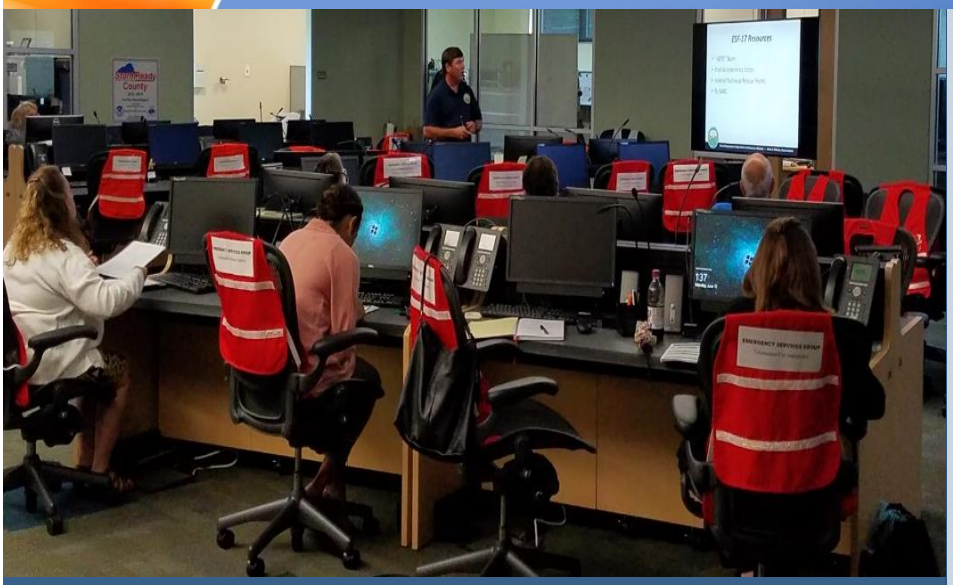
The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team



James Pilcher with FDACS presents at the Leon County Emergency Operations Center during the ESF 17 Annual County Meeting.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *SART Advisory Board Meets for Mid-Year Meeting*
- *UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team Update*
- *Wildfires: Preparation and Evacuation Tips for Horse Owners*

FDACS and ESF 17 District Specialist Complete Annual County Meetings

FDACS and ESF 17 district specialists have now completed work on visiting counties. These face-to-face meetings with county emergency management offices are conducted annually.

For this 2018 cycle, a total of 62 meetings were conducted 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

Representatives also discussed needs and current capabilities to address animal and agricultural needs at the county level in the event of an emergency.

UF IFAS Disaster Handbook

The University of Florida 2017 Disaster Handbook, UF IFAS Extension has updated their 2017 Disaster Handbook. The handbook focuses on the topics of Food and Water, Mental Health, Home Repairs, Landscape Repairs, Applying for Assistance, and Farms.

The document may be accessed online at: http://branding.ifas.ufl.edu/media/brandingifasufledu/disaster-handbook/DisasterHandbook.compressed-1.pdf

FDACS' Summer Williams presented 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.

— See page 6 for the story.

UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team Update

In June, the UF VETS Team hosted the first open enrollment Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue class at the Florida State Fire College. Participants from around Florida and a veterinarian with the American Humane Association based in Oklahoma attended this three-day class loaded with scenarios. The training was a great success!

On the second day of the class, a real life call came through for a horse that had fallen into a sinkhole in Trenton, Florida. In a unique opportunity, the students joined the instructors for the response. The blind, pregnant mare was retrieved using techniques practiced on the training mannequin earlier that same day. Having an opportunity to put training to immediate use was extremely valuable for all, and having a positive outcome for the horse and her future foal made it all the more rewarding.

Looking for Pet-Friendly Sheltering Resources?

The SART website has posted new, valuable resources for pet-friendly sheltering.

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

SART Advisory Board Meets for Mid-Year Meeting

On June 28th, members of the SART Advisory Board met at the Florida Farm Bureau Building in Gainesville. The Board Members constituting the Advisory Board include the primary contact/representative for each SART partner agency. A total of 35 attendees were present from FDACS and SART partner agencies. Presentations were given by SART partners on the following topics:

- 2018 SART Legislative Updates by LeiAnna Tucker, FDACS
- Oriental Fruit Fly Response 2018 by Bryan Benson, FDACS
- Eastern Equine Encephalitis by Dr. Stanek, FDOH, and Dr. Long, UF

The agenda and presentations are posted on the SART website at: https://flsart.org/jsp/conference/

