



# THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM



Florida is vulnerable to threats like disease introduction and agro-terrorism.

## Special Features of this Issue:

- Enrollment Open: Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE)
- New World Screwworm (NWS) Surveillance Continues
- With Hurricane Season in Force, SART Asks Counties to Update Emergency Contact Information

## Agro-terrorism Prevention in the Sunshine State

Florida is no stranger to natural disasters -- hurricanes, floods, droughts and wildfires have done their share of damage in Florida. With 14 seaports and over 800 airports and airfields, the state is also at risk for man-made disasters.

75 million tourists and billions of tons of freight enter Florida each year, making it vulnerable to threats like disease introduction and agro-terrorism.

But recently a bill that aims to strengthen the nation's preparedness of its food, agriculture, and veterinary systems against terrorism and other high-risk events through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was recently signed into law by President Trump.

The bill was introduced by U.S. Rep. David Young (R-IA) and U.S.

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS).

"Our nation faces global and complex national security challenges. Agro-terrorism, and other high-risk events, pose serious threats to our food, agriculture, and livestock industries across the United States," Roberts said. "It is imperative to have preparedness policies in place to quickly respond to events threatening U.S. agriculture or food production systems -- ultimately protecting these key industries which impact every Americans on a daily basis."

For more information, visit <https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/23120-bill-protect-nations-food-systems-agro-terrorism-disease-outbreaks-signed-law/>

**"Agro-terrorism, and other high-risk events, pose serious threats to our food, agriculture, and livestock industries across the United States."**

— Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)



## With Hurricane Season in Force, SART Asks Counties to Update Emergency Contact Information

Counties, please update your Emergency Contact Information. As we begin hurricane season, it is imperative that we assure all contact information is accurate and up-to-date before an activation.

County contact information such as your County Emergency Operation Center, Emergency Support Function 17 Coordinator, and County Extension Office is a resourceful and highly-utilized feature on the SART website, especially during an activation or exercise. In the event of a disaster, proper preparation will pay off. Please review your county emergency contact information at <http://flsart.org/SART/choosecountyforview>. If you need to make changes to your county contact information, please send a request to LeiAnna Tucker at [LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com](mailto:LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com).



## Enrollment Open: Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE)

The objective of the *Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement (LECALE)* program is to provide law enforcement and state attorney personnel rigorous and relevant training curriculum regarding generally accepted livestock production practices, skills to discern acceptable animal well-being, and ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills in the field and during litigation proceedings.

Specific learning objectives include: Basic Animal Husbandry, Identification, Behavior and Handling, Nutrition, Pastures, Disease and Biosecurity, Euthanasia, Body Condition Scoring, and Live Animal Evaluations. Attendees will receive both classroom and hands-on education opportunities.

For more information, or to register, visit: <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/LECALE/lecale.shtml>

**December 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Course – Gainesville, FL**

**When:** Monday, December 11 - Friday December 15, 2017, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Where:** Department of Animal Sciences, 2250 Shealy Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611



## UF's John Haven Participates in International Rescue Training Exercise - Malta 2017

In May, SART member John Haven, Executive Director of the University of Florida (UF) College of Veterinary Medicine and UF VETS Disaster Response Team Leader, traveled to Malta to attend the Emergency Fire and Rescue Unit's (EFRU) multinational conference, "The Volunteer Rescuer – A Unified Approach." The conference included 24 volunteer rescue teams from around the world to participate in conference sessions and training simulations for urban search and rescue, cliff rescue, and high angle rescue.



Participating teams came from Austria, Cyprus, Greece, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The U.S. team was made up of John Haven; Kevin D. Quinn, Chair for the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), and; Margaret Strozyk-Hays, Rescue Technician with Clatsop County Oregon High Angle Rescue Team and Search and Rescue, Firefighter/EMT for Hamlet Rural Volunteer Fire Department and Mid Columbia Fire and Rescue, and Forest Officer with Oregon Department of Forestry.

"International training events such as this are critical to enhancing the skills, knowledge, and understanding among the global fire and rescue community," said Quinn. "Teams from all over work together as one unit to achieve the goals of the mission and to share best practices and innovative techniques from which we all benefit. I am grateful to have participated in this and other EVOLSAR trainings to further these multi-national partnerships and develop cohesive training materials."

For the complete story, visit <http://www.nvfc.org/nvfc-chair-participates-in-international-search-and-rescue-training-exercise-and-conference/>.

## New World Screwworm (NWS) Surveillance Continues



NWS surveillance in the Florida Keys continues. During July, recent inspection of flies was reported and specimens were sent for identification to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. Preliminary results have been negative for NWS. FDACS, Division of Animal Industry continues to answer calls and respond with outreach information.

