The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

The 2019 SART Planning Conference was held May 29-31 in St. Pete Beach.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Looking for SART Conference Presentations?*
- *Hurricane Michael Upgraded to a Category 5 at Time of Landfall*
- *UF VETS to Host Awareness Level Training*
- *Have You Visited the New FLSART.org*

2019 SART Planning Conference Hosts 160 Attendees

The 2019 SART Planning Conference ended on May 31, 2019. Sponsored by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), this biennial event serves Florida's county emergency management professionals and SART partner agencies.

The conference served as an opportunity for SART leaders and experts in the fields of animal care and agriculture to share best practices and resources for integrating animal care and agriculture into disaster planning.

Over 160 people attended the 2.5 -day event at the Sirata Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

In recognition of their efforts for Florida SART, appreciation awards were given to:

- Sue Rantuccio, FDACS
- John Court, FDACS
- Angie Lindsey, UF/IFAS
- Saqib Mukhtar, UF/IFAS
- Jiannong Xin, UF/IFAS
- Terry Clekis, FVMA
- Consie von Gontard, SARC
- Laura Bevan, HSUS

Features of the event included presentations by **Robert King** (Multiagency Coordination Groups and How to Create a County ESF 17 Plan), **Mjr. Ben Burns** and **Marty Hartney** (Agroterrorism Threats), **Dr. Matt Hersom** (Biosecurity & You: Animal Abuse vs. Animal Disease), and **Rich Russell** and **Brandi Phillips** (Animal Technical Rescue Equipment Demonstration). Photos from the conference appear on the following pages.

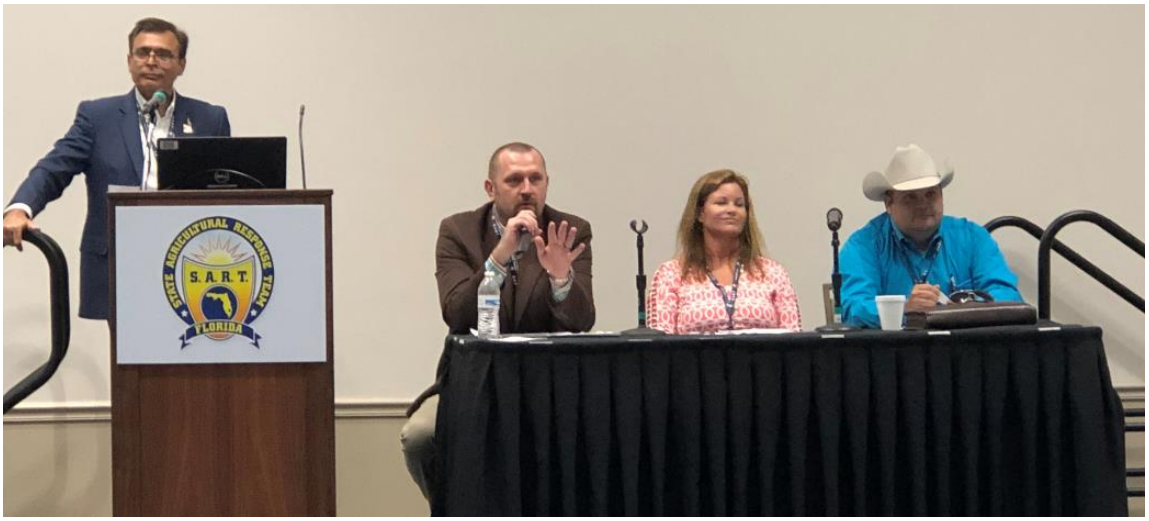
Pictured below, Dr. Mike Short (State Veterinarian/Director of the Division of Animal Industry) provides opening remarks on Day 2 of the 2019 SART Planning Conference.

following pages.

Planning Conference Photos

2019 SART Planning Conference

Planning Conference Photos (continued)



Planning Conference Photos (continued)

2019 SART Planning Conference

Planning Conference Photos (continued)

Pictured below, the Animal Technical Rescue Equipment Demonstration.

2019 SART Planning Conference

Looking for SART Conference Presentations?

