officials of the Southern States (AFDOSS) conducted its annual conference August 20-23, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ms. Brenda Morris is the current president of AFDOSS. Summer Williams, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, participated in a multi-state panel discussion regarding the 2016 hurricane season activations.

Phosphatase and Coliforms Found in Cheese from Central Florida Producer

At the beginning of August, cheese samples were collected from a Central Florida cheese producer and later tested yielding positive results for phosphatase and coliforms. The adulterated products were placed under stop sale order. Shortly after, the Dairy and Food Lab Teams provided education and information to the producer regarding environmental contamination risk factors. The Teams also reviewed the producers corrective action plans for effectiveness.

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.

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