



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

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DHS Certified Training Continues

Florida SART is collaborating with several training partners to offer DHS certified training courses in Florida. Because DHS grant funding is used to make these presentations available, courses are open and free to all U.S. citizens. Courses are targeted however to the requirements of public health, agricultural, emergency response, government and industry personnel.

MGT 337 – Food Vulnerability Assessment Training

May 1-2: Dade City

This 1 ½-day course is designed to assist food regulation, law enforcement, government partners and industry personnel in the prevention and deterrence of terrorist and criminal acts that target the food industry.

Participants will learn to use the CARVER + Shock method to perform detailed vulnerability assessments of agricultural facilities. Realistic, hands-on training incorporates video of actual facilities and interactive case studies with practical exercises.

Participants will learn to assess vulnerabilities both at the community and the individual facility level, and to identify and implement mitigation measures to reduce vulnerabilities. (The training is approved for 11.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.)

PER 259 – Sharing Information and Intelligence Related to Food Importation and Transportation

April 16: Homestead

April 18: Davie

April 24: Ft Pierce

This one-day course is designed to prepare participants to utilize and implement effective sharing of information and intelligence to enhance food safety and defense related to food importation and transportation.

PER 259 is targeted at law enforcement, state Fusion Center personnel, emergency managers and responders, agricultural extension, public health, food and agriculture professionals, transportation industry, and federal, state, local, tribal and regional officials. (The training is approved for 7.5 CEUs for Certified

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Training partners include the Center for Agriculture and Food Safety and Preparedness at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (the course provider), the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences and Florida's Regional Domestic Security Task Forces.

To register

Send your name, agency/company name, phone number and e-mail address to ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org. Specify which course(s) you want to attend.

Specific course information and additional registration options can be found on the Florida Division of Emergency Management online training calendar at: <http://trac.floridadisaster.org/TRAC/trainingcalendar.aspx#lnkMarch>.

If you have questions regarding any of these courses, or about registration, please contact Art Johnstone at ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org or (850) 251-4184.



Art Johnstone of Grant Partners Inc. teaches many of the DHS certified training courses in Florida.

Response to HITS EHV1 Incident

On February 21, FDACS' Division of Animal Industry was notified that a horse participating in the Horse Shows in

the Sun (HITS) show in Ocala had been referred to the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, after exhibiting clinical neurological signs. The horse tested positive for Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) Type 1, wild-type strain.

Since its introduction in 1982, the HITS Winter Circuit in Florida has been a fixture on the East Coast show-jumping circuit. Each winter, the circuit attracts national and international participants from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe. The showground has 24 permanent barns with 560 horse stalls, 12 show rings, numerous paddocks, bridle paths, and support buildings. Each year, more than 3,500 horses, 7,500 horsemen and 10,000 spectators attend HITS in Ocala and more than \$1 million in prize money is awarded. The economic impact of the HITS Ocala Winter Circuit on the surrounding community is estimated at \$50 million. The HITS Winter Circuit in Ocala ran nine weeks from January 16 through March 17.

EHV is a common DNA virus that occurs in horse populations worldwide. The two most common strains are EHV-1, which causes abortion, respiratory disease and neurologic disease; and EHV-4, which usually causes respiratory disease only but can occasionally cause abortion and rarely neurological disease. When EHV causes neurological disease in horses, it is a reportable animal disease in Florida and is required by Florida Administrative Code 5C-20, to be reported to the State Veterinarian's Office at (850) 410-0900.

FDACS-DAI veterinarians began monitoring horses at HITS and tracing exposed horses that had left the showground. Movement of horses exposed at HITS resulted in an additional 14 premises throughout Florida being placed under quarantine. The entire HITS showground was placed under quarantine on February 27. Movement of horses on or off the HITS showground, and other quarantined premises, was prohibited. Any horse showing febrile, respiratory, or neurological signs was tested for EHV-1. FDACS personnel manned the gates of the showground 24 hours a day.

