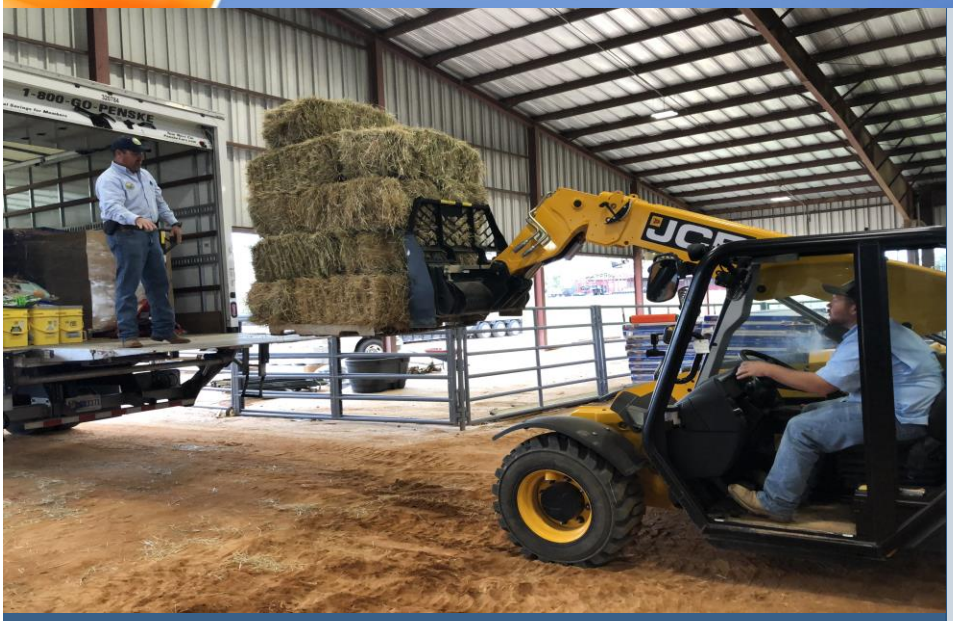
The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team



An ESF 17 Donation Staging Area (DSA) was established in response to 2018's Hurricane Michael at the Jackson County Agricultural Center in Marianna.

ESF 17 Holds Virtual Training for Donation Staging Area Operations

On August 20th, members of the ESF 17 Incident Management Team (IMT) participated in a Donation Staging Area (DSA) Inventory Management training. This training was designed to educate and prepare IMT staff who coordinate donations to the state for animals and agriculture during disaster.

The training covered the three phases of donation management: receiving, inventory, and distribution. Each of the three training modules contained practice problems that required attendees to use the newly created Inventory Management Spreadsheet System to track the status of donations moving through the DSA.

The training was a success as attendees stated they felt better prepared to manage donations in a future emergency response. The DSA Inventory Management Spreadsheet System is also gaining good use during COVID-19 while it is being used to track donated pet food and pet supplies in partnership with SART and Feeding Florida.

ESF 17 looks forward to using this training and its materials as a "just-in-time" training tool before and during an emergency response.

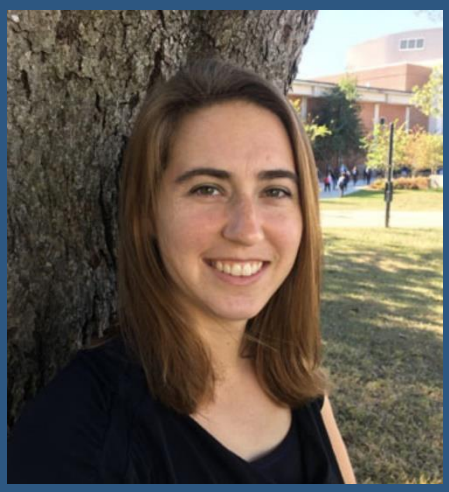
For more information on Florida SART's mission, please visit: www.FLSART.org

Special Features of this Issue:

- *COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events*
- *ESF 17 and SART Activate for Hurricanes Isaias, Laura and Marco*
- *Counties, Is Your Contact Information Up-to-Date on the SART Website?*

"The more data we can collect from producers and operations of all types, the more insights we can provide on the variety of ways each of the sectors are being uniquely impacted by and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's important that we find as many pieces of this puzzle as possible to understand implications for the broader food system and the economy."

