The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

Register now for the 2023 SART Planning Workshop!

Special Features of this Issue:

- *SART Website Update and Quarterly Statistics*
- *We Need to Talk! – It's Time to Prepare for Hurricane Season*
- *Make Food Safety a Priority for Your Hurricane Preparedness Plan*

"I have such gratitude to have been selected to receive the Citizen of the Year award. Thank you all so much for being here to share in this occasion. I am honored to have my work recognized in this way by the FVMA."

— LeiAnna Tucker
Emergency Programs Manager
ECO for ESF 17 and FLSART
Division of Animal Industry, FDACS
Story on Page 3

Register Now for the 2023 SART Planning Workshop Starting on June 6th in Daytona Beach

Don't delay, register now for the upcoming 2023 SART Planning Workshop! The workshop is by invite only to our county ESF 17 contacts and SART partner agencies. Kicking off the afternoon of Tuesday, June 6th, in Daytona Beach, Florida, the organizers say that "With new courses, workshops, and sessions, there will be plenty to learn and many opportunities for you to be a part of SART's future!"

The SART Planning Workshop will take place at The Shores Resort and Spa. Registration is free and there will be limited hotel room sponsorships available for attendees. The workshop will familiarize participants with disaster situations and provide background information on animal and agricultural-related emergency management issues. Some workshop topics include:

- Incident management for livestock trailer rollover
- Coordinating large animal seizure and hoarding needs
- Animal Technical Rescue
- Small Animal Emergency Sheltering
- Mental Health First Aid for Disaster Responders

Visit www.FLSART.org to register and read more about the hotel sponsorship and program overview. Complete details will be posted soon!

For any workshop related questions, please contact Emily Nolen at Emily.Nolen@fdacs.gov or via phone at 850-756-1565.

WILL YOU BE READY WHEN THE NEXT DISASTER STRIKES?

JOIN US AT THE 2023 SART PLANNING WORKSHOP

JUNE 6-8, 2023

THE SHORES RESORT AND SPA • DAYTONA BEACH, FL

Meet with experts to get the resources you need and learn how to integrate animal care and agriculture into your disaster planning while enjoying this lovely resort!

The Shores RESORT & SPA

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

REGISTER BY MAY 1ST AT FLSART.ORG

The SART Mission:
Coordinating Disaster Response
for Animals and Agriculture

www.flsart.org

FDACS ESF 17 and SART Partners Awarded at the 2023 Florida Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conference for Disaster Preparedness and Response

LeiAnna Tucker, ESF 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer and SART Administrator, is 2023 recipient for CITIZEN OF THE YEAR award – To be awarded to any non-veterinarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the Association and veterinary medicine.

"I have such gratitude to have been selected to receive the Citizen of the Year award. Thank you all so much for being here to share in this occasion. I am honored to have my work recognized in this way by the Florida Veterinary Medical Association. Many hours, days and nights, went into building readiness and responding to support our animal and agricultural sectors and the veterinary community who protect them. And it means so much to me that the work I am passionate about also resonates with others. This accomplishment is not something I did alone, and there are many others who deserve to share in this award. I would like to thank Dr. Terry Clekis of our FVMA for being my champion since the beginning when we responded during Hurricane Irma and his unwavering support for answering to the call of duty, building stronger partnerships for disaster preparedness between our agencies, and his friendship."

Dr. Lawrence Garcia, University of Florida SART partner, is 2023 recipient for GOLD STAR AWARD – To be awarded to members who have contributed much of their time and energy to the Association and/or a local association for the advancement of veterinary medicine and the profession. To be eligible for this award, the nominee must have been an active member of the Association for at least the past three years.

SART PARTNERS – Dr. Nelly Amador-Jehn, LeiAnna Tucker, Dr. Angela Lindsey, Dr. Lawrence Garcia, and Dr. Terry Clekis – are 2023 recipients for HURRICANE HEROES – For Going Above and Beyond The Call Of Duty During Hurricane Ian.

SART Website Update and Quarterly Statistics

We want to take a moment to highlight some of the improvements to the SART website and the stats to back them up! We are in the process of doing a major overhaul of the website – keep your eyes peeled – visit often.

