



The Sentinel

Newsletter of
the Florida State
Agricultural
Response Team



Special Features of this Issue:

- SART Partner Spotlight: The Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
- Now Enrolling: Free Courses AWR 328 & MGT 448 in Defuniak Springs
- UF VETS Animal Technical Rescue Ops Training

“Dr. Zimmel is well known to the college in her present role as associate dean for clinical service.”

— Dr. David Nelson & Dr. Jack Payne
University of Florida
In a joint statement announcing Dana Zimmel, D.V.M., as the interim dean of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

See page 5 for the story.

Florida Awarded USDA Grants for Animal Disease Prevention

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the awarding of grant funds in 25 states to support animal disease prevention, emergency response training, and laboratory diagnostic capability.

As part of the federal 2018 Farm Bill, Florida received two awards from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) totaling \$172,525. The awards were granted to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

“Defending our state from communicable animal diseases is one of our top public safety priorities, and our veterinarians and diagnosticians work hard to monitor health threats and

perform cutting-edge research and education on animal diseases,” said Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nicole “Nikki” Fried. “We thank USDA for their partnership through these grants, which will enhance not only our state’s animal industries and emergency preparedness, but the health of Florida’s animals and residents.”

The grant awards include:

\$150,000 for the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory to enhance testing capacity for Chronic Wasting Disease. The Bronson Lab is Florida’s highest-accredited animal disease diagnostic laboratory, of which

See USDA Grants, page 2.



USDA Grants (continued)

Commissioner Fried, joined by former Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson, celebrated the opening of a new \$11 million expansion last year. Chronic Wasting Disease is an infectious, degenerative disease found in deer, of which researchers and law enforcement are working to prevent introduction into Florida. This grant is awarded through the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.



\$22,525 to help Florida prepare for the Foreign Animal Disease Southern Agriculture Functional Exercise (FAD SAFE). The exercises will be led by state animal health authorities and land-grant universities in 25 states including Florida, and will enhance disease emergency preparedness, improve capabilities, capacity, and readiness of animal agriculture sector responders, and address training priorities in the major livestock industries. This grant is awarded through the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program.

Read more at: <https://www.fdacs.gov/News-Events/Press-Releases/2020-Press-Releases/Florida-Awarded-USDA-Grants-for-Animal-Disease-Prevention>



SART Holds its First-Year Accomplishments Workshop



On January 23rd, SART held its “First-year Timeline and Assignments Workshop.” This event was the seventh installment in a series of strategic planning workshops designed to help update SART’s organizational documents, meeting structure, and schedule of trainings and exercises. The purpose of the “First-year Timeline and Assignments workshop” was to build a schedule for completing the future accomplishments that SART partners identified to be implemented over the next year. The workshop also identified which partner agencies should be involved in the activities of each “first-year accomplishment.”

UF VETS Team Animal Technical Rescue

The UF VETS Animal Technical Rescue (ATR) team was called to assist a cow trapped in a sinkhole in Bradford County the morning of January 9th. Members of Bradford County Sheriff’s Office – who have participated in ATR training – quickly dispatched the team. Bradford County Road Department also provided personnel and a gradall forklift to open a pathway for the cow to self-extricate. She was returned safely to her pasture within a few minutes of the parties arriving on scene.



Photo Credit: Lt. Raymond Shuford, Bradford County Emergency Manager

SART Partner Spotlight: The Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association



The Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association (FFVA) is the state's leading full-service specialty crop organization, serving Florida's grower-shipper community since 1943. FFVA represents a broad range of crops, including vegetables, citrus, tropical fruit, berries, sod, sugar cane, tree crops and more. Our mission is to enhance the business and competitive environment for producing and marketing fruits, vegetables and other crops.

FFVA members are just a phone call away from a [team of nationally recognized experts](#) on crop protection, labor, water management, government relations, marketing and communication. The association offers membership in two categories: Producer Members and Trade Associate Members.

The 2019 print annual report highlights the past season of efforts and work of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association on behalf of its members, the growers and handlers of Florida's specialty crop industry. You can also view the highlights in the [annual report videos](#).

For more information, please visit: <https://www.ffva.com>

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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, agriculture and pets.

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the State, nation, and globe...



Now More Than Ever, New Strategies Are Needed to Protect Animal Health

Imagine this scenario: A viral disease emerges and spreads rapidly across borders. It has a nearly 100-percent fatality rate, with symptoms that include high fever, blotchy skin lesions, coughing, diarrhea, vomiting and hemorrhaging. There is no treatment or preventative vaccine for the disease, so it results in widespread loss of life and a staggering economic toll. The international system struggles to come together to stop it from spreading even further. This might sound like any of a number of infectious diseases among humans, including SARS, Ebola and H5N1 influenza, also known as bird flu. But it actually describes African swine fever, a malady that does not infect humans, but wreaks havoc on pigs. (World Politics Review) [Read More](#)

UF Veterinary College Names New Interim Dean Following National Search

After a lengthy national search, Dana Zimmel, D.V.M., has been named interim dean of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. "Dr. Zimmel is well known to the college in her present role as associate dean for clinical services," said David Nelson, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs, UF, and president of UF Health, and Jack Payne, Ph.D., senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, in a joint statement. [Read More](#)

First Wuhan Coronavirus Patient Identified in the United States

A person in Washington State is infected with the Wuhan coronavirus, the first confirmed case in the United States of a mysterious respiratory infection that has killed at least six people and sickened hundreds more in Asia. The patient, who was hospitalized with pneumonia, recently had traveled to Wuhan, China, where the outbreak appears to have originated, federal officials have found. (New York Times) [Read More](#)

Have Questions About Coronavirus and Pets/Animals?



