The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

LeiAnna Tucker of FDACS presents on ESF 17's response to Hurricane Michael at the December 13, 2018 SART Advisory Board Meeting.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *UF VETS to Host Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Training*
- *Enrollment Open: Awareness Level 1 - Small Animal Emergency Sheltering*
- *$867 Billion Farm Bill Signed into Law*

SART Hosted Annual Advisory Board Meeting on December 13th

The Annual SART Advisory Board Meeting was held on December 13, 2018 at the Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville.

The Board Members constituting the Advisory Board are the primary contacts/representatives for each SART partner agency.

Over 30 partners and Department staff attended the meeting. Presentations celebrating Hurricane Michael response efforts were given by SART partners from the Division of Animal Industry, Division of Plant Industry, UF/IFAS, ASPCA, HSUS, and Florida Cattlemen's Association.

The Board also discussed next year's upcoming SART projects: Disaster Recovery Mental Health First Aid Training, Annual ESF 17 County Meetings, SART Equipment, K9 Handler Medical Training, Online Pet-Friendly Sheltering Training, new SART Website, and the biennial 2019 SART Planning Conference to be held May 29 – 31 in St. Pete Beach.

The meeting materials and presentations from the meeting are available on the SART website.

For more information, please visit:

https://flsart.org/SART/buildingabetterteam/2018FloridaSARTAdvisoryBoardMeetings/

"The passage of the 2019 Farm Bill is good news because it provides a strong safety net for farmers and ranchers, who need the dependability and certainty this legislation affords."

— Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture

$867 Billion Farm Bill Signed into Law

On December 20, 2018, President Donald Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill. The legislation, which passed with strong bipartisan support (386-47 vote in the House of Representatives and 87-13 vote in the Senate), "allocates billions of dollars in subsidies to American farmers, legalizes hemp, bolsters farmers markets and rejects stricter limits on food stamps pushed by House Republicans."

According to The Washington Post, here's what's in the legislation:

- Some expanded farm subsidies
- No additional impact on the deficit
- The bill includes SNAP revisions, although they won't shrink individual benefits
- Cuts to food stamps are not in the bill
- Conservation program preserved
- Provides permanent funding for farmers markets, local food programs
- Legalizes hemp

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

> *[T]he bill bolsters farm safety net programs, protects federal crop insurance, and maintains strong rural development and research initiatives. The legislation reinvents the Margin Protection Program for dairy producers, providing a boost to coverage levels and a reduction in premiums after the program fell short in the 2014 Farm Bill. The bill also includes a new Animal Disease Prevention and Management program, providing annual funding for three animal health programs. This includes a new vaccine bank focused on foot-and-mouth disease and extended funding of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network to protect our borders and improve food safety.*

For more information, please visit:

- https://www.agweb.com/article/the-2018-farm-bill-what-you-need-to-know/
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/12/11/congresss-billion-farm-bill-is-out-heres-whats-it/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.015a62e52145
- https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/12/20/statement-secretary-perdue-president-trumps-signing-farm-bill

Would You Like to Donate to Hurricane Michael Relief Efforts?

To help, please visit:

- Florida Cattlemen's Association
- Florida Veterinary Medical Association
- Florida Farm Bureau

SART Sentinel – 2018 Year in Review

Thanks to our many SART Partners, 2018 was a marked success in terms of training, equipping, and coordination. Below are some of the highlights we've reported on this past year.

Q1: January – March

SART Partners Attended the Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters Course
On February 28, 2018, the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) hosted the *All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters* training course. This management level course provided background information needed to lead a multi-agency team of emergency planners in the development of an Emergency Support Function (ESF) annex for animal, agriculture, and food-related (AAF) disasters. (February, 2018)

Hernando County Emergency Management Announced a New Animal Technical Rescue Team
Hernando County established and equipped a Large Animal Technical Rescue Team. The county partnered with the UF College of Veterinary Medicine to deliver three large animal rescue courses and have outfitted a customized response trailer with tools and equipment necessary to respond to most large animal emergencies. (March, 2018)

Q2: April - June

UF VETS Make News for Successful 2,000 Pound Horse Rescue
A few short weeks after training with the UF VETS Team, Brevard County Animal Control Officers had an opportunity to put their new skills to use. A Percheron named Dan who was trapped in mud on March 22nd was retrieved safely using techniques they learned during the class. (April, 2018)

Monroe County Impacted by Wildfire Activity
Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam commented in April that wildfires continue to be a problem for the state; particularly in Monroe County. As of April 22nd, the "Littons Fire" was the greatest concern, covering 30 acres on Big Pine Key. Two homes had been destroyed, and a helicopter was deployed to help extinguish the flames. The Florida Forest Service was assisted by Monroe County, Miami-Dade County, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Big Cypress Preserve. (May, 2018)

See 2018 Year in Review, page 8.

