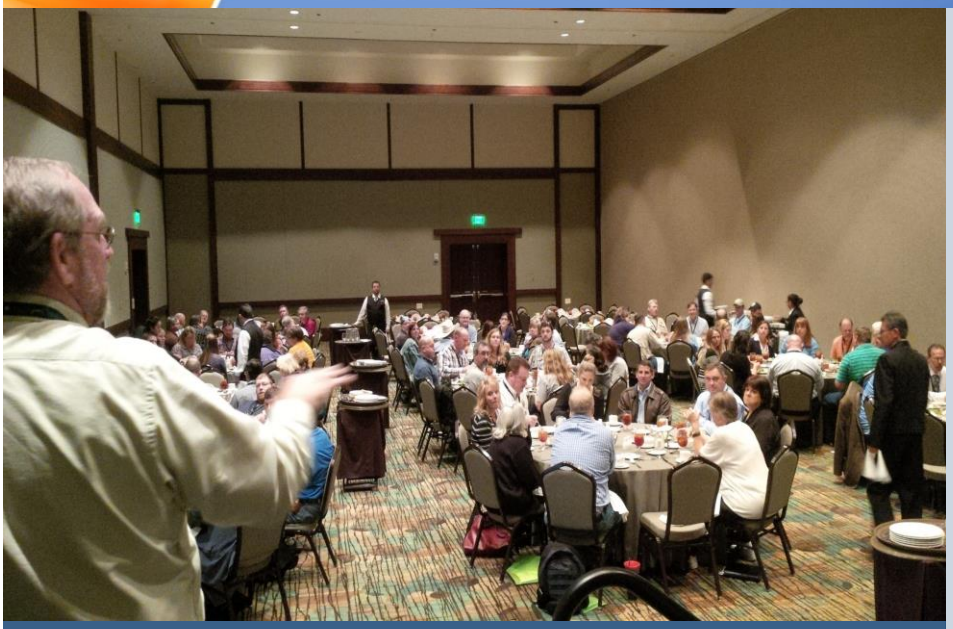
The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team



Get ready for the 2023 SART Planning Workshop!

Special Features of this Issue:

- *2023 Hurricane Awareness Tour Arrives in Tallahassee*
- *ESF 17 at the Annual Governors Hurricane Conference!*
- *ESF 17 Annual County Meetings*

"Pet Friendly Sheltering is a very important part of Florida's Hurricane Preparedness and Response, and it makes evacuation with pets not only more enticing but accessible to Florida residents."

— LeiAnna Tucker
Emergency Programs Manager
ECO for ESF 17 and FLSART
Division of Animal Industry, FDACS
Story on Page 4

The 2023 SART Planning Workshop Starts on June 6th in Daytona Beach

The 2023 SART Planning 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 accidents
- Coordinating large-scale animal seizure and hoarding needs
- Animal Technical Rescue
- Small Animal Emergency Sheltering
- Mental Health First Aid for Disaster Responders

Visit www.FLSART.org to read more about the 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

2023 Hurricane Awareness Tour Arrives in Tallahassee

By Emily Nolen

Hi, everyone, as you all know the official Atlantic Hurricane season began June 1st and runs through November 30th. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) developed a Hurricane Awareness Tour to raise what else – Awareness!

Tallahassee and the International Airport was one of the lucky five gulf coast cities that was given the opportunity to host this tour. On May 4th, the ESF 17 Emergency Programs team was fortunate enough to attend on a beautiful Thursday morning.

The awareness issues that were brought to light…

- The dangers of the impacts from any type of tropical cyclone threats and…
- **The Importance of Developing a Personal Hurricane Plan!**

There was even representation from the Disaster Animal Response Team and our SART partner, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

ESF 17 at the Annual Governors Hurricane Conference!

On May 7th, 2023, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ESF 17 staff arrived in sunny Palm Beach, Florida, to attend the Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference (GHC). They spent the week learning more about how to become better prepared to respond during the upcoming Hurricane Season.