In case you get questions regarding the novel Coronavirus, here is a link to FAQs produced by the CDC including questions on pets and other animals and animal products: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

LeiAnna and Dr. Christy Presented at NASAAEP 2020 Summit in Seattle about Florida ESF 17 Emergency Preparedness and Response Actions



LeiAnna Tucker and Dr. Gregory Christy of Florida SART and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services presented at the 2019 Summit for the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP).

The annual Summit brings together non-governmental, state and federal responders from across the nation active in animal disaster response. Other SART partners in attendance included Dr. Lawrence Garcia from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Terry Clekis from the Florida Veterinary Medical Association.

LeiAnna presented on Florida's upcoming Online Pet-Friendly Sheltering Training, the first state-certified training of its kind in the state. Dr. Christy presented about Florida's emergency response to Hurricane Michael and, particularly, the emergency response efforts for Florida's beekeeping industry in the Panhandle that was significantly impacted by the Category 5 hurricane. The Panhandle is home to about 500 registered beekeepers and nearly 50,000 bee colonies, which amounts to nearly 1.2 billion bees.



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

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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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African Swine Fever

By Candy Sheridan

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

African swine fever (ASF), is an emerging disease that is currently threatening the swine population globally. Multiple countries are posting new information daily on the internet about this topic. To help consumers, as well as readers, better understand what African Swine Fever is, the United States Department of Agriculture has listed facts on their website, www.usda.com, and the World Organization for Animal Health has posted an abundant amount of information.

Why should the average consumer be informed about this? If they love bacon and African Swine Fever makes its way to the United States, prices will skyrocket on the pork products still available. There aren't a lot of commercial swine herds in Florida, so there isn't as much danger as in countries like China that have many backyard herds and commercial herds; however, Iowa farmers are preparing for 25% of the world pork supply to be depleted by the end of the year. According to a swine specialist at Iowa State University, feed that comes in from China can also carry the disease. The virus can transfer from clothing on people to the vehicles they drive and can also be spread through manure and food by products.

I interviewed Dr. Greg Christy, Veterinarian with the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, last month regarding African Swine Fever and he shed some light on why this disease is threatening the pork industry.

Candy Sheridan: It is my understanding African Swine Fever (ASF) is a disease caused by a DNA virus in swine and there isn't a vaccine to prevent it, but why is this disease being discussed so much right now? Why is it so urgent at this time, and can it be prevented?

Greg Christy, DVM: There isn't a vaccine currently available to prevent it. Once the disease infects your herd, you will lose most of the herd. This type of loss is why it affects the swine industry severely. It's highly fatal and spreads easily. Classical swine fever has a vaccine and the original term for it is hog cholera. For African swine Fever, there is no vaccine. Scientists are working hard to develop one.

What countries are affected right now?

Approximately fifty countries are affected right now, but the big outbreak started in China and is hitting those countries around China. I know that Vietnam, North and South Korea, and many other countries in Southeast Asia have been impacted. Almost half of the world's population of swine resides in China.

Comparing this to the Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003, do you think it's just a phase and will eventually go away?

In China, they are comparing this to an earthquake that is changing the very structure of the pork chain, inside and outside of China. SARS affected people, not ASF, so I think it has probably a lower level of concern to the average citizen but is certainly important to the swine industry and the swine producer. It will eventually work its way through the population and hopefully vaccines can be developed and used that can control its spread. It will pass, but we may lose a lot of swine before that happens.

I noticed this loss of swine is driving pork prices up.

That's correct, and domestic prices of pork in China have skyrocketed. Pork producers with herds not affected can sell pork to markets at a higher price and I've heard that China is eating more chicken.



African Swine Fever (continued)

China was Brazil's largest market for pork, beef, and chicken imports but the South American countries' pork exports have soared 40% since the beginning of the year.

Yes; Brazil's beef and chicken exports have risen because China is trying to fill an overall protein gap caused by the pork shortage.

What are the signs for swine owners to look for if a pig is sick?

High fever, depression, loss of appetite, skin lesions, diarrhea, vomiting, accompanied by unexplained illness or large numbers of unexplained deaths, these are all clinical signs to report to your local veterinarian or the State Veterinarian's office.

Where can swine owners find information regarding biosecurity measures?

They can reach out to the State Veterinarian office or USDA, but there's information on the USDA website including biosecurity. USDA has a toll-free number if someone needs to report clinical signs.

If ASF were to show up in the United States, would we rely more on other meats, such as chicken, for consumption?

If it occurred in the U.S. and we had to euthanize or lose a large segment of our swine herds, there would be a large shortage of pork. I think people would eat more beef and chicken.

