The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

The 2019 Florida Legislative Session runs from March 5 through May 3, 2019.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Enrollment Open: Multiple Courses for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering*
- *St. Johns County Fire Rescue Hosted Operations Training*
- *Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training Announcement*
- *See It Now: The New SART Website!*

2019 Florida Legislative Session Begins

The first day of the 2019 Florida Legislative Session began on March 5th. Florida Agriculture Commissioner "Nikki" Fried offered opening day remarks, stating, "I agree with Speaker Oliva on the transformative potential of tele-health to expand access to care. This is especially true in rural communities where our Department is seeking federal telemedicine funding, and in the ability to deliver mental health services to Floridians in need."

Fried went on to say, "I also agree with the Speaker on the need to reduce pharmaceutical costs, an issue which increased access to medical marijuana can address. And we agree on our mission to support our Panhandle communities and agriculture producers devastated by Hurricane Michael."

The same day, Florida Farm Bureau (FFB) celebrated their "Legislative Days" (March 5-6, 2019) in Tallahassee as an "opportunity to impact public policy at the state level and learn about current legislative issues, visit with lawmakers and engage in conversations as we unite as the Voice of Agriculture."

As Southeast AG NET reports, FFB's legislative priorities include aid for timber producers impacted by Hurricane Michael, programs for best management practices, and funding for the Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS) and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

The Legislative Session runs through May 3rd.

"We have seen a significant increase in the number of calls we have received about pets and marijuana."

— Laura Stern
Veterinarian with the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center
(See Resources on Page 2 for tips to pet-proof your home.)

FDA Cautions Pet Owners Not to Feed Their Pets Certain Lots of Darwin's Dog Food Due to Salmonella

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is cautioning pet owners not to feed their pets three lots of Darwin's Natural Pet Food because products from these lots tested positive for Salmonella. These products include two lots of Darwin's Natural Pet Products Natural Selections Chicken Recipe with Organic Vegetables for Dogs (identified in the second group of numbers below the bar code as 5309(11)181019 and 5375(11)181106) and one lot of Darwin's Natural Pet Products Natural Selections Turkey Recipe with Organic Vegetables for Dogs (5339(11)181026). These products are manufactured by Arrow Reliance, Inc., doing business as Darwin's Natural Pet Products, and are sold online direct to consumers.

The FDA collected and analyzed unopened samples of products from these three lots in response to a consumer complaint. Samples from all three lots tested positive for Salmonella. Read more at:

https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/ucm634394.htm?utm_campaign=3-26-2019-Darwin&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

SART Steering Committee Meeting Announced

The next SART Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2019, at the USDA Farm Service Agency in Gainesville. This meeting is exclusively for members of the SART Steering Committee.

Looking for Resources?

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is a federal-state-county partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences, and enhancing and sustaining the quality of human life by making that information accessible. Their *2017 Disaster Handbook* provides information on the topics of: Food and Water, Mental Health, Home Repairs, Landscape Repairs, Applying for Assistance, and Farms.

Read more at:
http://branding.ifas.ufl.edu/media/brandingifasufledu/disaster-handbook/DisasterHandbook.compressed-1.pdf

Security.org is dedicated to furthering security research and making its findings publicly available. The team is "comprised of security industry experts, data analysts, researchers and industry influencers." Their *Keeping Pets Safe and Secure at Home* guide has detailed information on best practices and suggestions for keeping your property secure and pet-proofing your home.

Read more at: https://www.security.org/resources/keeping-pets-safe

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-led 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…

St. Johns County Fire Rescue Hosted Operations Training
St. Johns County Fire Rescue (SJCFR) hosted a 3-day Operations Training at Star 4 Ranch in early March. During the three days, participants were able to practice large animal technical rescue using specialized tools and equipment to conduct scenarios including mud entrapment, trailer extrication, and high and low angle exercises. Participants included representatives from SJCFR, St. Johns County Animal Control, Jacksonville Fire Rescue, Clay Fire Rescue, Nature Coast EMS, South Dakota's Task Force 1, and a veterinarian from Colombia. We are incredibly grateful to these dedicated individuals and agencies working to provide safe and humane solutions during animal emergencies.

USDA Provides Funding to Florida to Support Projects that Protect Agriculture and Natural Resources
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is allocating $7.2 million to Florida as part of its effort to strengthen the nation's infrastructure for pest detection and surveillance, identification, and threat mitigation, and to safeguard the U.S. nursery production system. Overall, USDA is providing $66 million in funding this year to support 407 projects in 49 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands. USDA provides this funding under the authority of the Plant Protection Act Section 7721. Read More

Agriculture Commissioner Requests Additional Assistance for Timber Growers
As the deadline approached for USDA Emergency Forest Restoration Program applications, Commissioner Fried sent a letter to Secretary Purdue to request an extension to help Panhandle timber growers who suffered catastrophic damage and losses due to Hurricane Michael.

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 the farm's gate? farm gate, through processing and distribution, to the retail point of purchase.

The National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT)/Louisiana State University (LSU) updated their course *MGT-447 – Managing Food Emergencies: Strategies for a Community Response* and Florida was given an opportunity to pilot the new course and provide feedback on the training. This course helps jurisdictions develop a plan to effectively respond to a large food emergency. The goal of the course is to encourage multidisciplinary, multiagency planning to quickly mobilize resources in a food emergency. The course uses a whole community approach combined with the Incident Command System (ICS) and the State Emergency Operations Center to respond to food emergencies. Representation from most of the food regulatory agencies in Florida (FDA, FDACS, DOH, DBPR, AHCA, and DCF) attended this course March 19-20, 2019.

In other news, each year Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 hosts county EOC meetings with most all of Florida's counties in preparation for the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season. These meetings include presentations and updates from each of the partners within the ESF: The Division of Animal Industry, Agricultural Environmental Services/Vector Control, and the Division of Food Safety/Food Safety Response. Strike Team Leaders and other response team members from The Division of Food Safety presented at 23 of these county meetings in March. Thirty-two county meetings are scheduled for the remainder of April and May.

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.

Marion County April 23-24
Osceola County April 30-May 1
Pinellas County June 4-5
More trainings to come.

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

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Center for Public Issues Education

FYCS

See It Now: The New SART Website!

As mentioned last month, Florida SART launched the latest version of their FLSART.org Website. The new and improved site brings additional functionality and a more streamlined design to members and the general public. Highlights include:

- Updated, custom-made SART training modules;
- A new and improved menu which better organizes important information into Training and Resources;
- Quick links on the home page include County Contacts and our new Media Gallery; and
- *SART Sentinel* featured stories on home page.

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

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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