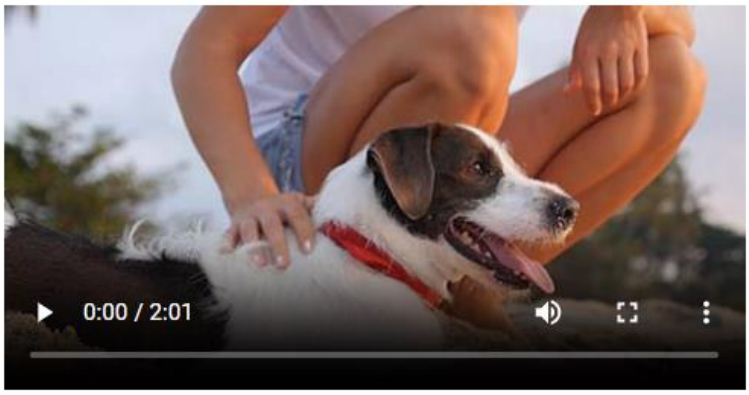
Some of the topics included How to Better Utilize and Keep Track of Volunteers, How to Better Manage Donations, First Responder Mental Health, and "What does it mean to be a service animal?". We were also able to take a full tour of the City of West Palm Beach's EOC, the Palm Beach County EOC, and the South Florida Water Management District EOC, learning more about not only how they prepare for disasters in their area but, how they respond to them as well.

Our very own LeiAnna Tucker (Emergency Programs Manager, Emergency Coordinating Officer, FDACS), presented on a panel session about Pet-Friendly Sheltering and Florida SART alongside the American Red Cross to provide information about what pet-friendly shelters are, laws and policies governing pet-friendly sheltering requirements, and how non-governmental organizations like the American Red Cross can and should partner with emergency management agencies to coordinate planning, operations and resources for supporting pet-friendly shelters. "Pet Friendly Sheltering is a very important part of Florida's Hurricane Preparedness and Response, and it makes evacuation with pets not only more enticing and beneficial for public safety but accessible to Florida residents," said Tucker.

Now that this year's GHC is in the books, your ESF 17 and SART Team is ready to respond to the next hurricane that hits Florida!

Did You Know? SART Offers Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team 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 includes 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 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.

The four-hour course is designed for emergency managers, county employees, veterinary and animal services, and shelter volunteers. There is no charge for this 100% online course.

For more information, please visit www.FLSART.org.

North Florida Farmers Recognized for Environmental Stewardship Efforts

Seven farm families were honored for their sustainability efforts with a County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) award during the 22nd Annual Suwannee CARES Celebration at the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center- Suwannee Valley. The event drew in more than 450 farmers, ranchers and members of surrounding counties.

The following farmers were recognized for caring for the environment: Clay and Lizzie Whitehead of Bradford County, Matthew Thomas of Columbia County, Clint Pittman of Columbia County, Jeffery Reed of Gilchrist County, Loran Brookins of Levy County, James Lewis of Levy County and Thomas Ransom of Suwannee County.

The CARES program was established by Florida Farm Bureau and the Suwannee River Partnership in 2001 to recognize superior natural resource conservation practices implemented by farmers and ranchers. These Best Management Practices have saved 1.5 million gallons of water per crop season within the Suwannee River Water Management District. The public benefits of these natural climate solutions practiced by farmers and ranchers include open spaces, fresh air, wildlife habitat and water recharge for aquifers.

For more information, please visit FloridaFarmBureau.org.

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 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.

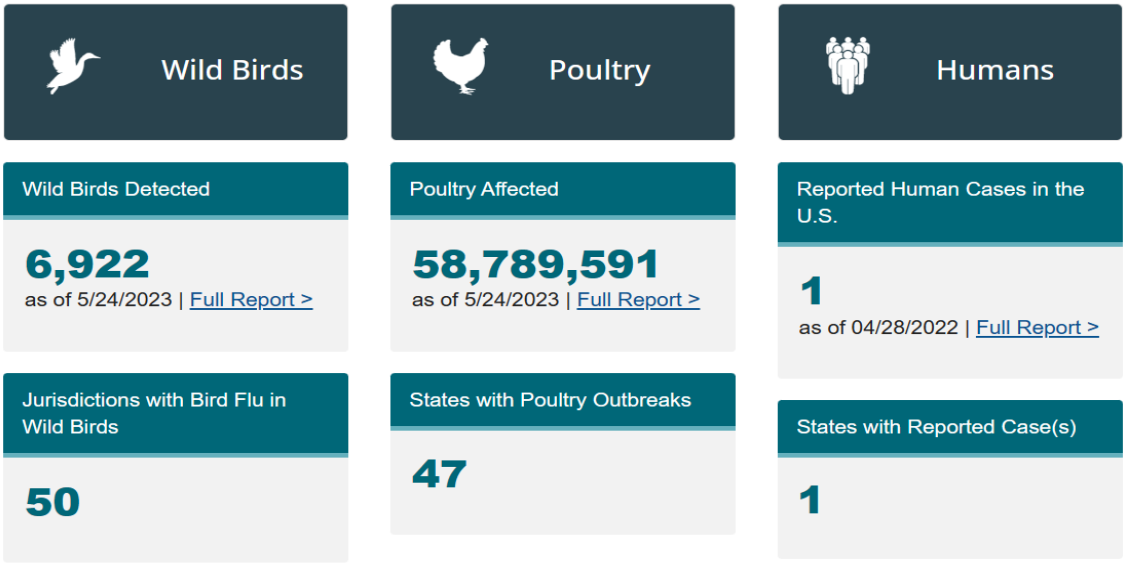
Published in December 2022 on YouTube, the video features interviews with LeiAnna Tucker (FDACS Emergency Programs Manager), Dr. Saqib Mukhtar (IF/IFAS Associate Dean for Extension, Agriculture, and Natural Resources), and Dr. Angie Lindsey (Extension Disaster Education Network [EDEN]).