In all, 15 premises with over 1,000 horses were quarantined. The premises quarantined were located at Ocala, Pinellas Park, St. Augustine, Oviedo, Loxahatchee, Reddick and Wellington. The HITS quarantine remained in effect 21 days from the last exposure (February 20) and was released on

March 13. The last premises were released from quarantine on April 10.

The Incident Command Post was located in Ocala with the Operations Section located at the HITS showground, 13 miles west of Ocala. The Incident Management Team was comprised of over 30 FDACS employees. Personnel from the Division of Animal Industry, Division of Plant Industry, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement and the Office of the Commissioner participated in the response effort. The Incident Management Team was lead by Dr. Tom Holt, State Veterinarian and Agency Lead, and Dr. Greg Christy, Incident Commander. Dr. Mike Short, Division Equine Program Manager, acted as Agency Liaison and Disease Reporting Officer, and Dr. Diane Kitchen, Division Cattle Program Manager, acted as epidemiologist.



Since 1982, the HITS Winter Circuit in Florida has been a fixture on the show-jumping circuit. The circuit attracts participants from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe. The showground has 24 permanent barns with 560 horse stalls, 12 show rings, numerous paddocks, bridle paths, and support buildings. Each year, more than 3,500 horses, 7,500 horsemen and 10,000 spectators attend HITS in Ocala and more than \$1 million in prize money is awarded. The economic impact of the HITS Ocala Winter Circuit is about \$50 million. The HITS Winter Circuit in Ocala ran nine weeks from January 16 through March 17.

By Dr. Greg Christy, DVM, FDACS/DAI

SART Advisory Board to Meet

A SART Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Alachua Regional Service Center, 14101 Hwy 441, Suite 200, Alachua, FL 32615.

Items on the agenda at this time include the new SART video (Joe Kight and Stephen Barineau), Animal and Agriculture Radiological Plans (Dale Dubberly) and the 2013 Ingestion Pathway Initiative (Roger Rankin, Radiological Emergency Planner, FDEM) and partner reports.

Miami-Dade Technical Rescue in Action

Lest anyone think that it is only Lee and Pasco Counties that actively use their technical large animal rescue training (we have posted pictures from those incidents in former issues of the SART Sentinel), here is a recent incident from Homestead in Miami-Dade.

In March, a pregnant cow falls five feet and is trapped in a drainage ditch along SW 283rd Street and Texas Avenue. Failing to pull her out, owner Miguel Hernandez calls fire rescue. Responders and the owner work to keep the animal calm.

"Anytime you have an animal that size," says Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Aarom Marks, "there's always a danger. We keep minimal personnel [including a veterinarian] nearby just in case the animal does react stressfully to the situation."

The cow was successfully extracted and was expected to give birth in the next few days.





*By Captain Jeff Strickland
Miami Dade Fire Rescue, Technical Rescue Bureau OIC*

What's Killing Florida Manatees?

Dr. Robert Bonde, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Gainesville, is an expert on manatees. He says more than 409 manatees in Florida have died so far this year. What's killing them?

A few of the sea cows – perhaps 14 of the 400+ or 3.5 percent – appear to have died from internal injuries sustained following a collision with one of

Florida's million-plus registered boats. In an average year, boating collisions cause about 94 manatee deaths.

Fourteen is a significant number if you are one of the 3.5 percent, but otherwise not the real reason that the manatee continues to occupy a position on the endangered species list. Ongoing boater education and enforcement in "no wake" zones will continue to minimize collisions.

A salt water algal bloom in the Gulf of Mexico called "red tide" causes a high number of manatee deaths, Bonde says but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – which tracks endangered species – does not designate a separate category for death from red tide. Algae bloom falls under natural causes of death, about 192 of the 409 deaths so far this year.

Red tide is mostly a problem on the western and southwestern shores of Florida. It releases a neurotoxin that's lethal to manatees. "If you're a dog sniffing it, you wake up with a hangover the next day. If you ingest it and you're a manatee in the water, you end up drowning," Bonde says. "On the brighter side, there appear to be a lot of manatees around." The statewide "guesstimate" is at least 5,000.



