The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

The representatives of the Human Services Branch gather at the FEPA 2024 Annual Meeting. Pictured left to right: Dexter Harris (FDACS/ ESF 11), Doug Ryan (FDACS, ESF 11), Emily Nolen (FDACS, ESF 17), Pam Hughes (FDEM / Human Services Branch Director), Christy Rojas (Volunteer Florida), Octavio Rios (FDEM/ Human Services Branch Planner), and Tommy Cleversy (Volunteer Florida).

Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Annual Meeting 2024

Emergency management staff from all over the state gathered in Destin, Florida, for the 2024 Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Annual Meeting from January 28 to February 2. During the annual meeting, staff could attend trainings and workshops, gain continuing education credits, and discuss the "hot" topics of emergency management. Staff from all aspects of the emergency management profession (State, County, Private, etc.) were in attendance and able to network and gain new strategies in emergency mitigation and response.

Many of this year's topics were focused on the lessons learned from Hurricane Idalia, which hit the Big Bend area in late August of 2023. County emergency managers from the unaffected counties highlighted the mutual aid support they were able to provide to the affected counties while they recovered from the storm.

Emergency managers were encouraged to take a closer look at their response plans and make additions to include areas such as animals and agriculture that were largely affected by Hurricane Idalia. The impacted counties shared their successes and struggles as they worked to communicate with rural communities and help in the recovery of agricultural producers.

The story continues on page 2.

Special Features of this Issue:

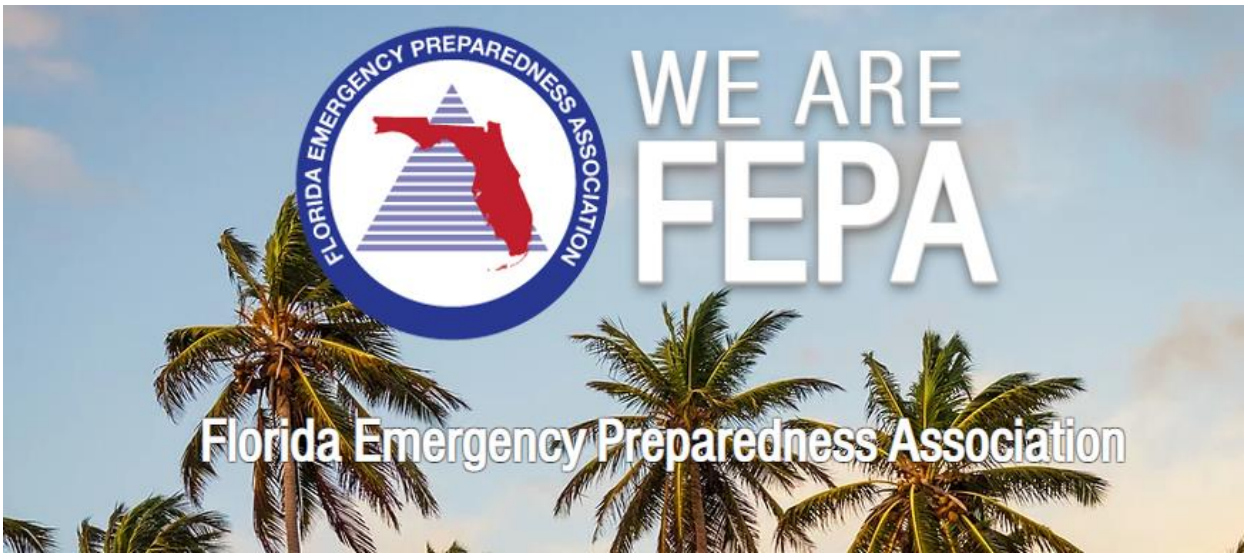
- *EM Day at the Capitol: Moving Florida Forward*
- *Florida SARC – Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training*
- *K9 Handler First Responder Training Sponsored By SART*

"By partnering with K9 MEDIC and the Florida National Guard, SART worked to bring an intense, hands-on training experience that focused on protecting and caring for canine first responders in the field, when a veterinarian or hospital isn't around."

— LeiAnna Moorhead
Florida SART Administrator, FDACS
Story on page 3.

Shown below: K9 Medic Instructor, Dr. Robin Van Metre, VMD, with K9 Magnus Ares of Florida Task Force 6.

Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Annual Meeting 2024 (continued)



Suwannee, Madison, and Citrus Counties talked in detail about their experiences during Hurricane Idalia and what improvements they would be making before the 2024 hurricane season. Brevard and Pinellas County emergency managers shared their roles in aiding communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia and encouraged other counties to fill mutual aid roles during the upcoming hurricane season.

Workshop and training sessions covered a variety of topics, including the current improvements to how county emergency staff utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Creating forms in real time that both personnel and citizens can use to report damage and critical needs, helping emergency managers direct resources more efficiently. Private industry also showed off the newest technology in everything from mission tracking to weather and communication systems. FEPA's 2024 Annual Meeting was a great networking and learning opportunity for all in attendance. Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 staff looks forward to the 2025 FEPA Annual Meeting!

For more information, visit: https://www.fepa.org/meetings-and-trainings

K9 Handler First Responder Training Sponsored By SART

On February 9- 10, a variety of K9 handlers from multiple jurisdictions including local, state, and federal law enforcement and regulatory agencies participated in the fifth offering of the K9 First Responder and Tactical Combat Casualty Care Training in-person training at Camp Blanding. Topics covered in this training ranged from safe K9 handling and comprehensive vital assessments to treating the most common emergencies such as heat stroke and bloat/Gastric Dilation-Volvulus (GDV), along with tactical injuries such as gunshot wounds. Select handlers were able to bring their K9 partner to participate in the hands-on training and mock emergency scenarios. "Great balance of lecture and practical teaching with enthusiastic instruction," commented one participant.

Photo: Training participants treating a heat injury with a synthetic K9 from being inside of a hot vehicle.

Sentiments provided by leadership regarding the past K9 First Responder Trainings:

"By partnering with K9 MEDIC and the Florida National Guard, SART worked to bring an intense, hands-on training experience that focused on protecting and caring for canine first responders in the field, when a veterinarian or hospital isn't around. They're preparing themselves for all situations, whether a missing child, a massive hurricane, or even an act of terrorism they're called to assist with," said LeiAnna Moorhead, Florida SART Administrator, FDACS. "By providing better training the handler can feel confident in learning to apply these emergency medical skills for their K9 partner," said Emily Nolen, Florida SART coordinator.

"K-9 medical training is a skill rarely offered to handlers," said Sergeant Meyers, Florida National Guard Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force. "Providing this course with life-saving, pre-veterinary competencies to handlers throughout the state of Florida helps the communities in which they serve by increasing handlers' abilities to recognize, intervene, and transport their K-9 so they can continue working for years to come."

The story continues on the next page.

K9 Handler First Responder Training Sponsored by SART (continued)

The K9 First Responder and Tactical Combat Casualty Care Training is sponsored by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and in partnership with the Florida National Guard Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force, and K9 Medic. Camp Blanding is the host for this training because it is the primary military reservation and training base for the Florida National Guard with state-of-the-art training facilities.

Editorial note: Tactical photos above include a simulated dog and simulated firearms; no animals were injured.

Florida SARC – Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training

February has been a very busy month for the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) with many small animal emergency sheltering trainings taking place around the state. Florida SARC offers both Level 1 Awareness and Level 2 Operations trainings for county staff and shelter volunteers to strengthen the knowledge of those setting up and working within a small animal emergency shelter during an emergency. Both courses are funded by the Florida SART to aid in the training of county animal care/shelter staff and to enlist more volunteers. Florida SARC and SART aim to provide both Awareness and Operations trainings to multiple areas around the state to gain more knowledgeable staff and volunteers in our Florida communities.

Santa Rosa County hosted a Level 1 Awareness Course on February 3rd with 10 students who enjoyed a fun-filled day of training and exercises. Of the 10 students who took the course, three became SARC volunteers who will be able to aid Florida SARC during the next emergency response.

Florida SARC trainers and administrators pulled double duty the weekend of February 17 -18, hosting a Level 1 Awareness training in Columbia County and returning to Santa Rosa County to host a Level 2 Operations training. Both trainings were well-attended, and students gained important knowledge on how to execute a successful small animal emergency shelter. Attendees not only participated in a wonderful training but also were able to increase their local shelter's emergency preparedness knowledge in preparation for hurricane season, which is closer than we might think.