Counties, Please Update Your Contact Information on FLSART.org

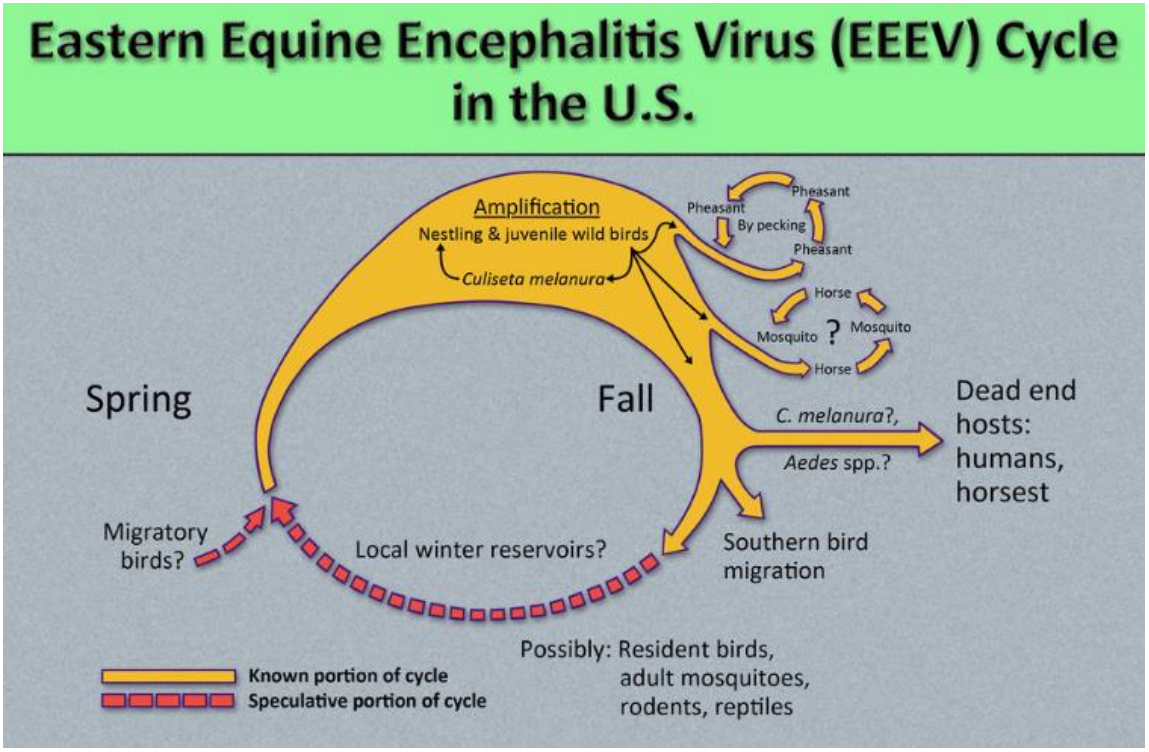
Please review your county emergency contact information at http://flsart.org/SART/choosecountyforview. If you need to make changes to your county contact information, please send a request to LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com.

During an emergency, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides necessary food and water to affected areas and helps protect animals and agriculture. 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…



Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) (Pasco, Putnam, Okeechobee, Volusia, Marion, and Gilchrist Counties)
EEE is an infectious viral disease that is maintained in bird reservoirs, transmitted by mosquitos, and oftentimes causes fatal neurological diseases in mammals such as horses, deer, pigs, and, rarely, humans. This week, nine cases of EEE in horses were reported to the division, and all were euthanized due to a poor prognosis. In Florida this year, 37 cases of EEE have been reported.

SART Steering Committee Meeting
July 12, 2018, at the USDA Farm Service Agency. This meeting is for members of the SART Steering Committee.

Kellogg's Honey Smack Recalled
The Centers for Disease Control recommends people do not eat recalled Kellogg's Honey Smacks cereal because it has been linked to a multistate outbreak of Salmonella infections. Epidemiologic evidence indicates that Kellogg's Honey Smacks cereal is a likely source of this multistate outbreak. As of this publication, the recall has not yet affected Florida. Additional details are available at: https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/mbandaka-06-18/index.html

Enrollment Open: Awareness Level 1 Course for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition has upcoming opportunities for their Awareness Level 1 course.

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 Division of Emergency Management and is required to respond in Florida to help companion animals and their owners during a disaster.

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

July 21 Course – Panama City, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, July 21, 2018
Where: Operation Spay Bay, 3520 East 15th Street, Panama City, FL 32404
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efgbpxw75704bf10&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 (DOH), and Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).

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

Members from the FDACS Division of Food Safety and DBPR's Division of Hotels and Restaurants attended the 2018 Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Educational Conference June 8-13. Summer Williams presented 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 also showcased FLIRRT's Recall Audit Check online training module at the speed dating session. Matthew Coleman presented on a panel about the preventive controls implementation process as a part of the Food Safety Modernization Act. Brenda Morris was announced as the Vice-President elect on the AFDO board.

Brian Caudle attended the 2018 Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) conference in Pasadena, CA June 2-5. Brian presented a poster on Nicole Mitchell's (Food Safety Florida Agricultural Science and Technology Fellow) blending project titled, "Random Sampling Versus Blending: Improving Pathogen Detection in Food Samples." Brian also gave a presentation on "Microbial Genomic Sequencing in Public Health Laboratories," providing a broad overview of the various uses of genomic sequence data in the public health arena.

FLIRRT held its quarterly multi-agency coordination meeting in Tallahassee on Tuesday June 19. Agencies in attendance included FDACS, FDA, USDA, DOH, and DBPR. The agenda included discussions about the improvement plan from Hurricane Irma, the 2019 FLIRRT meeting, and the possibility of planning a future workshop for industry partners.

Wildfires: Preparation and Evacuation Tips for Horse Owners

By Rebecca Gimenez, PhD
TheHorse.com

Do you live in an area at risk for wildfires? If so, it's time to take steps to help minimize wildfire's impact on your horses. Take heed even if your area hasn't seen a wildfire for 15 years or longer; the El Nino weather patterns could increase the chance of dry conditions and, thus, fires in areas that haven't been impacted in many years.

It's not necessarily a wildfire's flames that will initially force your and your horses' evacuation. Rather, it's the thick black smoke filled with toxins, along with poor air quality, that will begin having an impact well before the flames arrive. Horses have large lungs and no way to filter out smoke and fire's toxic byproducts-including acrid smoke and tiny particles-and can develop serious health issues even when smoke is several miles away.

To help you prepare in advance, TheHorse.com has some simple steps you can take to make farms as safe and evacuations as seamless as possible. Read the story at:
https://thehorse.com/158682/wildfires-preparation-and-evacuation-tips-for-horse-owners/

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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