The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

Learn more about the many resources and training opportunities on FLSART.org

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Update: New World Screwworm*
- *SART's LeiAnna Moorhead Presents at FTEM Symposium*
- *SARC Introduces New Emergency Response Trailer for the Upcoming Hurricane Season*

2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season: Early Pulse, Outlook, & SART Resources

The 2025 Atlantic hurricane season officially commenced on June 1, and activity began slowly: Tropical Storm Andrea formed only on June 24, making it the latest first-named storm since 2014, and setting a record for the farthest northeast June formation. Yet forecasters remain cautious: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) projects 13–19 named storms, 6–10 hurricanes, and 3–5 major hurricanes, with a 60% chance of above-average activity.

Several atmospheric and oceanic factors are feeding this outlook: above-average sea-surface temperatures across the tropical Atlantic, transitioning from La Niña to ENSO-neutral conditions, low-to-moderate wind shear, and an active West African monsoon.

A quiet start to the season does not guarantee a tranquil peak. Historical analogs—such as 1998 and 2004—show that devastating hurricanes can follow a subdued June. The most active hurricane period typically spans mid-August through mid-October, when warm ocean waters and optimal atmospheric conditions support storm intensification. (Washington Post)

For coastal communities and agricultural stakeholders, this means proactive preparation is vital: stockpiling emergency supplies, reinforcing infrastructure, updating evacuation plans, and safeguarding livestock and crops.

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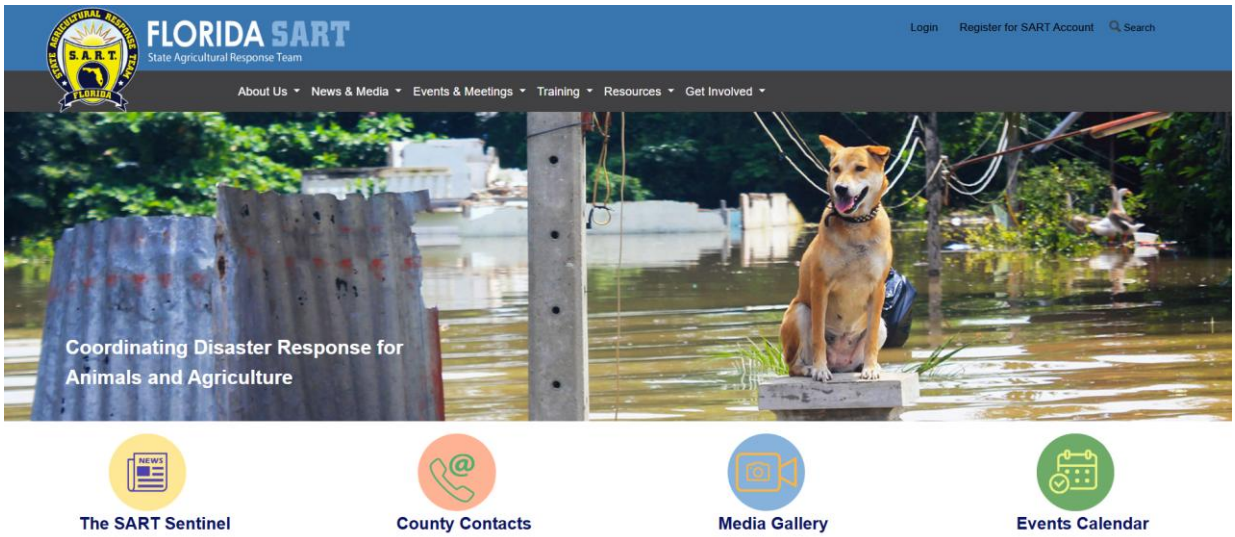
Did you know?

SART has strategically deployed Mobile Animal Response Equipment (MARE) trailers, Mini-MARE trailers, livestock panels, and Animal Technical Rescue Trailers (ATR) across the state for emergency response.

2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season: Early Pulse, Outlook, & SART Resources



FLSART.org: A Hub for 2025 Hurricane & Emergency Response Training and Resources

As the 2025 hurricane season intensifies, FLSART.org offers a comprehensive suite of training modules and practical resources that equip responders, emergency managers, and agricultural stakeholders with critical preparedness and operational skills.

Training Modules

- Small Animal Emergency Sheltering: Offers tiered courses through the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC).
    - Awareness Level 1 introduces the fundamentals,
    - Operations Level 2 provides hands-on training for pet-friendly shelter operations.

- Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training: Covers the essentials for planning, setting up, operating, and demobilizing an emergency evacuation shelter for people and their pets.

- FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) Training: A directory of online FEMA courses and tailored ICS training for animal, agricultural, and veterinary responders.