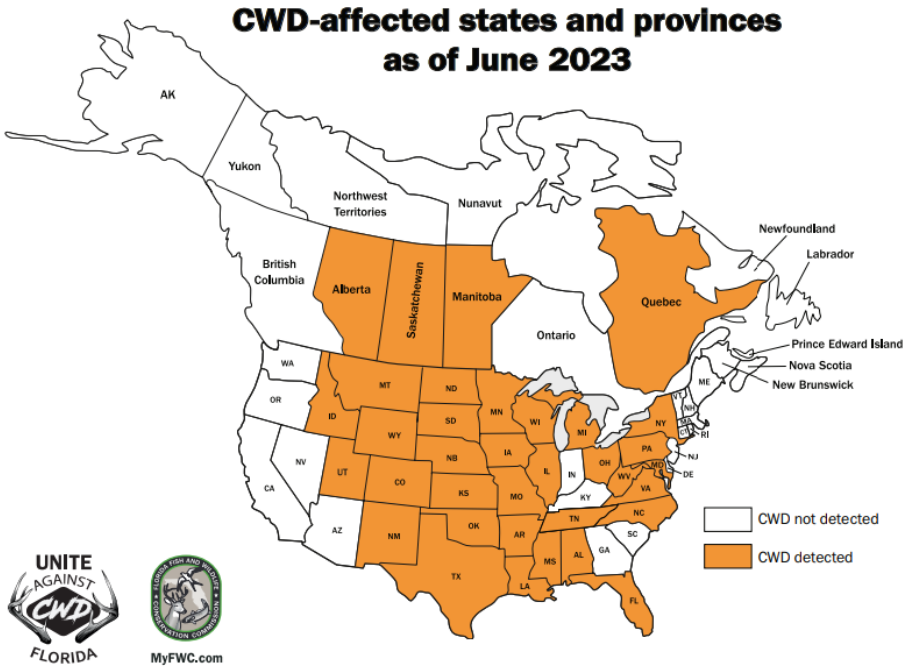
We want to thank our host counties, trainers, and attendees for making these trainings possible and successful! Keep up the great work!

Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida

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!

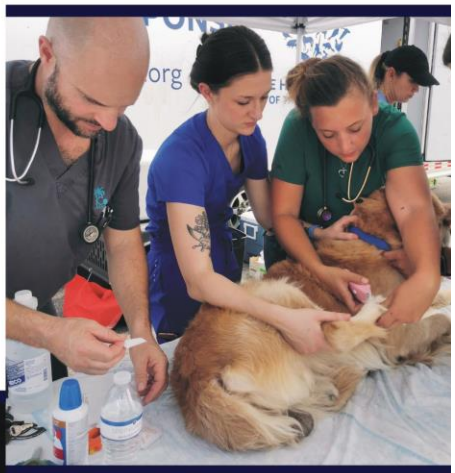
Florida veterinarians and veterinary technicians have volunteered to assist local and state emergency management officials in responding to animal emergencies. The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state.

Become A Volunteer

To apply to the Florida Veterinary Corps, visit **www.FLSART.org**

Florida Veterinary Corps

Safeguarding Animal and Public Health in Florida



A cooperative effort of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team and its Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Veterinary Medical Association, and University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

Florida Veterinary Corps

What is the Florida Veterinary Corps?

- The Florida Veterinary Corps (The Corps) is a component of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), established within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and a cooperative effort with the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine.
- 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 System structure under state Emergency Support Function 17 as part of the State Emergency Response Team.
- 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 structure.

Obligation of Corps Volunteers

- Corps volunteers will serve only when activated within an Incident Command System structure under state Emergency Support Function 17 as part of the State Emergency Response Team and adhere to all state regulations and rules.
- Complete the following four Incident Command System trainings to apply for The Corps. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides the independent study courses online, free of charge. The training is required for credentialing of emergency responders by the Department of Homeland Security. The courses are critical to train a professional volunteer Corps capable of responding as part of the state Emergency Support Function 17 and State Emergency Response Team.
  - IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS)
  - IS-200.C: Basic ICS for Initial Response
  - IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
  - IS-800.D: National Response Framework, An Introduction
- Corps volunteers will only be activated in response to specific emergency situations and may decline service at any time.

Rationale

- Protecting animal agriculture and household pets 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.

