



The Sentinel

Newsletter of
the Florida State
Agricultural
Response Team



Attendees gathered in Daytona Beach for the 2023 SART Planning Workshop.

That's a Wrap for the 2023 SART Planning Workshop!

On June 6th we kicked off the workshop by welcoming over 125 attendees from across the state to learn more about emergency response for animals and agriculture. This 3-day workshop is sponsored by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART). This bi-annual event hosts Florida's county emergency management staff and SART partner agencies.

This workshop served as an opportunity for those who work in emergency response for animals and agriculture to gain more knowledge about best practices for response, and network with others from across the state. Through the multiple workshop sessions, trainings, and demonstrations attendees were able to work through different

emergency situations to create a best practice plan for their home county or area to increase their emergency preparedness.

It should be noted that 50 of the 67 counties in Florida were represented! This gave these counties the ability to connect with SART partner agencies to learn more about help resources in their respective areas that would be able to aid in response when the need arises.

The story, along with some photos of the Planning Workshop, continues on the next page.



Special Features of this Issue:

- *Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida*
- *Animal Technical Rescue Happenings Across the State*
- *SCCAHS Reginal Advisory Summit on Mental Health*

“Hats off to the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) for providing a first class 3-day workshop in Daytona Beach. The workshop was well planned and coordinated from start to finish.”

— Edward McCrane Jr.
Emergency Management Chief at
Sarasota County Florida



That's a Wrap for the 2023 SART Planning Workshop! (continued)



Col. Lee Adams Jr., Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement

Features of this event included presentations by **Steve Carriere** (Small Animal Emergency Sheltering), **Brandi Phillips** (Animal Technical Rescue Training), **Lt. John Conlin** (Critical Incident Disaster Planning for Captive Wildlife), **Cpt. Justin Smith** (Agricultural Interdiction Stations), and **Karianne Rivera with Canine Chewie and Gregg Farina with Canine Sparkey** (Agricultural Detector Dog Inspection and Demonstration).

The workshop sessions were guided by **Dr. Lynn Grattan** and **Marshal Sewell** (Mental Health in Agriculture), **Brandi Phillips**, **William Barker**, and **Jim Handley** (Coordinating Livestock Rollover Accidents and Animal Technical Rescue), **Leonardo Avila**, **Pete Santana**, **Nicole Mayer**, **Cameron Moore**, and **Clint Ganus** (Coordinating Large- Scale Animal Cruelty Seizures and Sheltering) and **Dr. Angie Lindsey**, **Keegan Spera**, and **LeiAnna Tucker** (Risk and Damage Assessments for Agriculture).

This workshop was packed with speakers and workshop session facilitators who were able to provide impactful training to all who were in attendance.

The story continues on the next page.



Marshal Sewell, Mind Your Melon



Dr. Lynn Grattan, University of Maryland

That's a Wrap for the 2023 SART Planning Workshop! (continued)



University of Florida / IFAS Extension

In recognition of their efforts for Florida SART, appreciation awards were given to:

- Florida Cattlemen's Association Accepted by Jim Handley
- Florida Veterinary Medical Association Accepted by Jim Naugle
- University of Florida VETS Team Accepted by Brandi Phillips and Dr. Larry Garcia
- University of Florida / IFAS Extension Accepted by Dr. Angie Lindsey and Dr. Saqib Mukhtar



Florida Cattlemen's Association



University of Florida VETS Team



Florida Veterinary Medical Association

We wrapped up the workshop on Jun 8th leaving sunny Daytona Beach , with personnel across the state more prepared to respond to emergencies that affect animals and agriculture!

SART Workshop Presentations and Resource Handouts are available on our website at:
<https://flsart.org/EventMeetings/PlanningConferences>



Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida



CWD DETECTED IN FLORIDA

The FWC has confirmed that a road-killed 4.5-year-old female white-tailed deer in Holmes County sampled during routine surveillance activities has tested positive for CWD.

EVENT RESPONSE INFORMATION

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has confirmed that a road-killed 4.5 year-old female white-tailed deer in Holmes County sampled during routine surveillance activities has tested positive for [chronic wasting disease \(CWD\)](#). It is the first known case of CWD in Florida. CWD is a contagious disease of the brain and central nervous system that is always fatal to deer.

