The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

FDACS' Melody Belanger, ESF 17 District Specialist

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Is Your Poultry Flock part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan?*
- *NOAA Still Expects Above-Normal Atlantic Hurricane Season*
- *Celebrate September as National Food Safety Education Month*

ESF 17 In Action – North Port Hurricane Expo, Sarasota County

FDACS Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) District Specialist, Melody Belanger, hosted an exhibit at the North Port Hurricane Expo in Sarasota County.

The exhibit highlighted disaster preparedness for pets along with State Agricultural Response Team (SART) trainings and initiatives. This was the first Hurricane Expo hosted in North Port in over 10 years.

Melody represented ESF 17 and SART, providing expert insight into disaster preparedness for pets. Melody handed out Florida SART's Canine Go-Kit Checklist, Disasters and Mental Health Online Training flyer, Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training flyer, checklists for dog and cat evacuations, SART brochures, and other SART materials.

Melody was commended for her knowledge and dedication by the Sarasota County Emergency Management Director.

"The cooperation between a state association, university and government is vital to protect animal health and well-being."

— Jim Naugle
Executive Director
Florida Veterinary Medical Association
Story on page 5.

Is Your Poultry Flock Part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan?

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a non-commercial poultry in Florida. With the potential for HPAI infections on the rise, it is important to take steps to ensure your poultry flock, whether it is commercial or non-commercial, is protected. One way to ensure you are protected is by joining the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). NPIP helps protect Florida's poultry industry from serious disease outbreaks by conducting disease surveillance. This surveillance looks for diseases such as Pullorum-Typhoid, Avian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle Disease. This is not a guarantee that joining the NPIP program will prevent you from a possible HPAI infection. Poultry owners still need to follow strict biosecurity to ensure their flocks are as protected as possible from diseases. Previous HPAI infections have been noted on farms that allow free-range poultry.

Biosecurity
Protecting your birds from disease has always been important. Maintain strict biosecurity measures by taking the following precautions to help minimize the risk of introduction of HPAI to your birds and protect Florida's poultry industry.

1. Eliminate opportunities for your birds to interact with wild birds. We know that wild waterfowl are carriers of disease, including HPAI. The best way to avoid diseases that wildlife carry is to keep domestic animals separated from the wild.

2. If you have birds at home, do not visit another farm, home or facility that also has birds. If you must visit another premises, be sure to shower and put on clean clothes and shoes beforehand.

3. Remember that vehicles can be vehicles for disease transmission. Before you drive down the road, consider where you are going. Will you be heading to the fair, another farm, or a live bird market? If the answer is yes, be sure your vehicle is clean and free of dirt, manure and other organic material.

4. Early detection can help prevent the spread of disease. Knowing the signs to look for and monitoring the health of your birds on a regular basis is very important. Some signs to look for include nasal discharge, unusually quiet birds, decreased food and water consumption, drop in egg production, and increased/unusual death loss in your flock.

5. Report sick and dead birds to state health officials immediately. If your birds appear sick or you have experienced increased mortality, report it immediately to the appropriate phone number located at the top of this webpage.

Continued, next page.

Is Your Poultry Flock Part of the NPIP? (continued)

