



The Sentinel

Newsletter of
the Florida State
Agricultural
Response Team



There were 289,096 acres affected (266,627 private and 22,469 public) by Hurricane Idalia.

Preparing Your Timberland and Forested Areas for Severe Weather

The aftermath of Hurricane Idalia in September of 2023 left Florida's timber industry with an estimated \$64.7 million in total loss. While it may seem like hurricane season is far away, it is never too early to start getting ready for severe weather.

Outside of hurricanes the State of Florida regularly experiences severe weather that can bring large wind gusts, rain causing flooding, and lightning strikes, all of which can be damaging to Florida's timber industry. Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) partner, University of Florida Cooperative Extension, has created helpful tips to ensure that the timberland and forested areas can be better prepared for damage-causing storms.

Pre-storm preparation should include tree pruning to keep from limb breakage that could cause damage to structures and other trees. Be sure to check that any fuel, herbicides, fertilizer, and other chemicals are kept full and secured so that they are available for recovery efforts post-storm. Remove any debris from ditches to reduce flooding within the timber areas.

Keep all communication equipment in good working order and emergency contacts up to date to ensure that you can get help if needed. Take photos of all acreage of timber production before the storm, these may be needed for insurance claims and/or government assistance programs.

The story continues on page 2.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *2024 January Severe Weather Event: North Florida Tornadoes*
- *Become a Volunteer of the Florida Veterinary Corps Today!*
- *Florida Farm Bureau Day Holds the Taste of Florida Agriculture Evening Reception*

"Sparkey" is an Inspection K-9 with the FDACS Division of Plant Industry. He has a very important role inspecting agricultural products to prevent disease and pests from coming into the state.

He has been featured at the most recent SART Planning Meeting, and recently attended the *Taste of Florida Agriculture* event.



Preparing Your Timberland and Forested Areas for Severe Weather (continued)



Lastly, a very important question to ask is: "Is it time to harvest?" To obtain full market value for timber produced it is best to harvest mature trees before the impending severe weather. If harvested after the severe weather University of Florida research shows that the production yield is only 10 – 15% of the normal market value.



Photo: Doug Mayo, UF/IFAS Extension



Preparing your timber and forested land for severe weather might sound like a huge challenge but you don't have to do it alone. Connect with professionals, work with a consulting forester, get a good forest inventory, and reach out to your [local extension office](#). Other resources may be found within the [Florida Forest Service](#) and the [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency](#).

It's never too late to prepare your timber for severe weather!

Source Material:

- [Prepare Your Property for Hurricane Season - School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](#)
- [Hurricane Idalia Damage Report 2023 AG-EXPORTS IMPACTS ON FLORIDA AGRICULTURE \(fdacs.gov\)](#)

Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida



CWD DETECTED IN FLORIDA

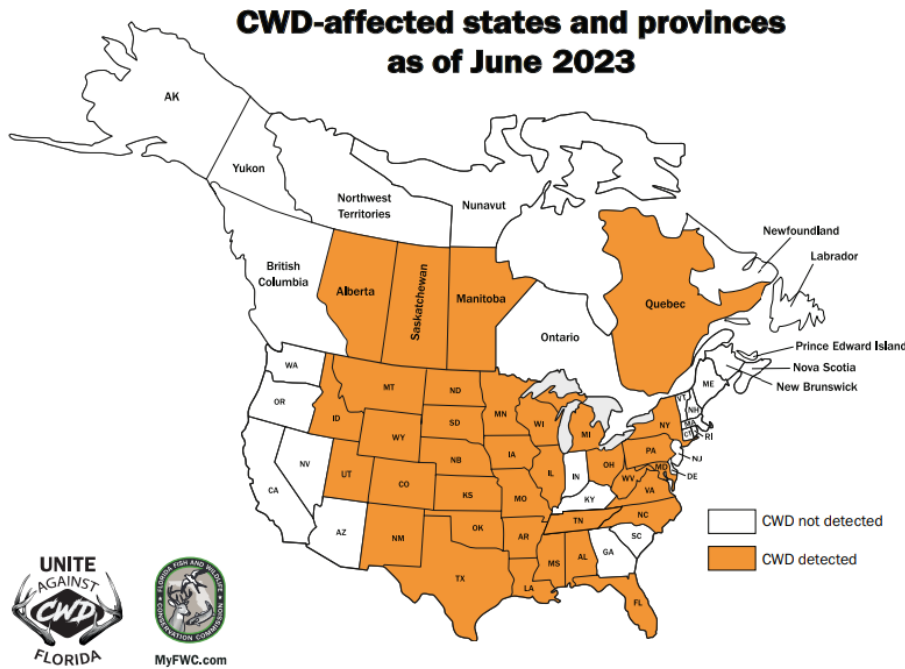
The FWC has confirmed that a road-killed 4.5-year-old female white-tailed deer in Holmes County sampled during routine surveillance activities has tested positive for CWD.