For more information, visit <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Consumer-Resources/Reportable-Animal-Diseases/New-World-Screwworm>.

## In the News

*Short stories and updates from around the state...*

### Canine Influenza

A dog park in north Florida is temporarily closed due to concerns about H3N2 Canine Influenza Virus cases in the area. The Ocala Star-Banner reports the park in Ocala is expected to remain closed for the next four to six weeks. (July 9 article in [AP](#)).



In addition to caring for the affected dogs and working with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to get the word out, when the outbreak was first discovered, UF held a news conference on June 1 featuring Dr. Crawford, who responded to questions through a Facebook Live interview that drew national press coverage. Dr. Crawford said she was proud that following UF's widely disseminated newscast, other states followed suit in distributing news reports focusing on H3N2 (July 24 article in [Suncoast News](#)).

### Strangles

During July, quarantines for strangles was issued in Levy, Pinellas and Osceola Counties. Strangles is a contagious, infectious, upper respiratory disease of horses. The quarantine was the first for Pinellas County and the second for Levy County and Osceola County, totaling 26 reported cases of Strangles in Florida this calendar year.

### Florida 4-H State Horse Show

From July 12-15, FDACS, Division of Animal Industry personnel inspected approximately 300 horses for Coggins test forms. The Coggins test is a sensitive diagnostic test for Equine Infectious Anemia. These horses will compete for the opportunity to represent Florida at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships. The State 4-H Horse Show is held at the Bob Thomas Equestrian Center at the Florida State Fairgrounds.

### Zika Update

A rising number of Zika-spreading mosquitoes across Miami-Dade County and on Miami Beach is triggering more aggressive control efforts, Miami-Dade County officials said Friday. In recent weeks, about 160 traps posted around the county to monitor for *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, the urban mosquito that carries the virus, are increasingly catching more mosquitoes, said Miami-Dade County division director Gayle Love (July 7 article in [Miami Herald](#)).

## Enrollment Open: Multiple Levels for Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition has upcoming opportunities for their Awareness Levels 1 and 2 Small Animal Emergency Sheltering courses.

When disaster strikes, the team of trained volunteer responders will be there to shelter and protect Florida's companion animals.

The Awareness Level 1 course gives students the knowledge necessary to work in an emergency animal shelter. This class provides expertise and practical experience required to become a professional disaster animal responder. The Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering course is certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and is required to respond in Florida to help companion animals and their owners during a disaster.

The Awareness Level 2 course gives many new job options, in addition to leadership skills and team lead opportunities. This course expands upon information covered in FL-003-RESP and ICS-100 courses. These earlier courses are prerequisites for FL-607-RESP.

Course topics include: Personal Preparedness, Overview of the Incident Command System, Deployment Preparedness, Assisting in Shelter Setup, Daily Care and Feeding, Proper Cage Cleaning and Disinfection, Animal Behavior, Stress Management, Zoonotic Diseases, and Personal Safety.

For more information about the courses, and to register, please visit: <http://flsarc.org/Training.html>



### **August 12 Course – Sarasota, FL (Awareness Level 1)**

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**When:** Saturday, August 12, 2017; 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

**Where:** Cat Depot Education Resource Center, 2542 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234

### **August 27 Course – Clearwater, FL (Awareness Level 1)**

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**When:** Sunday, August 27, 2017; 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

**Where:** Metzler Veterinary Hospital, 2720 Summerdale Drive, Clearwater, FL 33761

### **September 16 Course – Niceville, FL (Awareness Level 1)**

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**When:** Saturday, September 16, 2017

**For more information, or to register:** Contact Bud Most, Volunteer Director, via email at [volunteer@flsarc.org](mailto:volunteer@flsarc.org)

### **October 7-8 Course – Niceville, FL (Awareness Level 2)**

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**When:** Saturday, October 7 – Sunday, October 8, 2017

**For more information, or to register:** Contact Bud Most, Volunteer Director, via email at [volunteer@flsarc.org](mailto:volunteer@flsarc.org)



## The FLIRRT Report

*A special section dedicated to feed and food emergency planning and response.*

Florida's Integrated Rapid Response Team (FLIRRT) is a multi-agency coordination group responding to feed and food emergency under the Rapid Response Team Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Cooperative Grant Program.

Florida is one of 21 states participating in this program, beginning in 2008. Partner agencies include the FDA, the Florida Department of Health, and Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

FLIRRT consists of technical experts in food manufacturing, food inspection, environmental health, and epidemiology. FLIRRT is an active partner in Emergency Support Function 11 (Food and Water) at Florida's State Emergency Operations Center.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Food-Safety/Food-Emergencies-and-Disaster-Preparation>

### **FLIRRT Tests for Listeria Monocytogenes**

On Wednesday, June 28, 100 environmental samples were collected from a food processor in central Florida to be tested for Listeria monocytogenes.

