The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

The first rain band of Hurricane Idalia approaching Hudson Beach, Florida on August 29.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Ready to Partner with Florida SARC?*
- *African Swine Fever and You?*
- *Compassion Fatigue Strategies+ Training*

"African Swine Fever is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease that affects domestic and feral pigs. Florida is particularly at risk for the introduction of ASF because ASF reached the Caribbean in 2021."

— Dr. Michael Short
State Veterinarian/Director
Division of Animal Industry, FDACS

SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Idalia Response

On the morning of Wednesday, August 30th, Hurricane Idalia made landfall near Keaton Beach in the Big Bend region of Florida. The storm struck the coastline as a Category 3 hurricane, with winds of 125 miles per hour.

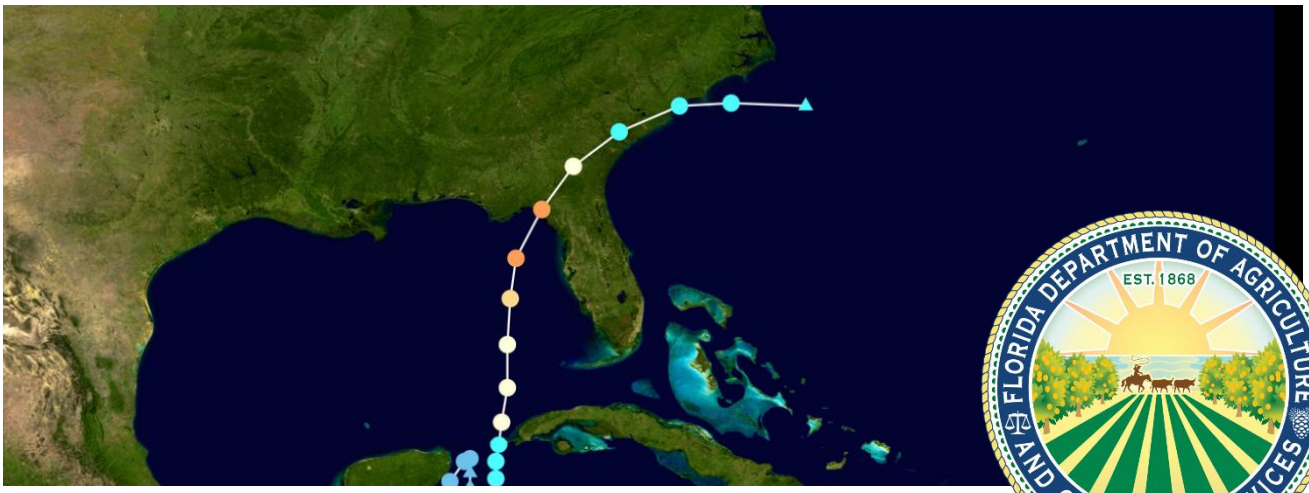
Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 activated at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and launched its Florida State Agricultural Response Team (Florida SART) to provide relief for animal and agriculture sectors impacted by the storm.

To request assistance for your livestock and animals in critical need, please access the QR code to the right, then complete the form, and send it to DAIOPSAssessment@FDACS.gov.

For State Assistance from the Division of Emergency Management, call the State Assistance information line at 1-800-342-3557.

On the pages that follow, we provide some of the latest details on ESF 17 response and recovery efforts.

SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Idalia Response



FDACS Provides Update on Hurricane Idalia Response and Recovery Efforts

On August 31, 2023, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provided an update on Hurricane Idalia response and recovery efforts.

