



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Advisory Board Reviews Progress

The Advisory Board for Florida SART convened on November 5th at the FDACS Regional Service Center in Alachua. Joe Kight, FDACS/DAI – ESF-17 ECO opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. (The complete minutes will be posted on the SART web site at

<http://www.flsart.org/jsp/member/OperationsMeetingMinutes.jsp>.)



Dr. Joan Dusky (l) and Art Johnstone

Joe Kight (l) and Susan Smith

1. Dale Dubberly, FDACS/AES, spoke about current and future training events in his division, made possible because of the lack of Tropical Storms impacting Florida so far this year. He also talked briefly about governmental reorganization of agricultural agencies at federal and state levels.
2. Dr. Chris Young, USDA/APHIS, discussed the reorganization of USDA and how it would affect coordination with SART and area emergency planning and response.
3. David Perry, FDACS/DAI – SART Co-Chair, reviewed ESF-17 county visits and why visits are scheduled with each county. He took note of a general shift from the initial emphasis on small and companion animals toward larger and agricultural animals.
4. Dr. Joan Dusky, UF/IFAS – SART Co-Chair, discussed two new courses soon to be in development. The first, a follow-up to the current awareness-level pet sheltering course. The second, a multi-day introduction to animal husbandry for law enforcement and related professions.
5. Art Johnstone, COO – Volunteer Florida, discussed training courses and his new position with Volunteer Florida.
6. John Haven, Director, UF/CVM, reviewed the numerous training and educational opportunities coming during the next year, especially in the equine and large animal field
7. Joe Kight, FDACS/DAI – ESF-17 ECO, led a discussion about the state of radiological decontamination of animals in which much is speculated, but little is known as scientific fact and therefore procedures and best practices are still heavily debated.

Vol. 9, No. 11
November 2013

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8. The 2015 Florida SART Planning Meeting is scheduled for January 12-14 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lake Buena Vista S., Kissimmee. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Monday and end at Noon on Wednesday. The negotiated room rate is \$123 per night.
9. SART Partners:
 - a. Laura Bevan representing SARC noted that 1,130 people had been trained in 41 awareness-level pet sheltering classes in Florida.
 - b. Dr. Mark Cunningham, FWC, talked about a radiological event and its effect on wild animals; and the continuing surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) among Florida whitetail deer herds.



John Haven

John Terry (I) and Laura Bevan

VETS Team Continues Training

Story & Photos by John Haven, Director, College of Veterinary Medicine, UF

The University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine VETS Team, a SART partner, is a national leader in animal technical rescue. Team members are highly trained in animal technical rescue, swift water, confined space, structural collapse and rope rescue. Core team members of the VETS technical rescue team are trained and equipped for human technical rescue, and they work to adapt those skills, techniques and their equipment to improve animal technical rescue. Few primary animal technical rescue teams in the country are trained to this level.



Photos above VETS Team practice rope work: human and animal rescue.

Because of its expertise, team leader John Haven was named a co-chair for Animal Technical Rescue for the National Fire Protection Association's Committee 1670 on Search and Technical Rescue. A new standard from the NFPA on animal technical rescue will be published early in 2014. Subject matter experts from around the country coordinated with Haven to build the chapter.

The VETS team supports seven fire/rescue and sheriff's teams around the state in animal technical rescue with DHS-approved animal technical rescue course training. Training DVM students to be responders in their communities, including technical rescue, it provides training to FVMA Vet Corps members, and works with local fire rescue, sheriff's deputies and animal control.



Photos above VETS Team practice rope work: human and animal rescue.

This last issue - working with local fire rescue – is essential for all disaster response plans. The first time a team is called out should not be the time to develop a plan of response. Only by training together do teams and agencies become knowledgeable and comfortable with what each brings to the table, the equipment they have, and their knowledge in using the equipment safely. The VETS team trains with Gainesville Fire Rescue, Alachua County Fire Rescue and its Sheriff's deputies at least a few times a year.

For more information about the VETS team, its equipment or its training, contact team leader John Haven at havenj@ufl.edu.

DHS-Sponsored Training Update

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (FL SART) is collaborating with several training partners to offer a series of six DHS-certified Agroterrorism Prevention courses in Florida. All courses are open to U.S. citizens and are free of charge through DHS grant funding. Training partners include the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, University of California Davis, the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the University of Florida-Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences and the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces.

