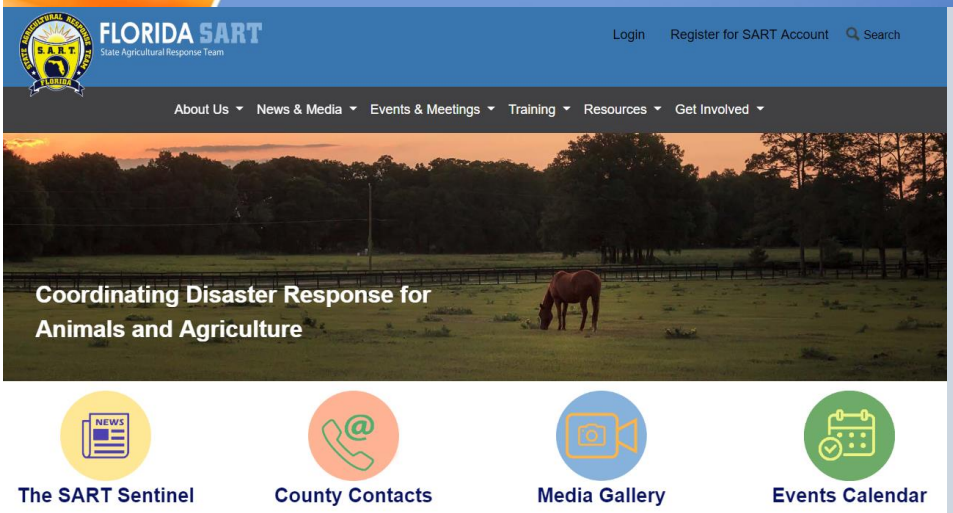
The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team



Introducing the new FLSART.org Website.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Registration open for the 2019 SART Planning Conference*
- *Disaster Response & Recovery: Mental Health First Aid Training*
- *SART Steering Committee Meeting Announced*
- *Florida Charges Ahead with "No-High" Medical Marijuana*

New Year, New Look. Florida SART Launches Updated Website

On February 26th, Florida SART launched the latest version of their FLSART.org Website.

Having last gone through a major redevelopment eight years ago, the new and improved site brings additional functionality and a more streamlined designed to members and the general public.

Specifically,

- The web address stays the same (www.flsart.org) and you can still register for a SART account;
- All the custom-made SART training modules have been updated under **Training > SART Modules**;
- A new and improved menu better organizes important information into **Training** and **Resources**;
- Quick links on the homepage include **County Contacts** and our new **Media Gallery**;
- **About Us** to learn more about our mission and SART partners; and,
- SART Sentinel featured stories on homepage.

Also, be sure to check out the **Events Calendar** for the for the most current trainings and events.

Special thanks to our team for their hard work throughout the redevelopment!

"Hemp is poised to become a "multibillion-dollar industry in the state."

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

UF VETS Develop Instructional Skills Based on Systems Safety Approaches

University of Florida (UF) Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Animal Technical Rescue instructors spent 10 days training with Wright Rescue Solutions to develop instructional skills based on systems safety approaches. This unique opportunity also allowed Wright Rescue Solutions to train eight members of Panama City Beach Fire Department in rope rescue operations as part of the instructor training process. In addition to helping our instructors continually enhance the UF VETS Animal Technical Rescue training program, Panama City Beach has a newly developed team that is now able to provide additional services for their community. All of this was made possible with grant funding provided through SART.

Southern Specialties Voluntarily Recalls Bagged Green Beans and Butternut Squash Because of Possible Health Risk

Southern Specialties Inc., of Pompano Beach, Florida is voluntarily recalling select bags of Marketside brand green beans and butternut squash because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, Listeria infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women. Read More

SART Steering Committee Meeting Announced

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

Aquatic Pathology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

A unique program at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine integrates the expertise of individuals who all specialize in aquatic animal pathology for the purpose of creating a more wholistic approach to understanding the discipline and its impacts not just on aquatic animal health, but on a variety of species and ecosystems.

