# The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

*Photo Credit: USDA APHIS | Avian Influenza*

**Special Features of this Issue:**


- *Chronic Wasting Disease Update*
- *FEMA Updates Independent Study Courses for ICS Training*
- *Baking Safety Tips from the Division of Food Safety*


## Animal Disease Update

There have been recent detections of African Swine Fever in Italy: Case of African swine fever reported in northern Italy (jamaicaobserver.com), Chronic Wasting Disease in Alabama: Wasting disease confirmed in Alabama deer for first time (weartv.com), and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detected in wild birds in North Carolina and South Carolina, and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) was detected in a wild bird in Florida.

The HPAI detections occurred in wild birds tested by the USDA at the end of December 2021. HPAI was also detected in Newfoundland / Labrador, Canada in mid-December 2021 on one backyard premises.

Current HPAI findings can be viewed at USDA APHIS 2022 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza site.

Remember:

- Avian influenza is a contagious viral infection that can affect all species of birds.
- Commercial farms with intensive poultry rearing systems are usually the most affected species.
- Wild birds, to include ducks and other waterfowl, may carry influenza viruses without becoming ill due to a natural resistance.
- Wild waterfowl present a natural reservoir for this virus.

*See Animal Disease Update,* page 2.

***"I know you will enjoy listening and learning more about disaster relief and rescue at its best."***

— Rose Cushing
Host of *Today's Horsewoman* podcast
Story on page 4.

## Animal Disease Update (continued)

| Confirmed HPAI Findings in Wild Birds | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **County, State** | **Date Confirmed** | **HPAI Strain** | **Type of Wild Bird** |
| Colleton County, South Carolina | 1/14/2022 | H5N1 | American wigeon |
| Colleton County, South Carolina | 1/16/2022 | H5N1 | blue-winged teal |
| Hyde County, North Carolina | 1/16/2022 | H5N1 | northern shoveler |

Avian influenza is caused by influenza Type A virus (influenza A). Avian-origin influenza viruses are broadly categorized based on a combination of two groups of proteins on the surface of the influenza A virus: hemagglutinin or "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1-H16), and neuraminidase or "N" proteins, of which there are 9 (N1-N9). Many different combinations of "H" and "N" proteins are possible. Each combination is considered a different subtype, and related viruses within a subtype may be referred to as a lineage. Avian influenza viruses are classified as either "low pathogenic" or "highly pathogenic" based on their genetic features and the severity of the disease they cause in poultry. Most viruses are of low pathogenicity, meaning that they causes no signs or only minor clinical signs of infection in poultry.

To help prevent Avian Influenza from spreading:

- Maintain a heightened level of biosecurity. USDA APHIS | Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101
- Keep in mind that backyard flocks are less susceptible to AI than birds in a commercial flock setting.

For more information on HPAI, please visit the USDA website:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/vanityurl/animalhealth/defendtheflock

## Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Cervids are exposed to chronic wasting disease (CWD) orally and/or intranasally by direct animal to animal contact, and/or indirectly by contact with infected items in the environment, such as soil, dust, or forage. Cervids can shed infectious prions into the environment in feces, urine, and saliva during the incubation period. While the concentration of infectious prions are low in these excreta, accumulation in the environment can be significant, as infectious prions do not readily degrade in the environment. This environmental persistence can lead to robust levels of infectivity in areas where the disease is prevalent.

Recent research has suggested that plants can take infectious prions up into stems and leaves through the roots; however, this work was done in laboratory settings and it is unclear what happens under real-world conditions. More research needs to be done on this subject to better under-stand plant uptake and its significance in disease transmission.

Read more at: USDA APHIS | Cervids: Chronic Wasting Disease Specifics

# Florida Rules Regarding Carcass Importation

**Hunting Outside of Florida?**

Be aware of rules that prohibit importing or possessing whole carcasses or high-risk parts of deer, elk, moose, caribou and all other species of the deer family originating from any place outside of Florida.