Once the hogs are euthanized or depopulated, are they buried, or what is done with the carcasses?

There're many disposal methods. A lot of them are buried. Sometimes they're composted. Sometimes they're rendered and sometimes they're incinerated but I think burial is probably the largest disposal method.

Thank you for your time, Dr. Christy. Do you have any closing statements for international travelers?

You're welcome. Yes, don't bring in pork products from foreign countries. If you happen to go near swine producers, land, or commercial facilities, in a foreign country you should stay away from any domestic swine facilities for at least two weeks when you return to the United States. That's even more risky if you go to a country that's infected, say China, Vietnam, North Korea, or South Korea—even Indonesia. It's in Indonesia now. I would certainly try to stay away from swine producers in Southeast Asia and don't bring back any swine products such as pork products or swine byproducts.

Currently, there is a team effort among producers, veterinarians, the swine industry, and international travelers to be vigilant in protecting against African Swine Fever. Testing capabilities are increasing at the (NAHLN) National Animal Health Laboratory Networks, and disease monitoring efforts are in place to help detect ASF, so responses are completed in a timely fashion. There is an emergency response plan for ASF and it's being updated constantly, thanks to a vast amount of information from epidemiologists.

Florida SART Featured in Article About Maddie's Shelter Hurricane Dorian Response

The Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program disaster response team is always ready to deploy to both natural and manmade disasters.

Read the full story at:

http://blog.theaawa.org/totally-rocking-our-world-team-shelter-med/?fbclid=IwAR3bFm6b73cp_WdOSNCMJUZSVkBfx297AD5zV4AygiyqixaioyU1Y-R-hQ



January Florida Ag Happenings... A Photo Collage



Commissioner Nikki Fried, LeiAnna Tucker, Dr. Greg Christy, and Nick Morrow (FDACS/SART) attended Emergency Management Day at the capitol in Tallahassee. Commissioner Fried also provided introductions and spoke about SART's ESF 17 efforts during Hurricane Dorian.



Summer Williams (FDACS) and her colleagues with the Division of Food Safety have been hard at work with preparations for the big game in Miami. These are photos from their safety operations while sampling food vendors near the stadium.

SART Partners are Invited to Join our Next Workshop via Webinar!



In lieu of an in-person workshop in February, SART will hold a webinar to update partners on the progress that has been made throughout this strategic planning process. For individuals and partner agencies who haven't been able to attend and participate in our strategic planning process, this will be a great opportunity to be caught up on all the exciting initiatives planned for the future of Florida SART.

Information will also be shared about the upcoming SART Partners Workshop scheduled April 7-9 in Ocala. SART partners will receive a webinar invitation via email.

3-Day Training: K9 First Responder + K9 Tactical Combat Casualty Care

Are you a K-9 Handler looking to provide the best emergency field care for your four-legged partner? Learn and practice K-9 Tactical Combat Casualty Care skills with an expert instructor cadre, on advanced veterinary manikins in a state-of-the-art training facility, **February 22-24, 2020**.

This program includes handling K-9 emergencies in both conventional and tactical environments, so you'll be prepared to respond wherever and whenever you need. Topics range from safe K-9 handling and comprehensive assessments to treating the most common emergencies such as heat stroke and bloat/GDV, and tactical injuries such as gunshot wounds. Advanced Scope includes fluid administration and handler assist skills.

Who can apply?

Only active canine handlers in Florida currently employed with a military, federal, state, or local (city/county) agency are eligible to apply.

Tuition and Travel:

- Tuition is free for selected students (paid for by Florida SART).
- Students will be responsible for providing their own travel, lodging and meal expenses.
- Free/Discounted lodging is available at Camp Blanding. Please click the link below for contact information.

Need More Information?

Visit: <https://flsart.org/training/K9/>



Virtual tickets on sale now!

CENTER FOR RURAL ENTERPRISE ENGAGEMENT

INSIGHT SUMMIT

You will walk away with:

- Actionable tactics you can put into practice
- Content developed & ready to launch
- Tools to measure & show return on social media strategy

The [Insight Summit](#) is a one-and-a-half-day program, February 20-21, that will challenge you to discover new ways to market your small, agriculture-based business in an online environment while accelerating your learning and goals for advancing your business online.

For more information, please visit the [Registration Page](#).



AWR 328: All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters

12hr

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.



FEBRUARY 19, 2020*, 8AM - 5PM

UF/IFAS WALTON COUNTY EXTENSION

732 NORTH 9TH STREET
DEFUNIACK SPRINGS, FL 32433

REGISTER ONLINE



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

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

LOCAL JURISDICTION CONTACT

Chris Eliadis, chris@waltoncountym.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 itt

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@waltoncountym.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:

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Nicole Nisson
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UF VETS Animal Technical Rescue Ops Training



UF VETS
ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE

OPERATIONS TRAINING

DATE February 19-21, 2020
LOCATION Florida State Fire College
Ocala, Florida
REG. FEE \$600/person

REGISTER AT
WWW.UFVETS.COM

Please log in and update
your membership
information online at:

www.FLSART.org

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.

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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