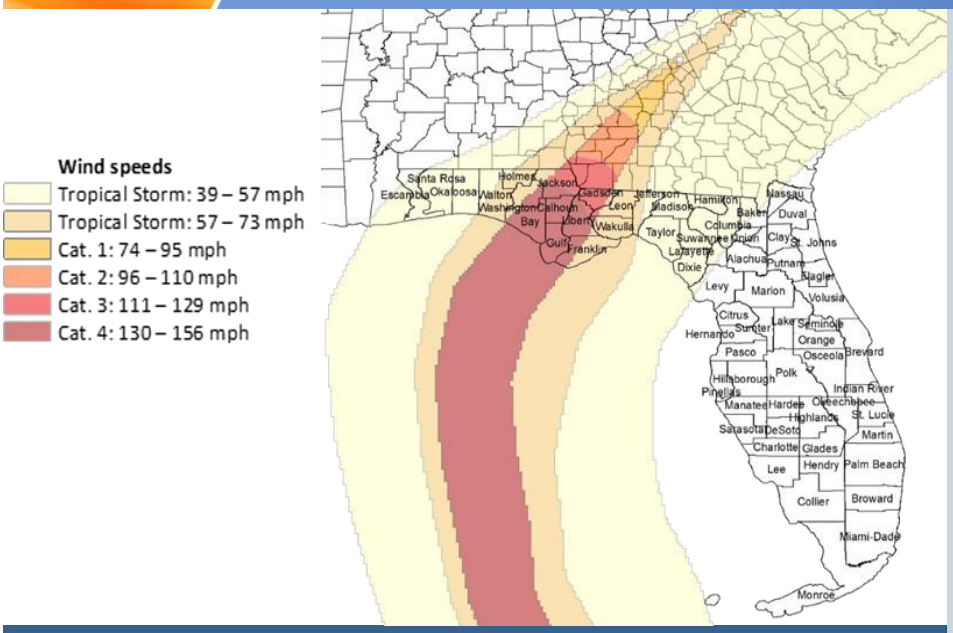
The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team



Hurricane Michael made landfall on October 10, 2018.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *DCF to Initiate Federal Disaster SNAP Food Assistance Program in 12 Counties*
- *Counties, Please Update Your Contact Information on FLSART.org*
- *FDA Commissioner Issues Statement on Findings from the Romaine Lettuce E. Coli Outbreak Investigation*

Special Edition: Hurricane Michael

ESF 17 and Florida SART Responds to Hurricane Michael

Hurricane Michael made landfall at Mexico Beach, Florida, just south of Panama City as a Category 4 hurricane on October 10. Hurricane Michael was the third-most intense Atlantic hurricane to make landfall in the United States.

It was also the strongest storm in terms of maximum sustained wind speed – recorded at 155 mph – to strike the United States since Andrew in 1992. In addition, it was the strongest storm on record in the Florida Panhandle.

In advance of the storm, Governor Rick Scott declared a state of emergency for 35 of Florida's 67 counties.

In the aftermath, at least 17 people died of storm-related accidents and more than 1.3 million homes and businesses were without power.

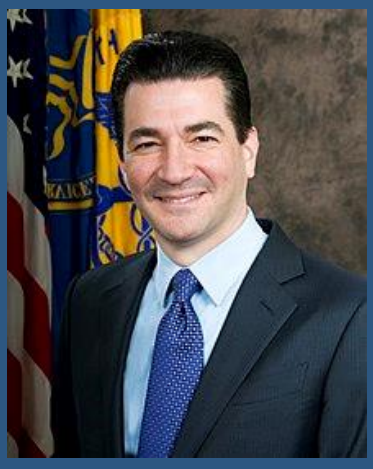
In this special edition of the *SART Sentinel*, we detail some of the actions taken by Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 and the Florida State Agricultural Response Team to respond to the disaster.

ESF 17 and SART continue to support response and recovery efforts for Hurricane Michael.

See *Hurricane Michael Response* on page 3.

