# The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

*The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins on June 1st.*

## The 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins June 1, Are you Prepared?

Following Subtropical Storm Alberto, Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam is reminding Floridians to prepare for the 2018 hurricane season, which officially begins June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts another above-average hurricane season.

"As Floridians, we understand the threat of hurricane season all too well," said Commissioner Putnam. "It's imperative that Floridians have a plan in place to protect their families, homes and businesses this hurricane season."

### But what about my pets?

Well, Florida SART has you covered! Visit SART's ***Pet-Friendly Sheltering Resources*** webpage for training material and volunteer information on pet sheltering. And don't forget to check out SART's document, ***Disaster Preparedness for Pets***, for helpful information on evacuation planning and tips for pets. SART encourages you to share this information! Additionally, 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, ESF-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.

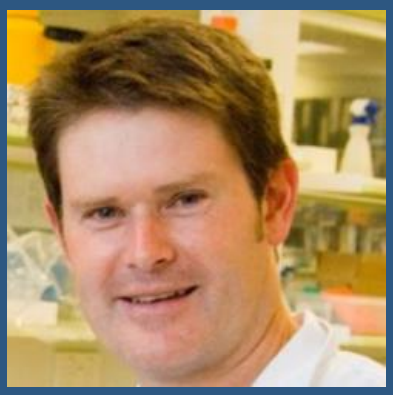
See *Hurricane Season*, page 4.

**Special Features of this Issue:**


- *Training at the 32nd Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference Marked a Success*
- *Enrollment Open: Multiple Courses for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering*
- *New Antibiotic Found in Tobacco Flowers Tears into Superbugs*


***"Antibiotic resistance at the current rate will eventually lead to the exhaustion of effective long-term drug options. It's imperative we develop new antibiotic treatments."***

— Dr. Mark Hulett
La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science
See page 8 for the story.



## Training at the 32nd Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference Marked a Success

The 32nd Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference was held May 13 – 18 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. SART coordinator, LeiAnna Tucker, and Florida State Animal Response Coalition director, Consie von Gontard, provided two training courses at the conference on Emergency Pet-Friendly Sheltering and PETS Act Reimbursement for Counties. Ms. von Gontard taught about best management practices for pet-friendly sheltering such as the responsibilities for the setup, maintenance, animal care, and teardown of a pet-friendly shelter. Ms. Tucker taught about the creation and intent of the Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act), discussed the eligible expenses under the PETS Act, and associated the eligible expenses to best practices for pet-friendly sheltering and pet rescue. Over 40 people attended the trainings, with representatives from private organizations, county emergency management offices, and state and federal agencies.

Additionally, Ms. Tucker served as a panelist on the workshop titled, "Pet-Friendly & Special Needs Sheltering Considerations: Lessons Learned and Best Practices." Ms. Tucker opened the workshop with a presentation on the ESF 17/SART response during Hurricane Irma and the "state perspective" on pet-friendly sheltering. She also shared testimonial and pictures of ESF 17/SART support for pet-friendly sheltering during Hurricane Irma as well as the challenges and best practices for pet-friendly sheltering. Ms. Tucker was then followed by a presentation from Lee County Emergency Management who also shared their experience and "county perspective" on pet-friendly sheltering during Hurricane Irma. The turnout for the workshop was excellent with over 50 people in attendance.

## UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Update

The UF VETS Team completed a "great" training last month with Wright Rescue Solutions, Inc. According to UF's Brandi Phillips, all of the core team members are now FLUSAR certified for Confined Space Rescue at the Operations Level. Frequently, animal technical rescue operations in Florida take place in sink holes, which qualify as confined spaces. Important considerations for these types of scenarios include testing the air quality of the space and operating on self-contained breathing apparatuses. This training is valuable not only for the safety of our responders when called to the scene for rescues in confined spaces, but also enhances the information relayed in our own animal technical rescue training classes.

In other news, UF VETS will be hosting their first open enrollment Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue training at the Florida State Fire College June 8th-10th. This 3-day, hands-on course will prepare participants to respond safely to technical rescue emergencies for animals including trailer accidents, animals entrapped in mud, and other common scenarios. Registration is $600 per participant. Please contact Brandi Phillips (brandikphillips@ufl.edu) to register.

## Looking for Pet-Friendly Sheltering Resources?

The FDACS Emergency Response Web site has a new Web page filled with valuable resources for pet-friendly sheltering.

For all the details, visit: https://flsart.org/jsp/petfriendly

## FDACS and ESF 17 Continue to Plan for Annual County Meetings

As the State prepares for the kick-off to the 2018 Hurricane Season, FDACS staff and ESF 17 District Specialists have been holding face-to-face meetings with county emergency management offices as part of the ESF 17 annual county meetings. Over 50 meetings have already been held. Conversations will occur with all 67 Florida counties on the topics of:

- ESF 17 Response Capabilities: Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART); Pet Sheltering; PETS Act Reimbursement for Counties
- ESF 11 Food, Water and Ice responsibilities
- ESF 17 Food Safety: Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT)
- ESF 17 Emergency Mosquito Control

## Hurricane Season (continued)

### Counties, is your contact information up-to-date on the SART website?

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.

