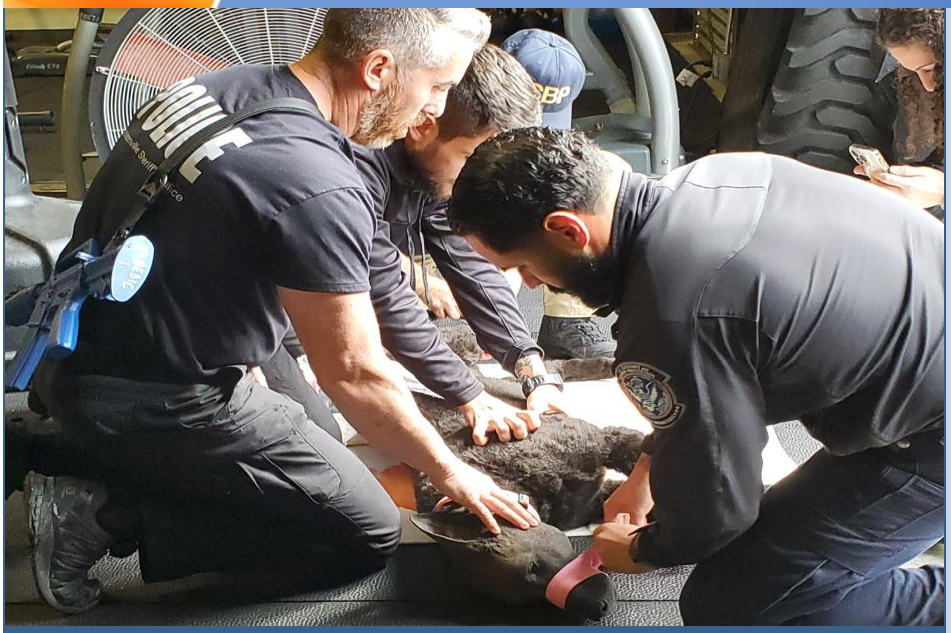
The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team



Using a fake dog, trainees participate in K9 Handler Training.

K9 Handler Training Sponsored by SART

The K9 First Responder and Tactical Combat Casualty Care Training is sponsored by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and in partnership with the Florida National Guard Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force and K9 Medic. This training was hosted at Camp Blanding, the primary military reservation and training base for the Florida National Guard, on February 1st – 3rd.

Over the course of 3 days K9 handlers from a variety of jurisdictions including local, state, and federal law enforcement and regulatory agencies participated in in-person training. The topics covered in the training ranged from safe K9 handling and comprehensive vital assessments to treating the most common emergencies such as heat stroke and bloat/Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (GDV), along with tactical injuries such as gunshot wounds. Some handlers were able to bring their K9s to participate in hands on trainings and mock emergency scenarios.

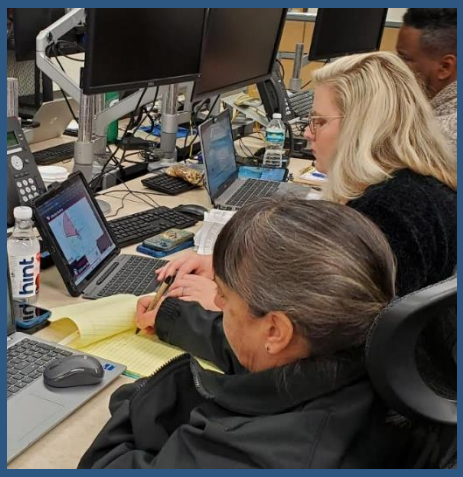
"Partnering with K9 MEDIC and the Florida National Guard, SART has worked to bring a comprehensive, hands-on training experience that focused on protecting and caring for K9 first responders in the field before they could get the K9 to a veterinary facility," said Emily Nolen, Florida SART Coordinator, FDACS Division of Animal Industry. "By providing better training the handler can feel confident in learning to apply these emergency medical skills for their K9 partner. They can prepare themselves and their K9 partner for all situations, whether a vehicle accident, a hurricane, or even a mass causality situation that they're called to assist with."

Special Features of this Issue:

- *FEPA 2023 Annual Meeting and Work Session*
- *Have You Seen the New FDACS and UF IFAS Partnership Video?*
- *Disasters and Mental Health Online Training*

"The Turkey Point NPP Exercise was a great opportunity for us to learn more about Radiological Incidents and other ESF teams."