"[T]he most likely way the romaine lettuce became contaminated was from the use of water from [an] irrigation canal…"

— Scott Gottlieb
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Story on page 12



Hurricane Michael Response (continued)

- The **State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activated** to Level 1 on Monday, October 8, 2018. The SEOC remains at a Level 2 activation and ESF 17 continues to staff the SEOC.
- ESF 17 **Incident Management Team (IMT)** activated and opened an **Incident Command Post (ICP)** in Tallahassee, Florida, on October 12, 2018.
- LeiAnna Tucker served as Liaison Officer for the ESF 17 IMT, and the following **SART partners deployed to the ICP** to serve as Agency Representatives:

    - *Consie von Gontard, Florida State Animal Response Coalition (Florida SARC)*
    - *Dr. Angie Lindsey, UF/IFAS Extension and Extension Disaster Education Network*
    - *Laura Bevan, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)*
    - *Drs. Terry Clekis and Glenn Kalik, Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA)*
    - *Adam Leath and Tim Rickey, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)*

Stories continue. See Hurricane *Michael Response*, page 3.

Hurricane Michael Response (continued)

- An **ESF 17 Donation Staging Area (DSA)** was established at the Jackson County Agricultural Center in Marianna. The DSA received bulk donations of animal feed, pet food, pet sheltering supplies, veterinary supplies, and much more. The DSA distributed these donations daily to the **Points of Distribution** located in Jackson, Calhoun, Liberty, Washington, and Bay Counties for citizens in need.

- ESF 17, with support from the Florida Forestry and the Office of Agricultural Water Policy, also established **Watering Stations** at seven locations for citizens to access water for their containers. Additionally, ESF 17 set up a **Water Hotline** for citizens to request water for their animals and livestock in critical need.

  To date, the IMT has completed **over 250 animal and agricultural health assessments of over 30,000 animals** in the impacted counties**.** Most reported needs were fencing, feed and water for animals.

Stories continue. See *Hurricane Michael Response*, page 4.

Hurricane Michael Response (continued)

- **FVMA** was instrumental in providing information to the ESF 17 IMT regarding impacted veterinary clinics and hospitals. FVMA called veterinary hospitals to check on operational status and see what their needs were. Drs. Clekis and Kalik conducted several on-site assessments of pet-friendly shelters, animals services shelters and veterinary clinics in the impacted counties. Drs. Clekis and Kalik also provided veterinary support for working cadaver dogs in the search and rescue areas as well as at the ESF 17 emergency pet shelter at the Bay County Humane Society.

- **Florida Cattlemen's Association (FCA)** has been working around the clock to assist with fencing issues from farm industry producers. Hurricane Michael caused significant fencing damage in the counties of Jackson, Liberty and Calhoun that risked cattle on the road. FCA and ESF 17 IMT worked together to address fencing needs identified during animal health assessments as well as engage partner support for fencing materials at the DSA in Marianna.
- **The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Bureau of Dairy Industry** coordinated with the ESF 17 IMT to jointly conduct animal health assessments and inspections of impacted dairy farms in Gadsden, Jackson, Holmes, Washington, and Calhoun Counties.
- **UF/IFAS Extension** agents conducted assessments in the impacted areas and coordinated with the ESF 17 IMT to provide locations of farms and producers who needed additional animal health assessment. UF/IFAS coordinated volunteer engagement for debris removal and fencing repair, and assisted FCA and the ESF 17 IMT with fencing repair needs. UF/IFAS also co-located donations with ESF 17 at the DSA in Marianna.

Stories continue. See *Hurricane Michael Response*, page 5.