- The department is coordinating with agricultural partners and producers to conduct damage assessments and to ensure those impacted have adequate resources and support.
- Fuel inspectors are responding to impacted areas to ensure retail fuel dispensers are working properly and testing the quality of fuel.
- Food safety inspectors are responding to impacted areas to conduct damage assessments and ensure the safe operation of permitted food establishments.
- The Florida Forest Service (FFS) has deployed 13 chainsaw crews (more than 100 total personnel) to support search and rescue operations and power restoration. Heavy equipment - like front-end loaders, skid steers, excavators, and dump trucks – has been deployed to assist with road clearing activities.
- Commissioner Wilton Simpson has approved an emergency rule waiving certain fuel volatility standards to ensure a robust and consistent supply of fuel in the state.
- Commissioner Wilton Simpson has approved an emergency rule authorizing out-of-state licensed security guards to protect people and property in Florida.
- Commissioner Wilton Simpson has approved an emergency order temporarily suspending the intrastate movement requirements for the transportation of animals from the areas expected to be impacted by Hurricane Idalia. In addition, the following states have waived their interstate import requirements for Florida, pets and livestock leaving the expected impact areas of Hurricane Idalia: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
- FFS is providing incident management support at the State Emergency Operations Center for planning and logistics operations.
- The Florida Forest Service has announced State Forest closures due to Hurricane Idalia. An updated list can be found here.
- The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement has deployed a 20-man search and rescue team to impacted areas.

For more information about Commissioner Simpson and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit FDACS.gov.

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SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Idalia Response

USDA Farm Service Agency

For producers that experience losses and/or damages due to Hurricane Idalia, please share the following information to report to the Farm Service Agency:

For Hurricane Idalia assistance, please call the FSA Producer Hotline: **1-877-508-8364 M-F 8am-8pm** or send an email to the FSA disaster group inbox at SM.FPAC.FSA.FLFSA.Disaster@USDA.GOV Indicate the county of loss in the Subject Line – emails sent to the disaster group inbox will receive an auto reply acknowledging receipt.

Lastly, producers can visit www.farmers.gov and click on the disaster assistance discovery tool.

Emergency Disaster Programs Administered by the Farm Service Agency

TYPE OF LOSS SUFFERED →	CROP LOSS	LIVESTOCK LOSS	DAMAGED FARM PROPERTY
What FSA disaster programs are available?	1. **NAP - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program** to cover production losses for crops when federal crop insurance is not available - must have been purchased prior to disaster. 2. **TAP - Tree Assistance Program** for trees, bushes and vine losses.	4. **ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program** for livestock death not covered by LIP, for grazing losses not covered by LFP; for farm-raised fish and honeybee death and feed losses. 5. **LIP - Livestock Indemnity Program** for livestock deaths.	8. **ECP - Emergency Conservation Program** to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures. **EFRP - Emergency Conservation Restoration Program** to rehabilitate private forest land damaged by natural disasters
	9. **EM - Emergency Loans** provides loans to restore or replace essential property damaged in the disaster, finance production losses to crops and livestock; fund essential family living and farm operating expenses, or refinance certain debts. 10. **DSA - Disaster Set-Aside** for producers who have direct loans with FSA and are unable to make the scheduled installment due, to move one full year's payment to the end of the loan.		
	Refer to the attached sheets for additional information		
	Visit Farmers.gov Hurricane Recovery: https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/hurricane **Visit FSA's disaster web page at: http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov**		

For losses due to natural disasters such as drought, floods, hurricanes, blizzards, wild fires, disease.

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SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Idalia Response

AVMF Offers Disaster Grant Funding

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) has two grants that may be able to assist veterinarians in your state during a disaster.

Disaster Reimbursement Grants for Veterinary Medical Care
AVMF Disaster Reimbursement Grants are for the purpose of ensuring the emergency veterinary medical care of animal victims of a disaster. Up to $5,000 may be issued per grantee for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by veterinarians providing emergency veterinary medical care to animal victims of disasters. A disaster would include but is not limited to, flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, or oil spills in an area that has been declared a disaster area at the local, county, state, or federal level.

More information is available here: Disaster Reimbursement Grants for Veterinary Medical Care

Disaster Relief Grants for Veterinarians & Veterinary Students
AVMF Disaster Relief Grants are for the purpose of assisting veterinarians and veterinary students who have experienced an emergency need for basic necessities due to a disaster. Up to $2,000 may be issued per grantee for out-of-pocket expenses incurred immediately following the disaster. A disaster would include but is not limited to, flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, or oil spills in an area that has been declared a disaster area at the local, county, state, or federal level.

More information is available here: Disaster Relief Grants for Veterinarians & Veterinary Students

AVMA's Disaster Preparedness webpage has information on what veterinarians can do to be better prepared for disasters and emergencies of all types.

