The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

The UF VETS team takes a group photo following the Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Class last month.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *UF VETS to Host Technical Operations Course*
- *Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training Announcement*
- *A Welcome Message from the New Commissioner of Agriculture*
- *Is Your Dog Afraid of Things that Go BOOM! in the Night? Two Animal Drugs are FDA-Approved to Help*

UF VETS Hosted Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Training

The University of Florida (UF) Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team provided an Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Class in January to an audience of Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) volunteers, an animal control officer, an animal disease inspector, horse owners, as well as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and pre-veterinary students.

Participants learned about tools and techniques used to manage animal technical rescue emergencies as well as what resources may be called for on scene. Human safety is heavily emphasized in this 8-hour training, and these key community members are now prepared to help maintain safe scenes should they encounter animal emergencies requiring technical rescue.

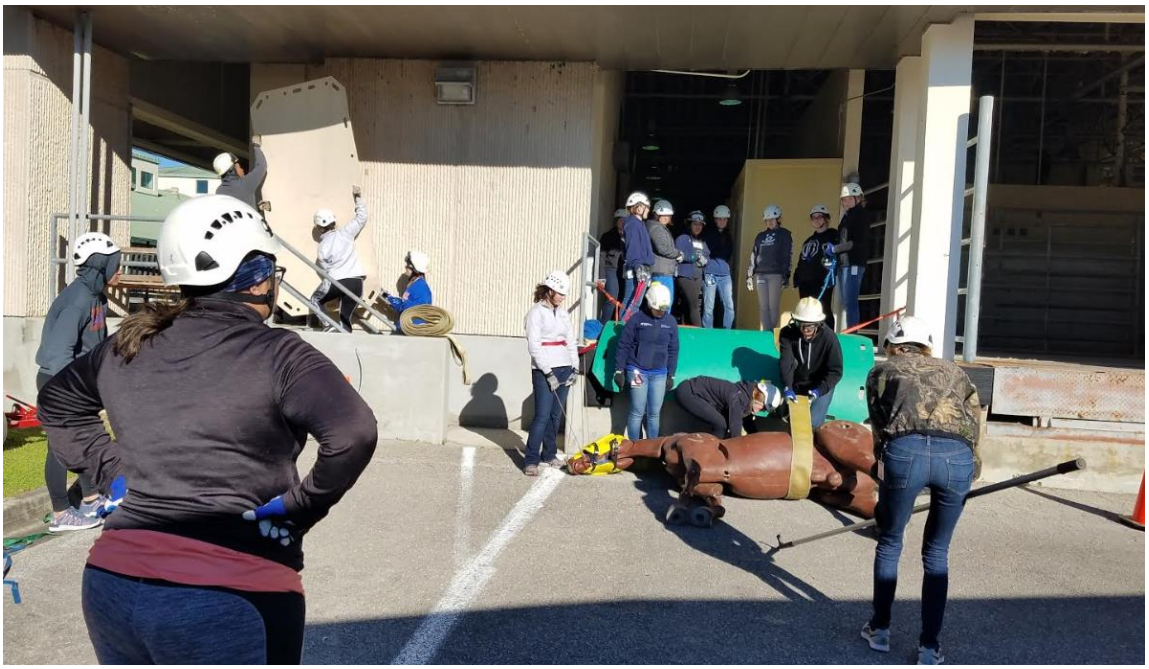
Following the Awareness Class, 19 students at the College of Veterinary Medicine participated in 16 hours of Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue Training. The students learned the value of rope rescue techniques for the health and safety of the animal, how to use tools and equipment needed in these emergencies, and conducted a mock rescue of a horse in a simulated swimming pool. The team is proud of these future veterinarians who will now be able to serve as a valuable resource in their communities of practice.

See more photos on Page 2.

"The responsibilities of this office are vast and the opportunities are great – and I can't wait to take them on together, with you."

— Nicole "Nikki" Fried
Commissioner of Agriculture
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Photos from the UF VETS Technical Rescue Awareness Training



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

A Welcome Message from the New Commissioner of Agriculture

Commissioner Nicole "Nikki" Fried was sworn into office on January 8, 2019. Below is a message from Florida's new commissioner.

I'm so honored to serve as your 12th Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services! It's been an exciting first two weeks as we start working to implement our bold agenda and fresh vision for Florida's farmers, consumers, and families.

