The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

Mark your calendars for the 2019 SART Planning Conference!

Special Features of this Issue:

- *USDA Outlines Next Steps for Advancing Animal Disease Traceability*
- *John Haven Departs from UF and SART*
- *Enrollment Open: Multiple Courses for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering*

Preparations Begin for the 2019 SART Planning Conference

Get the resources you need! The 2019 SART Planning Conference is scheduled for May 29-31, 2019 in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Kicking off the afternoon of Wednesday, May 29th, the organizers are looking to engage SART members and partners with new courses, workshops, and informative sessions. This will provide attendees with plenty of opportunities to learn, and even more prospects for members to be a part of SART's future.

The SART Steering Committee is in the process of designing a program that familiarizes participants with disaster situations and provides background information on animal and agriculturally-related emergency management issues.

A program Website with complete registration information will soon be posted online at www.flsart.org.

The planning conference sessions will take place at Sirata Beach Resort. There is no cost to attend, and the event is open to county emergency management directors and coordinators, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension staff, and SART partner agencies.

For conference-related questions, please contact LeiAnna Tucker at (850) 410-0920 or LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com.

See *2019 SART Planning Conference* flyer on page 3

"We have made it our priority to get this money into the hands of the many citrus farmers who suffered following Hurricane Irma's devastating impacts."

— Wes Maul, Director
Florida Division of Emergency Management
Story on page 7

USDA Outlines Next Steps for Advancing Animal Disease Traceability

Last month, Greg Ibach, Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Marketing and Regulatory Programs, announced the USDA's four overarching goals for advancing animal disease traceability to protect the long-term health, marketability and economic viability of the U.S. livestock industry.

"The landscape surrounding animal disease traceability has changed dramatically in the past decade, and producers across the nation recognize that a comprehensive system is the best protection against a devastating disease outbreak like foot-and-mouth disease" Ibach said. "We have a responsibility to these producers and American agriculture as a whole to make animal disease traceability what it should be—a modern system that tracks animals from birth to slaughter using affordable technology that allows USDA to quickly trace sick and exposed animals to stop disease spread."

USDA's four overarching goals for increasing traceability are:

- Advance the electronic sharing of data among federal and state animal health officials, veterinarians and industry; including sharing basic animal disease traceability data with the federal animal health events repository (AHER).
- Use electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient;
- Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected; and
- Elevate the discussion with States and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to state animal health officials.

These goals reflect the core themes resulting from a State and Federal Animal Disease Traceability Working Group that developed 14 key points for advancing traceability. They are also in keeping with feedback APHIS received at stakeholder meetings held across the country to hear from industry and producers directly.

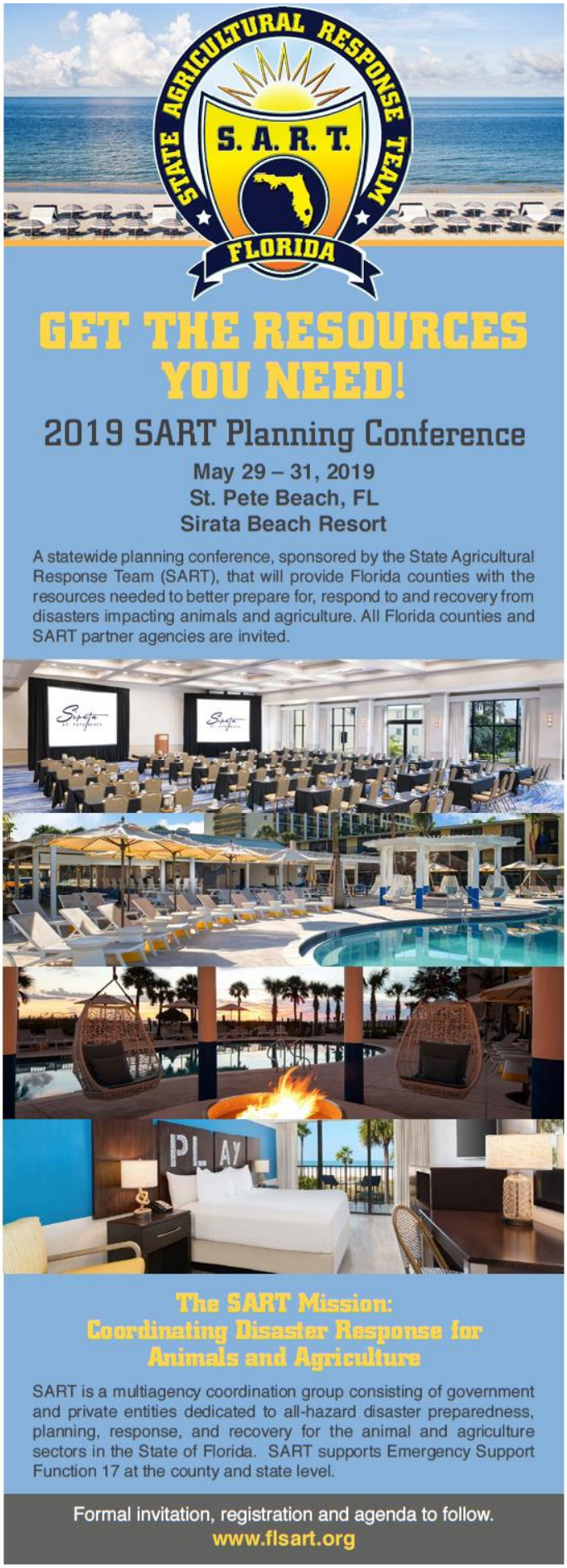
USDA recognizes that some sectors of the livestock industry have already invested a lot of infrastructure into developing their traceability programs. These new goals complement what those sectors are already doing, and will help increase traceability across the entire industry. USDA is committed to continued discussion and collaboration to ensure we coordinate traceability efforts across the country.