UF VETS to Host Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Training

Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Training will be hosted at the University of Florida (UF) College of Veterinary Medicine on January 12, 2019. This 8-hour training is valuable for anyone interested in learning about managing scene safety, requesting appropriate resources, and recognizing tools and techniques used in animal technical rescue operations.

Common scenarios include overturned trailers, mud entrapment, and animals trapped below grade (e.g. swimming pools, septic tanks, canals, etc.). Participants can register for $100 per person and should contact Brandi Phillips (brandikphillips@ufl.edu) for more information.

United States Department of Agriculture Disaster Aid to Farmers

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

Enrollment Open: Awareness Level 1 - 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.

February 16 Course – Lakeland, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, February 16, 2019
Where: SPCA Florida, 5850 Brannen Road South, Lakeland, FL 33813
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07efupmuan88443814&llr=cmn8hziab

WILL YOU BE READY WHEN THE NEXT DISASTER STRIKES?

Join us at the 2019 SART Planning Conference

May 29-31, 2019
Sirata Beach Resort · St. Pete Beach, FL

Meet with experts to get the resources you need and learn how to integrate animal care and agriculture into your disaster planning while enjoying this lovely resort.

STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM
S. A. R. T.
FLORIDA

Registration and program coming soon!

The SART Mission: Coordinating Disaster Response for Animals and Agriculture

www.flsart.org

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state and nation…

FDACS Winning Fight Against Destructive, Disease-Carrying Snail
Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam announced that more than 168,000 Giant African Land Snails (GALS) have been eliminated in Florida since the invasive snail was discovered in Miami-Dade County in 2011. In addition, due to the success of the program, the department has decommissioned two additional core areas, two of the largest is the state, where snails were found. Read more

SART Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 11, 2019
The meeting will be held at the USDA Farm Service Agency located in Gainesville. This meeting is exclusively for members of the SART Steering Committee.

Cow in Kentucky Causes Christmas Day Disruption
On December 25th, a 6-year-old Angus was spotted swimming in a neighbor's pool in Sharpsburg, Kentucky. This was at least the second time the cow had escaped her home. The cow was removed unharmed by the aid of rescuers and a tractor. Read more

Jerky Pet Treats and Illness in Dogs: A Collaborative Approach to Investigating a Mysterious Outbreak (Webcast)
In 2007, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) experienced one of the biggest recalls in its history – the recall of melamine-contaminated pet foods. Although the expert and concerted efforts of many in and outside of FDA led to massive pet food recalls in record time, the outbreak revealed a gap in FDA's ability to detect pet food-related adverse events early. This presentation describes the investigation's findings, including the collaborative approach developed that has helped FDA with new outbreaks of pet food-related illnesses. Read more/Listen

Looking for Pet-Friendly Sheltering Information?

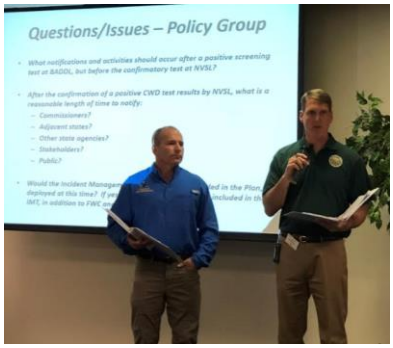
The SART website has posted new, valuable resources for pet-friendly sheltering. For all the details, visit: https://flsart.org/jsp/petfriendly

2018 Year in Review (continued)

Q3: July – September

FDACS and ESF 17 District Specialist Complete Annual County Meetings
In July, SART's LeiAnna Tucker announced that 62 meetings were conducted, and work was complete. These face-to-face meetings with county emergency management offices are conducted annually. (July, 2018)

FDACS, FWC and FDOH Held a Tabletop Exercise on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Florida



On August 1 and 2, a tabletop exercise on CWD in Florida was held at FDACS in Tallahassee. Over 50 participants attended the exercise with representatives from FDACS, FWC, FDOH, USDA, and Florida's cervid industry stakeholders. (August, 2018) Already abbreviated in article.

USDA Confirms Atypical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in Florida
In August, FDACS announced that it is working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding an atypical case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a neurologic disease of cattle, in a six-year-old, mixed-breed beef cow in Florida. This is often referred to as Mad Cow Disease. (September, 2018)

Q4: October – December

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. (November, 2018)

Strangles Identified in Collier County
On November 21, 2018, one premises in Collier County was placed under quarantine for a history of clinical signs of Strangles. This is the first Collier County quarantine in 2018. To date for Florida in 2018, there has been a total of 56 Strangles quarantines. Strangles is a contagious, infectious, upper respiratory disease of horses. (December, 2018)

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.