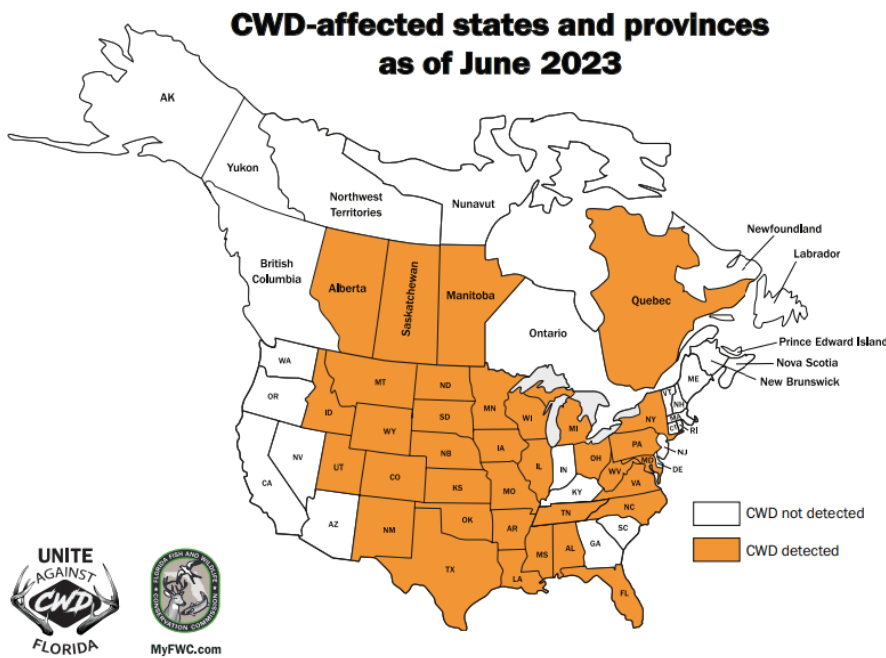
The FDACS Announcement with additional information and resources on the response is attached and available on the website here: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry>

Who to Contact

Anyone who sees a sick or abnormally thin deer or deer dead of unknown causes, is asked to report its location to the CWD hotline, (866) CWD-WATCH (293-9282). Since 2002, FWC has tested over 17,500 hunter-killed, road-killed, and sick or diseased deer for CWD. Learn more about the [FWC's CWD monitoring program](#). If you are a permitted captive Cervidae premises and have any questions regarding CWD, please reach out to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410-0900.

Resources

For more information about CWD: 1) visit MyFWC.com/CWD, 2) read the article titled "Reducing the risk of CWD spreading into Florida through requirements on importing deer carcasses," and 3) check out the following infographics, which are available at MyFWC.com/CWD (under the subhead "Additional information and resources about CWD").



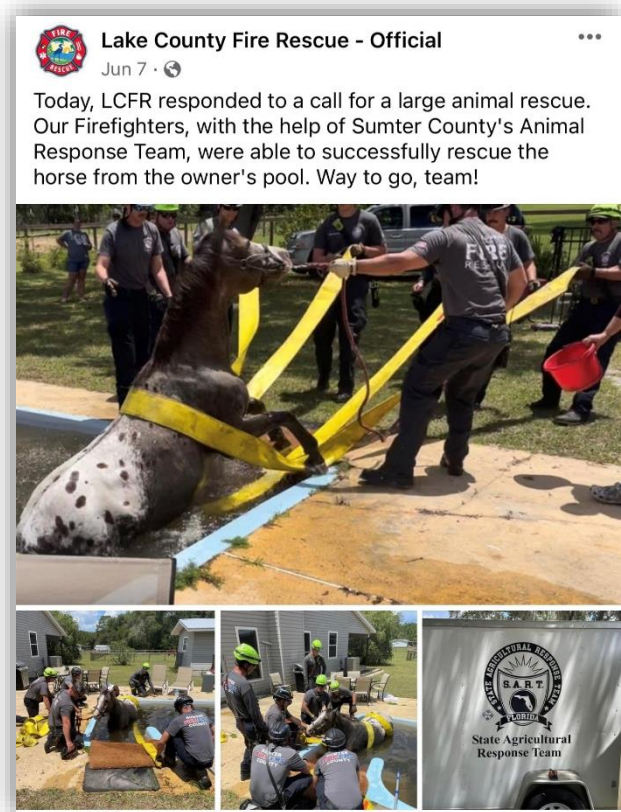
Animal Technical Rescue Happenings from Across the State...

