The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

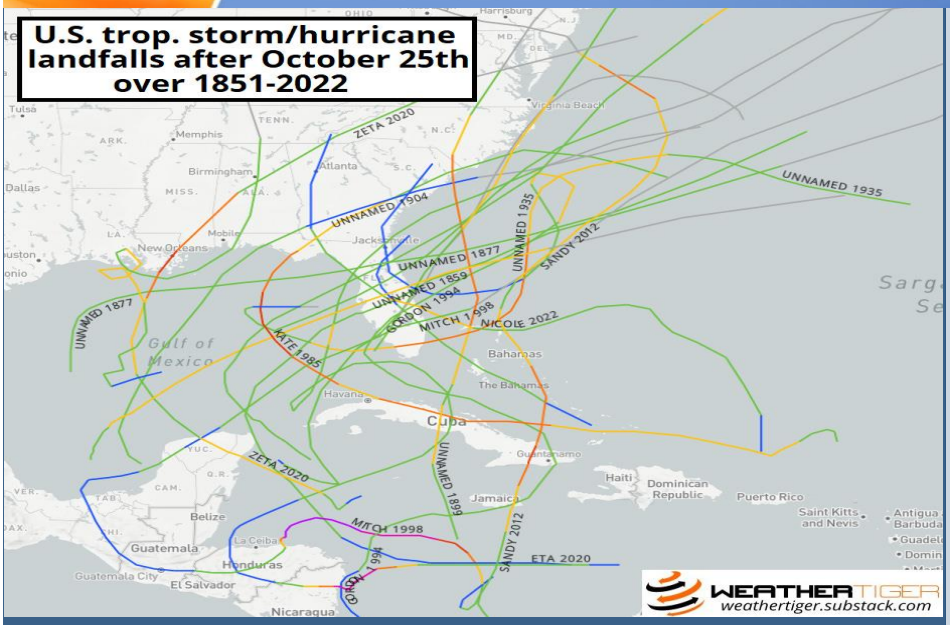


Image of hurricane landfalls after October 25th over 1851-2022.

Keeping an Eye on the Tropics – Hurricane Season Ends November 30

As the waters cool, hurricane season comes to an end on November 30th, with many Floridians breathing a sigh of relief that the last hurricane of the 2023 season is staying away. Hurricane Tammy became the 20th named storm this year nearly one month out from the close of hurricane season, with Hurricane Idalia being the only system to make landfall in Florida.

How likely was Hurricane Tammy to make landfall in Florida? According to WeatherTiger, storms within the last third of October face more wind shear than the rest of the season making it rare for the late developing storms to make it to Florida's shores. They also face the continuing cooling water of the Caribbean and Gulf making it hard to strengthen into anything beyond a tropical storm.

When do we start to see this drastic drop off in hurricane potential? The perfect day seems to be October 25th and any storm after that day starts to run into the mentioned hurtles for development. In the last week of October and the start of November the chance of landfall drops down to just 25%. While landfall isn't impossible, there has only been 19 storms since 1990 so far to make landfall after the October 25th date.

Florida SART will be keeping our eyes on any last-minute storm developments and impending threats.

Your Florida SART is always striving to be prepared for the next emergency that may impact animals and agriculture!

Special Features of this Issue:

