The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

Florida SART's LeiAnna Tucker (L) and Nick Morrow (R).

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Pesticides & You: Northeast Florida CEU Update*
- *RDPC Animal, Agricultural, and Food Related Disaster Virtual Training*
- *FDACS and SART Welcome Benjamin Motes!*

FDACS Hosts *Movement Standstill* Virtual Tabletop Exercise

On July 27-29th, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Division of Animal Industry hosted a Movement Standstill Virtual Tabletop Exercise as a preparatory event for the Foreign Animal Disease Southern Agricultural Functional Exercise (FAD SAFE) that will take place in November.

"A tabletop exercise involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting," said FDACS' Nick Morrow. Tabletop exercises are often used to assess and update plans, policies, and procedures.

"The purpose of the Movement Standstill Virtual Tabletop Exercise was to test Florida's plan to support a request from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a national animal movement standstill, in response to a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak," said Morrow.

A national animal movement standstill is the temporary prohibition of the initiation of any new movement of a susceptible species in a country. The Stop Movement Virtual exercise was well attended and engaged over 45 key stakeholders, including regulatory agencies such as FDACS and USDA, industry stakeholders such as the Florida Cattleman's Association, the Florida Association of Livestock Markets, and Southeast Milk, Inc., and law enforcement officials such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and FDACS' Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement.

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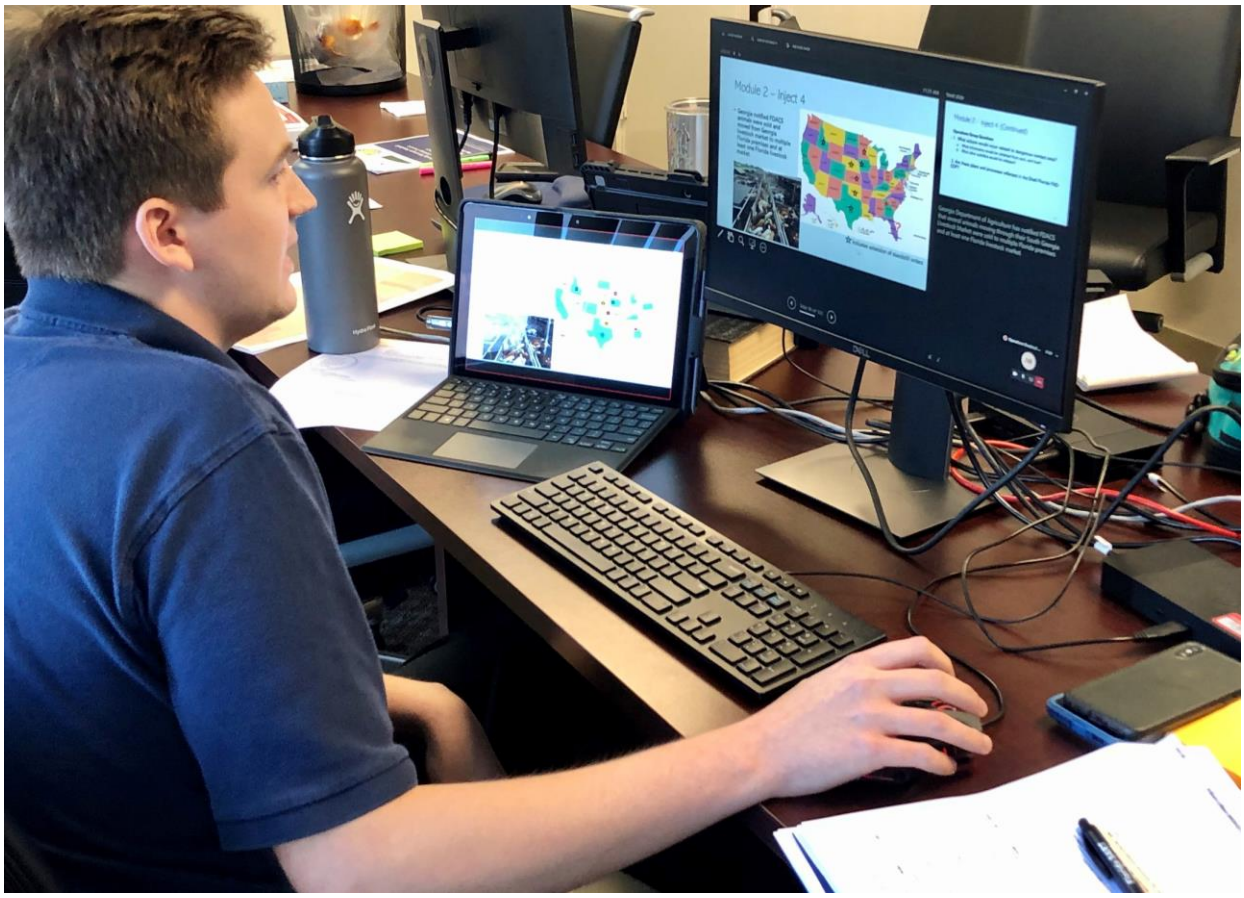
"The purpose of the Movement Standstill Virtual Tabletop Exercise was to test Florida's plan to support a request from the United States Department of Agriculture."