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AWR 153

Principles of Detection and Diagnosis, Strategies and Technologies

The course goal is to inform members of frontline response teams about the importance of early detection and diagnosis, proper sample collection and the steps involved in an agroterrorism-related outbreak investigation. The course includes strategies to improve and increase detection and diagnosis efficiency as well as the epidemiological and criminal investigation process. *This training has been approved for 4.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.*

* November 21, 2013 in St. Augustine

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training

St. Johns County Health Dept., 1955 US 1 South, Suite 100

* December 11 in Brooksville

8:30 am registration, 9:00 – 4:00 pm training

Hernando County Emergency Operations Center, 18900 Cortez Blvd.

* December 12 in Immokalee

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training

IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, 2685 State Rd. 29 N

AWR 155

Principles of Frontline Response to Agroterrorism and Food Systems' Disasters

The goal of this course is to demonstrate how an effective frontline emergency response can reduce or mitigate the effects of an agricultural emergency, an act of agroterrorism or other food systems disaster. This course includes a plan that can be used as an "all hazards" approach against a wide variety of potential problems and occurrences within the agricultural community. *This training has been approved for 5.0 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.*

* November 22, 2013 in Daytona Beach

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 5:00 pm training

Volusia County EOC, 3825 Tiger Bay Rd.

If you have questions regarding any of these courses, or about registration, contact Art Johnstone at ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org or (850) 251-4184. To register you're your name, agency/company name, e-mail address and telephone number to ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org. Be sure to specify which course(s)/location(s) you want to attend.

FDACS Foreign Animal Disease Exercise

By Dr. Greg Christy, DVM – FDACS/DAI

Photos courtesy Victor Alzona

From October 1-3, FDACS Division of Animal Industry conducted a tactical Foreign Animal Disease exercise in Kissimmee. The exercise included division field personnel and personnel from the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in a simulated High Path Avian Influenza outbreak.



Testing Samples

Trailer/Equipment Line-up

The Incident Management Team was led by District 5 Supervisor John Court and Laboratory Director Dr. James Maxwell as Laboratory Emergency Response Team lead. Dr. Greg Christy prepared the exercise and was the Exercise Lead.

The exercise tested the ability to establish an Incident Command Post with a laboratory component responsible for sample receiving, processing and transshipment capabilities. This allowed the Bronson Lab to maintain routine testing while reducing risk that contaminated samples, personnel or vehicles would enter the facility, thus ensuring a clean

bio-secure environment. The exercise partnered with the Florida Department of Health to ensure the health and safety of the responders as they would in an actual zoonotic event. The exercise ended with a final briefing or “hot wash” in which participants provided valuable comments to strengthen the Division's future animal disease response capabilities.

“Some diseases we really worry about,” Dr. Christy added, “are Foot and Mouth Disease, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle Disease. Most animal disease diagnostic laboratories are not set up to do their routine testing while also instituting strict biosecurity measures required for the safe handling of test samples or carcasses infected with a highly contagious animal disease agent. Another problem is that in addition to our routine work, we don’t have adequate facilities and personnel for the large surge of testing required during a large scale animal disease incident. One answer is to set up an off-site facility to deal with the highly contagious disease agent and the sample surge like we did in this exercise.”

Dr. Christy mentioned that “the exercise was a success in that it demonstrated that we could set up an off-site sample receiving, processing and trans-shipping capability that kept the highly contagious disease agent and sample surge out of main lab.

“In the hot Florida climate, however, there is a limited amount of time that a person can work in full PPE in hot, humid conditions. The on-site safety officer must be aware and involved. For this to be effective, we would have to set up inside a controlled air conditioned environment fairly quickly.”



Working Inside Mobile Office

The Weather Channel Predicts

Jacksonville.

In a story that has received a great deal of pass-around, meteorologist Bill Read said this Florida mega-town is one of the five most vulnerable areas of the country that could experience the next Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy. Read served for 30 years with the National Weather Service, four as director of the National Hurricane Center.

To arrive at the top five locations, Read considered areas with significant population and infrastructure at risk, population growth and the length of time since a historically significant storm had occurred.

So why Jacksonville?

It has been almost half a century since Hurricane Dora made landfall just south of that city in 1964. Perhaps the scooped shape of the Atlantic coastline in that region may have something to do with avoiding the north and east bending storms since records began being kept in 1851.