Manatees, endangered and reeling from an unexplained string of deaths in Florida's east coast rivers, have died in record numbers from a toxic red algae bloom that appears each year off the west coast, say state officials.

A SART Agricultural and Radiological Quick Quiz

[Answers at end of this month's SART Sentinel.]

1. The most critical food product within 50 miles of a radiological emergency is:

- a. beef cattle
- b. vegetables
- c. milk
- d. fish and seafood
- e. all of the above

2. Most farm land that is contaminated by a radiological emergency can be used productively within:

- a. never
- b. the final one-third of the radiological half-life
- c. one year, depending on conditions
- d. several days of the emergency
- e. none of the above

3. Which of the following protective actions is wrong?

- a. Standing crops – Contamination will either wash off or dissipate to safe levels during the growing process.
- b. Small grains – Stored grain can be made safe by milling and polishing or storing the contaminated grain until the radioactivity dissipates.
- c. Fruits and vegetables – Some fruits and vegetables may be eaten after washing, removing the outer layer of leaves or skin and washing the remainder with soap and water.
- d. Roots and tubers – Potatoes and carrots can generally be eaten after they are peeled.
- e. All of the above are incorrect. Contaminated food crops can never be rendered safe for human consumption.

4. If food crops or other food products must be destroyed:

- a. they will be collected and treated as radioactive waste and transported to specific storage facilities.

- b. an agriculturalist can handle this by shipping the products to a county waste facility.
- c. all products should be allowed to dry and may be burned on site.
- d. because such products are too dangerous to ship, they must be buried in a marked and fenced site on the property on which they are produced.
- e. any of the above measures may be taken after a radiological emergency. The most important consideration is to keep product flowing through the food distribution chain.

5. In the event of a radiological emergency, the following procedures must be taken to protect farm animals and the food chain:

- a. make a plan now for total evacuation
- b. limit contamination by sheltering in place
- c. animals must be slaughtered and burned or buried in-place
- d. animals should be left outdoors to be cleaned by naturally occurring wind and rain
- e. animals should be forced into farm ponds and then sprayed with a 25 percent mixture of bleach and a commercial detergent (the pond can later be drained)

6. Which of the following statements is true?

- a. Radiation is invisible, tasteless and odorless.
- b. We are constantly exposed to natural or man-made sources of radiation, called "background radiation."
- c. Natural radiation comes from sunlight, water, soil and the materials we use to build our homes.
- d. Man-made radiation comes from sources such as dental x-rays, medical imaging and tests including CT scans and nuclear cardiac stress tests and industrial products including smoke detectors.
- e. In Florida we receive about 620 millirems of background radiation yearly, an amount is equivalent to about 62 chest x-rays.

Questions and answers from a recently released Florida DEM brochure "Agriculture & Nuclear Power in Florida" – www.floridadisaster.org. For

information on harvesting, storing and decontaminating your crops and land following a radiological event, go to <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html> to find contacts for your county agriculture extension agent.



Hurricane Center Changes Warning Procedures

With about 45 days until the beginning of the 2013 hurricane season on June 1, the National Hurricane Center said Thursday it would change the way it warns people about dangerous tropical storms.