— Nick Morrow
Operation Analyst II
FL State Agriculture Response Team
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Movement Standstill Virtual Tabletop Exercise (continued)



These stakeholders worked together to solve the challenges presented by a stop movement order. Critical activities discussed during the exercise were incident management, quarantine and movement control, communication, animal welfare, continuity of business, biosecurity, and epidemiological investigation and tracing.

The exercise was a success. The facilitated discussion, led by USDA and FDACS staff, and input from key stakeholders helped to the achieve the goal of the exercise, which was to identify gaps and/or areas for improvement in Florida's existing "Draft" Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The exercise was evaluated by a multiagency team with representation from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the University of Florida Institute for Agricultural Science Extension Service, and FDACS. Considering gaps discovered in Florida's FAD EOP, the plan will be updated in preparation for the next FAD SAFE preparatory event which will take place in September.

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.

Florida Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training - FREE REGISTRATION OPEN!

Course Overview
The Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training is the first of its kind to be offered in Florida. The training provides guidance to private, local and state entities on how to plan for and operate a pet-friendly shelter to ensure that individuals evacuating from a disaster with their household pets are accommodated. While this training will provide you with basic information and guidance, further training with local or state emergency management programs is essential to fully prepare for pet-friendly sheltering in your community. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services developed this training collaboratively with the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART). This training is state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (Course Code FL-017).

Course Objectives
- Understand the benefits of and requirements for opening pet-friendly shelters during emergency evacuations.
- Understand the concept of the Incident Command System (ICS) and how it can be applied to pet-friendly shelter planning and operations.
- Identify strategies and planning considerations for writing a pet-friendly shelter plan for all-hazards.
- Understand the benefits of establishing partnerships and Multiagency Coordination Groups with key agencies and organizations to achieve local resource allocation for pet-friendly shelter preparedness.
- Understand the critical role social media plays in emergency communications, and how to develop an accurate and effective message about available pet-friendly shelters in a disaster.
- Apply best practices when setting up a pet-friendly shelter.

Primary Audience
The target audience includes local and state government agencies, emergency management agencies, county employees, shelter volunteers, veterinary and animal care services, and persons involved with the planning and response for emergency sheltering of individuals and household pets during disasters.

Prerequisites
None

Course Length
Total course length is approximately 4 hours to complete. You will be given 7 days to complete this training from the date you register. If you do not complete the training within 7 days, then your training registration will restart, and you will be required to complete the training from the beginning again.

Course Requirements
Students must pass the Final Exam to receive the state-certified Certificate of Completion.

For More Information and to Register
Please visit the Florida SART website at: https://flsart.org/petfriendly/index.jsp

Registration Open for State-Certified Virtual Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC) has upcoming opportunities available for their Awareness Level 1 and Operations Level 2 Small Animal Emergency Sheltering courses.

FLSARC provides emergency animal sheltering training for Florida, its counties, and communities. These courses teach the unique procedures, skills, and knowledge necessary to build and operate a temporary emergency animal shelter in response to natural disasters and large cruelty cases. These courses were created and designed by experts from many organizations including Florida SART, University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service Team, and leadership of FLSARC. Both courses are state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

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.

