



The Sentinel

Newsletter of
the Florida State
Agricultural
Response Team



The Sentinel reviews important work and accomplishments achieved in 2025.

Florida SART: 2025 Year-in-Review

Thanks to our many Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) partners, 2025 was a marked success in terms of training, equipping, coordination, and response. Below are some of the highlights we've reported on this past year.

Q1: January – March

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 member and presented on two panels to share about Florida's emergency response to the three major hurricanes that made landfall in Florida in 2024.



Photo: LeiAnna Moorhead at the 2024 NASAAEP Conference.

[\(January 2025\)](#)

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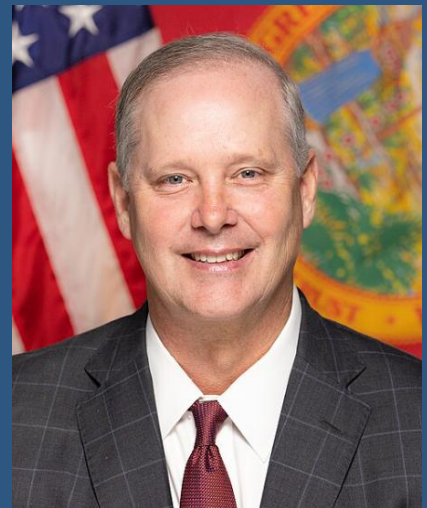
Special Features of this Issue:

- [New World Screwworm Update](#)
- [Your Map to a Food-Safe Holiday](#)
- [Become a Volunteer of the Florida Veterinary Corps Today!](#)

“Our Agricultural Law Enforcement officers are on the front lines defending Florida.”

— Wilton Simpson
Commissioner of Agriculture
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

[Read more on Page 11.](#)



Florida SART: 2025 Year-in-Review (continued)

North Florida Winter Storm 2025



Photo: Snowfall on Interstate 10 East

On January 20th, 2025, from the Panhandle to the Big Bend area of Florida, a historic winter storm moved through the area, bringing snow, ice, and a hard freeze. Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 and the Florida State Agricultural Response Team activated virtually to respond to the incoming winter storm. The winter storm brought record levels of snow and ice to the North Florida area with some parts of the state reaching 7 inches or higher of snowfall.

The ice and snow brought dangerous road conditions and damage to property and crop production. After the snowfall had ended the freezing conditions continued keeping the snow solid on the ground and unsafe road conditions by the way of black ice.

Florida SART partners coordinated with animal and agricultural industry partners to prepare for the winter weather and monitor the conditions as the storm passed through the area. Many structures such as hay barns and sheds were damaged with roof damage due to the weight of the snow.

Crop farms and nurseries also experienced damage to their products due to the freezing temps and snowfall. Many livestock producers also experienced low amounts of winter forage for grazing and hay due to the snow cover of their pastures.

([February 2025](#))

Continued, next page.

Florida SART: 2025 Year-in-Review (continued)

Q2: April - June

FDACS ESF 17 & SART Partner Host the Second Annual Florida Veterinary Corps Training at the 2025 Annual FVMA Conference

FDACS ESF 17 and FL SART Coordinators and Eric Black, Florida Forest Service, instructed at the *Florida Veterinary Corps: Emergency Response Readiness and Exam Prep (FEMA IS-100/200/700/800)* Training at this year's Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) Conference.

The FVMA is a SART partner and cooperating organization for the Florida Veterinary Corps and its premiere annual conference brings in veterinarians and veterinary technicians from all around the state. The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting veterinarians and veterinary technicians to assist local and state emergency management officials in the event of any disaster involving animals and animal health. Volunteers may serve in veterinary assessment teams, triage or emergency animal treatment teams, and animal disease surveillance or control teams under an Incident Command System (ICS) structure.



Photo (left to right): Eric Black, FDACS Florida Forest Service, Dr. Terry Clekis, FVMA, LeiAnna Moorhead, FDACS, and Dr. Lawrence Garcia, UF VETS Team, at the Florida Veterinary Corps information booth at the 2024 FVMA Annual Conference.

(April 2025)

Continued, next page.