Hurricane Michael Response (continued)

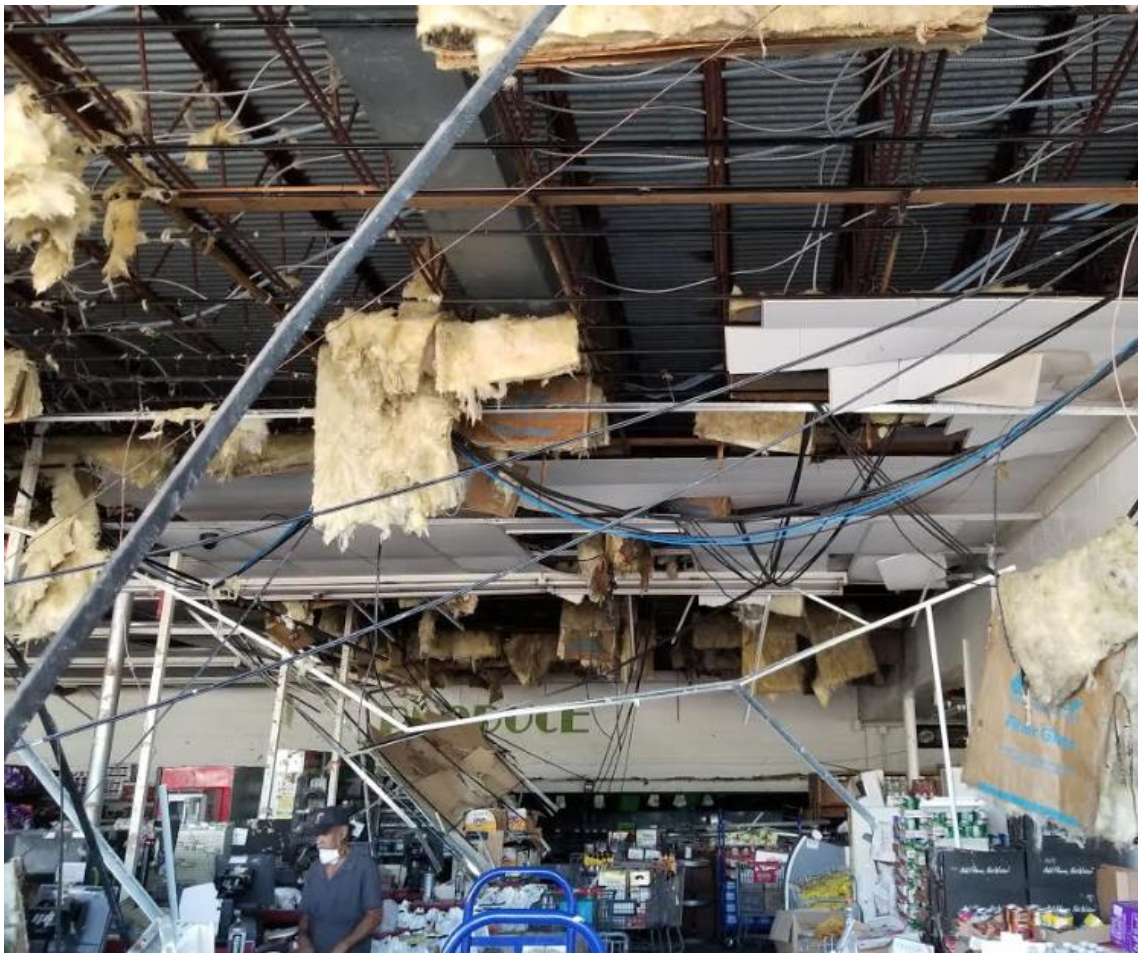
- FDACS Division of Agricultural Environmental Services (AES) activated the **Mosquito Control Incident Response Team (MCIRT)** and performed aerial spray and trapping missions in the requesting counties Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty and Jackson Counties.

- In support of **small animal rescue and sheltering needs**, the **Florida SARC** and the **ASPCA** partnered with the Bay County Humane Society to open an **emergency pet shelter in Panama City, Florida**. ASPCA led search and rescue of animals in the impacted counties and Florida SARC provided sheltering support for the rescued animals at the Bay County Humane Society.
- **HSUS** conducted several assessments of animal shelter needs along the gulf coast counties. HSUS assisted with animal transportation and the provision of donations for animals and agriculture, and continues to coordinate animal sheltering, adoption and recovery efforts in Bay County.