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.

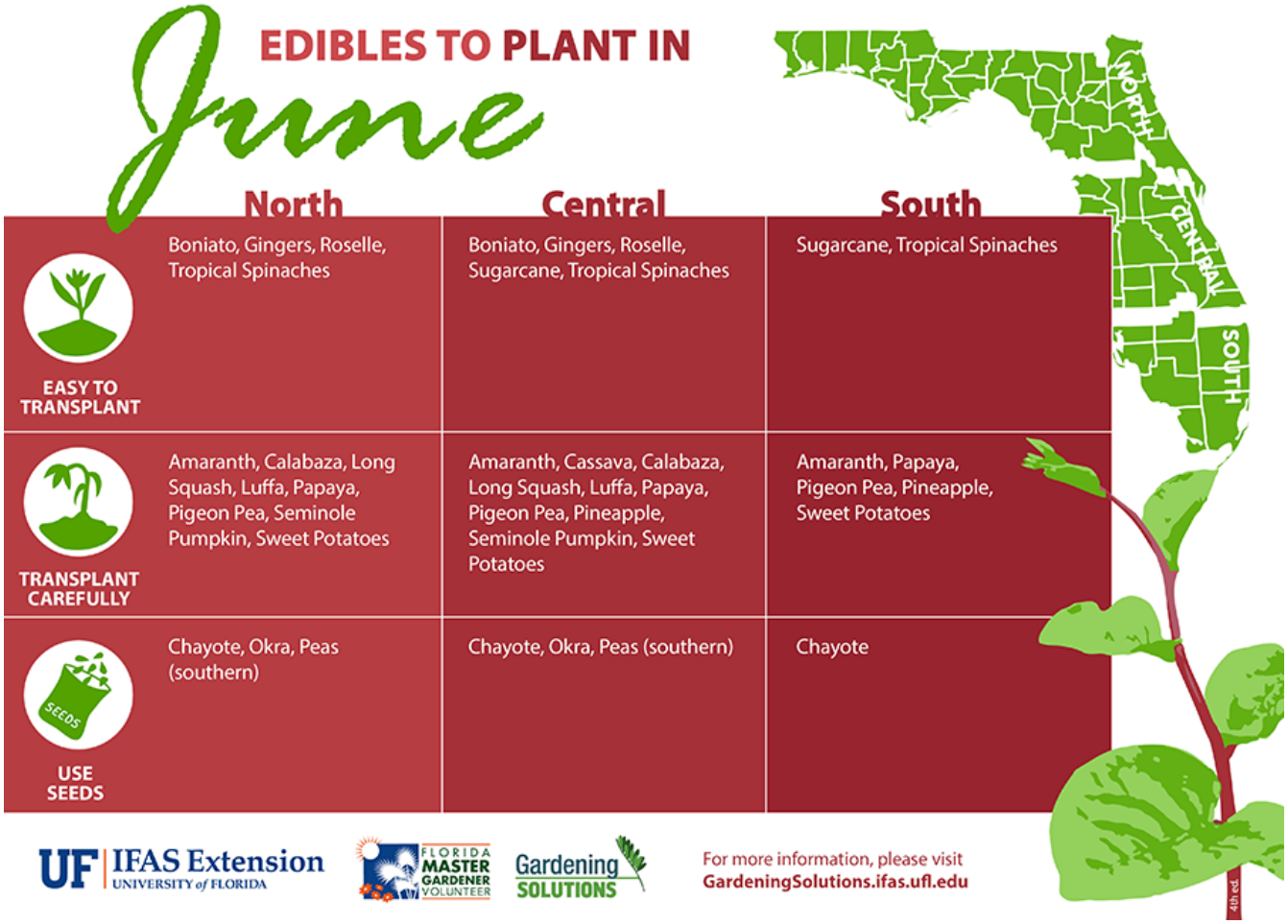
Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

