The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

Mid-Year SART Update

Throughout the year, the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) has been involved in many activities dedicated to the safety and preservation of animals and agriculture.

Two SART-funded trainings that we want to highlight are the Animal Technical Rescue (ATR) trainings at the Florida Fire College, hosted by the University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (UF VETS) team, and the Small Animal Emergency Sheltering trainings offered by the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC).

From July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, SARC completed 13 trainings and certified over 100 individuals on small animal emergency sheltering with funding made possible by Florida SART.

The UF VETS team trained 73 personnel in animal technical rescue. The effort put forth by these two organizations helps to resolve resource gaps in disaster response by training more local personnel and first responders in emergency animal extrication and enhance capabilities and credentialing in animal emergency response.

If you are interested in taking either of these trainings, register for a membership account on the Florida SART website at, www.flsart.org. Members will receive updates on training opportunities and access to virtual trainings such as the Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training.

See Mid-Year SART Update, page 2.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training*
- *Heat Wave – Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!*
- *Biosecurity for Animal Disease Prevention*

"It's important to remember that it's not just the ambient temperature, but also the humidity that can affect your pet."

— Dr. Barry Kellogg, VMD
Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association
Story begins on page 2.

Mid-Year SART Update (continued)

"The Animal Technical Rescue Training is a great opportunity for anyone in the Animal Industry! It includes learning "real-life scenario" high and low angle rescues techniques for livestock, introduction to ropes and rigging systems, the importance of ICS and so much more! After attending this training, I have a familiarity of Mechanical Advantage Systems, scene management/rapid scene size up, the importance of personal protective equipment, and a general knowledge of what it takes and who to contact for an Animal Rescue." -Jessica Davila, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

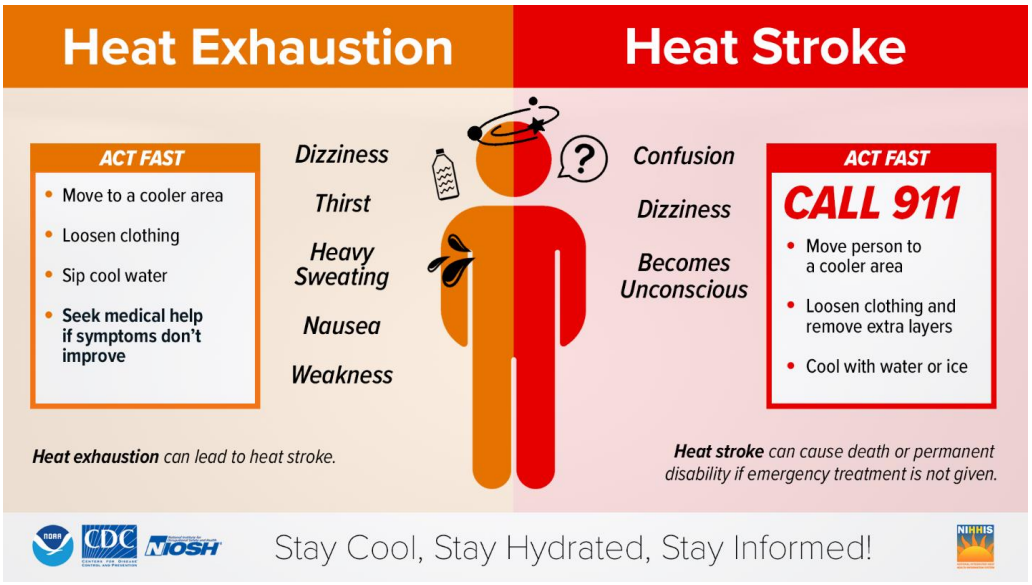
To view pictures from the ATR Operations Level training hosted at the Florida Fire College, visit https://photos.app.goo.gl/1WBKD9iE5jYLZbxf9.

FDACS Hosts Quarterly Florida Animal Carcass Management Working Group Meeting

On June 14th, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, Emergency Programs Section hosted the quarterly Florida Animal Carcass Management Working Group (ACMWG) meeting. During this meeting, the ACMWG reviewed and made edits to the *Florida Department of Health's Wild Bird Carcass Management Flowchart* that provides guidance for how to dispose of wild bird carcasses that are found in areas accessible by the public such as beaches, parks, and shorelines. The ACMWG received an animal disease update for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Birds provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Lastly, the ACMWG reviewed its new project for creating an animal carcass management site selection plan that may be used during high-consequence animal disease incident response. The goal of this initiative is to develop and write a Site Selection Plan Document that identifies specific areas in Florida as potential sites for disposing of animal carcasses. This project is funded by SART and will take approximately 6-7 months to complete. This will strengthen Florida's ability to respond to animal carcass management during animal disease incidents.