AVMF
American Veterinary Medical Foundation

Continued, next page.

The purpose of this research study is to rapidly estimate the agricultural impacts resulting from Hurricane Idalia in the state of Florida. Survey results will be combined with a detailed baseline database on agricultural assets in Florida to estimate and communicate production losses in support of informed local, state, and federal decision-making processes related to disaster declaration, response, and relief.

How do producers access the survey?

Use the web link or QR code at the bottom of this flyer or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension county office to report by phone, receive a paper copy, or request an in-person assessment, where available.

What does the survey ask for?

The disaster assessment survey requests the general location of the operation (county/ZIP code), commodity-specific details including total acreage, affected acreage, and estimated production losses. In addition, there is an option to supply additional information on infrastructural assets, stored products, or stored agricultural inputs that might have been damaged or destroyed. Respondents are also able to share additional experiences and photos, if they desire.

How does this effort benefit producers and the agricultural industry in Florida?

This assessment supports informed decision-making at the local, state, and federal levels related to disaster declaration, response, and recovery. More specifically, survey responses and subsequent analyses provide data and insights to industry associations, government agencies, policy makers, and emergency management personnel.

Other agencies and organizations collect this kind of information. Should producers still complete the UF/IFAS survey along with the others?

Yes. Several agencies and organizations collect much of the same information, but each is using it for a different purpose. The different agencies and organizations often do share insights from the data they are collecting to support the various efforts related to disaster declaration, response, and relief. These efforts are seen as complementary.

See go.ufl.edu/idalia-assessment-faqs for more FAQs.

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

go.ufl.edu/IdaliaAgImpacts

Rebranding Alert – FACA Changes Name

The Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) has rebranded! The Florida Animal Control Association, Inc., was originally organized in 1961 as the Florida State Animal Control Officers Association. In 1984, they reorganized and chartered as FACA. In 1994, they not only were concerned with "control" of animals but "protection" as well. Which leads to 2023 and the rebranding.

Welcome to …

Florida Animal Protection and Advocacy Association

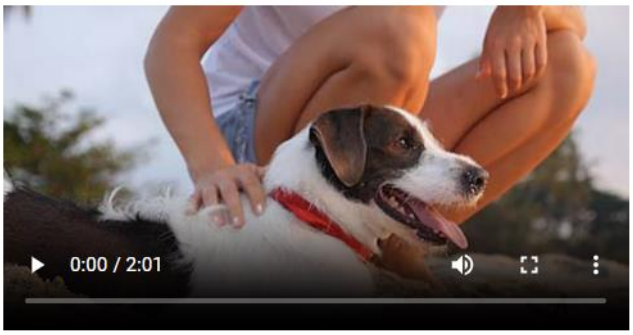
FAPAA
Florida Animal Protection & Advocacy Association

All things FAPAA can still be found at: Florida Animal Control Association

Congratulations and all of the SART Partners and its members are looking forward to seeing the new steps that will be taken towards the "improve[ment] of the methods and standards of the animal control and protection profession while informing the public of the importance of work performed by these professionals."

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.

Hurricane Season is Here! Are You and Your Pets Prepared?

During the months of June through November, Florida residents are keeping their eyes on the tropics looking for when the next hurricane might strike. Many of these Floridians have pets beside them, as they prepare for a possible hurricane to make landfall. Are they prepared to face the storm with their pets? While each pet is different and might have different needs it is important to have some of the basics ready in case an emergency arises.

What are some things pet owners should do to be better prepared for hurricane season?

- Be prepared to evacuate with your pet.
- Update ID for both you and your pet.
- Have your pets up to date on all vaccinations and medical health checks.
- Keep all updated pet medical records in a safe and dry place. *Contact Florida SARC to receive a waterproof pet medical record bag for easy storage of important pet documents.*
- If your pet has a chronic illness, be sure to refill any necessary medications with your veterinarian.
- Know where your local pet-friendly evacuation shelter is.
- Keep all dogs on leashes and cats in carriers while riding out the storm.
- Make a plan for your animals if a storm hits while you are not home. Maybe a neighbor or family member is the main point of contact for your animals.

