The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

Photo: American Red Cross

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Wildfire Season is Approaching!*
- *Help for Businesses in Florida Impacted by Hurricanes Helene or Milton*
- *LeiAnna Moorhead Presents on ESF 17 and SART's Hurricane Responses at National Summit*

Watch vs. Warning: What Does This Mean for Your Tornado Safety

Florida weather can sometimes change at the drop of a hat, and many Floridians are used to checking the weather to plan their day. Since the Florida weather can become severe, it is recommended to even have weather alerts set on your cell phone or weather radar for your area.

When your device gives you the alert that there is a "Watch" in your area, do you know what next steps to take? Ten minutes later, your device gives you another alert for a "Warning" in your area. How is that different and should that change your plans? Knowing what the weather alerts mean is very important in making a plan to be safe in case of severe weather.

When the National Weather Service Reports weather advisories the words "Watch" and "Warning" are often used to describe the risks of the weather event taking place. Often these terms are confused by the public and safety risks are misjudged, potentially leading to injury and even loss of life. The National Weather Service defines the term "Watch," "Advisory," and "Warning" in the table that follows on page 2 of this month's edition of *The Sentinel*.

Continued, next page.

"Rule number ONE: Only you can prevent wildfires."

— Smokey Bear
Advertising icon, U.S. Forest Service Wildfire Prevention Campaign
Read more on Page 5.

Watch vs. Warning: What Does This Mean for Your Tornado Safety (continued)

WARNING	A warning is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent or likely. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the path of the storm need to take protective action.
ADVISORY	An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent or likely. Advisories are for less serious conditions than warnings, that cause significant inconvenience and if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.
WATCH	A watch is used when the risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible. People should have a plan of action in case a storm threatens and they should listen for later information and possible warnings especially when planning travel or outdoor activities.

For a simpler explanation, a "Watch" is when all the elements are present for severe weather to develop, and one should be prepared to get to a safe place if development occurs. A "Warning" is when there is severe weather currently present within the area and one should get to a safe place immediately.

As we enter the late winter months in Florida it is more common for severe weather to move across the state in rain bands. These systems often cause Tornados to spin up. If you are in an area of a "Tornado Watch" it is important to start thinking about the safety risks and what your next steps should be. Check out the American Red Cross Tornado Checklist to prepare for any upcoming Tornados.

Once you are in a Tornado Warning it is time to act by getting to a safe location! Safety should be one's main focus when severe weather strikes, so stay alert and have a good family safety plan in place.

Source:
Watch Warning Advisory Explained
Tornado Safety Tips | Tornado Preparedness | Red Cross

American Red Cross

Be **Red Cross** Ready
Prepare so you can protect.

Tornado

Preparedness Checklist

A tornado is a tube of spinning air that forms from a thunderstorm and touches the ground. Tornadoes are dangerous. They can knock down buildings, uproot trees, move vehicles and destroy things in their path. Heavy rains, lightning, flash flooding and hail are possible. Tornadoes can happen anywhere. Prepare now so you can stay safe.

What to Do: Before

Find Shelter Locations from High Winds in the Places Where you Spend a lot of Time.

- Find a safe room built to withstand high winds. The next best protection is a small room with no windows on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- Mobile, manufactured, trailer homes and recreational vehicles (RVs) are not safe in high wind events. Plan ahead by finding a sturdy building to shelter in before a tornado watch or warning.

Practice Tornado Drills

- With your entire household, practice moving quickly to the safe locations that you identified.
- Create a personal support team of people you may assist and who can assist you.
- If you live in a mobile home, practice going to a safe place.

Plan to Stay Connected

- Sign up for free emergency alerts from your local government.
- Plan to monitor local weather and news.
- Have a backup battery or a way to charge your cell phone.
- Have a battery-powered radio during a power outage.
- Know the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning.
  - Tornado Watch: **Be Prepared!** Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act fast!
  - Tornado Warning: **Take Action!** A tornado is near. There is danger. Move to safe location right away.
- You may not always receive a tornado warning. Know the signs of a tornado. Take shelter if you feel you are in danger.

Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas, and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.

Gather Emergency Supplies

- Gather food, water and medicine. Stores and pharmacies might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home Kit.
- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone,CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies. Stores and pharmacies might be closed.
- Have a 1-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial, and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up). Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

What to Do: During

Closely Monitor Weather Conditions

- Tune in to radio, TV or other news sources for more information about Tornado Watches and Warnings to be ready to take action.

