



The Sentinel

Newsletter of
the Florida State
Agricultural
Response Team



Special Features of this Issue:

- Biosecurity Resources for Poultry Flocks
- UF/IFAS Extension Service and Seminole County Deliver Large Animal Handling Training
- MGT 448: All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters

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

Agroterrorism: Assessing the Threat; and Determining What Can be Done

In a research brief published by [RAND Corporation](#), agroterrorism—the deliberate introduction of a disease agent, either against livestock or into the food chain, to undermine socioeconomic stability and/or generate fear—remains a major concern for government officials and the private sector.

Key vulnerabilities in the agriculture sector include:

- Concentrated and intensive contemporary farming practices
- Increased susceptibility of livestock to disease
- Insufficient farm/food-related security and surveillance
- An inefficient passive disease-reporting system

- Inappropriate veterinarian and diagnostic training; and
- A focus on aggregate rather than individual livestock statistics.

While the news is not all doom and gloom, it will take actions to improve defense of the system. Actions such as focusing attention on issues of law enforcement and the use of forensic investigations and increasing the number of state and local personnel with the skills to identify and treat exotic foreign animal diseases would go a long way to improving safety.

To read the full story, visit:

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB7565/index1.html

“Following one of the most active wildfire seasons in recent history and a devastating hurricane season, forecasts predict an extremely dry spring.”

— Adam Putnam, Commissioner
Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
See page 6 for the story.



UF VETS Update

As the University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (UF VETS) Team expands, instructors Brandi Phillips (UF VETS), Josh Fleming (UF VETS), and Matt Brown (Lakeland Fire Department and UF VETS Instructor) will lead an animal technical rescue course in Hernando County on February 10th and 11th. UF VETS team members and future instructors Matt Johnson and Dane Anderson will be joining.

In Brevard County, the UF VETS Team will conduct back-to-back Operations and Technician level courses March 6-9. Brandi Phillips (UF VETS), Josh Fleming (UF VETS), and Karl Froling (Volusia County Fire Department and UF VETS Instructor) will lead this course, which will feature live training with a helicopter on the final day of the course in Melbourne.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/about-the-college/administration/directors-office/about-vets/>

Biosecurity Resources for Poultry Flocks



The [University of California](#) defines biosecurity as “a practice designed to prevent the spread of disease onto your farm. It is accomplished by maintaining the facility in such a way that there is minimal traffic of biological organisms (viruses, bacteria, rodents, etc.) across its borders.” Biosecurity is the cheapest, most effective means of disease control available, and no disease prevention program will work without it.

Avian influenza is just one of the many biosecurity hazards poultry flocks face. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), domesticated birds (chickens, turkeys, etc.) may become infected with avian influenza A viruses through direct contact with infected waterfowl or other infected poultry, or through contact with surfaces that have been contaminated with the viruses. During the cold winter months, risks of influenza can increase for animals and people alike. To better prepare your poultry flocks, visit the following resources:

- USDA APHIS: [Biosecurity Guide for Poultry and Bird Owners](#)
- University of Georgia: [Biosecurity Basics for Poultry Growers](#)
- University of California: [Biosecurity for Poultry Flocks](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Avian Influenza in Birds](#)

UF/IFAS Extension Service and Seminole County Deliver Large Animal Handling Training



After the raging fires in 2017 combined with a Hurricane, Seminole County's Emergency Management Team recognized there was a real need for Large Animal Handling Training for First Responders and reached out to the UF/IFAS Extension Service, Seminole County for help in training.



After several meetings with the Seminole County Sheriff's Department Range and Water Officers along with First Responders in Fire and Rescue, Seminole County's 4-H Agent Chelsea Woodard, Orange/Seminole County's Ag and Natural Resources Agent, JK Yarborough and County Extension Director, Barbara Hughes, developed the training program for First Responders at the Yarborough Ranch. 4-H Youth brought their steers for observation on flight zone patterns and cattle behavior. Other 4-H Youth brought their horses and helped First Responders learn how to successfully halter and lead their horses around the arena.

