# The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

*Radar image as Hurricane Idalia made landfall on August 30, 2023.*

## SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Idalia Response

***Story below by Steve Carriere, Florida SARC Manager***

Shortly after reaching Category 4 status, Hurricane Idalia made landfall north of Cedar Key as a Category 3 storm on August 30th. The storm sustained winds of over 111 MPH, bringing heavy storm surge, flooding, and wind damage to many rural areas. Nine counties in Florida experienced major damage from the storm, while many others were impacted by storm surge and interior river flooding.

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) activated in support of Emergency Support Function (ESF)-17 response efforts with our Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) partners, initially supporting remote logistics and donation coordination in Suwannee and Taylor Counties. One pet-friendly sheltering request was received from Union County, while SART team members and SARC helped coordinate transport for over 12 dogs at a rescue in Levy County severely damaged in the storm.

SARC demonstrated exceptional flexibility and remote capability coordinating a major donation delivery, performing pet-friendly sheltering operations, mobilizing volunteers, and assessing county resource requests.

Thanks to Andy Bass, Lisa Sears, Leslie Long, Steve Hutra, Carol Christopherson (FL SARC); Karen Slomba, Keegan Spera, Kris Abel, and LeiAnna Tucker (SART partners) and staff from SPCA Florida for their support during this response!

**Special Features of this Issue:**


- *HSUS Mobilizes Disaster Response Team*
- *Commissioner Simpson Announces Agricultural Losses Estimated at Over $447 Million*
- *Calf Rescued in Sumter County Thanks to ATR Team*


***"SARC demonstrated exceptional flexibility and remote capability coordinating a major donation delivery."***

— Steve Carriere
Manager, Florida SARC

SARC volunteers Ann Christopherson, Carol Christopherson, and Steve Hutra (L to R) with a load of food donated by First Coast No More Homeless Pets.

## SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Idalia Response

**Florida Farm Bureau Hurricane Relief Fund Created to Assist Farms Impacted by Hurricane Idalia**

Many farm families in Florida's Big Bend have suffered unprecedented loss in the wake of Hurricane Idalia. The Florida Farm Bureau Federation has created a relief fund to aid these families in their recovery efforts.

The Hurricane Idalia Relief Fund will provide support for the recovery from agriculture-related losses. All donations will be tax deductible. Donations can be made via check or through the relief fund online payment system.

Donors can make checks payable to:
Florida Farm Bureau Women's Fund
Memo: Hurricane Idalia Relief for Agriculture
P.O. Box 147030
Gainesville, FL 32614

For more information on the Hurricane Relief Fund, visit https://floridafarmbureau.org/hurricane-idalia-relief-fund/ or contact Maddie.Campbell@ffbf.org.

**FDOT Weight Waiver for Agricultural Commodities**

Executive Order 23-171 authorized the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to relieve the size and weight restrictions for divisible loads on any vehicles transporting emergency equipment, services, supplies, and agricultural food commodities and citrus, as recommended by FDACS Commissioner Simpson, in excess of the normal restrictions on weight, height, length, and width restrictions for such vehicles.

Pursuant to this authority, FDOT issued an Emergency Road Use Permit letter to permit the movement of divisible loads on any vehicles transporting emergency equipment, services, supplies, and agricultural food commodities and citrus in excess of the normal restrictions on weight, height, length, and width.

Guidance for Law Enforcement:
The following agricultural food commodities and citrus have been identified by FDACS Commissioner Simpson and approved by the Secretary of Transportation as covered by the Emergency Road Use Permit letter:

- Animal Feed and Feed Ingredients
- Animal Supplements
- Aquaculture Products
- Avocados
- Cattle
- Citrus
- Eggs and Egg Products
- Fuel
- Fertilizer and Agrichemicals
- Milk and Milk Products
- Peanuts
- Silviculture and Forestry Products
- Tomatoes

# SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Idalia Response

**HSUS Mobilizes Disaster Response Team**
Story by Celia Jackson, HSUS Disaster Response Program Manager

As Hurricane Idalia made landfall in Florida, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) mobilized a disaster response team to stage just across the border in Alabama. Working closely with Florida SART, we were prepared for a possible water rescue operation, but also brought equipment to set up a point of distribution (POD) for pet food and supplies. In addition, a few days before the storm, we provided support for Madison County Animal Control in evacuating all their animals (about 20 dogs) to partners in our shelter network as a precautionary measure.