2025 SART Planning Workshop

The May 2025 SART Planning Workshop in St. Pete Beach presented a deep dive into:

- ESF-17 animal and agriculture coordination
- Hurricane aftermath hazards (e.g. vector-borne "bug bonus" in recovery)
- Captive wildlife emergency protocols
- Agricultural disease threats & food security
- Tools and strategies to assess economic impacts on farm operations

All presentation materials—including slides on hurricane bonus effects, ESF-17 coordination, and animal care—are available for download under the 2025 Planning Workshop Presentations section on the Florida SART website.

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2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season: Early Pulse, Outlook, & SART Resources

Resources

FLSART's Resources library supports full-spectrum emergency response:

- Disaster Preparedness Guide tailored for dairy, livestock, pets, large animals, and specialized equipment logistics
- Animal Technical Rescue Manuals and food safety protocols post-hurricane
- Vector Control & Carcass Disposal frameworks for disease prevention
- Pet shelter supply lists and FEMA PETS Act reimbursement documentation

How to Leverage These Offerings

1. **Register** via FLSART.org for online & in-person and online training courses.
2. **Download** key PDFs: pet plans, shelter guidelines, and response checklists.
3. **Review planning workshop slides**, particularly on ESF-17 coordination and response.
4. **Use FEMA PETS Act toolkits** to ensure your county or agency can claim eligible reimbursements.
5. **Implement vector control & carcass protocols** to minimize post-storm health risks.

By combining classroom knowledge with field-born strategies provided through FLSART's Training and Resources tabs, Florida's agricultural and emergency teams can ensure robust, agile, and legally supported response during the critical months ahead.

Photo: ESF 17 SART responders respond to horse rescue in flooded waters during Hurricane Ian in 2022.

SART's LeiAnna Moorhead Presents at FTEM Symposium

The second annual Florida Training for Emergency Management (FTEM) Symposium was held in Orlando on June 9-13, 2025. FTEM is designed for practitioners across all levels of government and the private sector who are dedicated to strengthening our state's resilience. It provides a dynamic lineup of trainings, workshops, keynote sessions, and networking opportunities. This year's FTEM also hosted the Human Services Branch Summit, a forum where all state agencies and private organizations who are active in supporting mass care services and human services for all populations come together to educate and share updates relating to the protection of people, the environment, and animals during emergencies.

Photo: LeiAnna Moorhead, FDACS, and Lt. Colonel Rudd of Florida National Guard and FDEM, pictured with Mike Boylan, founder of "Mike's Weather Page."

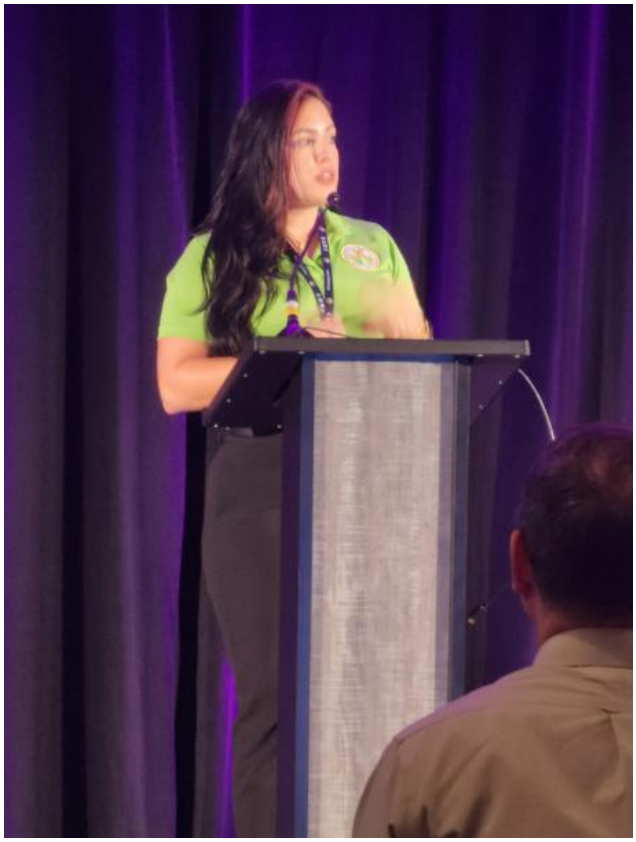

Photo: LeiAnna Moorhead, FDACS, presents at the FTEM Human Services Summit.