Wednesday, June 7th – Sumter County

Sumter County was requested to respond by Lake County Fire Rescue. Upon arrival found one (1) horse standing, not in distress standing in a pool with about four (4) feet of water. A face-to-face briefing with the veterinarian on-scene was provided along with the plan of action. The veterinarian evaluated the horse and agreed with the plan of action.

With the assistance of the resident who was already in the pool, large animal rescue straps were placed around the rear of the horse to provide pressure and another large animal rescue strap was placed around the back of the horse and pulled through the front legs of the horse to use the simple forward assist technique. The veterinarian then re-evaluated the horse and advised the personnel could proceed. A coordinated effort of encouraging the horse and pulling on the large animal rescue straps was conducted.

The horse was able to successfully walk up the steps and out of the pool without incident. The horse was removed from the pool in approximately 20 minutes from arrival time. Pictures used with permission from Fire & EMS Board of Sumter County Commissioners.



Tuesday, June 20th – Pasco County

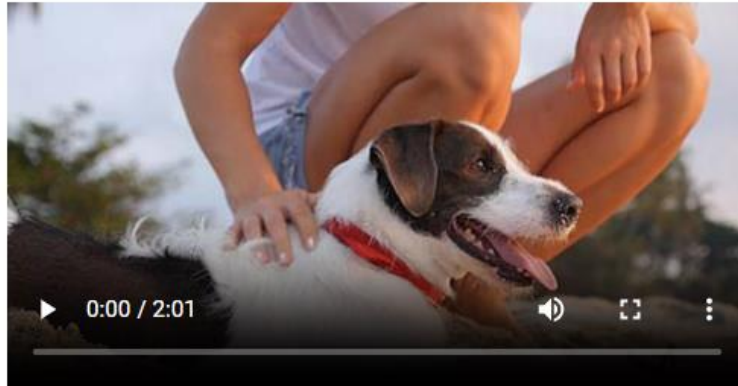
A horse jumped into an above ground pool to get away from another horse on property that spooked him. He spent a total of 1.5 hours in the pool before Pasco County Fire Rescue (PCFR) retrieved him using a lift technique with the Becker sling and tractor. The horse is reported to be in good condition with no injuries and no people on scene sustained any injuries either.

Congratulations to both teams on their successful responses! We are proud of the commitment to the cause of animal technical rescue. Please note, both responders and civilians should make every attempt to don proper Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in the hot zone, to protect themselves while helping the animal in need.

Pictures used with permission from PCFR.

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.



WE NEED TO TALK!

It's time to prepare
for hurricane season.

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 (UF/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=S11Xsjd-FCw>

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.

Clinical Warning Signs of an ASF Infection



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

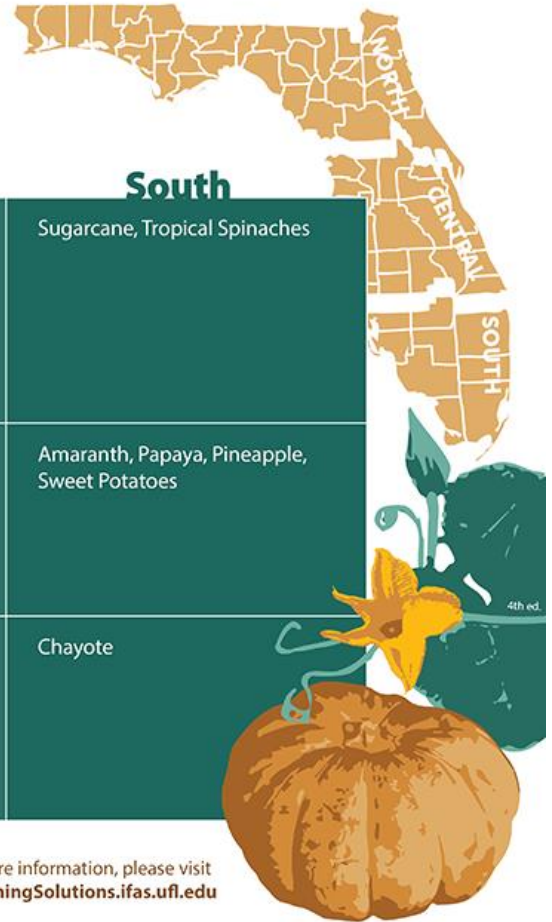
It is important to note that Classical Swine Fever has been present in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for many years and, therefore, the U.S. does not receive pork products or live swine imports from either country. The highest risk of ASF introduction into the U.S. is from pork products brought in 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)
- [Traffic Disrupted and 15 Cows Dead After Semi Overturms on I-10](#) (Yahoo News)