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. FWC and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) have implemented response and management actions to protect against the possible spread of CWD.

On Sept. 8, the FWC issued a new executive order outlining regulations designed to increase sampling and slow the spread of CWD in Florida deer. Existing regulations pertaining to the establishment of the zone, baiting and feeding restrictions, prohibition of rehabilitating or releasing injured or orphaned deer and export of high-risk parts remain in effect. 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.

Visit the FWC [CWD website](#) for more information, updates, and resources.



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

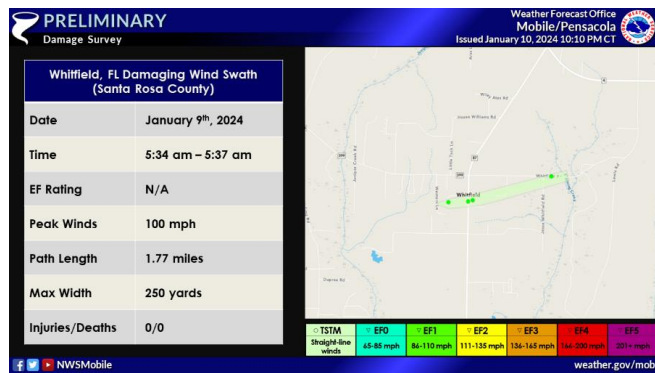
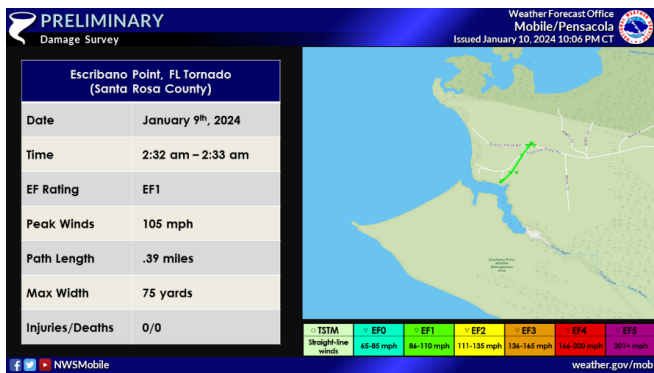
2024 January Severe Weather Event: North Florida Tornadoes



Photo: Panama City News Herald

On January 8, Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 personnel and Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) partners started to keep a close watch on a fast-moving, severe weather system moving across the southeast from the Panhandle through the Big Bend. The very next morning, on January 9, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated to begin coordination efforts with county and state agencies in response to the severe weather. ESF 17 and Florida SART activated and began holding daily coordination calls.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) ESF 17 personnel, LeiAnna Tucker and Emily Nolen, reported to the SEOC to coordinate preliminary agricultural damage assessments with Florida SART partners, and any critical and unmet needs within the impacted communities related to animals and agriculture. By late afternoon, a line of storms approached the Central Florida Peninsula, eventually producing two tornadoes and significant wind damage in Sarasota County, Florida.



Concluding level 1 activation for this weather event on January 10, ESF 17 personnel continued to coordinate with Florida SART Partners with those potentially impacted by the storm. Division of Food Safety was able to conduct over 400 phone assessments of establishments in both Bay and St. Johns Counties, as well as conducted phone assessments with North Florida dairies. Agricultural producers were advised to report any storm damage to their local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency. No critical or unmet needs that required state assistance from FDACS were reported for this weather event. Thank you to all our Florida SART partners and ESF 17 personnel for effective coordination efforts during this severe weather event.