Seek Safe Shelter Immediately

- If a Tornado Warning is issued. Or, if you suspect a tornado, seek safe shelter right away. After getting to your safe shelter, use your arms to protect your head and neck.

What to Do: After

Avoid Injury

- Keep listening to radio, TV or other news sources. Stay in your shelter until the tornado warning is over.
- Do not enter damaged buildings.
- If the building you are in has been damaged, exit with extreme care and stay out. Look around for things that might fall or dangerous debris. Do not use matches or lighters inside. If you smell gas or see spills that could be flammable, leave immediately.
- If you are trapped, try to cover your mouth with a cloth or mask to avoid breathing dust. Try to send a text, bang on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting.
- Watch out for exposed nails and broken glass.
- Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.

Treat Injuries

- People may be injured. Provide first aid as needed.
- Do not attempt to move a person with a back or neck injury unless they are in immediate danger. Seek immediate medical assistance.

Clean Up Safely

- Be careful during clean-up. Wear thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves to reduce injuries.
- Children should not take part in disaster cleanup work.
- If power is out, use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns to reduce fire risk.
- Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not use gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, basement, garage, tent or camper — or even outside near an open window. Carbon monoxide can't be seen or smelled, but it can kill you fast. If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak, **get to fresh air right away — do not delay.**

Take Care of Yourself

- It's normal to have a lot of bad feelings, stress or anxiety.
- Eat healthy food and get enough sleep to help you deal with stress.
- You can contact the Disaster Distress Helpline for free if you need to talk to someone. Call or text **1-800-985-5990.**

Prepare so you can protect. | For more information, visit redcross.org/prepare | Download the Emergency App

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Hazard and Protective Actions Icons are used courtesy of FEMA and are available at community.fema.gov/ProtectiveActions/s/protective-actions-icons

Wildfire Season is Approaching!

Most people think of wildfire season as something that occurs only during the hot summer months. While this is generally true, especially for states out West, each geographic region has slight variations. Florida has historically had more wildfires in the months of March to May. With winter now arriving, Florida will experience some drier weather, and that means elevated chances of wildfires. Most states have a winter wildfire season and Florida is no exception. This season is often overlooked because you will not typically see the multi-thousand-acre fires that occur in the more recognized season. Most of the wildfires during the winter are comparatively small, but none the less, just as dangerous, and destructive. These fires are caused by a number or reasons, from lightning strikes to downed energized power lines. Unfortunately, most wildfires are caused by intentional or unintentional acts of humans.

The drier months are also a good time for private landowners and the Florida Forestry Service (FFS) to conduct prescribed burns. Prescribed fires help with controlling and preventing wildfires. As a private landowner, if you plan to burn this winter, consider consulting with your county FFS office. These top-notch professionals can give you some great tips and even help you lay the groundwork to safely burn. The FFS website has lots of information about wildfires, fire weather conditions, and tips on how to be Firewise. This could also be beneficial to agricultural producers who may operate or live near an area that is susceptible to wildfires. Just remember Smokey Bear's slogan, "Only you can prevent wildfires."

Source: Florida Forest Service - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

LeiAnna Moorhead Presents Florida ESF 17 and SART Hurricane Responses at National Summit

This year's National Alliance for State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) 2024 Summit in Maryland shared amazing resources for preparing community animal and ag sectors for hazards. Local, state, and federal Ag partners from around the nation came together to discuss how to overcome challenges the animal and agriculture sectors experience during emergencies while developing meaningful relationships. LeiAnna Moorhead, Emergency Coordinating Officer at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services represented Florida as a board of director and state voting members and presented on two panels to share about Florida's emergency response to the three major hurricanes that made landfall in Florida in 2024.

The first panel, "The 21st Century Ark," with representatives from New York Emergency Management, American Red Cross, American Humane, and FDACS discussed a whole community approach to keeping the whole family safe during disaster. LeiAnna shared subject matter expertise to over 50 emergency planners on critical policy considerations such as understanding your executive authorities that drives operational protocols for jurisdictions having authority and including these jurisdictions in the development of multi-agency coordination groups for emergency planning and response.