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN *July*



	North	Central	South
 EASY TO TRANSPLANT	Gingers, Peppers, Roselle, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Boniato, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches	Sugarcane, Tropical Spinaches
 TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY	Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Seminole Pumpkin	Amaranth, Cassava, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin	Amaranth, Papaya, Pineapple, Sweet Potatoes
 USE SEEDS	Chayote, Cucumbers, Peas (southern), Pumpkin	Chayote, Okra, Peas (southern), Pumpkin	Chayote

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



Gardening SOLUTIONS

For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Florida Gardening Calendars

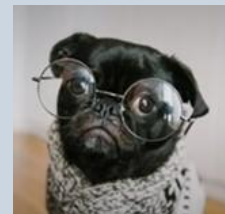
The [Gardening Calendar publications](#) on the UF/IFAS Solutions for Your Life website gives Florida gardeners a monthly guide for what to plant and do in their gardens and includes links to useful gardening websites, all based on University of Florida research and expertise. Three different editions of the calendar provide specific tips for each of Florida's climate zones—North, Central, and South.

[What to Plant in July - 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">July 15-16, 2023 (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TBD

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

SART Partners Monthly Meeting

The next SART Partners Monthly Meeting will be held virtually via Team on July 27, 2023. This meeting is by invite only. Please contact Emily Nolen or Kris Abel with any questions.

SCCAHS Reginal Advisory Summit on Mental Health

The Southeastern Coastal Center for Ag Health & Safety (SCCAHS) will host a **2023 Regional Advisory Summit** focused on mental health. This regional summit will bring together our community stakeholder advisory board (CSAB) members and regional experts in agricultural mental health to discuss challenges and solutions related to agricultural mental health in the southeastern region. The summit will take place on August 8 in Kissimmee, Florida. We will also host a farm tour and welcome reception the afternoon of August 7.

Additional information and registration link is available at:

<https://www.sccaahs.org/index.php/regional-advisory-summit-on-mental-health/>

Please note that registration is required, and hotel rooms will be covered by SCCAHS. For additional information, or to register, please contact Ashley at ashleynmcleod@ufl.edu



FVMA Honored by FLSART for Hurricane Efforts

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) was recognized for their service and dedication in protecting Florida's animal and agricultural sectors before, during, and after Hurricane Ian by Florida's State Agricultural Response Team (FLSART) at their planning workshop in Daytona Beach, Florida on June 8, 2023.

With SART, the FVMA has deployed numerous volunteers with the Florida Veterinary Corps during many catastrophic events to assist with veterinary assessment teams and support mobile veterinary hospitals that serve thousands of residents and pets in need. The FVMA and its network of volunteers have worked with local animal services and veterinary clinics to coordinate immediate needs and continuity of operations for veterinary infrastructure during these catastrophic disasters.



FLSART says, "The FVMA has been an instrumental partner for Florida SART during disaster response. The FVMA has made great strides in revamping key programs like the Florida Veterinary Corps to assist the state with building veterinary leadership in disaster response. They continue to keep this partnership engagement alive for excellent things to come."

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association, the University of Florida, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services established the Florida Veterinary Corps, a volunteer corps of veterinarians and veterinary technicians who support response measures in the event of an emergency involving animals and animal health. These professionals are a part of the State Agriculture Response Team (SART), serving under Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 and the State Emergency Response Team.