Justin Callaham, Unit Farm Manager from the UF Horse Teaching Unit and Shane Michael, the Florida 4-H Regional Specialize Agent, taught normal and abnormal horse behavior, flight zones, horse trailering and handling, reducing risk and feed vs. force. Dr. Todd Thrift from the UF Department of Animal Sciences taught the same topics for cattle.

(Continued next page.)

Large Animal Handling Training (continued)

In the afternoon, Sergeant Chris Stronko from Seminole County Sheriff's Department talked about the roles of the Range and Water portion of the Sheriff's Department and the responsibilities of each responder during an emergency. John Haven II from UF's College of Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Emergency Treatment Services (VETS) and Battalion Chief Karl Frolong Jr. with the Lake Helen Fire Department Tactical Rescue provided hands on training with a Tactical Response scenario.

There were 33 participants from the Seminole County Sheriff's Department and Fire/Rescue First Responders and seven selected 4-H Senior Youth members. Sponsors for the event included DUDA Ranches, Walmart, and Ed Yarborough Ranches, Inc. Evaluations for this seven-hour training provided feedback saying all had become more confident in tactical responses, were grateful for the hands-on training and were grateful for the high caliber of the trainers. Plans for future trainings are already underway.



Florida Releases Draft Statistics on Hurricane Irma Sheltering

The table below illustrates the draft Hurricane Irma sheltering totals. In the count, more than 340,000 citizens and over 21,000 pets were housed in shelters throughout the state of Florida. Andrew Sussman, a subject matter expert with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, polled Florida's counties and released the data.

General Population Sheltered Count	Special Needs Sheltered Count	Medical Needs Sheltered Count	Pets Sheltered Count	Total People Sheltered Pre-landfall
320,601	17,951	1,516	21,667	340,068

Florida Schools Engage in Severe Weather Awareness Week

Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week (SWAW) was held January 22-26, 2018. SWAW is an opportunity for the Florida Division of Emergency Management to collaborate with elementary schools throughout Florida to educate students about all types of severe weather that may occur. Each day focuses on a specific weather event.

- Monday's focus was on lightning.
- Tuesday's focus was on marine hazards and rip currents.
- Wednesday's focus was on thunderstorms and tornadoes.
- Thursday's focus was on hurricanes and flooding.
- Friday's topic was temperature extremes and wildfires.

Read more at: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/SWAW>

SART Steering Committee Meeting Scheduled

The next SART Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held on February 15, 2018 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the USDA Farm Service Agency at 4440 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32606. This meeting is for members of the SART Steering Committee. For more information, please visit: <http://www.flsart.org/SART/viewcalendar?pageID=0&eventID=357>



UPDATE: Support of Puerto Rico Evacuee Operations

The Commissioner of Agriculture's Emergency Order (3rd Extension) expired on January 27, 2018. The Department has decided not to extend the Emergency Order. Therefore, on January 27, 2018, the following provisions of Rule Chapter 5C-3, Florida Administrative Code, resumed and will remain in effect:

- (1) Rule 5C-3.002(1), F.A.C. – All animals OCVI/Health Certificates requirement;
- (2) Rule 5C-3.009 (1) and (3), F.A.C. – Dogs and Cats OCVI/Health Certificates and rabies vaccination requirements; and
- (3) Rule 5C-3.0012(1), F.A.C. – Domestic Fowl OCVI/Health Certificates requirement.

From October 2, 2017, through January 27, 2018 (117 days), the Emergency Order temporarily suspended the import rules for evacuees arriving with dogs, cats, birds and other small mammals wherein pets were exempt from the import health certificate (Official Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection) and/or proof of rabies vaccination.



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/pdf/AN/AN19400.pdf>

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state...



Florida Cattleman's Association Quarterly Legislative Meeting and "Boots on the Hill"

On January 16-18, the Florida Cattleman's Association (FCA) Board of Directors met in Tallahassee for the annual Quarterly Legislative Meeting. Approximately 150 industry representatives met in the Capitol with Commissioner Putnam and Florida Senators and Representatives. Key issues included support of the Department's budget, funding for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, projects by the Department's Office of Agricultural Water Policy, funding for the Department's diagnostic laboratories, and a discussion of the Florida Cracker Cattle and Florida Cracker Horses as official Heritage Breeds. Dr. Michael Short, State Veterinarian, met with the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors to report that Florida has just been officially declared free of New World Screwworm (NWS). Dr. Short thanked FCA for their vigilant efforts and presented commemorative NWS "Challenge Coins" to the Executive Committee and to past presidents. Dr. Fisch, Stephen Monroe and Doyle Hill were also on hand to welcome the FCA to Tallahassee as they attended their annual "Boots on the Hill" event.