Stories continue. See *Hurricane Michael Response*, page 6.

Hurricane Michael Response (continued)

- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** has multiple programs to aid farmers, ranchers, and producers. For information, visit your county USDA Farm Services Agency office or go to: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index
- **For those interested in donating**, the Florida Cattlemen's Association and the Florida Veterinary Medical Association will accept relief and recovery donations online by credit card. Donations are tax deductible and donors will receive a tax-deductible gift receipt. Links to their donation webpages can be accessed at: Florida Veterinary Medical Association and Florida Cattlemen's Association



- **Crisis Cleanup is an open source application** where organizations and individuals can register to become a resource to assist the public with debris clean up. https://www.crisiscleanup.org. Crisis Cleanup has also opened a "Home Clean-up Hotline" where individuals can call the number and request help with home cleanup. Flyer for Hot-Line here: https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-3kzOJ1v4gjU/W70LXl7tI_I/AAAAAAAACek/zPKk9tTe88wK3jD2X35iFarTeBFqoYDRwCLcBGAs/s1600/michael_sm_en_update_2_nov_med.jpg. Services include tree debris removal off of homes and fence lines, such as cattle areas. Response resources are prioritized according to greatest need/risk.
- **SART and FDACS updated its websites to include important resource information on Hurricane Michael.** Go to www.freshfromflorida.com/animal-disaster and www.flsart.org.

DCF to Initiate Federal Disaster SNAP Food Assistance Program in 12 Counties

The Department of Children and Families (DCF), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), has initiated the federal Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) in 12 counties to assist communities impacted by Hurricane Michael. DCF anticipates serving approximately 130,000 families through the federal DSNAP program as a result of Hurricane Michael. DCF served more than 1.2 million households for Hurricane Irma disaster food assistance last year.

Following DCF's request, the federal government has granted permission to conduct phone applications for those individuals in all 12 counties who may not be able to attend the in-person events. Families in these counties, and those who are displaced as a result of the storm, are strongly encouraged to pre-register and take advantage of the phone application option.

DCF will host D-SNAP events in three phases, based on the order in which they were declared eligible for Individual Assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

