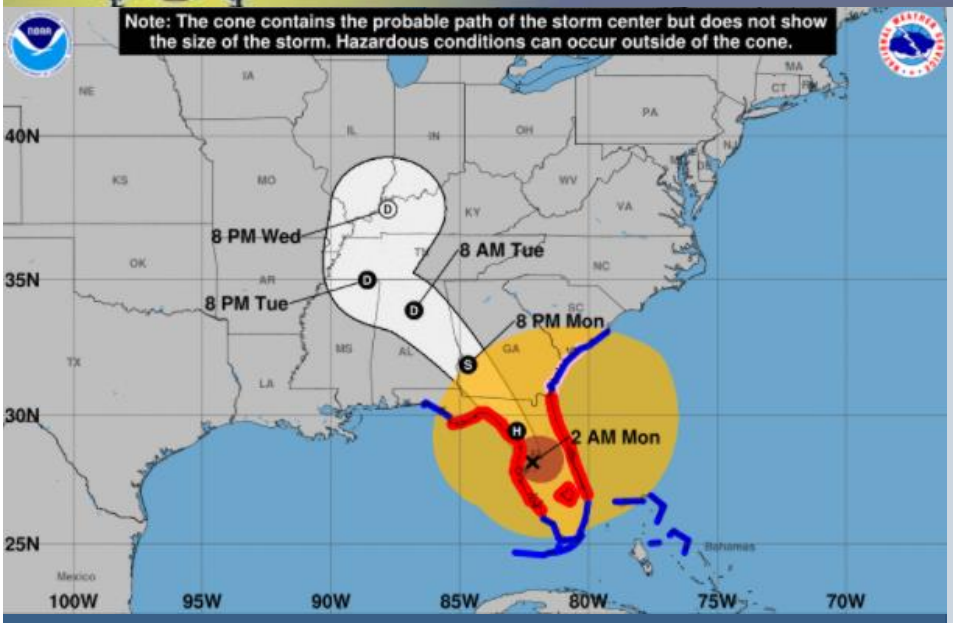
THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM



Whether it's agro-terrorism or hurricanes (as we saw recently), FLSART is working together to provide the response.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Special Section: Hurricane Irma Response*
- *Enrollment Open: Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE)*
- *SART Offers K9 Handler/First Responder Advanced Scope 2-day Training Class*

Florida's Preparedness for an Agro-terrorism Disaster Applies to Hurricane Response

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.

This past month, *Food Safety Magazine* published a story entitled "How Current World Threats May Impact Food Safety." The report focuses on capabilities rogue nations such as North Korea could use to impact the food and agriculture supply chain.

In summary, "A major bioterrorism event on our food supply or our agricultural systems would be expected by many experts to cost us well into the hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars."

The report goes on to state, "Food and agriculture are critical infrastructures, essential to our well-being and national security. Any looming threat to our nation will generally entail a threat at some point to our food supply."

To read the full story, visit https://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/enewsletter/how-current-world-threats-may-impact-food-safety/

"I've not heard of catastrophic damage. "It doesn't mean it doesn't exist. It means it hasn't gotten to us yet."

— Bryan Koon
Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management
(Said shortly after Hurricane Irma hit Florida)

Special Section: Hurricane Irma Response

SART and ESF-17 Respond to Hurricane Irma

HSUS Animal Rescue Team attends to sheltered felines.

On September 10th, Hurricane Irma made landfall first at Cudjoe Key as a Category 4 storm, then again later in the day at Marco Island as a Category 3 storm, before continuing up the state.

In this special section of the *SART Sentinel*, we detail some of the actions and photos taken by ESF-17, the Florida State Agricultural Response Team, and our partners to respond to the disaster.

- The **State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activated** to Level 1 on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, moved to Level 2 on Thursday evening, September 21, 2017.
- ESF-17 have been staffing the SEOC throughout this response.
- ESF-17 opened an **Incident Command Post (ICP)** in Kissimmee, Florida, on September 12, 2017, and demobilized it on September 19, 2017.
- **SART Partner Liaisons deployed to and present at the ICP were**:
  Consie von Gontard, Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FL SARC);
  Dr. Angie Lindsey, University of Florida, Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension (UF/IFAS Extension) and Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN);
  Kate MacFall, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS);
  Dr. Terry Clekis, Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA);
  Lacie Davis, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).
- An initial **supply staging area** was set up at the Kissimmee ICP. A second supply staging area was also set up in Arcadia, Florida (Desoto County). The **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) received donations** of pet food, pet sheltering supplies, and livestock and horse feed. Donations were distributed from both supply staging areas, and continue to be distributed to heavily impacted counties in south Florida.

Stories continue. See *Irma Response*, page 3.