**Under the new rules, people may import into Florida:**

**Deboned meat**

**Finished taxidermy mounts**

**Clean hides and antlers**

**Skulls, skull caps and teeth if soft tissue has been removed**

**NOTE:** The only exception to this rule is deer harvested from a property in Georgia or Alabama that is bisected by the state line AND under the same ownership can be imported into Florida.

These rules continue the FWC's work to protect Florida's deer populations by reducing the risk of chronic wasting disease (CWD) spreading into the state. CWD has not been detected in Florida. Learn more at ***MyFWC.com/CWD***

UNITE AGAINST CWD FLORIDA

MyFWC.com

**Learn more at *MyFWC.com/Deer***

## FEMA Updates Independent Study Courses for ICS Training

There has been a change by the Florida Division of Emergency Management Policy regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Independent Study (IS) course prerequisites for in-person training courses such as G-300: Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS) for Expanding Incidents, G-400: Advanced Incident Command System Command & General Staff: Complex Incidents, and position specific courses such as Incident Commander, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, Liaison Officer etc.

**Florida State Emergency Response Team**
**Florida Division of Emergency Management**

As of January 1, 2022, you must complete the updated versions of FEMA's IS-100, 200, 700, and 800 to register for available training posted on the state's SERT TRAC website. Direct links to the updated online classes is provided below. Please note that the letter after the course number denotes which version of the course it is. For example, if you have completed IS-100.B, then you will need to complete the updated version, IS-100.C, and upload it to SERT TRAC to be able to sign up for future in-person trainings listed on SERT TRAC.

- IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100
- IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS 200
- IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System, ICS 700
- IS-800.D: National Response Framework, An Introduction, ICS 800

## Today's Horsewoman: Disaster Relief Operation at its Finest

In the *Today's Horsewoman* Disaster Relief Operation at its Finest podcast, the episode focuses on an equine disaster relief organization (Rainbows Edge) in Jefferson County that has been working together with their county emergency management office to pool their resources. This has been a working collaboration that we have been fortunate to witness over several years and a fine example of local non-government organizations and emergency management working together to strengthen agricultural disaster preparedness at the local level.

The guests include Roxanne Spear of Rainbows Edge Equine Transition Center, in Greenville, FL, and Paula Carroll, Director, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Division of Emergency Management. Together they have developed a system for disaster relief second to none! The county's program has been so successful that other counties are adopting it and perhaps you can use it too. Please enjoy listening and learning more about disaster relief and rescue at its best.

Listen to the podcast at Buzzsprout.

## Storm Preparation

Florida has 1,197 miles of coastline, and all of its cities are within 75 miles of the coast. There are no areas in Florida immune to the forces of a hurricane or tropical storm. If a storm strike becomes imminent, it will be imperative that you are prepared and informed.

**Have a Fuel Plan**
Surges in consumer demand due to storms 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.

- 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.

For questions or to report fuel quality issues before or after a storm, consumers should contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Consumer Services at 1-800-HELP-FLA or 1-800-FL-AYUDA en Español.

**Fuel Safety**
Follow these tips when handling and storing fuel:

- Refill fuel containers on the ground, not in the truck bed or trunk.
- Transport and store fuel **only** in appropriate containers. Look for U.S. Department of Transportation-approved containers that close tightly and do not leak. 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.
- **Never** store or transport gasoline in milk jugs or open-top containers!
- Store fuel in a safe and well-ventilated location.

**Have a Family Disaster Plan**
Prior to the threat of a disaster, families can create a personalized Family Disaster Plan at FloridaDisaster.org/GetaPlan. This site provides checklists and important steps to take before, during and after the disaster. The plan should also address the issue of pets. If you anticipate needing transportation or any specialized assistance, register now with your county emergency management agency.

See *Storm Preparation,* next page.

