The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

The Florida EDEN Readiness Series is available on YouTube.

Introducing the New FDACS and UF IFAS Partnership Video

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) teamed up to create a new video on their disaster response partnership.

Published in December 2022 on YouTube, the video features interviews with LeiAnna Tucker (FDACS Emergency Programs Manager), Dr. Saqib Mukhtar (IF/IFAS Associate Dean for Extension, Agriculture, and Natural Resources), and Dr. Angie Lindsey (Extension Disaster Education Network [EDEN]). EDEN is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is a collaborative multi-state effort by cooperative extension services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters.

Dr. Lindsey highlighted the important connection that agricultural extension agents have throughout the State of Florida. "We learn so much from our Extension agents and the work that they're already doing throughout the state and the work that they do within their own communities for disaster preparedness, recovery, and response," said Dr. Lindsey.

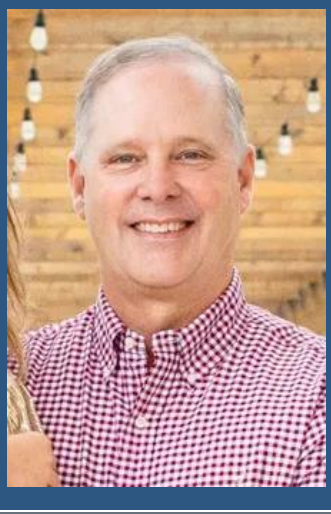
To view the video for yourself, and to like or comment, please visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI1Xsjd-FCw.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Florida's Animals and Agriculture are at Risk*
- *Animal Technical Rescue Training*
- *Compassion Fatigue Strategies+ Training*

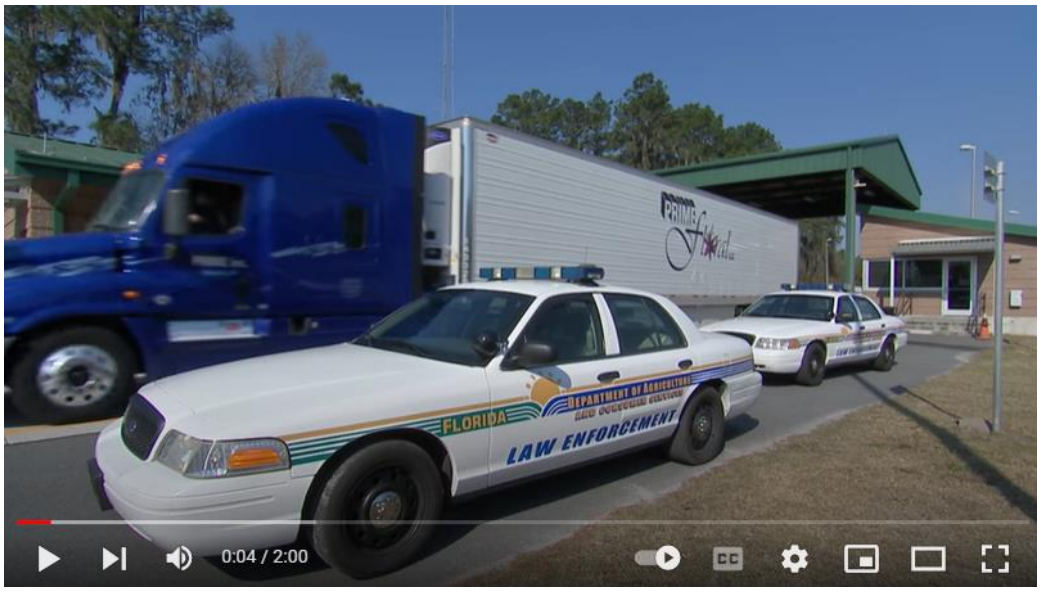
"I am deeply appreciative of the privilege and responsibility of serving as Florida's 13th Commissioner of Agriculture and leading the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services."

— Wilton Simpson
Commissioner
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Source: Southeast AgNet



Florida's Animals and Agriculture are at Risk

By LeiAnna Tucker, FDACS



Inspecting a Truck at an Interstate Interdiction Station: https://youtu.be/HxXZcTX9mX4

Have you ever seen the signs for "Agricultural Inspection Station" off our Florida highways? Ever wonder what it is? Florida's agriculture faces great risk of 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. Our FDACS Agriculture Inspection Stations on the highways are staffed 24/7 by agricultural law enforcement officers to prevent plant and animal pests and diseases and unsafe food from entering Florida. The primary means of enforcement is via the network of Interdiction Stations statically located at every point of entry into Peninsular Florida across the Northern access points. By Florida State Statute, any kind of vehicle capable of carrying a cargo load into the state must stop and submit to an inspection, including commercial and private carriers. This includes any tractor-trailer, enclosed trailer, rental truck (Uhaul), or cargo van. Understand the importance to protect Florida's agriculture and keep our food supply chain safe! You can learn more about our FDACS Agricultural Inspection stations by visiting our website here. Here are two videos showing agricultural inspection on Florida highways and airports to learn more!