Source Material:

- [January 8-9 Strong Wind and Tornado Event \(weather.gov\)](#)
- [Tornado damage across Bay County \(news Herald.com\)](#)

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=S11Xsjd-FCw>

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:



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

Yvette Johnson-Walker DVM, MS, PhD
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine
Center for One Health Illinois
Yjohn38@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.

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.

Clinical Warning Signs of an ASF Infection

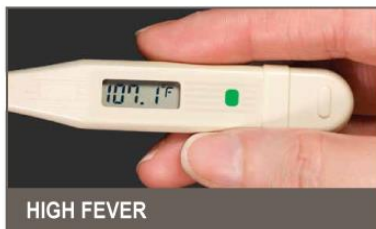


Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

It is important to note that Classical Swine Fever has been present in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for many years and, therefore, the U.S. does not receive pork products or live swine imports from either country. The highest risk of ASF introduction into the U.S. is from pork products brought in by international travelers via sea or air. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection has increased inspections of products and personal items brought into the U.S from affected countries.




More information regarding ASF can be found on the USDA [website](#).
[Click here for the FDACS Announcement on ASF.](#)

In the News...

- [Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson, Legislative Leaders Launch Hurricane Idalia Recovery Programs for Florida Farmers \(FDACS\)](#)
- [Can I Bring It? - Don't Pack a Pest! Travelers Campaign \(FDACS/DPI\)](#)

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN February



	North	Central	South
 EASY TO TRANSPLANT	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Ginger, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Chinese Cabbage, Eggplant, Endive, Ginger, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 TRANSPLANT WITH CARE	Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach	Boniato, Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes
 USE SEEDS	Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onion (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Chayote, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Gardening SOLUTIONS

GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu
Text only: go.ufl.edu/EdibleText



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 February - 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://filsart.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.

USDA Farm Service Agency Disaster Assistance Programs

USDA offers a variety of programs to help farmers, ranchers, communities, and businesses that have been hard hit by natural disaster events. Below you'll find available FSA programs; visit farmers.gov for additional USDA programs that can help agricultural producers recover.

[Sign up to receive Disaster Assistance Program email updates](#)

Livestock Assistance

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or that is planted specifically for grazing. [Learn more about LFP.](#)

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government. [Learn more about LIP.](#)

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by LFP and LIP. [Learn more about ELAP.](#)

- [Livestock](#)
- [Honeybees](#)
- [Farm-Raised Fish](#)

Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) – provides livestock producers, who have approved applications through the 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program for forage losses due to severe drought or wildfire, emergency relief payments to compensate for increases in supplemental feed costs. No producer applications required.

Farm Loans

Emergency Loan Program provides loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine by animal quarantine laws or imposed by the Secretary under the Plant Protection Act.

Disaster Set-Aside Program provides producers who have existing direct loans with FSA who are unable to make the scheduled payments to move up to one full year's payment to the end of the loan. Assistance is available in counties, or contiguous counties, who have been designated as emergencies by the President, Secretary or FSA Administrator.

Farmland Damage

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and helps put in place water conservation methods during severe drought. [Learn more about ECP.](#)

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) helps owners of non-industrial private forests restore forest health damaged by natural disasters. [Learn more about EFRP.](#)

Crop Losses

Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) pays covered producers of covered noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters (includes native grass for grazing). Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for the current crop year. [Learn more about NAP.](#)

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters. [Learn more about TAP.](#)

Questions?

Maybe we can help. Please check our Online Knowledge Base. [Ask USDA](#)

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">February 3, 2024February 17, 2024February 23, 2024* (*Florida Animal Control Conference)April 6, 2024June 1, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">February 17 & 18, 2024March 2 & 3, 2024May 18 & 19, 2024

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

K9 Handler First Responder & K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Training – Sponsored by Florida SART

Registration is open for the next Florida SART-sponsored **K9 Handler First Responder & K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care** training, scheduled Feb 9-11, 2024, at Camp Blanding in Starke, FL. Students receive Continuing Education Credit for law enforcement and EMS. Full student tuition is paid for by Florida SART for approved applicants. Students are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meal expenses.