LeiAnna Moorhead, Emergency Coordinating Officer for FDACS, presented at the Summit about state *ESF 17 and the Florida SART: Concept of Operations, Building Capacity, and Response*. In her presentation, she provided a historical scan of Florida SART through the decades, the mission critical areas of ESF 17 in supporting Florida's animal and agriculture sectors, and the many trainings, resources, and planning efforts available to the agencies and organizations in the room. LeiAnna emphasized the power of partnerships in preparing together for an efficient and coordinated incident response across all government and private sector levels. FTEM also held the SERT Logistics and Resource Showcase, which was an exhibit of resource displays such as mobile command vehicles, cooling tents, communication trailers, and more.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR UF/IFAS RESEARCH STUDY

The Images of Recovery Project seeks photographers of all skill levels to contribute up to three photos depicting the recovery process in agricultural communities affected by recent hurricanes, aiming to identify needs and barriers and facilitate long-term recovery through Extension resources, with submitted photos showcased post-project via QR codes.

New World Screwworm

Story provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

New World screwworms are fly larvae (maggots) that can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people. They most often enter an animal through an open wound. They feed on the animal's living flesh and, if not treated, infestations can be fatal. While New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) has not been widely present in the United States since the 1960s, it is still found in most of South America and in five Caribbean countries. Cases began spreading in 2023, heading north from Panama, and have reached southern Mexico, increasing the risk of reintroduction into the United States.

Signs

Screwworms are typically found on warm-blooded animals that have a draining or enlarging wound.

Screwworm eggs are creamy and white and deposited in a shingle-like manner on or near the edges of superficial wounds. The larvae are cylindrical with one pointed end and one blunt end and have rings of dark brown spines around the body. Female screwworm flies are larger than a housefly with a dark blue to blue-green body and reddish-orange head.

Almost any type of wound can become infested with screwworm larvae, including those caused by feeding ticks, castration, dehorning, branding, shearing, barbed wire fences, and even shedding of antler velvet in deer. The navels of newborn mammals can also become infested.

Guidance for Animal Health

Carefully inspect animal wounds and hides for signs of screwworm. Owners should immediately consult their veterinarian if a case of screwworm is suspected.

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New World Screwworm (continued)

Story provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Treatment

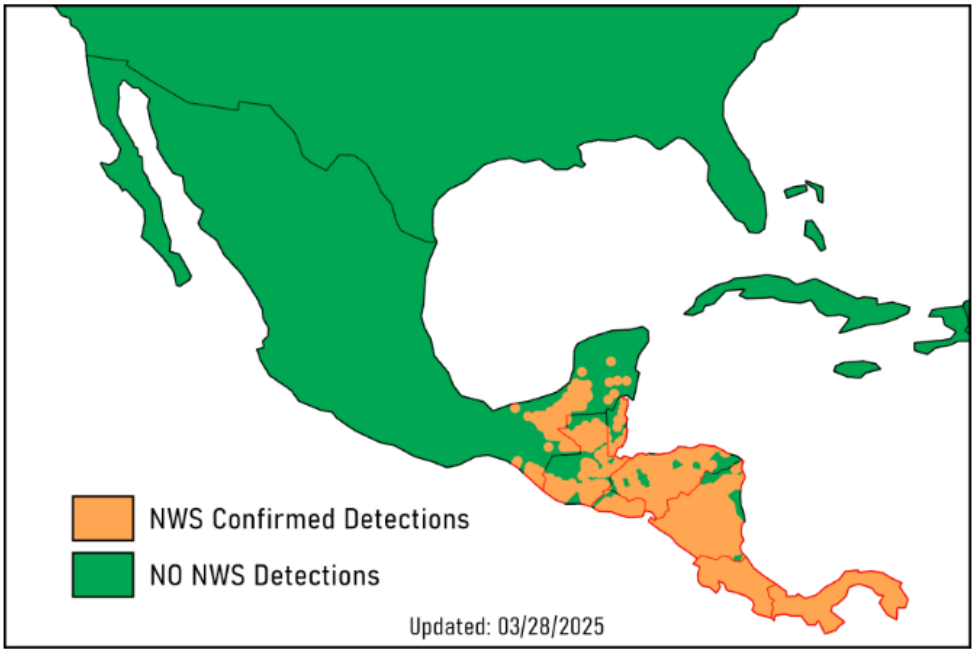
Screwworm infestation is treated by cleaning the site and topical application of a pesticide or other medication effective at killing the screwworm larvae. Treated wounds should be inspected daily until completely healed. The examining veterinarian will remove larvae from the wound with tweezers, place them in alcohol, and report to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Animal Industry (State Veterinarian's Office).

Report Suspected Cases

- **By phone during office hours:** (850) 410-0900
- **By phone after hours:** 1-800-342-5869
- **Via email:** RAD@FDACS.gov
- **Report online at:** www.FDACS.gov/RAD

Wildlife Reports

To report sick or injured wildlife, including a suspected screwworm infestation, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) or email the Wildlife Health Team at WildlifeHealthTeam@MyFWC.com.