Heat Wave – Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!

What Is the Heat Index?
Each summer, millions of residents and tourists enjoy the warm weather and sunny beaches, but most are unaware of just how hot it can get in Florida. Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, the state is always influenced by tropical moisture, especially in the summer.



Heat Wave – Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed! (continued)

The heat index is the **"APPARENT TEMPERATURE"** that describes the combined effect of high air temperature and high humidity. The higher this combination, the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. If you work outdoors, it is critical that you remain aware of the heat index and take the appropriate precautions.

HEAT INDEX
(APPARENT TEMPERATURE)

AIR TEMPERATURE F°	RELATIVE HUMIDITY %												
	40%	45%	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	80%	85%	90%	95%	100%
110°	136												
108°	130	137											
106°	124	130	137										
104°	119	124	131	137									
102°	114	119	124	130	137								
100°	109	114	118	124	129	136							
98°	105	109	113	117	123	128	134						
96°	101	104	108	112	116	121	126	132					
94°	97	100	102	106	110	114	119	124	129	136			
92°	94	96	99	101	105	108	112	116	121	126	131		
90°	91	93	95	97	100	103	106	109	113	117	122	127	132
88°	88	89	91	93	95	98	100	103	106	110	113	117	121
86°	85	87	88	89	91	93	95	97	100	102	105	108	112
84°	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	92	94	96	98	100	103
82°	81	82	83	84	84	85	86	88	89	90	91	93	95
80°	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	84	85	86	86	87

With Prolonged Exposure and/or Physical Activity

EXTREME DANGER	DANGER	EXTREME CAUTION	CAUTION
Heat Stroke or Sun Stroke highly likely	Sun Stroke, Muscle Cramps, and/or Heat Exhaustion likely	Sun Stroke, Muscle Cramps and/or Heat Exhaustion possible	Fatigue Possible

What Actions Should You Take to Be Prepared?

- Slow Down. Strenuous activities should be reduced, eliminated, or rescheduled to the coolest time of the day. Individuals at risk should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.
- Dress For Summer. Lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight, and helps your body maintain normal temperatures.
- DRINK PLENTY OF WATER. Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty. Persons who (1) have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease, (2) are on fluid restrictive diets, or (3) have a problem with fluid retention should consult a physician before increasing their consumption of fluids.
- Don't Take Salt Tablets Unless Specified by A Physician. Persons on salt restrictive diets should consult a physician before increasing their salt intake.
- Spend more time in air-conditioned places. Air conditioning in homes and other buildings markedly reduces danger from the heat. If you cannot afford an air conditioner, spending some time each day (during hot weather) in an air-conditioned environment affords some protection.
- Don't get too much sun. Sunburn makes the job of heat dissipation that much more difficult.

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Heat Wave – Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed! (continued)

How to keep animals cool when temperatures soar
The summer months can be uncomfortable—even dangerous—for pets and people. It's difficult enough simply to cope with rising temperatures, let alone thick humidity, but things really get tough in areas that are hit with the double blow of intense heat and storm-caused power outages, sometimes with tragic results. Our Florida SART partner, Humane Society of the United States, has offered some tips to help you keep your pets safe and cool this summer.

Practice basic summer safety - *NEVER LEAVE YOUR PETS IN A PARKED CAR*
Not even for a minute! On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die. Learn how to help a pet left inside a hot car by taking action or calling for help.

Watch the humidity
"It's important to remember that it's not just the ambient temperature, but also the humidity that can affect your pet," says Dr. Barry Kellogg, VMD, of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. "Animals pant to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body. If the humidity is too high, they are unable to cool themselves and their temperature will skyrocket to dangerous levels—very quickly."

Limit exercise on hot days
Take care when exercising your pet. Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, who are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets, who typically have difficulty breathing.

Don't rely on a fan
Pets respond differently to heat than humans do. (Dogs, for instance, sweat primarily through their feet.) And fans don't cool off pets as effectively as they do people.

Provide ample shade and water
Any time your pet is outside, make sure they have protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse.

Cool your pet inside and out
Whip up a batch of quick and easy DIY pupsicles for dogs. Always provide water, whether your pets are inside or out with you.

Watch for signs of heatstroke
Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure and unconsciousness.
Animals are at particular risk for heat stroke if they are very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or have heart or respiratory disease.

How to treat a pet suffering from heatstroke
Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to their head, neck and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take them directly to a veterinarian.

Prepare for power outages
Before a summer storm takes out the power in your home, create a disaster plan to keep your pets safe from heat stroke and other temperature-related trouble.