For more information about how to prepare your animals for hurricane season be sure to take a look at the Florida SART Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture. You can find checklists for almost all types of pets and livestock. This guide can only be accessed by Florida SART members.

Now is a good time to sign up for FREE on the SART website at www.FLSART.org. Being a Florida SART member will give you more access to resources that can help you become prepared for all hazards relating to animals and agriculture.

Get started today on your pet's hurricane preparedness plan and be ready for when the next storm strikes!

Disaster and Emergency Pet Sheltering Workshop

SPCA of Ocala

FLORIDA State Animal Response Coalition Animal Rescue

Join us on September 6 in Anthony, FL as we partner with SPCA Ocala to conduct a FREE pet friendly sheltering workshop! See first hand how to set up emergency sheltering, learn about the disaster sheltering process, and even meet a few new furry friends!

Scan the code or go to https://bit.ly/OcalaWorkshop to register for more details!

For additional information, contact
Steve Carriere, SARC MGR
863-577-4602 / email scarriere@spcaflorida.org

Because the ENTIRE Family Matters!!

Florida State Animal Response Coalition

www.flsarc.org

352-658-1224

Pet Evacuation Documents Bag

Pet's Name:

Bring these items when you evacuate. Prepare one bag per pet.

- ☐ **Medication (make sure it's current)**
- ☐ **Medical Records**
- ☐ **Vaccination Records**
- ☐ **Special Medical/Behavioral Instructions**
- ☐ **Picture of your Pet and Picture of You With Your Pet**
- ☐ **All Identification Numbers (Microchip, Tattoo, Rabies Tag)**
- ☐ **List of Distinguishing Features/Marks**
- ☐ **Emergency Contact Information for You**
- ☐ **Emergency Contact Information for Your Pet (Vet, babysitter, caregiver, etc.)**

In addition to these items, you should also bring the following:

Food/Water for 7 days
Food and water bowls
Poop bags
Toys and treats

2 extra collars and leashes
Bedding
Trash bag

Pet first aid kit
Pet carrier
Litter box/litter

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.

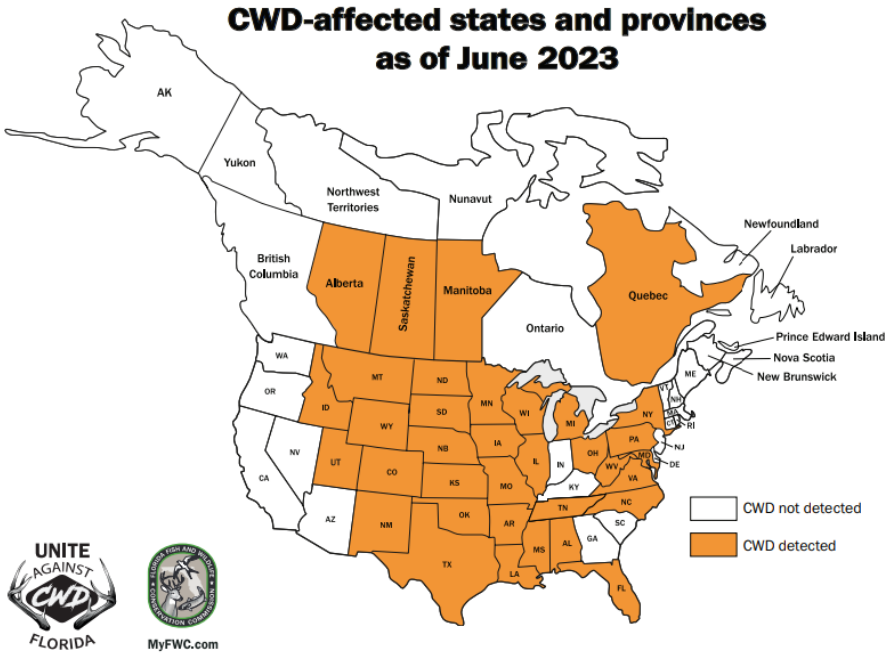
The FDACS Announcement with additional information and resources on the response is attached and available on the website here: https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry

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").