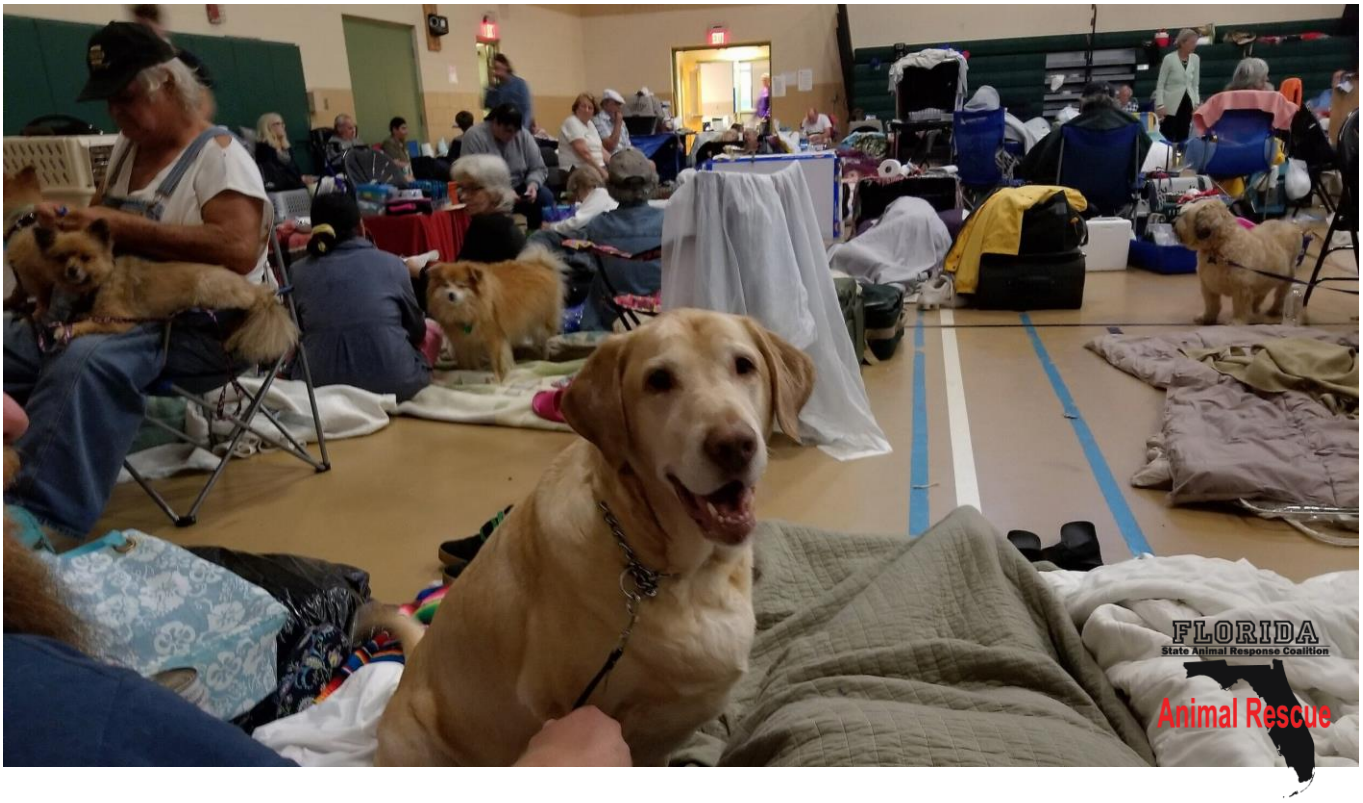
Awareness Level 1 Courses

- August 14-15, Awareness (Level 1): Register Here
- September 13-15, Awareness (Level 1): Register Here