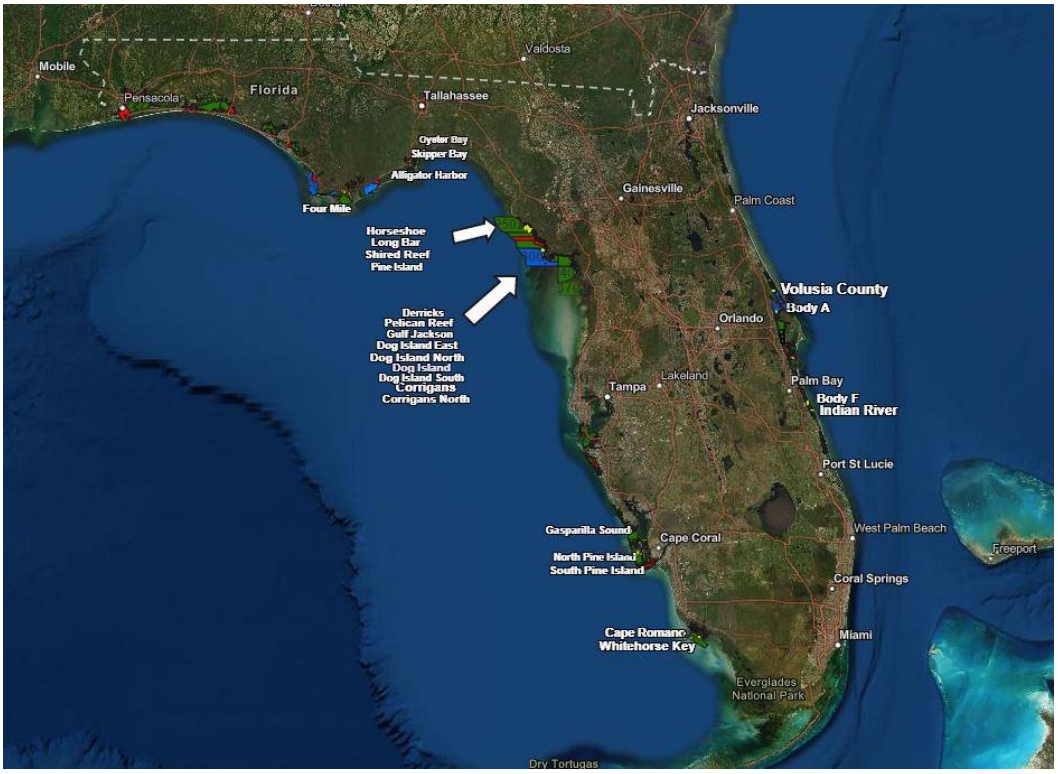
- *Grant Funding for Florida's Aquaculture Industry*
- *Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida*
- *Extended: FDOT Waiver for Agricultural Commodities*

"The danger zone is 41 to 135 degrees, so be sure your food and finished dishes are held at the correct temperature."

— Chef Justin Timineri
Certified executive chef, author, award winner, teacher and television personality

Grant Funding for Florida's Aquaculture Industry

Hurricane Idalia made landfall on August 30th at Keaton Beach in the Big Bend region of Florida causing agricultural devastation to one of Florida's most diverse agribusinesses – the shellfish industry (Aquaculture).



The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Hurricane Idalia Aquaculture Economic Impact Survey estimated that the adjusted reported losses from Aquaculture Certificate of Registration holders and shellfish processors totaled $34,159,952 from Hurricane Idalia. A total of 324 Aquaculture Certificate of Registration holders and 64 shellfish processors in the affected areas were contacted with a response to the survey of 296 (72%). Registration holders reported losses of $29,470,970 and processors reported $401,520 in losses.

	Shellfish Processing Facilities	Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Holders	Aquaculture Certificate of Registration Holders Adjusted Value	**Preliminary Industry Adjusted Loss**
Reported Losses	$401,520	$29,470,970	$33,758,432	**$34,159,952**

Story continues on the next page…

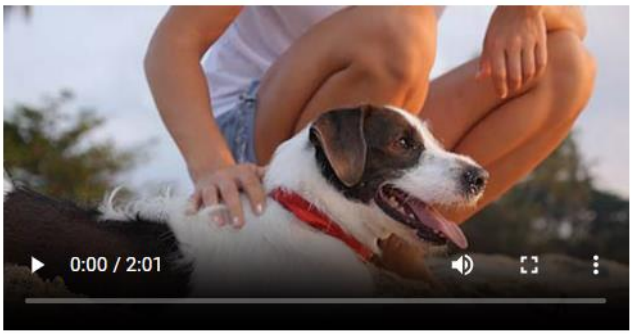
Grant Funding for Florida's Aquaculture Industry (continued)

On October 6th the Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson made aquaculture shellfish nursery and hatchery grant funding available statewide to grow Florida's aquaculture industry with priority given to projects that support producers in underserved areas and/or impacted by Hurricane Idalia. The Commissioner stated, "Hurricane Idalia dealt a devastating blow to Florida's aquaculture industry, and as producers are rebuilding and repairing their operations, we need to substantially increase the quality, availability, and sustainability of our shellfish seed." The available grants total in $500,000 for use of purchase of materials in supplies to aid in the Aquiculture Industry recovery.

Source Material:
Following Hurricane Idalia, Commissioner Wilton Simpson Announces Aquaculture Shellfish Nursery and Hatchery Grants (fdacs.gov)
Hurricane Idalia Aquaculture Economic Impact Survey Summary (fdacs.gov)

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.

Extended: FDOT Waiver for Agricultural Commodities

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) size and weight limit waiver has been extended to expire on December 23, 2023, and the agricultural commodities included in the original waiver, as recommended by Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson, are retained.

Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

Effective Date: August 28, 2023
From: Paul L. Clark, Statewide Scale Operations Manager

ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN 2023-001

EMERGENCY ROAD USE PERMIT LETTER
SUPPORTING EXECUTIVE ORDER 23-171 CLARIFICATION

Background:

Executive Order 23-171 authorized the Department of Transportation to relieve the size and weight restrictions for 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 restrictions for such vehicles.

