The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team is working to meet the agro-terrorism planning and response needs of the State.

Impacts of an Agro-terrorism Attack on America's Food Supply Chain Would be Disastrous

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.

In a recent report posted online at The Daily Caller, authors Kyle Landry and Greg Keeley talk about the dangers the nation would face if a major agro-terrorism attack were to take place.

"An EMP attack would affect the entire food supply chain from farm to table. Modern farm equipment would be offline, leaving thousands of acres of crops unharvested. Temperature controlled distribution warehouses would be offline, leaving thousands of pounds of food to perish. An almost instant food shortage would sweep the country. The agriculture and food industry is one of the 16 core planks of survival determined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Yet the sector receives scant attention."

To read the full story, visit:

http://dailycaller.com/2017/12/20/dont-be-alarmed-but-agro-terrorism-could-be-disastrous-for-americas-food-supply-chain/

Special Features of this Issue:

- *UF VETS Update: Animal Technical Rescue Trainings*
- *4-H Partnerships with Emergency Management a Big Success!*
- *SART Hosted K9 Handler/First Responder Advanced Scope Training*

"SART wants to continue supporting the dedicated members of our law enforcement and search and rescue communities, and its canines that are such a valuable component and play a special role in its effectiveness."

— LeiAnna Tucker
Division of Animal Industry
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
See page 3 for the story.

UF VETS Update: Animal Technical Rescue Trainings

The Universtiy of Florida (UF) Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Animal Technical Rescue Team is expanding their instructor cadre to include several firefighters who have participated with the team extensively in the past. Last month, Josh Fleming (UF VETS), Brandi Phillips (UF VETS), and Brian Erb (St. Johns County Fire Rescue) took the operations level Animal Technical Rescue Course to Polk County. Members from the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Lakeland Fire Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department, and Tampa Police Department worked through a variety of exercises to better prepare themselves for animal rescue scenarios in the field.

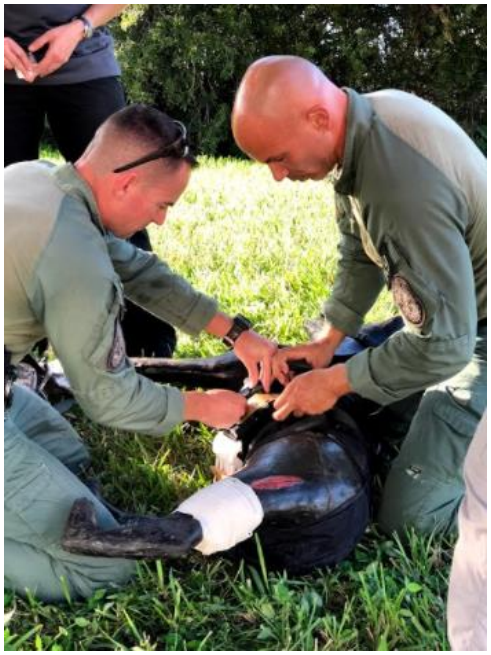
Shortly after the Polk County class, Lee County Sheriff's Office hosted an operations level training class and brought in members from Collier County Sheriff's Office. This time the instructor team was joined by Matt Brown of Lakeland Fire Rescue. The two-day course includes rope rescue techniques applied to large animal loads, low angle and high angle rescues, and ends with a capstone experience in which participants plan and execute a mock rescue scenario as a team.

SART Hosted K9 Handler/First Responder Scope Training

Last month, Florida SART held a 2-day "K9 Handler/First Responder Advanced Scope" training class for canine handlers and their working canines. This training was paid for by SART (all instructor costs and student tuition).

Partnering with educators from the K9 MEDIC™ training program and SynDaver Labs, the course provided canine handlers a unique, advanced scope training format within a scenario-based and comprehensive hands-on training environment. The training class was geared for those handlers and first responders who will face environments which require additional medical support for their canines.

While students were practicing restraints, and presented with the scenario of an injured K9 and/or K9 handler, Dr. Pasek, K9 MEDIC said, **"It's about giving your team secrets for the safety of you and the safety of your dog."**



See *K9 Handler Training*, page 4.