Hurricane Dora and Beyond

But in 1964 when Hurricane Dora hit, notes Read, Jacksonville's population was only about 400,000. And the area east of the St. Johns River that flooded during Dora was largely unpopulated. Today's metro population is nearly 1.5 million and most of those people, Read believes, are relative newcomers who have no idea of the destructive nature of a hurricane.

What's more, a pair of 2012 tropical storms (Beryl in May and Debby in June) flooded Jacksonville. Imagine, says Read, what the storm surge from a major hurricane could do.

To read Jon Erdman's complete October 30 story, visit <http://www.weather.com/news/weather-hurricanes/sandy-next-five-possible-cities-risk-bill-read-20131024>.

Florida Ag Production Increases in 2012

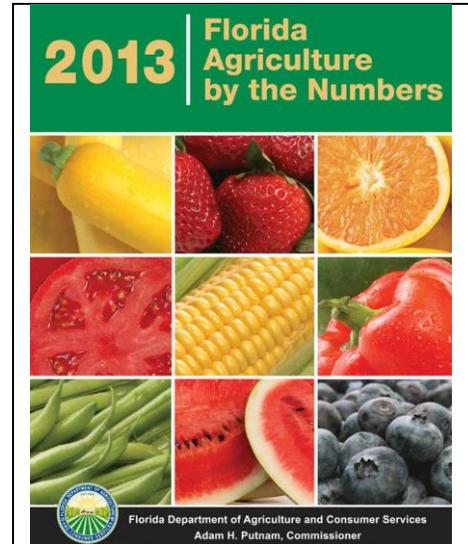
Sales of Florida oranges, honey and other agricultural commodities increased in 2012 from the previous year. Approximately 48,000 farms on nine million acres grow 300 different products. The industry contributes more than \$100 billion to the state economy and supports two million jobs.

The new 180-page "Florida Agriculture: By the Numbers" gives in-depth details about growing and harvesting top Florida products, from citrus to cattle to honey, fish and forestry. Highlights from the report include:

- In 2012, Florida ranked first in the value of production of oranges, grapefruit, fresh market snap beans, cucumbers for fresh market, squash, sweet corn, fresh market tomatoes and watermelon. Florida also ranks first in cucumbers for pickles and sugarcane for sugar and seed.
- The state ranked second in the value of production of bell peppers, strawberries and tangerines.
- The state ranked third in the value of production of honey.
- The value of the orange crop continued to rise, with \$1.5 billion in sales, up from \$1.3 billion in 2011. Citrus growers produced 146.7 million boxes of oranges, up from 140.3 million the previous year, giving Florida 66 percent of the total U.S. market share. And 96 percent of oranges were used for orange juice.

- Sales of other commodities also increased, including grapefruit, watermelon, snap beans, sugarcane for sugar and seed, cucumbers for fresh market and sweet corn.
- Growers harvested vegetables from 186,700 acres, with vegetable sales exceeding \$1.1 billion. Florida ranks second only to California for fresh market vegetables.
- Sales of livestock and products also increased to \$1.5 billion. Sales of cattle and calves increased to \$669 million. Poultry farms saw \$363 million in sales from broilers and eggs. Milk sales totaled \$520 million.
- Total sales of nursery and greenhouse products increased to \$1.8 billion.

To view the entire report, go to <http://freshfromflorida.s3.amazonaws.com/P-01304.pdf>.



Under the Radar

Animal Response Equipment is in Position



SART has deployed Mobile Animal Response Equipment (MARE), livestock panels and Large Animal Technical Rescue Trailers (LATR) at strategic locations in each RDSTF region in Florida. These are region-wide assets.

If an individual or organization is in need of this equipment, please follow this procedure:

1. Obtain the approval of the Emergency Management Director in the requesting county.
2. Then request assistance directly from the contacts listed at <http://www.flsart.org/RegionalEquipment/>.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Joe Kight at (850) 410-0920 or David Perry (352) 572-3397.

“One Health” is Working in Pasco County

Jennifer Chatfield, DVM, has written about the One Health approach to a Mobile Medical Unit in Pasco County. Pasco has an estimated homeless population of more than 4,500 people with 14 percent of its 470,391 residents living below the poverty line. Many of the homeless individuals (and families) live in wooded areas and in tent camps, increasing the likelihood of unintentional exposure to feral animals including cats, raccoons, pigs, and other animals.