Florida SART: 2025 Year-in-Review (continued)

That's a Wrap for the 2025 SART Planning Workshop in St. Pete Beach!



Photo: Emergency Management Director of Pinellas County delivering open remarks.

On May 28th we kicked off the workshop by welcoming over 100 attendees from across the state to learn more about emergency response for animals and agriculture. This 3-day workshop is sponsored by the Florida SART. This bi-annual event hosts Florida's county emergency management officials and staff and SART partner agencies.

This workshop served as an opportunity for those who work in emergency response for animals and agriculture to gain more knowledge about best practices for response, and network with others from across the state. Through the multiple workshop sessions, trainings, and demonstrations attendees were able to work through different emergency situations to create a best practice plan for their home county or area to increase their emergency preparedness. Along with gain important certifications relating to their key roles in emergency management for animals and agriculture through the trainings offered at this workshop.



Photo: Division of Agricultural Environmental Services educational display.

Features of this event included presentations by Stephanie Hendrix (Pinellas County Emergency Management – Host County Welcome), LeiAnna Moorhead (Florida ESF 17 and SART: Concepts of Operations), Colonel Lee Adams (Agricultural Protection and Security in Florida), Dr. Christa Court (Agricultural Economic Impacts and Data Tools You Can Use for Treat Assessment), Dr. Saqib Mukhtar (Working with UF/IFAS Extension in Blue Skies & Beyond), Dr. Tracie Guy (Food and Agriculture Sector Treats: Foreign and Emerging Animal Diseases), Dr. Terry Clekis (Florida Veterinary Corps: Building Community Partnerships with Veterinarians), Jessica Ber (The Hurricane Bonus Prize: The little surprise that “bugs” recovery efforts and what you can do about it.), and Lt. Louis Hinds (Captive Wildlife Critical Incident and Natural Disaster Response).

(June 2025)

Continued, next page.

Florida SART: 2025 Year-in-Review (continued)

Q3: July - September

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.

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.

(July 2025)



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



Continued, next page.

Florida SART: 2025 Year-in-Review (continued)

Ag Commissioner Encourages Floridians to Choose Pasteurized Milk Products from Florida Dairy Farmers



Following a [recent update](#) from the Florida Department of Health on reported illnesses linked to the consumption of raw milk from a Florida dairy, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) are encouraging Floridians to protect their health by only consuming pasteurized milk products.

"Florida's pasteurized milk supply is safe, nutritious, and closely controlled from the farm to your local grocery store," **said Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson.** "There have been no reported illnesses from pasteurized milk products in Florida, so Floridians should continue to buy and enjoy nutritious and wholesome dairy products from Florida farmers."

Milk and milk products have a wide array of nutritional benefits, but raw, unpasteurized milk can contain dangerous germs and pathogens that pose serious health risks to humans. Pasteurized dairy products are subject to rigorous safety standards that are strictly enforced by state and federal regulatory agencies. Products that undergo pasteurization are regularly inspected, tested, and held to enforceable public health regulations to ensure consumer safety.

"Pasteurization is a process that has been utilized to kill harmful pathogens in food for nearly 150 years and is the most common method utilized today to eliminate potentially harmful pathogens in milk products," **said Dr. Matt Curran, Director of FDACS' Division of Food Safety.** "Raw milk can contain dangerous pathogens like *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella*, and others that can cause serious illness, especially in young children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems."

Pasteurization is a widely used process where milk is heated to a specific temperature for a set time to kill harmful germs and pathogens. Raw milk and raw milk products are not pasteurized and, therefore, are at high risk for contamination. Raw milk and raw milk products are not approved for human consumption in Florida and can only be sold with a label clearly stating that the raw milk is not for human consumption.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also recommend that consumers avoid raw milk and dairy products made from raw milk.

For more information about [Commissioner Simpson](#) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit [FDACS.gov](https://fdacs.gov).

([September 2025](#))

Continued, next page.

Florida SART: 2025 Year-in-Review (continued)

Q4: October – December

SART Equipment Request



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.

