The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

An Ag Law officer inspects a box truck on Interstate 95.

Agricultural Interdiction Stations Discover Food Safety Violations

On November 30, 2019, a non-refrigerated truck bypassed Agricultural Interdiction Station 16B on Interstate 95 (southbound) as they entered Florida. Approximately 100 pounds of fruit in a liquid substance with Insects floating in the liquid was found inside. Also, approximately 50 pounds of homemade cream cheese not within required temperature was found inside.

The driver stated he was going to Pompano Beach to sell these products at the Flea and Farmers markets. Products were confiscated for disposal.

In a separate case on Christmas Eve, a box truck and a cargo van located at Agricultural Interdiction Station 16B on the southbound side of the highway were filled with various Korean food products heading to Orlando from New Jersey.

Multiple refrigerated products were contained in unlabeled 5-gallon containers in the box truck. In addition, the cargo van contained products labeled "frozen" but were being stored at room temperature. The room temperature products were confiscated for disposal and the driver voluntarily disposed of unlabeled products.

A big thank you to the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement on their great coordination with the Division of Food Safety!

Photos continued on page 2, *Agricultural Interdiction Station Violations*.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *SART's "Focused Implementation Workshop" and Potluck Focused on Strategic Directions for 2020 and Beyond*
- *Coming February: UF VETS Animal Technical Rescue Ops Training*
- *Counties, Is Your Contact Information Up-to-Date on the SART Website?*

Exciting News! Florida SART welcomes the Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums (FAZA) as its new partner!

See page 4 for the story.

Agricultural Interdiction Station Violations (continued)

SART's "Focused Implementation Workshop" and Potluck Focused on Strategic Directions for 2020 and Beyond

On December 17th, 2019, SART held it's "Focused Implementation Workshop" and holiday potluck. This event was the sixth installment in a series of strategic planning workshops designed to help update the SART Organizational Declaration, Steering Committee, and Advisory Board. The "Focused Implementation Workshop" helped to build on strategic directions that were identified in previous workshops.

Attendees worked to answer the questions, ***How would you describe the current reality?***, ***What do you need to accomplish in the next 12 months?***, *and* ***What will be different in 3 years if you really mobilize behind this strategic direction?***. Through discussion, the group was able to identify concrete initiatives to implement over the next year to improve SART. That said, the event was not all business! Between sessions, SART held a holiday potluck and enjoyed a great holiday meal together.

The next workshop titled "First-Year Timeline and Assignments" will take place this month. At this upcoming workshop, the group will work to determine when the accomplishments for each strategic direction will be completed and who will be responsible for it.

FAZA Enters New Partnership with Florida SART

ABOUT FAZA
The Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums (FAZA) is a member-based trade organization in the state of Florida. It is comprised of 22 accredited member institutions and around 100 individual member professionals.

MISSION
The Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization representing accredited zoos and aquariums dedicated to the advancement of animal welfare, environmental awareness, and global conservation.

COLLECTIVE CARE
FAZA members work together and with other AZA-accredited zoos to maintain safe populations of rare animals outside of the wild. Because of our warm climate, we often steward large numbers of certain tropical species. For example, almost one-third of the rare reticulated giraffes in North America and white rhinos live in our care. Likewise, FAZA members are responsible for about two-thirds of manatees and staghorn coral populations.

OVER $122 MILLION TO HELP ANIMALS IN THE WILD
Beyond programs like those above, the AZA-accredited and certified institutions of FAZA contribute millions of dollars to helping plants and animals around Florida and the world. FAZA members invested over $122 million dollars to saving species in the wild between 2011 and 2018 (latest figures available until autumn 2020). Of this, over $46 million was devoted to nearly 300 efforts that help Florida species and habitats.

SART PARTNERSHIP
FAZA's interest in partnering with SART is based on our resources and expertise in exotic animal management. We work with local, state, and federal EOC agencies in disaster preparedness and response activities relative to exotic animals in Florida.

Learn more at: http://www.flaza.org

Counties, Is Your Contact Information Up-to-Date on the SART Website?

Please review your county emergency contact information at https://flsart.org/resource/countyinformation.jsp.

If you need to make changes to your county contact information, please send a request to LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov. During an emergency, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides necessary food and water to affected areas and helps protect animals and pets.

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state and nation…

Thai Chicken Exports to China Set to Rise Amid Swine Fever Outbreak
Thailand's chicken exports to China are forecast to increase by 60% next year, a Thai industry association said on Thursday, as China seeks alternative meat supplies after an outbreak of swine fever nearly halved its pig herd. China's pig herd is about 40% smaller than a year ago, Chinese authorities have said, after deadly African swine fever swept through the country since it was first detected in August 2018. (Reuters) Read More

Outbreak of Multidrug-Resistant Campylobacter Infections Linked to Contact with Pet Store Puppies
30 people infected with the outbreak strain of Campylobacter jejuni, which causes diarrheal illness, have been reported from thirteen states. Four hospitalizations have been reported, but no deaths to-date. Epidemiologic and laboratory evidence indicate that contact with puppies, especially those at pet stores, is the likely source of this outbreak. Read More