In a collaborative effort, a One Health mobile medical unit (MMU) has provided human medical care, legal services outreach and veterinary medical prevention for zoonotic diseases to companion animals of the homeless population.

In the Discussion/Conclusion section of her article, Dr. Chatfield calls the deployment of the MMU “wildly successful.” Read her entire article by clicking on the pdf [here](#) or by visiting [http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-from-animals/one-health-newsletter/ documents/summer-ohnl-2013.pdf](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-from-animals/one-health-newsletter/documents/summer-ohnl-2013.pdf). Dr. Chatfield is a SART member, works in cooperation with SART member and Volunteer Florida COO Art Johnstone as a trainer in agro-terrorism subjects and may be reached with questions at jen_chatfield@hotmail.com.

L-R: Ryan Murphy (Public Defender’s), Raine Johns, JD (Public Defender’s and MMU Coordinator), Deborah Hensley (MRC Coordinator), Andrea Mason, RN (MRC volunteer/PHVMA Liaison), Diana Mattox, DVM (Spay Pasco), Mara Ricci, DVM (MRC volunteer), Lyra Gobardi (PHVMA volunteer), Jenifer Chatfield, DVM (MRC volunteer), Jeri Chatfield (PHVMA volunteer).



You’ve heard about One Health, but what is it?

Emerging and Reemerging infections - 70% vector-borne or zoonotic

The One Health concept is a worldwide strategy for expanding *interdisciplinary collaborations and communications* in all aspects of health care for humans, animals and the environment.

The synergism achieved will advance health care for the 21st century and beyond by accelerating biomedical research discoveries, enhancing public health efficacy, expeditiously expanding the scientific knowledge base, and improving medical education and clinical care.

When properly implemented, it will help protect and save untold millions of lives in our present and future generations. [Read more at <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/>.]

Training Videos Online

There are more than 500 disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery training videos embedded in the *Just-In-Time Disaster Training Video Library* with new videos being added on a daily basis. The purpose of this **FREE** online library is to provide a single, easy-to-search source in which individuals, agencies and organizations can access *Just-In-Time* Disaster Training Videos. The library can be accessed at www.JustInTimeDisasterTraining.org.

Florida SARC Training Opportunities

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition regularly teaches "Small Animal Emergency Sheltering - Awareness Level" to promote effective response for animals during disasters. Registration is always required, but due to a grant from Florida Emergency Management and Homeland Security there is rarely any fee to attend. SARC courses are certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management, course code FL-003-RESP.

For information about upcoming courses and for registration, visit <http://www.flsarc.org/Training.html> or contact Melissa Forberg training@flsarc.org (352) 658-1224, Pam Burns pamburnssarc@gmail.com or Consie Von Gontard training@flsarc.org.



Continuity of Operations

What is "continuity of operations?" (www.fema.gov/continuity-operations)
Shouldn't it be as simple as keeping the lights on in an emergency?
Does your agency (your business – your family) have one?

Continuity of Operations, as defined in the National Security Presidential Directive-51/Homeland Security Presidential Directive-20 (NSPD-51/HSPD-20) and the National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan (NCP/IP), is an effort within individual executive departments and agencies to ensure that Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents and technological or attack-related emergencies.

The ultimate goal of continuity in the executive branch is the continuation of National Essential Functions (NEFs). In order to achieve that goal, the objective for organizations is to identify their Essential Functions (EFs) and ensure that those functions can be continued throughout, or resumed rapidly after, a disruption of normal activities. The Federal Government has an important partnership with other non-federal government entities and with private sector owners and operators who play integral roles in ensuring our homeland security.

An organization's resiliency is directly related to the effectiveness of its continuity capability. An organization's continuity capability – its ability to perform its essential functions continuously – rests upon key components or pillars, which are in turn built on the foundation of continuity planning and program management. Those key pillars are Leadership, Staff, Communications, and Facilities. The continuity program staff within an agency shall coordinate and oversee the development and implementation of continuity plans and supporting procedures.

A standardized continuity program management cycle ensures consistency across all continuity programs and supports the foundation and pillars that comprise the nation’s continuity capability. It establishes consistent performance metrics, prioritizes implementation plans, promulgates best practices, and facilitates consistent cross-agency continuity evaluations.

Dr. Kendra Stauffer, DVM, sent a [pdf](#) of the new FEMA Continuity Assistance Tool.

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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