The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

FDACS reports that Avian Influenza has NOT been detected in Florida domestic poultry.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Florida's Animals and Agriculture are at Risk*
- *Desoto County's Students Attend AgVentures*
- *Florida Wildfire Season*

FDACS Avian Influenza Update

Avian Influenza (AI) has NOT been detected in Florida domestic poultry. Currently, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in domestic poultry in 24 states. In addition, HPAI has been detected in wild birds in multiple states along the eastern seaboard, including Florida.

For more information on avian influenza and the current situation, visit the USDA avian influenza website. Due to the recent AI findings, Florida poultry producers and enthusiasts (commercial and backyard) should take the following precautions to minimize the risk of introduction of influenza into our Florida poultry flocks.

1. Implement strict biosecurity measures on all poultry premises:
   - Alert all company personnel, growers, farmworkers and service personnel of the increased risk of HPAI.
   - Focus biosecurity methods on preventing any exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
   - Keep current biosecurity at all times, especially relating to essential visitors and entry biosecurity.
2. Avoid any contact with wild birds of any kind, especially waterfowl, their habitat, or their droppings.
3. Take necessary precautions around any congregation points for growers or backyard owners – do not bring disease back to your poultry flock.

See *Avian Influenza Update,* page 2.

On March 4, Desoto County's fourth and fifth grade students attended AgVentures hosted by our SART partner, University of Florida IFAS and 4-H.

Read the full story on page 9.

Avian Influenza Update (continued)

4. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs consistent with HPAI and report any concerns immediately to your veterinarian. To date, the consistent clinical sign in all the current reported cases has been a marked, rapid increase in mortality over several days.
5. Consider making a contingency plan for moving outdoor poultry into bio-secure housing.
6. For more information regarding reporting sick birds, please visit: https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/23969/file/Bird-Influenza-Card-English.pdf

If you have any questions, please contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410-0900. Please visit our website for additional information regarding Avian Influenza and the requirements for moving poultry into the state at www.FDACS.gov/AvianInfluenza.

Additional Avian Influenza information
Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Recent Bird Flu Infections in U.S. Wild Birds and Poultry Pose a Low Risk to the Public | Avian Influenza (Flu) (cdc.gov)
USDA: USDA APHIS | Help and Site Map
United States Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center: Avian Influenza | U.S. Geological Survey (usgs.gov)

Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101

Keep visitors to a minimum. Only allow those people who take care of your poultry to come in contact with your birds, this includes family and friends. Keep track of everyone who is on your property at all times. Make sure everyone follows biosecurity principles.

Wash your hands before and after coming in contact with live poultry. In addition to potentially spreading disease from farm to farm or bird to bird, you can also spread germs such as *Salmonella* that can impact human health. Wash with soap and water (always your first choice). If using a hand sanitizer, first remove manure, feathers, and other materials from your hands because disinfectants will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.

Provide disposable boot covers (preferred) and/or disinfectant footbaths for anyone having contact with your flock. If using a footbath, be sure to remove all droppings, mud or debris from boots and shoes using a long-handled scrub brush BEFORE stepping into the disinfectant footbath, and always keep it clean.

Change clothes before entering poultry areas and before exiting the property. Visitors should wear protective outer garments or disposable coveralls, boots, and headgear when handling birds, and shower and/or change clothes when leaving the facility.

Clean and disinfect tools or equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility. Before allowing service vehicles, trucks, tractors, or tools and equipment—including egg flats and cases that have come in contact with birds or their droppings—to exit the property, make sure they are cleaned and disinfected to prevent contaminated equipment from transporting disease. Do not move or reuse items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected—such as cardboard egg flats.

Look for signs of illness. Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases.

Report sick birds. Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call a local veterinarian, cooperative extensive service, or state veterinarian. Call USDA toll-free at **1-866-536-7593.**

For more information about biosecurity practices, including checklists you can follow, visit the Defend the Flock Resource Center.