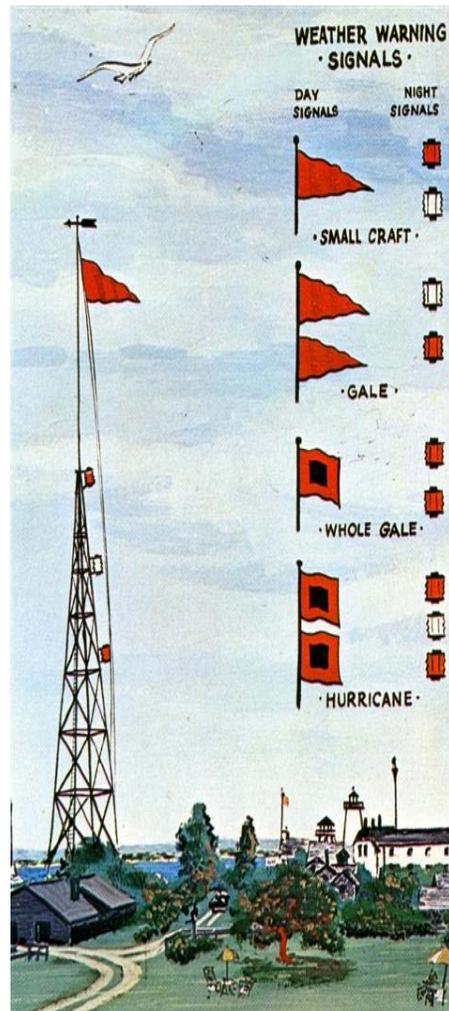
The change in thinking was promoted by criticism following Hurricane Sandy last year. At Sandy's height residents of the NYC region faced high winds, drenching rains, extreme tides, flooding and even heavy snow. It wiped out entire neighborhoods and was one of the nation's costliest natural disasters, but Hurricane Center forecasters stopped issuing advisories and warnings because the storm merged with cold-weather systems and lost its tropical characteristics. Although it mutated into a hybrid mega-storm, it lost the particular swirling characteristics that cause hurricanes. 72 deaths in the Northeastern U.S. are directly attributed to Sandy (and another 87 indirectly – hypothermia, power outages, carbon monoxide poisoning and accidents during clean-up).

Some critics have claimed that the lack of Hurricane Center attention caused Northeast residents to underestimate its danger.

The new policy states that the hurricane center will continue to issue warnings and advisories as long as

a storm threatens people and land, even if the storm loses its tropical characteristics.

“Our forecasters now have more flexibility to effectively communicate the threat posed by transitioning tropical systems,” said Louis Uccellini, the director of the National Weather Service, which is part of the National Hurricane Center. “Sandy's forecast was remarkably accurate and under a similar situation in the future, forecasters will be able to choose the best option to underscore the urgency involved.”



NOTE: A hurricane warning is issued when tropical storm force winds are expected in a coastal area within 36 hours. A hurricane watch is issued when those winds are possible within 48 hours. Similar watches and warnings also are issued for tropical storms, which have sustained winds between 39 mph and 73 mph. Hurricanes have winds of 74 mph or higher.

Under the Radar

Planning Meeting Voices

"I learned a lot at the SART meeting and enjoyed it very much. I primarily work with cropping systems for farmers and horticulture issues for home-owner. I've never before considered how to handle an accident that involved livestock in



Jim DeValerio

transport. I understand now that it is critical to have a plan for the livestock before it is offloaded and that having a supply of portable panels on hand would be a good thing. I also learned a lot in the day session about the possibility of terrorist acts involving our food supply. It was an informative session and very well organized."

*Jim DeValerio, Agricultural Extension Agent
University of Florida/IFAS, Bradford County
Cooperative Extension Service*

"The planning meeting was a great time and place for making necessary connections for the next disaster. I'm working at the Red Hills Horse Trials this week and EHV-1 is top-of-mind for organizers and competitors. The infectious disease discussions at the training meeting helped me be a lot more aware of how to ensure the biosecurity of the horses in that event.



Jed Dillard

"This year's emphasis on large animals was more appropriate for the areas I work in. I think UF/IFAS and FDACS interaction is a great opportunity for us to help each other and help the Florida livestock industry as well. I know that handling small and companion animals during disasters is important, but the expectations for my direct responsibility

with large animal management in a disaster are a lot higher."

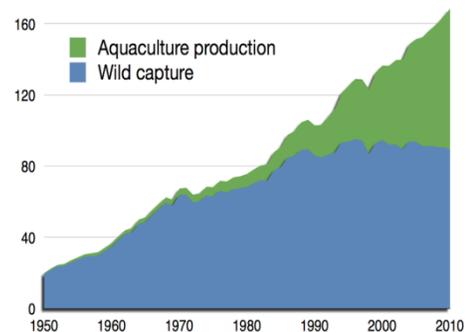
*Jed Dillard, Agricultural Extension Agent
University of Florida/IFAS, Jefferson County
Cooperative Extension Service*

Aquaculture Awareness

According to the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine, aquaculture is the fastest growing sector of animal protein production and now accounts for 47-50 percent of the world's aquatic animal food supply.