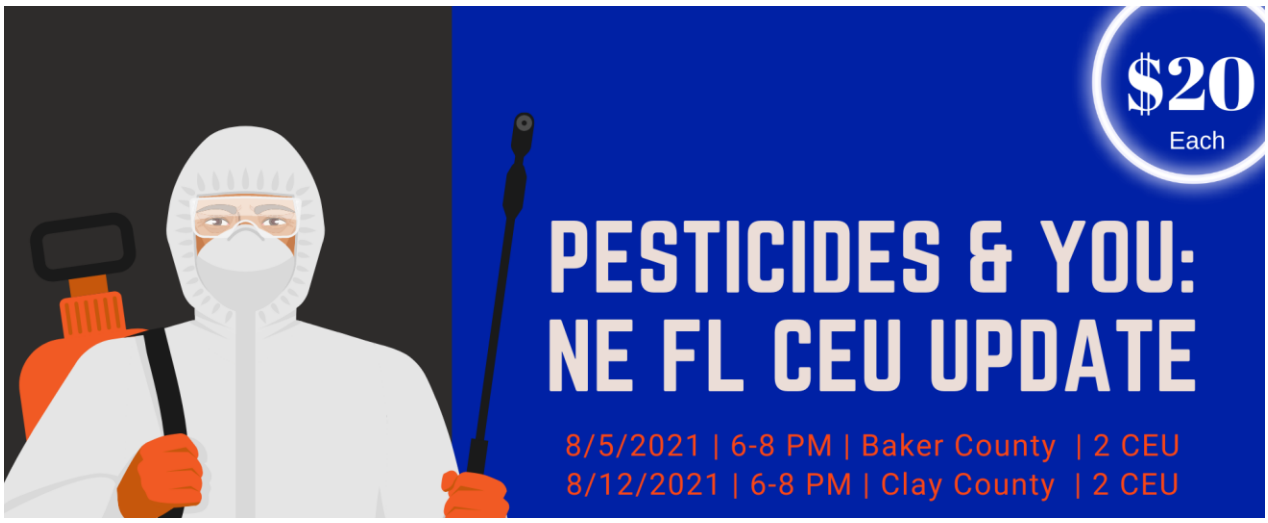
Operations Level 2 Courses (You must complete the awareness course before taking operations)

- September 25-26: Operations (Level 2): Register Here

For more information about the courses, and to register please visit: https://flsarc.org/training



Pesticides & You: Northeast Florida CEU Update



Baker and Clay County Extension offices are offering two nights of pesticide training from 6-8 PM for a total of 4 Continuing Education Units (CEU), 2 each night.

- **August 5th, Baker County Extension Office, 6-8pm**
  Topics include: Pesticide Mixing and Application Methods and Forage Pests
- **August 12th, Clay County Extension Office, 6-8pm**
  Topics include: Pollinators and Pesticides and IPM Development

Pesticide license holders and anyone interested are welcome to join us for one or both nights. Dinner is included! For any questions or to register by cash or check, contact Cassidy Dossin, (904) 284-6355.

Register Here: https://neflceuupdate.eventbrite.com

Tri-County Pesticide Applicator CEU Workshops

Tri-County Pesticide Applicator CEU Workshops are scheduled for August 9th and 19th in Starke & Lake Butler.

- **August 9th, Bradford County Extension Office, 6-9 PM**
  Topics include: Water Quality & Pesticides, Forage Weed ID & Control, Integrated Disease Management in Small Fruit Crops
- **August 19th, Union County Extension Office, 6-8 PM**
  Topics include: Insights into Applying Pesticides, Pest Identification in Vegetable Crops, Understanding Pesticide Resistance

Register Here: aliciah1221@ufl.edu **or call 904-259-3520**
$5 Each night; Refreshments Provided

SPECIAL SECTION: COVID-19 Resources

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services General Information

- ESF 17 and SART partners have provided animal and pet resources on FDACS' dedicated COVID-19 page: http://www.fdacs.gov/coronavirus

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
- Southern Coastal Center for Agriculture Health and Safety COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit: http://www.sccahs.org/index.php/covid-19-vaccine

The Center for Rural Development

RDPC Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium

"Prepare for the worst. Train to be the best."

www.ruraltraining.org | 877-855-RDPC (7372)

AWR 328: All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters-Virtual Zoom Delivery

This 8-hour, tuition-free, DHS/FEMA-certified course will provide livestock producers, emergency managers, veterinarians, extension agents, veterinary technicians, rural community leaders, public and human health personnel, fire and law enforcement with 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 at an in-person workshop that will include didactic presentations by expert instructors, and small-group, hands-on, problem-solving activities that will be completed by participants.

The following would benefit from attending this course:

- Livestock producers
- Emergency managers
- Veterinarians
- Veterinary technicians
- Extension agents
- Rural community leaders
- Public and human health personnel
- Fire service professionals
- Law enforcement professionals

zoom VIRTUAL TRAINING

The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) now offers **virtual, instructor-led** training opportunities using Zoom for Government. This new training modality offers a secure, encrypted environment so that emergency responders can train virtually anywhere.