## Storm Preparation (continued)

**Have an Emergency Kit**

Don't wait until a warning is issued and the stores are empty or closed to gather essential items for you and your family. The National Weather Service recommends including the following items in your emergency kit:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Masks (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription medications
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

**General Fraud Protection Tips**

- Be skeptical of any unsolicited telephone call, letter or email.
- Be wary of anyone requiring payment through money transfer or money order, or by sending cash. Purchases made by credit card will allow the consumer the ability to dispute charges.
- Get details in writing before signing agreements, sending money or giving financial information.
- Check a company's complaint history at our Business/Complaint Lookup or by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA or 1-800-FL-AYUDA en Español. If the business is regulated by FDACS, be sure to find out if it is registered.
- If you receive a solicitation to contribute to a charity, use Check-A-Charity or call 1-800-HELP-FLA or 1-800-FL-AYUDA en Español before you donate to inquire about registration status or financial information.

For more information, please visit: https://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Storm-Preparation

## African Swine Fever Update

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and feral swine of all ages. ASF is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. It is not a food safety issue.

ASF is found in countries around the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. More recently, it has spread through the Dominican Republic, China, Mongolia and Vietnam, as well as within parts of the European Union. It has never been found in the United States – and we want to keep it that way.

**Why is African Swine Fever a Concern?**
ASF is a devastating, deadly disease that would have a significant impact on U.S. livestock producers, their communities and the economy if it were found here. There is no treatment or vaccine available for this disease. The only way to stop this disease is to depopulate all affected or exposed swine herds. USDA is working closely with other federal and state agencies, the swine industry, and producers to take the necessary actions to protect our nation's pigs and keep this disease out. This group is also actively preparing to respond if ASF were ever detected in the U.S.

**What Producers and Veterinarians Need to Know**
Anyone who works with pigs should be familiar with the signs of ASF:

- High fever
- Decreased appetite and weakness
- Red, blotchy skin or skin lesions
- Diarrhea and vomiting
- Coughing and difficulty breathing

Immediately report animals with any of these signs to state or federal animal health officials or call USDA's toll-free number at **1-866-536-7593** for appropriate testing and investigation. Timeliness is essential to preventing the spread of ASF.

On-farm biosecurity is crucial to preventing any animal disease from developing and spreading. All pig owners and anyone involved with pig operations should know and follow strict biosecurity practices to help protect U.S. pigs from ASF. Work with your veterinarian to assess your biosecurity plans and make improvements as needed.

**What Travelers Need to Know**
International travelers could unknowingly bring back this disease from an ASF-affected country, especially if they visit farms. Visit the APHIS traveler page to know which items you can bring back into the United States. Some food items may carry disease and threaten domestic agriculture and livestock. If you go to an ASF-affected country, do not bring back pork or pork products.

See *African Swine Fever Update,* next page.

## African Swine Fever Update (continued)

Declare any international farm visits to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when you return. Make sure you thoroughly clean and disinfect, or dispose of, any clothing or shoes that you wore around pigs, before returning to the U.S. Do not visit a farm, premises with pigs, livestock market, sale barn, zoo, circus, pet store with pot-bellied pigs, or any other animal facility with pigs for at least 5 days after you return.

**Resources**

- USDA | APHIS African Swine Fever Disease Information
- Swine Health Information Center
- USDA and CFIA Establish Protocol to Minimize Trade Disruptions in the Event of an ASF Detection in Feral Swine
- Joint Statement from the Chief Veterinary Officers of Canada and the United States
- Secure Pork Supply Plan

**New Information Available for African Swine Fever**

- USDA Submits Dossier to the World Organisation for Animal Health to Finalize African Swine Fever Protection Zone
- USDA Statement on Confirmation of African Swine Fever in Haiti
- USDA Continuing African Swine Fever Prevention Efforts – Preparing to Establish Foreign Animal Disease Protection Zone to Safeguard Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Entire U.S. Swine Industry
- USDA Announces Requirements for Importing Dogs from Countries Affected with African Swine Fever
- USDA Statement on Confirmation of African Swine Fever in the Dominican Republic