It was the right call, as their shelter and its outdoor kennels suffered significant structural damage – as did many homes and businesses across the region. At their request, we deployed to Madison County to set up a POD site and a temporary animal shelter, coordinating the mission request through state ESF 17 and Florida SART. While temporary sheltering was an essential need, our main objective for the POD was to prevent surrenders and support families in caring for their pets.

Over the course of two weeks, we served over 800 families and 9,000 animals – including peacocks, guinea pigs, and even baby squirrels! At the temporary shelter we also assisted the county in receiving about a dozen dogs, most of who were thought to be strays. After a few weeks, as power came on and businesses reopened, the demand for supplies dropped off. As we began to demobilize, we were grateful to receive positive feedback from Madison County Animal Control, who posted a thank you on Facebook stating, "The team has been a true breath of fresh air to us as we worked through this disaster. The donations of pet and livestock food has truly helped our community and relieved the residents who had been out of work and unable to financially care for their animals."

We successfully fulfilled our mission, and the cooperation among animal rescue groups, led by state ESF 17's Florida SART, was fantastic. We were proud to be a part of the response!

*Continued, next page.*

## SPECIAL EDITION: Hurricane Idalia Response

**Commissioner Wilton Simpson Announces Florida Agricultural Losses Estimated at Over $447 Million Following Hurricane Idalia**

On September 27, 2023, Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson announced the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' preliminary estimates of damage to Florida agriculture from Hurricane Idalia, including more than $447 million in total losses and damages across the state's diverse agricultural sectors.

"Today, as we release preliminary estimates of agricultural losses and damages from Hurricane Idalia, it's clear that our state's farmers, ranchers, and growers – who we rely on daily for our food, fiber and more – have a long road to recovery," said Commissioner Simpson. "The estimated losses of over $447 million in crops, livestock, and infrastructure emphasize the magnitude of this disaster, but our agricultural community is strong, resilient, and determined. Together, we will work tirelessly with every local, state, federal, and industry partner to ensure we support our agricultural producers to replant, to rebuild, and to recover."

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

These preliminary estimates highlight the losses to Florida's diverse agricultural sectors, accounting for the loss in current year crop production in fruit and tree nuts, vegetables and melons, field and row crops, horticultural crops, animals/animal products, and forestry, as well as the associated losses to direct and related infrastructure. Estimated losses and damage include:

- Total crop and infrastructure losses are estimated up to $447.9 million.
- Field Crops: losses are estimated up to $93.6 million in field crop damages.
- Fruits (Non-Citrus) and Tree Nuts: losses are estimated up to $2.6 million in fruit and tree nut damages.
- Greenhouse/Nursery: losses are estimated up to $68.8 million in greenhouse/nursery damages.
- Animals and Animal Products (includes cattle, poultry, aquaculture and dairy): losses are estimated up to $157.6 million in animal and animal product damages, which includes losses to infrastructure and machinery/equipment.
- Vegetables and Melons: losses are estimated up to $60.6 million in vegetable and melon damages.
- Forestry: losses are estimated at $64.7 million in timber damages.

These estimates are based on data obtained from the UF-IFAS Preliminary Assessment of Hurricane Idalia, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Florida Census of Agriculture, USDA My Market News, Timber Damage Estimates prepared by the Florida Forest Service, and the early communication conducted by FDACS with industry leaders and individual producers.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.fdacs.gov/News-Events/Press-Releases/2023-Press-Releases/Commissioner-Wilton-Simpson-Announces-Florida-Agricultural-Losses-Estimated-at-Over-447-Million-Following-Hurricane-Idalia

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**

## Calf Rescued in Sumter County Thanks to ATR Team

Last month, a calf was rescued from a sinkhole in Sumter County, reported byJeremy Feil, Division Chief of Program Management, Fire & EMS. There were several downed trees in and around the area, along with fencing debris and old tin.