Become a Volunteer

To apply to the Florida Veterinary Corps, visit **www.FLSART.org**

EM Day at the Capitol: Moving Florida Forward

February 7, 2024, marked the 4th Annual Emergency Management (EM) Day at the Florida Capitol. County and state emergency management staff gathered at the Capitol to learn more about upcoming legislation for emergency management funding and policy. During this day we also celebrated and recognized all the hard work EM staff and their partners do in emergency preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery.

The day started with a breakfast and warm welcome from the Florida Division of Emergency Management Executive Director Kevin Guthrie, Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Senator Corey Simon, Secretary of Commerce Alex Kelly, Major General John D. Haas, and other staff. The emergency management team spent the afternoon meeting with their state representatives to advocate for legislative changes that would improve EM policy that aids its workforce to support and protect their local community and citizens.

At the EM Day at the Capitol, we also celebrate the Florida Division of Emergency Management and their distribution of more than $9.25 billion in critical disaster recovery funding for communities impacted by recent disasters. This funding included funds for Agricultural Recovery in commodities such as Citrus and Timber.

Thank you to all EM staff and partners for all the hard work you do!

For more information about this event, visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org

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 Moorhead (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…

- Commissioner Wilton Simpson Announces $1M Approved Through Hurricane Idalia Recovery Loan Program (FDACS)
- New UF/IFAS publication: Managing impacts of flooding, groundwater rise on septic systems (UF/IFAS)
- Can I Bring It? - Don't Pack a Pest! Travelers Campaign (FDACS/DPI)

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 March - 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 Moorhead at LeiAnna.Moorhead@FDACS.gov. During an emergency, ESF 17 and SART provides necessary food and water to affected areas to help protect animals, agriculture, and pets.

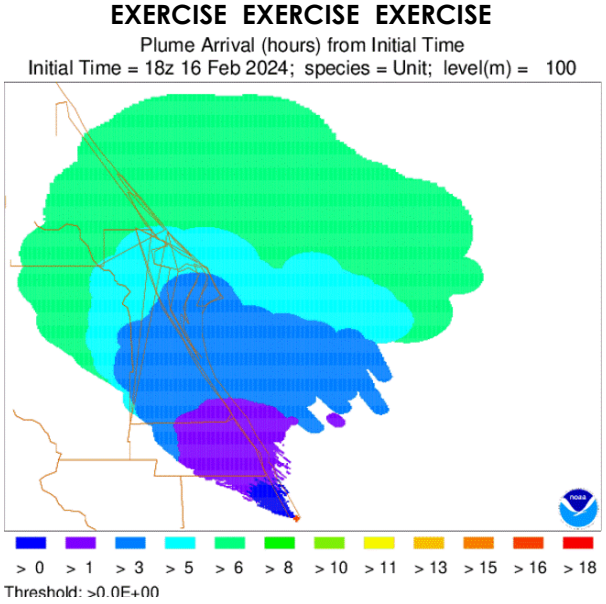
2024 St. Lucie Nuclear Power Point (FEMA-Evaluated) Exercise

On February 13, 2024, ESF 17 personnel, LeiAnna Moorhead and Emily Nolen, played in the 2024 St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant Exercise. This exercise tested the emergency notification levels and alert functions from the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant, and the local and state emergency management agencies' response to a potential radiological emergency at the plant. While Nuclear Power Plants are designed to operate safely on a daily basis, in the event of an accident a potential release of radioactive materials could take place.

A radiological event is any irregular operations within the nuclear power plant, which may or may not include a release or "plume" of radioactive gases, particles, and/or vapors release from a plant. When a plume of released radioactive material occurs it could affect all aspects of animals and agriculture located within the plume area. Federal agencies have established two emergency zones from the release site, a 10-mile zone and a 50-mile zone. The 50-mile zone is known as the "Ingestion Pathway Zone." This zone requires county, state, and federal officials to take emergency protective measures for protecting people and animals from potentially contaminated food and water. The following image is for exercise purposes only and shows how a plume can travel from the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant into the surrounding area.

This was a Functional Exercise wherein ESF personnel received emergency notifications, reported to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), attended briefings and coordination calls, and responded to exercise mission requests on Web EOC. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was the evaluating agency, evaluating the exercise progression and posing questions to different agencies and ESFs.

Each Nuclear Power Plant exercise that ESF 17 personnel and SART Partners participate in is a great opportunity for us to learn more about radiological incidents and other ESF teams! More information about how you can be better prepared for a Radiological Event can be found in the Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide (pages 58-63).