**International Trade and Zoning**

Joint Statement from the Chief Veterinary Officers of Canada and the United States

**African Swine Fever Surveillance in the United States**

USDA APHIS is furthering its overall ASF preparedness efforts with the implementation of a surveillance plan. To make this program as effective and efficient as possible, USDA will add ASF testing to their existing classical swine fever (CSF) surveillance. The plan, titled *Swine Hemorrhagic Fevers: African and Classical Swine Fever Integrated Surveillance Plan,* is available here.

**International African Swine Fever Forum, April 30-May 1, 2019**

Joint Statement on the International African Swine Fever Forum

**African Swine Fever Assessments**

APHIS has developed three new resources related to ASF:

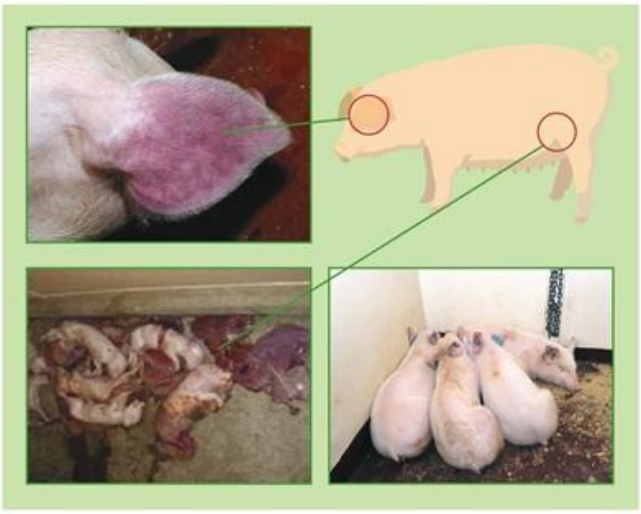
- A qualitative assessment of the likelihood of African swine fever virus entry to the United States.
- A non-animal origin feed ingredient risk evaluation framework.
- A literature review of non-animal origin feed ingredients and the transmission of viral pathogens of swine.