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)
- California Affected by Vesicular Stomatitis (FDACS)
- USDA Farm Service Agency Policy Exceptions on Key Disaster Assistance Programs for Florida Producers Impacted by Hurricane Ian (FloridaCattlemen.org)



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 June - 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
• June 24-25, 2023 (Online)	• June 10-11, 2023

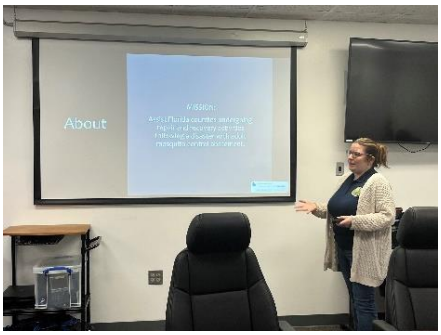
To register, visit: https://flsarc.org/training

2023 SART Planning Workshop — 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.

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

ESF 17 Annual County Meetings



Each year all six ESF 17 District Specialists meet with each county's emergency management staff, extension personal, and local animal services to talk more about that county's preparedness for a disaster effecting animals and agriculture. Counties are given information about local FDACS staff, what trainings and resources Florida SART has to offer, information about their local vector control resources, how the Division of Food Safety assesses risk within their areas and meet some SART partners. With hurricane season here, knowing more about each county's emergency management needs helps our ESF 17 staff and SART team become better prepared to respond and build relationships with counties on each other's resources.

These meetings have become important in building relationships with local officials and out ESF 17 staff, that when disaster strikes, we are ready to respond. We want to thank each of Florida's county personnel for giving us their time to meet and gain a better understanding of their county.

North Port Hurricane Expo

ESF 17 specialist, Melody Belanger, participated at the North Port Hurricane Expo at the George Mullin Activity Center in Sarasota, Florida on May 13th. Melody shared vital information about hurricane preparedness and SART sponsored trainings to a general audience of approximately 225 people from the surrounding areas. She was able to hand out flyers to just over 100 pet owners including dogs, cats, birds, and pocket pets with the help of Delanie Woods.