While electronic ID is critical for advancing traceability, it's important to emphasize USDA will not dictate the use of a specific tag technology. Not only will electronic ID allow animals to move more quickly through ports, markets and sales, it will also help ensure rapid response when a disease event strikes.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news/sa_by_date/sa-2018/advancing-adt

Would You Like to Feature a Highlight in *The Sentinel*?

We're always looking to provide the most relevant animal and agricultural emergency resources in the state. If you have stories, topics, or calendar events that you'd like to publicize, just email us at: flsart@turnernetwork.com



John Haven Departs from UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS)

After almost 15 years of service, John Haven, co-chair of Florida SART, the Executive Director of the University of Florida's (UF) College of Veterinary Medicine, and the founder of the UF VETS Team, has taken a new position as the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire campus.

In his time with Florida SART, Haven organized several large multi-agency training workshops and exercises, helped communities prepare for disasters, developed new FEMA and state emergency management-approved training programs to support animal technical rescue, and launched national standard setting for animal technical rescue with the National Fire Protection Association. He was also a guest presenter at several of the Florida SART conferences, Florida Animal Control Association (FACA), and others. As a SART partner, Haven taught ICS 300 and 400 to numerous participants, and was a popular presenter with his ability to instruct topics from an agriculture perspective.

Haven has left the UF VETS team in a strong position, with Brandi Phillips leading the technical rescue training and response, and Karen Adams leading the logistics and hospital disaster response components. Several new members have also joined UF VETS, many of whom gained experience through their response roles following Hurricane Irma. The team's new disaster response trailer is due to arrive this December, thus significantly increasing the deployment capabilities of the team.

Those wishing to reach out to Haven can contact him at his new email havenjs@uwec.edu.

Thanks, John, for your many years of service to the team!

Hurricane Florence has Impact to Animals and Agriculture

Hurricane Florence made landfall in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina on September 14, 2018. The storm had reportedly cut power to more than 850,000 customers in North and South Carolina at its peak. Preliminary reports indicate that some 88,000 homes across the Carolinas (approximately 56,000 in North Carolina and 32,000 homes in South Carolina) were impacted by flooding.

As of last week, 41 human shelters remained open with 3,738 individuals being cared for. Electrical outages were down to 29,299 and road closures were down to 681. In addition, there was a significant impact to animals and agriculture in the region.

Continued *Hurricane Florence Impact*, page 10.

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.