SART Conference presentations and resource handouts are available on our website at:
https://flsart.org/EventMeetings/PlanningConferences/index.jsp

Enrollment Open: Operations Level 2 Course for 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

June 22 & 23 Course – Jacksonville, FL (Operations Level 2)

When: June 22-23, 2019
Where: First Coast No More Homeless Pets, 6817 Norwood Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32208
Register: http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eg7ymtyz16dc44b4&llr=cmn8hziab

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state and nation…

Hurricane Michael Upgraded to a Category 5 at Time of Landfall
Scientists at NOAA's National Hurricane Center conducted a detailed post-storm analysis on all the data available for Hurricane Michael and have determined that the storm's estimated intensity at landfall was 140 knots (160 mph). This final wind intensity is a 5 knot (5 mph) increase over the operational estimate and makes Michael a category 5 storm on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale at the time of landfall on October 10, 2018, near Mexico Beach and Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. Read More

SART Steering Committee Meeting is Scheduled
The SART Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 13 in Gainesville at the USDA Farm Service Agency. SART Steering Committee members are invited.

SART to Host "Historical Scan Workshop"
SART will hold a special "Historical Scan Workshop" on July 11 in Gainesville at the FDACS Division of Plant Industry auditorium. This will be a "kick-off" workshop to begin updates to the SART Organizational Declaration, Steering Committee and Advisory Board. SART partners are invited to attend. A formal invitation will be emailed by LeiAnna Tucker soon.

UF VETS to Host Awareness Level Training
UF VETS is hosting an Open Enrollment Awareness Level Training at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine on Saturday, August 17th. This 8-hour course will allow participants to learn about animal technical rescue emergencies, how to keep the scene safe, what resources to call on, with demonstrations of specialized equipment and techniques. The cost is $100/person.

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

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

- The Division of Food Safety within the FDACS samples routinely a variety of food products sold or produced in the state of Florida to ensure they are safe for our consumers. In February/March 2019, the Department found two ready-to-eat deli foods adulterated with Listeria monocytogenes. These items were sampled at two establishments, under the same ownership, in southeast Florida. Follow-up sampling yielded 6 additional samples positive for Listeria monocytogenes.

  In response to these findings, over 20,000 pounds of ready-to-eat foods were placed under Stop Sale Orders and the processing areas were placed under Stop Use Orders. In addition, the Division collected a combined total of 355 environmental samples. 37 of these environmental samples tested positive for Listeria monocytogenes. The facilities owners promptly responded to these results with the destruction of all affected food, witnessed by the Division, hired a cleaning and a consulting company to help overcoming the environmental contamination. The owners followed the Division's guidance to undertake the appropriate steps and repairs in the affected areas. Upon completion of the repairs and thorough sanitation, two follow-up environmental samplings were conducted at the firm's expense. This sampling yielded 0 positives and allowed the firms to resume operations. The businesses decided to stop the production of deli foods and adopted a Listeria Control Plan which will be monitored by the Division. In conclusion, thanks to the food surveillance efforts conducted by the Department, thousands of pounds of contaminated food did not reach Florida consumers and allowed two establishments to fully resolve an environmental contamination.

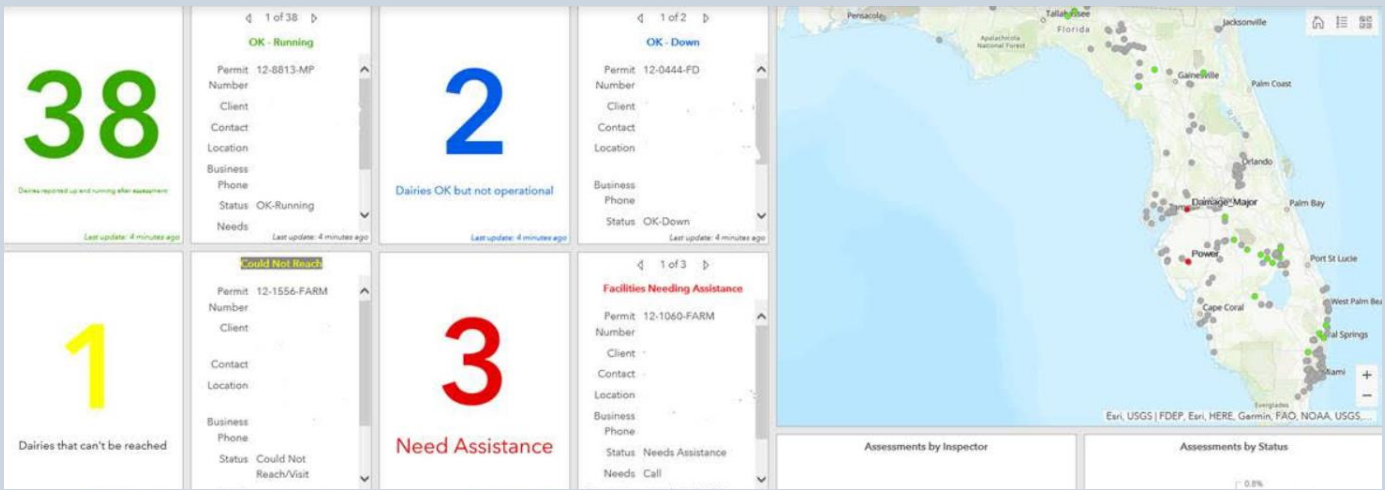
Food Safety and Food Defense Report (continued)