Watch the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRlHl9gk0IA&feature=youtu.be

Registration Opens for the 2019 FVMA Conference

Registration has started for the 2019 Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) Annual Conference. This annual conference provides the entire veterinary care team with an outstanding scientific program coupled with unique social and networking activities and events to provide an excellent weekend of enrichment, exchange and enjoyment. It will be held at the Tampa Convention Center and Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina on May 16-19, 2019. Highlights include:

- More than 300 hours of the highest quality continuing education (CE)
- CE sessions geared specifically toward veterinarians
- CE sessions geared specifically toward veterinary care team members
- National and internationally recognized distinguished speakers
- Full day of hands-on wet labs on Thursday, May 16
- Wet lab and workshop offerings designed to enrich every member of the veterinary care team
- Lectures, additional wet labs, and workshops from Friday, May 17 - Sunday, May 19

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 (FL-003-RESP) gives students the knowledge necessary to work in a small animal emergency shelter. This class provides expertise and practical experience required to become a disaster animal responder. The Operations Level 2 (FL-607) course gives many new job options, in addition to leadership skills and team lead opportunities. This course expands upon information covered in Awareness Level 1 and ICS-100 courses. Both courses are certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management and are geared for Florida responders who want 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.

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

June 1 Course – Sarasota, FL (Awareness Level 1)

When: Saturday, June 1, 2019
Where: Cat Depot Training Center, 2525 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eg2jekc33a38ea09&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

Register by April 19 at www.flsart.org

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' Division of Food Safety Supervisor Attends Planning Section Chief Training
FDACS Supervisor Michael Wickham (pictured center) attended L-962 Planning Section Chief training last week in Bradenton. During most activations Wickham is a Strike Team Leader, but the Division has plans on utilizing him in the Planning Section.

Florida Charges Ahead with "No-High" Medical Marijuana
Following the legalization of CBD medicinal marijuana, Florida farmers and nurseries are showing signs of their eagerness to enter the hemp business. A significant portion of the expected multi-billion-dollar industry could reside in Florida due to its "incredible" climate. Read More

Commissioner Nikki Fried Appoints Holly Bell as Director of Cannabis
Last month, Commissioner Nikki Fried announced her appointment of Holly Bell as the Director of Cannabis. Bell's selection comes after a national search and interviews with multiple finalists for the position. In her role as Director of Cannabis, Bell will oversee the development of rules, work directly with scientific experts, and ensure Commissioner Fried's vision for cannabis in Florida continues moving forward. Bell will work closely with the Department's Division of Plant Industry on developing Florida's hemp industry, including the production, processing, inspecting, and manufacturing of industrial hemp, and will assist in implementing the new Farm Bill as it relates to industrial hemp. Read More

FDOH Celebrates in March National Nutrition Month
The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) celebrates March as National Nutrition Month, which is sponsored annually by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. For this year's theme, FDOH is encouraging Floridians to "Enjoy More Fruits and Vegetables." Read More

Looking for Pet-Friendly Sheltering Information?

The new SART website has posted valuable resources for pet-friendly sheltering under **Resources > Pet Sheltering**. For all the details, visit: https://flsart.org/resource/petshelter/