K9 Handler Training (continued)

Course highlights on Day 1 included practiced restraints – restraint is a very important first step, because it allows us to proceed with the intervention we need, such as Intravenous (IV) therapy; basic life support skills; airway skills, massive bleeding and bandaging skills…"Get pressure, keep pressure" is what instructor, Jo-Anne Brenner, stressed during this skills station.

Day 2 dealt with toxins (including NARCAN); Needle Decompressions for GDV/Bloat and Tension Pneumothorax; Heat, Hydration and Hypothermia; IV Therapy.

LeiAnna Tucker, SART Coordinator, said "SART wants to continue supporting the dedicated members of our law enforcement and search and rescue communities, and its canines that are such a valuable component and play a special role in its effectiveness. By partnering with K9 MEDIC and SynDaver, SART really tried to bring you a unique training experience that focuses on protecting and caring for your canine."

Ms. Tucker continued by saying, "By teaching you – the handler – how to learn and apply these pre-veterinary emergency medical skills for your canine in the field, you are preparing yourself and your canine to be the best possible whether being presented with a missing child, a massive hurricane, or even an act of terrorism you are called to assist with."

Students and participants included representation from Florida SARC, National Veterinary Response Team, Florida Alliance of Search and Rescue K9 Inc., Collier County Emergency Services, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Bay County Sheriff's Office, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office, Tampa Police Department, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Miami-Dade Policy Department, and FDACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement.

To view more photos and videos from this event, visit SART's online Media Gallery at: http://flsart.org/mediagallery/

4-H Partnerships with Emergency Management a Big Success!

By Kelsey Irvine, 4-H Extension Agent I

Nassau County Emergency Management and UF/IFAS 4-H have teamed up to expand beyond the traditional Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. They have given their program a new name, the Youth Emergency Team (YET) as this program is opened for youth ages 10 to 17 rather than being teen exclusive. With 19 dedicated YET-ies, this program meets the CERT curriculum with the added benefits of 4-H philosophies.

On December 7th, these youth learned about the considerations and techniques of animals in emergencies including sheltering design and implementation, animal behavior and restraint, and basic animal first aid. Thanks to guest speakers from local animal control, our youth practiced handling questions and clientele situations during shelter check-ins and fixing issues in a mock shelter set-up to minimize disease spread and injury. Three dogs were brought in to incorporate live models for restraints and training of checking vital signs.

Youth even practiced using slip leads for catching and muzzling of dogs and learned how to properly catch/wrap cats using the Sophia Yin "Low-Stress Handling" towel method. The YET program is always filled with laughter and insightful questions from active participants dedicating their time to better prepare and serve their community of both animal and human variety.

To see more of what the YET-ies will be up to, follow their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NCYET

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

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state…

Support for Puerto Rico Continues: Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam Putnam, in an effort to support Puerto Ricans who are evacuating the island with their pets, suspended import rules to include dogs, cats, birds and other small mammals that arrive with evacuees. These pets are exempt from the import health certificate (Official Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection) and/or proof of rabies vaccination. These exemptions include those listed in Florida Administrative Code 5C-3.002,5C-3.009 and 5C-3.012(1). The Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA), a SART partner, has also set up a "Find a Vet" option on their website to assist evacuees with finding a local veterinarian for any medical questions regarding their pet. This information is provided to evacuees with pets upon arrival at the Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC), and can be found on the FVMA website at https://fvma.org. For more information on state response action for Hurricane Maria, visit www.floridadisaster.org/info/maria.

Disaster Relief Appears to be on the Way to Florida's Agriculture Industry: According to The Capitolist, Commissioner Adam Putnam said "Florida's farmers, ranchers and growers suffered unprecedented damage from Hurricane Irma, and [last month's message from U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan] of proposed emergency funding for Florida agriculture is the first bit of good news we've heard in months," Read more at http://thecapitolist.com/disaster-relief-appears-to-be-on-the-way-to-floridas-agriculture-industry/

Gel Spice Company, Inc. Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Soy and Wheat In Beef Flavored Bouillon Cube Products: Gel Spice Company, Inc. is voluntarily recalling certain Spice Time and Spice Supreme Beef Flavored Bouillon Cube products because they contain undeclared soy and wheat. People who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to soy and/or wheat run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction(s) if they consume these products. The beef flavored bouillon cube products identified above were distributed by Gel Spice throughout the United States including Florida to retail locations and distribution centers.