Highlights

- Between December 2022 and March 2023, the total number of registered SART members increased by 47 individuals for a total of 1,276 members!
- The SART website is still top ranked for Google searches for "agricultural emergency response team" or "state agricultural emergency response" sites.
- The most visited pages on the SART website in rank order are:
    1. Home page
    2. Pet-Friendly Training
    3. Animal Rescue Training
    4. Member Area
    5. Disaster Preparedness Guide

Web Stats

- Users went up by almost 1,000 individuals from December 2022 and March 2023.
- Page views went up by just over 5,600!

A big shout out to all our SART partners, members, and our web team for driving more traffic to our website and making it the model for other SARTs. One last thank you goes to Dr. Xin and his fantastic team at UF IFAS who have made the SART website vision a reality!

Did you know that every year the University of Florida's Shelter Medicine Program Disaster Assessment Team is one of the primary information hubs for Florida animal shelters needing help with disaster planning, resources, and training? UF coordinates with local, state, and national organizations to assess needs to ensure assistance is provided to shelters both pre- and post-storm.

How We Help

- Provide information to, and connect shelters with, training or Standard Operating Procedural planning they might need in case of a disaster.
- Handle initial shelter assessments post-landfall via phone, email, networking, and social media to get Florida animal shelters the help they need until the Incident Command Post is set up and functioning.
- Work in collaboration with many amazing agencies to make sure all shelters in the impacted areas are contacted and assisted.

So we can be as efficient and expedient as possible in our efforts to alert and assist your shelters in emergencies

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACTS HERE

And then visit our website for more information

UF Shelter Medicine Program
College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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.

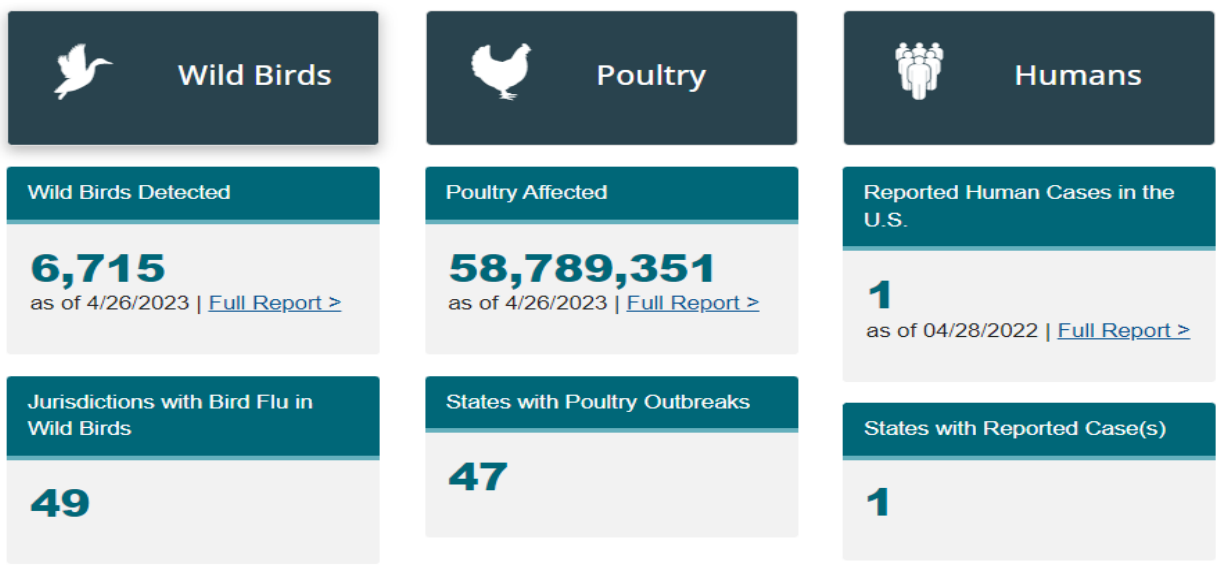
Published in December 2022 on YouTube, the video features interviews with LeiAnna Tucker (FDACS Emergency Programs Manager), Dr. Saqib Mukhtar (IF/IFAS Associate Dean for Extension, Agriculture, and Natural Resources), and Dr. Angie Lindsey (Extension Disaster Education Network [EDEN]).