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
Summer 2019

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

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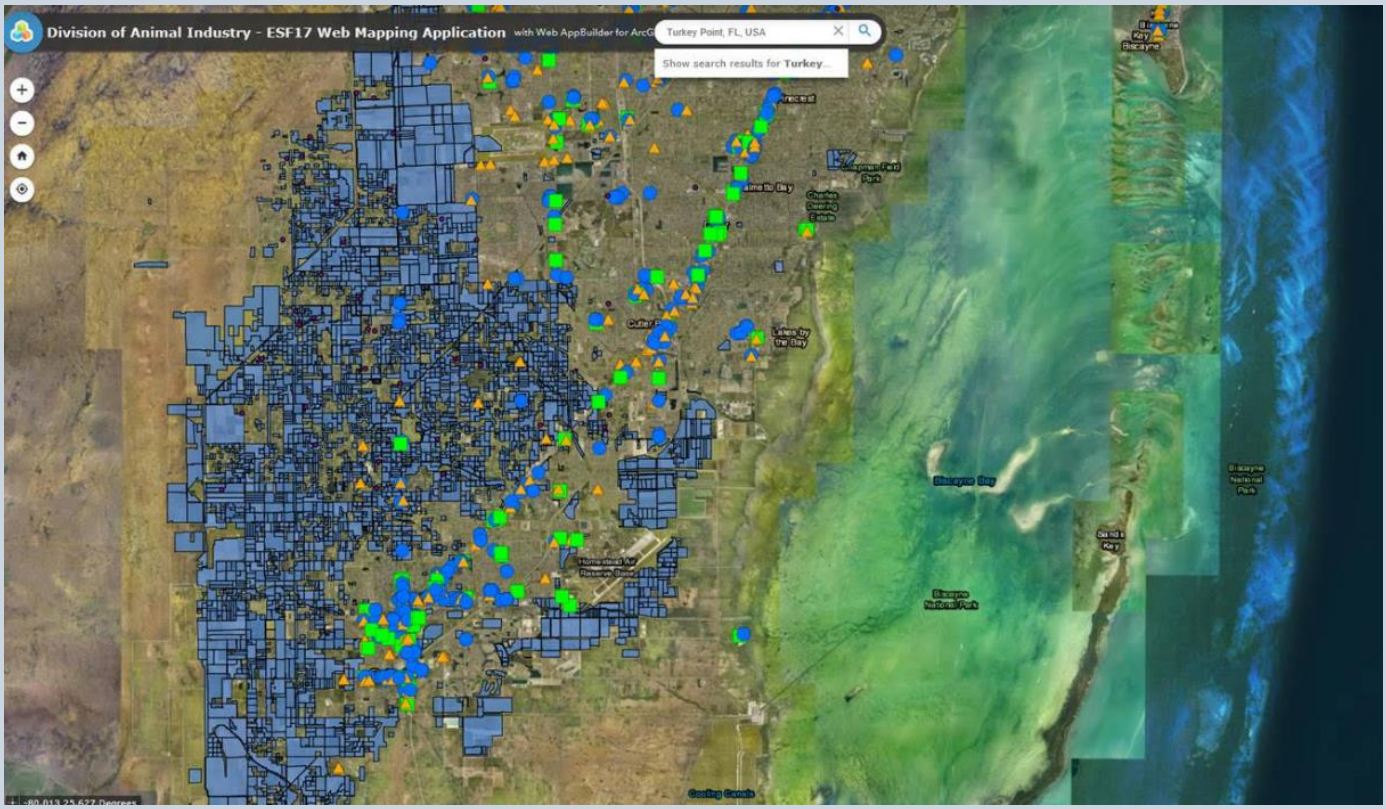
Food Safety and Food Defense Report

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.

- During a routine survey sample collection in the FDACS Food Safety Retail Food Program, an inspector collected packaged baby spinach at a South Florida retail facility. The FDACS Bureau of Laboratories tested the product and it resulted in a confirmed positive for Salmonella typhimurium. The baby spinach was believed to be grown in Florida; however, the product was packaged and manufactured in the state of New York. FDACS worked with the Food and Drug Administration and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets on the investigation. The State of New York conducted further product sampling and found additional lots to be contaminated. The result was a voluntary recall of baby spinach and mesclun from three lots on January 23, 2019. This recall affected products in eight states. Read more: https://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm629788.htm

- On February 20, the State Emergency Operations Center held a FEMA-evaluated Radiological Exercise. This exercise mimicked a nuclear emergency at the Turkey Point Power Plant in Miami-Dade County. The Division of Food Safety participated with ESF 17 in this exercise and received two mission requests. One mission requested information on agricultural impacts within a 10-mile radius (see below). The second mission asked if there was/would be a declared Agricultural Emergency in this scenario.



Disaster Response & Recovery
Mental Health First Aid Training

This training was designed to provide emergency responders, UF/IFAS extension agents, Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) team members and partners, first and direct Responders, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS) employees and community members who are active in natural disasters with the skills needed to address mental health needs and issues following disasters. The aim is to create mental health awareness and encourage proactive and informed decision making in individuals before, during, and after disasters. Seven total trainings will be held throughout Florida.

Broward County Feb 26-27
Suwannee County March 4-5
Marion County April 23-24
Osceola County April 30-May 1
More trainings coming soon!

Learn more and register at **piecenter.com**

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

ESF 17 Representatives Attend FEPA Annual Meeting

On February 4-8, 2019, in Miramar Beach, ESF 17 representatives from the divisions of Animal Industry, Agricultural Environmental Sciences (AES), and Food Safety attended the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) annual meeting. The conference included emergency management trainings, working group sessions, and presentations.

Hyatt Sudano of AES gave a presentation on the Mosquito Control Incident Response Team and LeiAnna Tucker of the Division of Animal Industry gave a presentation to the mass care working group on the upcoming online pet-friendly sheltering training.

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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