— Kris Abel and Emily Nolen
ESF 17 team at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant Exercise



FEPA 2023 Annual Meeting and Work Session

Hi, Kris Abel coming to you from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Division of Animal Industry. I recently attended the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association's (FEPA) 2023 Annual Meeting and Work Session from January 30th to February 3rd in Orlando. This annual meeting and work session focused on communicating lessons learned, taking advantage of training opportunities (both personal and professional), understanding the "hot" topics in Emergency Management (EM) along with policy and procedure updates, but most of all being able to once again network in-person with fellow FEPA EM professionals from all over the State.

Monday, we hit the ground running, FEPA offered an 8-hour training session on Peer-to-Peer Mental Health, that was, "…solely intended to improve the core skills central to creating a supportive net to "catch" any…colleague in need." This class was very interactive as the instructors utilized an online polling application to encourage class participation by answering questions by cell phone. This eliminated stigmas because your answers were recorded without your name and the instructors did not have to "encourage" participants to raise their hands or speak up.

Everyone felt comfortable participating without being singled out for their questions or responses and cultivated a wide variety of responses and differing prospectives about mental health issues. We worked on our active listening skills, recognizing roadblocks preventing effectiveness, realizing when our peers need support, connecting with them, and helping them find the resources they need. Overall, it was an awesome class, and I would recommend it to all!

Tuesday, I participated in an all-day Mass Care Rap Session and listened to how groups handled Hurricane Ian, their lessons learned and what worked and what did not, and how to better manage the next major event. A great format!

Wednesday was work session day. After the "official" general session opening, I attended "Sheltering from the Ground Up"; "Leveraging Existing County Staff During Response"; and "Debris Here, There, and Everywhere". All good sessions, and it was interesting to learn how many of the challenges were experienced by different counties were the same, and how each of them responded based on their resources.

Thursday brought on more work sessions after the General Session and the Coastal Counties' Points-of-View on their Hurricane Ian Response and on-going Recovery efforts. I learned about CERT Programs and the different types in my first work session, and piggy-backed this with learning about the partnerships of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the business sectors.

Friday morning brought a close to the General Session and a presentation by the Inland Counties on their response and on-going recovery from Hurricane Ian.

Overall, at least from this participants perspective there was several great training sessions and workshops and I look forward to seeing all my new friends/colleagues/FEPA family in 2024!

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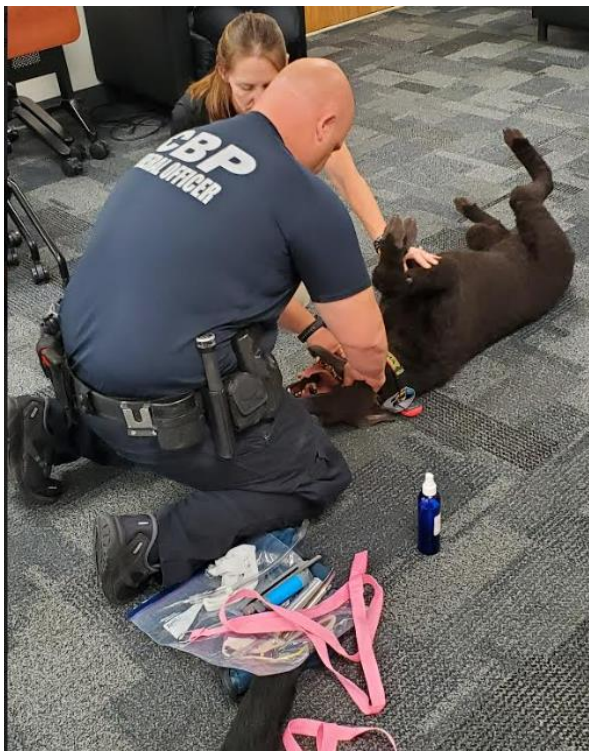
K9 Handler Training Sponsored by SART (In Photos)

Continuing the cover story in photos, note that all K9 training shown is performed with mock dogs and firearms. No real dogs or firearms were used.



Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (Tobamovirus, ToBRFV) is a highly virulent virus that can cause severe fruit loss in tomatoes and peppers. Although ToBRFV has not been detected in Florida, major outbreaks exist in many parts of the world. With Florida's increasing reliance on tomato imports, there is a potential risk of introducing ToBRFV into the state.

ToBRFV was first identified on tomatoes in Israel in 2014 (Luria et al., 2017) and has since been detected in Germany, Italy and Mexico in 2018. ToBRFV was detected in a tomato greenhouse in California and was eradicated in 2018 (Ling et al., 2018). In the Mexican state of Michoacan, Yurecuaro and Tanhuato municipalities, ToBRFV was found in commercial tomatoes and pepper crops (Beltran et al. 2019).

Tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) and pepper (Capsicum sp.) are the two major hosts for ToBRFV. However, the virus could be experimentally transmitted to European black nightshade, Chenopodium spp, Chenopodiastrum spp, and Petunia spp when directly inoculated.

The symptoms are very similar to those caused by tobamoviruses including Tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) and Tomato mosaic virus (ToMV), which include yellowing of leaf veins, yellow spots and brown rugose symptoms on fruit (Figure 1) (Luria et al., 2017). Necrotic lesions may also be seen in calyx, peduncles and pedicels of the fruit (Figure 1). The disease is more severe at a young age and usually develops within 12 to 18 days of infection. It can result in 30 to 70% yield loss.

For more information, visit: https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/83755/file/pest-alert-tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus.pdf

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Have You Seen 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.

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

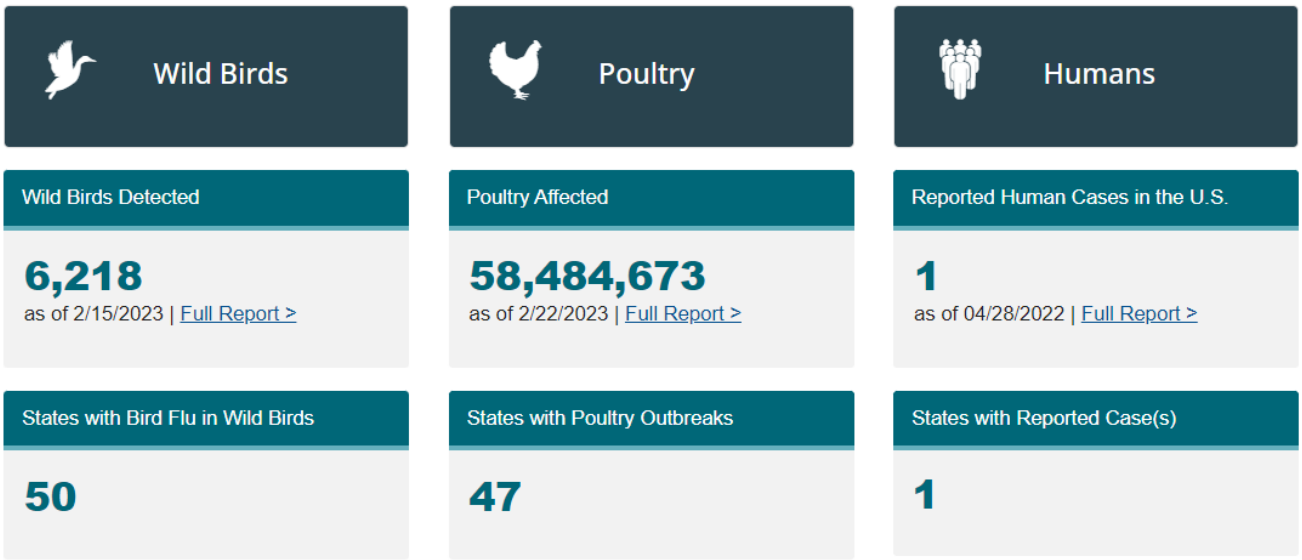
PRIMARY AUDIENCE
Emergency Managers
County Employees
Veterinary/Animal Services
Shelter Volunteers

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



CDC: Bird Flu Current Situation Summary

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: USDA APHIS 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
- 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 Protection 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…

- American Humane Supports Mission to Save Animals After Powerful Earthquake in Turkey and Syria (American Humane)
- Puppy Mill Update: A New Trend for Dog Breeders and Dealers? (ASPCA)

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 February - 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. This training is state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Awareness Level	Operations Level
• March 5, 2023 • March 11, 2023 • April 15, 2023	• March 6-7, 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)
• TBD	• March 13-15, 2023

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

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.

PEST ALERT: Lime Swallowtail Found in Key West

On September 23, 2022, photographs were posted online of larvae of the Lime Swallowtail (Papilio demoleus L.) on a citrus tree on Key West. Division of Plant Industry (DPI) personnel visited the property and collected two specimens, which morphological examination and DNA sequencing confirmed to be P. demoleus malayanus Wallace, the subspecies that is invasive in the Caribbean (Eastwood et al. 2006).

This butterfly is a well-known pest of citrus foliage in the Old-World tropics. It has been established in the Greater Antilles since 2004, and its invasion of Florida has been anticipated. A thorough survey by DPI personnel found more residential properties on Key West with immature stages on dooryard citrus trees.