Source: Keep pets safe in the heat | The Humane Society of the United States

Pet-Friendly Sheltering
Online Training (FL-017)

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) has published an online, state-certified training on pet-friendly sheltering—the first of its kind to be offered in Florida. The online training provides guidance on how to plan for and operate a pet-friendly shelter to ensure that individuals evacuating from a disaster with household pets are accommodated.

This training will include useful information on how to:

- Use the Incident Command System in pet-friendly shelter planning and operations;
- Plan for a pet-friendly shelter;
- Understand the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act);
- Establish partnerships for resource coordination;
- Deliver a unified message to the public before, during and after an emergency, and;
- Set up, operate and demobilize a pet-friendly shelter.

Students will receive a downloadable **Tool Kit** that offers guidance and plan templates, and a **state-certified Certificate of Completion** approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

COURSE DATE
August 2020

COURSE LENGTH
4 hours

COURSE FEE
Free

COURSE MODE
100% online at
www.FLSART.org

PRIMARY AUDIENCE
Emergency Managers
County Employees
Veterinary/Animal Services
Shelter Volunteers

PROVIDED BY
Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART)

CERTIFICATE
State-Certified
Course Code FL-017

POINT OF CONTACT
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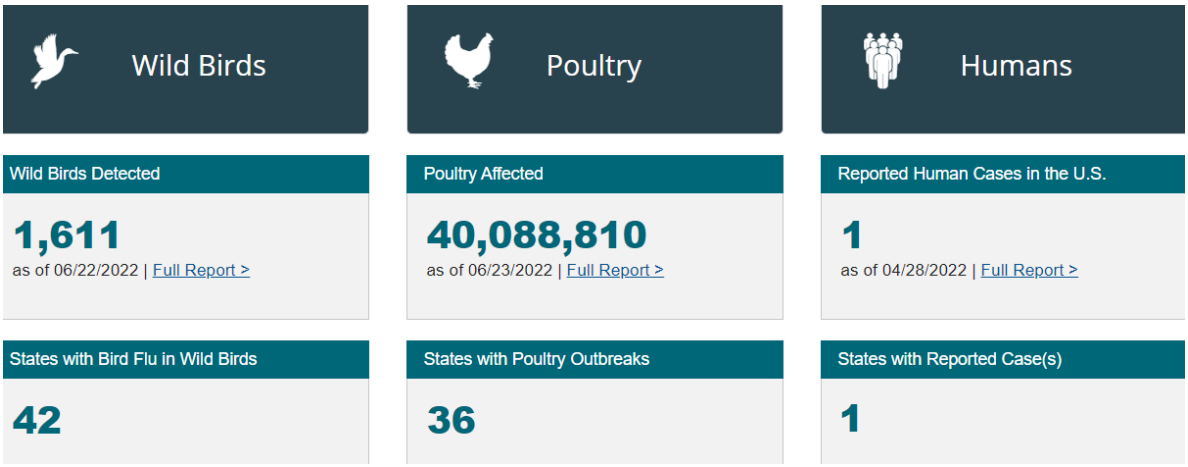
Avian Influenza Update: AI has NOT Been Detected in Florida Domestic Poultry



Bird Flu Current Situation Summary | Avian Influenza (Flu) (cdc.gov) Updated June 24, 2022

Background

Avian Influenza viruses are classified by proteins of the virus: "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and "N" proteins, of which there are nine (N1–N9). Many different combinations of "H" and "N" proteins are possible. Like all influenza viruses, Avian Influenza viruses are known to easily re-assort and mutate (to change) into new Avian Influenza subtypes. They can even change in their ability to infect within a subtype. Only H7 and H5 subtypes have been found to change from Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Avian Influenza (LPAI) normally resides in the North American wild bird population. Wild waterfowl (ducks, geese, and shorebirds) are known to be carriers of the virus. They do not get sick but spread the virus wherever they go. Any contact with wild birds of any kind, especially waterfowl, their habitat or their droppings, should be avoided. The virus is shed in the droppings and by direct contact. Florida is associated with both the Mississippi and Atlantic migratory flyways.

In 2014 and 2015, Highly Pathogenic (H5N8 and H5N2) caused the largest animal disease outbreak in United States history. This outbreak affected both commercial and backyard poultry. The outbreak affected 21 states, caused over 50 million bird deaths, and cost an estimated $3 billion economic impact. This outbreak was caused by an Asian lineage avian HPAI virus brought by wild waterfowl from Asia. The virus re-assorted with a North American subtype to produce HPAI in the USA. Factors involved with the spread of the virus included wild waterfowl migration and breakdowns in biosecurity.