Become a Volunteer of the Florida Veterinary Corps Today!

Florida veterinarians and animal health technicians have volunteered to assist animal owners and local officials in responding to animal emergencies. The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state.

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) is assisting the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in maintaining the roster of volunteers and serves as the point of contact for calling volunteers after a disaster. You can agree to be listed as a Florida Veterinary Corps volunteer, a helper in times of need for your fellow veterinary professionals. Read the following information to submit your application for the Florida Veterinary Corps.

Why a Florida Veterinary Corps?

- *The Florida Veterinary Corps (The Corps) has been established to enlist veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are willing to volunteer their services in responding to animal emergencies in the state of Florida.*
- *During activation, Corps volunteers will work within an incident command structure under state Emergency Support Function 17 as part of the State Emergency Response Team.*
- *The Corps will be a component of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, under its Florida State Agricultural Response Team, in cooperation with the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.*
- *Corps volunteers will be kept informed as to the status of emergencies and the need for volunteers depending upon the specific emergency.*
- *Volunteers may serve in veterinary infrastructure assessment teams, triage or emergency animal treatment teams, and animal disease surveillance or control teams under an incident command system.*

Rationale

- *Protecting agriculture in Florida begins locally and requires cooperation, participation, and partnership.*
- *Federal or other outside assistance to deal with an animal disease emergency may not be available for hours or days.*
- *Animal agriculture in Florida is highly vulnerable to severe disruption and financial loss through natural disasters and exotic or zoonotic diseases.*
- *Counties and state agencies must be prepared to respond to animal disasters through planning* and identification of human and material resources.
- *Natural disasters are unpredictable and cannot be prevented.*
- *Florida has a high risk for introduction of a foreign animal disease.*

For more information and to join, visit: https://fvma.org/tools-resources/disaster-relief

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

WANTED

GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL

LOOK FOR THEM! REPORT THEM!

888-397-1517

A major landscape and agricultural pest, even eats stucco on homes

Public health threat - known to carry rat lungworm that may cause meningitis in humans

Able to reproduce rapidly - one snail can lay 1,200 eggs in a year
Can grow to up to 8 inches in length - no natural enemies

We need your help to stop this pest!

www.freshfromflorida.com/pi

USDA

Fresh Florida Division of PLANT INDUSTRY
Protection through Detection
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

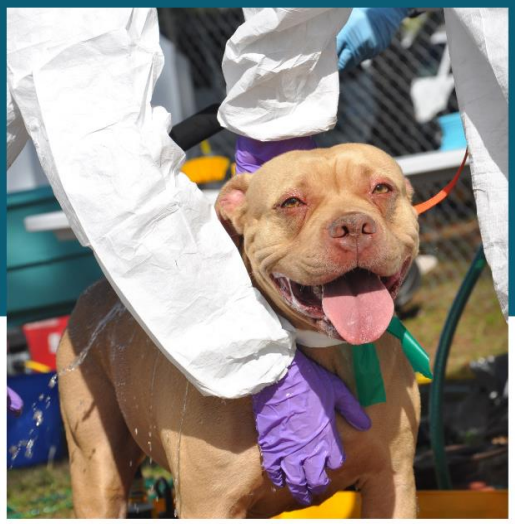
Ready to partner with Florida SARC?

Florida SARC is the only FEMA-approved organization teaching volunteers how to build and operate a temporary emergency animal shelter in response to natural disasters and large cruelty cases.

Through our partnerships, we can train volunteers across the state to be ready when disaster strikes.

Partner benefits include:

- Complimentary spaces for your staff and volunteers
- Florida SARC trained volunteers in your area, ready to deploy in local or federal disasters
- Opportunity for continued education for your team
- Recognition as a partner in Emergency Response



Partnering with Florida SARC is simple; all we need is a teaching space for classes!

Interested in learning more? Contact Steve at scarriere@spcaflorida.org or 863-577-4602

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=SI1Xsjd-FCw

California, Nevada and Texas are VS Affected States

Texas joins California and Nevada as a Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) affected state. All livestock, including horses, imported into Florida from VS affected states must meet additional import requirements of Florida Administrative Code, 5C-3.002(5).