Pursuant to this authority, the Florida Department of Transportation 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 the Commissioner of Agriculture 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,
- and Tomatoes.

End of Bulletin

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.

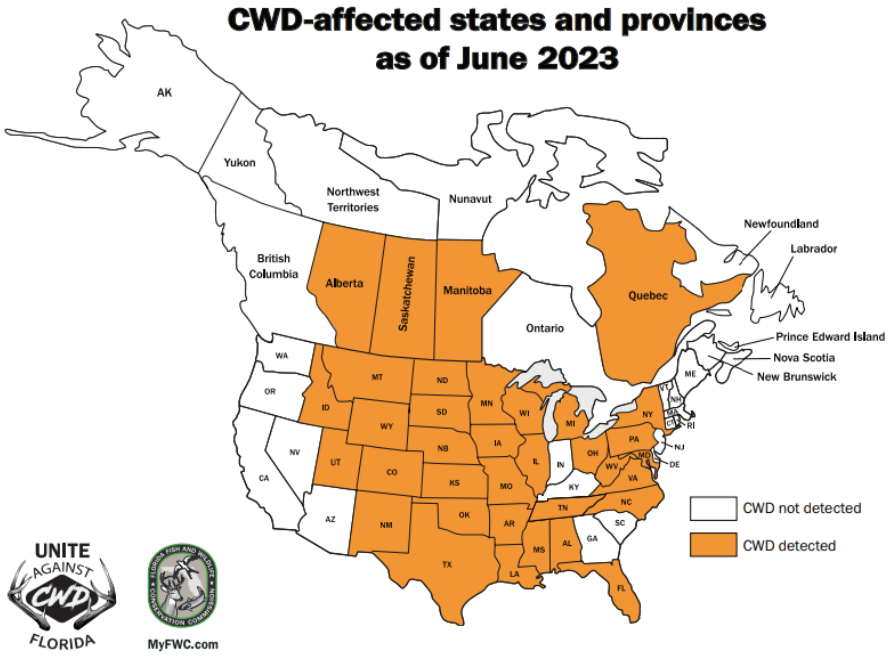
The FDACS Announcement with additional information and resources on the response is attached and available on the website here: https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry

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

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 deadly pig disease that spreads rapidly and affects domestic and wild swine. While not a threat to human health, the virus could devastate America's swine, pork industry, and food supply. Whatever pigs mean to you—your livelihood or a pet—we're all in it together. Protect our swine and keep the disease out of the United States. 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…

- Experts Urge Residents to Watch For, Report Yellow-Legged Hornets (UF/IFAS)
- First Lady Casey DeSantis Announces More Than $6 Million to Support Hurricane Idalia Recovery in The Big Bend (FDACS)
- Commissioner Wilton Simpson Announces $2 Million Budget Request to Support Timber Landowners Severely Impacted by 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.