Resources

- Information on the Screwworm Eradication Program (USDA APHIS)

Screwworm Information Sheets (Provided by USDA APHIS)

- Screwworm Brochure (English Version)
- Screwworm Brochure (Spanish Version)
- Screwworm Poster
- Screwworm Factsheet
- Screwworm Pest Alert (English Version)
- Screwworm Pest Alert (Spanish Version)

For the latest information, visit:
https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Pests-and-Diseases/Animal-Pests-and-Diseases/New-World-Screwworm

USDA: Plan to Combat New World Screwworm Spread to the North

On June 18, 2025, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (Brooke L. Rollins) kicked off an $8.5 million sterile New World Screwworm (NWS) facility in the South of Texas to aid in the containment and eradication of the insect based zoonotic animal disease that is currently affecting Mexico and South America, in preparation for NWS to move to U.S. soil. At the same time Secretary Rollins also announced a sweeping five-pronged plan to advance the USDA's ability to detect, control, and eliminate NWS. Many officials think that it is only a matter of time before NWS will be detected in the USA and will become a larger area in which to contain the pest, ultimately affecting large portions of agriculture and public safety.

The five-pronged plan form by the USDA is as follows:

1. "Stop the pest from spreading in Mexico and ensure we are full partners in eradication."
2. "Protect the U.S. border at all costs."
3. "Maximize our readiness."
4. "Take the fight to the screwworm."
5. "Innovate our way to eradication."

This funding and work are extremely important to preventing the spread of NWS to the U.S. and protecting animal and human health. While we all hope that the U.S. does not become the next country to detect NWS, it is very important to be prepared for if/when it is detected, and this is a major step in the right direction for the USDA and supporting organizations.

For more information on USDA's press release, please visit:
https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nws-visit-policy-brief.pdf

SARC Introduces New Emergency Response Trailer for the Upcoming Hurricane Season

Thanks to a generous grant from the ASPCA, the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FL SARC) has added a fully outfitted Incident Response Trailer to its response assets. This new trailer enhances FL SARC's ability to support FL SART and communities across Florida with emergency and disaster animal sheltering supplies. Designed to rapidly deploy during hurricanes and other types of incidents, the trailer ensures a faster, more efficient setup of emergency animal shelter sites statewide.

The unit is equipped with a range of essential resources including crates, airline carriers, magnum kennels, and a generator system that powers fans, lighting, and a pressure washer for on-site decontamination. With this capability, FL SARC is better positioned than ever to assist counties in protecting animals and supporting pet owners during disasters. This new resource reflects our commitment to building statewide capacity for coordinated, professional animal emergency response.

For more information, visit: https://www.flsarc.org

Florida EDEN: Mental Health Matters

Disasters shake more than just the physical foundations of our lives—they can take a significant emotional toll as well, *according to the Florida Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)*. While the loss of property and disruption to daily life are often visible, the invisible impacts on mental health can be just as devastating. For Extension professionals, the responsibility of supporting communities through these events can bring added emotional strain, especially when navigating personal losses at the same time.

The educational materials below aim to equip you with practical strategies to strengthen personal resilience and better support those around you. Together we can foster healthier communities that are more prepared emotionally and physically before, during, and after disaster strikes.

Personal resilience plays a critical role in disaster response, especially for Extension professionals who serve on the front lines during crises like hurricanes. Resilience is the ability to reduce stress and adapt in challenging situations—anchored by three key attitudes: *challenge*, *commitment*, and *control*.

Research from UF/IFAS following Hurricane Irma showed that while many agents demonstrated strengths in learning and connecting with others, they also faced mental fatigue, stress, and unclear expectations—factors that impacted their ability to meet job demands.
This educational resource outlines practical strategies for building resilience, including:

- Clarifying disaster response roles
- Offering targeted training
- Promoting support services and peer connection