Read more at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/cattle-disease-information/vesicular-stomatitis-info

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…

- Flamingos, manatees and alligators: Watch videos of animals reacting to Hurricane Idalia (WDSU)
- Experts urge residents to watch for, report predatory yellow-legged hornets (UF/IFAS)
- California and Nevada Affected by Vesicular Stomatitis (FDACS)

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND YOU?

You are invited to participate in an African Swine Fever (ASF) virtual education and outreach program.

What is ASF and why are Florida hogs particularly at risk?

ASF is highly contagious and deadly. This viral disease that affects domestic and feral (wild) pigs reached the Caribbean in 2021.

Are you prepared to work with State and Federal Animal Regulatory Agencies and industry stakeholders during a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak that threatens US livestock production?

What is being done to prevent ASF entry into the US?

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has partnered with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine to host a USDA sponsored online educational program to bring a broad spectrum of livestock industry stakeholders together to work in collaboration to improve our capability to respond to the threat posed by African Swine Fever.

WHAT: Each week for five weeks a new educational module will be posted. Review the material at your convenience. This program is interactive. You will have opportunities to pose questions to your state regulatory officials and subject matter experts from across the country. Share your perspectives and experiences with other stakeholders. Retain access to the material for use in the future.

WHEN: September 5 – October 6, 2023.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE: Register using the URL or QR code, below. Feel free to share this invitation with others who may be interested.

HOW MUCH: Through the generous support of USDA, we are offering this opportunity to you FREE of charge.

Register at vetmed.illinois.edu/asf-ed/

What will you gain from your participation?

Learn:

- The clinical signs of ASF.
- How to prevent ASF.
- How to keep ASF out of your herd.
- How to strengthen your disease prevention and biosecurity plans.
- Your role in the disease response.

Target Audience:

- Anyone who owns, works with, shows, or hunts pigs for work or as a hobby.

This course will assist you in understanding your role in a disease response.

Sponsored by:

ILLINOIS VET MED

USDA

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:
Yvette Johnson-Walker DVM, MS, PhD
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine
Center for One Health Illinois
Yjjohn38@illinois.edu

This work is funded through the 2018 Farm Bill and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response program.

Division of Animal Industry
(850) 410-0900

The Mayo Building
407 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0800

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

August 14, 2023

Dear Florida Swine Industry Stakeholder:

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has partnered with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine to conduct educational outreach on African Swine Fever (ASF) for livestock producers and associated stakeholders in Florida. This program is funded through the 2018 Farm Bill administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response program. As you may already know, ASF is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease that affects domestic and feral pigs. Florida is particularly at risk for the introduction of ASF because ASF reached the Caribbean in 2021.

As a Florida swine industry stakeholder, I am inviting you to participate in this program. Your participation is important because we recognize that you are an important first line of defense against the spread of this disease into domestic pigs. We hope that you are willing to help in this important work by participating in our training program and by inviting your colleagues and clients who may own, work with, or hunt pigs to participate.

WHAT: Each week, for five weeks a new educational module will be posted. You can review the material at your convenience. This program is interactive. You will have opportunities to pose questions to me and your other state veterinary regulatory officials and subject matter experts from across the country. You will also have the chance to share your perspectives and experiences with other Florida stakeholders. You will also retain access to the educational materials for your use in the future.

WHEN: September 5 – October 6, 2023.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE: Register using the URL below. Feel free to share this invitation with others who may be interested. Register at: https://vetmed.illinois.edu/asf-ed/.

HOW MUCH DOES THE TRAINING COST: Through the generous support of USDA, we are offering this opportunity to you **FREE** of charge.

Sincerely,

Michael A Short

Michael Short
State Veterinarian/Director

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 September - 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.