For Bird Handlers

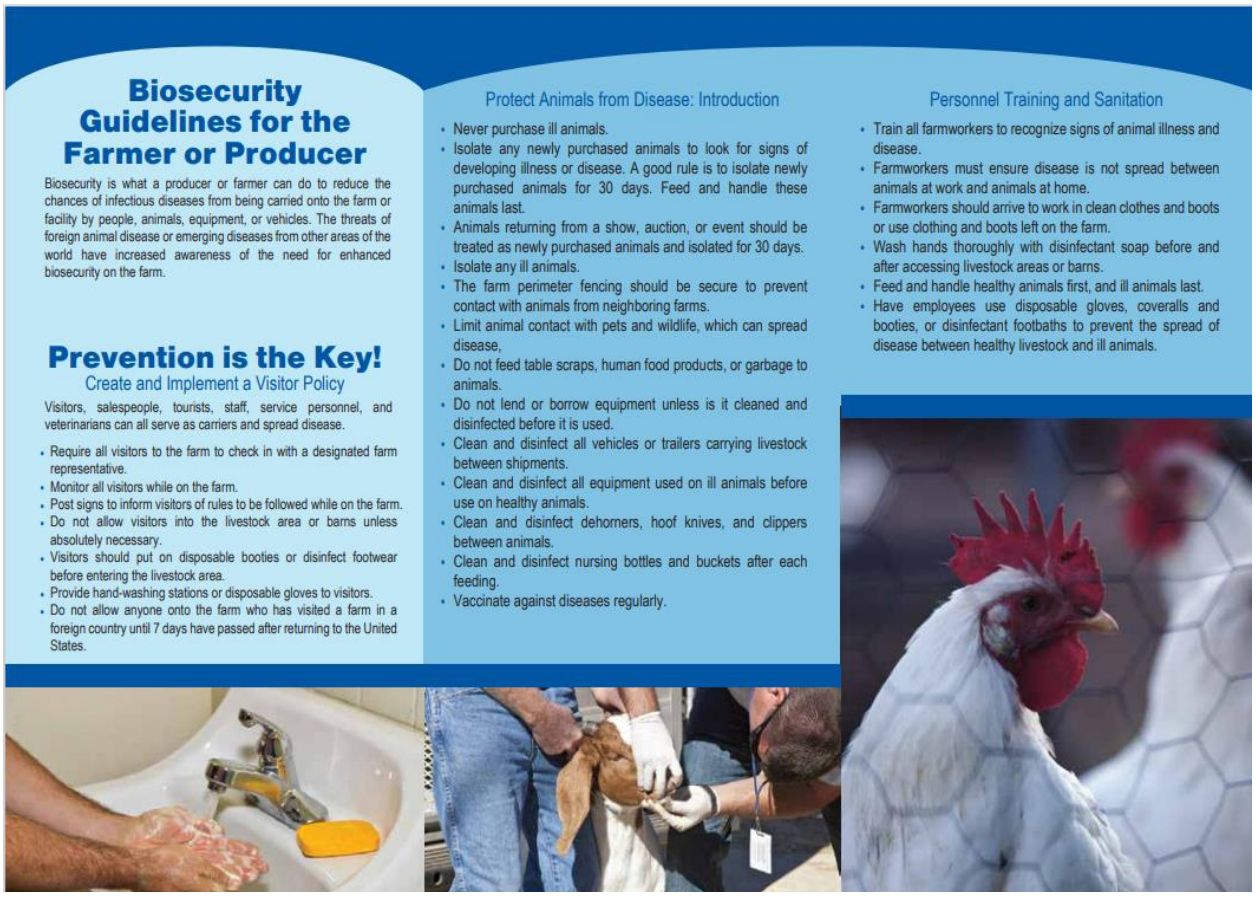
- When working indoors, work in well-ventilated areas.
- When working outdoors, work upwind of birds to decrease risk of inhaling aerosols such as dust, feathers or dander.
- When possible, wear rubber or latex gloves that are disposable or can be disinfected.
- When possible, wear protective eye wear or a face shield while handling birds.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Disinfect work surfaces and equipment.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling birds.

For Hunters and Others Handling Birds

- Precautions should include hand washing, proper food preparation, and thorough cooking.
- Do not handle or eat sick game.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game, and thoroughly wash hands and all knives, equipment and surfaces that come in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling animals.
- Avian influenza viruses are destroyed by heat and not transmitted through cooked food.
- All fowl should be cooked thoroughly (well done or 160 degrees F).

Resources

- www.FDACS.gov/AI
- USDA APHIS | 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- USDA APHIS | Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
- Influenza | Florida Department of Health (floridahealth.gov)
- www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/
- How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People (cdc.gov)
- Frequently Asked Questions about Avian Influenza | Avian Influenza (Flu) (cdc.gov)



FREE WEBINARS!

National Farm Safety and Health Week 2022

PROTECTING AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE
NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK
SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2022

	12 PM - 1 PM CT	2 PM - 3 PM CT
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19	Crashes Involving Agricultural Vehicles in the Southwest Region	ATV/UTV Safety for Farm Women
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20	Putting Time and Distance Between Someone at Risk of Suicide and Lethal Means	Heat and Wildfire Smoke Exposure Among Agricultural Workers
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21	Protecting and Promoting the Health of Young Agricultural Workers	Farm Youth Mental Health: What We Know and How to Help
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22	Roundtable Discussion: Grain Bin Safety	Confined Space: Grain Bin Entry
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23	More than Milk: Strong Bones and Injury Prevention for Aging Women in Ag	¡Basta! Working Together to Prevent Sexual Harassment in the Ag Workplace

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

AgHealth Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

HICAHS

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER
farming • fishing • forestry

Southwest Center
FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH, INJURY PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION

Scan the QR code or click here to register. Participants only need to register one time to attend all NFSHW webinars.