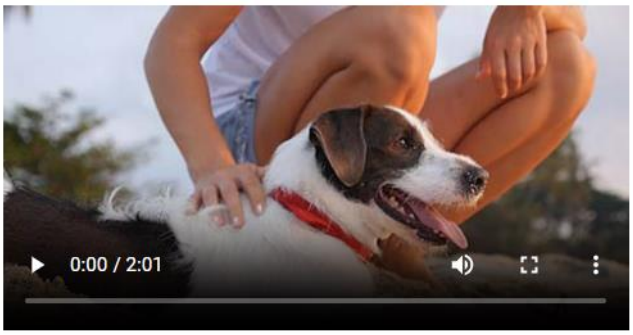
As first responders specializing in Animal Technical Rescue (ATR) arrived at the scene, they observed no visual injuries to the animal, but did notice that the cow appeared to be exhausted from previous self-rescue attempts.

The animal was successfully removed and turned over to its owner with no apparent injuries, though the team recommended they consult a veterinarian for an assessment and care plan if needed.

The skills and equipment used during this response were made possible in part by the Florida SART ATR equipment cache and training provided to Sumter County Fire and EMS.

## 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 Isn't Over Yet! 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!

# 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.

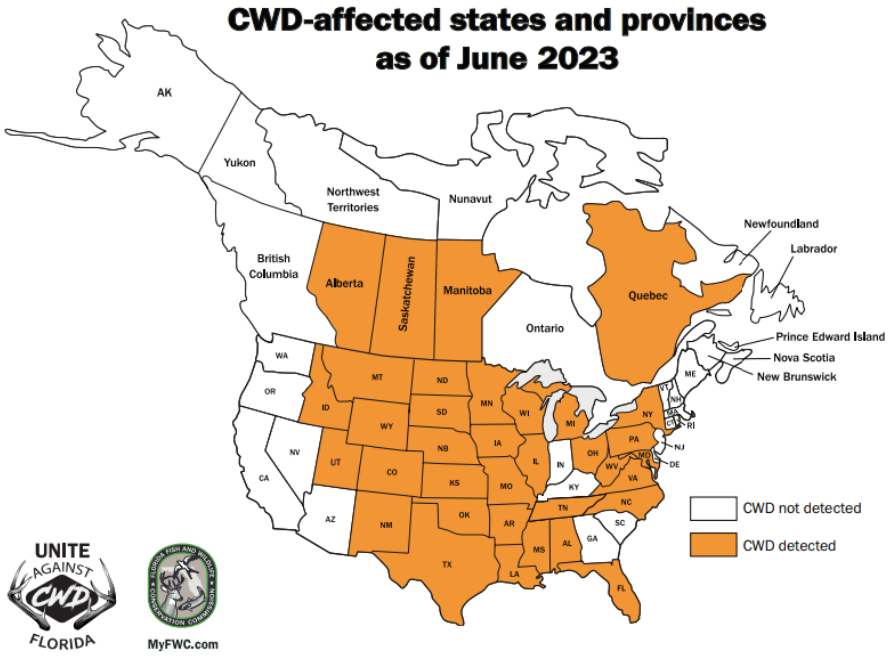
The FDACS Announcement with additional information and resources on the response is attached and available on the website here: https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry

**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

## Be Sure to Check Out 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…

- Preliminary Assessment of Agricultural Losses and Damages Resulting from Hurricane Idalia (FUF/IFAS)
- Commissioner Wilton Simpson Announces $34.1 Million Aquaculture Loss from Hurricane Idalia (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.