In 2016, HPAI (H7N8) and LPAI (H7N8) infected several premises in Indiana and caused the loss of 43,000 commercial poultry. The viruses were identified as North American origin. It is thought that the LPAI (H7N8) mutated into HPAI (H7N8). In 2017, HPAI (H7N9) and LPAI (H7N9) infected several premises in North and South Carolina. The viruses were identified as North American origin. It is thought that the LPAI (H7N8) mutated into HPAI (H7N8). In 2020, LPAI (H7N3) was detected on several premises in North and South Carolina, causing the loss of 337,000 commercial turkeys. The virus was identified as North American wild bird lineage from the Mississippi flyway.

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Avian Influenza Update (continued)

Approximately two-thirds of the states in the US, have had at least one confirmed domestic poultry flock infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) during the 2021-2022 outbreak; however, some of the affected states have been released from additional movement requirements. For the most current list of affected states, please visit APHIS list.

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 ongoing H5N1 outbreak, visit the USDA website at USDA Avian Influenza.

Due to the recent AI findings, it is recommended that Florida poultry producers and enthusiasts (commercial and backyard) 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 biosecurity measures in place 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 the necessary precautions around any congregation points for growers or backyard owners – do not bring disease back to your poultry flock.
4. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs consistent with HPAI and report any concerns immediately. 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, 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.

Avian Influenza Resources & Information

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: MyFWC.com/AvianInfluenza
- Florida Department of Health: floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/index.html
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Animals/Animal-Diseases/Avian-Influenza
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/defend-the-flock-hpai
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Recent Bird Flu Infections in U.S. Wild Birds and Poultry Pose a Low Risk to the Public
- United States Department of Agriculture: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animaldisease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai
- United States Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center: https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/avian-influenza

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.**

DEFEND THE FLOCK
BIOSECURITY
Let's keep our poultry healthy together

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

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

Biosecurity for Animal Disease Prevention

What is Biosecurity?
Biosecurity is what a producer or farmer can practice to reduce the chances of infectious diseases being carried onto the farm or facility by people, animals, equipment, or vehicles. The threats of a foreign animal disease, emerging diseases from other areas of the world, as well as the spread of high impact endemic diseases within the United States have increased awareness of the need for enhanced biosecurity on the farm.

How do animal diseases spread?

- **Direct Contact -** When animals are close enough to touch. There is an immediate transfer of a disease agent to a host through open wounds, mucous membranes, or the skin. Disease transmission may occur by contact with blood, saliva, nasal or other discharge, nose-to-nose contact, rubbing, or biting from an infected animal.
- **Fomites/Indirect Contact -** Transfer of a disease agent by contact with an inanimate object such as water buckets, equipment, vehicles, clothing, and footwear. A fomite passively transfers or carries a disease agent.
- **Aerosols -** The disease agent is contained in suspended particles or droplets passed through the air from one animal to another.
- **Ingestion -** Consumption of a disease agent in contaminated feed or water or by licking or chewing contaminated objects.
- **Vectors -** A disease agent spread by blood-feeding insects such as mosquitoes, ticks, biting midges and flies.

Some diseases are considered high consequence, meaning they spread rapidly from animal to animal/herd to herd, and are expensive and difficult to eradicate.

- **Zoonotic -** A disease that can be passed directly or indirectly between animals and humans. Some examples of zoonotic diseases include rabies, anthrax, West Nile virus, Lyme disease and salmonellosis.
- **Endemic Diseases -** Endemic is the constant presence and/or commonness of a disease or infectious agent of animals within a geographic area. Anthrax is endemic in limited areas of the western and midwestern United States, for example.
- **Emerging Diseases -** A disease can be considered "emerging" if it is newly identified or previously unknown, causes disease, infection, or infestation in animals, and has the potential to result in significant animal or public health impacts.
- **Foreign Animal Disease -** A foreign animal disease is an important transmissible livestock or poultry disease believed to be absent from the United States and its territories that has a potentially significant health or economic impact.

Prevention is the key to successful biosecurity!

Create and Implement a Visitor Policy
Visitors, salespeople, tourists, staff, and veterinarians can all serve as carriers and spread disease.

- Require all visitors to the farm to check in with a designated farm representative.
- Monitor all visitors while on the farm.
- Post signs to inform visitors of rules to be followed while on the farm.
- Do not allow visitors into the livestock area or barns unless necessary.
- Visitors should put on disposable booties or disinfect footwear before entering the livestock area.
- Provide hand-washing stations or disposable gloves to visitors.
- Do not allow anyone onto the farm who has visited a farm in a foreign country until 7 days have passed after returning to the United States.