New Reportable Disease Cases

- **Eastern Equine Encephalitis:** On January 19, one horse tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in St. Johns County. EEEs are mosquito transmitted diseases that can cause severe inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) in horses and humans. This is the first case of EEE in St. Johns County and in the state of Florida for 2018.
- **Strangles:** On January 25, one premises in Lake County was placed under quarantine for clinical signs of Strangles. Two of the 10 horses on the property demonstrated clinical signs consistent with Streptococcus equine infection. This is the second case of Strangles for Lake County and the third for the state of Florida in 2018.

Wildfire Season is Right Around the Corner

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam and the Florida Forest Service urge caution due to increased wildfire danger this spring and encourage support for prescribed fire during Florida's Prescribed Fire Awareness Week, which is from Jan. 28 through Feb. 4. Prescribed fire is a vital tool used to reduce wildfire risk in Florida. [Read more.](#)

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 Awareness Level 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 Operations 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>

February 10 Course – Sarasota, FL (Awareness Level)

When: Saturday, February 10, 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=a07eeqt60n1e3be639&llr=cmn8hziab>

March 24-25 Course – Fellsmere, FL (Operations Level 2)

When: Saturday, March 24 – Sunday, March 25, 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.

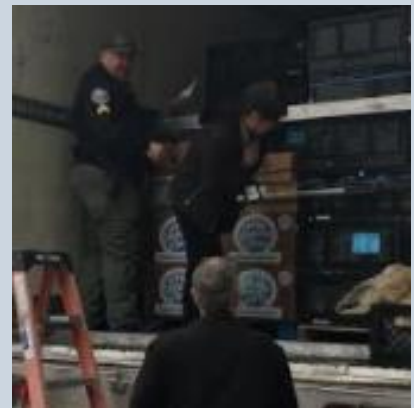
Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) is a multi-agency coordination group responding to feed and food emergency under the Rapid Response Team Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Cooperative Grant Program.

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>

- Summer Williams, Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team Coordinator, participated in the 2018 St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant Practice Exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center on January 10, 2018. This practice exercise was in preparation of the FEMA evaluated exercise that will be held in February 2018. The scenario included a radiological disaster at the St. Lucie Power Plant. Summer represented the Division of Food Safety under Emergency Support Function 11 (Food and Water).
- FDACS Food Inspection District 2 Supervisor Elliot Bronson, District 2 Senior Yolanda Sylve, Inspector Roy Brogan and Inspector David Cano attended the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement's Region 1 Interdiction Station (Interstate 10 in Live Oak) blitz on January 8. Food Safety staff assisted in inspections of trucks and trailers with food products. The purpose of the blitz was to bring hands on training and integration between the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement and other FDACS divisions. Dr. Matt Curran and Summer Williams were also in attendance for the blitz.
- Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team sponsored a ICS 300/400 combination course January 22-25 in Tallahassee. Participants were FLIRRT and SART partners from FDACS (Animal Industry, Ag Environmental Sciences, Food Safety, Food Nutrition and Wellness, and Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement), DOH (Environmental Health and Epidemiology), DBPR (Division of Hotels and Restaurants), and USDA (Food Safety and Inspection Service). John Haven, SART Co-Chair, instructed this course.
- Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team staff will be attending the 7th Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Meeting January 29-February 1. Jamie DeMent (DOH), Summer Williams (FDACS), and Patty Lewandowski (FDACS) will be presenting on "Using Technology to Enhance Surveillance and Response." Topics will include GIS mapping for response, Whole Genome Sequencing in the Food Lab, and social media for complaint response.



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.

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: LeiAnna Tucker, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.

E-mail: LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com