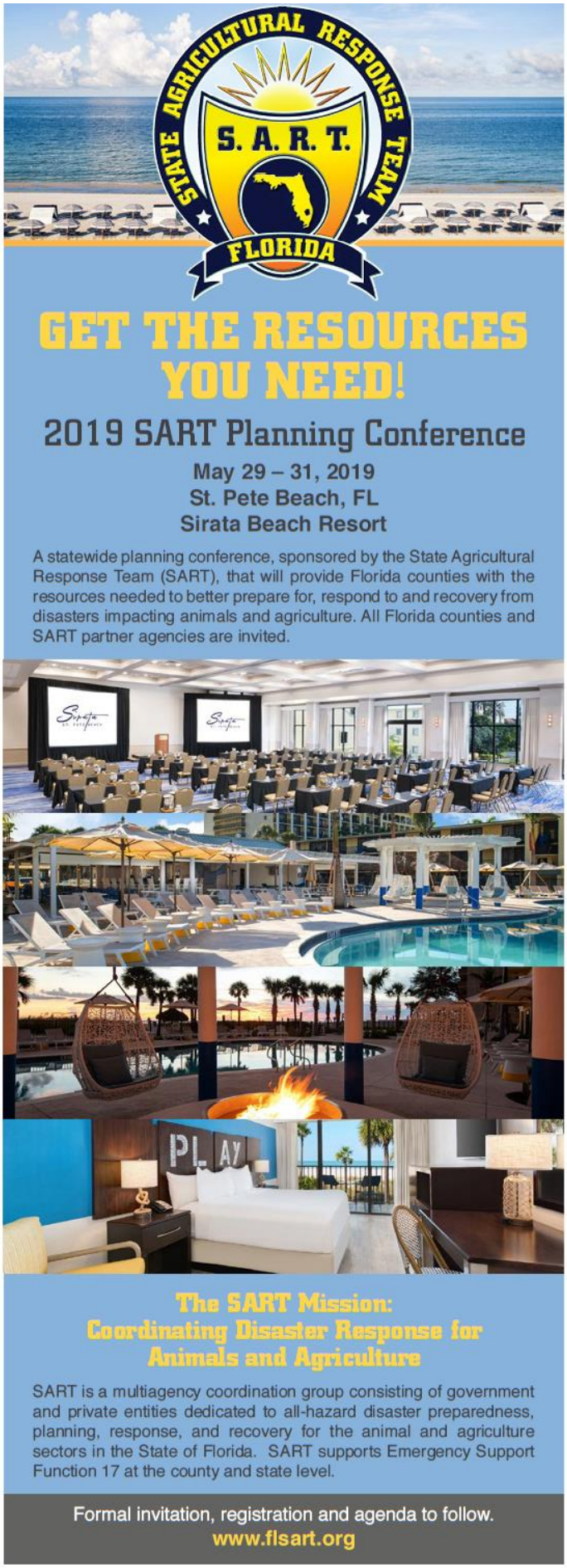
County	Pre-Registration Window	Phone Application Window	In-Person Application Window
Bay	October 26 – November 4	October 27 – October 30	October 31 – November 4
Franklin			
Gulf			
Taylor			
Wakulla			
Calhoun	November 1 – 11	November 3 – 5 and November 7	November 7 – 11
Gadsden			
Jackson			
Liberty			
Holmes	November 8 – 18	November 10 - 13	November 14 – 18
Washington			
Leon	November 8 – 19	November 10 - 13	November 14 – 16 and November 18-19

To qualify for D-SNAP, applicants must have lived or worked in one of the counties declared for FEMA Individual Assistance on October 10, and not be receiving food assistance through the regular SNAP program. Additionally, eligible individuals and families must have suffered a disaster-related loss, such as damage to their homes or self-employment property, loss of food, reduction or loss of income, or have incurred other disaster-related expenses. Applicants must also be financially eligible. DCF will provide or mail Electronic Benefits Transfer cards to eligible individuals and families to use at authorized USDA food retailers.

Visit the D-SNAP website for more information on pre-registration, site locations, and hours of operation.

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



Videos Relay Story of UFCVM

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
College of Veterinary Medicine

The University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine has been making strides in recent years to capture the college story. Through a variety of themed, related videos, each touch on some aspect of the college's mission.

The main college "anthem" video, created in late 2016, highlights the veterinary medical profession in general as well as the UF College of Veterinary Medicine. This video was first shown during the celebratory 40th Anniversary event they held in late 2016 and is the capstone of a marketing campaign that was initiated that year to help better tell the story to a variety of different stakeholders.

In the fall of 2017, three additional videos were completed, each highlighting a specific area of the college's mission. You can view each of these videos — Patient Care, Teaching and Learning, and Research — by visiting the homepage.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/2017/01/31/college-launches-new-anthem-video/

Long Hours, Hard Days. Hurricane Michael Responders Can Still Have Candid Moments

Note from the Editor: Having served in Emergency Operations Centers over my career, I can attest to the hard work and dedication of the many responders present. Often, they are away from their homes and families—and many times putting aside their own personal recovery efforts to serve others in a time of crisis.

