



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM



Growing Jobs in Florida: Agriculture Front & Center

In January, Jack Payne, the head of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) sat down with The Orlando Sentinel to discuss some of the biggest issues facing agriculture in Florida. In a revealing interview, Payne detailed what an important industry (second in terms of

income from annual sales) agriculture plays in the Florida.

Generating \$142 billion and 2 million jobs, the sector plays a vital part of the state's economy. The interview ranged from threats facing the industry to the effects of climate change on pests and diseases.

(See **IFAS' Payne Interview**, page 2)

UF Professor, 94, Inducted Into Ag Hall of Fame

On February 10th, Alvin Warnick became the latest inductee to the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame. The 94-year-old University of Florida professor emeritus was recognized for his 60 years of work in cattle research and education.

Teaching an estimated 1500 students over his career, Dr. Warnick worked on improving the reproduction, genetics, and nutrition of the Florida cow herd. He also co-authored three

seminal books and published over 300 scientific publications.

According to the Florida Ag Hall of Fame, when Dr. Warnick arrived in Florida, the average weaning rate for the Florida cow herd was approximately 50% and weight of the marketed calf was approximately 250 lbs at two years of age. This resulted in tough beef with minimal marbling.

(See **Professor Warnick**, page 2)

Special features of this issue

- IFAS head talks about the importance of agriculture to the Florida economy.
- New Training Opportunity: A Coordinated Response to Food Emergencies
- ESF County Visits Update

"IFAS is the research and innovation arm of Florida agriculture. We do more than \$100 million in research annually."

—Jack Payne
Head of University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)





IFAS' Jack Payne (Courtesy UFL.edu)

IFAS' Payne Interview (Continued)

When asked about what role IFAS plays in Florida Agriculture, Payne responded, "IFAS is the research and innovation arm of Florida agriculture. We do more than \$100 million in research annually on irrigation, plant breeding, disease prevention, and more. Our extension agents in all 67 counties bring the latest science to farmers. Our College of Agricultural and Life Sciences prepares the next generation to tackle the ever-increasing complexities of agriculture."

Read more of the Orlando Sentinel's story at:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-ed-front-center-agriculture-payne-20150119-story.html>

Professor Warnick (Continued)

Today, the Florida cattle industry is weaning calves at 85 to 90%, with a weaning weight greater than 500 lbs.

Dr. Warnick, who also served in the United States Air Force and who is a veteran of World War II, graduated from Utah State University where he studied animal sciences.

The Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame honors men and women who have made lasting contributions to agriculture in this state and to mentoring of our youth, who represent the future of agriculture in Florida.

Read more at:

<http://floridaaghalloffame.org/2014/10/dr-alvin-c-warnick/>

Midwest Floods Becoming More Frequent

The U.S. Midwest region and surrounding states have endured increasingly more frequent floods during the last half-century, according to results of a new study. The findings fit well with current thinking among scientists about how the hydrologic cycle is being affected by climate change.

In general, as the atmosphere becomes warmer, it can hold more moisture. One consequence of higher water vapor concentrations is more frequent, intense precipitation. The floods caused agricultural and other economic losses in the billions of dollars, displaced people, and led to loss of life.

Read more on the Homeland Security News Wire:

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr-20150210-midwest-floods-becoming-more->



The Water Industry Needs to Join the Fight Against Superbugs

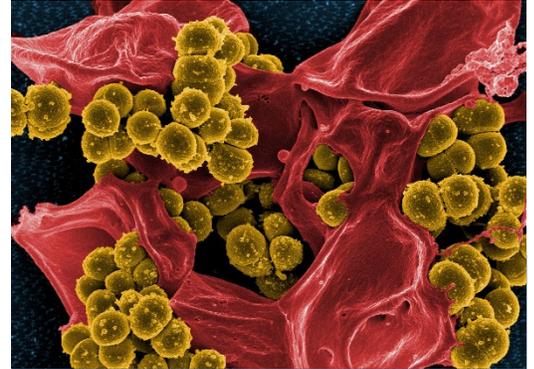
The fight against antibiotic-resistant bacteria—so-called “superbugs”—is a huge challenge, one that the World Health Organization has described as a grave global problem. The problem of antibiotic resistance is being exacerbated worldwide by the pollution of waste water with leftover drugs, providing breeding grounds for resistant bacteria and their genes.

As written on the Homeland Security News Wire, tackling hot spots in “source control” such as hospitals and clinics could make significant inroads on the amount of waste drugs entering treatment plants.

The water industry should ensure that treatment plants are operating under optimal conditions and that the older ones are either replaced or upgraded.

Read more at:

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150210-midwest-floods-becoming-more-frequent>



“Tackling hot spots in ‘source control’ such as hospitals and clinics could make significant inroads on the amount of waste drugs entering treatment plants.”

-Homeland Security News Wire



Were you in attendance at the 2015 SART Planning Meeting? Looking for a group snapshot? Visit [SART's Photo Gallery](#) to view the complete directory of images.