This 8-hour course will be presented over **two consecutive days.** Each day will consist of one **4-hour training session**. Participants are required to use their own computer, tablet, or smartphone during the course. Each participant should log in a few minutes early to test the audio and/or video connection. While downloading the latest Zoom client app is beneficial, it's not required.

Sponsoring Agency:

Course Date:	Course Time:
August 10 & 11, 2021	**8am-12pm EST**

Course Registration Deadline (date/time):

August 03, 2021

*Non-U.S. citizens are required to complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request form 30 days in advance. Contact RDPC at **877-855-RDPC (7372)** for more info.*

Registration is **required** through the **RDPC website.** Register for this course by visiting the following link:

https://ruraltraining.org/course/AWR-328/?scheduled=true&id=2303

Participants are required to register no later than 24 hours in advance. A minimum of 25 registrations must be received to ensure the class will be held.

FEMA S.I.D. REQUIRED. Register for your FEMA Student Identification Number by visiting https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid

For more information regarding this course, please contact the following:

Course Contact Person	Course Contact Phone#	Course Contact Email Address
Rachel Ivy		**RIvey@ircgov.com**

Additional Course Information

FEMA

UC DAVIS WIFSS Western Institute for Food Safety & Security

Special Consideration: For participants requiring a printed course manual, registration is required 7 business days in advance. For assistance in obtaining a printed course manual, please call the course contact person listed above.

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MGT 448: All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, and Food Related Disasters-Virtual Zoom Delivery

This DHS/FEMA-certified, 8 hour, tuition-free, 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 (EOP). The course will address topics such as agroterrorism, detection and diagnosis, 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.

The following would benefit from attending this course:

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

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This 8-hour course will be presented over **two consecutive days.** Each day will consist of one **4-hour training session**. Participants are required to use their own computer, tablet, or smartphone during the course. Each participant should log in a few minutes early to test the audio and/or video connection. While downloading the latest Zoom client app is beneficial, it's not required.

Sponsoring Agency:

Course Date:	Course Time:
August 17 & 18, 2021	**8am-12 pm EST**

Course Registration Deadline (date/time):

August 10, 2021

*Non-U.S. citizens are required to complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request form 30 days in advance. Contact RDPC at **877-855-RDPC (7372)** for more info.*

Registration is **required** through the **RDPC website.** Register for this course by visiting the following link:

https://ruraltraining.org/course/MGT-448/?scheduled=true&id=2304

Participants are required to register no later than 24 hours in advance. A minimum of 25 registrations must be received to ensure the class will be held.

FEMA S.I.D. REQUIRED. Register for your FEMA Student Identification Number by visiting https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid

For more information regarding this course, please contact the following:

Course Contact Person	Course Contact Phone#	Course Contact Email Address
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In the News

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

More than 100 Florida Forest Service Firefighters and Support Personnel Now Deployed to Western Wildfires

Last month, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried and the Florida Forest Service (FFS) announced the deployment of an additional 20-person Type 2 initial attack hand crew to Montana to support ongoing wildfire suppression efforts. On July 14, the National Preparedness Level was elevated to five, which indicates the highest level of wildfire activity. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, there are currently more than 21,500 wildland firefighters and support personnel and 28 incident management teams assigned to at least 82 large wildfires that have burned nearly 1.7 million acres across 13 states. Read More

Lipari Foods is Recalling Dried Apricots Because They May Contain Undeclared Sulfites

Lipari Foods of Warren, Michigan is recalling 86 cases of Troyer Manufacturing Backroad Country Dried Apricots because it may contain undeclared sulfites. People who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to sulfites run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products. Backroad Country Dried Apricots were distributed to Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, & West Virginia to retail locations. Read More

Commissioner Fried & FDACS: Add a Fuel Plan to Hurricane Preparations

Commissioner Nikki Fried and FDACS are strongly encouraging Floridians to consider adding a fuel plan to annual hurricane preparations. Surges in consumer demand due to hurricanes can cause disruptions in Florida's fuel distribution system. Early preparation by consumers will reduce the strain on fuel distribution, ensure fuel is available as needed, and reduce the cost of fuels that can increase due to sudden higher demand. "We have all seen how panic-buying and sudden surges in demand for gas can cause disruptions to the fuel supply – which unfortunately happened earlier this year following the cyberattack on the Colonial Pipeline," said Commissioner Fried. Read More

CONSIDER ADDING A FUEL PLAN TO YEARLY HURRICANE PREPARATION

Surges in consumer demand due to hurricanes can cause disruptions in Florida's fuel distribution system. Early preparation by consumers will reduce the strain on fuel distribution and will help ensure that fuel is available as needed.