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.

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.

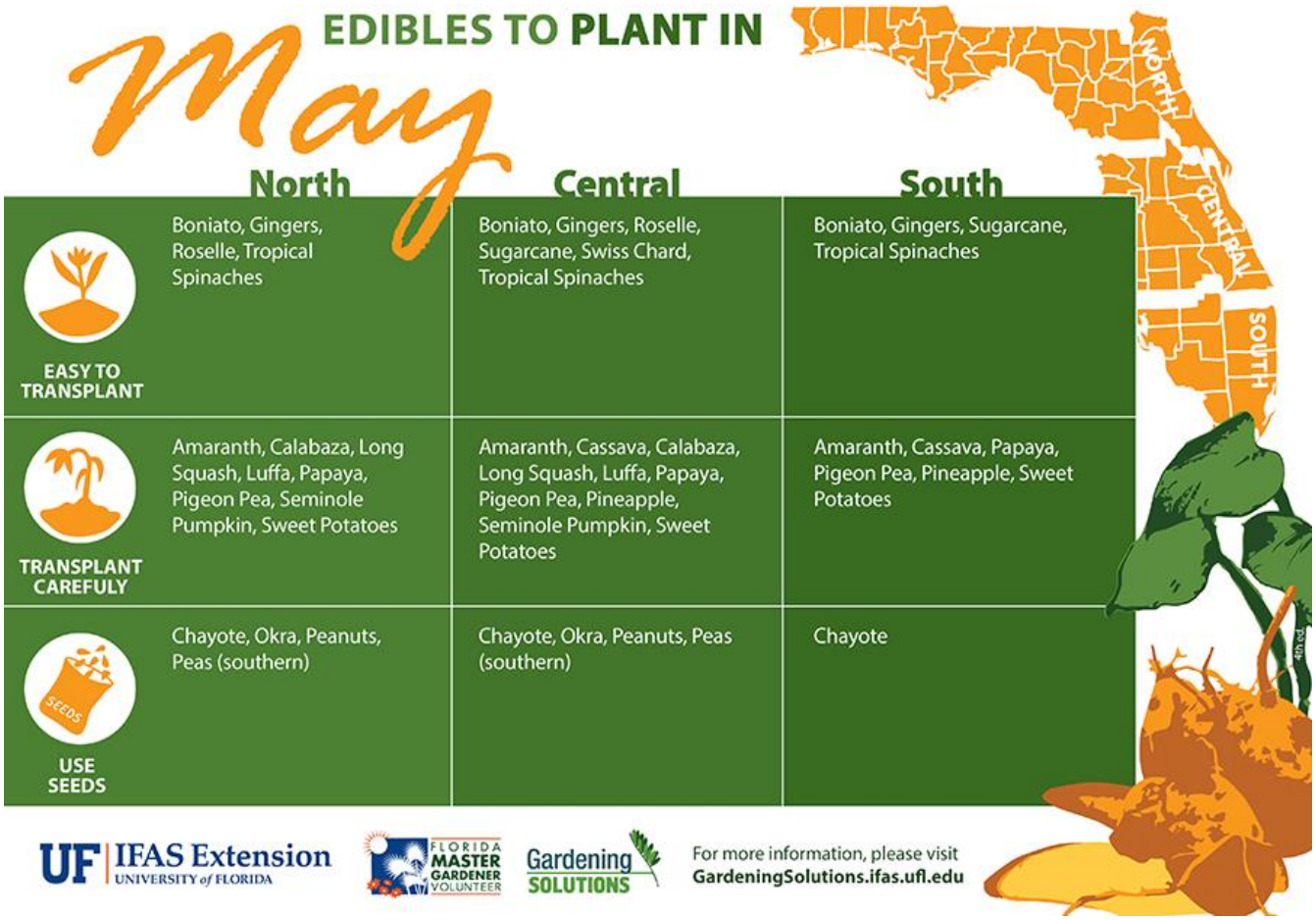
Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

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…

- Giant African Land Snail Update (FDACS)
- MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Disaster Preparedness Chair – Dr. Terry Clekis (FVMA)
- Commissioner Wilton Simpson Announces New Appointees to Florida State Fair Authority Board (FDACS)



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 May - 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. During an emergency, ESF 17 and SART provides necessary food and water to affected areas to help protect animals, agriculture, and pets.