Federal Partnership Spotlight: Biological Research, Training, and Education, All Goals of The Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases



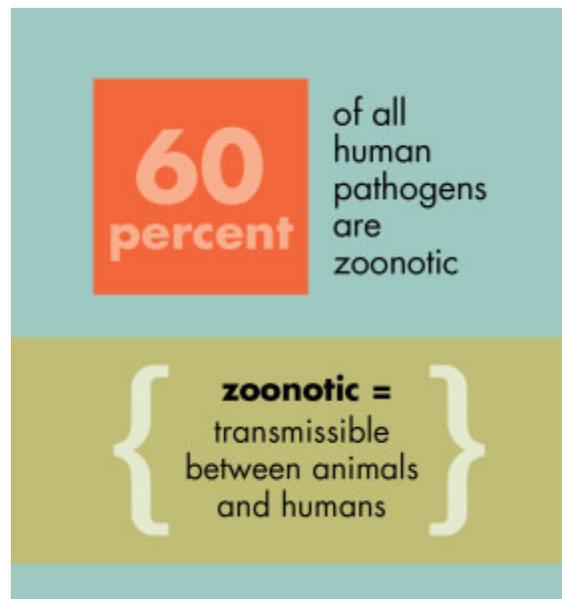
At least 60 percent of all human pathogens are zoonotic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and 75 percent of recently emerging infectious diseases that affect humans are of animal origin. The most dangerous of these animal diseases pose catastrophic risks to human health, livestock health and the global agricultural economy, which employs one out of every three workers worldwide, according to the United Nations.

The Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD) performs research and develops products to defend the nation from high-consequence foreign animal and zoonotic diseases. Founded in April 2004 as a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Center of Excellence, the IIAD leverages the resources of multiple major universities, Minority Serving Institutions, national laboratories, and partners in state and federal government.

The Institute focuses on research, education and outreach to prevent, detect, mitigate and recover from exotic animal, emerging and/or zoonotic (transmissible between animals and humans) diseases, which may be introduced intentionally or through natural processes.

The Institute is headquartered at Texas A&M University, the nation's sixth-largest university by enrollment. The IIAD was renewed as a co-lead with the Center of Excellence for Emerging and Zoonotic Animal Diseases (CEEZAD) at Kansas State University in 2010, and the DHS cooperative agreement extends through 2016.

Read more at: <http://iiad.tamu.edu/about/>



3/3/2015

9:00AM - **Bradford County**

3/3/2015

2:00PM - **Union County**

3/10/2015

10:00AM **Suwannee County**

3/10/2015

2:00PM - **Lafayette County**

3/11/2015

10:00AM **Duval County**

3/12/2015

10:00AM **Madison County**

3/25/2015

2:00PM - **Clay County**

Complete and updated listings will be posted at www.flsart.org

Update on the 2015 ESF-17 County Visits

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, (FDACS) Division of Animal Industry, as lead agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF)-17, is leading the effort to visit county emergency management offices through April to discuss county ESF-17 needs.

The annual ESF-17 County Visits have already started in the counties of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St Lucie and Highlands. SART Co-Chair David Perry (FDACS) said that attendance ranged from a low of 7 staff members to a high of 30, spanning local sheriffs and police, mosquito control representatives, numerous non-governmental organization groups, food safety professionals, fire and rescue teams, environmental protection staff, and growth management. The Seminole Tribe of Florida also was well represented as the meetings have commenced.

Discussion occurred on numerous topics: Large Animal Emergency Response, Vector Control, FDACS Food Safety and FLIRRT, Animal Carcass disposal, the SART website and updated county information. Upcoming trainings, including the LECAL, were also mentioned.

The team's goal of each 90-minute presentation is to develop a greater understanding of what the needs are at each county, and work to address items where possible.



Training Opportunity: A Coordinated Response to Food Emergencies: Management and Planning

Course Provider: The National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) at Louisiana State University provides Department of Homeland Security (DHS) certified courses, taught by expert instructors, and will deliver all course materials to your training facility at no cost to your agency.

Description: A Coordinated Response to Food Emergencies: Management and Planning is a management-level course that teaches public health officials, emergency managers, first responders, epidemiologists, industry, and any other relevant stakeholders in a food emergency to effectively and collaboratively manage food emergencies using the Emergency Operations Center and Unified Command.

Prerequisites: Completion of ICS-100, ICS-700, and ICS-800 is recommended.

Target Audience: This course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS) in response to a large scale food emergency.

The course expands upon information covered in ICS-100 through ICS-400 courses.

Professional disciplines targeted for this course include Food Protection Agencies (Agriculture, Consumer Protection and Public Health), Industry, Emergency Management, Governmental Administrative, Healthcare, Hazardous Materials, Public Health, Public Safety Communications, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Services, and Law Enforcement.

Selection Criteria: Persons expected to perform in a management capacity, in both lead and supporting agencies, during a large scale food emergency.

Additional Information: The class hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both days.

Location: University of Florida – IFAS Campus, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center; 3205 College Ave., Davie, FL 33314

View Directions and Map:

<http://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/directions.shtml>

Date: Tuesday, Mar 24, 2015 - Wednesday, Mar 25, 2015

To Register: Call or email Art Johnstone, [\(850\) 251-4184](tel:850-251-4184), ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org, and provide your name, agency, title, phone number, and email address.



FEMA

The NCBRT is a DHS training partner providing high-quality training to emergency responders throughout the United States and its territories under the NCBRT's Homeland Security National Training Cooperative Agreement.

Preparedness is a shared, national responsibility requiring our active participation to prepare America to address its threats.

The NCBRT is preparing you today for tomorrow's threats.

Disaster Robotics and the Changing Face of Response and Recovery

For years, bomb squads from throughout the country have used robots in their tactical operations to gain situational awareness and enhance safety. With the prevalence of drone technology over the past several years, unmanned aerial vehicles are taking the next step of aiding disaster response organizations with their work.

Since 1995, Robin Murphy, director of the Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue at Texas A&M University, has developed robots that have served in a total of 46 emergency responses worldwide. These incidents have involved Hurricane Katrina to 9/11. She's interviewed in the recent *Government Technology* story "How Robots Are Changing Disaster Response and Recovery."

Online at: <http://www.govtech.com/products/GT-How-Robots-Are-Changing-Disaster-Response-and-Recovery.html>



*Don't forget to update
you membership
information online at:
<http://flsart.org>*

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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