AgriSafe® Network
Protecting the People Who Feed the World
agrisafe.org

Florida Veterinary Corps: Helping Animals and People During Disasters

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) is partnering with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in maintaining the Florida Veterinary Corps, a volunteer program that provides veterinary assistance following emergencies. "The cooperation between a state association, university and government is vital to protect animal health and well-being," says Jim Naugle, the FVMA's executive director.

The Florida Veterinary Corps asks veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are willing to volunteer to respond to animal emergencies in Florida. Volunteers will be kept informed as to the status of emergencies and the need for volunteers depending upon the specific emergency and can most often see activation proceeding natural disasters. Volunteers may serve in veterinary infrastructure assessment teams, in triage or emergency animal treatment teams and in animal disease surveillance or control teams under an incident command system.

The Florida Veterinary Corps aims to emphasize animal care. In times of emergency, federal or other outside assistance regarding a high-risk animal disease emergency may not be available for hours or days. "What we learned, especially after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, was that if people did not have an option for their pet, they were not going to leave them behind," says FVMA Disaster Response Committee Chair Terry Clekis. "People stayed behind."

The PETS Act is a 2006 federal law requiring disaster relief plans to "account for the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals before, during, and following a major disaster or emergency" for states to receive federal funding for their disaster relief plans. Florida's plan accounts for animal assistance, but Clekis says aiding animals during a disaster is an essential responsibility of the veterinary profession. "Medical care is both healing and preventative," Clekis says. "Preventative healthcare is integral to what veterinary medicine is, and part of that is ensuring family disaster plans include pets."

The Florida Veterinary Corps is a continuation of the increased emphasis on the effects of pets on human well-being. Over the past several decades, domesticated animals transitioned to household pets from their previous primary roles of helping tend farms. Volunteers have had the opportunity to participate in the Florida Veterinary Corps since its establishment, and it now will see increased capacity to catalog veterinarians as it becomes overseen by Florida's singular state veterinary association.

The Florida Veterinary Corps is a component of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services under its Florida State Agricultural Response Team. The FVMA will host the application online while maintaining the volunteer list year-round. It also provides a list of resources for veterinarians to use in advance of an impending natural disaster.

Those resources are available for all without requirements or restrictions, but Florida Veterinary Corps volunteers must complete four Incident Command System trainings to be eligible. The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides the courses online, free of charge. It is estimated to take 12.5 hours total to complete all four courses.

Volunteers will only be activated in response to specific emergencies. Volunteers called upon may decline service at any time. "Protecting agriculture in Florida begins locally and requires cooperation, participation, and partnership," says LeiAnna Tucker, emergency programs manager for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.

Read more at: https://fvma.org/veterinary-corps

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

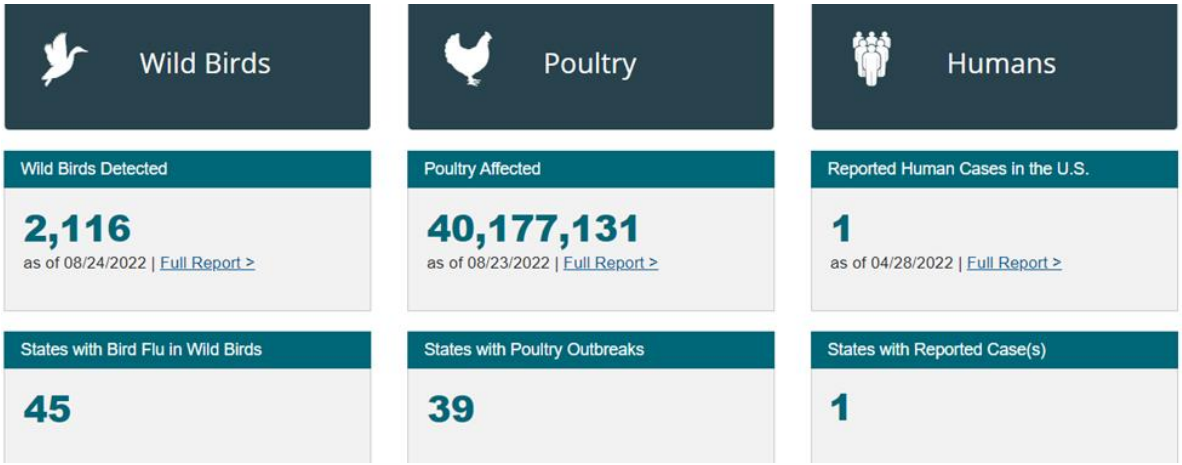
PRIMARY AUDIENCE
Emergency Managers
County Employees
Veterinary/Animal Services
Shelter Volunteers