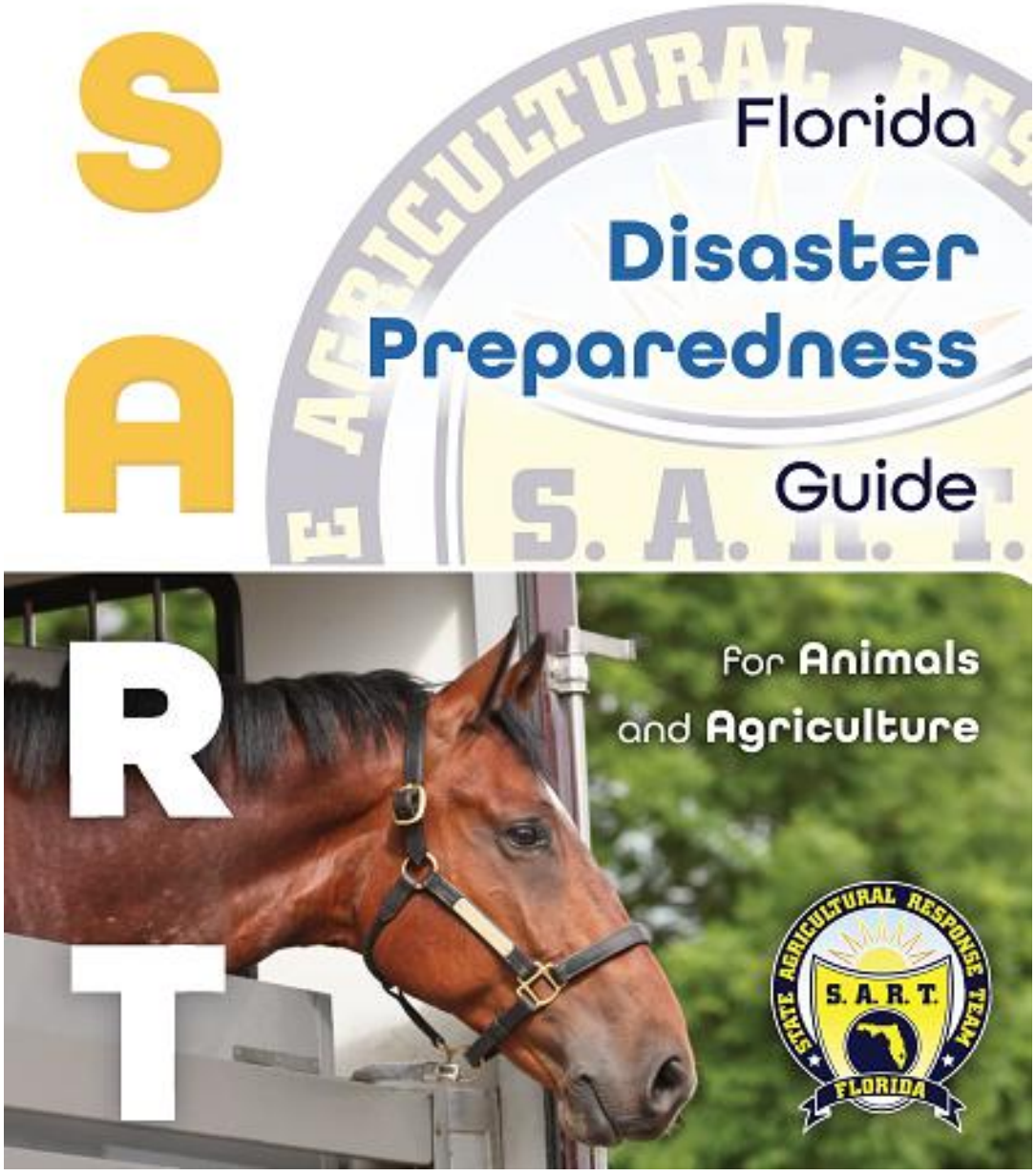
By strengthening these skills and attitudes, Extension professionals can better balance personal and professional responsibilities and serve their communities more effectively in times of need.

Follow Florida EDEN on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay updated! Visit our webpage to learn more and access disaster preparedness resources.

The Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

The Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture was developed by FDACS and Florida 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!

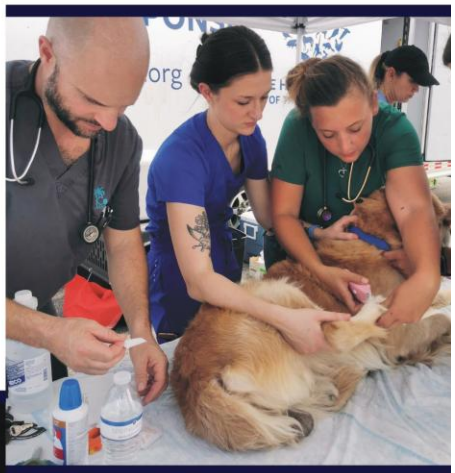
Florida veterinarians and veterinary technicians have volunteered to assist local and state emergency management officials in responding to animal emergencies. The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state.