How Illegal Items Are Found And Destroyed At JFK Airport: https://youtu.be/sAiTuitN5b8

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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(850) 410-0920
LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

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 HPAI.

Since July 2022, there have been multiple backyard flocks in Florida confirmed with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). 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 website at USDA avian influenza.

Approximately two-thirds of the states in the United States, have at least one confirmed domestic poultry flock infected with HPAI during the 2021-2022 outbreak, however, some of the affected states have been released from additional movement requirements. For the current list of affected states, please visit APHIS at USDA APHIS | 2022 Confirmations of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial and Backyard Flocks.

Due to the recent Avian Influenza detection, 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. For more information regarding avian health please visit: USDA APHIS | Avian Health.

If you have any questions, please contact the 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.

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)
- United States Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center
- Recent Bird Flu Infections in U.S. Wild Birds and Poultry Pose a Low Risk to the Public
- Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission: Avian Influenza | FWC (myfwc.com)

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.

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…

- Commissioner Wilton Simpson Issues Statement After Being Sworn in as Florida's 13th Commissioner of Agriculture (Southeast Agent Radio Network)
- Nikki Fried, Florida's first female agriculture commissioner, prepares for departure (WPTV)
- Dealing with a Florida Winter Weather Event (UF IFAS)

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.

What to Plant in January - 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 LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training

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
• January 28, 2023 • February 11, 2023 • March 11, 2023	• February 18-19, 2023 • March 25-26, 2023 • April 22-23, 2023

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

Animal Technical Rescue Training

Our SART partner for animal technical rescue (ATR) is the UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service based at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Through this partnership, the Animal Technical Rescue operations level training course was first developed in 2011. This training is state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management, recognized by the Florida State Fire College, and meets National Fire Protection Associations standards. Although this class is available to any interested person, it is primarily targeted toward law enforcement, fire/rescue, animal control officers, and veterinary professionals. Animal Technical Rescue teams are not medical teams, rather they are trained in proper techniques to safely extricate animals from hazardous emergency situations.

AWR (8 Hours)	OPS (24 Hours)
• February 7, 2023	• February 25-27, 2023 • March 13-15, 2023

To register, visit: https://flsart.org/training/animal_rescue

Compassion Fatigue Strategies+ Training

Transforming empathic distress (aka compassion fatigue) is possible for you and your staff. That's why the Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida is once again offering its Compassion Fatigue Strategies online course with certified compassion fatigue educator Jessica Dolce. The course begins February 6, 2023, and runs for 8 weeks. Please see the flyer on the following page for complete details.

2023 SART Planning Conference — COMING SOON!

Plans for the 2023 SART Planning Conference is underway! A save the date will be sent in early 2023 and county ESF 17 contacts will be contacted for invitation.

Compassion Fatigue Strategies+ Training

Today's animal welfare and veterinary medical professionals are pushing the boundaries of what's possible for animals, people, and the organizations that heal, connect, and protect them. If that's you, it's easy to feel like nothing you do is ever good enough. The work feels never-ending. Taking care of your own needs might seem impossible.

Transforming empathic distress (aka compassion fatigue) is absolutely possible for you and your staff. That's why the Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida is once again offering its Compassion Fatigue Strategies online course with certified compassion fatigue educator Jessica Dolce.

This course will help you recognize signs and symptoms of compassion fatigue, burnout, and vicarious trauma, learn how to reduce stress injury, increase your self-care and team-care practices, build compassion satisfaction, restore resiliency, and make successful changes in your life and in your organization.

Registration is open now to anyone who works with animals. The course is eligible for 15 credits of CE for veterinarians in Florida, Certified Animal Welfare Administrator (CAWA), and National Animal Control Association (NACA).

Designed for busy professionals, this online course is available 24/7 and self-paced for the flexibility you need. You'll have access to all of the class materials on day one and then you can do the work at your own speed. Students will also get together for 4 live calls to practice stress reduction and mindfulness techniques - this is like 4 hours of self-care, built right into the class. Calls will be recorded and shared for those unable to attend the live sessions. Plus, we talk about what we're learning and experiencing on the discussion boards - so there's daily support from Jessica!