- Summer Williams presented on behalf of FDACS on Food Safety response at the Department of Health's Regional Coordinator's Meeting in Orlando, Florida on May 14th. In addition to her presentation, Steve Carmody (District 5 Supervisor) assisted with a Q&A session. Tied in with her presentation, FDA and DOH both presented on food safety emergency response for their respective agencies. All discussed the aspect of multi-agency coordination within the food regulatory agencies.

- The Statewide Hurricane Exercise was conducted May 6-9, 2019 at the State Emergency Operations Center. The Division of Food Safety played a role in this exercise under Emergency Support Function 17 (Animals and Agriculture) with our other Division partners Animal Industry and Ag Environmental Services. This year's scenario was Hurricane Smith, a Category 3 hurricane making landfall in the Tampa Bay area and cutting across to the eastern part of the state. Food Safety mocked an activation of its assessment teams during the exercise.

- Sanitation and Safety Specialist Scott Minich collected a routine sample of smoked salmon which was found to be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes. A class I recall has been issued. This a big win for public health! This was also featured in the current edition of the national publication Food Safety News.

- During the week of May 20, The Bureau of Dairy Industries conducted an exercise of post-disaster assessments in the field using Survey 123 (a GIS application). During this exercise, Dairy field staff conducted mock assessments during their real time samplings and inspections duties. This exercise provided practice for the field inspectors with Survey 123 and also offered the ability to enhance details within the system. The Bureau Chief and Emergency Response Coordinator monitored the mock assessments through the GIS dashboard:



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.

Osceola County April 30-May 1
Pinellas County June 4-5
Charlotte County June 19-20
More trainings to come.

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

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Center for Public Issues Education

FYCS FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES

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

Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Training

Open to:

- Veterinarians
- Veterinary Technicians
- Animal Control Officers
- Extension Agents
- Livestock and Horse Owners
- First Responders

and anyone interested in learning scene safety and resources for animal technical rescue emergencies

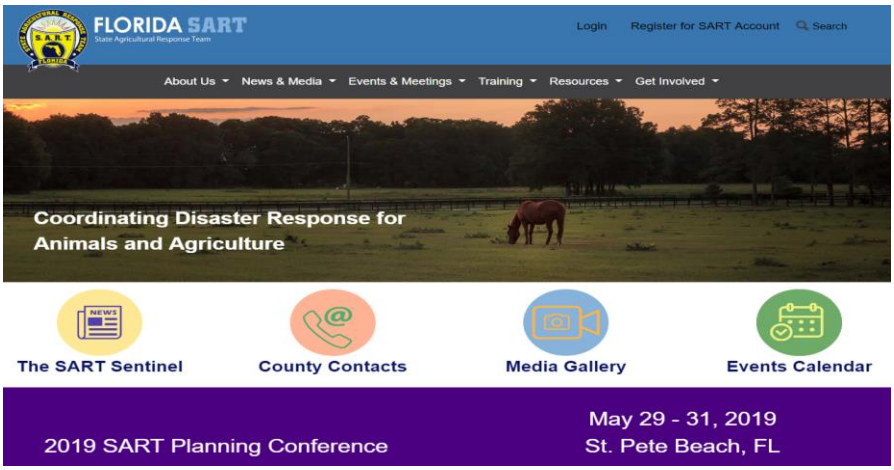
When: Saturday, August 17th, 2019
8 AM – 5 PM

Where: UF College of Veterinary Medicine
2015 SW 16th Ave
Gainesville, FL 32608

Register: www.ufvets.com

Contact: Brandi Phillips
brandikphillips@ufl.edu

Have You Visited the New FLSART.org?



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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