— Christa Court
Assistant Scientist, UF/IFAS
Story on page 6.



SPECIAL SECTION: COVID-19 Resources

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services General Information

- ESF17 and SART partners have provided animal and pet resources on FDACS' dedicated COVID-19 page: http://www.fdacs.gov/coronavirus

CDC Releases Interim Guidance for Disaster Sheltering/Pet-Friendly Sheltering During COVID-19

- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak overlapping with the 2020 hurricane season, plans to prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus in disaster shelters are being created. Guidance released by the CDC recommends "collocated" sheltering for pets in (animal areas) separate from the human sheltering area, and to separate animals 6 feet, if possible, to reduce human-to-human transmission in the animal area. Click here to read the interim guidance document.

Animals, Pets, and COVID-19

- ESF 17 Information packet Regarding Animal Shelters, Mosquitoes, and Food Safety
- Frequently Asked Questions for Veterinarians and Pet Owners (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- Important COVID-19 Information for Animal Shelters (University of Florida Maddie's Shelter Program)
- Protecting Yourself, Your Pets, and the Community from COVID-19 (Florida Veterinary Medical Association)
- HSUS COVID-19 Information Webpage provides information for Pet Owners
- ESF 17 Posts Information about Caring For Your Horses During COVID-19
- New CDC FAQs now available for "How can I safely run my equestrian facility?"
- Caring for pets from COVID-19 Exposed Homes: https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/2020/05/21/watch-caring-for-covid-19-exposed-pets-in-shelters/
- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics Treating Companion Animals during COVID-19 Response: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html

Food Safety and COVID-19

- FDA COVID-19 Food Safety Webpage: https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19
- The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) has released COVID-19 resources for Florida's shellfish growers: http://shellfish.ifas.ufl.edu/news/covid-19-resources-for-shellfish-growers/
- FDA COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions
- Association of Food and Drug Officials Coronavirus Resources: http://www.afdo.org/coronavirus-resources

SART Partner COVID-19 Webpages

- The UF/IFAS COVID-19 Webpage provides information resources for agricultural producers and consumers: https://ifas.ufl.edu/covid19-information-updates/
- Florida Department of Health Coronavirus Webpage: https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS AND CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

FDACS.gov/COVID19

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.

Protect Employees and Volunteers

There is no evidence that companion animals can spread COVID-19 or that infection would be serious for them. The virus spreads primarily from person to person. The health and safety of employees/volunteers should be the focus of every animal shelter.

- Employees and volunteers who are sick or show signs of respiratory illness should not work until they are symptom free.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water before eating, after using the bathroom, coughing or sneezing, and touching surfaces. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available and there is no visible dirt on your hands.
- Frequently sanitize common areas with EPA registered antimicrobial products for use against COVID-19 that are safe to use in and around the animals and shelter.
- Click here for the CDC's interim guidance for businesses and employers.

Support and Inform Your Community

Remind community members to have a plan in place for pets.

- Identify a family member/friend who can care for pets if needed.
- Have crates, food, and extra supplies on hand for quick movement of pets.
- Keep all animal vaccines up to date and document all medications and dosing.
- Pets should have ID: collar with ID tag and microchip (best practice is microchipping).

Prepare Shelter for Increased Intake

While mass intake is not likely, people who contract the virus and are hospitalized may not have someone to care for their pets. Steps to prepare include:

- Free up shelter capacity with increased adoption efforts, rescue partners, and foster homes for animals already at the shelter.
- Prepare a facility plan with your shelter veterinarian on intake and isolation protocols.
- Be prepared to identify, isolate, or divert animals that may have been exposed to COVID-19. This includes securing disinfectants and personal protective equipment that may be used safely around animals. Identify locations available for fostering, identify capacity needs, and maintain updated list.
- Have a written protocol in place to follow and provide regular staff updates to staff.
- Secure additional food/supplies for increased intake, including foster network needs.