The collection team consisted of FDACS, Division of Food Safety Staff: Environmental Specialist III, Richard Stephens; Environmental Consultant, Summer Williams; Quality Assurance and Training Specialist, Matthew Johansson; Environmental Specialist II, Rob Wagner; Environmental Specialist II, Rob Bernys, and; Florida Department of Health's Regional Environmental Epidemiologist, Kimberly Stockdale.

The samples were shipped to Tallahassee and analyzed by the FDACS, Division of Food Safety, Bureau of Food Laboratories. All samples tested negative for Listeria monocytogenes.

### **Mark Your Calendars: AFDOSS Conference**

The Association of Food and Drug Officials of the Southern States Fall Conference is August 20-23. Details at <https://afdoss.wildapricot.org/event-2525377>

### **Dr. Curran Appointed to Director of Food Safety**

Dr. Matthew Curran was appointed by Commissioner Putnam as the Director of Food Safety. Dr. Curran joined FDACS in 2005 and has served as the Chief of Standards, overseeing the Assistant Division Director of Consumer Services and most recently as the Assistant Division Director for the Division of Food Safety.

### **Council Meeting Scheduled for August 11**

The Florida Food Defense and Advisory Council creates an infrastructure for enhancing outreach, response and information sharing of food safety issues at the state level. Council members include representatives from regulatory, industry, academia and consumer groups.

The council also provides a dynamic forum for stakeholder collaboration regarding food safety issues protecting public health.

The next council meeting will be held on August 11 from 10am-12pm at the Eyster Auditorium, 3125 Conner Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

## **Visit FLIRRT's Website at:**

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Food-Safety/Food-Emergencies-and-Disaster-Preparation>

## Did You Know? Majority of Zika Cases Are “Travel Related”

In the last week, there have been six additional cases of the Zika virus confirmed in the state, bringing the total to 113 in 2017, according to [CBS Miami](#). Of the tally, 85 cases were classified as “travel related” — meaning people were infected with the mosquito-borne Zika virus elsewhere and brought it into the state.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Protection, Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito (*Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*), and these bites can occur during the day and night.

Zika can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. Infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects. Currently, there is no vaccine or medicine for Zika.

For more information and the current status on what's happening in Florida, visit <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Health-and-Safety/Zika-Information>



## UF VETS Launches On-Line Animal Technical Rescue Course

Have you been seeing training events and rescues in the news about animal technical rescue, and wished there was an on-line affordable, entry-level course available?

UF VETS heard you! After initially focusing on the Operations Level and Technician Level live courses for first responders – which are small, highly technical and very expensive – UF VETS just launched the first of its on-line courses.

This course, a collaboration of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and UF IFAS, and hosted through the UF Distance Education Center, meets all of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for large and small animal technical rescue. The NFPA standards are the learning objectives for the course and addresses the Incident Command System (ICS)

issues for: animal technical rescue, teach knots, how to identify certain rigging and anchors, identify equipment used in animal technical rescue, learn animal harnessing and movement techniques for both low and high angle rescue, and address basic behavior and safety cues. At the end of the course, a person should be able to initiate a technical rescue response, know who to call, and assist in a technical rescue.

The course is designed to take between 5-6 hours, but sections can be repeated as necessary. This on-line course costs \$100, and participants will receive 7 hours of credit from the Florida Fire College. To register, visit [www.UFVETS.com](http://www.UFVETS.com) and click on the training tab, or access the UF Distance Education site at <http://pd.dce.ufl.edu/course-search/>.



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## New Equine Panel Testing



The FDACS, Division of Animal Industry, Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (BADDL) is happy to introduce our first testing panel, the Equine Respiratory Panel. Panel testing is designed to better assist in the diagnosis of disease syndromes, such as equine respiratory disease.

The new Equine Respiratory Panel will allow for the rapid identification of disease in horses presenting with respiratory illness. The panel testing will be performed by combining real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques and bacterial identification by Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization – Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF). This method of testing will result in earlier detection of the specific pathogen causing the illness and allow a more rapid and specific response to prevent further spread of the disease.

The Equine Respiratory Panel detects four of the most common causes of respiratory disease: equine herpes virus (EHV) types 1 and 4, equine influenza virus (A subtypes) and *Streptococcus equi* (Strangles). A deep nasal swab is the preferred method of sampling, with two swabs needed per submission. Additional testing panels addressing other disease processes will be added throughout the year.

Source: BADDL's Newsletter, *Diagnostic Connections*, Vol. 2, Issue 1

Please log in and update  
your membership  
information online at:

[www.FLSART.org](http://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**. Past issues of the *Sentinel* are archived on the Florida SART website at [www.flsart.org](http://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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