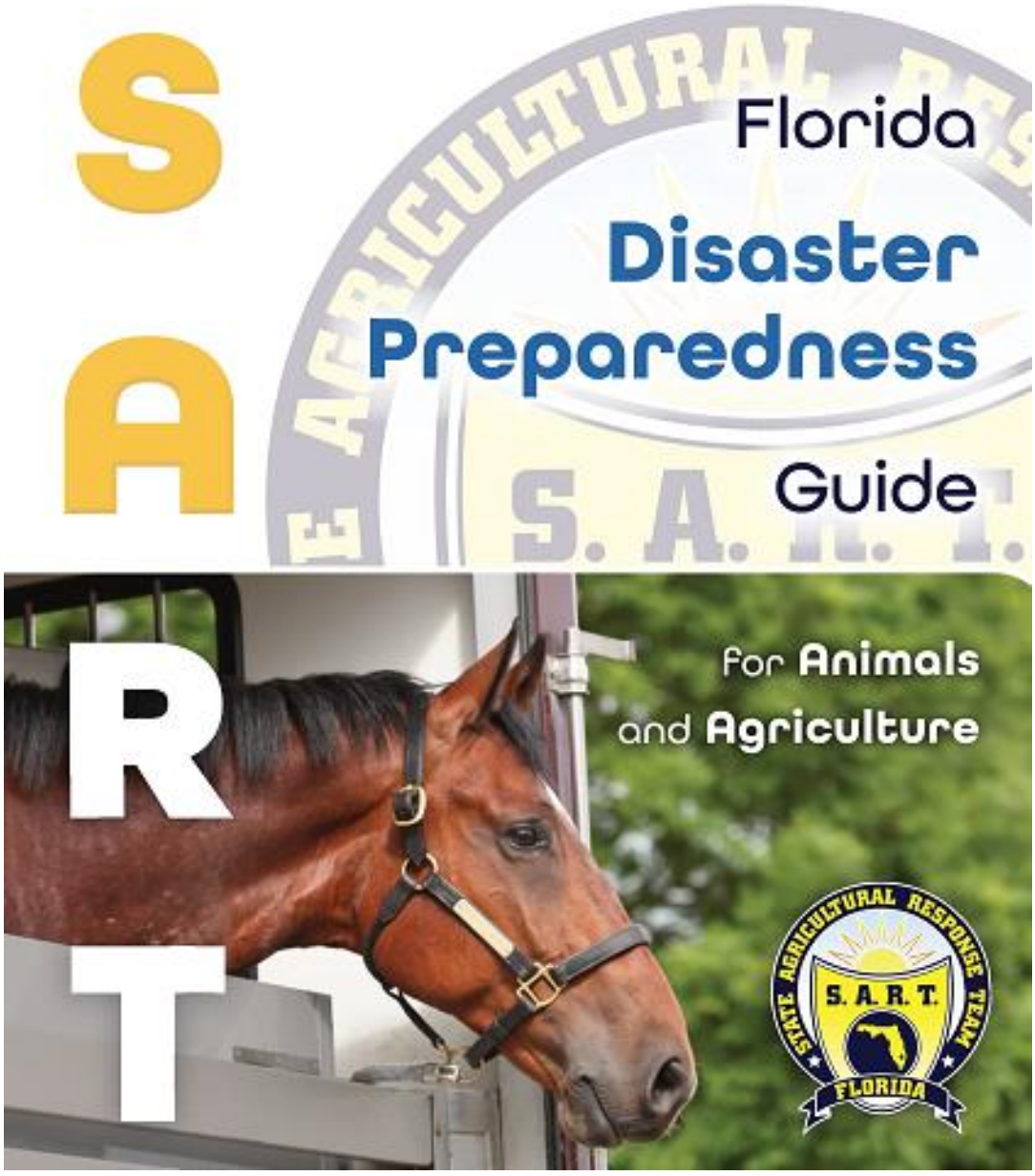
A variety of hurricane preparedness flyers relating to animals and agriculture including Dog Go Kit, Feline Go Kit, Bird Go Kit, and Pocket Pet Go Kit from the SART Disaster Preparedness Guide were printed and distributed at the expo. Checklists from FEMA for Dogs and Cats, Mental Health Training, and Pet Friendly Training flyers were also printed and distributed to provide the public extra valuable information as Florida residents get ready for the 2023 Hurricane Season.

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.

June as National Dairy Month

June marks National Dairy Month across the country. National Dairy Month started out as a way to distribute extra ice-cold milk during the warm summer months. It was established in 1937 by grocer organizations sponsoring "National Milk Month," and by 1939, June became the official "dairy month."

Did you know that there are about 300 varieties of cheese sold in the U.S., and it takes 1 gallon of milk to make 1 pound of cheese? Cheese provides protein, calcium, vitamin A, and phosphorus and helps you grow and maintain strong bones, repair body tissue and build strong muscles, and aids in vision and healthy skin.

Don't forget about your other dairy options, like milk, yogurt, cottage cheese, frozen yogurt, and ice cream! Need a recipe? Check out our FreshFromFlorida Florida Blueberry Ice Cream, Florida Strawberry Ice Cream, or Florida Key Lime Ice Cream recipes for a delicious summertime treat.

For more information, visit our Dairy Consumer Resources and Outreach website. (FDACS)

Dairy Fun Facts

Did You Know in Florida...

- Most of the dairy cows are Holsteins, which have the black and white spots.
- Each dairy cow produces about 6-8 gallons of milk each day and is milked 2-3 times per day.

Did You Know...

- It takes about 5-7 minutes for a cow to be milked.
- Cows have 32 teeth total, but they do not have top front teeth.
- Cows can smell up to 6 miles away.
- Dairy cows are creatures of habit and dairy farmers do their best to make sure these routines are kept daily.

They know around what time during the day they should be milked and what time of the day they should be eating, and they will let you know when they are hungry!

Because of this, cows will stand in line, waiting for their turn in the parlor to be milked.

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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