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
• May 26, 2023	• May 20-21, 2023 • June 10-11, 2023

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

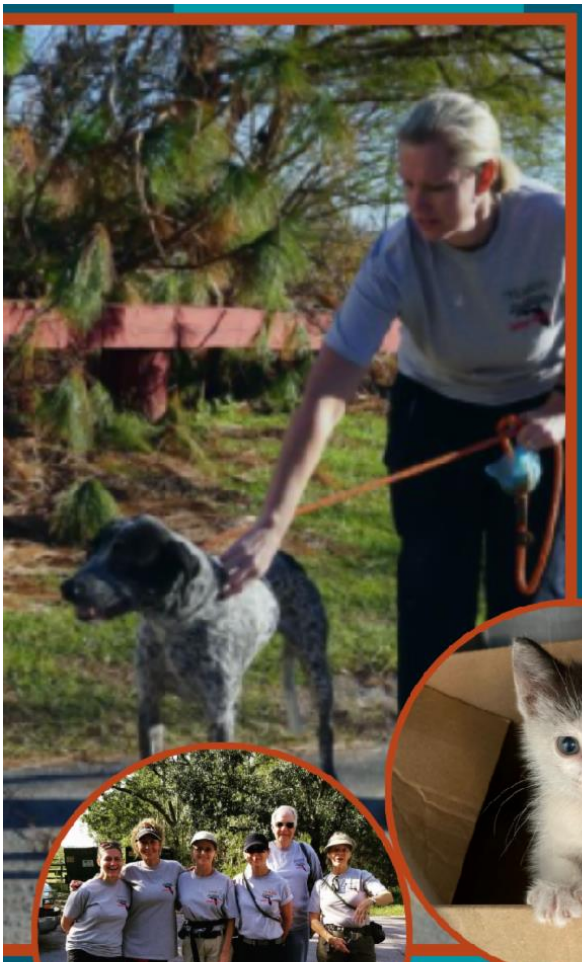
2023 SART Planning Conference — June 6-8, 2023

Sponsored by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), the 2023 SART Planning Workshop is a statewide conference serving Florida's county emergency management professionals and SART partner agencies. The purpose of the workshop is to present a statewide forum where SART leaders and experts in the fields of animal care and agriculture can share best practices and resources for integrating animal care and agriculture into disaster planning.

ALL REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED PRIOR TO APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION. YOUR REGISTRATION APPLICATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOU A SPACE AT THIS WORKSHOP. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY.

1. After you submit your registration application, the SART workshop organizer will review it for approval.
2. You will receive an e-mail from the SART workshop organizer within 7 days regarding your approval to attend, and hotel sponsorship decision if you selected 'yes' to be considered.
3. There is no fee to register.
4. **Deadline Extended! Last day to submit your registration application is May 11th by 11:59pm.**

For additional information, please visit: https://flsart.org/EventMeetings/PlanningConferences



Train with Florida SARC MAY 20-21!

ST. LUCIE COUNTY FLORIDA

FLORIDA State Animal Response Coalition Animal Rescue

St. Lucie County and FL SARC are partnering to bring you our 2-day Level 2 OPS Training! If you completed our Level 1 Awareness and have a current FEMA 100 ICS certificate, you can register. Scan the QR Code, or go to

https://bit.ly/41aiPU3

LIMITED PUBLIC SEATS AVAILABLE!

Learn how to respond to natural and man-made disasters, and save the animals left behind.

Go to www.flsarc.org/training for more info!