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

Florida SART, FDACS, and University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) teamed up to create a training video on their disaster response partnership.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

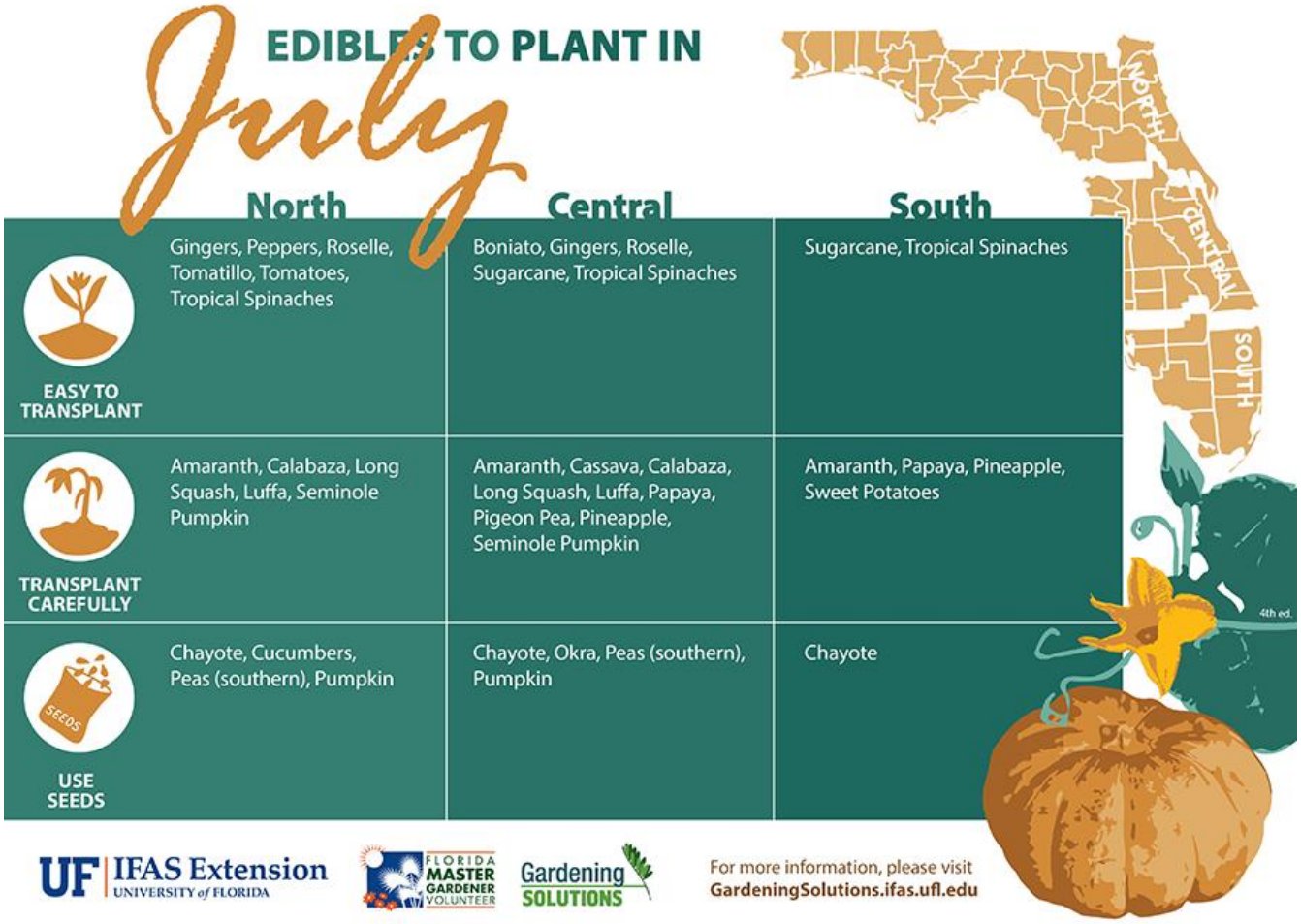
UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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 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 July - 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) 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
• July 19 – Polk County • July 26 – Walton County • August 9 – TBD	• TBD

To register, visit: https://flsarc.org/training-classes-events

Florida Tropical Training Week 2025

The National Weather Service's Jacksonville office has announced the 2025 Virtual Florida Tropical Training Week, taking place July 21–24, featuring three daily one-hour online sessions (11 am, 1 pm, and 7 pm EDT) designed to equip Floridians with essential knowledge about tropical weather preparedness, forecasting tools, and safety protocols ahead of the peak hurricane season. The event will cover a wide range of topics—from season-long readiness and monitoring tropical systems to sheltering strategies, post-storm recovery, and interpreting critical forecast products—using resources from FEMA, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and Ready.gov. Open to up to 1,000 participants per session and free of charge, the training is tailored to Florida residents but offers valuable insights to anyone living in hurricane-prone regions, enabling them to make well-informed, timely decisions when tropical weather strikes. Details are on the following page.