The second panel, "Lessons Learned Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton" was held during the Summit's plenary session with hundreds in attendance with panel representation from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and NARSC. LeiAnna discussed Florida's ESF 17 & SART emergency response structure and concept of operations during an emergency activation, unique and unexpected impacts that stood out this storm season, and how these impacts influenced or altered our approach to preparedness and planning for future events. LeiAnna emphasized Florida ESF 17's emergency protective actions that take priority within the first 72 hours of stabilization post landfall such as deploying generators, Tiger Dams, fuel, cut and toss emergency debris clearing teams, and power restoration. She concluded with emphasis that food security is a national security issue, and the state and federal governments must continue working together to ensure that animal and agriculture – a critical infrastructure sector – is protected during emergency response to reduce economic impact on this sector, which is Florida's second leading $180 billion industry.

Help for Businesses in Florida Impacted by Hurricanes Helene or Milton

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, businesses and individuals in affected areas have access to a variety of federal assistance programs designed to support their recovery. The first step for anyone impacted is to register at disasterassistance.gov, which provides information on over 70 forms of assistance from 17 federal agencies. These programs include financial aid for individuals, businesses, and organizations, along with grants and loans for both personal and business recovery efforts. For those who own a business, the Small Business Administration (SBA) offers loans to help repair or replace disaster-damaged property, while the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers both individual and public assistance grants for personal and community repairs.

FEMA's Individual Assistance program offers financial support for those who are uninsured or underinsured and have disaster-related expenses. This includes coverage for home repairs, equipment for self-employed individuals, and even personal computers damaged in the disaster. For businesses and nonprofit organizations, FEMA also provides Public Assistance Grants aimed at helping with facility repairs, while the SBA's Disaster Loans help businesses of all sizes cover physical damages not fully compensated by insurance. Additionally, the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program in Florida offers unemployment benefits to those who lost their jobs due to the hurricane, providing up to 26 weeks of support.

To aid in the restoration of businesses, the SBA provides both Business Physical Disaster Loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). The former helps businesses repair or replace damaged physical assets, while the latter offers working capital to cover ongoing financial obligations until normal operations resume. Furthermore, the IRS offers administrative disaster tax relief, granting individuals and businesses additional time to file taxes and perform other time-sensitive actions. These financial recovery options are complemented by Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), where both individuals and businesses can access expert advice and apply for loans and grants.

Agriculture businesses also have access to a range of USDA disaster assistance programs, including the Livestock Indemnity Program and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). These programs help with losses caused by hurricanes, including livestock deaths and feed shortages. The USDA has also extended deadlines for its emergency loan programs, providing farmers with flexible repayment terms. For landowners, both the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) offer assistance for restoring damaged farmland and forests. The success of recovery efforts relies on effective collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies to meet the diverse needs of affected communities.