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

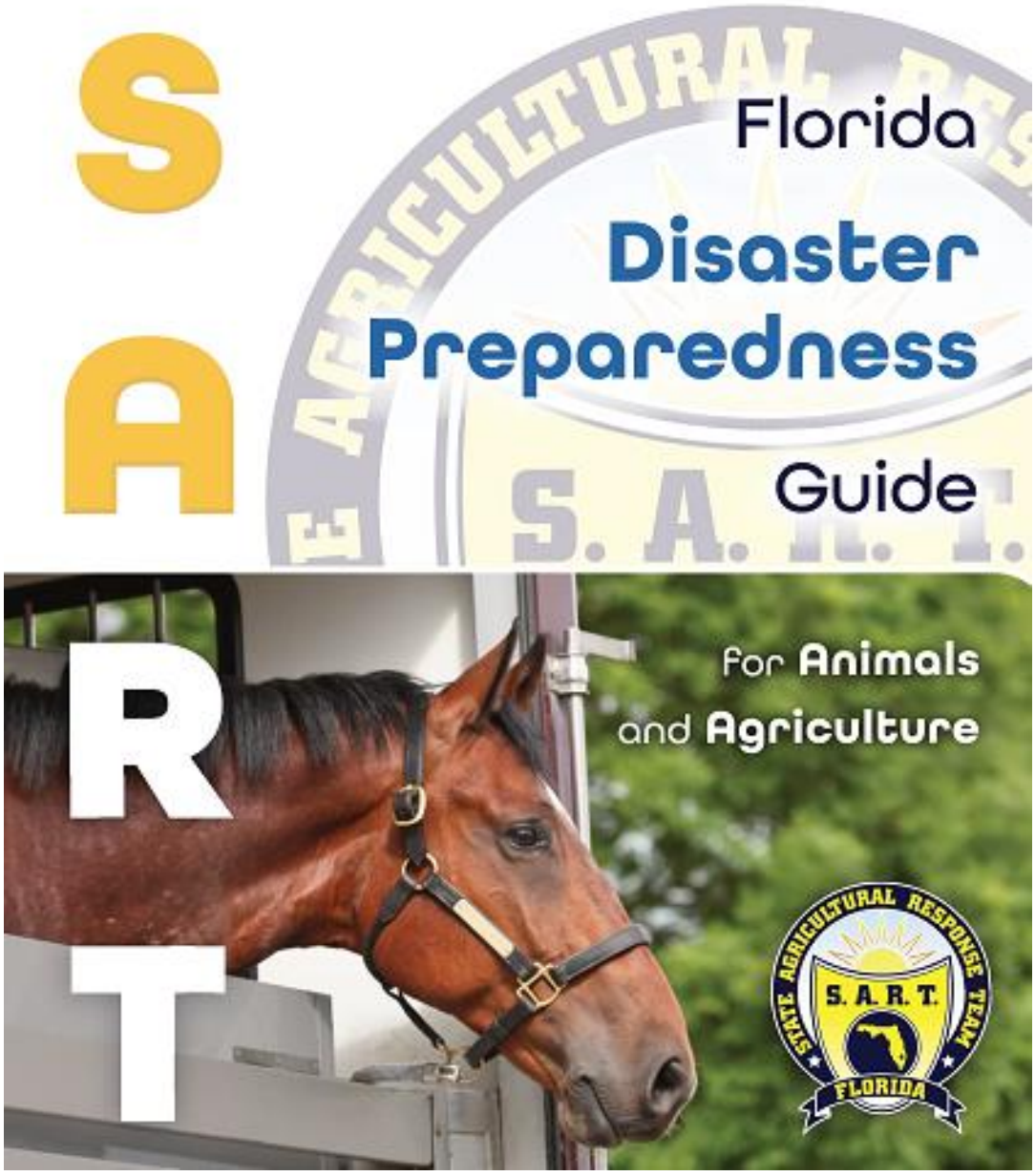
POINT OF CONTACT
LeiAnna Tucker
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(850) 410-0920
LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov

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.



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.

Make Food Safety a Priority for Your Hurricane Preparedness Plan

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

SART Resources and Links

Large Animal 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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