Prepare for Staff Illness:

- Strongly encourage your employees and volunteers to stay home when sick.
- Check availability of volunteers who can assist in a staff shortage.
- Connect with local boarding facilities, surrounding shelters and rescues and communicate plans.
- Click here for the CDC's interim guidance for businesses and employers.

For more information, visit
FDACS.gov/COVID19 or CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

FDACS-P-01922

COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events

Events that bring together people and animals, such as fairs and agricultural shows, can increase the spread of COVID-19 among people and animals. The risk of animal-to-person spread is considered to be low. However, fair and agricultural show organizers should consider the potential for spread from person-to-person, person-to-animal, and possibly animal-to-animal. If people will be interacting with animals at an event, take precautions to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published new guidance regarding "COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events." This guidance is available on the CDC website at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/events-animal-activities.html. The guidance provides biosecurity steps and materials for maintaining healthy environments in animal interaction areas, precautions for animals, maintaining healthy operation, and social distancing strategies for livestock and horse shows.

Florida SART strongly encourages you to review and share this guidance with your local UF/IFAS Extension Office, Extension Agents, animal exhibitors (e.g., 4-H programs), fair boards, agricultural centers, and groups participating in animal activities at fairs, shows, and other events.

ESF 17 and SART Activate for Hurricanes Isaias, Laura and Marco

August was a busy month at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee, Florida. ESF 17 was activated for Hurricane Isaias, Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Marco at the SEOC. For all storms, ESF 17 activated the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and held daily coordination calls to address animal and agricultural issues in the counties. While neither storm made landfall in Florida, ESF17 and our SART partners stood ready to respond and assist the animal and agriculture sectors of Florida.

ESF 17 continues to remotely staff the SEOC for Florida's COVID-19 response. In addition to staffing the SEOC, the FDACS Division of Animal Industry COVID-19 working groups continue to meet on a weekly basis to discuss COVID-19 animal testing, animal care, and pet food donations and distribution issues.

NEHA: Vectors & Pests Webinars

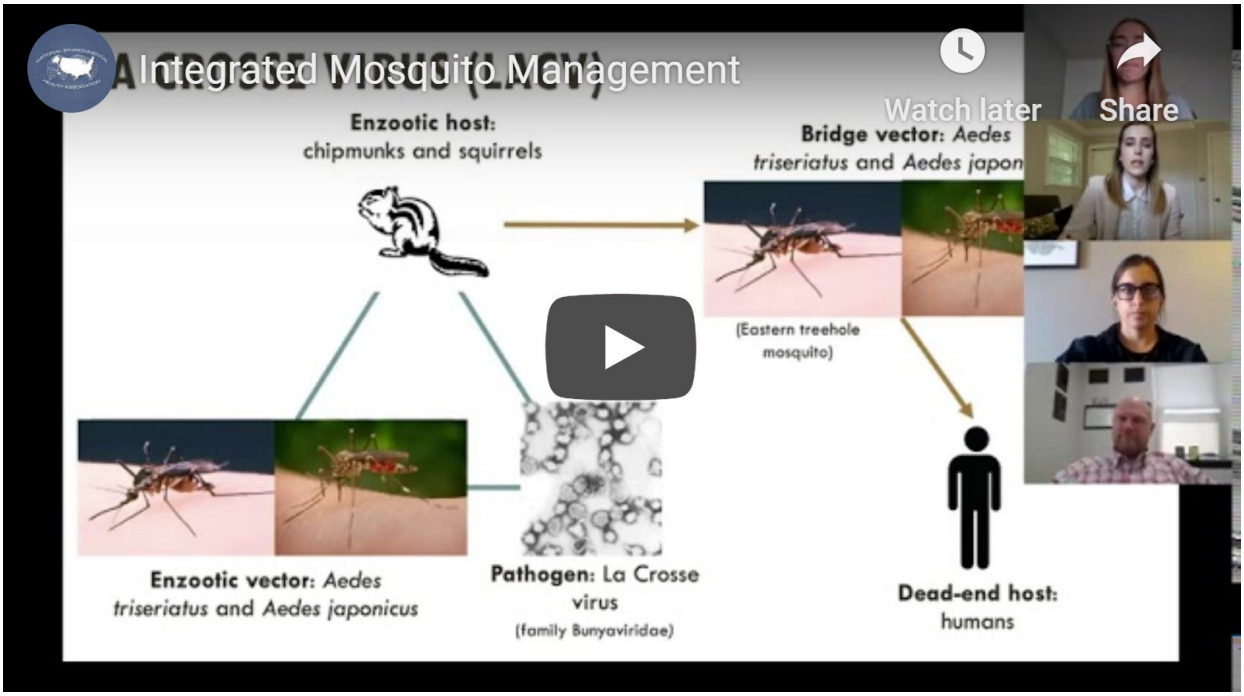
The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) aims to improve the capacity of environmental health to identify and understand emerging vectors found in the United States. The NEHA Vector & Pests Webinars page provides up-to-date information on vector control topics and resources used to protect the public of the transmission of vector-borne diseases.