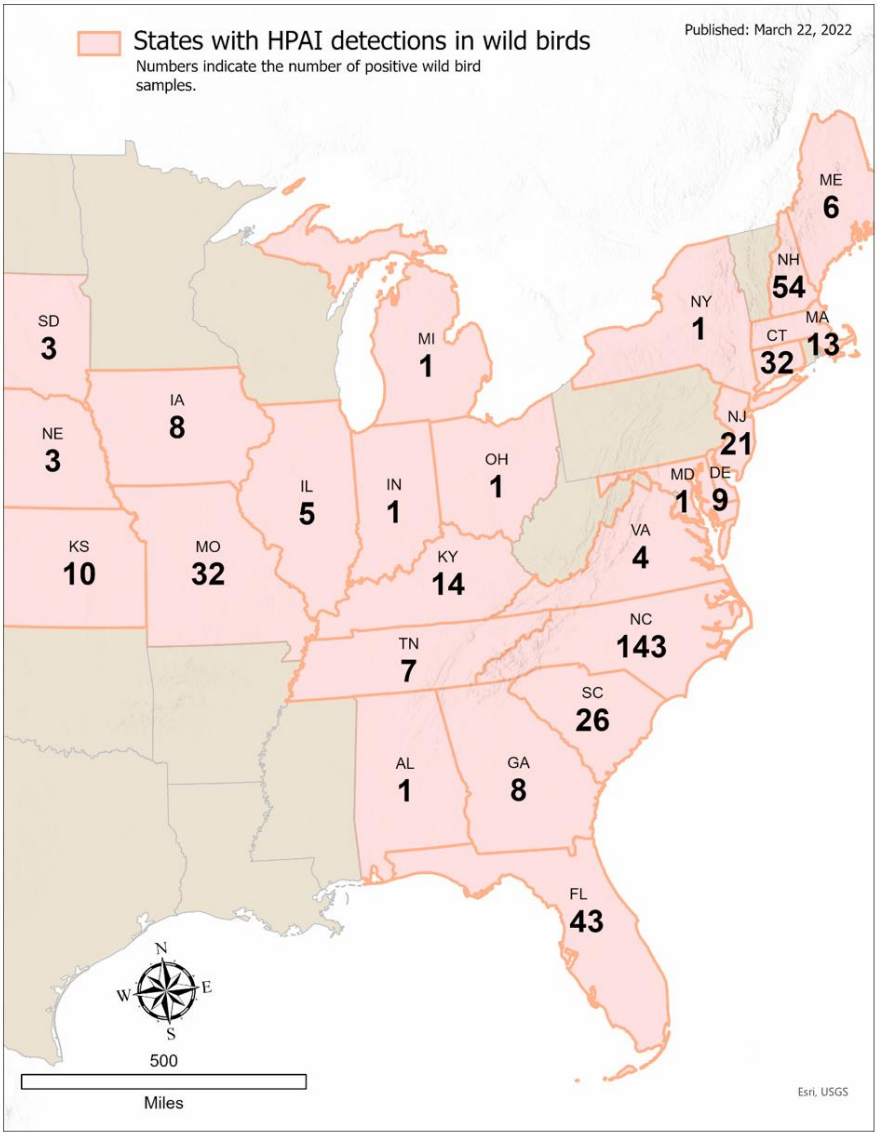
Background Information on Avian Influenza

Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and wild birds (especially waterfowl). AI viruses are classified by a combination of two groups of proteins: hemagglutinin or "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and neuraminidase or "N" proteins, of which there are 9 (N1–N9). AI viruses are further classified by their pathogenicity—the ability of a particular virus strain to produce disease in domestic chickens.

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus strains are extremely infectious, often fatal to chickens, and can spread rapidly from flock-to-flock.
- Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) virus strains occur naturally in wild migratory waterfowl and shorebirds without causing illness. LPAI can infect domestic poultry, creating little or no signs of illness.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works closely with States and the poultry industry to prevent AI from becoming established in the U.S. poultry population. Keeping our nation's poultry free from avian influenza helps protect our farmers' livelihoods. Additional Information is updated regularly at: USDA APHIS | Avian Influenza

Learn about 2022 detections of HPAI in Commercial and Backyard Flocks.



USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Checklist: Tips To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- ☐ **Wear personal protective equipment** or clothing and shoes that you only use when caring for your poultry. This includes boot covers or boots that can be disinfected. Change into fresh protective gear between poultry houses or coops.
- ☐ **Enclosures must be empty for a thorough cleaning.** If you have a poultry house, wait until the house is empty to start the cleaning process. If you have a coop or other type of enclosure, move the birds to a separate area before cleaning.
- ☐ **Remove all litter, manure, and other debris.**
- ☐ **"Dry" clean all areas**—brush, scrape, and shovel off manure, feathers, and other materials. Disinfectant will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.
- ☐ **"Wet" clean all surfaces**—scrub with water and detergent. Work from top to bottom and back to front.
- ☐ **Rinse all surfaces carefully with water.**
- ☐ **Apply disinfectant** according to the directions on the label. Be sure to use a disinfectant that is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and indicates that it is effective against avian influenza and other poultry diseases.
- ☐ **Leave the enclosure empty** until it is completely dry. Use fans and/or open doors and windows to help speed the drying process. Wet surfaces can be harmful to poultry.
- ☐ **When you're done, remove and discard** your protective gear. If using dedicated clothing and boots, change clothing and clean and disinfect your boots.
- ☐ **Wash your hands thoroughly** with soap and water. Wash and dry your dedicated clothing.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit **www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.**