- **MARE Unit:** A MARE Unit (Mobile Animal Response Equipment) is a 16' open-sided steel livestock trailer stocked with small animal response necessities such as plastic animal crates, leashes, water and food bowls, and cleaning equipment.
- **Mini-MARE Unit:** A Mini-MARE Unit is a smaller, more mobile enclosed trailer, with animal crates of various sizes and some of the miscellaneous items in the full MARE Unit.
- **Livestock Panels:** Livestock panels can be used for the quick setup of a temporary pen for livestock.
- **ATR Unit:** An ATR (Animal Technical Rescue) Unit is an enclosed trailer containing equipment for both livestock and smaller animal technical rescues. Included are a portable A-frame/crane unit, rope systems, webbing, harnesses for large and small animals, and rescue glide for moving animals, a mud extrication system, and safety equipment for the responders.

If a local government agency needs to request this equipment during a non-declared event, then the requesting county's Emergency Management Director must send a request to the state ESF 17 ECO, LeiAnna Moorhead, via email at LeiAnna.Moorhead@fdacs.gov. The request will be reviewed by the ESF 17 ECO, FDACS Bureau Chief of Animal Disease Control, and the FDACS State Veterinarian. The requestor will be contacted directly of its approval status.

Note: FDACS ESF 17 will ensure the resource request process is coordinated appropriately for declared and non-declared emergency events (Local > County EOC > State), and that the county has exhausted all available local resources prior to requesting state emergency response equipment.

For more information, visit: <https://flsart.org/resource/equipmentrequest.jsp>

(October 2025)

Continued, next page.

Florida SART: 2025 Year-in-Review (continued)

Citrus Season Outlook... “Cautiously Optimistic”



Over the years, the Florida citrus industry has taken significant hits. In 2005 citrus psyllids invaded Florida and spread huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening. To date, the impact of HLB continues to leave its mark with citrus production being reduced by as much as 60%, according to the Citrus Research and Field Trial (CRAFT) Foundation. The past few hurricane seasons have also been taxing on the producers in addition to the loss of commercial acreage. This year, however, citrus producers are “cautiously optimistic” about the upcoming season. This optimism comes from several areas, but mostly the less active hurricane season and the CRAFT Foundation. The lackluster hurricane season has allowed producers to establish younger trees for the next season and the older trees a bit of a respite.

For those unfamiliar with the CRAFT Foundation, it was incorporated in 2019 with the main purpose of researching HLB treatment methods and managing broad scale field trials in the commercial realm. The Foundation also offers programs that will assist producers replant some of their lost groves. Assistance is granted through an application process and this year they received over 2000 applications – a substantially higher than normal number. That assistance is used to help reduce some of the risk the producer takes on in their replanting efforts, while simultaneously testing new ways to counter HLB.

For more information about the CRAFT Foundation and some of the projects they have worked on, visit [CRAFT](#).

(November 2025)

Welcome to the ESF 17 SART Team, Colin Mullins!

Colin Mullins, a seasoned emergency management professional, has been appointed Government Analyst I for the Emergency Programs Section of the Division of Animal Industry, joining the ESF 17 team alongside Josh Wells. Mullins arrives with a robust résumé that spans nearly three years as a project manager and trainer for a technology deployment firm where he oversaw logistics, product design, and testing—and a rapid rise through Florida's state agencies since 2022. After starting on the Department of Corrections' Warrant Distribution Team, he moved to the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Travel Purchasing Card Audit Team, then to General Services, where he volunteered with the ESF 6 Mass Care team during Hurricane Idalia. His leadership shone after Idalia, when he was named Operations Chief for ESF 6 and, during the 2024 hurricane season, coordinated seven field kitchens that together delivered more than 4.3 million meals in response to Hurricane Milton.

Mullins' new role will see him supporting the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) activities, State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activations, Division of Animal Industry Incident Management Team deployments, equipment tracking, logistics, and GIS mapping.

(November 2025)

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.

The New World Screwworm (NWS) has been spreading in Central America. While not currently detected in the U.S., NWS is a devastating pest and is being monitored.