This training is sponsored by Florida SART, and in partnership with the Florida National Guard, Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force, and K9 MEDIC. Please see the flyer on the following page.

SART Partners Meeting

The following meeting is by invitation only to primary representatives of SART partner agencies:

- Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting – February 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST.





FRI-SUN FEB 9-11, 2024

K-9 FIRST RESPONDER & K-9 TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE

3-DAY TRAINING

Are you a K-9 Handler looking to provide the best emergency field care for your four-legged partner?

Learn K-9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care skills in a hands-on, scenario-based training environment with an expert instructor cadre, on advanced veterinary manikins, and in a state-of-the-art training



BECOME FIELD-READY

RECEIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

20 STUDENTS PAID BY FLORIDA SART

FACILITIES PROVIDED BY COUNTERDRUG

APPLICATION DEADLINE JAN 15, 2024

APPLY AT
WWW.K9MEDIC.COM/FL

LOCATION | TIME
Camp Blanding
Counterdrug – MCTFT
5629 SR16 West
Starke, FL 32091
Enter via main gate, left on Ave. B, after about 3 miles, follow signs to classroom.
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., daily

K-9 FIRST RESPONDER & K-9 TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE

3-Day Training, Feb 9-11, 2024

Expert instructors from K9 MEDIC® deliver an intense, hands-on training format.



K9 Handler / First Responder Advanced Scope

This program includes handling K-9 emergencies in both conventional and tactical environments, so you'll be prepared to respond wherever and whenever you need. Topics range from safe K-9 handling and comprehensive assessments to treating the most common emergencies such as heat stroke and bloat/GDV, and tactical injuries such as gunshot wounds. Advanced Scope includes fluid administration and handler assist skills.

INTENSIVE/High-Def Format

This format delivers a hands-on and scenario-based experience, along with benefits of a diversified instructor cadre. In addition to the all-class practice exercises, this format delivers an additional four rotations of hands-on skills stations and solo/team scenarios using advanced veterinary mannikins. Each student receives significant instructor feedback and attention customized to their specific needs. Multi-disciplinary instructors often include a lead expert veterinarian, experienced tactical paramedic, and field-savvy K-9 Handler.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: January 15, 2024

APPLICANT SELECTION: 20 students will be selected. Preference given to early applicants. Selections made as applications are received. Apply at www.K9MEDIC.com/FL

WHO CAN APPLY? Only active canine handlers currently employed with a military, federal, state, or local (city/county) agency are eligible to apply. Preference given to canine handlers working in Florida.

COST: Full tuition paid for by SART! Students are responsible for travel, lodging and meal expenses.

CERTIFICATION: Upon completion, students receive a K9 MEDIC® Certificate of Completion and Continuing Education Credit for law enforcement and EMS. This course meets the course prerequisites for admission to the K9 MEDIC® Trainer Academy.

QUESTIONS? Contact Ms. LeiAnna Tucker, (850) 410-0920. LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov.

Sponsored by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), and in partnership with K9 MEDIC® and the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training.

Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - Awareness Level

Lake City Humane Society, the University of Florida IFAS Extension, and the Florida State Animal Response Coalition are partnering 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!

\$20 Admin Fee



**Saturday
February 17,
2024**



**8:30 - 5 PM
EST**



**437 NW Hall of Fame Dr,
Lake City, FL 32055**



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

LCHS

<https://bit.ly/LAKECITYHUMANE>



Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - Operations Level

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management and the Florida State Animal Response Coalition are partnering 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!!