Irma Response (continued)

- **FL SARC opened an emergency pet shelter** in Arcadia, Florida (Desoto County), and Florida SARC volunteers staffed the shelter. FL SARC also deployed an organization called Code 3 to Desoto County. Code 3 provided animal assessment and search and rescue. Code 3 is FL SARC's lead organization for animal rescue.
- Before Irma made landfall, **FL SARC and ESF-17 coordinated with the National Guard** (NG) on the pick-up and delivery of over 300 animal crates to a Florida county in serious need of pet sheltering supplies to support their pet-friendly shelters.

UF VETS Team begins deployment to the Florida Keys.

- The University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine **(UF/CVM) Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team** deployed to the Florida Keys and provided veterinarian assessment and care to animals at the Marathon County Animal Shelter and Key West.
- **UF VETS Team** conducted an Animal Technical Rescue for horses in Columbia County.
- **UF/IFAS Extension and HSUS** collaboratively reached out to over 20 counties via telephone to assess possible needs for livestock, equine and animal sheltering, and agricultural materials. They received several confirmed needs from counties wherein the liaison coordinated an efficient response between ESF-17 and SART partner agencies to meet the immediate needs of the counties. Some of those counties included Collier, Lake, Sarasota, Okeechobee, Hendry, Glades, and Highlands Counties.
- **ASPCA** coordinated sheltering support teams in Lee and Miami-Dade Counties. ASPCA also coordinated the provision of pet sheltering supplies in Monroe County for distribution to the Florida Keys.

Stories continue. See *Irma Response*, page 4.

Irma Response (continued)

UF VETS Team and FWC prepare for 5-horse animal technical rescue in Colombia County.

- **FDACS opened a "Hurricane Irma" webpage** for updates and information on animal preparedness, movement and sheltering. Go to: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Hurricane-Irma
- **For those interested in donating**, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) Foundation will accept relief donations online by credit card. Donations are tax deductible and donors will receive a tax-deductible gift receipt.

Mosquito Control Incident Response Team prepares aerial mosquito application.

Stories continue. See *Irma Response*, page 5.

Irma Response (continued)

- **Florida Farm Bureau** worked one-on-one with farm industry producers on immediate needs assessment and provided educational materials on SART resources.
- **Florida Cattlemen's Association** (FCA) addressed issues from farm industry producers. FCA helped rescue 500 cows and 80 caves from Okeechobee flooding and helped provide feed and resources to local farmers. The heard was moved up Florida's Highway 68 to the Triple S Ranch where co-owner Al Scott provided dry land for them to graze. Read more about this story at http://www.wpbf.com/article/cows-rescued-from-okeechobee-flooding/12452989.

FDACS employees at the Incident Command Post.

- **FDACS Division of Food Safety, Bureau of Dairy Industry, coordinated with USDA and UF/IFAS Extension partners** to help ensure that trains carrying grain feed got delivered in time to Florida's dairy farms in need, especially to Lake Okeechobee dairy farms. Representatives of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida Farm Bureau Federation and the Florida Feed Association, Inc., also contributed to relief efforts for Lake Okeechobee-area dairy farms.
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** performed missions to capture drone footage of Arcadia and Desoto Counties for agricultural damage assessments. ESF17 followed up on these areas with agricultural animal inspectors.
- **FDACS Division of Agricultural Environmental Services (AES)**, is currently staffing the SEOC for **Vector Control** missions, and have deployed the Mosquito Control Incident Response Team (MCIRT). The MCIRT is operating an ICP in Alachua County and additional branches in Sarasota, Flagler, Polk, Okeechobee Counties.

Stories continue. See *Irma Response*, page 6.

Irma Response (continued)

UF VETS Team and FWC on a boat near River Rise Resort surveil the area.

- **FVMA** reviewed and assessed over 200 *Animal/Agricultural Damage and Needs Assessment* forms that pertained to veterinary issues throughout the state. FVMA called residents listed on the forms to see what actual needs were and directed resources in an as needed basis. FVMA called Veterinary Hospitals to check on operational status and see what their needs were. FVMA reviewed reconnaissance photos of animal clinics in Key West and reached out to individual owners to determine operational status and possible opening dates, and offered support to owners. FVMA helped coordinate movement of UF/VETS Team to Key West from Marathon.

Members of the Florida National Guard support in the transportation of animal crates.

Feeding Evacuated Horses in a Disaster

Ever wonder how the diet of a horse can be impacted during emergency sheltering? According to an article in The Horse, Dr. Clair Thunes writes that "We know we should make changes in our horse's diets slowly, but when natural disasters occur that's not always possible. The problem with natural disasters is their unpredictability." Dr. Thunes article delves into four focus areas:

- **Evacuate early**: And don't forget the water! Horses need 5 to 12 gallons per day.
- **Caring for horses you don't know**: If you don't know what to feed, grass hay is a good place to start.
- If hay and feed supplies are limited: "Feeding a good pre- or probiotic product might benefit your horse if you can find one."
- **Advice from those with evacuation experience**: "Have clear feeding instructions written in large text that can be read in poor light by volunteers who might need to care for your horse if you're not able to stay with him."