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Program Aid No. 2235-1 • Issued November 2018

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Florida's Animals and Agriculture are at Risk

Agriculture in Florida has an annual economic impact of over $120 billion. This important industry faces great risks from potential natural and man-made disasters such as disease introduction and agroterrorism.

- Our borders are extremely porous with 14 major seaports, 20 commercial airports and hundreds of smaller airfields.
- On average, more than 112 million tourists with their luggage visit the state each year.
- Billions of tons of freight and over 11 million commercial and private cargo trucks enter Florida each year.
- More tropical storms and hurricanes hit Florida than any other state.

ESF 17 Tests Poultry Related Animal Disease Response Equipment

On March 16th, the Division of Animal Industry's Emergency Programs Section tested the type of foaming apparatus that can be used for the humane depopulation of domestic poultry in a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) animal disease response. No live poultry were involved in this exercise. As expected, the foaming equipment is fully operational and the ESF 17 team is prepared in the event of an HPAI outbreak in domestic poultry in Florida. Avian Influenza has NOT been detected in domestic poultry in Florida.

With the recent outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza across the country, it is critical for Florida's animal producers to stay situationally aware about the HPAI outbreaks in the US and implement strict biosecurity measures on all poultry premises to prevent HPAI in our state's domestic poultry. FDACS hosts an Avian Influenza Webpage that is loaded with information. To access the site, click here!

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:

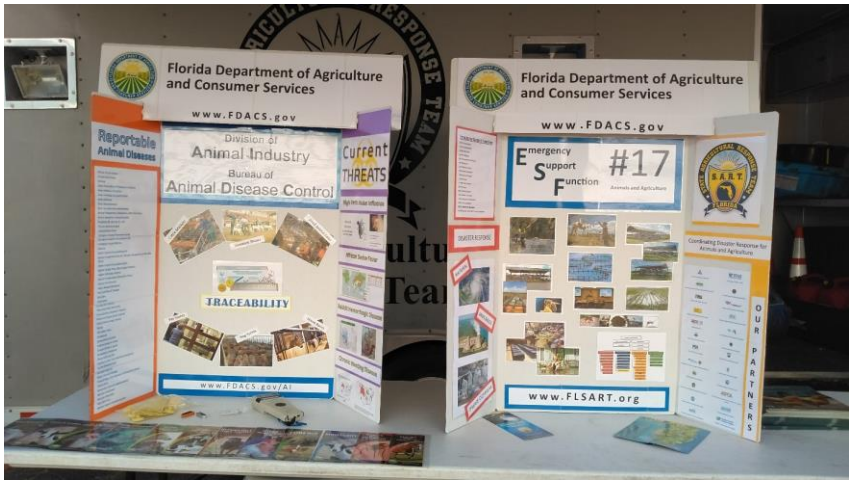
- A qualitative assessment of the likelihood of African swine fever virus entry to the United States.
- A non-animal origin feed ingredient risk evaluation framework.
- A literature review of non-animal origin feed ingredients and the transmission of viral pathogens of swine.

In the News

- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Update (fdacs.gov)
- Chronic Wasting Disease: https://youtu.be/oavUW6FK21I

Desoto County's Students Attend AgVentures

On March 4, Desoto County's fourth and fifth grade students attended AgVentures hosted by our Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) partner, University of Florida IFAS and 4-H. Students learned about the county's agriculture from local stakeholders in industries such as watermelon, dairy, goat, poultry, and cattle. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) personnel spoke to the students about reportable animal diseases, current animal disease threats, and how animal traceability plays a critical part in animal disease control.



Inspector's duties at cattle markets, animal auctions, fairs and livestock shows, and other agriculture related programs were highlighted at the event. The Avian Influenza outbreak circulating in several states segued the conversation into emergency response where the students learned about the Desoto County and FDACS' role in Emergency Support Function 17 and the mission of Florida SART to protect our animal and agricultural sectors. The students could relate to some of the response capabilities such as the need for pet-friendly sheltering and mosquito control.