To all the responders that were working to support the State of Florida; ***thank-you!***

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 and Operations Level 2 Small Animal Emergency Sheltering 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 1 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

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

November 17-18 Course – Sarasota, FL (Operations Level 2)

When: Saturday, November 17 – Sunday, November 18, 2018
Where: Cat Depot Training Center, 2525 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efqxvbpq88e1aad0&llr=cmn8hziab

December 8 Course – Sarasota, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, December 8, 2018
Where: SPCA Florida, 5850 Brannen Road South, Lakeland, FL 33813
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eft0pv80fdd61cc8&llr=cmn8hziab

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state…

Photo of Patrick Burns and his dog, Quinn. Photo: People.com

Family from Panama City Reunited with 4-legged Companion
Thanks to some hard-working responders in Bay County, Florida, a dog and his owners were reunited following Hurricane Michael. In the story picked up by People.com, acknowledgement is given to Florida SARC, the ASPCA, and The Humane Society of Bay County. Read the complete story at: https://people.com/pets/hurricane-michael-dog-reunion/

SART Steering Committee Meeting CANCELLED
For the month of November, the SART Steering Committee has been cancelled due to Hurricane Michael response and recovery efforts.

SART Advisory Board Meeting CANCELLED
The November 8, 2018 SART Advisory Board meeting has been cancelled due to Hurricane Michael response and recovery efforts.

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

FDA Commissioner Issues Statement on Findings from the Romaine Lettuce E. Coli Outbreak Investigation in Yuma, Arizona

Earlier this year, we experienced the largest E. coli O157:H7 outbreak the country has seen in the last decade, leaving hundreds sick and claiming the lives of five people who consumed contaminated romaine lettuce.

Since the first signs of the outbreak appeared, our team has collaborated closely with our state, federal and local partners to determine the root cause of the outbreak. Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is sharing an environmental assessment that details final findings from this investigation.

One of the investigation's main objectives was to identify factors that potentially contributed to the introduction and spread of the strain of E. coli O157:H7 that contaminated the romaine lettuce associated with this outbreak. The FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Arizona Department of Agriculture launched an investigation of the outbreak, leading to the collection of samples in Yuma in order to help gather evidence needed to identify the source of the outbreak.

The environmental assessment issued today confirms the presence of E. coli O157:H7 in three samples of irrigation canal water collected as part of this investigation in the Yuma region. It considers that the most likely way the romaine lettuce became contaminated was from the use of water from the irrigation canal, since the outbreak strain was not found in any of the other samples collected in the region. How the water contaminated the lettuce is uncertain. But based on interviews with growers and pesticide applicators, possible explanations include direct application of irrigation canal water to the lettuce crop or the use of irrigation canal water to dilute crop-protection chemicals applied to the crops through both aerial and land-based spray applications. We cannot rule out other ways the lettuce became contaminated. It's important to note that we have no evidence that any other product grown in Yuma was contaminated by this water.

Fully implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is critical to these efforts. We must continue to advance FSMA's Produce Safety Rule in collaboration with our state regulatory partners and ensure that we craft agricultural water standards that work across the incredible diversity of commodities and growing conditions. The FDA has resources available to help industry comply with FSMA requirements, including produce safety experts regionally located as part of the FDA's Produce Safety Network and growers in the Yuma region can find the contact information for their area at this website.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm624867.htm?utm_campaign=11012018_Statement_findings%20from%20the%20romaine%20lettuce%20E.%20coli%20O157%3AH7&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