What to know:

- NWS DOES NOT impact food safety.
- If **UNTREATED**, the NWS can impact livestock, pets, wildlife, and in rare cases, people.
- Be **PROACTIVE** to protect yourself and your animals.

How to keep you and your animals safe:

- NWS attacks open wounds.
- Be alert and **TREAT** wounds immediately.
- **MONITOR** wounds for infection.
- **CONTACT** your doctor or veterinarian if you suspect an infestation.



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If you want to learn more about
the New World Screwworm, visit
[FDACS.gov/NWS](https://fdacs.gov/NWS)

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

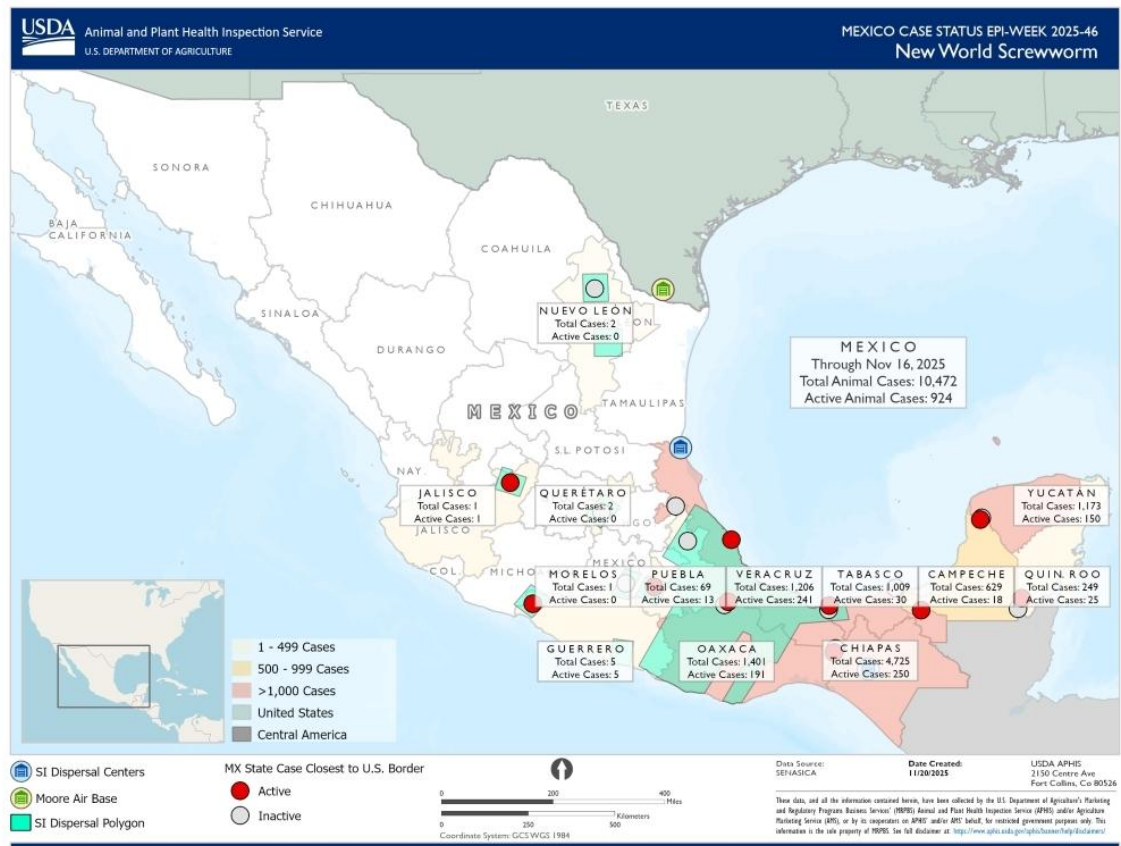
Screwworm infestation is treated by cleaning the site and topical application of a pesticide or other medication effective at killing the screwworm larvae. Treated wounds should be inspected daily until completely healed. The examining veterinarian will remove larvae from the wound with tweezers, place 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.