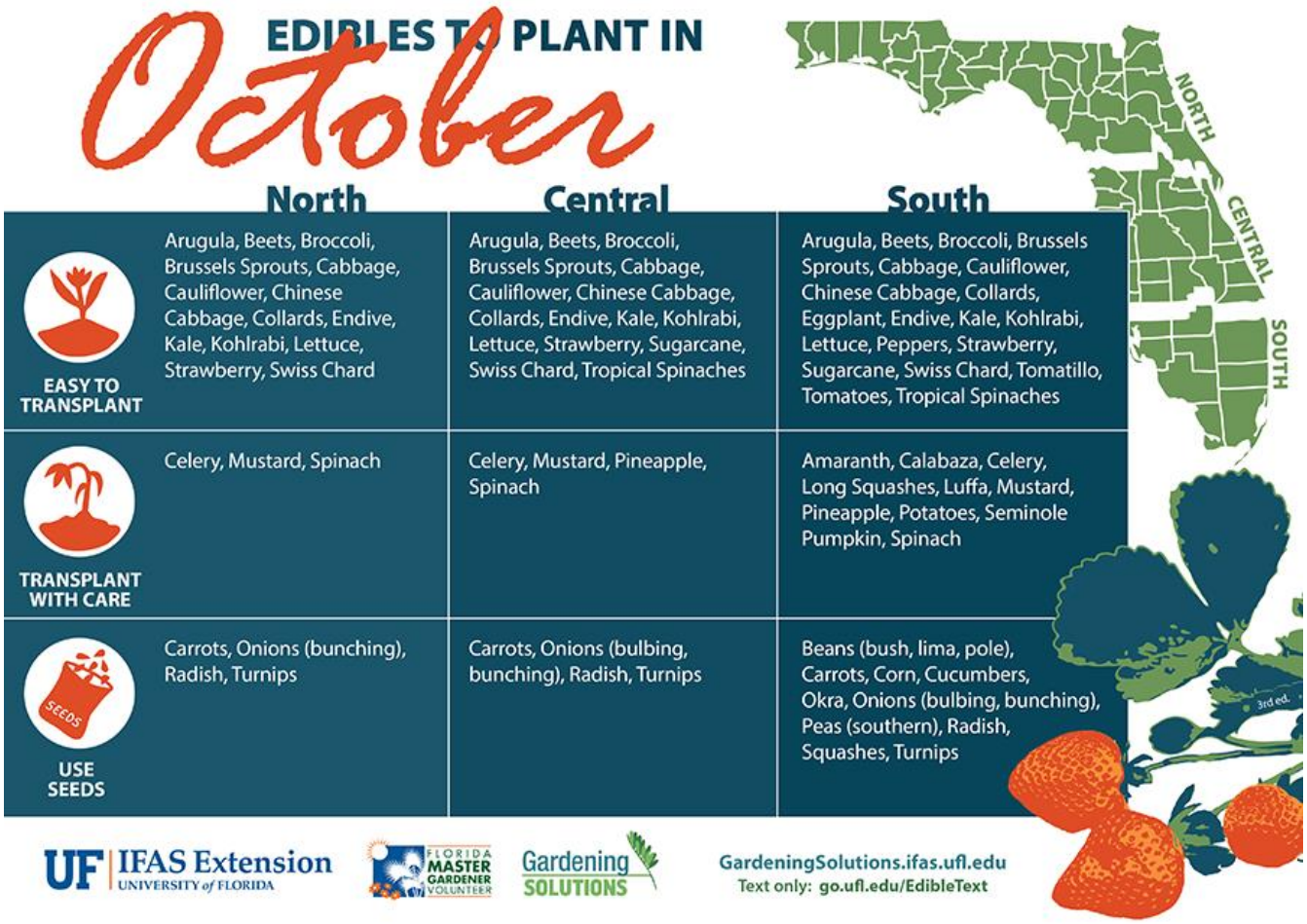
**HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE:** Register using the URL below. Feel free to share this invitation with others who may be interested. Register at: https://vetmed.illinois.edu/asf-ed/.

**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 October - 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 1 | Operations Level 2 |
|---|---|
| • October 14, 2023<br>• November 4, 2023 | • October 19-20, 2023*<br><br>**Use code DAYTONA at checkout to receive a 50% registration fee discount. Valid until October 8, 2023.* |