Enrollment Open: Multiple Courses for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition has upcoming opportunities for their Operations Level 2 Small Animal Emergency Sheltering and Train-the-Trainer courses.

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

In conjunction with Cat Depot in Sarasota, Florida, SARC will be hosting a Train-the-Trainer Workshop to get animal lovers like you ready to help train volunteers. It will be 2 full days of learning how others learn, effective teaching styles, and how FL-SARC classes work. ICS 100 is prerequisite for the course, and is available to take online a https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b.

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

January 20-21 Course – Sarasota, FL (Train-the-Trainer Workshop)

When: Saturday, January 20 – Sunday, January 21, 2018 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=a07eeqto60n1e3be639&llr=cmn8hziab

February 3-4 Course – Fellsmere, FL (Operations Level 2)

When: Saturday, February 3 – Sunday, February 4, 2018
Where: Fellsmere City Hall Office Complex (City Council Chamber), 21 S Cypress Street, Fellsmere, FL 32948
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eey01ckdb99fd8d8&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

- Two sets of deli salad samples collected from a central Florida retailer tested positive for Listeria monocytogenes (L. mono) by the FDACS Food Lab. In response, a team of FDACS Food Safety inspectors consisting of Rita Johnson, Matthew Johansson, Rich Brasher and Ann Johnson visited the firm early December and collected 85 environmental samples to determine the source of the contamination. These samples were delivered to the FDACS Food Lab for L. mono analysis, and 33 tested positive. The retailer is currently closed at the suggestion of FDACS and working on a clean-up method before reopening.

- December 5-7 marked the 2018 Annual Rapid Response Team Face to Face Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Matt Colson (Food Inspection Bureau Chief), Summer Williams (Emergency Response Coordinator), Jamie DeMent (DOH), Ashley Jelonek (FDA Florida District Office), and Nelson Venerio (FDA Florida District Office) attended this meeting on behalf of Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT). Jamie DeMent presented on Florida's Cyclospora outbreaks (see attached pic). Summer Williams and Nelson Venerio presented FLIRRT's Hurricane Irma Activation during the Natural Disasters Panel Discussion. In addition, Summer Williams also presented the Recall Audit Check Module during a "speed dating" session and Ms. Williams presented a poster on the 2017 Hurricane Irma Activation during the meeting poster session.

MGT 448: All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) are proud to sponsor the upcoming *All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters* training course.

Scheduled for February 28, 2018, this management level course will provide the background information needed to lead a multi-agency team of emergency planners in the development of an Emergency Support Functions (ESF) annex for food and/or animal related disasters to supplement their community's existing Emergency Operation Plans. The course will address topics such as agroterrorism; detection and diagnosis; the unique challenges that rural communities face in planning for and responding to food and/or animal related disasters; utilization of ESF; recovery and the importance of sustainable operations during a disaster event; and mapping a community to identify areas of vulnerability and resources. All content will be presented at an all-day instructor led training that will include presentations and problem-solving activities that will be completed in small groups.

For more information, or to register, visit:
www.ruraltraining.org/training/schedule/2018-02-28-mgt448-tallahassee-fl-001

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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PREREQUISITES

AWR 328: All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters (optional)

THIS COURSE IS FOR

- Animal Emergency Services
- Agricultural Safety
- Emergency Managers & Planners
- Law Enforcement
- Public Health
- Private/Corporate Security & Safety
- State, Local & Tribal Gov. Administrators
- Veterinarians

Foreign Nationals must complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course. For information about this form, contact Lori Ard at lori.ard@centertech.com *or* 606.677.6062.

FEBRUARY 28, 2018*, 8AM - 5PM

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
THE CONNOR BUILDING, EYSTER AUDITORIUM

3125 CONNER BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-1650

REGISTER ONLINE

www.ruraltraining.org/training/schedule/2018-02-28-mgt448-tallahassee-fl-001

Please register by* **February 14, 2018 *as a minimum of 30 registrants is required to confirm the class will be held.*

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SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Sponsored jointly by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT)

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