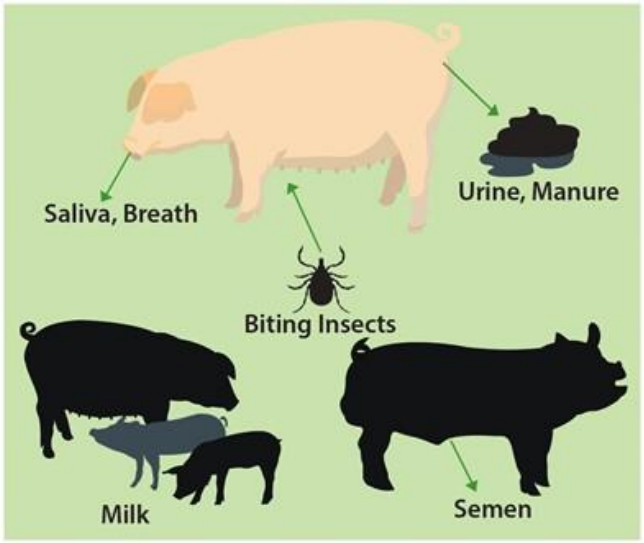
# African Swine Fever

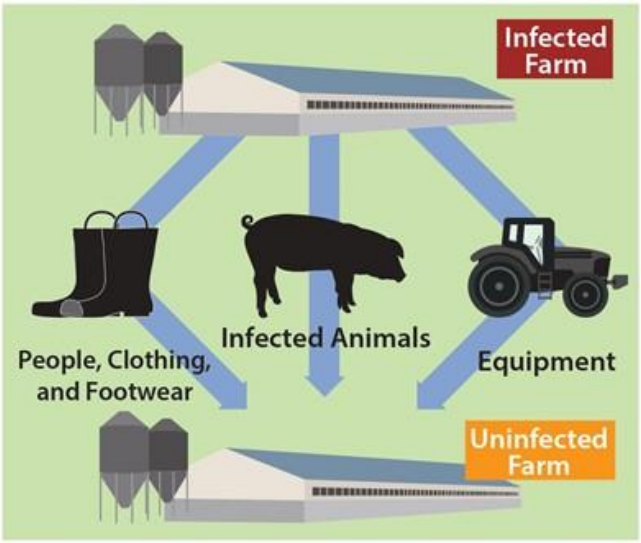
SPS SECURE PORK SUPPLY

## What is African swine fever (ASF)?

- Highly contagious virus of pigs (wild and domestic)
- Does NOT affect public health or food safety
  - Meat is safe for people to eat
- Causes fever, skin discoloration, diarrhea, and death
- Other signs may include piling, tiredness, and going off feed
- Sudden deaths or abortions may be the first sign of infection in a herd
- Animals may be infected 3-21 days before showing signs
- Highly contagious
  - Virus is shed in saliva, breath, milk, semen, urine and manure
- Can be spread directly between animals OR spread indirectly on clothing, footwear, vehicles, equipment, and wildlife
- Also spread by ticks, mosquitoes, and biting flies






## Where is it?

- African swine fever is found in Africa and countries in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East
- NOT in United States, Canada, Mexico, or Central America

## How will African swine fever affect pork producers if it enters the U.S.?

- Movements on and off farms in a regulatory Control Area could be stopped by state and federal officials to try and stop disease spread
- Export markets close and prices drop
- When one animal on the farm becomes infected, the whole herd is likely to become sick

## How can the Secure Pork Supply (SPS) Plan help protect your herd?

- It recommends biosecurity standards that pork producers can put in place to help protect their pigs
- It includes steps producers can take to show that their pigs can be moved without spreading disease
- It provides an opportunity for pork producers to keep their business running if their pigs remain uninfected

*Photo credit: The USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the Department of Homeland Security Visual Information Service at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center and Dr. Alex Ramirez, Iowa State University*

www.securepork.org 2016

## USDA APHIS is Fighting Against ASF Entering the United States

*Photo: Seized prohibited animal products intercepted by APHIS.*

From October to December of last year, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) program seized and destroyed more than 1,900 pounds of prohibited pork, poultry, and ruminant products from New York City-area retailers. These items were sourced from China, lacked required import permits and health certificates, and therefore are considered a risk of introducing invasive plant and animal pests and diseases into the United States. SITC anti-smuggling efforts prevent the establishment of invasive plant and animal pests and diseases, while maintaining the safety of our ecosystems and natural resources. The recent efforts to safeguard American agriculture represent a continued collaboration between APHIS, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and local New York City officials.

APHIS is concerned about these prohibited products because China is a country affected by African swine fever (ASF), Classical swine fever, Newcastle disease, Foot-and-mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza and swine vesicular disease. ASF is of particular concern because the highly contagious and deadly viral disease that affects both domestic and feral swine of all ages has recently spread throughout China and Asia, as well as within parts of the European Union. Most recently, ASF was confirmed in pigs in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

ASF is not a threat to human health, but it is a deadly swine disease swine that would have a significant impact on U.S. pork producers, their communities and export markets if discovered in the U.S. ASF has never been found in the United States – and APHIS wants to keep it that way. In response to the concerns about ASF, APHIS is working closely with other federal and state agencies, the swine industry, and producers to take the necessary actions to protect our nation's commercial swine population and keep this disease out of the U.S. APHIS is also actively preparing to respond if ASF is ever detected in the U.S.