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

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state…

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) (Santa Rosa and Jackson Counties): On August 31, two horses tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Clinical signs for both horses began on August 30. This is the first case for both Santa Rosa and Jackson Counties, and the third and fourth cases respectively for Florida in 2017.

West Nile Virus (WNV) (Bay and Jackson Counties): On August 30, one horse tested positive for WNV in Bay County and on August 31, another horse tested positive in Jackson county. This is the first case for both Bay and Jackson Counties, and the first and second cases respectively for Florida in 2017. The case in Jackson County is a dual infection with EEE, which was also reported on August 31.

The updated 2017 UF/IFAS Extension Disaster Handbook: This resource is a collection of IFAS resources dealing with preparing for natural disasters and recovering from their aftermath. Brief fact sheets (many translated into Spanish) give farmers, families and communities the information they need to know about safe food and water supplies, home and landscape repairs, applying for assistance and maintaining their physical and mental health before, during and after natural disasters. Download the Disaster Handbook and print fact sheets as needed through your local vendor or office copiers. The following is information on where to download and how to print the 2017 UF/IFAS Extension Disaster Handbook. The handbook is available to anyone with the links below as a free downloadable pdf. Here is the Branding site link: http://branding.ifas.ufl.edu/file_category/disaster-handbook/

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

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

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

October 21 Course – Jacksonville, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Where: Shine Wellness Center, 353 6th Avenue South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eenb2gjs0257aef3&llr=cmn8hziab

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

FLIRRT Activates in Response to Hurricane Irma

In response to Hurricane Irma, Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) activated on September 11, 2017. Highlighted below are some recent actions:

- Agencies activated with FLIRRT: The Division of Food Safety (FDACS), Division of Hotels & Restaurants (DBPR), Bureau of Environmental Health (DOH), Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA), and the Florida District Office (FDA).
- Agency Team Leaders: Dr. Norman Arroyo-Llantin (FDACS), Cathy Tucker (DBPR), Michael Mitchell (DOH), Matthew Carroll (USDA), and Nelson Venerio (FDA).
- FLIRRT reported assessments totaling 24,920. Assessment reports from activated FLIRRT partner agencies included:
    - 5,562 – FDACS
    - 1,911 – Florida Department of Health
    - 14,884 – Department of Business and Professional Regulation
    - 567 – US Department of Agriculture
    - 1,996 – US Food and Drug Administration

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

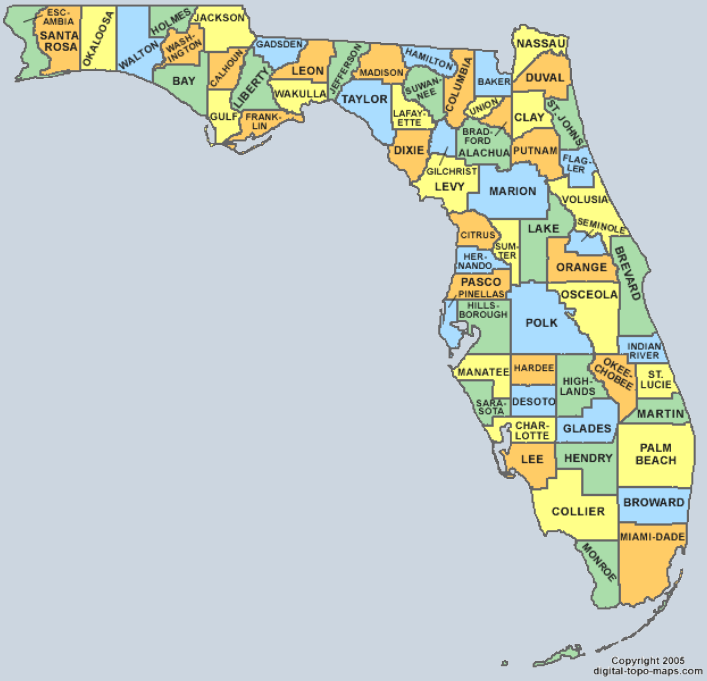
With Hurricane Season in Force, SART Asks Counties to Update

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

Following Hurricane Irma, the "Grain Train" Feeds Okeechobee-area Dairy Cows

As Hurricane Irma was making its way to South Florida, coming from the opposite direction were twenty-six freight cars carrying feed commodities for dairy cows. Known as the "grain train," the cars carried critical feed commodities bound for the Lake Okeechobee area; this according to the publication *Dairy Heard Management*.

When the "grain train" did not arrive by the scheduled September 4th delivery date, Colleen Larson, a UF/IFAS Extension regional dairy agent, got involved in the effort.

"It was a localized problem and thankfully everyone was able to pull together and fix it," said Larson. She credited Florida SART and the UF/IFAS Extension for helping to resolve the problem. Larsen also credited representatives of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida Farm Bureau Federation, and the Florida Feed Association, Inc.

Read more about this at:
http://www.dairyherd.com/news/industry/grain-train-gets-feed-lake-okeechobee-area-dairy-cows-after-irma

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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