Food Safety and Food Defense Report

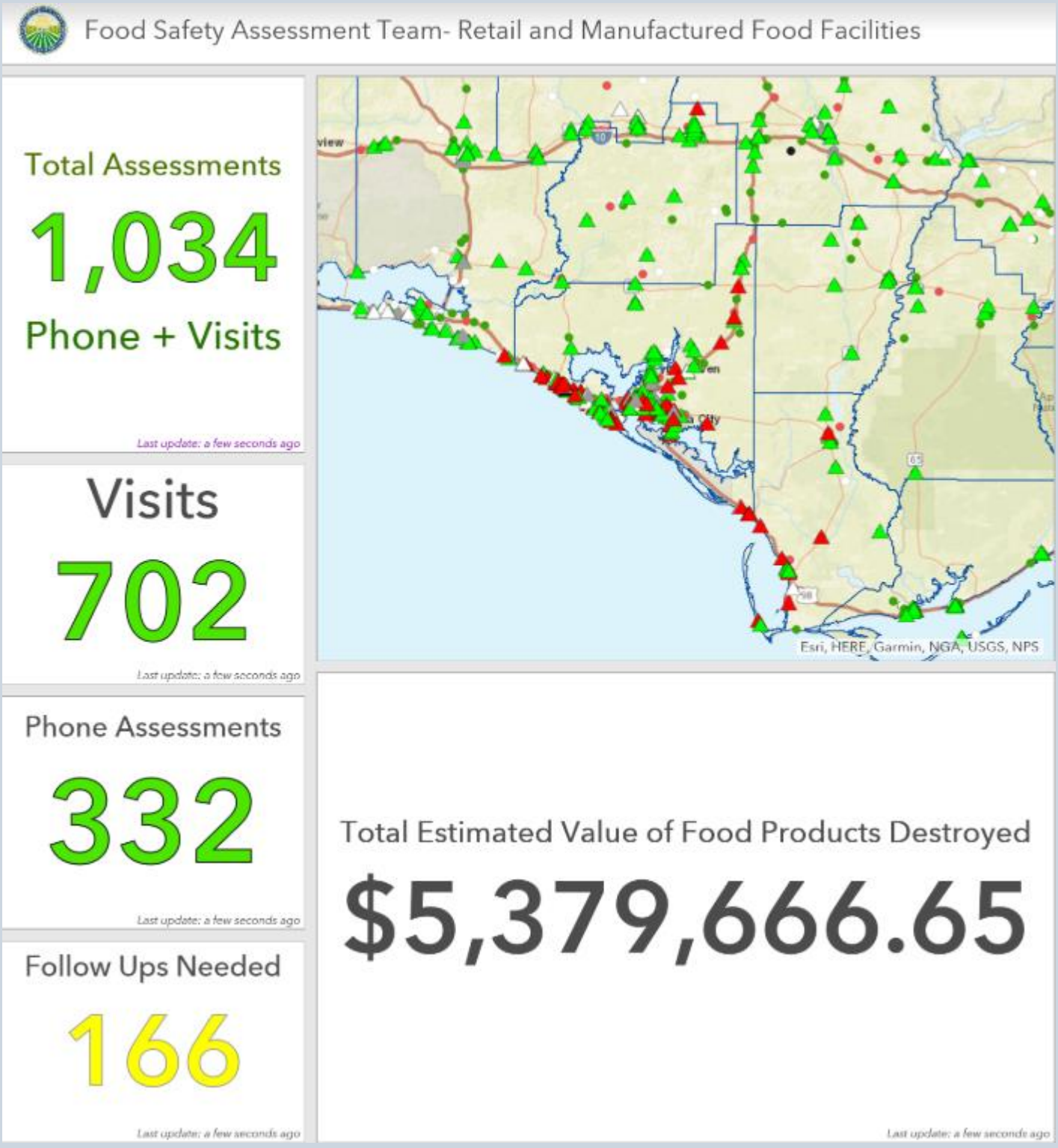
A special section dedicated to feed and food emergency planning and response.

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.

- For the month of October, Hurricane Michael response took center stage in the Food Safety Assessment Team's efforts. Statistics are included on the next page, but below are first-hand photos taken from retail establishments throughout the big bend region.

Continued from page 13.

- Since Hurricane Michael made landfall, the Food Safety Assessment Team has been in full gear conducting assessment on retail and manufactured food facilities. Up through October 29, 2018, 1,034 assessments have been conducted across 702 visits. The snapshot below is from the ArcGIS dashboard used by the team.



UF/IFAS Issues Report Analyzing Agriculture Losses from Hurricane Michael

The University of Florida IFAS Economic Impact Analysis Program has issued a new report, *Economic Losses for Florida Agriculture Resulting from Hurricane Michael*.

According to the report, "Total losses for crops and animals/animal products were estimated at $158 million, including $80 million for field crops, $55 million for specialty crops, and $23 million for animals/animal products."

For more information, please visit:
https://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/economicimpactanalysis/DisasterImpactAnalysis/

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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