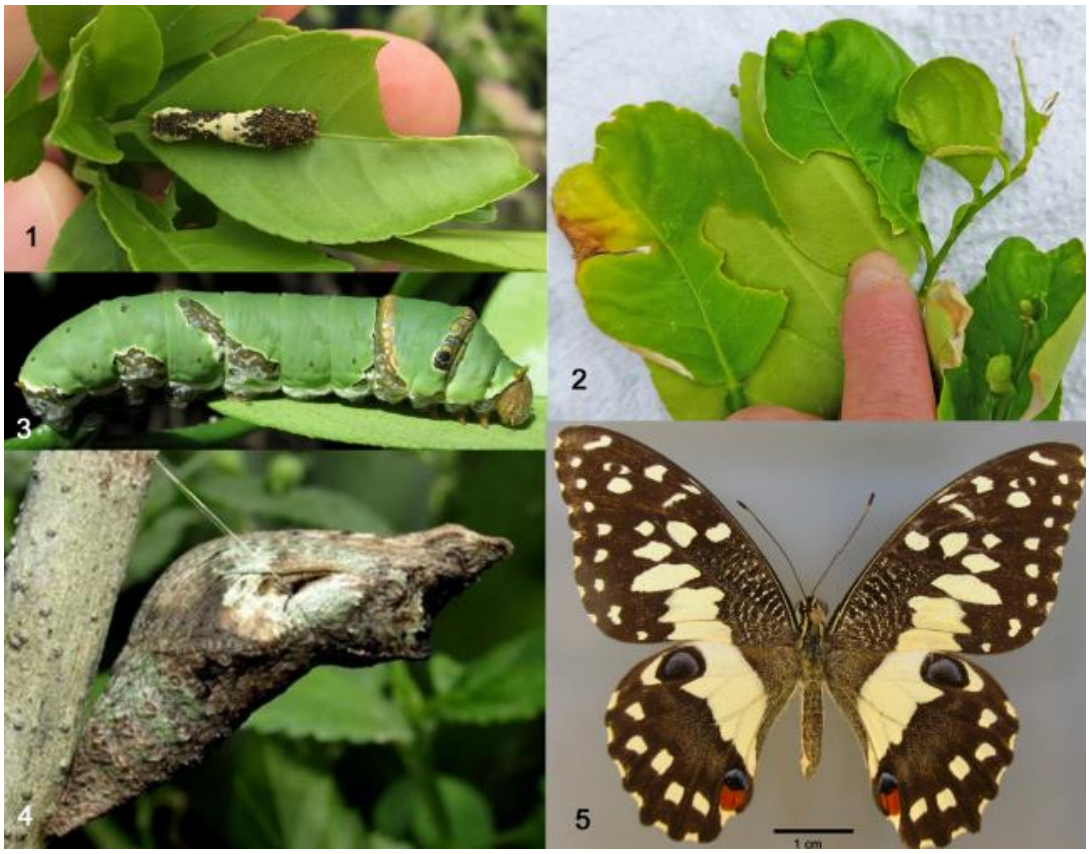


Fig. 1: 3rd instar larva; Fig. 2: Leaf damage on citrus; Fig. 3: 5th (final) instar; Fig. 4: pupa (encircled); Fig. 5: adult butterfly. Images not to scale. Photos by K.M. Burnette, FDACS-DPI (Fig. 1); J.E. Hayden, FDACS-DPI (Figs. 2 and 5); D.M. Fernández Hernández, Camagüey, Cuba (Figs. 3 and 4).

Papilio demoleus is native from the Middle East to southern China, with the subspecies P. d. alayanus native to mainland Southeast Asia. Its range has expanded into Indonesia and the Philippines following citrus cultivation. In the Caribbean region, it occurs in Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. In the continental U.S., butterflies have been reported by the general public in California and Louisiana, but their status is uncertain.

Papilio demoleus is a key pest of citrus in Asia (Mineo 1986). It can defoliate seedlings and young trees, so its effect on nursery stock may be greater than on established groves.