We're working with our agriculture community to keep our second largest economic driver going strong — with alternative crops, innovative technology, and the tools needed to compete in a changing environment and economy. We're fighting for consumers, from credit card skimmers and fraud to telemarketing scams — we're bringing consumer protection to the forefront of the Department, ensuring Floridians know we're here to help them.

We're pushing to expand patient access to medical marijuana for Florida's patients, and preparing our state to become a national leader on hemp production. We're taking on the challenge of improving Florida's water quality, and we're making sure that when someone applies for a concealed weapons permit, they receive the full and complete background check required by law.

The responsibilities of this office are vast and the opportunities are great – and I can't wait to take them on together, with you. Check out some highlights from our first two weeks in office, and please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of service to you.

Best,
Commissioner Nicole "Nikki" Fried

Enrollment Open: Multiple Courses for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) 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 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.

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

April 10 Course – Tampa, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Wednesday, April 10, 2019
Where: Aparicio-Levy Technical College Auditorium, 10119 E Ellicott Street, Tampa, FL 33610
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eg22wcda90bb3402&llr=cmn8hziab

April 27-28 Course – Sarasota, FL (Operations Level 2)

When: Saturday, April 27 – Sunday, April 28, 2019
Where: Cat Depot Training Center, 2525 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eg2jbaml65c2150a&llr=cmn8hziab

May 4 Course – Naples, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, May 4, 2019
Where: Collier County Domestic Animal Services, 7610 Davis Blvd., Naples, FL 34104
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eg15mjn91b1df2ff&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…

Jared Moskowitz Appointed as New Director of DEM
Former state representative Jared Moskowitz of Coral Springs has been appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to head the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM). DEM is charged with maintaining a comprehensive statewide program of emergency management. DEM is responsible for the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) which is composed of various intergovernmental entities (including SART), volunteers, and the private sector. Read More

SART Steering Committee Meeting Announced
The next SART Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2019, at the USDA Farm Service Agency located in Gainesville. This meeting is exclusively for members of the SART Steering Committee. Read More

Hill's Pet Nutrition Voluntarily Recalls Select Canned Dog Food for Excessive Vitamin D
The company is voluntarily recalling select canned dog food products due to potentially elevated levels of vitamin D. While vitamin D is an essential nutrient for dogs, ingestion of elevated levels can lead to potential health issues depending on the level of vitamin D and the length of exposure, and dogs may exhibit symptoms such as vomiting, loss of appetite, increased thirst, excessive drooling, and weight loss. Read More

USDA Announces Aid to Farmers, Ranchers, and Producers
The 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. Read More

Looking for Pet-Friendly Sheltering Information?

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

Pet-Friendly Sheltering
Online Training Announcement

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) will soon offer an online, state-certified training on pet-friendly sheltering. The online training will provide participants with guidance on how to plan for and operate a pet-friendly shelter to ensure that individuals evacuating from a disaster with household pets are accommodated.

This training will include useful information on how to:

- Use the Incident Command System in pet-friendly shelter planning and operations;
- Create a plan for a pet-friendly shelter;
- Understand the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act);
- Establish partnerships for resource coordination;
- Deliver a unified message to the public before, during and after an emergency, and;
- Set up, operate and demobilize a pet-friendly shelter.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a downloadable Toolkit that offers functional guidance and plan templates, and a certificate of completion approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

RELEASE DATE
May 2019 tentative

COURSE DURATION
4-hours

COURSE FEE
Free

COURSE MODE
100% online

TARGET AUDIENCE
Emergency Managers
County Employees
Shelter Volunteers

PROVIDED BY
Florida State Agricultural Response Team, in partnership with the Florida State Animal Response Coalition