White-Tailed Deer in Southwest Montana Tests Positive for CWD
A white-tailed deer harvested by a hunter in the Ruby Valley in southwest Montana during the general hunting season tested positive for chronic wasting disease. The buck is one of 24 samples that came back positive for CWD in the latest batch of test results. Read More

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update
CWD has not been found in Florida. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is working with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, hunters, captive cervid owners, landowners, and the public to help keep Florida CWD free. Read More

FDACS DAI Bureau of Animal Disease Control Conducts Biosecurity Exercise

On December 5th and 6th, 2019, the Division of Animal Industry (DAI) Bureau of Animal Disease Control conducted a biosecurity exercise to practice response procedures for an Avian Influenza disease outbreak in Florida. The exercise began with classroom style presentations on Biosecurity and donning and doffing procedures for PPE. Attendees were then directed to the SART Compound where the hands-on portion of the exercise began.

Procedures exercised at the compound included vehicle decontamination, personnel decontamination, and donning/doffing PPE. Participants included DAI Director's Office staff as well as staff from all six DAI district offices. The exercise was successful in its effort to strengthen preparedness and readiness to respond to animal disease events in Florida.

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;
- 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 **Tool Kit** that offers functional guidance and plan templates. Students will also receive a **certificate** of completion approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida

RELEASE DATE
Winter 2019

COURSE DURATION
4 hours

COURSE FEE
Free

COURSE MODE
100% online

TARGET AUDIENCE
Emergency Managers
County Employees
Shelter Volunteers

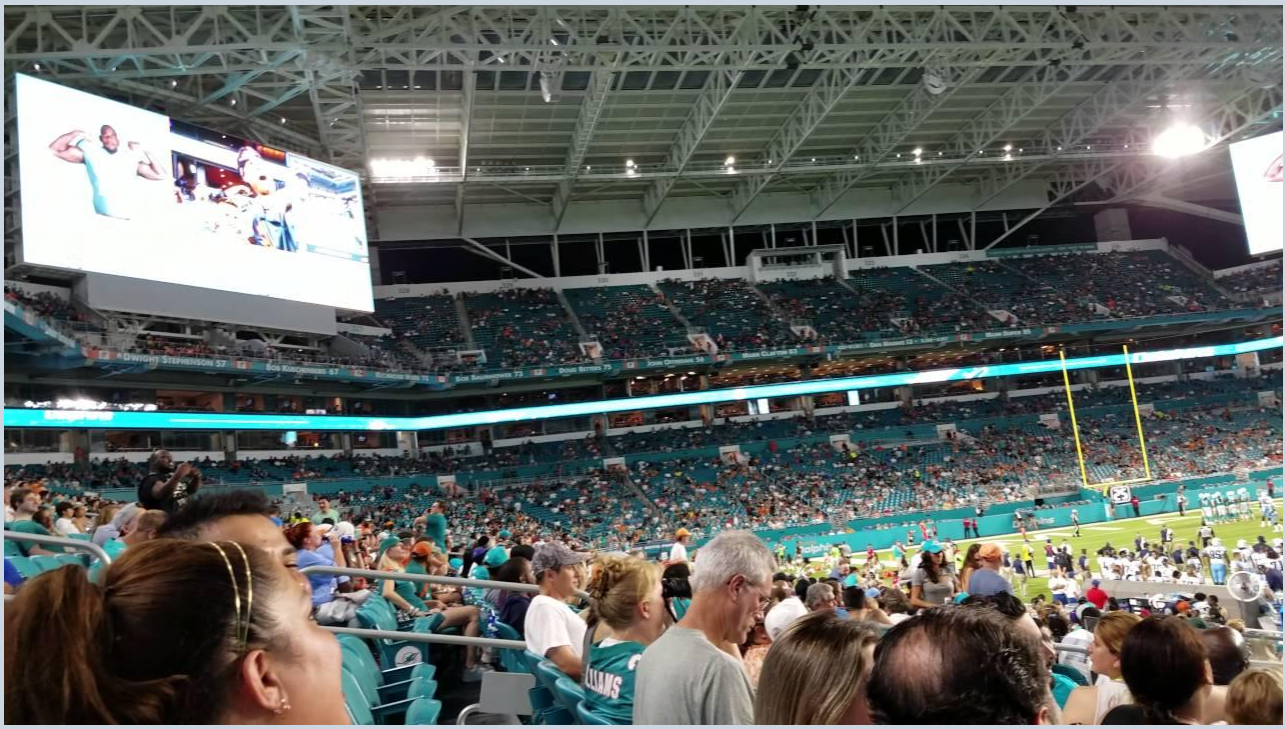
PROVIDED BY
Florida State Agricultural Response Team, in partnership with the Florida State Animal Response Coalition

POINT OF CONTACT
LeiAnna Tucker
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(850) 410-0920
LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov

Food Safety and Food Defense Report

A special section dedicated to feed and food emergency planning and response.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (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 gate, through processing and distribution, to the retail point of purchase.