The Division of Food Safety conducted several hotwash discussions after final demobilization from Hurricane Michael mid-November. The first hotwash was conducted with boots on the ground staff directly involved with the Hurricane Michael activation in the form of a Survey Monkey. Secondly, two separate hotwashes were conducted with the Incident Management Team (via conference call) and with the Division Leadership (in person). Many strengths were noted, including the use of the IRIS alert system to conduct staff safety checks and get out important messages. However, with many tech-savvy options, services like this aren't helpful when cell service is completely down.

At the last minute, members from the IMT created a resources handout on paper with important information from FEMA, shelters, supplies, feeding, etc. Because many of our facility owners were in areas where they had no access to information due to cell service outages, we were able to hand them a piece of paper with information and they were very grateful. We intend to continue this for future activations.

This was also the first time we worked with our Consumer Services Division on the sharing of information. Members of their team were also out doing assessments at some of the same facilities (mainly convenience stores), but instead, were assessing the fuel pumps instead of the food facility. We were able to share information with them on which places were open/closed and vice versa. This saved time for both parties involved. We plan on working together during blue skies to form a possible task force to assist with resources visiting these location types in the future.

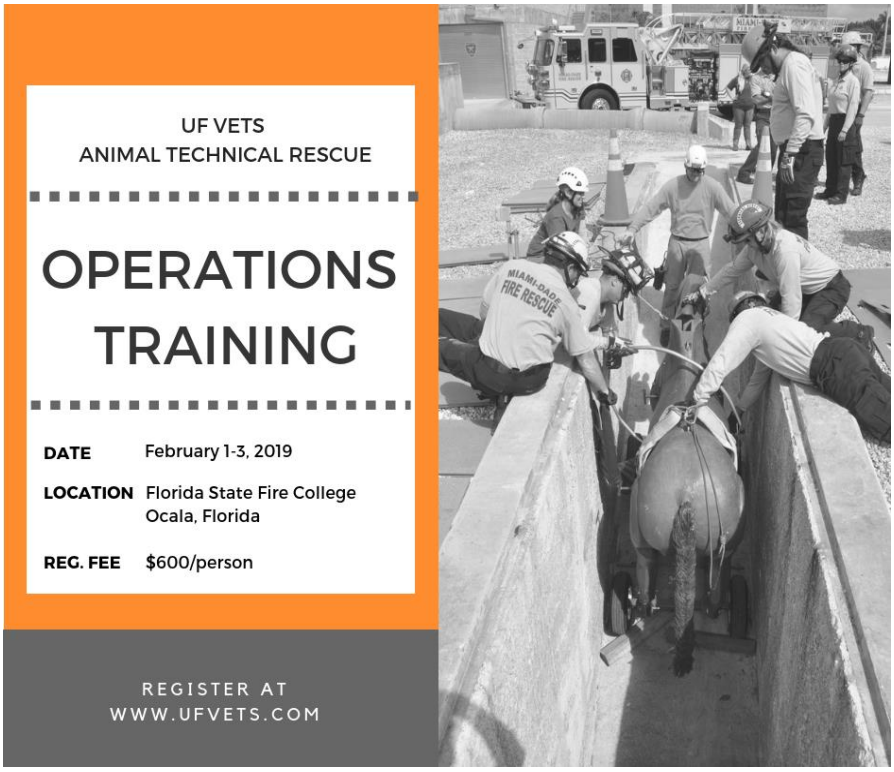
Our ability to utilize GIS grows stronger and stronger with each activation. We are looking into the possibility of using the application Survey 123 to gather our assessment data instead of our paper format. This is a huge time saver and can also work without cell service. We intend on completing our test demo for this application and going forth with this project in early 2019.

Hurricane Michael was another successful activation with the Division of Food Safety. A total of 1,438 assessments were completed by 95 activated Division personnel in 29 days.

UF VETS to Host Technical Operations Course

Animal Technical Rescue Operations Training will be hosted at the Florida State Fire College in Ocala February 1-3, 2019. This 24-hour training targets anyone interested in learning the skills needed to operate technical rescue equipment and successfully work with a team to conduct rescue activities. This course includes significant hands-on scenarios including mud and trailer extrication.

Participants can register for $600 and should contact Brandi Phillips (brandikphillips@ufl.edu) for more information.



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