Source: USDA APHIS (Updated 11/21/2025)

New World Screwworm Resources

- [Information on the Screwworm Eradication Program](#) (USDA APHIS)
- [Commissioner Wilton Simpson, FDACS Urge Vigilancia as New World Screwworm Threat Increases](#)
- [FDACS – New World Screwworm Information Page](#)



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

This year a new grant was awarded to select counties for FLSARC training. More classes will be scheduled into 2026, 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:

- Quarterly In Person Meeting – December 10th, at 9:30 a.m.



In the News...

- [Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson Breaks Ground on New Agricultural Inspection Station in Jackson County \(FDACS\)](#)
- [Breakthrough with first disease-resistant wine grapes shows hope for a Florida wine renaissance \(UF/IFAS\)](#)

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.

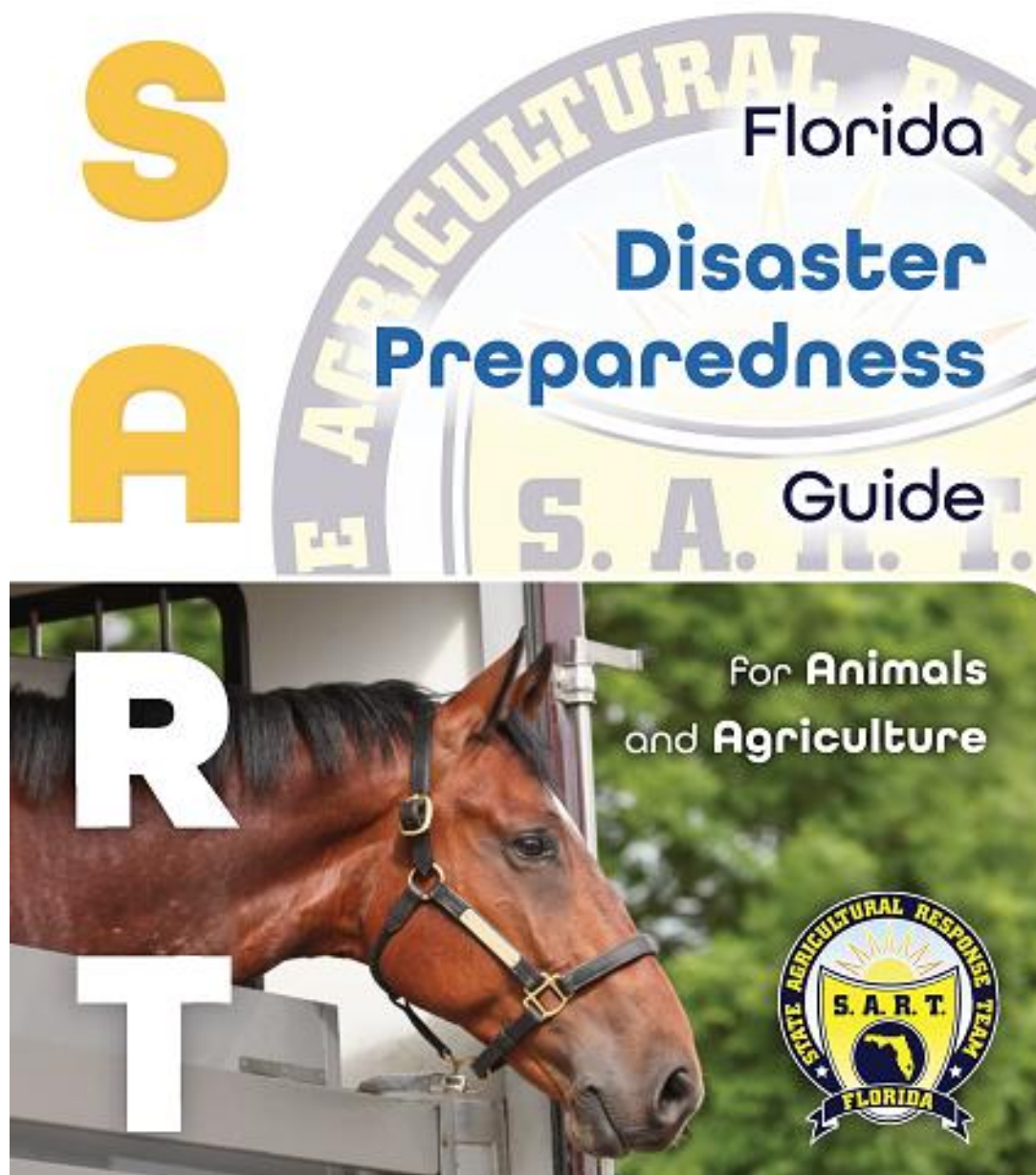


The Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

The [Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture](https://flsart.org/resource/DisasterPreparednessGuides/DisasterPreparednessGuides.jsp) 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!