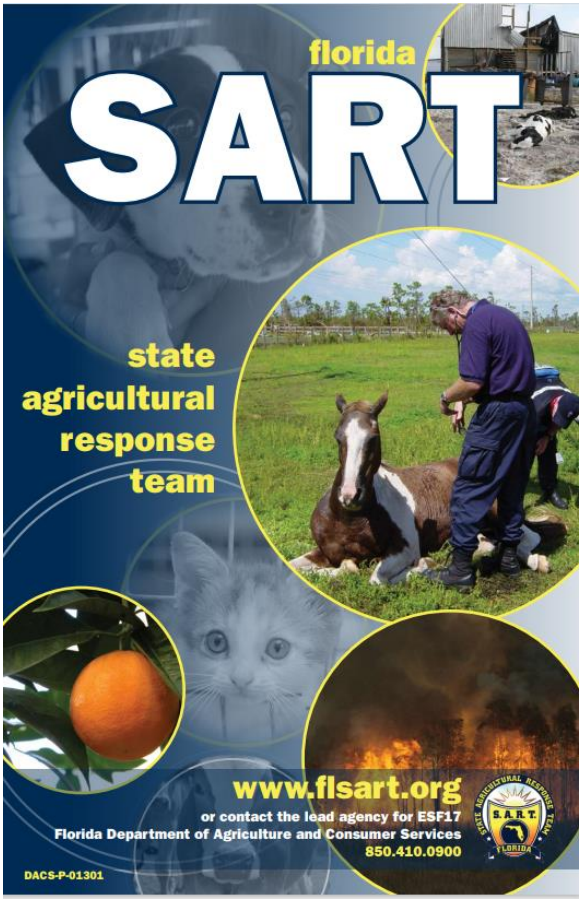
SART Resources

The Florida State Agriculture Response Team (SART) website has many resources available to help prepare our state's animal and agricultural sectors for disaster. One resource that we would like to highlight this month is the **Disasters & Mental Health Online Training.** Florida has a long history of disasters whether natural or man-made. Many responders, farmers, cattlemen, and victims find their mental fortitude tested during these trying times and they have felt like there was nowhere to turn for help. Many inspectors from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services were faced with questions from farmers suffering from an existential crisis after losing their livelihood. It was through these firsthand experiences that SART and our partners at the University of Florida/IFAS, Family, Youth and Community Sciences (FYCS), and the Center for Public Issues Education decided to develop an in-person mental health first aid training.

This training received a welcoming response around Florida with counties reaching out to schedule the training. After the pandemic began, it became essential to find a way to develop an online version of this training. SART partnered with the University of Florida to develop "Disasters & Mental Health," an online mental health first aid training that incorporates firsthand experience from farmers around Florida. This online course will cover the unique mental health needs of individuals in the agricultural sector and the disaster responders who may help them.

The training will include four modules that focus on understanding needs of individuals, families, and community members during and after a disaster. This will include and how to best support individuals in the context of a disaster. The development of this course is sponsored by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and was developed in partnership with UF/IFAS Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences and UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Disasters & Mental Health training can be found on the 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 April - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (ufl.edu)