The course runs from February 6 through April 2, 2023. More details at:
https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/education/continuing-education/compassion-fatigue-strategies

Sponsored by Florida SART

ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING

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

Training Date

AWR-8 hours
Tues., Feb. 7, 2023
OPS-24 hours
Feb. 25-27, 2023
Mar. 13-15, 2023
All trainings 8 AM to 5 PM
CEs provided by
Florida State Fire College

Point of Contact:

Brandi Phillips
brandikphillips@ufl.edu

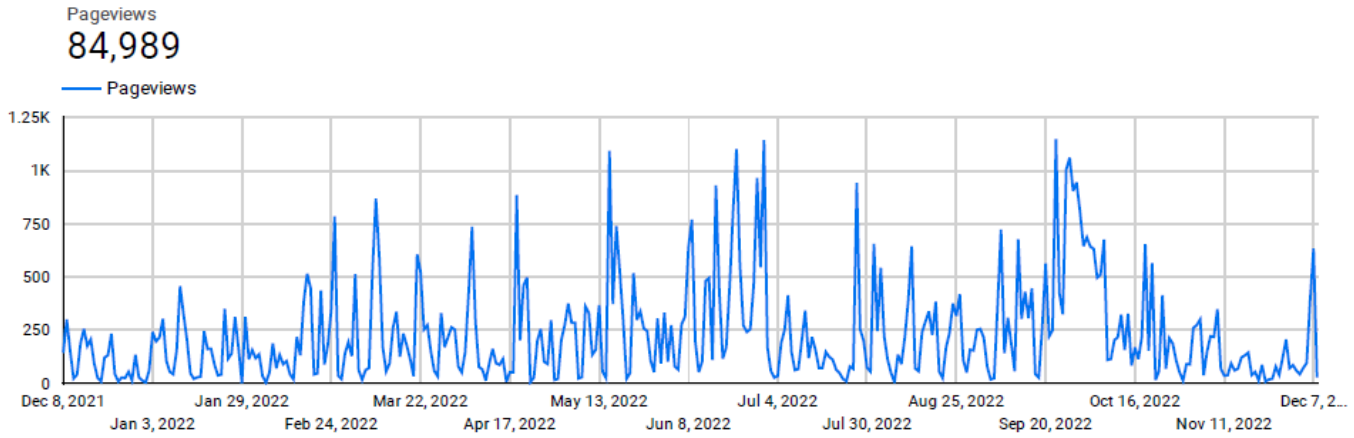
Register for free at bit.ly/2023ATRTraining

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

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

Florida SART Advisory Board Meets

On December 13, 2022, the Florida SART Advisory Board met at the Florida Farm Bureau Federation building in Gainesville. Regular business included a review of the SART Partner Representative contact list, and updates to the 2022 In-Kind Partner contributions, SART equipment, and upcoming SART projects in events for the New Year. Dr. Jiannong Xin provided a report on the SART.org website, highlighting 84,989 pageviews amongst 10,817 users over the past year. Currently, there are 1,249 registered SART member accounts.



SART Partners discussed Hurricane Ian and SART's After Action Report (AAF) and attendees were treated to an animal technical rescue demonstration by the UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) team. UF IFAS Extension debuted the new IFAS & SART Partnership Video (see cover page), in addition to providing an update to the Mental Health First Aid Focus Group for Farmers.