For more information, visit: https://www.weather.gov/jax/FloridaTropicalTrainingWeek2025

SART Partners Meeting

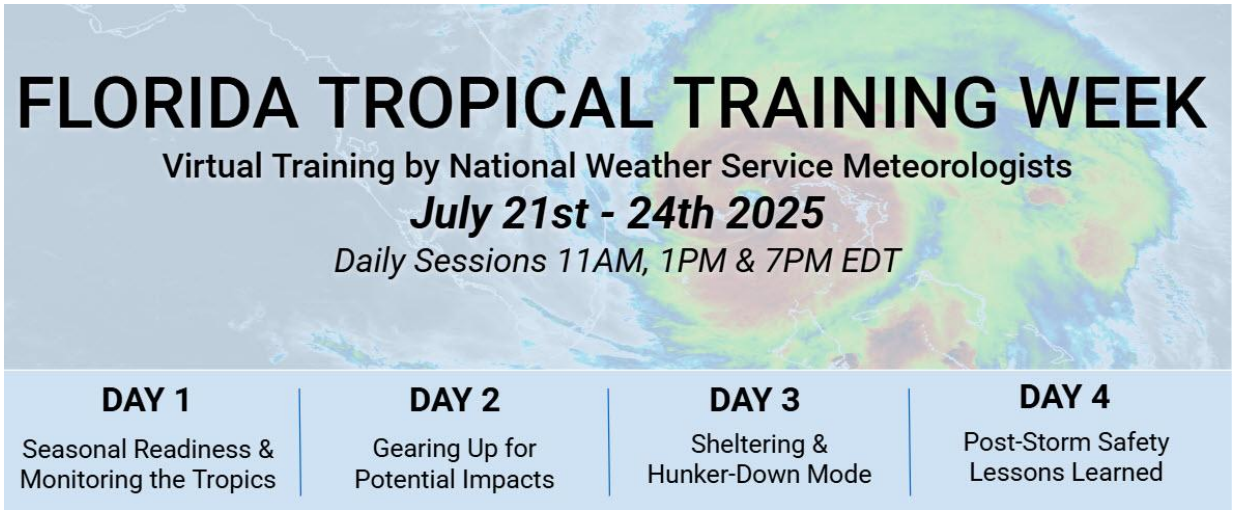
The following meeting is by invitation only to primary representatives of SART partner agencies and are not open to the public:

- Monthly Virtual Meeting – July 23rd, at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

In the News…

- Florida Division of Emergency Management Urges Early Action During 2025 Florida Hurricane Preparedness Week (FDEM)
- ICYMI: FDEM and Florida Disaster Foundation Lead Through Excellence at the Second Annual Florida's Training for Emergency Management Symposium (FDEM)

Florida Tropical Training Week 2025



What's Going On?
Your National Weather Service meteorologists across the state of Florida are teaming-up before the peak of hurricane season to review recommended tropical readiness, preparedness, response and recovery actions. We want to **TEACH** you about tropical weather forecast products and how to properly interpret them. We want to **REACH** you where you are! Wherever home is and whatever stage of life you are in, tropical readiness is critical if you live in the state of Florida. That's why we are offering 3 virtual training sessions daily that ANYONE can attend - you just need access to a mobile device or computer.

Why?
To help keep **YOU in the tropical-weather-know** so you and yours can respond appropriately when tropical weather hazards threaten. We want to make weather forecast products meaningful and actionable, so you know how to interpret the information and then make the best safety decisions possible for you and yours.

Who Can Attend?
Anyone! The training is free; you just need to register in advance. Up to 1,000 people can register for each training session, and we are offering 3 training sessions each day. Please know that this information is tailored for Florida residents, as we reference resources from the Florida Division of Emergency Management. However, much of the tropical training material is relevant for all living in path of tropical cyclones.

Register for Daily Sessions Below
Register for a daily session & time slot via the links below:

Day 1: Seasonal Readiness & Monitoring the Tropics - *REGISTER HERE*

Day 2: Get Ready for Potential Impacts - *REGISTER HERE*

Day 3: Sheltering & Hunker Down Mode - *REGISTER HERE*

Day 4: Post-Storm Safety & Lessons Learned - *REGISTER HERE*

Virtual classes will be 1 hour long and begin at 11 am EDT (10 am CDT), 1 pm EDT (12 pm CDT) & 7 pm EDT (6 pm CDT). Given the large number of attendees, all will be muted through the presentation. Attendees will have the ability to chat with NWS meteorologists during the session and post questions via this Google Form. We will respond to the questions as soon as possible either during the training week or after via email.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE | INSTITUTE FOR INFECTIOUS ANIMAL DISEASES

This program is funded through USDA APHIS NADPRP

For questions, contact Dr. Jimmy Tickel and Sarah Carrell at:
jimmy.tickel@ag.tamu.edu | sarah.manning@ag.tamu.edu

100% Online & Self-Paced

REGISTER NOW!

SUMMER 2025

PRODUCER DECON

CERTIFICATE TRAINING PROGRAM

Educating producers on how to utilize decontamination best practices to prepare their farms and staff for implementing prevention and response activities during a foreign animal disease outbreak.