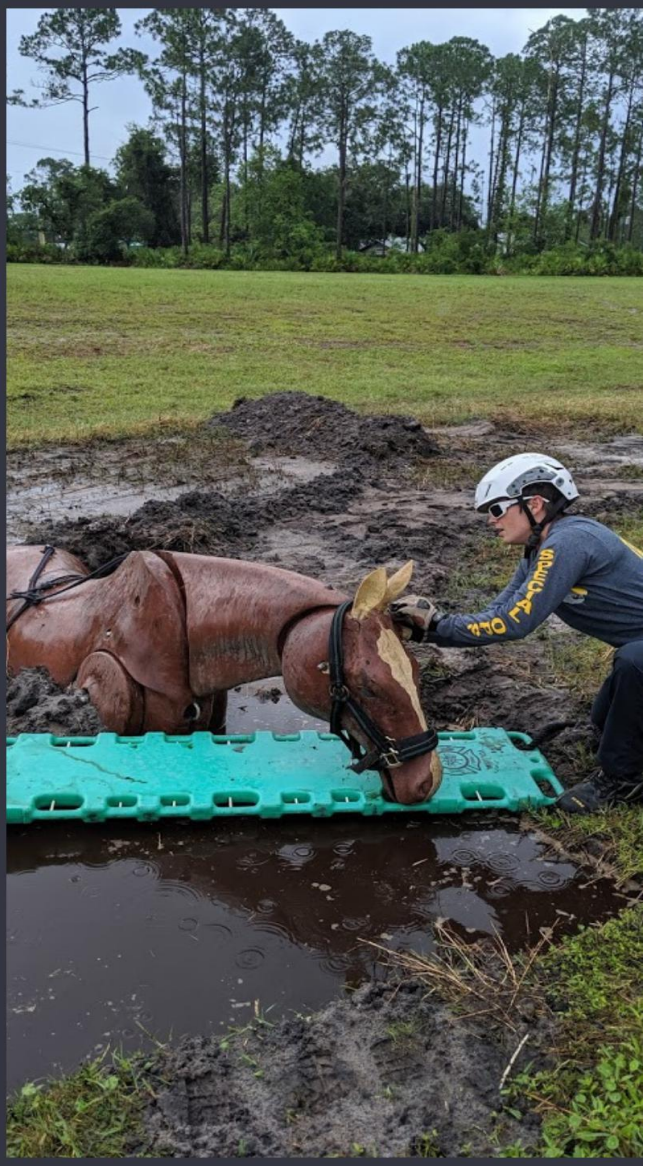
Counties, Is Your Contact Information up to date on the SART Website?

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.

SPONSORED BY
FLORIDA SART

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Statewide Exercise

The *Statewide Exercise* will take place on April 25-28, 2022, led by the Florida State Emergency Operations Center. This exercise will focus on Cyber-Security along with weather related hazards. The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) will hold coordination calls that will occur daily during the exercise. The exercise will be limited to the primary contacts of our SART partner agencies only.

Florida State Animal Response Coalition

Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC) provides Small Animal Emergency Sheltering training for Florida 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
• April 2, 2022 • April 16, 2022 • April 30-May 1, 2022 • May 7, 2022 • May 22, 2022 • June 4, 2022	• May 14-15, 2022 • June 11-12, 2022 • June 25-26, 2022

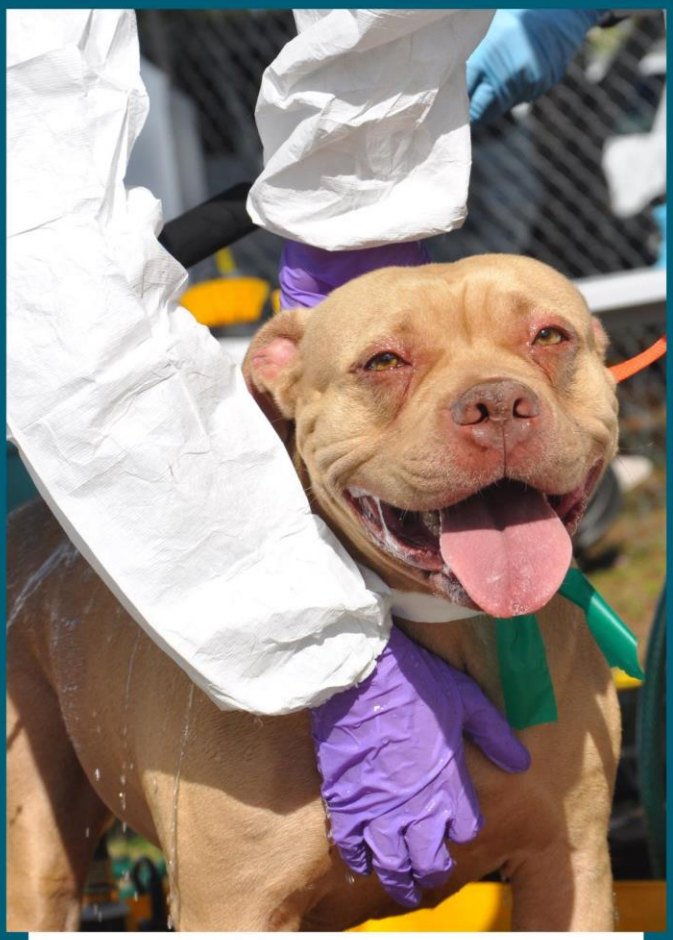
To register, visit: https://flsarc.org/training

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
• April 8, 2022	• April 9-11, 2022 • June 6-8, 2022

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



TRAIN WITH FLORIDA SARC

WE HAVE THE SKILLS TO SAVE THEM

FL SARC offers two levels of training: Awareness (1 day course) and Operations (2 day course.) These trainings 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.