Enrollment Open: Multiple Courses for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition has upcoming opportunities for their Awareness Level 1 Small Animal Emergency Sheltering 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 Department 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

October 30 Course – Tampa, FL (Awareness Level 1)

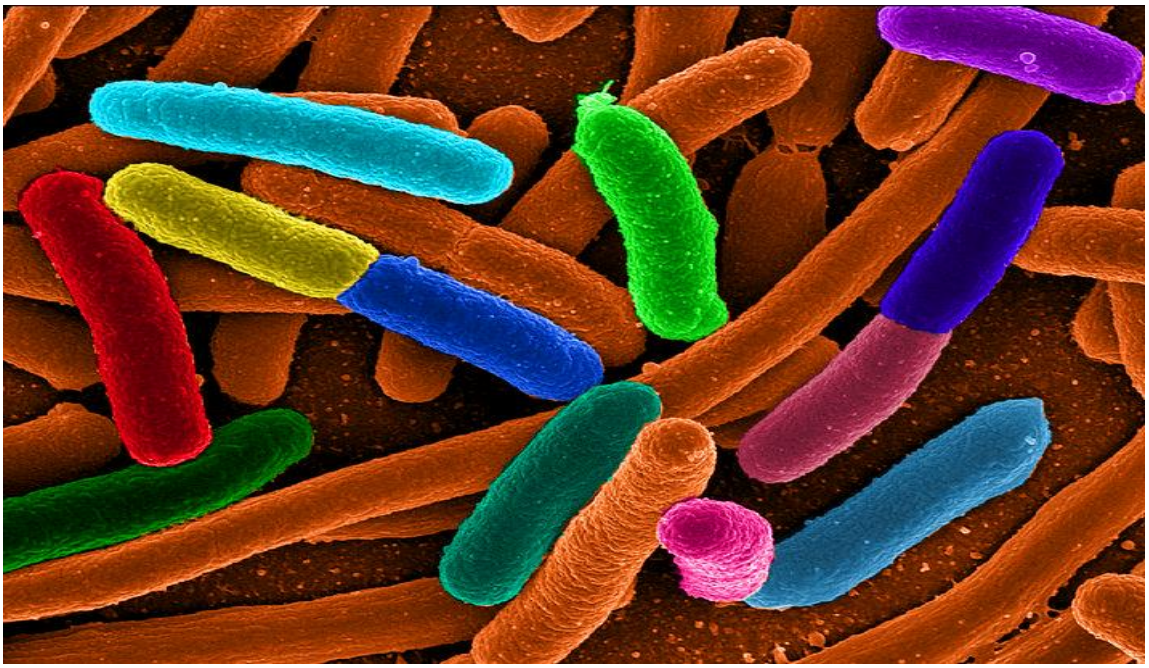
When: Tuesday, October 30, 2018
Where: Aparicio-Levy Technical College Auditorium, 10119 E Ellicott Street, Tampa, FL 33610
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efo9og40892aaaae&llr=cmn8hziab

November 3 Course – Sarasota, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, November 3, 2018
Where: Cat Depot Training Center, 2525 17th Street, Across the street from Shelter, Sarasota, FL 34234
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efq1gwvibfb2652c&llr=cmn8hziab

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state…



Cargill Meat Solutions Recalls Ground Beef Products due to Possible E. Coli
Approximately 132,606 pounds of ground beef products made from the chuck portion of the carcass that may be contaminated with Escherichia coli O26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced last month. On August 16, 2018, FSIS was notified of an investigation of E. coli O26 illnesses. FSIS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state public health and agriculture partners determined that raw ground beef was the probable source of the reported illnesses. The epidemiological investigation identified 17 illnesses and one death with illness onset dates ranging from July 5 to July 25, 2018.
Read more at: https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/recalls-and-public-health-alerts/recall-case-archive/archive/2018/recall-081-2018-release

SART Steering Committee Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2018, at the USDA Farm Service Agency in Gainesville. This meeting is for members of the SART Steering Committee.

SART Advisory Board Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2018. Location is to be determined.

Looking for Pet-Friendly Sheltering Information?

The SART website has posted new, valuable resources for pet-friendly sheltering. For all the details, visit: https://flsart.org/jsp/petfriendly

DEM Announces Receipt of $343 Million in Citrus Grant Funds, Workshops to Assist Farmers to Apply

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) last month announced the successful receipt of $343,221,216.73 in federal Florida Citrus Tree Recovery Program funds to help Florida citrus farmers recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma. DEM also announced that four workshops will be held to assist farmers in applying for the funds.

This outcome was accomplished through a partnership with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) in which DEM manages the distribution of the block grant from the USDA. DEM, FDACS and USDA worked together to produce the grant agreement.