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
• TBD	• October 19-20, 2023* **Use code DAYTONA at checkout to receive a 50% registration fee discount. Valid until October 8, 2023.*

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

Small Animal Disaster and Emergency Sheltering Workshop

Florida SARC, an SPCA Florida Disaster Response program, and SPCA Ocala, would like to invite you to participate in an emergency sheltering workshop. The workshop will be held on September 6, 2023 from 10:00am – 3:00pm in Lakeland; and will provide you the opportunity to exercise your Level 1 Awareness knowledge in a controlled, enclosed, and outdoor training environment. Live animals will be provided to add to the "realism" of the exercise. All equipment and training tools, water/hydration, and light refreshments will be available. Additional details will be emailed to confirmed attendees approximately one week prior to the event.

For more details and to register:
http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=cmn8hziab&oeidk=a07ejx63bp373e3d824

SART Partners Monthly Meeting

The next SART Partners Monthly Meeting will be held at the Florida Farm Bureau Federation in Gainesville (5700 SW 34th St.) on September 22, 2023 from 10:00m to noon. This meeting is by invite only for the primary representative designated on each SART partner agency. Please contact Emily Nolen or Kris Abel with any questions.

Compassion Fatigue Strategies+ Training

Transforming empathic distress (aka compassion fatigue) is possible for you and your staff. That's why the Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida is once again offering its Compassion Fatigue Strategies online course, beginning on October 16, 2023. Please see the flyer on the following page for complete details.

Compassion Fatigue Strategies+ Training

It's easy for today's animal welfare and veterinary medical professionals to feel like nothing they do is ever enough. There is endless pressure to be productive and we often feel like everything will fall apart without us. Vacation? Ha! There's no time. No time to pause, to breathe. Taking care of our own needs might feel selfish and seem impossible. But the animals are not the only ones at risk. The people working nonstop to care for the animals under these stressful conditions in the last few years also need help.

If that's you, The Compassion Fatigue Strategies, Plus! course will help you find your way back to feeling energized and able to do the work you love, without being sidelined by compassion fatigue (empathic strain) and burnout.

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

Designed for busy professionals, this online course is available 24/7 and self-paced for the flexibility you need. You'll have access to all of the class materials on day one and then you can do the work at your own speed.

The course begins Monday, October 16, 2023, and runs through December 10, 2023.

Early bird pricing: $299 until September 15th!
After September 15th, course fee is $349

Bring the whole team for an additional 10% discount on groups of 10 or more!

More details at:
https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/education/continuing-education/compassion-fatigue-strategies

Sponsored by Florida SART

ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING

Target Audience:

Fire/Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Animal Control, Veterinary Professionals, Extension Agents, Livestock Industry Stakeholders

Location:

Florida State Fire College
11655 NW Gainesville Rd
Ocala, FL 34482

Course Fee:

Free, sponsored by Florida SART

Training Date

AWR-8 hours
Nov. 6, 2023
OPS-24 hours
Dec. 4-6, 2023
All trainings 8:30 AM to 5:30 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