Both FEMA and The Florida Division of Emergency Management have certified and approved these courses.

FL SARC relies on volunteers to save the lives of countless animals impacted by these disasters.

FLORIDA State Animal Response Coalition Animal Rescue

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

Upcoming Awareness Trainings Include:

April 2nd — Pensacola Humane Society

April 16th — Humane Society of North Central Florida

May 7th — SPCA of Brevard

May 22nd — Flagler Humane Society

June 4th— Leon County Public Safety

THANKS TO FLORIDA SART, THE FIRST 100 VOLUNTEERS TO SIGN UP ARE FREE!

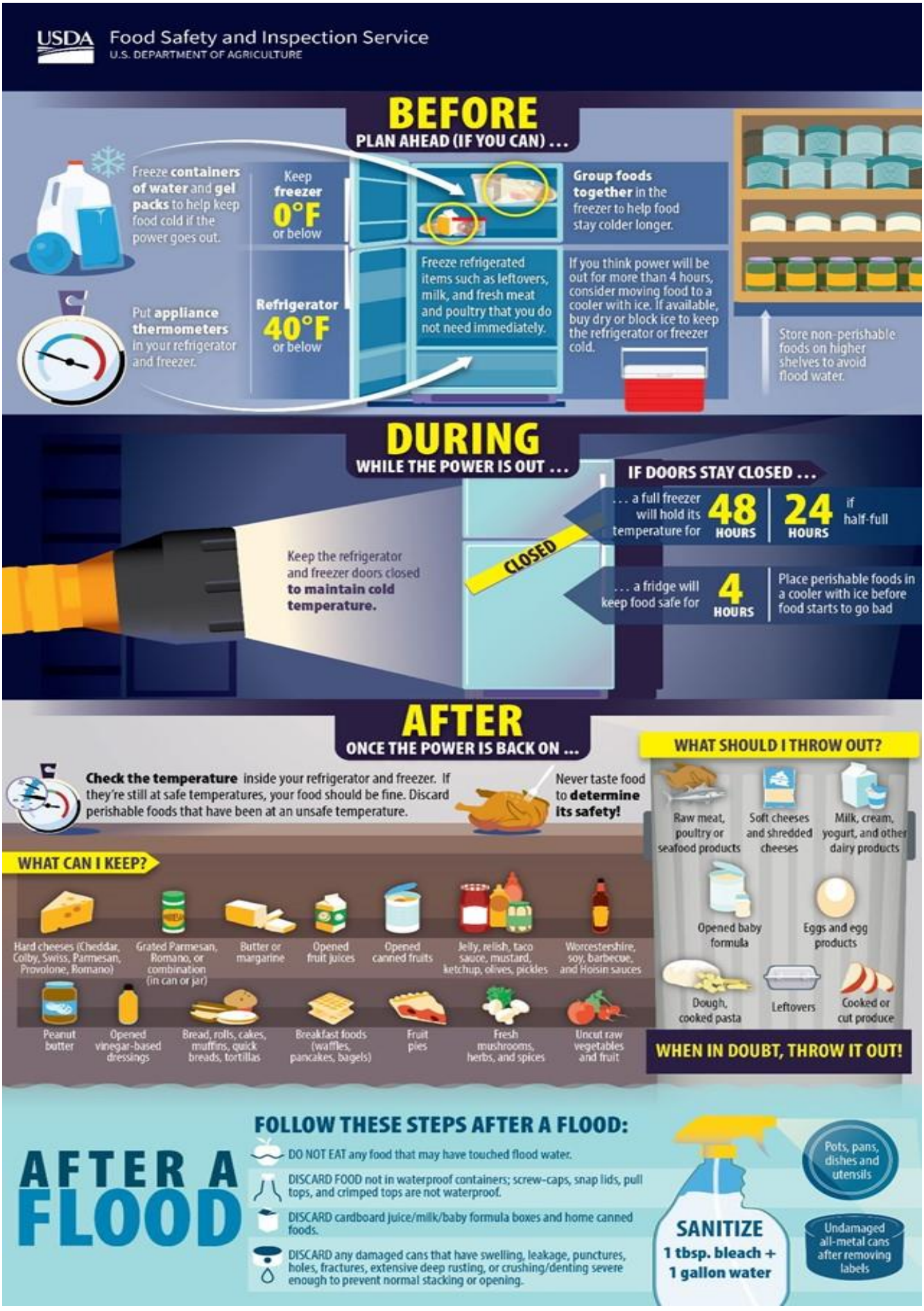
USE CODE SART AT CHECKOUT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GENEROUS OFFER