SITC's safeguarding efforts also include other prohibited agricultural products. In 2021, SITC seized 224,568 pounds of prohibited agricultural items valued at over $1.7 million, helping protect U.S. crops and livestock from devastating and costly plant pests and foreign animal diseases.

Tips from the public also contribute to APHIS' efforts in safeguarding American agriculture. If you are aware of the potential smuggling of prohibited exotic fruits, vegetables, or meat products into or throughout the United States, please contact the confidential Anti-Smuggling Hotline at (301) 734-8534 or email tips to SITC.Mail@usda.gov. USDA will make every attempt to protect the confidentiality of any information sources during an investigation within the extent of the law. Visit the APHIS website to learn how to Help Report Agricultural Smuggling.

## 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. FDACS developed this training collaboratively with Florida 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

## UF/IFAS Florida Gardening Calendars

The Gardening Calendar publications on the UF/IFAS Solutions for Your Life website gives Florida gardeners a monthly guide for what to plant and do in their gardens and includes links to useful gardening websites, all based on University of Florida research and expertise. Three different editions of the calendar provide specific tips for each of Florida's climate zones—North, Central, and South.

Vegetables to Plant in February - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (ufl.edu)

## 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 Benjamin Motes at Benjamin.Motes@FDACS.gov or LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov.

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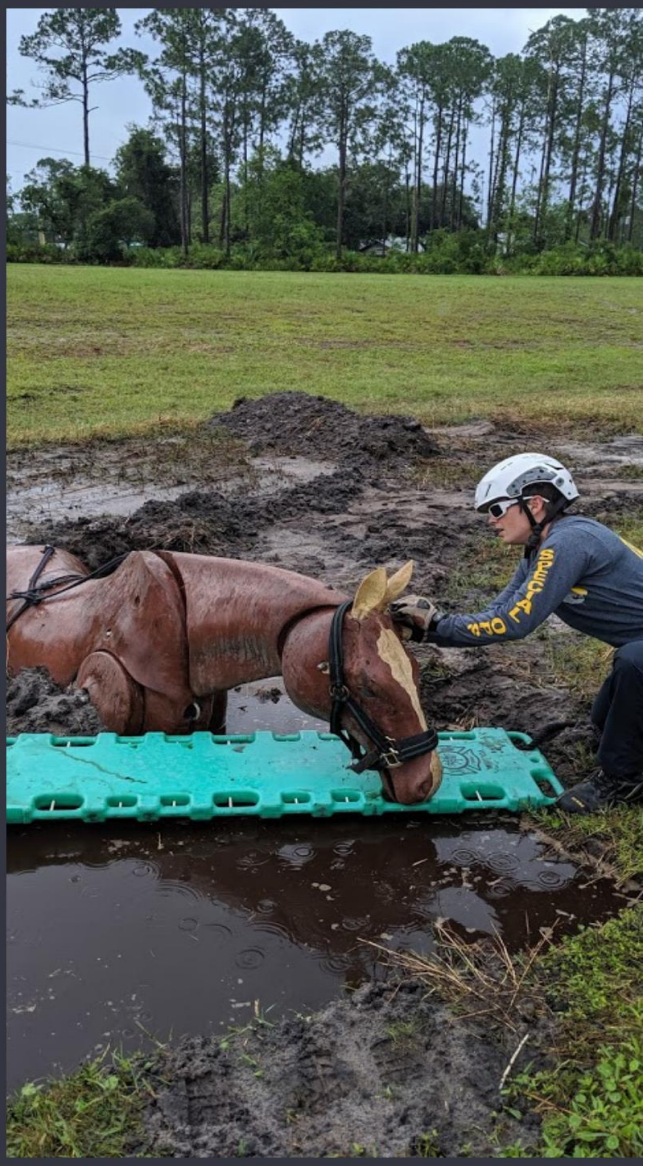
# ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING



Register for free at
bit.ly/2022ATRTraining

**Target Audience:**
Fire/Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Animal Control, Veterinary Professionals, Extension Agents, Livestock Industry Stakeholders