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
• March 16, 2024 • March 23, 2023 • April 6, 2024 • May 4, 2024 • June 1, 2024	• March 2 & 3, 2024 • April 27 & 28, 2024 • May 18 & 19, 2024

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

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 Moorhead (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 Partners Meeting

The following meetings are by invitation only to primary representatives of SART partner agencies and are not open to the public:

- SART Partners Quarterly In-Person Meeting, March 27th, at 10:30am, in Gainesville.
- Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting – April 17, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST.

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.

FLORIDA State Animal Response Coalition — Animal Rescue

PASCO COUNTY FLORIDA — Open Spaces. Vibrant Places.

UF | IFAS Extension — UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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

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

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

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
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

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

USDA releases 2022 Census of Agriculture Data

On February 13, 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced the results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, spanning more than 6 million data points about America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them down to the county level. The information collected directly from producers shows a continued decline in the total number of U.S. farms. However, the data also show a rise in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) as well as young (under the age of 35) producers. The full Census of Agriculture report as well as publication dates for additional ag census data products can be found at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

"We are pleased to provide updated Census of Agriculture data to all those who serve U.S. agriculture, especially the producers who gave their time to complete the questionnaire. Census of Agriculture data tell a story. This comprehensive snapshot every five years helps data users to see trends and shifts in the industry over time and helps producers do business," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "Overall, though there are always changes across U.S. agriculture, the data remain largely consistent with the previous ag census. Data users will also notice some new data on the topics of hemp, precision agriculture, and internet access."

Ag census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land use and activities on U.S. farms and ranches such as:

- There were 1.9 million farms and ranches (down 7% from 2017) with an average size of 463 acres (up 5%) on 880 million acres of farmland (down 2%). That is 39% of all U.S. land.
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 95% of all U.S. farms and operated 84% of land in farms.
- U.S. farms and ranches produced $543 billion in agricultural products, up from $389 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of $424 billion, U.S. farms had net cash income of $152 billion. Average farm income rose to $79,790. A total of 43% of farms had positive net cash farm income in 2022.
- Farms with internet access continued to rise from 75% in 2017 to 79% in 2022.
- A total of 153,101 farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 133,176 farms in 2017, a 15% increase. The majority of farms (76%) with renewable energy systems reported using solar panels.
- In 2022, 116,617 farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of $3.3 billion. Value of sales increased 16% from 2017.
- The 105,384 farms with sales of $1 million or more were 6% of U.S. farms and 31% of farmland; they sold more than three-fourths of all agricultural products. The 1.4 million farms with sales of $50,000 or less accounted for 74% of farms, 25% of farmland, and 2% of sales.
- Nearly three-fourths of farmland was used by farms specializing in two commodity categories: oilseed and grain production (32%) and beef cattle production (40%).
- The average age of all producers was 58.1, up 0.6 years from 2017. This is a smaller increase than average age increases between prior censuses.
- There were just over 1 million farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, an increase in the number of beginning farmers from 2017 of 11%. Beginning farmers are younger than all farmers, with an average age of 47.1.
- The number of producers under age 35 was 296,480, comprising 9% of all producers. The 221,233 farms with young producers making decisions tend to be larger than average in both acres and sales.
- In 2022, 1.2 million female producers accounted for 36% of all producers. Fifty-eight percent of all farms had at least one female decision maker.

The response rate for the 2022 Census of Agriculture was 61%; more than 40% of responses were submitted online. To address questions about the 2022 Census of Agriculture data, NASS will host a live X Stat Chat @usda_nass for the public on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. EST. Ag census data highlight publications are available at nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights.

Did You Know? SART Offers Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training

The Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training is the first of its kind to be offered in Florida. The training provides guidance to private, local, and state entities on how to plan for and operate a pet-friendly shelter to ensure that individuals evacuating from a disaster with their 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.