**SAT/SUN,
February 17-18,
2024**



**9 AM - 5
PM
CENTRAL**



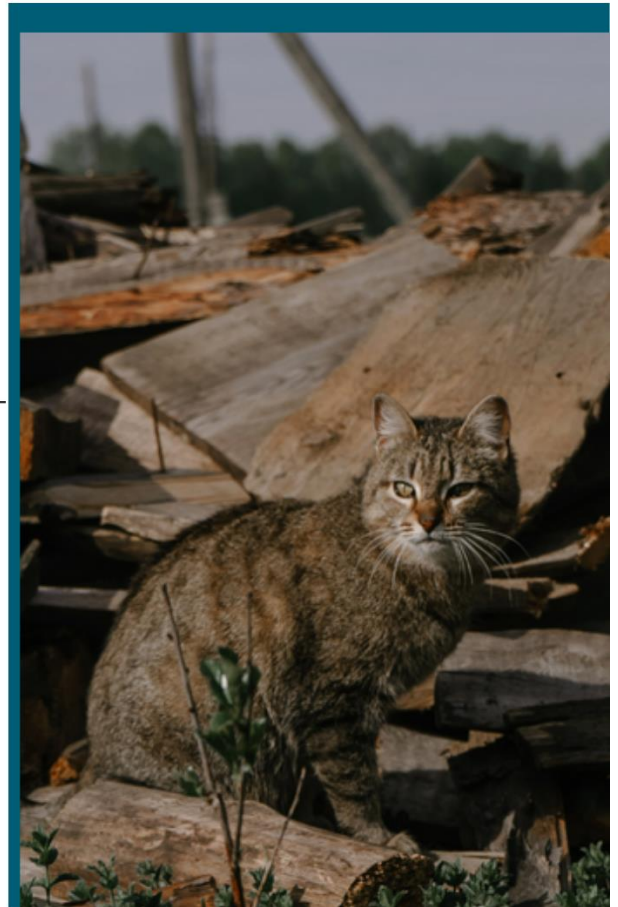
**4499 Pine Forest Rd
Milton, FL 32583**

REGISTRATION IS FREE!!



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

<https://bit.ly/47p3DVK>



Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - Awareness Level

The Florida Animal Protection and Advocacy Association (FAPAA) & Florida State Animal Response Coalition are partnering to provide training on how to respond to local, state and national disasters, save animals, and operate temporary emergency shelters.



**TRAINING IS FREE TO ALL
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES!**



Friday
February 23,
2024



8:30 - 5 PM
EST



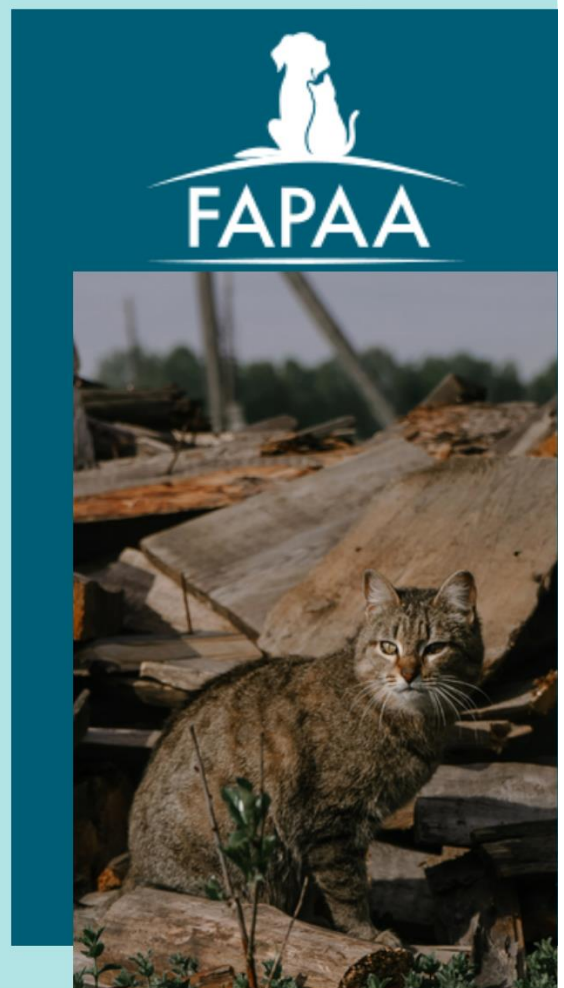
DoubleTree Hilton Sea World
10100 International Dr,
Orlando, FL 32821



2024FAAPA

You must be a
conference
attendee to
register for the
course! Scan the
QR Code or click
the link below.