POINT OF CONTACT
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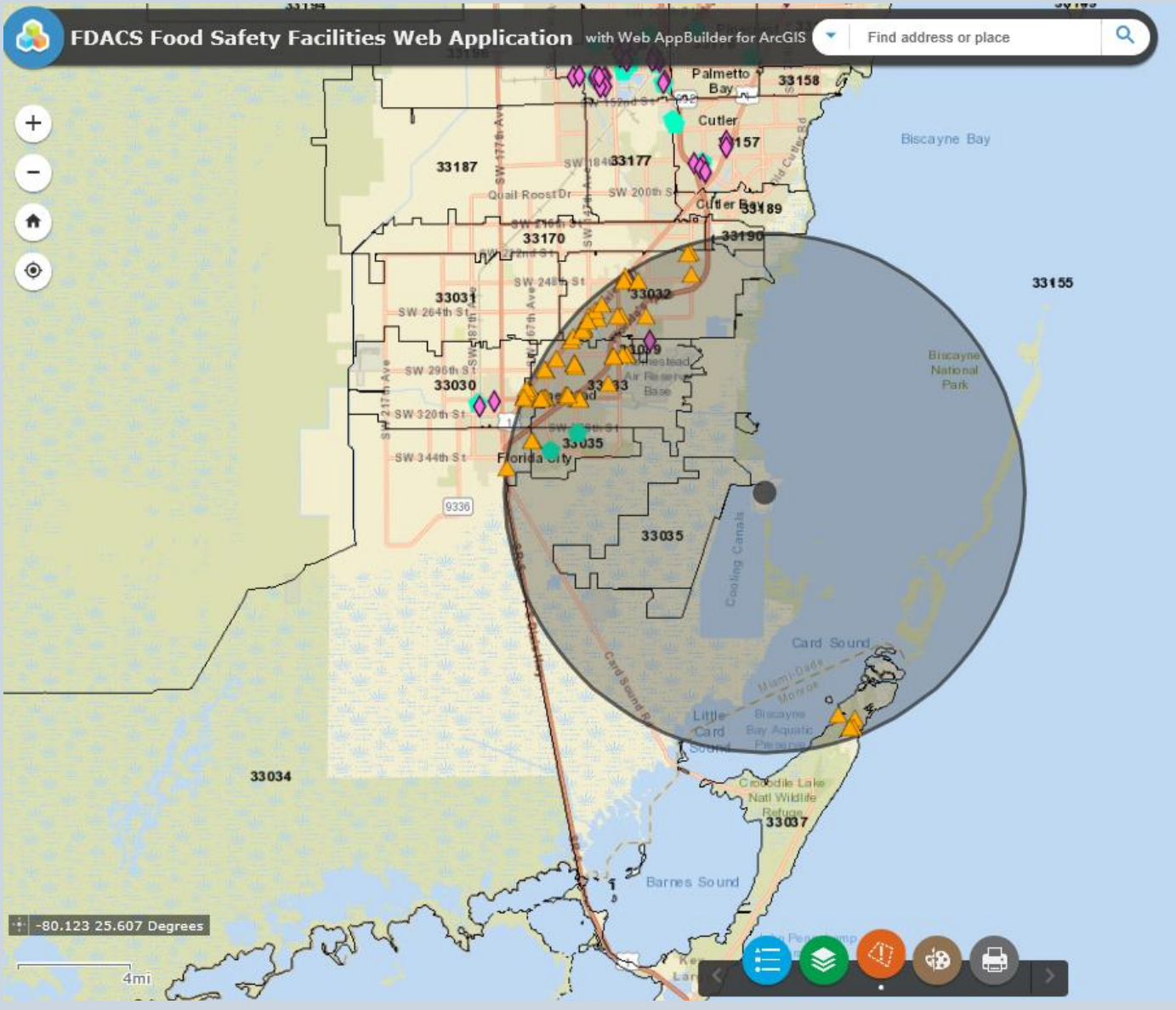
Food Safety and Food Defense Report

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.

Last month, the Division of Food Safety participated in a Radiological Exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center under Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17. This exercise mimicked a nuclear emergency (fire explosion) at the Turkey Point Power Plant in Miami-Dade County.

ESF 17 received a mission requesting information for agricultural impacts within a 10-mile radius from the power plant. There was a total of 148 retail and manufactured food facilities in the radius (as shown below). This was a practice exercise to prepare for the FEMA-evaluated exercise in February.



FDACS Warns of Acute Deaths in Cattle

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services last month received multiple reports related to acute deaths in cattle. While the specific cause has not yet been determined, these deaths may be related to feed. The product in question is Producer's Pride 20% All Natural Cattle Cube, lot number 8DEC22MUL2, manufactured by Purina Animal Nutrition.

The Department has collected product and cattle samples from across the state, and is in the process of conducting laboratory tests. In addition, the Department has conducted on-site verifications at Tractor Supply Company locations, outreach to Purina Animal Nutrition to facilitate the voluntary withdrawal of the affected product, as well as outreach to the agricultural community.

Veterinarians or producers who are aware of sudden unexplained deaths in cattle should contact the State Veterinarian's Office at 850-410-0900 (after hours for emergencies please contact 800-342-5869) or RAD@FreshFromFlorida.com.

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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