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

## 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, butut 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

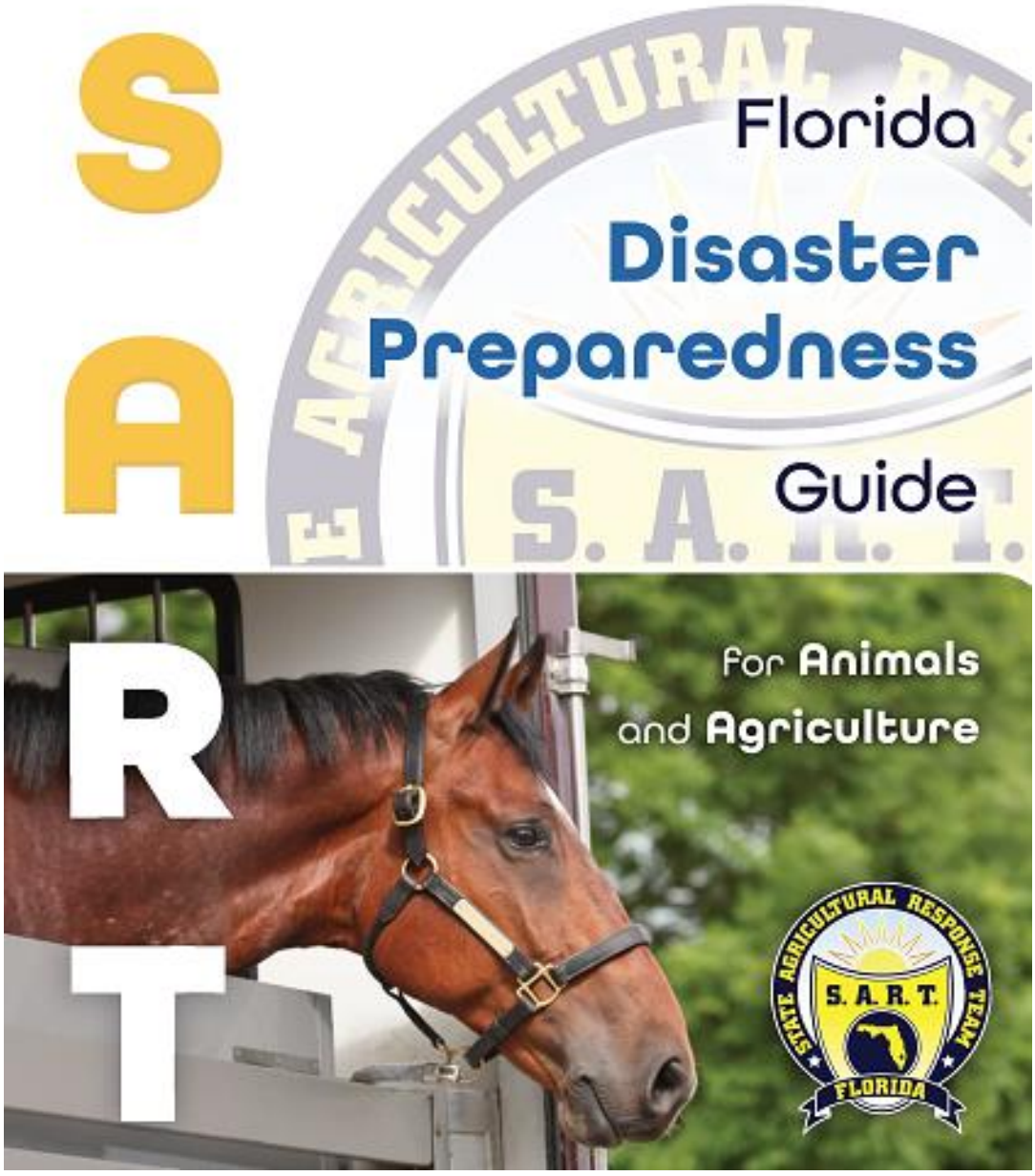
STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM
S. A. R. T.
FLORIDA

## 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.

**Enjoy Food Safe Treats This Halloween**

With Halloween right around the corner, learning more about Halloween food safety could help prevent illness with your family or friends. Visit the Division of Food Safety's Fall Food Safety website to access an interactive Halloween Food Safety Flyer to help you check off the important items for the big night as well as an informative Halloween Food Safety video with important tips to help keep you and your family food safe.

Interested in other food safety topics? Visit the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website to find helpful videos, flyers, and more listed by category!

# Halloween is a real treat!

**Follow these simple tips to help prepare and protect your family for the big night:**

- [ ] Give children a light meal or snack before they go trick-or-treating–don't send them out on an empty stomach.
- [ ] If children want a tasty sweet, urge them to wait until they get home so you can inspect their loot before they eat any of it.
- [ ] If your child has a food allergy, check the label to make sure the allergen isn't listed. (*Important Note: Candy purchased in bulk bags may not be individually labeled with ingredients or allergen warnings.*)
- [ ] Before and after eating treats, wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
- [ ] Tell children not to accept–and especially not eat–anything that isn't wrapped.
- [ ] Inspect wrapped treats for signs of tampering like unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.
- [ ] If you have very young children, remove any choking hazards like gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys.

## 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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