Production rose from less than one million tons in the early 1950s to more than 51 million tons in 2006. Multiple species of finfish, crustaceans, and mollusks are produced around the world in intensive production systems. In China, aquaculture accounts for almost 90 percent of the food supplied by aquatic animals. Aquaculture production helps to reduce pressure on wild fisheries caused by overfishing.

Trans-boundary aquatic animal diseases have emerged as a significant problem due to the high stocking densities used in intensive aquaculture. These diseases may devastate the farmed aquatic animals and spread to wild populations. [trans-boundary = An exotic disease that is highly contagious and has the potential to spread very rapidly irrespective of national borders.] <https://naherc.sws.iastate.edu/mod/resource/view.php?id=109>



Global total wild fish capture and aquaculture production in million tons, from 1950–2010, as reported by the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization.

Photos Are Now Available

All photos taken by the editor at the 2013 Florida SART Planning Meeting in Daytona in January are now available at www.flsart.org/photogallerylist the SART web site. We would be delighted to consider your comments for the next issue of the *SART Sentinel*. Please correspond with **Stephen Barineau**, SART Planner Stephen.barineau@freshfromflorida.com, **Rick Sapp**, *Sentinel* Editor rsa5@cox.net or **Joe Kight**, ESF-17 ECO Joe.kight@freshfromflorida.com.

A series of photos taken at a Florida SARC small animal sheltering course given in Gainesville, Florida in July, 2012 that illustrates the intensive instruction and hands-on nature of the teaching and learning is also available at that web site.

NAHERC Training Site

A web site for the National Animal Health Emergency Rescue Corps (NAHERC) is set up at <https://naherc.sws.iastate.edu/> and working with course material on the site is free. Both General and ICS Courses are available.

Don't know NAHERC? Confused between it and NASAAEP?

The NAHERC site was created and is maintained by the Center for Food Security and Public Health, made possible, in part, by a Cooperative Agreement with USDA/APHIS. The Center is located at Iowa State University in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

According to USDA: "When an animal health emergency occurs, an immediate response is necessary to protect both animals and people. The USDA/APHIS will look to many sources to obtain the veterinary personnel needed to help meet the critical staffing needs of such an emergency.

"In 2001, APHIS established the NAHERC to respond to exotic disease outbreaks and other disasters which affect livestock, poultry, companion animals, and wildlife. [More volunteers are urgently needed to assure a decisive response to any potential animal health crises.](#)" (Questions to NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov.)

Answers to A SART Agricultural and Radiological Quick Quiz

1. Answer c.
The most critical food product within 50 miles of a radiological emergency is milk. Because of the rapid distribution from the cow to the consumer, the short period of time it takes for contamination to appear and the potential effects on children.

2. Answer d.
Most farm land that is contaminated by a radiological emergency can be used productively within several days of the emergency. The actual length of time the land should remain uncultivated depends upon the amount and types of radioactive material that settled on the land.

3. Answer a-d.
Protective actions "a" through "d" are correct. It is a common misconception that food products, once contaminated, can never be cleaned for safe consumption.

4. Answer a.
If food crops or other food products must be destroyed they will be collected and treated as radioactive waste and transported to specific storage facilities.

5. Answer b.
Farm animals will not normally be evacuated during a radiological emergency, so sheltering is the most effective way to limit contamination.

6. Answer a-d.
All of the provided answers is true.

Visit <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html> to find a contact for your local agriculture extension agent who can provide information on harvesting, storing and decontaminating your crops and land following a radiological event.

About the SART Sentinel

The SART Sentinel is an e-mail newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the *Sentinel* are archived on the Florida SART Web Site 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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