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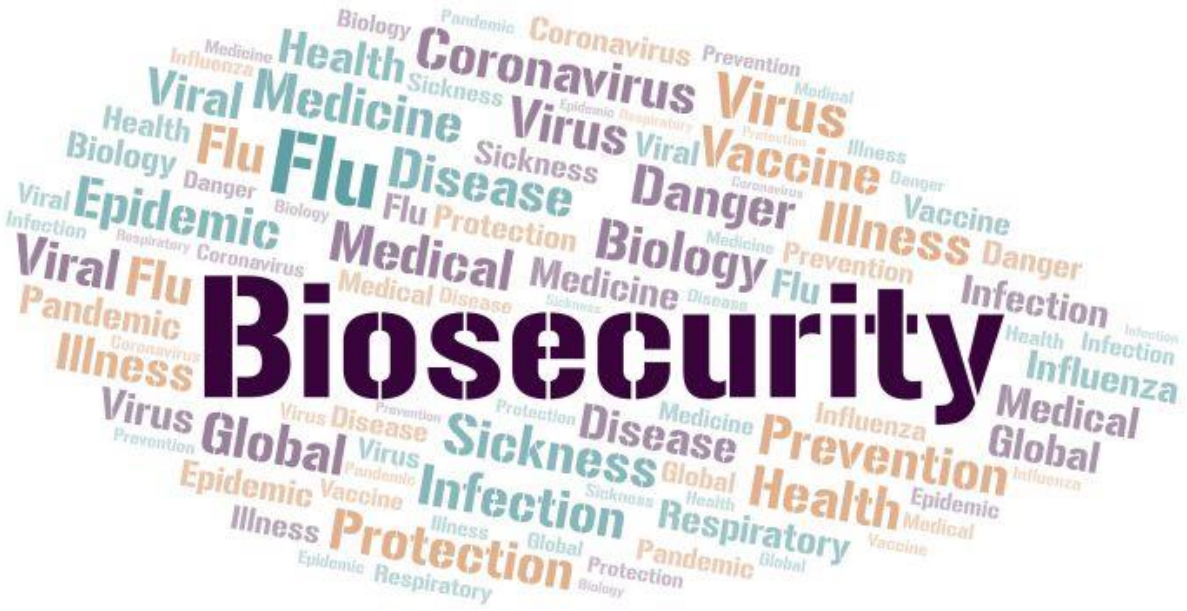
Biosecurity for Animal Disease Prevention (continued)

Protect Animals from Disease Introduction

There are actions that livestock owners can take for their animals and the environment to prevent the introduction of animal diseases onto their property.

- Never purchase ill animals.
- Isolate any newly purchased animals to look for signs of developing illness or disease. A good rule is to isolate newly purchased animals for 30 days. Feed and handle these animals last.
- Animals returning from a show, auction, or event should be treated as newly purchased animals and isolated for 30 days.
- Immediately isolate any ill animals.
- The farm perimeter fencing should be secure to prevent contact with animals from neighboring farms.
- Limit animal contact with pets and wildlife, which can spread disease.
- Do not feed table scraps, human food products or garbage to animals.
- Do not lend or borrow equipment unless it is cleaned and disinfected before it is used.
- Clean and disinfect all vehicles or trailers carrying livestock between shipments.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment used on ill animals before use on healthy animals.
- Clean and disinfect dehorners, hoof knives, and clippers between animals.
- Clean and disinfect nursing bottles and buckets after each feeding.
- Vaccinate against diseases regularly.



Personnel Training and Sanitation

To uphold biosecurity, it is important that all farmworkers and employees understand their role and responsibility in preventing the spread of animal diseases.

- Train all farmworkers to recognize signs of animal illness and disease.
- Farmworkers must ensure disease is not spread between animals at work and animals at home.
- Farmworkers should arrive to work in clean clothes and boots or use clothing and boots left on the farm.
- Wash hands thoroughly with disinfectant soap before and after accessing livestock areas or barns.
- Feed and handle healthy animals first, and ill animals last.
- Have employees use disposable gloves, coveralls and booties, or disinfectant footbaths to prevent the spread of disease between healthy livestock and ill animals.

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Biosecurity for Animal Disease Prevention (continued)

Controlling Vehicle & Equipment Movement
Diseases can enter a farm and be spread by equipment and vehicles, either directly or in plant material, soil, or manure; therefore, posing a high biosecurity risk.

- Limit visitor access to the farm via one gate.
- Park all vehicles away from livestock areas.
- Keep visitor and service vehicles from driving over feed delivery or manure handling routes to prevent the spread of potentially infectious organic material.
- Locate holding pens for animal pickups near the road and away from the livestock area or barns.