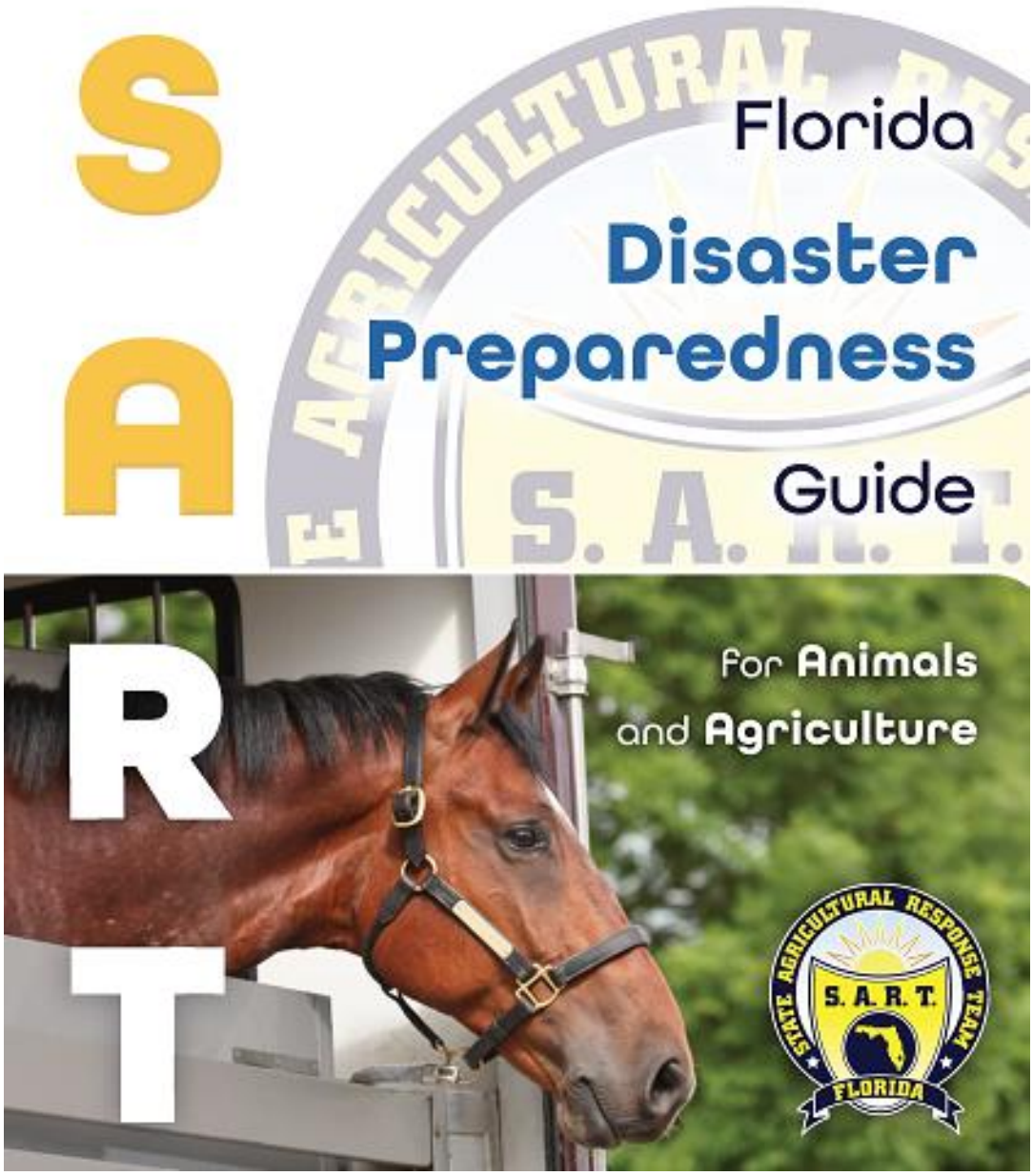
For more information, visit:
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_business-resources-flyer_florida.pdf

FEMA SBA U.S. Small Business Administration USDA

The Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

The Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture was developed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART). This guide explores the various animal and agricultural sectors in the state of Florida that are at risk from natural and man-made disasters, and what you can do to help prepare and protect animals and agriculture before a disaster strikes. The recommendations and resources in this guide are applicable to preparing for all hazards such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, disease introduction, hazardous material spills, and more.

This publication is available only to SART members. To access the Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture, visit the SART website at flsart.org, and navigate to the "Resources" tab. It may also be accessed directly at:
https://flsart.org/resource/DisasterPreparednessGuides/DisasterPreparednessGuides.jsp



Become a Volunteer of the Florida Veterinary Corps Today!

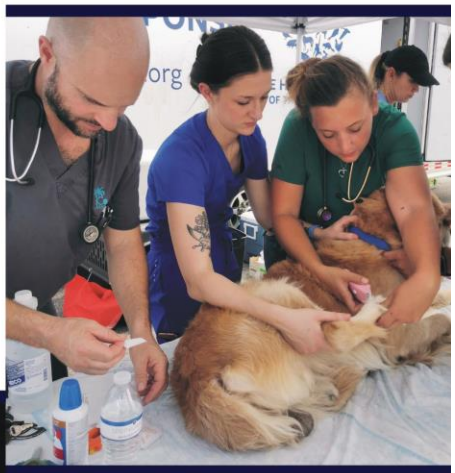
Florida veterinarians and veterinary technicians have volunteered to assist local and state emergency management officials in responding to animal emergencies. The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state.

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**

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.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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

UF/IFAS Florida Gardening Calendars

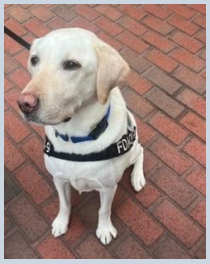
The Gardening Calendar publications on the UF/IFAS Solutions for Your Life website gives Florida gardeners a monthly guide for what to plant and do in their gardens and includes links to useful gardening websites, all based on University of Florida research and expertise. Three different editions of the calendar provide specific tips for each of Florida's climate zones—North, Central, and South.