**Location:**
Florida State Fire College
11655 NW Gainesville Rd
Ocala, FL 34482

**Course Fee:**
Free, sponsored by Florida SART

**Point of Contact:**
Brandi Phillips
brandikphillips@ufl.edu

UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service
College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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

## Training Levels

**AWR** -8 hours (1 day)
**OPS** - 24 hours (3 days)
CEs provided by
Florida State Fire College

## Training Dates

AWR - Feb 22, 2022
AWR - Apr 8, 2022
OPS - Apr 9-11, 2022
OPS - Jun 6-8, 2022

OPEN ENROLLMENT

# ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING

Register at https://bit.ly/ATROPS2022

**Target Audience:**
Fire/Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Animal Control, Veterinary Professionals, Extension Agents, Livestock Industry Stakeholders

**Location:**
Chipola Fire College
3052 Calhoun Rd
Marianna, FL 32446

**Course Fee:**
$600/person
*Includes free registration for prerequisite AWR Training Online (March 1-28)

UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service
College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

## Training Dates

March 29-31, 2022
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
24 Hours CEUs from
Florida State Fire College

## Contact

**ATR Branch Director**
**Brandi Phillips**
**brandikphillips@ufl.edu**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Florida State Animal Response Coalition

Florida State Animal Response Coalition (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 State Agricultural Response Team (SART,) University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team, and leadership of FLSARC.

| Awareness Level | Operations Level |
|---|---|
| • February 5, 2022<br>• February 12, 2022<br>• February 20, 2022<br>• February 26, 2022<br>• March 26, 2022 | • March 6 & 13, 2022<br>• May 14-15, 2022<br>• May 21-22, 2022 |

To register, visit: https://flsarc.org/training

## FACA Annual Conference

Scheduled for March 4-6, 2022, the Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) will be returning to the Florida Hotel and Conference Center for our 2022 Annual Training Conference. This venue is located in Orlando and has proven to be the ideal location for us. This same venue has been hosting our events for the past 3 years, which have all been tremendous successes, so we have no doubt that we will come back stronger than ever in 2022. We will be building upon the success from years prior and once again offering two and a half days of training, with four classroom tracks running simultaneously for most of the event. Our exhibit area will no doubt be action packed with approximately 30 different vendor displays, showcasing various products, programs and services. To register, visit: https://floridaanimalcontrol.org/conference

## Animal Technical Rescue Training

The University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service has provided a flyer for the Animal Technical Rescue Training which is funded by Florida SART. The training will be conducted at the Florida State Fire College in Ocala. The dates of trainings are as follows:

| Awareness Level | Operations Level |
|---|---|
| • February 22, 2022<br>• March 1-28, 2022 (online)<br>• April 8, 2022<br>• September 17, 2022 | • February 14-16, 2022<br>• March 29-31, 2022<br>• April 9-11, 2022<br>• April 23-25, 2022<br>• June 6-8, 2022 |

Please visit http://bit.ly/2022ATRTraining for additional information and to register.

## SART Monthly Webinar

Scheduled for February 24th, 2:00 - 3:00 PM EST. Please contact Benjamin Motes at Benjamin.Motes@FDACS.gov for additional information.

# Disasters and Mental Health Online Training

**Over the course of four modules, this 2.5-hour training sponsored by Florida SART and carried out by University of Florida Family, Youth, and Community Sciences (FYCS) faculty members Drs. Heidi Radunovich and Angie Lindsey provides focused information on mental health stress and disaster recovery within the agricultural sector. It is geared towards:**

- **Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) members and partners**
- **UF/IFAS Extension faculty and staff**
- **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services employees**
- **Farmers, ranchers and their families**
- **Agricultural workers**
- **First responders**
- **Organizations providing services within agricultural communities**
- **Any community members who are active during disaster response**