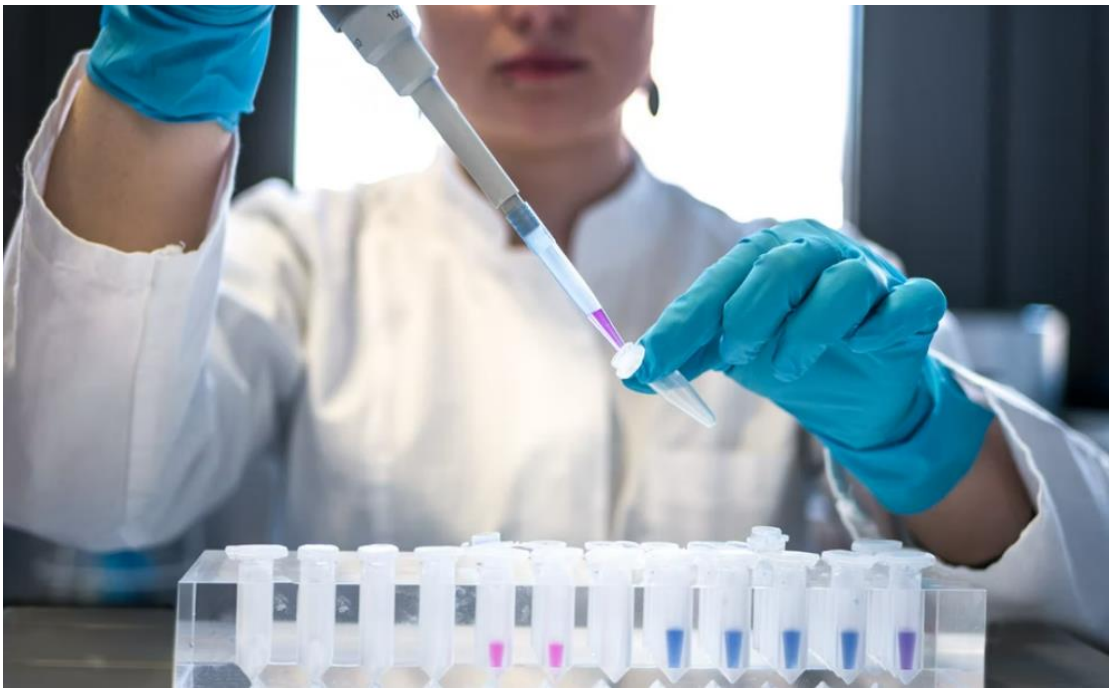
What should a producer do if their animals are showing signs of a reportable or foreign animal disease?
A reportable animal disease is one that, by law, must be reported to state animal health officials. Reporting helps identify animal disease outbreaks, limit their spread, and minimize the impact to animals and people. Anyone who has knowledge of, or suspects the existence of, any of the reportable animal diseases or pests in Florida should immediately report suspicions or findings to the State Veterinarian.

State Veterinarian's Office - Florida
Telephone: (850) 410-0900 (during office hours) or 1-877-815-0034 (after hours)
Email: RAD@fdacs.gov
Online: www.fdacs.gov/rad
List of Reportable Diseases:

- Reportable Animal Diseases / Animal Diseases / Animals / Consumer Resources / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (fdacs.gov)
- USDA APHIS / National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS)

Biosecurity Resources:

- Stay Healthy at Animal Exhibits / Healthy Pets, Healthy People / Center for Disease Control
- Biosecurity / The Center for Food Security & Public Health / Iowa State University
- Secure Food Supply Plans / The Center for Food Security & Public Health / Iowa State University



African Swine Fever Update

In 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic (Announcement below). ASF is a foreign animal disease. Increased biosecurity and vigilance is warranted. Please report any sick swine with clinical signs consistent with ASF to the State Veterinarian's Office through the e-mail address RAD@FDACS.gov, or by calling (850) 410-0900 (during office hours) or 1-800-342-5869 (after hours). You can also file a report online.

Clinical signs of ASF in swine can include reddening of the skin, listlessness, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, conjunctivitis, lack of an escape response, trembling, complete loss of hind leg functioning, and high death loss.