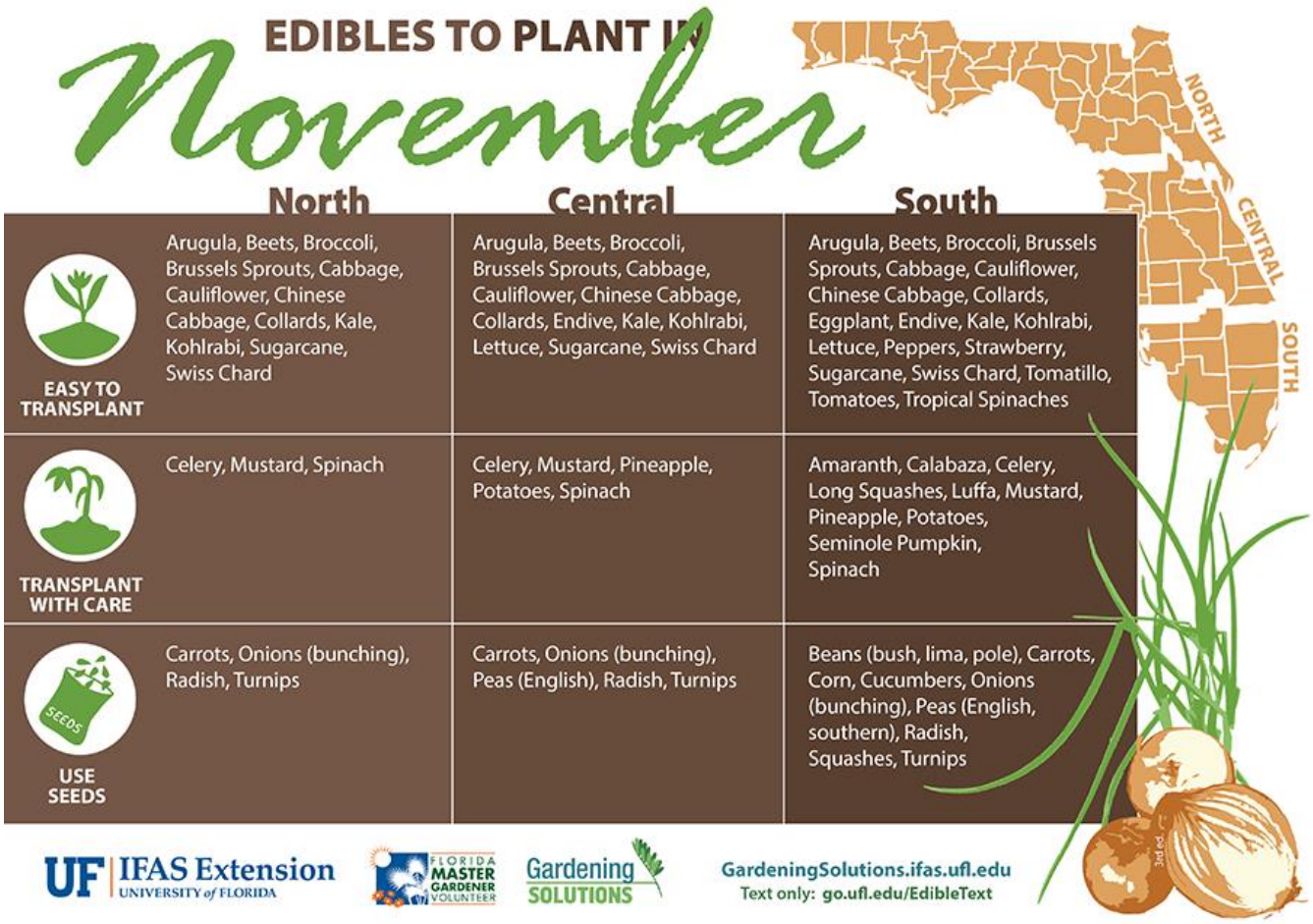
Sponsored by:

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.



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 November - 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 1	Operations Level 2
• November 4, 2023 • November 18, 2023 • December 2, 2023 • December 16, 2023	• TBD

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

SART Partners Meetings

The following meetings are by invitation only to primary representatives of SART partner agencies:

- Virtual Meeting – November 15, 2023, 10am – 11am
- In-Person Quarterly Meeting – December 18, 2023, 10am – Noon, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion

Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - Awareness Level

Thanks to a grant from the Florida State Agricultural Response Team, we are partnering with The University of Florida's IFAS Extension Center and Pasco County to provide training on how to respond to local, state and national disasters, save animals, and operate temporary emergency shelters.

TRAINING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!

SATURDAY NOV 18TH, 2023 **9 AM - 5 PM**

OSS STALLINGS BUILDING COOP EXT.
15029 14 ST. DADE CITY, FL 33525

Use code **SART** at check out to receive a full registration fee discount!