During an emergency, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides necessary food and water to affected areas and helps protect animals and pets. The Department's Florida Forest Service is responsible for incident management and assists emergency responders in clearing debris and distributing supplies. Additionally, the Department's Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement provides law enforcement services to police departments and county sheriff's offices as necessary.

For more information and tips on hurricane preparedness, visit FloridaDisaster.org.

## In the News

*Short stories and updates from around the state…*

**2018 Statewide Hurricane Exercise**: **SART Partners Held Conference Call**
On April 30 – May 3, the 2018 Statewide Hurricane Exercise was held at the State Emergency Operations Center located in Tallahassee. SART partners also held a conference call on May 1, during the exercise, to discuss the exercise scenario, "Hurricane Coleman," and how our SART partners would coordinate resources and response for the ESF17 Incident Management Team during a hurricane event. Topics of discussion included: SART concept of operations for coordinating response; vector control response; pet-friendly sheltering; cattle movement; assistance to dairies; animal care and veterinary assessment teams; animal technical rescue; addressing feed and water needs for agricultural producers, and; preparedness and education for SART partners.

**Mid-Year SART Advisory Board Meeting**
June 28, 2018, 10am-12:30pm, Florida Farm Bureau Florida Farm Bureau Building, 5700 SW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32608. The Board Members constituting the Advisory Board is the primary contact/representative for each SART Partner Agency.

**SART Steering Committee Meeting**
June 7, 2018, at the USDA Farm Service Agency. This meeting is for members of the SART Steering Committee.

**Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Emus**
For the past few weeks, FDACS veterinarians and staff coordinated with the Florida Department of Health and county health departments to investigate and confirm EEE emu farm outbreaks in North/Central Florida. Unvaccinated emus are especially sensitive to the virus, which is initially spread by mosquitos and can easily spread throughout the mob. County health departments and mosquito control programs also worked with the owners to mitigate the mosquito threat.

# 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

## *June 2-3 Course – Orlando, FL (Operations Level 2)*

**When:** Saturday, June 2 – Sunday, June 3, 2018
**Where:** EOC, Osceola County Emergency Management, 2586 Partin Settlement Rd., Kissimmee, FL 34744
**Register:** http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efc903k226db7e2b&llr=cmn8hziab

## *June 23-24 Course – Gainesville, FL (Operations Level 2)*

**When:** Saturday, June 23 – Sunday, June 24, 2018
**Where:** Alachua County Health Department, 224 SE 24th St., Gainesville, FL 32641
**Register:** http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efcxhang287a89cb&llr=cmn8hziab

## *July 21 Course – Tallahassee, FL (Awareness Level 1)*

**When:** Saturday, July 21, 2018
**Where:** Details will be announced soon.
**Register:** http://flsarc.org/Training.html

## 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

- The State Emergency Operations Center activated to a Level 1 for Subtropical Storm Alberto during Memorial Day weekend. Summer Williams monitored potential impacts for Food Safety including power outages and flooding for ESF 17.
- Summer Williams attended the 32nd Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference May 13-18, 2018. This is the first time the Division of Food Safety and Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team has attended this event.
- Several members of the FDACS Division of Food Safety attended the Conference for Food Protection (CFP) in Richmond, Virginia. The team participated in council deliberations on issues regarding the next edition of the Food Code. Ann Johnson (FDACS) serves as the Southeastern State representative to the CFP Board of Directors and Joetta DeFrancesco (FDACS) is the Vice Chair of Council.
- FDACS members, Raymond Allum and Brian Caudle, attended the Southern Section of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists meeting in Atlanta. Brian conducted a presentation entitled "Microbial Mercantile: Contaminated Foods in Chemistry Analytes." The presentation detailed food sampling by inspections and laboratory microbiological testing Whole Genome Sequencing.
- Members from the Division of Food Safety will be attending the 2018 Association of Food and Drug Officials Educational Conference June 8-13. Summer Williams will be presenting on Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team's (FLIRRT) response to Hurricane Irma in a joint panel discussion about disaster response with the State of Texas. Summer will also be showcasing FLIRRT's Recall Audit Check online training module at the speed dating session.

## New Antibiotic Found in Tobacco Flowers Tears into Superbugs

Researchers at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia are looking to a protein found in tobacco plants as a means of fighting infectious diseases. Their chief concern is the rising challenge of antibiotic resistance and the danger associated with the exhaustion of long-term drug therapies.

By controlling a peptide found in the flowers of ornamental tobacco plants, the team believes they have found new ways to fight infections. According to Dr. Mark Hulett, "It's an exciting discovery that could be harnessed to develop a new class of life-saving antimicrobial therapy to treat a range of infectious diseases, including multi-drug-resistant golden staph, and viral infections such as HIV, Zika virus, Dengue and Murray River Encephalitis."

To read the complete story, please visit:
https://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2018/release/la-trobes-infection-busting-discovery

*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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