Integrated Mosquito Management

The National Environmental Health Association is proud to partner with the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Disease and the American Mosquito Control Association to host the Integrated Mosquito Management webinar.

Speakers

- Dr. Meredith Spence Beaulieu, Assistance Director at the Triangle Center of Evolutionary Medicine
- Jason Kinley, Director of Gem County Mosquito Abatement District



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, ESF 17 and SART provides necessary food and water to affected areas to help protect animals, agriculture and pets.

In the News

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

Response Requested from Ag and Marine Industry Professionals for New Round of Surveys on Pandemic Effects

University of Florida researchers have opened the second round of surveys on COVID-19's impact on the state's agriculture and marine industries, intended to capture changes in operations for the first half of the year. The Assessment of COVID-19 Impacts on Florida surveys were first deployed in mid-April and closed in mid-May, offering a glimpse at the changes and uncertainty that came with the early days of the pandemic. In total, more than 1,500 respondents across five sector-specific surveys shed light on how their businesses were faring just as statewide stay-at-home orders were in full effect. Read More

Breakthrough in Detecting African Swine Fever Virus

As reported in AgriNews, scientists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service have identified a new way to detect the presence of live African swine fever virus that minimizes the need for samples from live animals and provides easier access to veterinary labs that need to diagnose the virus. "We have identified a cell line that can be used to isolate and detect the presence of the live virus," said ARS Scientist Douglas Gladue. "This is a critical breakthrough and a tremendous step for African swine fever virus diagnostics." (AgriNews) Read More

Deadly Rabbit Virus Spreads to Los Angeles County

A deadly virus targeting domestic and wild rabbits has been detected for the first time in Los Angeles County, public health officials said. NBC Los Angeles reports that Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2) was found in wild rabbits in Littlerock in the Antelope Valley and Juniper Hills in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health announced on August 4th. The disease was detected in Palm Springs in May, later spreading to San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego counties, state wildlife officials said. (NBC Los Angeles) Read More

FDA warns consumers about hand sanitizer packaged in food and drink containers

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers about alcohol-based hand sanitizers that are being packaged in containers that may appear as food or drinks and may put consumers at risk of serious injury or death if ingested. The agency has discovered that some hand sanitizers are being packaged in beer cans, children's food pouches, water bottles, juice bottles, and vodka bottles. Additionally, the FDA has found hand sanitizers that contain food flavors, such as chocolate or raspberry. Read More

Upcoming SART Webinar: "Wave Process"

The SART Strategic Planning Meeting Webinar "Wave Process" will be announced in September!

For more information, contact Nick Morrow:
Nicholas.Morrow@fdacs.gov

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 SART.

RELEASE DATE
Summer 2020

COURSE DURATION
4 hours

COURSE FEE
Free

COURSE MODE
100% online at
www.FLSART.org

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

SART Resources – The 2020 Hurricane Season

As Florida continues its readiness for the 2020 Hurricane Season, please take time to visit our Florida SART website at www.FLSART.org to check out new resources and available trainings. Please login to your SART member account to ensure your contact information is correct so that you can receive the monthly SART newsletter, *The Sentine*l, and important messages about animal and agriculture emergency response before, during and after disasters. Below, we offer some additional resources to aid in your planning and for understanding the roles and responsibilities of SART and our partner agencies.