<https://bit.ly/2024FAAPA>



Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - OPERATIONS 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!!



SAT & SUN
MAR 2 & 3, 2024



8:30 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 below, or go to <https://bit.ly/2024PASCOLVL2>





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

Feb. 13, 2024

OPS-24 hours

Apr. 1-3, 2024

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/SART2024ATR

UF Veterinary Emergency
Treatment Service
College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Celebrating Florida Agriculture at the State Capitol: Florida Farm Bureau Day Holds *the Taste of Florida Agriculture* Evening Reception



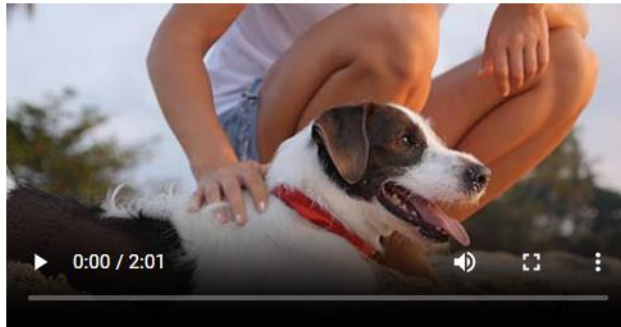
On January 16, 2024, the Florida Capitol hosted the Annual Florida Farm Bureau Day and Taste of Florida Agriculture event. Agricultural producers of all commodities from across the state joined for a full day of meeting with public officials, food, and music. FDACS also sported booths and tables showing off the hard work from almost every division.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Wilton Simpson, was also able to meet with producers and extended a warm welcome from the capitol. Florida SART Partners, Florida Farm Bureau, and the University of Florida Cooperative Extension, also played a huge part in demonstrating how important agriculture is in the State of Florida with their booths and attendance at the event. "Farm Bureau Day is essential to our grassroots process," said Florida Farm Bureau President Jeb S. Smith. "Farm families can share their personal stories with elected officials on how legislation can impact their ability to grow the food, fiber and product that we all depend on."



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.

Florida SART to Present at the Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference



The annual [Governor's Hurricane Conference](#) (GHC) is May 12-17, 2024, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center & Hilton West Palm Beach. This year, ESF 17 and Florida SART partners, LeiAnna Tucker (FDACS) and Dr. Angie Lindsey (UF/IFAS), will present a workshop on *Identifying Recovery Resources for Florida's Agricultural Communities*. This workshop will focus on disaster recovery efforts and resources at the UF/IFAS and Florida Cooperative Extension System as well as past, present, and future collaboration efforts with local, state, and federal agencies and agriculture-focused industry organizations.

Workshop presenters will include representatives from UF/IFAS, state and federal agencies involved in disaster response, and agriculture-focused industry groups. Panel-style discussion with workshop presenters will cover coordination and collaboration on recovery efforts after recent hurricanes. The workshop will also provide details on the existence and ongoing improvements to the UF/IFAS Agricultural Damage and Loss Assessment framework including how this tool is distributed to impacted stakeholders, how these results are used, and how results are shared with decision makers. Lastly, the workshop will identify best practices for accessing recovery resources and contact information.