SOME TIPS

- Keep all vehicles at least half full during hurricane season.
- Keep at least one vehicle filled with gasoline once the earliest predictions indicate a storm may threaten the state.
- Pre-purchase fuels (LP gas and gasoline) for generators at the start of hurricane season.
- Use gasoline fuel stabilizer to keep gasoline fresh and ready to use when it is needed.
- Properly stored fuels can be safely stored throughout hurricane season, and can be transferred into vehicles for use, should no emergency arise.

FUEL SAFETY

- Refill fuel containers on the ground, not in the truck bed or trunk.
- Transport and store fuel ONLY in appropriate containers- look for DOT approved containers that close tightly and do not leak.
- NEVER store or transport gasoline in milk jugs or open top containers!
- Store fuel in a safe and well-ventilated location.

TYPICALLY FUEL CONTAINERS ARE COLOR CODED FOR VARIOUS FUELS:

- **Red containers are intended for gasoline and other highly flammable liquids.**
- **Blue containers are used for storing kerosene.**
- **Yellow containers are used for diesel fuel.**
- **Green containers typically are designed for storing oil.**

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO REPORT FUEL QUALITY ISSUES BEFORE OR AFTER A HURRICANE, CONSUMERS SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES AT 1-800-HELP-FLA, 1-800-FL-AYUDA EN ESPAÑOL, OR FLORIDACONSUMERHELP.COM.

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.

Grilling Up Safe Food this Summer

Summer is the perfect time to fire up the grill and enjoy a meal with friends and family! Ensure a safe and healthy BBQ for your friends and family by thoroughly cooking foods to their safe internal temperatures. Learn important Grilling Safety tips from the Division of Food Safety and Division of Marketing as well as Tips for Cleaning a Grill here.

Wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds before and after touching raw meat, poultry, and seafood to help prevent foodborne illness. Learn more about proper handwashing and view more summer food safety tips from the Division of Food Safety here.

Not sure what to cook? For plenty of grilling recipes, visit followfreshfromflorida.com.

Did you know that every year the University of Florida's Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program is tasked with providing pre and post storm disaster assistance to shelters around the state of Florida? UF coordinates with the statewide disaster response system even before the storm hits to start assessing needs and coordinating assistance.

How We Help

- Coordinate pre-storm evacuation of shelter animals to other lifesaving organizations, outside the area of the impact
- Coordinate post-storm evacuation to make room for lost pets impacted by the storm
- Coordination of medical supplies, food cages and transportation
- Link to funding for emergency grants

Hurricanes are unpredictable, so we need to prepare. One critical piece is moving animals out of the shelter in order to make room for post storm victims. The UF team has been essential in coordinating these transport efforts during Hurricanes Irma, Maria, and Michael.

To be effective, we need an emergency contact from every shelter *before* a threat is looming.

Please follow the link to our form below to provide your shelter's point of contact, a direct line for that contact, a cell phone number and a social media/messenger connection. Why a cell phone and messenger contact? Trying to call a main shelter line during a hurricane when there is often power outages and shelter closings does not help you get the resources and assistance you need. Even cell phone service can be interrupted but social media seems to stay online more consistently. There's no need to worry, we aren't going to call just to catch up...hurricanes are serious business. Help us help you! Your contact information will be held strictly confidential.

PLEASE COMPLETE OUR EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM!

THEN VISIT OUR WEBSITE

UF | Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program

FDACS and SART Welcome Benjamin Motes!

FDACS recently hired Benjamin Motes as a Government Analyst I to support ESF 17 and Florida SART. A native of Pensacola, Ben joined the Air Force after high school and served nine years in Security Forces. During his service he was stationed throughout the world, including two deployments to Afghanistan.

Ben went to Pensacola State College and the University of West Florida, earning a bachelor's degree in International Relations.

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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