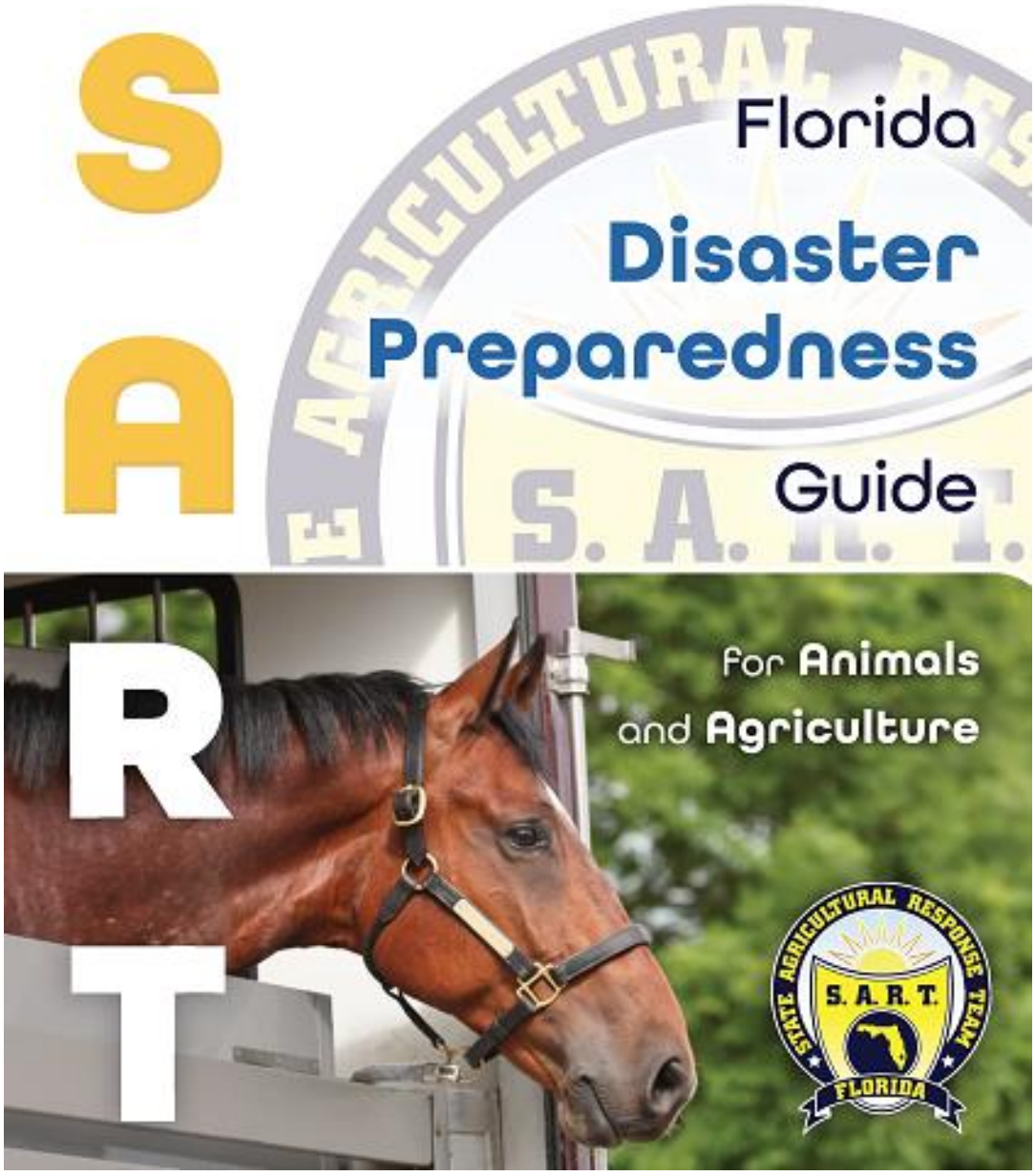
The next in-person quarterly meeting will be scheduled soon.

SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

The FDACS Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture developed by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) has been complete and posted to the SART website, flsart.org under the "Resources" tab.

This Guide has been developed to help County Emergency Managers respond to disasters that impact animals and agriculture within the state of Florida. Please use the link provided to take you directly to the new Florida SART Disaster Preparedness Guide.

This Guide was developed with the collaboration of the Florida SART partners from across Florida. Many Florida SART partner agencies and FDACS staff contributed to this Guide through their expertise, editing and review. These Florida SART partners are recognized throughout the Guide by their logos.



Disasters and Mental Health Online Training

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

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

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

1 Disaster Stress & Mental Health

45 min. content + 15 min. activity

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

2 Community Recovery After Disasters

30 min. content + 15 min. activity

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

3 Coping & Providing Support After Disasters

30 min. content + 10 min. activity

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

4 Disaster Stress & Mental Health Resources

15 min. content

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

Free, self-paced training with certification!

Access training through QR code

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

Food Safety and Food Defense Report

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

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

Baking Safety This Winter Season

The winter season brings delicious homemade goodies like cookies, cakes, and breads. If you enjoy making holiday treats from scratch using raw ingredients, here are a few important tips to help keep you safe from foodborne illness.

- Keep all raw foods, like eggs and flour, separate from ready-to eat foods.
- Keep raw eggs refrigerated at 40 °F or below until ready to use.
- Desserts containing eggs should be baked to a safe internal temperature of 145 °F.
- Follow package directions on baking mixes and other flour-containing products for correct cooking temperatures and times.
- Remember, flour is a powder that can spread easily.
- Wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds before and after touching raw ingredients.

For more information on food safety, visit the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website.

SART Resources and Links

Large Animal Incident Response Plan Template
https://flsart.org/resource/TLAER

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

Get Involved! Florida Veterinary Corps
https://flsart.org/getInvolved/vetcorps.jsp

Dealing with a Florida Winter Weather Event
https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FY1407

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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