For more information, visit: https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/92015/file/FDACS-P-01665_2022-10%28LimeSwallowtailPestAlert%29-6793cb2be67640c8ace1371ac6e2f1fd.pdf

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

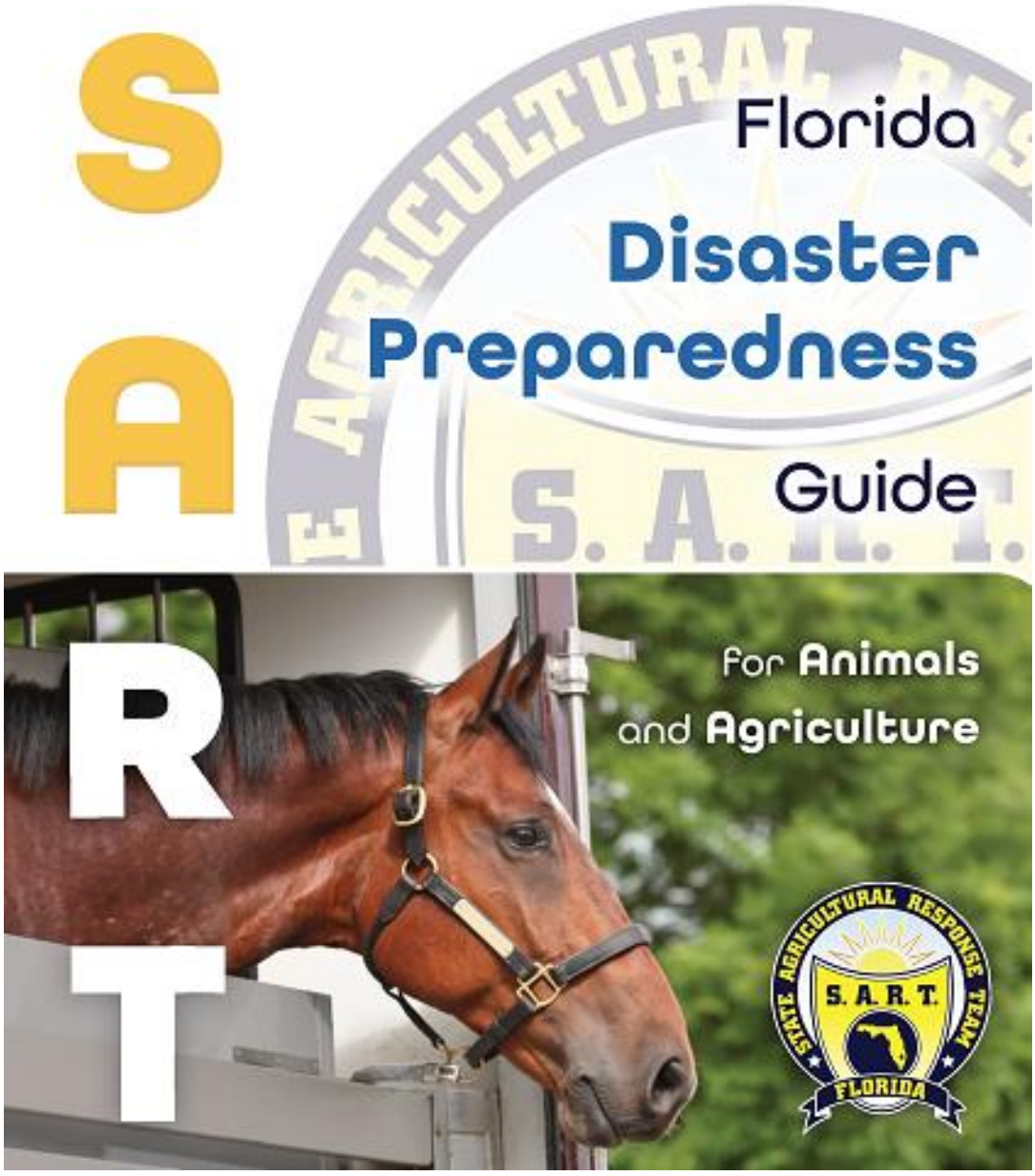
STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM
S. A. R. T.
FLORIDA

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.

Annual Food Permit

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) requires any facility manufacturing, processing, packing, holding or preparing food, or selling food at wholesale or retail in Florida must have an annual food permit.

FDACS defines a seafood processor as follows: "A processor of fresh or saltwater finfish, crustaceans, other forms of aquatic animal life (including, but not limited to, alligator, frog, aquatic turtle, jellyfish, sea cucumber and sea urchin and the roe of such animals) other than birds or mammals, and all mollusks, where such animal life is intended for human consumption, primarily for wholesale distribution."

A seafood market is defined as a retail store engaged primarily in the sale of seafood. A limited number of other foods may be stocked, but inventory and sales are predominantly fish, crustaceans, or shellfish.
You must obtain a permit from the FDACS to process food for sale to the public.

To obtain information/requirements for a food permit, please call 850-488-3951 or visit the FDACS Food Inspections.

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

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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