**Training can be accessed at https://e-learning.ag/courses/disasters-mental-health/**

## 1 Disaster Stress & Mental Health

45 min. content + 15 min. activity

- The unique impacts disasters have on agriculture
- Stress and the impacts it has on the body
- Disaster stress
- Coping skills to manage stress
- The differences between stress & trauma
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Case study activity

## 2 Community Recovery After Disasters

30 min. content + 15 min. activity

- The four phases of community response
- Factors impacting individual recovery
- Long-term problems in disaster recovery
- Factors impacting community recovery
- How different types of disasters impact recovery
- Ways in which a community can plan for a successful recovery
- Case study activity

## 3 Coping & Providing Support After Disasters

30 min. content + 10 min. activity

- Ways to manage stress
- Specific physical and mental coping techniques
- Providing support after disasters
- Best practices in supporting children
- Self care key practices for first responders
- Resources for additional help and referrals
- Knowledge Check Quiz

## 4 Disaster Stress & Mental Health Resources

15 min. content

- The final module discusses special programs for disaster health & mental health resources, resources for producers and farmworkers, and resources for the general public. It also includes a Mental Health Resource guide which can be downloaded.

**Free, self-paced training with certification!**

**Access training through QR code**

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA | Center for Public Issues Education | FYCS FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES the science of helping people. together. | FLORIDA EDEN EXTENSION DISASTER EDUCATION NETWORK

## Food Safety and Food Defense Report

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

FDACS Division of Food Safety is responsible for assuring the public of a safe, wholesome, and properly represented food supply through permitting and inspection of food establishments, inspection of food products, and performance of specialized laboratory analysis on a variety of food products sold or produced in the state. The Division of Food Safety monitors food from the farm gate, through processing and distribution, to the retail point of purchase.

**Baking Safety Tips from the Division of Food Safety**

Now that winter is here, it is time to bake all of your favorite goodies! Follow the Division of Food Safety's baking safety tips from our Baking Safety Video with Chef Justin to help you and your family prevent foodborne illness this winter season.

Check out more food safety information, tips, and resources from the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website like our Food Storage Essentials Video and more!

# CORE 4

## The Core 4 of Food Safety

Remembering these steps can help keep you and your family safe from foodborne illness.

### Clean

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, including before and after you touch raw meat, poultry and seafood.
- Clean work surfaces, cutting boards, dishes and utensils with hot soapy water before and after preparing different kinds of food items.
- Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running tap water, including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten.

### Separate

- Help prevent cross-contamination by keeping ready-to-eat foods away from raw foods like meat, poultry, seafood and eggs.
- Use separate cutting boards, plates and utensils for cooked foods and raw foods.

### Cook

- Use a food thermometer to ensure meat, poultry, seafood and egg dishes are cooked to a safe temperature.

### Chill

- Keep your refrigerator at 40°F or below and your freezer at 0°F or below.
- Keep food at a safe temperature when thawing and never defrost food at room temperature.

Visit the **Division of Food Safety Consumer Resources and Outreach website** for more food safety tips.

## SART Resources and Links

**Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101:**
USDA APHIS | Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101

**Large Animal Emergency Training from The University of Florida Emergency Treatment Services:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PleLye_xBkA&t=4s

**FEMA National Resources Hub:**
National Resource Hub - Preparedness Toolkit
FEMA Resources on YouTube

**Florida: Get a Plan!** https://apps.floridadisaster.org/getaplan

**Pet Friendly Sheltering:**
Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training (govtech.com)

**Veterinary Services Training and Exercise Program (VSTEP):**
USDA APHIS | Veterinary Services Training and Exercise Program

**USDA APHIS Defend the Flock Program:**
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program

**Chronic Wasting Disease:**
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) | FWC (myfwc.com)
Fight CWD | FWC (myfwc.com)

**At-Home COVID Tests:**
COVIDtests.gov - Free at-home COVID-19 tests

*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** 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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