To register with your mobile device, scan the code to the left, or go to

https://bit.ly/PASCOLVL1

FLSARC.ORG

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

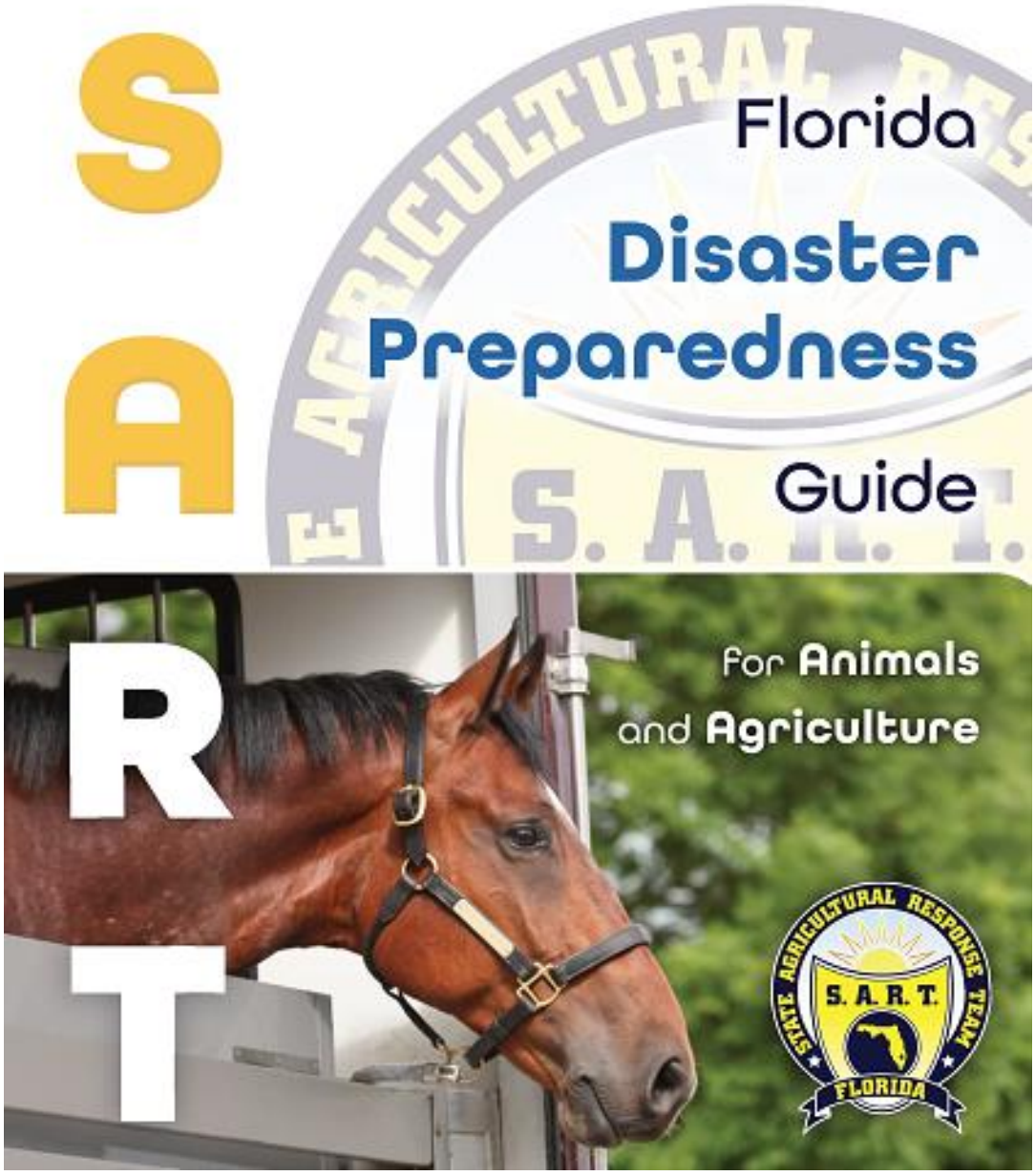
STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM
S. A. R. T.
FLORIDA

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.

Thanksgiving Holiday Food Safety Tips

Did you know an average frozen turkey (16-20 lbs.) needs to be thawed 4-5 days in the refrigerator? Discover several meaningful food safety tips to reduce foodborne illness while you and yours spend time with friends and family during your holiday traditions this year.

Visit the Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach Holidays and Festivals website to learn: how to safely thaw your turkey and thaw it in a brine solution, what safe cooking temperatures are, how to safely put away leftovers, and menu planning tips for your family gathering along with FreshFromFlorida recipes and Food Safety flyers specifically for Thanksgiving.

Gobble It Up!

How long will your Thanksgiving leftovers be safe to eat when stored in the refrigerator?

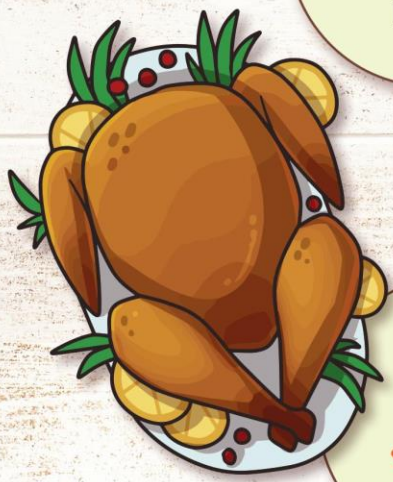
Prevent foodborne illness during the holidays by learning when to throw away your leftovers.

Learn more specifics about food storage at FoodSafety.gov

Pumpkin Pie
3-4 Days

Mashed Potatoes
3-4 Days

Cranberry Sauce/Relish
7-10 Days



Gravy
1-2 Days

Roast Turkey
3-4 Days

Cooked Vegetables
3-4 Days

Stuffing
1-2 Days

Division of Food Safety

1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or
1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832)

FDACS.gov

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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