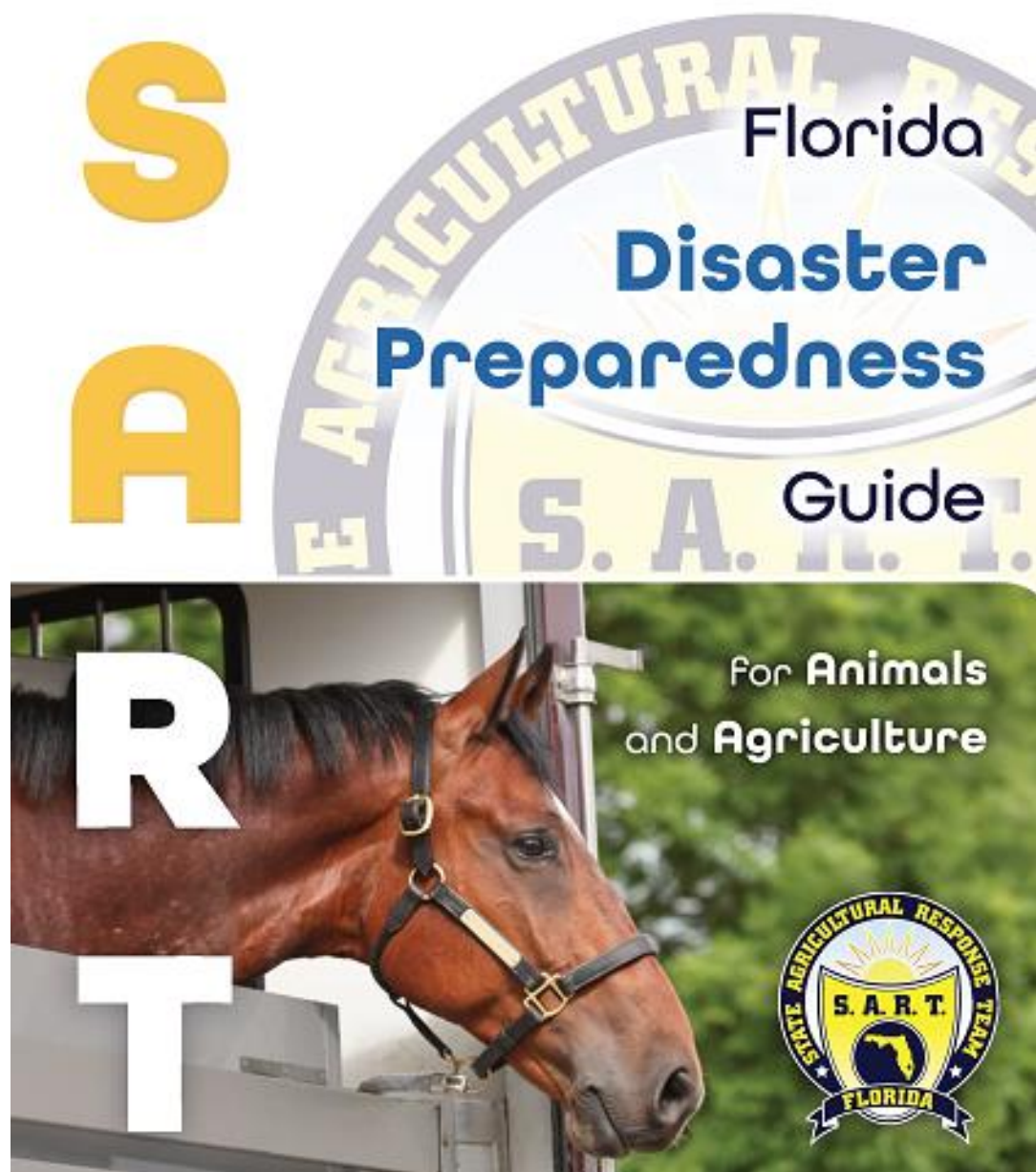
Read more at: <https://fvma.org/fvma-honored-by-flsart-for-hurricane-efforts>

SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

The SART 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.

Sweeten Up Your Labor Day with a Refreshing Treat

Celebrate July as National Ice Cream month and Labor Day with a delicious summertime treat! Cool off this summer by enjoying a scoop of your favorite ice cream. Need a recipe? Visit the [Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website](#) to view our [Dairy Consumer Resources and Outreach section](#) to view our FreshFromFlorida ice cream recipes, Udder Interesting Dairy Videos, a Kids Dairy Coloring Sheet and Word Search, Dairy Fun Facts flyer, and more food safety tips for the summer season!



Florida Department of
Agriculture and
Consumer Services

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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