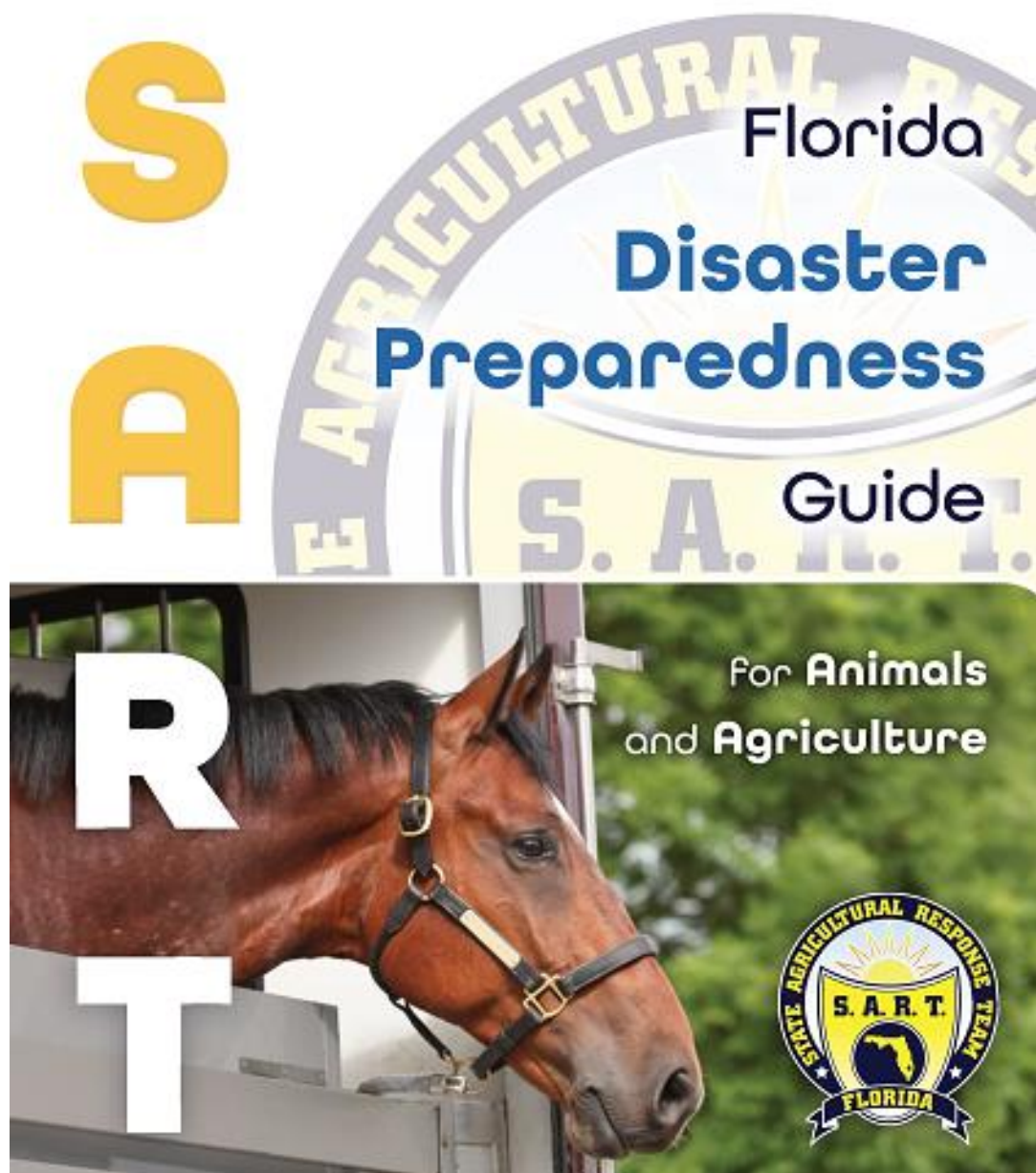
As registration spots and hotel rooms will fill up quickly, we encourage you to get the upcoming Governors Hurricane Conference on your calendar. For more information, visit: <https://flghc.org>

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.

Food Safety for the Big Game

If you are planning on having friends and family over to watch the big game, take a timeout to serve food safely. Here are a few important tips to help keep you safe from foodborne illness:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food.
- Separate ready-to-eat foods from raw food like raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs to help prevent cross-contamination and foodborne illness.
- Keep your hot foods hot and cold foods cold. If you are having a gathering for the big game, serve hot foods in a chafing dish, a slow cooker, or a warming tray to keep their internal temperature at 140°F.
- Refrigerate leftovers within two hours to decrease the risk of foodborne illness.

For more information on food safety, visit the [Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website](#).



SART Resources and Links



UF/IFAS Winter Weather Resources

- [Protecting Pets and Livestock from Cold Weather](#)
- [Dealing with a Florida Winter Weather Event](#)
- [ENH1/MG025: Cold Protection of Landscape Plants](#)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – USDA APHIS Flock Defender

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/outbreak-illness/outbreak-illness>

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.

Editing Services: The Turner Network, LLC under contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.

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