Videos

- **Florida State Agricultural Response Team Overview**
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXAU837U8k4&feature=emb_logo
- **Florida SART: Building Partnerships**
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXujEb1_LDM&feature=emb_logo
- **EDEN Equine Hurricane Preparedness**
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyfBO8mHIwM&feature=youtu.be

Documents

- **Disaster Preparedness for Horses (PDF)**
  https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/11445/file/Disaster%2520Preparedness%2520for%2520Horses.pdf
- **Disaster Preparedness for Livestock (PDF)**
  https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/11446/file/Disaster%2520Preparedness%2520for%2520Livestock.pdf
- **Disaster Preparedness for Pets (PDF)**
  https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/11447/file/Disaster%2520Preparedness%2520for%2520Pets.pdf

Websites

- **FDACS Animal-Related Emergency Response**
  https://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Animals/Animal-Related-Emergency-Response
- **Maddie's University** (A free online learning environment of all things animal welfare.)
  https://www.maddiesuniversity.org
- **The USDA Southeast Climate Hub**
  https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/southeast/topic/hurricane-preparation-and-recovery-southeast-us has hurricane preparation and recovery resources for Southeast USA producers. (Guidelines specific to Florida are at: https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/southeast/hurricane-preparedness-and-recovery-guides-florida-producers)

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.

Photo: Daytona Beach News-Journal
https://www.news-journalonline.com/story/weather/2020/08/18/tornado-warning-adds-thunderstorms-volusia-flagler-counties/5604590002/

On Tuesday, August 18, an EF-2 tornado hit Deland, Florida. The National Weather Service reported the tornado had estimated peak winds of 105-115 mph and traveled 4.6 miles with a path width of a little less than 0.5 miles. A large amount of the affected area was a populated commercial business area in Deland. The Division of Food Safety conducted phone assessments to determine if there were any wind damage, flooding or power outages affecting the food supply in the immediate area. A total of 23 retail and manufactured food establishments were contacted (with some on-site visits) by the Food Safety Assessment Teams. An estimated $15,200 worth of food product was voluntarily destroyed from the establishments due to prolonged power outages.

UF VETS Conduct Animal Technical Rescue Trainings

With support from Florida SART, the University of Florida (UF) Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) team was able to provide two Awareness Level trainings this summer to help prepare communities for Animal Technical Rescue (ATR) incidents. These Awareness Level trainings are eight hours long and provide first responders the opportunity to learn about maintaining scene safety during animal technical rescue emergencies, recognizing and requesting resources for incidents, and networking within the community to better prepare for response. Although this training does not include the skill development to use equipment and perform responses as the Operations Level training does, it offered a great opportunity for community planning and provided relevant and timely information during the approach of peak hurricane season.

In late July, North Port's training included members of North Port Fire, Sarasota Sheriff's, Parrish Fire, Fort Lauderdale Fire, Sarasota K9 Search and Rescue, and Charlotte County Animal Control. In mid-August, the team was hosted by Marianna Fire, with several veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and a representative from the Florida Department of Transportation also participating.

UF VETS is grateful to our participants and Florida SART for making these classes possible – and, importantly, safe! If your area is interested in Awareness Level ATR training, please contact ATR Branch Director Brandi Phillips at brandikphillips@ufl.edu for more information.

Dr. Jenifer Chatfield: COVID-19 and Pets

Looking for even more information on COVID-19 and pets? What about In podcast form? Visit the following:

- **Veterinarian and infectious disease expert, Dr. Jenifer Chatfield, explains COVID-19**
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WFsnAhTp60
- **Special report: COVID-19. What every pet owner and pet care professional needs to know.**
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA0zo3z9pOo
- **COVID-19 in animals? A special report with Dr. Courtney Campbell**
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otUTvVS8LOg

Coming soon: We will have an updated lecture video (that veterinarians may receive Continuing Education credits for watching and completing a quiz).

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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