PROVIDED BY
Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART)

CERTIFICATE
State-Certified
Course Code FL-017

POINT OF CONTACT
LeiAnna Tucker
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(850) 410-0920
LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov

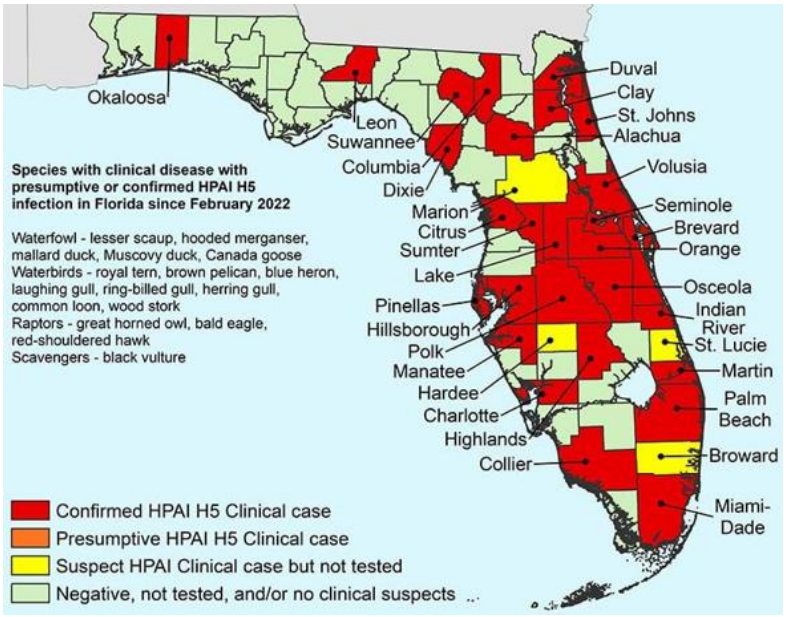
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Found in Wild Birds in Florida



Bird Flu Current Situation Summary | Avian Influenza (Flu) (cdc.gov) Updated August 16, 2022

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has been monitoring the presence of confirmed cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) strain: H5 2.3.4.4 in a lesser scaup, black vultures and other avian species around Florida. There is a low risk of HPAI transmission to humans and, to date, there has only been one known human infection in North America.

To prevent the spread of HPAI, the public should avoid handling sick or dead wildlife, prohibit the contact of domestic birds with wild birds, and report wild bird mortalities to FWC so deaths can be investigated. Please be advised that because HPAI is not treatable and is easily transmitted in wild birds, some wildlife rehabbers may not be accepting these animals at this time. Those with free-range chickens are at higher risk of HPAI infection due to lack of security and close proximity to wild birds.



The FWC is working closely with the United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, University of Florida, National Wildlife Health Center, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Florida Department of Health, and wildlife rehabilitators to investigate mortality events involving wild birds. For more information on HPAI in wild birds, visit the FWC Avian Influenza website.

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.

Strangles

Strangles, a highly contagious upper respiratory disease of equids, is caused by the gram-positive β-hemolytic bacterium Streptococcus equi ssp. equi. This disease was first reported in the 13th century and can be found worldwide. Although rare, Streptococcus equi ssp. equi infections have caused bacteremia and meningitis in humans and fatal pneumonia in a camel. Positive cases of strangles in equids must be reported to the State Veterinarian's Office.