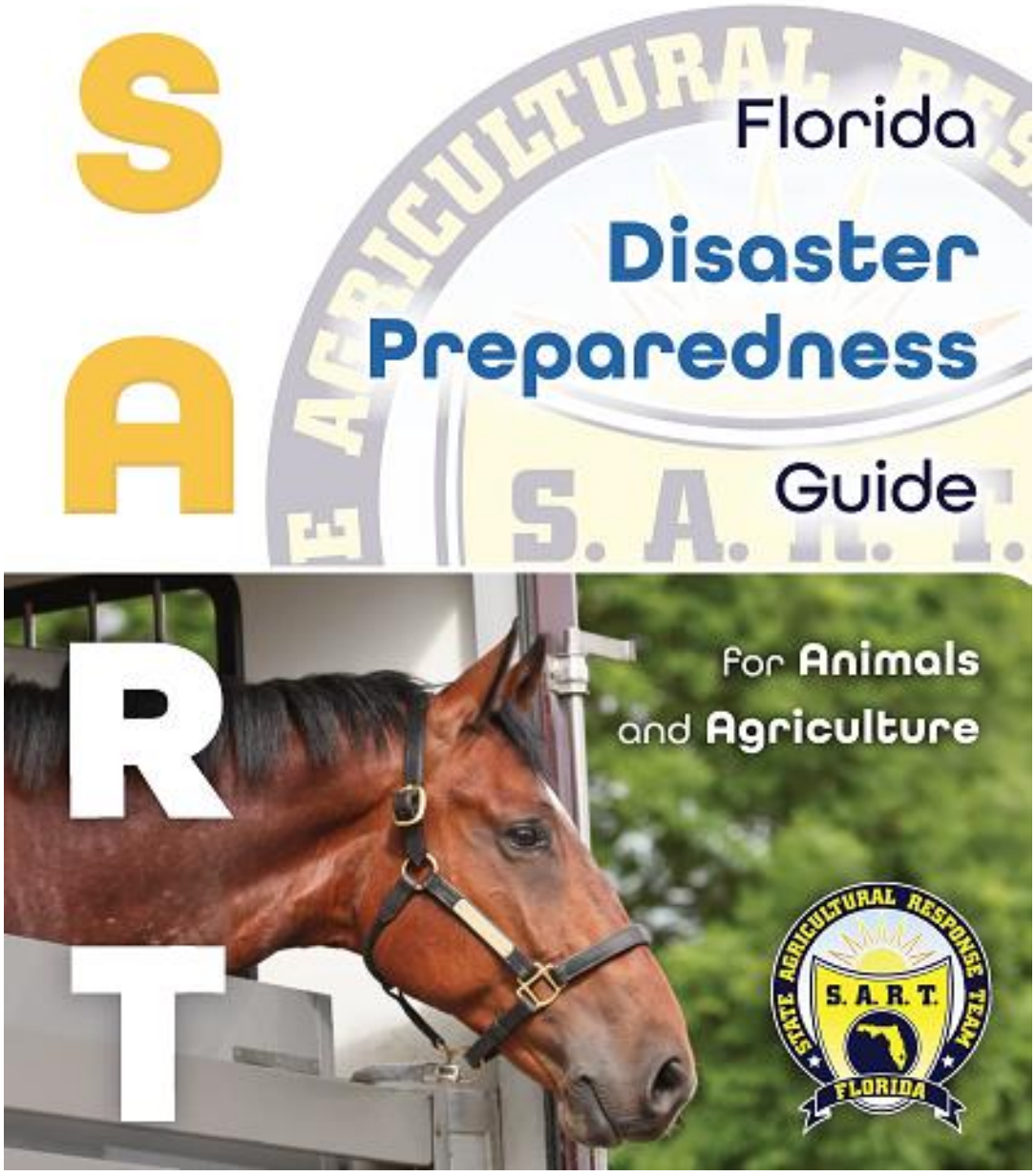
The four-hour course is designed for emergency managers, county employees, veterinary and animal services, and shelter volunteers. There is no charge for this 100% online course. For more information, please visit www.FLSART.org.

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.



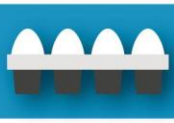
Damaged Food Guidance for Food Establishments

Power Outages, Floods, Fires, Sewage Backup, Transportation Accidents, Disasters

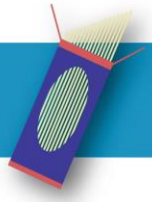
Food products can become contaminated or distressed from events including power outages, floods, sewage backup, fires, transportation accidents and disasters. Food establishments should have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) prior to an event which they can follow when these conditions occur to assist in preventing and reducing food-borne illness in situations that may affect food safety.