SCAN ME

For more information and to sign up, visit FLSARC.org or scan the QR code

SPCA FLORIDA Network of Hope

BECAUSE THE ENTIRE FAMILY MATTERS


USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE
PLAN AHEAD (IF YOU CAN) ...
Freeze containers of water and gel packs to help keep food cold if the power goes out.
Keep freezer 0°F or below
Group foods together in the freezer to help food stay colder longer.
Put appliance thermometers in your refrigerator and freezer.
Refrigerator 40°F or below
Freeze refrigerated items such as leftovers, milk, and fresh meat and poultry that you do not need immediately.
If you think power will be out for more than 4 hours, consider moving food to a cooler with ice. If available, buy dry or block ice to keep the refrigerator or freezer cold.
Store non-perishable foods on higher shelves to avoid flood water.
DURING
WHILE THE POWER IS OUT ...
IF DOORS STAY CLOSED ...
... a full freezer will hold its temperature for 48 HOURS | 24 HOURS if half-full
Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed to maintain cold temperature.
CLOSED
... a fridge will keep food safe for 4 HOURS
Place perishable foods in a cooler with ice before food starts to go bad
AFTER
ONCE THE POWER IS BACK ON ...
Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and freezer. If they're still at safe temperatures, your food should be fine. Discard perishable foods that have been at an unsafe temperature.
Never taste food to determine its safety!
WHAT CAN I KEEP?
Hard cheeses (Cheddar, Colby, Swiss, Parmesan, Provolone, Romano)
Grated Parmesan, Romano, or combination (in can or jar)
Butter or margarine
Opened fruit juices
Opened canned fruits
Jelly, relish, taco sauce, mustard, ketchup, olives, pickles
Worcestershire, soy, barbecue, and Hoisin sauces
Peanut butter
Opened vinegar-based dressings
Bread, rolls, cakes, muffins, quick breads, tortillas
Breakfast foods (waffles, pancakes, bagels)
Fruit pies
Fresh mushrooms, herbs, and spices
Uncut raw vegetables and fruit
WHAT SHOULD I THROW OUT?
Raw meat, poultry or seafood products
Soft cheeses and shredded cheeses
Milk, cream, yogurt, and other dairy products
Opened baby formula
Eggs and egg products
Dough, cooked pasta
Leftovers
Cooked or cut produce
WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!
AFTER A FLOOD
FOLLOW THESE STEPS AFTER A FLOOD:
DO NOT EAT any food that may have touched flood water.
DISCARD FOOD not in waterproof containers; screw-caps, snap lids, pull tops, and crimped tops are not waterproof.
DISCARD cardboard juice/milk/baby formula boxes and home canned foods.
DISCARD any damaged cans that have swelling, leakage, punctures, holes, fractures, extensive deep rusting, or crushing/denting severe enough to prevent normal stacking or opening.
SANITIZE
1 tbsp. bleach + 1 gallon water
Pots, pans, dishes and utensils
Undamaged all-metal cans after removing labels

Florida Wildfire Season

Each year, thousands of acres of wildland and many homes are destroyed by fires that can erupt at any time of the year from a variety of causes, including arson, lightning, and debris burning. Adding to the fire hazard is the growing number of people living in new communities built in areas that were once wildland. This growth places even greater pressure on the state's wildland firefighters. As a result of this growth, fire protection becomes everyone's responsibility. March brought with it numerous wildfires around the state. Bay, Calhoun, and Gulf Counties and many other counties saw wildfires ranging from 800 to 1,400-acre wildfire's while some counties saw 8000-acre fires that drove families from their homes. This drives home the necessity for you to have a plan.

Whether you have livestock, horses, or just a household pet, it is important to identify locations and escape routes. During forced evacuations, it is important to take your pet with you. Pets cannot escape on their own. The State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and their partner the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) have a wealth of information available on their respective website that is available to the public. A list of SART resources is available on the SART website at Florida SART - State Agricultural Response Team (flsart.org) which includes Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training, and a basic Supplies Lists. To view a list of resources from Florida SARC on animal care during a disaster, visit their website at Prepare Pets — FL SARC.