What to Plant in January - 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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training

Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC) continues a heavy summer courseload for communities throughout the state of Florida, offering our Level 1 and Level 2 Awareness and Operations courses for individuals wanting to learn more about temporary and emergency sheltering operations, AND to become FL SARC disaster responders! These courses are crucial to local and statewide sheltering support when disasters and emergencies strike. To date we've completed 23 classes this year, with over 200 students successfully graduating.

To become a SARC responder, you must have completed at least Level 1 Awareness, completed ICS 100, and have a current tetanus vaccination. To learn more about current course offerings and becoming a disaster responder, go to www.flsarc.org/training and www.flsarc.org/volunteers

More classes will be scheduled into summer 2025, so stay tuned!

SART Partners Meeting

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

- Monthly Virtual Meeting – January 22nd, at 10:00 a.m.

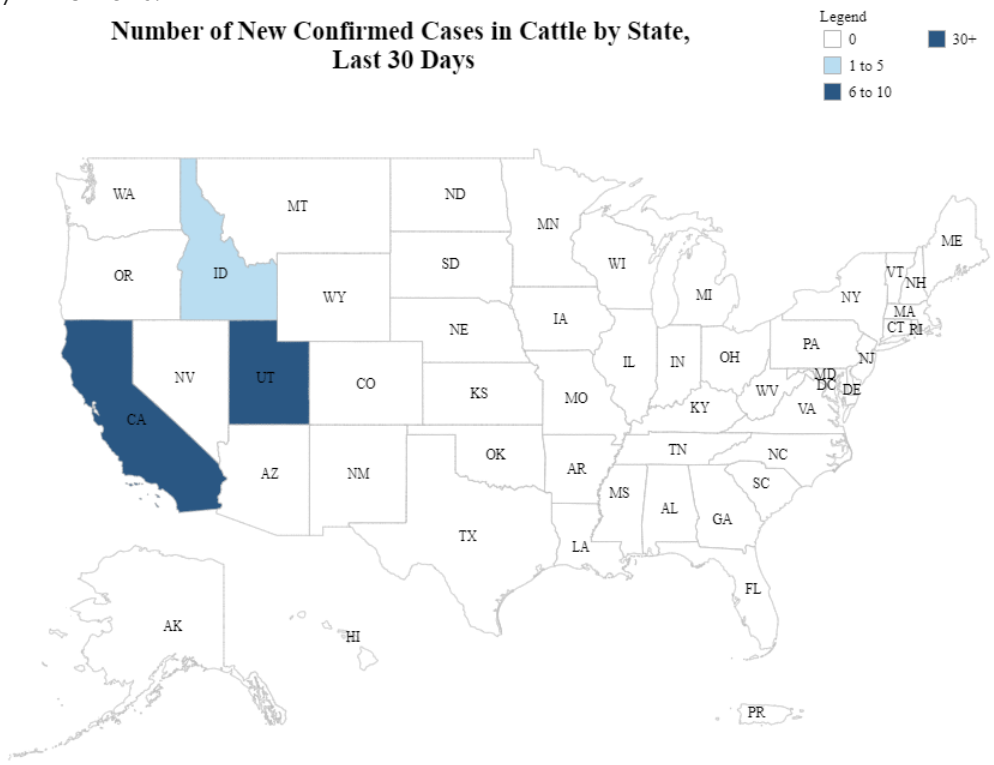
In the News…

- Commissioner Wilton Simpson Launches $5M Grant Program to Support Energy Efficiency at Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities (FDACS)
- Governor, Cabinet Approve Protection of Over 62,000 Acres of Working Florida Farms, Ranches (FDACS)
- 'Murder hornet' eradicated from the U.S., officials announce (NBC News)

USDA: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detections in Livestock

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and State veterinary and public health officials are investigating an illness among dairy cows. Beginning in March, USDA confirmed the detection Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) amongst some domestic dairy herds.

HPAI is a disease that is highly contagious and often deadly in poultry, caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5) and A (H7) viruses; it is also known as bird or avian flu. HPAI viruses can be transmitted by wild birds to domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Although bird flu viruses do not normally infect humans, sporadic human infections have occurred. It is important to note that "highly pathogenic" refers to severe impact in birds, not necessarily in humans.