This Program Provides Producers with Knowledge to:

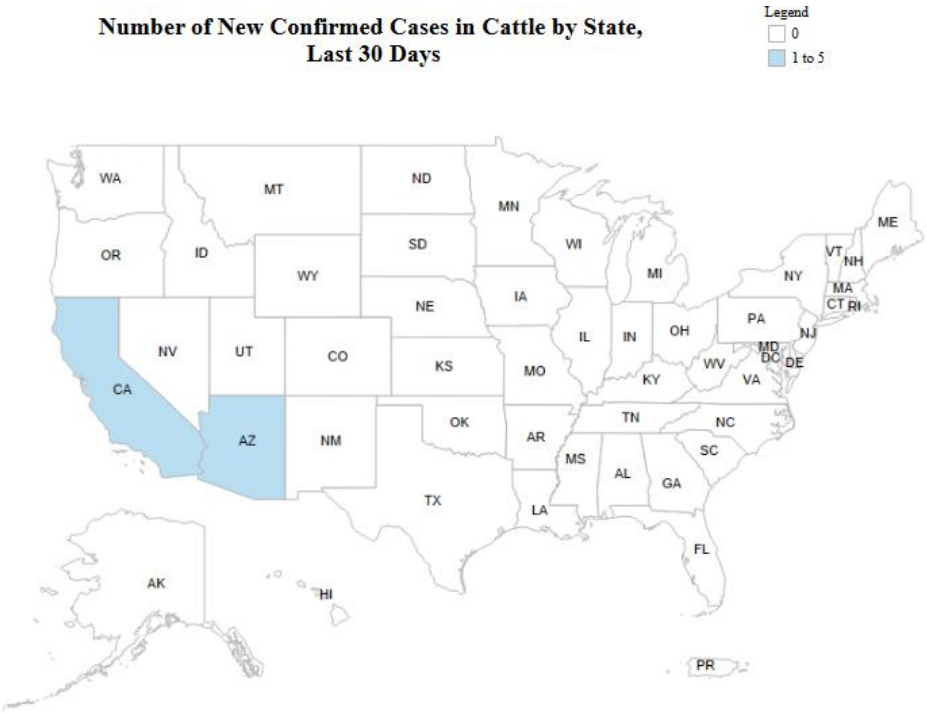
- **Understand Disease Threats & Government Collaboration**
- **Perform a Premises Assessment & Site Decon Plan**
- **Protect their Livelihood & Implement Routine Biosecurity Practices**

Those eligible to enroll in the program include but are not limited to:
U.S. small and large-scale livestock and poultry producers, food animal and agriculture affiliates, industry site managers, extension agents and ag educators, animal feed industry personnel, and other professionals in food animal and livestock production fields.

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 2024, 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 (June 30, 2025)

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 gives 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.

Paula Carroll

Jefferson County, Florida

"I feel that with this training we will succeed... I am much more equipped."

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.

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.

Inside America's Fight Against Foodborne Illness: How the CDC Tracks and Tackles Contamination

From leafy greens to poultry and deli meats, foodborne illness can strike from virtually any source. In the United States, the burden is staggering: an estimated 1 in 6 Americans—about 48 million people—gets sick from contaminated food each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plays a vital behind-the-scenes role in tracking down the causes of these illnesses, stopping outbreaks, and preventing future threats to public health.

While food poisoning may often be dismissed as a passing discomfort, the reality is more sobering. Serious pathogens like *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *E. coli* O157:H7, and *Campylobacter* can lead to hospitalization, long-term health issues, and even death. Vulnerable populations—including young children, older adults, pregnant people, and those with weakened immune systems—face the highest risks.

To detect and respond to outbreaks swiftly, the CDC relies on advanced surveillance systems such as PulseNet and FoodNet. PulseNet uses DNA fingerprinting technology to identify clusters of illnesses that may be linked to a common food source. FoodNet collects data on foodborne illnesses across several U.S. states to assess the effectiveness of interventions and guide policy.

Recent years have seen major CDC-led investigations uncover widespread contamination events tied to bagged salads, peanut butter, and frozen fruits. These efforts often involve collaboration with the FDA and USDA, tracing the food supply chain to remove dangerous products from shelves and prevent further harm. The CDC also supports research and education to help industries and consumers reduce risk. From analyzing how pathogens evolve to improving response protocols, the agency's work forms the backbone of national food safety efforts.

While food safety begins at home, it is supported by a nationwide network of scientists, epidemiologists, and regulators. As our food systems grow more complex and globalized, the role of the CDC remains essential—making foodborne illness not just a kitchen concern, but a cornerstone of public health.

For more information, visit: https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety

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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