Food Product and Food Packaging to be evaluated which cannot be salvaged

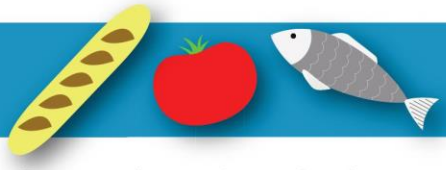
- Exposed foods, bulk foods, fresh produce, meat, poultry, fish and eggs;
- Paper or cellophane-wrapped foods which can collect filth or split at the seams making it virtually impossible to remove dirt or sanitize properly such as candies, cereals, bread, cakes, chewing gum, etc. This would include products in secondary packaging (cake mixes, cereals) which the outer package is of porous material;
- Any porous items that are used with food or that come in contact with the mouth including disposable flatware, plastic utensils, and paper, foam, or plastic dishware;
- Food products in containers with screw caps, snap-lids, crimped caps (soda bottles), twist caps, flip tops, snap open, and similar-type closures can have filth lodged under the cap lips, threads, lugs, crimps, and snap-rings, making them virtually impossible to detect and remove; and
- Cans that are dented, leaking, bulging, or rusted.



Food Products which can be salvaged must meet requirements of the regulatory authority



- Commercially prepared foods in all-metal cans or retort pouches; and
- Foods which have maintained refrigeration requirements of <41 degrees F or have maintained a solid frozen state.



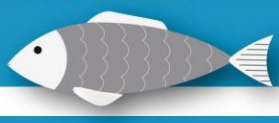
Disposal of food

- Remove and secure damaged products to an isolated area to prevent contamination to the facility, other food items or the public.
- Clearly mark storage area and/or storage containers "NOT FOR SALE" if disposal is to be at a later time.
- Small volumes of food should be denatured (e.g. with bleach, a detergent or other cleaning product to render unusable), placed in sealed black plastic bags, and placed in a closed refuse container outside the facility.
- Large volumes of food should be stored in a closed and secured container in a secure location until disposed of by the refuse disposal company or transportation to the landfill.
- Landfills should be contacted prior to delivery of food from a private individual or carrier to insure acceptance.

In preparation for or immediately after an emergency the food establishment should assess needs and make immediate arrangements with contracted waste disposal companies to provide refuse containers which can be secured to hold large quantities of products which need to be transported to a landfill. Arrangements should also be made for transportation to the landfill as soon as the refuse container is filled.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Information to develop an Emergency Action Plan for a food establishment can be found at ***FoodProtect.org/guides-documents***



CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Manager	
Regional Office	
Home Office	
Insurance Carrier	
Food Supplier	
Lawyer	
Water Utility Company	
Sewer	
Electricity	
Gas	
Phone	
Emergency Broadcast	
Police (911)	
Fire (911)	
Radio/TV Station	
Local Emergency	
Plumber	
Electrician	
Well Driller	
Licensed Water Hauler	
Local Regulatory Agency	
Bottled Water	
Commercial Ice	
Dry Ice	
Refrigerated Truck	
Refrigeration Warehouse	
Portable Generators	
Waste Hauler	
Local Landfill	
Septic Tank Pumper	
Drain Cleaner	
Cleaning Equipment	
Janitorial Service	
Fire Extinguisher Service	
Bldg Restoration Specialist	

For food products which cannot be salvaged, complete, proper and safe

disposal is required

to ensure these products do not reappear as damaged merchandise for human consumption.

The following questions should be considered allowing a food establishment to include the proper disposal method(s) as part of their EAP:

- What is/are the contaminant(s) (e.g. water, chemicals)?
- How is the contaminated food categorized (e.g. hazardous waste, municipal waste, non-hazardous waste)?
- How much contaminated product is there for disposal?
- What are the transportation requirements and needs for moving the contaminated product to these disposal facilities?
- Are permits or releases required for the product disposal from the local or food jurisdictional agency?
- Is a health and safety plan needed for the workers involved in the disposal or determination process?
- Will the jurisdictional food agency need to be involved in overseeing the disposal process?
- What jurisdictional food agency must be involved for reconditioned product to re-enter commerce?
- Who and where are the disposal facilities for different categories of bulk food waste?

Multiple agencies respond using the best skills and expertise available for adverse food incidents or events utilizing the Incident Command Structure in a uniform and efficient response or recovery.

- **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)**
- **Florida Department of Health (DOH)**
- **Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations (DBPR)**
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

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SART Resources and Links

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

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

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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