Food Safety members have been busy this holiday season preparing for Super Bowl LIV Food Defense and Food Safety operations! Super Bowl LIV will be held at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Florida on February 2, 2020.

In addition to the big game, there are a handful of large events that are expected to attract thousands of fans one to two weeks prior to game day. The FDACS Division of Food Safety has been coordinating with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Hotels and Restaurants (DBPR) and the US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA) in the past few months to determine a plan for monitoring food defense from food suppliers to the vendors selling food at such events.

Operations will include surveillance food sampling for threat agents and foodborne pathogens at the suppliers ahead of time, meeting with food suppliers and discussing food defense, and permitting vendors at the events with Temporary Food Permits. Stay tuned for a summary of how everything went in the next few issues of the Sentinel!

Also, our partners in Georgia had an article published in Food Safety Magazine on their response efforts for Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta. I thought it would be cool to give it a shout out:

https://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/magazine-archive1/december-2019january-2020/ensuring-food-safety-at-large-scale-events/

AWR 328: All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters

12hr ilt wbt

This awareness level course will provide tools to protect, respond to, and recover from the consequences of disasters e.g. fire, flood, heat, earthquake, tornadoes, hurricanes, hazardous materials and catastrophic disease exposure involving animals in rural communities. The course will introduce participants to the unique issues that must be considered and addressed when animals are involved in an emergency such as safe animal handling, animal evacuation, animal sheltering, humane euthanasia and carcass disposal, inclusion of animal management into existing ICS structures, federal support available during recovery, and unique considerations for conducting jurisdictional assessments and mapping evacuation routes. All content will be presented in a blended learning style in which introductory material will be delivered online and hands-on, problem-solving activities will be completed in small groups at a one-day instructor lead training.

PREREQUISITES

None

THIS COURSE IS FOR

- Animal Emergency Services
- Agricultural Safety
- Citizen/Community Volunteers
- Emergency Management
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Service
- Law Enforcement
- Private/Corporate Security & Safety
- Veterinarians & Vet Techs

Foreign Nationals must complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course. For information about this form, contact Lori Ard at lori.ard@centertech.com *or* 606.677.6062.

FEBRARY 19, 2020*, 8AM - 5PM

UF/IFAS WALTON COUNTY EXTENSION

732 NORTH 9TH STREET
DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FL 32433

REGISTER ONLINE

https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/schedule/2020-02-19-awr328-defuniaksprings-fl-001/

**All participants must register by Feb. 5, 2020, to ensure their spot in the course.*

LOCAL JURISDICTION CONTACT

Chris Eliadis, chris@waltoncountyem.org

REGISTRATION IS FREE

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

Walton County Emergency Management;
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
Florida State Agricultural Response Team

For more information, contact:

Heather Johnson
530.219.7005
heajohnson@ucdavis.edu

Nicole Nisson
530.757.5700
nsnisson@ucdavis.edu

MGT 448: All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, & Food Related Disasters 8hr ilt

This management level course will provide the background information needed to lead a multi-agency team of emergency planners in the development of an Emergency Support Functions (ESF) annex for food and/or animal related disasters to supplement their community's existing Emergency Operation Plans. The course will address topics such as agroterrorism; detection and diagnosis; the unique challenges that rural communities face in planning for and responding to food and/or animal related disasters; utilization of ESF; recovery and the importance of sustainable operations during a disaster event; and mapping a community to identify areas of vulnerability and resources. All content will be presented at an all-day instructor led training that will include presentations and problem-solving activities that will be completed in small groups.

PREREQUISITES

AWR 328: All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters

THIS COURSE IS FOR

- Animal Emergency Services
- Agricultural Safety
- Emergency Managers & Planners
- Law Enforcement
- Public Health
- Private/Corporate Security & Safety
- State, Local & Tribal Gov. Administrators
- Veterinarians

Foreign Nationals must complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course. For information about this form, contact Lori Ard at lori.ard@centertech.com *or* 606.677.6062.

FEBRUARY 20, 2020*, 8AM - 5PM

UF/IFAS WALTON COUNTY EXTENSION

732 NORTH 9TH STREET
DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FL 32433

REGISTER ONLINE

https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/schedule/2020-02-20-mgt448-defuniaksprings-fl-001/

**All participants must register by Feb. 6, 2020, to ensure their spot in the course.*

LOCAL JURISDICTION CONTACT

Chris Eliadis, chris@waltoncountyem.org

REGISTRATION IS FREE

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

Walton County Emergency Management;
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
Florida State Agricultural Response Team

For more information, contact:

Heather Johnson
530.219.7005
heajohnson@ucdavis.edu

Nicole Nisson
530.757.5700
nsnisson@ucdavis.edu

UF VETS Animal Technical Rescue Ops Training

Animal Technical Rescue Operations Training will be available at the Florida State Fire College February 19-21, 2020. This hands-on, scenario-based training will provide participants with the opportunity to use tools and techniques important for the preservation of human life safety and animal welfare during emergency situations involving animals.

Registration is $600/person and can be completed by visiting www.ufvets.com or contacting Brandi Phillips at brandikphillips@ufl.edu.

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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