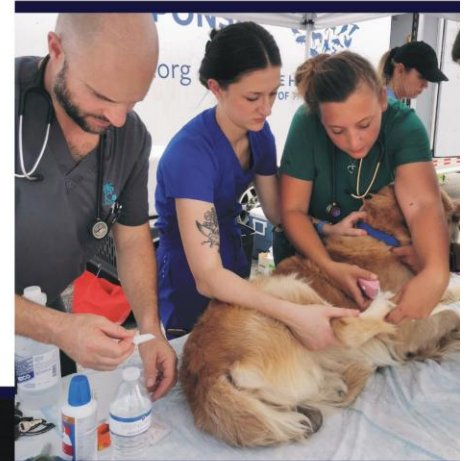
Florida veterinarians and veterinary technicians have volunteered to assist local and state emergency management officials in responding to animal emergencies. The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state.

Become A Volunteer

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



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

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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=Sl1Xsjd-FCw>

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN *December*



South

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches

Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes

Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon

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



UF/IFAS Florida Gardening Calendars

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

What to Plant in December - 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.



YOUR MAP TO A FOOD-SAFE HOLIDAY

Follow some simple food safety advice to keep you and your guests feeling festive this winter.

PROPER PREPPING

Just as you have a procedure for storing your holiday gifts when you get home, you should have a system for storing your food.

Make sure your fridge is set at or below **40 °F**.
Chill perishable groceries within two hours of shopping.

Store raw meats in a container or dish to prevent juices from leaking and set below ready-to-eat foods.

Be sure to separate raw meat from ready-to-eat foods and dishes.

Wash your hands for **20 SECONDS**

with warm water and soap!

Don't forget:
You need two thermometers.

38.7°F

One for the fridge to ensure food is stored at **40 °F**.

One for food, particularly meat, to ensure it's cooked to the right temperature.

WELCOME TO Roastville

Always use a food thermometer to check that different holiday meats have been cooked to the right internal temperature.

GROUND BEEF 160 °F

VEAL* 145 °F

DUCK 165 °F

PORK* 145 °F

TURKEY 165 °F

LAMB* 145 °F

GOOSE 165 °F

STEAK* 145 °F

YIELD

***Don't forget resting time!**
Beef, veal, lamb, and pork should rest for **3 MINUTES** before carving or consuming.

HITTING THE ROAD

If you're bringing a dish to a get-together with coworkers, family or friends this holiday season, make sure you are transporting food safely.

DANGER ZONE

DO NOT ENTER

Perishable food kept in the Danger Zone (between **40 - 140 °F**) for longer than **2 hours** should be thrown out.



KEEP COLD FOOD COLD

When transporting cold dishes, place items in a cooler with ice or gel packs to keep food at or below

40 °F

KEEP HOT FOOD HOT

Keep hot foods at or above

140 °F

by wrapping dishes in insulation bags or towels and newspaper.

EXCEPTIONS

to Danger Zone include ready-to-eat items like



For more food safety tips, go to **FoodSafety.gov**

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

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>

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Dairy Cattle

<https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/115892/file/2024-HPAI-Dairy-Cattle-Announcement.pdf>

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

SART Response Equipment List and Request Information

<https://flsart.org/resource/equipmentrequest.jsp>

*Please log in and update
your membership
information online at:*

www.FLSART.org

About the SART Sentinel

The *SART Sentinel* is an email newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the **Florida State Agricultural Response Team** on the Florida SART website at www.FLSART.org.

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in the *SART Sentinel*, please contact the editors.

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

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