To report strangles or other reportable diseases, call (850) 410-0900 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For after-hours reporting, call 1-800-342-5869 or email RAD@FDACS.gov.

Transmission
The organism Streptococcus equi ssp. equi can be transmitted via direct contact with nasal or ocular secretions or lymph node discharge from infected horses or via indirect exposure to contaminated trailers, stalls, riding equipment, buckets, halters, lead ropes, brushes, clothing, etc.

Clinical Signs
The incubation period typically ranges between two and six days but may last up to 14 days. Classic symptoms may include fever (103 degrees F or higher), mucopurulent nasal discharge, lymphadenopathy (+/- abscessation), general malaise, pharyngitis, dysphagia, upper airway stridor and respiratory distress. Clinical signs are often age-related, with older horses exhibiting milder symptoms of shorter duration.

Diagnosis
Diagnosis of Streptococcus equi ssp. equi infection is mainly accomplished by culturing nasal swabs, nasal washes, or pus aspirated from abscesses. Nasal washes generally yield better results than nasal swabs due to sampling of a greater surface area. PCR (polymerase chain reaction) can be used as a quick adjunct to a culture and is three times more sensitive than culture. The most reliable diagnosis is achieved when PCR results are confirmed with culture. PCR can be very useful for detecting asymptomatic carriers, determining infection status prior to transport or entry into a new herd and for establishing whether treatment was successful.

Continued, next page.

Strangles (continued)

Treatment
There are many different opinions regarding the appropriate treatment of horses with strangles. Check with your veterinarian to determine which treatment is right for your horse. Treatment often consists of rest, water, moistened food and a clean, dry stall, which is generally sufficient for most cases. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications such as flunixin meglumine or phenylbutazone can also be administered to reduce pain, swelling around abscesses, and fever.

Use of antibiotics remains controversial, but penicillin is the drug of choice. Streptococcus equi ssp. equi also exhibits sensitivity to potentiated sulfonamides and oxytetracycline. In the face of an outbreak, horses with early clinical signs may benefit from three to five days of antibiotic therapy to arrest progression of the disease. However, these horses will be highly susceptible to reinfection and should not be continually exposed to other infected horses.

Antibiotic therapy is contraindicated in horses with external lymphadenopathy because it prolongs the enlargement and rupture of abscesses. In these cases, treatment should focus on hastening the maturation of abscesses through hot-packing and application of drawing salves such as Ichthammol. In situations where abscesses do not progress, surgical drainage may be warranted. Supportive therapy and treatment with antibiotics are indicated in horses that are systemically ill or that develop serious complications such as dysphagia, aspiration pneumonia or respiratory distress.

Prevention and Control
Vaccines for strangles include an attenuated live, intranasal Streptococcus equi ssp. equi product and a killed, protein-rich acid and enzyme product that can be given intramuscularly. Neither of the strangles vaccines currently available guarantees prevention, and the attenuated live vaccines have been associated with adverse reactions. The level of immunity induced by vaccines is lower than that produced during recovery from strangles due to failure to stimulate mucosal antibodies. Check with your veterinarian to determine which vaccine is right for your horse.

Establishing high standards of management practices can be an effective means of prevention. Horses being introduced to a new herd should be isolated for a minimum of three weeks and should be monitored at least twice daily for evidence of fever spikes, nasal discharge, lymph node enlargement and dyspnea. If possible, new additions should be screened for Streptococcus equi ssp. equi through PCR and culture of nasal swabs or nasal washes prior to commingling.

Biosecurity measures should be implemented and maintained to avoid indirect transmission between quarantined horses and resident horses. Control measures during an actual outbreak include immediate quarantine of suspected and confirmed cases, restricting movement of horses on and off property until quarantine release, disease surveillance among exposed horses (observing for clinical signs, monitoring temperatures, PCR testing, etc.), implementing strict biosecurity protocols, maintaining isolation of affected horses for a minimum of 21 days after resolution of clinical signs (due to possible nasal shedding for two to three weeks), and retesting infected horses prior to quarantine release.

Regulatory Considerations
Strangles is a reportable disease in the state of Florida due to its highly contagious nature among horses and its zoonotic potential. Quarantines may be issued on premises affected by strangles.

Although human cases are rare, it is recommended that immune-compromised individuals take precautions to avoid exposure to horses infected with Streptococcus equi ssp. equi.