Source: USDA APHIS

This is a developing story. The USDA has opened a webpage and federal order with forthcoming guidance pertaining to the situation. Please visit https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock for the latest details.

Further, FDA states confidence that pasteurization does effectively inactivate HPAI in milk. However, "the FDA continues to advise strongly against the consumption of raw milk and recommends that industry does not manufacture or sell raw milk or raw milk products." For more information, please visit https://www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/updates-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai.

In Florida, Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson issued Emergency Rule 5CER24-4. The Emergency Rule imposes specific restrictions on the importation of cattle into Florida to prevent the spread of HPAI. There have been no detections of HPAI in any livestock in Florida. For more information, please visit https://www.fdacs.gov/News-Events/Press-Releases/2024-Press-Releases/Commissioner-Wilton-Simpson-Issues-Emergency-Rule-to-Further-Protect-Florida-Livestock-from-Highly-Pathogenic-Avian-Influenza. View the FDACS Emerging Disease in Dairy Cattle announcement at: https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/115892/file/2024-HPAI-Dairy-Cattle-Announcement.pdf

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 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.

> **Laura Bevan**
>
> Humane Society of the United States
>
> "I was blown away by the depth of the information provided in this training. It held my attention and the videos from around the state gave real life experience to the subject."

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.

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 September 8, 2023, 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 FDACS Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410-0900. Visit the FWC CWD website for more information, updates, and resources.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

African Swine Fever Update

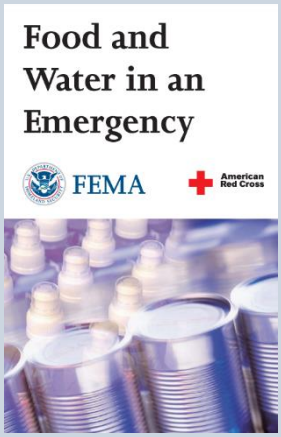
In 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic. ASF is a deadly pig disease that spreads rapidly and affects domestic and wild swine. While not a threat to human health, the virus could devastate America's swine, 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.

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.

FEMA and American Red Cross: Food and Water in an Emergency



Preparing for an emergency requires careful planning to ensure access to food and water when typical supplies are disrupted. Families should aim to store enough non-perishable food to last for at least two weeks, taking into consideration dietary restrictions and preferences. Foods that are easy to prepare, such as canned goods, dry mixes, and shelf-stable items, are ideal. It's important to rotate these supplies regularly, using older items first and replacing them with fresh ones to prevent spoilage.

In addition to food, securing an adequate supply of clean water is essential. A typical person needs at least two quarts of water per day, with additional amounts required for cooking, hygiene, and special needs. It is recommended to store at least one gallon per person per day, with a two-week reserve if possible. Water should be stored in food-grade containers, such as plastic bottles, and replaced every six months to ensure freshness and safety.

During a power outage, cooking options are limited, but alternatives like using a fireplace, charcoal grill, or camp stove outdoors can provide warmth and food preparation capabilities. It's crucial to follow safety guidelines to avoid accidents when using these devices. Additionally, when food supplies are low, rationing becomes necessary. It's important to avoid salty foods, which can increase thirst, and to focus on consuming high-liquid foods to stay hydrated.

A well-prepared family should also have a disaster supplies kit on hand, which should be easily accessible in case evacuation is necessary. The kit should contain at least three days' worth of food and water, along with essentials such as a flashlight, first aid supplies, hygiene products, and important documents. Family members with special needs, such as young children, the elderly, or individuals with medical conditions, should have items like prescription medications, baby formula, and additional supplies included in the kit.

Lastly, families should be aware of alternative water sources in and around the home. Safe water can be drawn from sources like the hot water tank, water pipes, and ice cubes. In case these sources are contaminated, it's essential to know how to treat water through methods like boiling, chlorination, or distillation. Being proactive in planning for both food and water emergencies can provide peace of mind and the resources necessary to weather any disaster situation.

Read the full guide at:
https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness___Disaster_Recovery/Disaster_Preparedness/Food_Safety/Food_and_Water-English.revised_7-09.pdf

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

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

FDEM Vector Control Quick Guide
https://flsart.org/pdf/Vector Control Quick Guide.pdf

Dairy Farm Emergency Information Sheet
https://flsart.org/resource/Dairy

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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