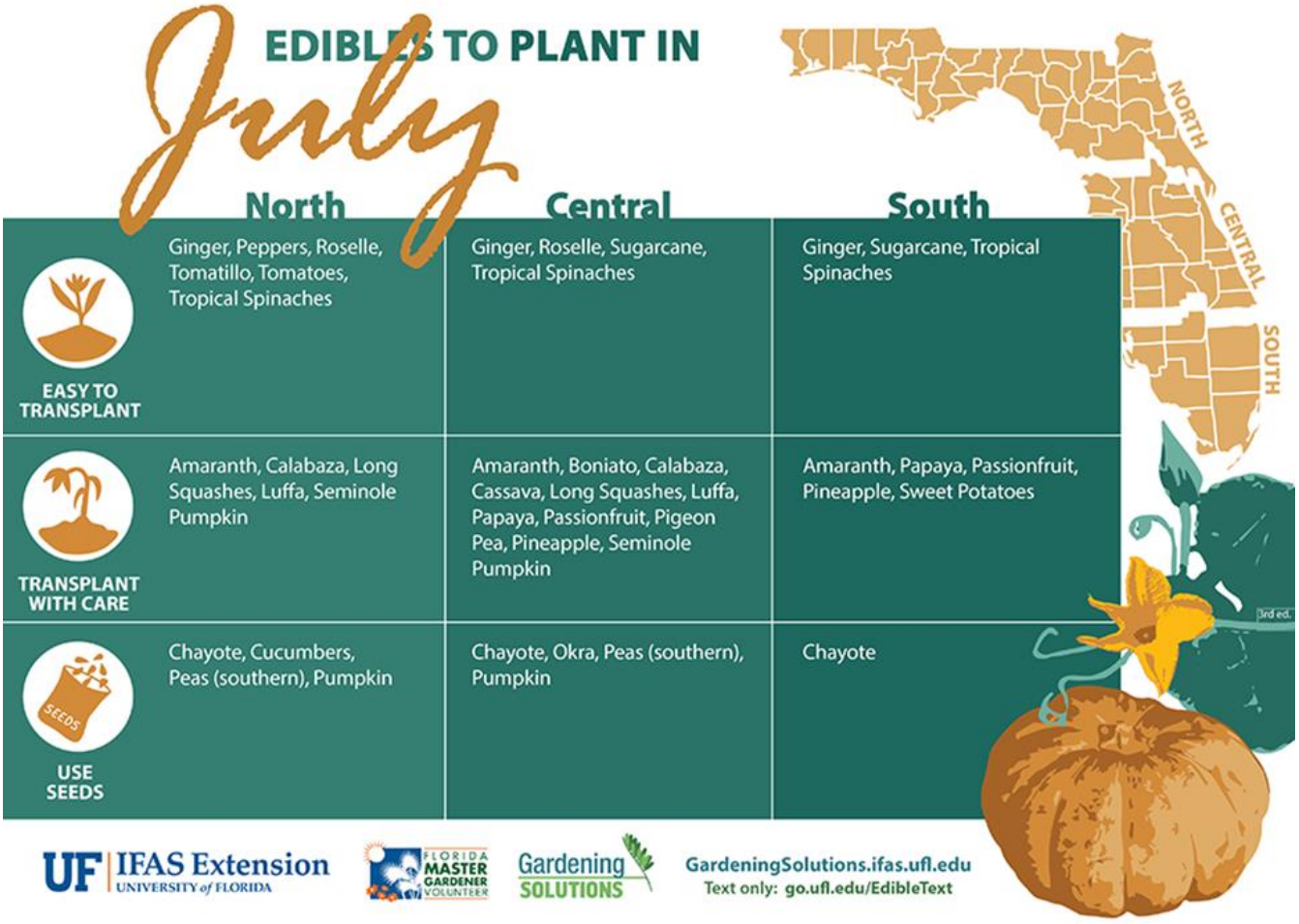
Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

It is important to note that Classical Swine Fever has been present in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for many years and, therefore, the U.S. does not receive pork products or live swine imports from either country. The highest risk of ASF introduction into the U.S. is from pork products brought in by international travelers via sea or air. The U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has increased inspections of products and personal items brought into the U.S from affected countries.

More information regarding ASF can be found on the USDA website.
Click here for the FDACS Announcement on ASF.

In the News…

- FDACS: Oriental Fruit Fly Emergency Alert
- FDACS: Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Update
- Heat wave: Heat, humidity kill at least 2,000 Kansas cattle, state says (CNBC)



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 July - 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 animal cruelty cases. These courses were created and designed by experts from many organizations including Florida SART, University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team, and leadership of FLSARC.

Awareness Level	Operations Level
• July 9, 2022 • July 16-17, 2022 • July 30, 2022	• July 23-24, 2022

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

SART Monthly Webinar

Scheduled for July 28th, 2:00 - 3:15 PM EST. Agenda topics include an update on the In-Kind partner contributions, an animal disease update, Animal Technical Rescue training update, and SART updates. This meeting is for SART partner agencies and is not intended for the public. Please contact Benjamin Motes at Benjamin.Motes@FDACS.gov for additional information.