SART Developing the Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

Throughout this year, the Florida State Agricultural Response Team has been developing the Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture. The Guide is for the County Emergency Operation Centers to use as a reference guide for disasters involving animals and agriculture. As we near completion of this guide we would like to share some of the resources we have featured. The below article titled "Vector Control" is a sneak peek of what is available in the guide.

Vector Control

Mosquito population levels can drastically increase in flood-prone areas of Florida in the aftermath of hurricanes and other storm systems, which may pose a serious health threat and potentially hamper response and recovery efforts. Local and state officials must take the necessary actions to prevent a health and safety threat as soon as possible. The following guidelines are for Florida county emergency managers for requesting emergency mosquito control assistance from the State of Florida.

Mosquito Control Incident Response Team

- The Mosquito Control Incident Response Team (MCIRT) assists Florida counties undergoing repair and recovery activities following a disaster with mosquito control abatement once Public Assistance eligibility requirements are met.
- Adhering to the Incident Command System structure, the MCIRT is a specialized unit within the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) to deal with mosquito control issues.
- Designed for rapid deployment, the MCIRT assists with coordination between state and federal agencies, concurrency requirements and may provide mosquito surveillance and identification assistance.
- Please be advised that this assistance can only be provided when there has been an Emergency Declaration by the President of the United States or the Governor of Florida, and repair and recovery activities of the requesting county have commenced. If there are no repair and recovery efforts occurring in the county, the MCIRT will not be activated.

Emergency Declaration

- The Mosquito Control Incident Response Team (MCIRT) can only be activated when the President of the United States or the Governor of Florida declares that an emergency or major disaster exists in the county requesting emergency mosquito control assistance. The declaration establishes the federal cost share, type of incident, incident period, designated areas, types of assistance, and the federal coordinating officer.
- The assistance Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides through its Public Assistance Program is subject to cost share, which will be specified in the declaration document.
- Following an emergency declaration, county emergency managers must coordinate with their county mosquito control personnel prior to requesting assistance for emergency mosquito control from the State of Florida.

Continued, next page.

SART Developing the Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture (continued)

Request for Emergency Mosquito Control Assistance
After an emergency declaration has been issued, repair and recovery efforts have been initiated, and the county emergency manager has coordinated with mosquito control personnel, a formal request for emergency mosquito control assistance must be made using WebEOC. The following support documentation must be entered:

- Florida Department of Health Letter indicating a serious health threat or a mosquito nuisance that is severely hampering recovery efforts.
- County Administrator/Board of County Commission Letter of Support for operation of low-flying aircraft and the application of pesticides.
- Three-year Baseline Mosquito Surveillance Trap Data to compare with post-incident mosquito counts and identification.
- County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Map of Proposed Spray Zone(s).
- Media/Social Media Plan to inform residents and interested parties 48 hours prior to the initiation of mosquito control operations. Parties may include local law enforcement, volunteer fire departments, Florida Department of Health, county extension agents, newspaper, radio, and television.

After the county information has been entered in WebEOC, the MCIRT will evaluate the request and determine if the county is eligible for emergency mosquito control assistance from the State of Florida. If MCIRT assistance is not possible, the county will be directed to request federal reimbursement for conducting their own mosquito control activities. It is important to note that all communication between the county and the MCIRT for assistance must be done through WebEOC.

NOAA Still Expects Above-Normal Atlantic Hurricane Season

Preparedness is key during the peak months of hurricane season

Collage depicts hurricane storm surge, Acting NOAA National Hurricane Center Director Jamie Rhome presenting a forecast, evacuation route sign and Hurricane Hunter pilot flying into a storm. (NOAA)

Atmospheric and oceanic conditions still favor an above-normal 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, according to NOAA's annual mid-season update issued today by the Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service.

"I urge everyone to remain vigilant as we enter the peak months of hurricane season," said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "The experts at NOAA will continue to provide the science, data and services needed to help communities become hurricane resilient and climate-ready for the remainder of hurricane season and beyond."

NOAA forecasters have slightly decreased the likelihood of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season to 60% (lowered from the outlook issued in May, which predicted a 65% chance). The likelihood of near-normal activity has risen to 30% and the chances remain at 10% for a below-normal season.