DEM Director Wes Maul said, "We have made it our priority to get this money into the hands of the many citrus farmers who suffered following Hurricane Irma's devastating impacts. They are critical to the recovery of Florida's iconic industry and we will continue to work with our state and federal partners to make this happen as quickly as possible. Our total commitment is evidenced by the fact that we have significantly expedited this process, leading to program implementation more than four months faster than originally anticipated by federal authorities."

FDACS Commissioner Adam Putnam said, "We've worked tirelessly with Florida's agriculture industry, elected leaders and government agencies to help our citrus industry recover from Hurricane Irma's unprecedented damage. Thanks to the hard work of so many, this much-needed piece of disaster assistance is finally on the way and will go a long way to help Florida's citrus industry rebuild."

The goal of management of the process by DEM is for the funds to be distributed to farmers as quickly as possible. To this end, DEM is utilizing accounting professionals on state term contract to ensure that the process is handled as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

For more information, please visit: https://www.floridadisaster.org/news-media/news/20180914-dem-announces-receipt-of-$343-million-in-citrus-grant-funds-workshops-to-assist-farmers-to-apply

Food Safety and Food Defense Report

A special section dedicated to feed and food emergency planning and response.

FDACS' Division of Food Safety is responsible for assuring the public of a safe, wholesome and properly represented food supply through permitting and inspection of food establishments, inspection of food products, and performance of specialized laboratory analysis on a variety of food products sold or produced in the state. The Division of Food Safety monitors food from farm gate through processing and distribution to the retail point of purchase.

- Three Food Inspectors (Bill Fencl, Nancy Fuller and Michael Byrd) participated in the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement's *increased activity day* on September 5, 2018. The event was held at the I-95 agricultural inspection station. This increased activity day included all FDACS regulatory divisions, along with federal partners. During this time, all trucks passing through the I-95 agricultural inspection station (northbound and southbound) were opened and inspected. There were a total of 170 inspections, 57 apprehensions, one plant violation (insects found in lettuce), and three arrests for failure to stop for inspection. Within those three arrests, one driver did not have a driver's license and two drivers had a suspended or revoked license (one driver with a warrant out of Lee County).

Pictured above: Food safety inspectors with various members of USDA, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), US Customs & Border Control Human Trafficking Unit, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA, FDACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement, FDACS Division of Plant Industry, and the Division of Animal Industry.

- The FDACS Division of Food Safety hosted the multi-agency quarterly meeting for regulatory food agencies on Monday, September 17, 2018. This meeting discussed current issues with seven different food agencies in the state. Agenda topics included breweries, food establishments within hospitals, food diversion, and a presentation on FL CORS (food and water complaint online reporting system).

- The FDACS Division of Food Safety will be hosting the Utah Rapid Response Team during the first week of October for a mentorship training. Utah is in the process of developing a Rapid Response Team and visited Florida at the EOC during the Hurricane Irma activation in 2017.

Continued next page.

Continued from page 8.

- The FDACS Division of Food Safety reached out to our neighboring East Coast states and offered emergency response information, guidance documents and assistance for Hurricane Florence.

- The Association of Food and Drug Officials of the Southern States (AFDOSS) held its Annual Education Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on September 9-12, 2018. Matt Colson (FDACS Food Safety Inspection Bureau Chief and Vice President of AFDOSS) presented on Food Safety and Cannabis. Dr. John Fruin (retired FDACS) received the John H. Holeman award. In addition, Jamie DeMent (Florida Department of Health) presented the Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network (CORE) Outbreak simulation activity.

Pictured above: Matt Colson presenting "Cannabis: The New & The Old"; Dr. John Fruin receiving the Eugene H. Holeman award; AFDOSS board members- Brenda Morris, Mark Sestak, Matt Colson, and Craig Nielsen

Hurricane Florence Impact (continued)

Using figures from the American Red Cross, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) calculated some additional estimates, and writes:

- 49,415 of those households will have dogs, with a total of 79,065 dogs
- 41,157 of those households will have cats, with a total of 86,375 cats
- 4,197 of those households will have birds, with a total of 9,612 birds
- 2,031 of those households will have horses, with a total of 5,551 horses

These numbers do not account for poultry, swine, cattle, and other production animals. Further, it does not factor in people evacuated from homes that were not directly impacted by flooding, but were at risk of flooding.

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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