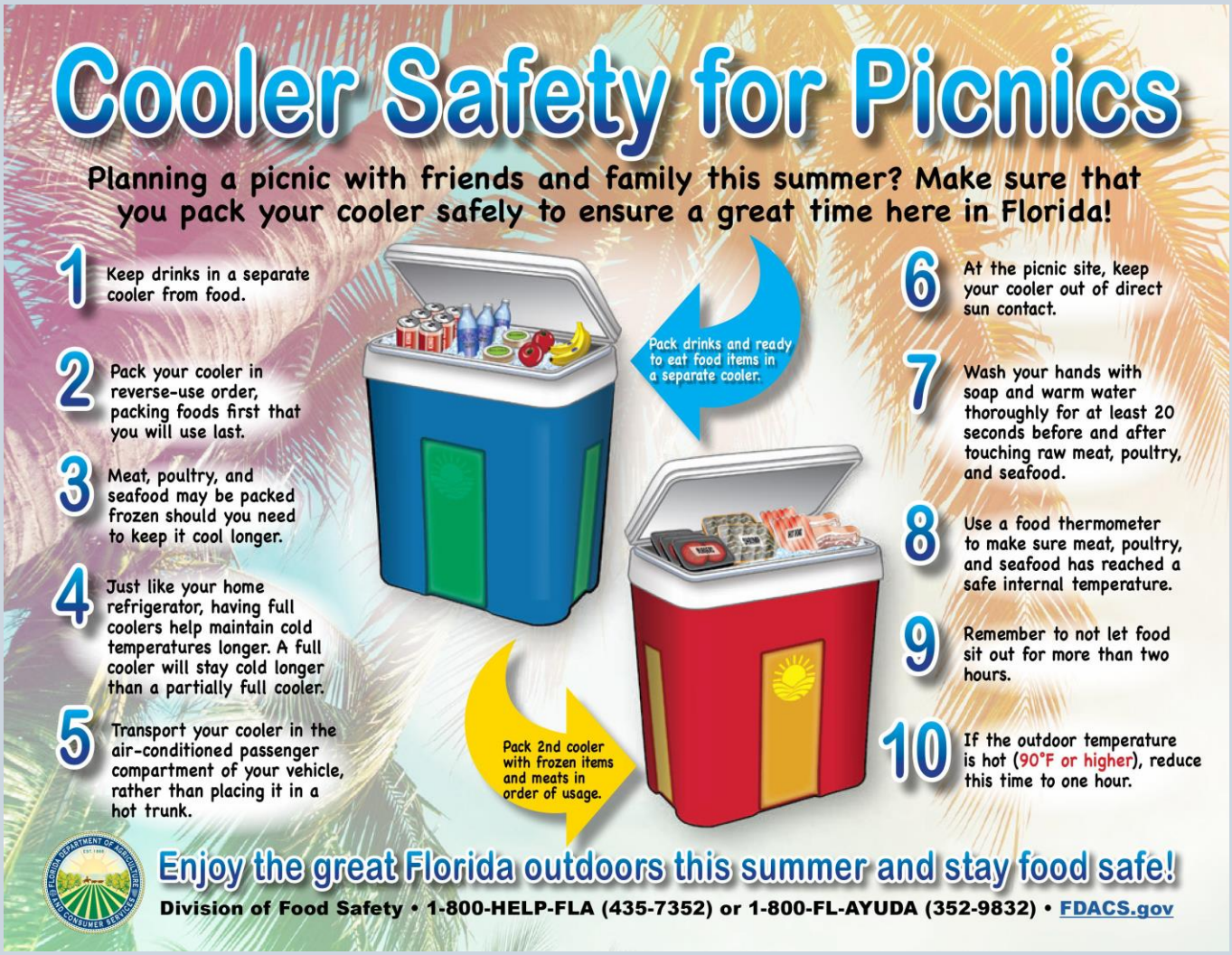
Food Safety and Food Defense Report

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.

Pack a Cooler Safely this Summer

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy picnics with friends and family in Florida. Did you know there is a way to pack your cooler safely to reduce foodborne illness? Check out the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website to learn important food safety tips for the summer season, including cooler safety, grilling safety, tips for cleaning your grill, and safe grilling temperatures.



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Food Safety and Food Defense Report (continued)

Make Food Safety a Priority this Storm Season
Remember food safety in your hurricane preparedness plan to help prevent foodborne illness. Visit the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website to view the Division of Food Safety's Hurricane Preparedness Checklist, Water Needs for Power Outages flyer, and Preparation, Expiration, and Refrigeration Hurricane Season Food Safety Tip Videos.

SART Resources and Links

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

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

Pet Sheltering Resources
https://flsart.org/resource/petshelter

Ask IFAS: Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/disaster_preparedness_and_recovery

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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