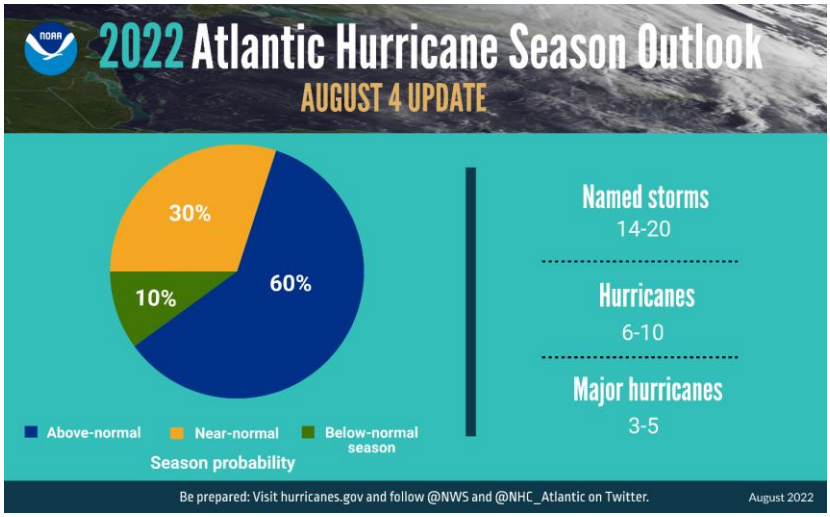
"We're just getting into the peak months of August through October for hurricane development, and we anticipate that more storms are on the way," said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "NOAA stands ready to deliver timely and accurate forecasts and warnings to help communities prepare in advance of approaching storms."

NOAA's update to the 2022 outlook — which covers the entire six-month hurricane season that ends on Nov. 30 — calls for 14-20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater), of which 6-10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater). Of those, 3-5 could become major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence.

So far, the season has seen three named storms and no hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin. An average hurricane season produces 14 named storms, of which seven become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

Continued, next page.

Atlantic Hurricane Season (continued)



The updated 2022 Atlantic hurricane season probability and number of named storms. (NOAA)

NOAA's update to the 2022 outlook — which covers the entire six-month hurricane season that ends on Nov. 30 — calls for 14-20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater), of which 6-10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater). Of those, 3-5 could become major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence.

So far, the season has seen three named storms and no hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin. An average hurricane season produces 14 named storms, of which seven become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes. ***Source:*** *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

SART Funded Operations Section Chief Training

The State Agricultural Response Team (SART) funded and held the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certified Incident Command System (ICS) All Hazards Operations Section Chief (OSC) training on August 22 – 26, 2022, in Daytona Beach, Florida. Twenty-seven FDACS staff attended representing the divisions of Animal Industry, Plant Industry, Food Safety, Agricultural Environmental Services, and Forestry.

This course provided FDACS Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) personnel with the information necessary to understand the roles and responsibilities of the OSC in an Incident Management Team for managing incident objectives, assigning tactical operations and field personnel, and leading the tactics meetings each operational period.

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…

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, June's average global temperature continued 2022's remarkably warm trend, as both the month and the year so far ranked sixth warmest on record. In addition, global sea ice reached near-record lows last month, with Antarctica seeing its lowest June ice coverage on record, according to scientists from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). Read More

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 September- 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
• September 25, 2022 • October 15, 2022	• TBD

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

SART Quarterly Meeting

Scheduled for September 27th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST. This meeting will be hosted in Gainesville, Florida. Agenda topics include an update on the In-Kind partner contributions, an animal disease 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.

Celebrate September as National Food Safety Education Month

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)' Division of Food Safety celebrates September as National Food Safety Education Month.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 6 of us will suffer from foodborne illness this year but following the Core 4 Steps of Food Safety can help lower that risk. Help keep your family, friends, and community safe from foodborne illness by practicing the Core 4 Steps of Food Safety: clean, separate, cook, and chill. Watch FDACS' Division of Food Safety Core 4 Overview Video below to learn more about the Core 4 Steps of Food Safety. Visit the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach Core 4 and Handwashing website to learn more details about each of the Core 4 Steps of Food Safety and view FREE resources that you can share with others like flyers, videos, 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

Donning and Doffing:
USDA FADD PPE - Unassisted Donning on Vimeo

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

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.

Editing Services: 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