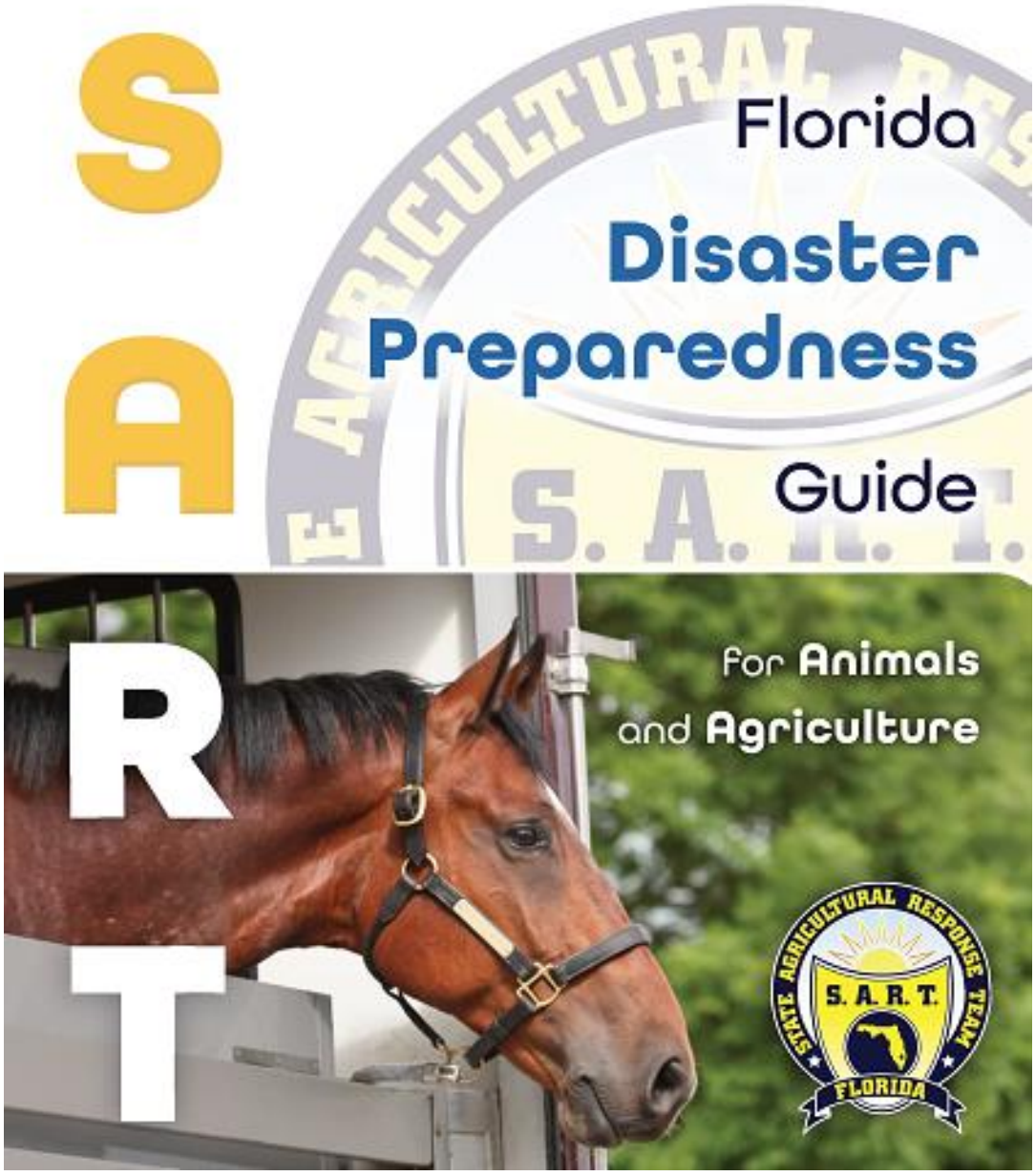
STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM
S. A. R. T.
FLORIDA

SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

The SART Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture developed by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) is published on the SART website at 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.

Celebrate September as National Food Safety Education Month

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)' Division of Food Safety celebrates September as National Food Safety Education Month.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 6 of us will suffer from foodborne illness this year but following the Core 4 Steps of Food Safety can help lower that risk. Help keep your family, friends, and community safe from foodborne illness by practicing the Core 4 Steps of Food Safety: clean, separate, cook, and chill. Watch FDACS' Division of Food Safety Core 4 Overview Video below to learn more about the Core 4 Steps of Food Safety. Visit the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach Core 4 and Handwashing website to learn more details about each of the Core 4 Steps of Food Safety and view FREE resources that you can share with others like flyers, videos, and more!

CORE 4

The Core 4 of Food Safety

Remembering these steps can help keep you and your family safe from foodborne illness.

Clean

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, including before and after you touch raw meat, poultry and seafood.
- Clean work surfaces, cutting boards, dishes and utensils with hot soapy water before and after preparing different kinds of food items.
- Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running tap water, including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten.

Separate

- Help prevent cross-contamination by keeping ready-to-eat foods away from raw foods like meat, poultry, seafood and eggs.
- Use separate cutting boards, plates and utensils for cooked foods and raw foods.

Cook

- Use a food thermometer to ensure meat, poultry, seafood and egg dishes are cooked to a safe temperature.

Chill

- Keep your refrigerator at 40°F or below and your freezer at 0°F or below.
- Keep food at a safe temperature when thawing and never defrost food at room temperature.

Visit the **Division of Food Safety Consumer Resources and Outreach website** for more food safety tips.

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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