The FDACS webpage, Be Wildfire Ready / Fire Prevention / Wildland Fire / Forest & Wildfire / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (fdacs.gov), has resources to help you prepare in case there is a wildfire. There is information on how to burn yard waste safely, reporting arson, preparing your yard and home for wildfires, and how to prepare an emergency supply kit to name a few of the resources available on the FDACS webpage.

Current Wildfire Information can be viewed at: Florida Wildfire Public Viewer (firesponse.com)

CREATING YOUR DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

During an emergency situation, you may not have time to gather up supplies. This is why preparing a disaster kit in advance is important. This kit should contain all important items detailed below, and be able to easily be taken with you in the event of an evacuation. Plan for at least three days.

CREATING YOUR KIT

The following checklist can be used to create your disaster supply kit for evacuation or sheltering in place, depending on the situation. It is a good idea to keep what supplies you can together in advance so that you do not have to scramble to prepare at the last minute. Keep in mind that some items, such as medication, might only be able to be added in later or may need to be updated regularly.

- ☐ BATTERY POWERED RADIO
- ☐ HAND SANITIZER
- ☐ TWO-WEEK MEDICATION SUPPLY
- ☐ EXTRA CLOTHING
- ☐ FIRST AID KIT
- ☐ BLANKETS AND PILLOWS
- ☐ NON-PERISHABLE FOOD SUPPLIES
- ☐ MANUAL CAN OPENER
- ☐ BOOKS AND ACTIVITIES
- ☐ FLASHLIGHTS
- ☐ SAFE WATER SUPPLY
- ☐ CASH
- ☐ SPECIAL NEEDS ITEMS (INFANT FORMULA OR OTHER DIET NEEDS)
- ☐ TOILETRIES/HYGEINE ITEMS
- ☐ BUG SPRAY AND SUNSCREEN
- ☐ PET SUPPLIES
- ☐ IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
- ☐ PORTABLE CELL PHONE CHARGERS

HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU NEED?

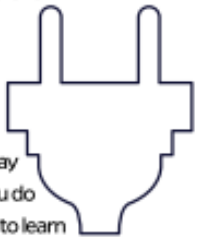
A good general rule of thumb is that you should store enough clean water to allow each person in the household to use 1 to 1.5 gallons per day. However, keep in mind that you will need to store an increased amount to accomodate for any children, nursing mothers, elderly or pets. Like with everything else, plan to have enough for at least three days.

DON'T FORGET FIDO

If your family has pets, it is important to include the necessary items for them in your disaster supply kit as well. This includes:

- Extra food in plastic containers
- Carrier and leash
- ID tags (2 sets, one on the animal and one extra) with name and your contact information.
- Have pets microchipped.
- Proof of ownership (e.g., registration papers and pictures)
- Medications and pet first aid supplies
- Medical and vaccination records
- Veterinarian's phone number and address

SHOULD YOU GET A GENERATOR?



A portable generator can be a useful thing to have in a disaster situation when you don't plan on evacuating, and the power may be down for days or weeks. If you do decide to purchase one, be sure to learn how to properly use it before a disaster. Important saftey tips include:

- Never use inside your home or attached garage.
- Use carbon monoxide alarms to alert you to dangerous levels within your home.
- Follow the directions that came with your generator.
- Contact an electrition or manufacturer for information regarding proper use and any questions.
- Do not place anywhere where people or animals gather.

1. "Preparing to Evacuate Your Home in Case of an Emergency" by Elizabeth B. Bolton, Muthusami Kumaran, and Angela B. Lindsey, http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/616
2. "Preparing and Storing a Safe Drinking Water Supply" by Shuchi Shukla and Thomas Obreza, http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/616
3. Electrical Safety Foundation International, esfi.org

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Center for Public Issues Education

FLORIDA EDEN // EXTENSION DISASTER EDUCATION NETWORK

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.

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.

Food Safety for Small Gatherings

Now that the weather is warming up, it is time for small gatherings with family and friends. Whether you are cooking for a large family, a small gathering for friends, or making a simple meal, you can take steps to help keep foodborne illness off your menu. Follow the tips in the Food Safety for Small Gatherings Video and visit Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website to view information from handwashing, to cooking, and serving your meal safely.

SART Resources and Links

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

Biosecurity Checklist Brochure:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fsc-all-npip-collateral-english.pdf

Large Animal Emergency Training from The University of Florida Emergency Treatment Services:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIeLye_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)

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.

Editor: The Turner Network, LLC under contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
E-mail: flsart@turnernetwork.com

Associate Editor: LeiAnna Tucker, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
E-mail: LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov