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Contents

- 2009 SART Conference in Review
 - Special Note – Michael Vick’s dog fighting case
 - Special Note – Beef exports rebound
 - Special Note – About amphetamines – Responders need to know
- Four Are Recognized With Awards
- Segraves Gives Highlight Presentation
- Update Member Information Now, Please!
- Additional FBI Notes on Agro-terrorism
- Conference Attendees Go “On The Record”
- APHIS Schedules International FMD Exercise
- Flooding Photo Tells North Florida’s April Story
- NASAAEP Discusses Pet-Number Formula for Emergencies
- About the SART Sentinel

2009 Florida SART Conference in Review

Here are capsule summaries or quick quotes from the 2009 Florida SART Conference Wednesday, March 25th – Friday, March 27th attended by about 125 people from practically all areas of the state. Co-chair for the Conference were Tim Manning, USDA (tim.manning@fl.usda.gov), and Dr. Joan Dusky, IFAS-UF (jadu@ufl.edu) with ESF-17 Coordinator Joe Kight, FDACS (kightj@doacs.state.fl.us). By presenting these brief notes, we hope that an idea or a direction may present itself for your location or situation – “all disasters are local” – and/or that a resource may be available to assist with plans and recommendations.

Wednesday Afternoon, March 25
Florida Animal Control Association
Bill Armstrong, Hillsborough County
(armstrongw@hillsboroughcounty.org or
hart@hillsboroughcounty.org)

- Discussion about Florida stance on exotic pets – counties must have plans to deal with exotics in emergency situations.
- Discussion about standards (air flow and temperature controls) for animal movement during emergencies.
- Seven MARE Trailers recently outfitted with small animal emergency supplies, one for each law enforcement region.

FEMA, ESF-11 (USDA) Programs

Dr. Kay Carter-Corker, APHIS-USDA (kay.a.carter-corker@aphis.usda.gov)

Dr. Suzan Loerzel, APHIS-USDA (suzan.m.loerzel@aphis.usda.gov)

- Discussion of structure of emergency planning.
- Responses to animal emergencies as varied as pods of dolphins washing up on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and dealing with genetically altered mice at Tulane University.



FSA's Tim Manning addresses the opening conference session.



The 2009 Conference began with a get-to-know-you outdoor reception.

				
Bill Armstrong	Kay Carter-Corker	Suzan Loerzel	Penny Burke	Neel Barnaby

DHS Citizen Corps, New Animal Responders

Penny Burke, FEMA Community Preparedness (penny_burke@dhs.gov)

- Promotes citizen preparedness – incorporating preparedness into daily lives.
- www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html “Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.”

Agroterrorism

Dr. Neel Barnaby, FBI Hazardous Material Response Unit

- FBI is the lead investigative authority for terrorist attacks in the US.
- Must keep the “chain of custody” intact and accounted for when evidence or samples are available.
- When does the FBI take over a CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) crime? “We’re not. CBRN crimes require a multi-agency response, a multi-agency partnership.”

The Michael Vick Dog-Fighting Case

Tom Ackerman, Office of the Inspector General, USDA (thackerman@oig.usda.gov)

- A surprise presentation on “US vs. Michael Vick” (former quarterback, Atlanta Falcons) included first-hand and eye-witness accounts of Vick’s “Bad Newz Kennels.”
- Why the Department of Agriculture was involved.
- Notes that dog fighting is often associated with cock fighting.
- [Note: August 24, 2007: Vick signs a guilty plea to federal dog-fighting charges. Vick admitted to killing the dogs “by various methods, including hanging and drowning.” Find this information and copies of the signed indictment at <http://news.findlaw.com/cnn/docs/sports/usvick82407plea.html> He has paid nearly a million dollars in penalties and, in December 2007, was sentenced in federal court to 23 months in jail.]
 - o [Special Note – Vick Drama Continues (Associated Press April 10, 2009) Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum has sued the Jacksonville company behind a dog toy named for suspended NFL star Michael Vick. According to a lawsuit filed in Duval County Circuit Court on April 9, Showbiz Promotions claimed that some proceeds from sales

of chew toy would be directed to animal shelters and organizations, but no contributions to the groups were made. The company's owner, Jaime Salcedo, is also named in the lawsuit. A telephone number could not be located for Salcedo or for the company.]

				
Tom Ackerman	Alan Hodges	Ashby Green	Dee Ellis	Matt Hersom

Thursday Morning, March 26

Agricultural Impact of Emergencies

Dr. Alan Hodges, IFAS-UF (awhodes@ufl.edu)

- 47,000 commercial farms in Florida and agriculture here “tends to be” more corporate than in other states – 2/3 of Florida is in some type of agriculture!
- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fe702> “Economic Contributions of Florida Agriculture, Natural Resources, Food and Kindred Product Manufacturing and Distribution, and Service Industries in 2006” (Alan W. Hodges, Mohammad Rahmani and W. David Mulkey)
- With construction and tourism, agriculture is one of three pillars of the economy.
- Agriculture is susceptible to a wide range of natural disasters, probably more so in Florida than any other state in the US.

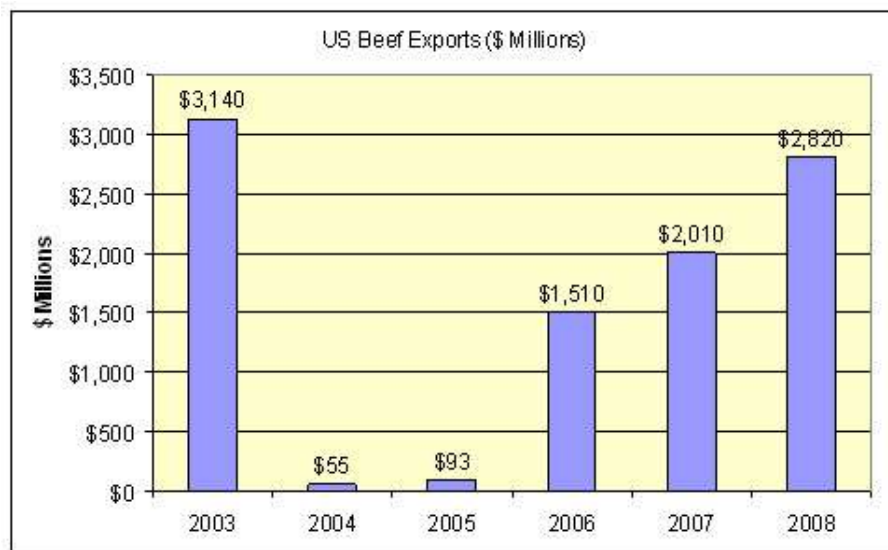
Livestock Industry’s Concerns

Dr. Ashby Green, DVM, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association www.beef.org

- Cattle industry is going through substantial changes – discusses euthanasia, carcass disposal, perception of product.
- Emphasizes how rapidly cattle move around the US.
- Herd size in Florida is about 60 head, but about 350 needed to support a family.

APHIS Reports: Beef Exports Rebound

The detection of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or “mad cow” disease) in the US in 2003 resulted in a precipitous drop in beef exports. Since then, the US has taken unprecedented steps to assess the risk of BSE and adopt safety measures to reduce the possibility of having BSE in the food-chain. These efforts have resulted in a substantial increase in foreign consumer confidence in US beef and have led to a rebound in exports to near 2003 levels. While the order of their ranking has changed since 2003, the top four importers of U.S. beef remain Mexico, Canada, Japan and Korea.



Dr. Dee Ellis, Assistant Executive Director, Texas Animal Health Commission
www.tahc.state.tx.us

- Focusing on county planning and local preparedness.
- The Texas structure is “different” with county judges very important.
- Hurricane Ike: estimated 10,000 cattle drowned (buried up to 3,000 and the rest were inaccessible) “A dead animal is not a bio-hazard. Just put the carcass into the general debris. It is biodegradable. It died from drowning, not an infectious disease.”
- Concern – stress between some of the humane groups and the industry.
- Mention of “air-curtain incinerators” – not so good with a wet carcass, though.

Bio-security: Home-Ranch-Field

Dr. Matt Hersom, IFAS-UF (hersom@ufl.edu)

- As many as 25 million people earn their living from agriculture in Florida.
- Three Commandments: Prevent (Sanitation), Isolate, Minimize (Traffic Control)
- “To us, it may just be a tomato, but in two days somebody is going to be putting that in their mouth.”

Thursday Afternoon, March 26

County ESF-17

Moderator – Bill Armstrong, Hillsborough County

(armstrongw@hillsboroughcounty.org or hart@hillsboroughcounty.org)

Panelists – Richard Ziegler, Leon County (zieglerr@leoncountyfl.gov); Daisy Harsch,

Palm Beach County (dharsch@pbcgov.com); David Cline, Glades County

(dcline@myglades.com)

- Extensive discussion about working with school boards for use of school buildings and school buses, and with public transportation agencies to allow supervised pet use during emergencies.
- Finds that in situations thus far, the number of people who show up with pets during evacuation situations is much smaller than forecast – problem is that there is not much data yet (Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act was just passed in May 2006).
- Leon is a “host county” and this presents a different matrix of problems than just evacuating people and animals – a local emergency is very different than serving the needs of many thousands of displaced people and animals
- Daisy Harsch: the Palm Beach County school superintendent, Arthur Johnson, has said “absolutely not” to pets in buildings or on buses. “This is our biggest challenge.”

				
Richard Ziegler	Daisy Harsch	David Cline	Emily Meyer	Laura Bevan

Pet-Friendly Evacuation Sheltering

Moderator – Joe Kight, Florida ESF-17 Coordinator (kightj@doacs.state.fl.us)

Panelists – Emily Meyer, DEM Community Assistance Consultant

(emily.meyer@em.myflorida.com); Laura Bevan, Humane Society of the United States

(lbevan@hsus.org); Becky Sebren, American Red Cross www.redcross.org

- “Local and state health and safety regulations do not permit the Red Cross to allow pets in disaster shelters. Service animals which assist people with disabilities are the only animals allowed in Red Cross shelters.”
- Becky Sebren: Red Cross volunteers are not typically trained to work with animals, but Red Cross has become “more sensitive” to the issue of pets and “will collaborate with adjacent shelters.” Volusia-Flagler-Manatee County examples

- The primary problems with using public facilities for pet-friendly shelters seem to be school administrators and locally elected school boards – state DOE has no authority in this regard over local school systems
- Laura Bevan: How many people show up at emergency shelters? Studies to date indicate only 2-3 percent and of that group only 2/3 have pets.
- Joe Kight: Believes there is a growing understanding that pet owners must evacuate with pets, that animals can not be left behind.
- Shelters are seeing more cats than dogs.
- Problem on the horizon – how to keep volunteers motivated, active and feeling appreciated. Give them education – they want it!
- Here is an example of keeping your volunteers interested and it comes from Pasco County: **Dealing with Exotic Animals topic for May meeting**
 - o Want to avoid responding to an animal-related disaster and facing an angry chimp that was someone's pet? Then you will want to attend the May 7, 2009 PART meeting at Pine View Middle School in Land O'Lakes from 6 to 7 pm.
 - o The presentation will be given by two representatives from the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC):
 - o Lt. Steve Delacure is an Investigator II with the FWC. His job duties include inspecting businesses and licensed citizens that care for and possess caged wildlife, venomous reptiles and non-indigenous species. He will be able to tell us which types of animals are housed in our region and in what conditions they should be housed.
 - o FWC Officer Joe Wolff will also be there to conduct a short K9 demo and explain the FWC's K9 program and day to day functions of the FWC officers.
 - o Please RSVP to Pascoanimals@gmail.com. For more information about PART, visit their website: pascoanimals.googlepages.com. There will be a short orientation for new PART volunteers after the training session.

Florida Veterinary Corps

John Haven, Director, College of Veterinary Medicine, UF (havenj@vetmed.ufl.edu)

Dr. Greg Christy, DVM, FDACS (christj@doacs.state.fl.us)

- UF was first to set up response team from veterinary medical college.
- VETS: www.flsart.org/vetcorps/index.htm.
- Stressing rapid assessment, coordination and assistance for local needs when the Vets Corps deploys its field hospital and performing technical rescue for large animals.

				
Becky Sebren	Joe Kight	Greg Christy	John Haven	David Perry

SART/CART

Moderator – David Perry, FDACS (perryda@doacs.state.fl.us)

Panelists – Dr. Terry Spencer (tspencer@pascoco.net) and Jean Hink (jmhink@ufl.edu), Pasco County; Paul Studivant (pstudivant@co.st-johns.fl.us), St. Johns County; Raquel Aluisy (raquel.aluisy@verizonbusiness.com), Hillsborough County.

- Pasco Animal Response Team volunteers are under the direction of Animal Services <http://pascoanimals.googlepages.com/> (Editor’s Note: This is a Must See web site for individuals working to build a county SART!)
- Jean Hink: In Pasco, we used the SART Handbooks and have made use of partners where it was helpful. Think about using school agriculture teachers as they may already have animals in the schools. “If you don’t ask, you’re assuming they will say no.”
- Paul Studivant: Use the media.

Friday Morning, March 27

Beware of the Bees

Dr. Jamie Ellis, IFAS-UF (jdellis@ufl.edu)

- Impossible for laymen to tell the difference between Africanized Honey Bee and European Honey Bee. <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/afbee/> or www.afbee.com
- What makes Africanized bees so dangerous is their defensiveness. When swarmed by “killer bees,” RUN as fast as you can until they leave you alone – it may take a hundred yards – or get immediately inside a space such as a car. In the refuge of a car, the ones inside with you will continue to sting, but rather the dozen inside than the thousands waiting outside.

		 
Joan Dusky	Jamie Ellis	Panelists Terry Spencer, Jean Hink, Paul Studivant, Raquel Aluisy and Mary Jo Maruca

HAZMAT Awareness Training

Robert Securo, Chief of Special Operations, Brevard County Fire Rescue

- District Chief Robert Securo “ensures that the Special Operations Team [of Brevard County] is well prepared to respond to specialized emergencies such as technical rescue incidents, which include high angle rescue, trench rescue, and confined space

rescue. Fire and Rescue response crews Fire engine crews and rescue (ambulance) crews are managed by a station Lieutenant.”

www.brevardcounty.us/fire_rescue/fr_ops_fieldops_home.cfm

- Discussion of difficulties responding to “meth labs.”
- Brevard County brought several crew members and a HAZMAT truck to the Holiday Inn parking lot for SART members to review.



About Amphetamines What responders should know.

Clandestine chemistry made its mark in the late 1960s when amphetamines, powerful psycho-stimulants, became controlled substances in many countries. Biker gangs favored methamphetamine (meth), but after phenyl-acetone became a controlled substance in 1979, it was harder for underground chemists to manufacture it.

Underground chemists found two alternative methods to produce meth, both involving the reduction of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. At the time, neither was a

watched chemical, and pills containing the substances could be bought by the thousands without raising suspicion.

In the 1990s, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine became a “closely watched precursor” by the DEA, making it somewhat more difficult for underground chemists to produce meth. Many individual states have enacted precursor control laws which limit the sale of over-the-counter cold medications containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine.

Data from the DEA El Paso Intelligence Center indicates 7,438 labs were seized in 1999. Four years later, a high of 17,356 were seized. Those numbers have declined and in 2008, 6,783 illegal labs were busted in 2008.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meth_lab and www.usdoj.gov/dea/programs/epic.htm)

To see photos of the terrible individual toll taken by methamphetamines go to www.drugfree.org/Portal/DrugIssue/MethResources/faces/photo_12.html.

Four Recognized With SART Awards



Our 2009 SART Service Award Winners (l-r) are Dr. Suzan Loerzel, APHIS-USDA; Dr. Terry Spencer, Pasco County Animal Services; John Haven, College of Veterinary Medicine, UF; and Laura Bevan, HSUS.

Four SART members were recognized with special SART Responder awards for Exceptional Service at the 2009 SART Conference in Cocoa Beach. Plaques in recognition of their contributions to all-hazard awareness, response and recovery were awarded by Dr. Joan Dusky, IFAS-UF, during the Thursday luncheon.

Segraves Gives Highlight Presentation

Lake County's René Segraves gave the highlight presentation during the Thursday luncheon at the 2009 SART Conference. Segraves, a member of Public Safety, Animal Services in Tavares (www.lakecountyfl.gov/departments/public_safety/animal_services/), spoke very positively about her county's experiences developing pet-friendly shelters. Lake County is the recipient of the National Association of Counties Achievement Award for Pet-Friendly Hurricane Shelters. She also passed out copies of a spiral-bound handbook which she had developed to accompany her talk.

The *Sentinel* contacted René by email following the conference and asked for a recap. She replied, "Well, it's kinda hard for me to do this on a computer, I'm a talker ya know, but, I will try," and gave the following summary about Lake County's successes.



René Segraves
Lake County Animal Services
Featured Luncheon Speaker

I wanted everyone to know that it is not hard to get a pet friendly shelter started; you just need to keep trying and never give up. You need to tell the "powers that be" to give you just one chance to set up a shelter – away from the people but in the same school. Just tell them that if they don't leave the school (area where the shelter is located) in better condition and cleaner than when they came in that you would never bother them again to ask to have a pet friendly shelter at their school.

Then, you must staff the pet friendly shelter with knowledgeable and friendly workers. The workers need to be aware that this is a make or break situation and that they are being counted on to do an excellent job. Believe me, the supervisors know who to send to these things, the people persons!

Then, they can stand back and let the accolades role in from the citizens. That's when the "powers that be" will see that it makes them look good and all will be well in the world ... well, in our little world anyway!

I also gave everyone a booklet that explained the how, what, when, where and who to get this project off the ground and it is easy to follow and duplicate.

Lake County Animal Services Division provides for public safety, animal welfare and enforces state

statutes and local ordinances. The Division promotes responsible pet ownership, reunites lost pets with their families and helps people select a new furry friend. Animal Services is the countywide receiving facility for housing strays, animals in quarantine and unwanted domestic animals.

In addition to a two-person management team, the Division maintains a staff of 28 personnel, including thirteen Animal Services Officers, nine Animal Shelter Technicians, three Euthanasia Technicians, two Dispatchers, one part-time veterinarian and one Office Associate. Animal Services Officers responded to more than 14,000 call/complaints and the Shelter Technicians cared for more than 15,000 animals in the past year.

René Segraves (352) 343-9688 rsegraves@co.lake.fl.us

Please Update Member Information Now!

Ah so, Cricket! The 2009 Conference is over, but the 2009 Hurricane Season is right around the corner. The need for up-to-date information may be critical soon.

We at the *SART Sentinel* have at last discovered, thanks to Dr. Jiannong Xin, Office of Information Technology at UF and webmaster for the Florida SART web site, how to update information on our Member Page. Naturally, we now encourage every member of the Florida SART community to update their page. It is easy, only takes a minute and even we techno-challenged Liberal Arts & Sciences graduates can do it....

Simply-

- 1) Sign into the SART website at www.flsart.org.
- 2) Click on "Edit My Member Information" under SART Members.
- 3) Edit contact information or password as needed and click submit.



Additional FBI Notes on Agro-Terrorism

“Agro-terrorism is an attack against the agricultural infrastructure of a country and is designed to intimidate, coerce or cause panic in the population in the furtherance of political or social objectives.”

1. Threat Agents
 - a. Threat agents used in an agro-terrorism attack can include bacteria, fungi, viruses and toxins and do not need to have a high mortality rate to be effective.
 - b. For example, foot-and-mouth disease, which has a low mortality rate, would have a much greater economic impact to the country than some of the more lethal agents.

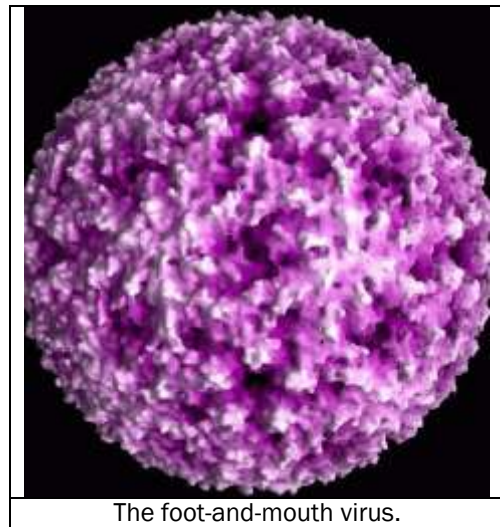
- c. Some threat agents could be easily collected from endemic areas and transported to the US.
- d. The introduction of exotic plants and insects to the US could also be a form of agro-terrorism.
- e. Examples of agro-terrorism threat agents:
 - i. Animal Diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, classical swine fever
 - ii. Plant Diseases: wheat stem rust, bacterial wilts (*Ralstonia solanacearum*), rice blast
 - iii. Zoonotic diseases: Rift Valley fever, monkey pox, avian influenza

2. Dissemination Devices

- a. Devices used to disseminate threat agents can come in many different forms from the most complex to the least sophisticated. Collection of the dissemination device as evidence is important as it may provide valuable information and potential case leads.

- b. Dissemination devices:

- i. Simple off-the-shelf items: Sprayers, Dual purpose equipment, Aerosolizers/Nebulizers, Medical home-use equipment, Agricultural equipment, Basic kitchen items
- ii. Sophisticated equipment: high pressure spray rigs, crop duster aircraft and equipment, military origin equipment, dual-use laboratory equipment
- iii. Agricultural disease agents may also be introduced and spread intentionally or accidentally by: direct transmission between infected animals and plants, insect or animal vectors, contaminated "fomites" (veterinary or other animal use equipment, animal bedding, cages, pens, coops, livestock handling equipment, clothing, footwear, vehicle tires, livestock trucks), wind and weather events, contaminated animal and plant products (meat, hides, serum products, meat/garbage scraps, manure, diseased fruit/vegetables and other crop materials)



The foot-and-mouth virus.

- 3. The FBI is dedicated to preventing, detecting and investigating potential attacks on the agricultural infrastructure. FBI efforts include: liaison with other government agencies, ensuring FBI ability to analyze contaminated evidence and outreach to other groups and conferences.
- 4. Agro-terrorism requires a multi-agency response effort to identify the terrorist event, conduct clinical and criminal investigations, manage disease

remediation, minimize the economic and environmental impact and restore public confidence. The FBI coordinates with DHS (National Bio-forensic Analysis Center), HHS (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, FDA), USDA (AHIS, ARS).

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Neel Barnaby,
FBI Hazardous Material Response Unit.



SART Conference Attendee Commentary

Following the 2009 SART Conference March 25-27, held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Cocoa Beach, the *Sentinel* emailed attendees for general follow-up comments and thoughts about the conference. Here are responses, presented so that they may perhaps stimulate additional ideas and discussion. (Several responses have arrived at the *SART Sentinel* offices as this issue was being formatted and will be made available in the May newsletter.)

Ed Obrero, Operations Manager **City of Jacksonville Animal Care & Control Division**

It was a pretty good conference. I learned a few things, met a few new contacts. If I were to pick one thing that was most significant to me among all the good presentations was the USDA-OIG handling of the Michael Vick case. It was interesting to know that we could tap into that resource, if needed, next time we run into a similar situation.

In regards to the conference format, I think (and it's just my opinion) it might have been more beneficial to hold break-out sessions on some of the topics (i.e. Pet Friendly Shelters) to allow a more broad and open exchange of information among conference attendees with similar issues or concerns.

Doug Mayo, Interim County Extension Director **Jackson County Extension**

We need to organize a county CART in Jackson County. We are not in much better shape than Texas was as far as local coordination following a disaster. Need to get the key leaders together to discuss the tough questions of what to do with loose livestock, carcass disposal, and pet friendly shelters. Plus inventory what resources we have available to the county.

I did not know that as ESF 17 Coordinator I am also in charge of pets. I thought the "A" in SART stood for Agriculture not Animals/Agriculture.

I got the most from hearing from the problems in Galveston and the challenging questions each county needs to prepare for.

It was also helpful to find out about the traveling Vet School Team and other resources available for counties to call on for support.



Alice Agasan

Alan Hodges, Extension Scientist **IFAS-UF**

I attended the conference only for a half day [and] was impressed by the level of professionalism and dedication exhibited.

The location at the beach was obviously very nice. Although I am not too fussy about accommodations, this particular Holiday Inn was definitely showing its age.

The session on lessons learned from hurricanes in Texas was quite good, as was the talk on biosecurity for ranch operations. The emphasis was clearly on animal industries. Maybe it could be better balanced to address issues for a greater mix of other plant-based agricultural industries. I appreciated having a full hour to present my topic of Agriculture Economic Impact of Emergencies [8:00 am, Thursday] but certainly could have covered the subject matter in a shorter time. Perhaps the sessions could have been shortened by about one-third, to reduce audience fatigue, without loss of meaning.

Claire Hudson, ACOII
Okeechobee County Animal Control

The conference was a great motivator for me to get a County Animal Response

Team started. We are holding our preliminary meeting at the end of this month where we'll be establishing a list of possible locations that can be used as pet friendly shelters. I wouldn't have been able to do this without the knowledge I gained from SART.

I've corresponded with many other counties and state representatives by phone over the years, so it was wonderful to actually put faces to names.

The "Beware of the Bees" lecture [Jamie Ellis, IFAS-UF, 8:00 am Friday] was particularly informative, I was able to bring that information back to educate our citizens with more confidence.

I would love to be able to participate in various simulated large animal rescues. I've looked at the FEMA courses but they all seem to be written exams. Would this be something SART could organize?



Fred Segal

Susan Adelman Kelly, IFAS-UF
Sumter County Extension Service

I especially remember the information about the pet shelters given at the luncheon [Rene Segraves, Thursday].

I met my local DART team. I have met them before but it was good that we were both at the conference.

The session I liked most was Dr. Jamie Ellis on Africanized Bees [Beware of the Bees, 8:00 am Friday] – sorry but I am a horticulturist – all were good!

The idea I brought home was the many types of agricultural crops/animals, etc. that could be involved in a disaster and I probably should organize a county SART. My county EOC thinks that our DART team is enough, but I don't think we are prepared for everything with just a DART team. Don't get me wrong – they are awesome and amazing and will be right there when needed!

I wish I had a little more time during the conference to enjoy the beach - that was torture!

Jeff Geuder, Director
Florida Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

I was only there for part of the Day 2 [Thursday] program, [but] the part of the program I attended was very good.

Alton Scott, Emergency Management Coordinator
Lafayette County

A great benefit I obtained from the meeting the sharing of information from other professionals in Animal Care/Safety. Shared knowledge can only increase one's base knowledge.

The most important message I obtained from the conference was that I'm not alone in an emergency All-Hazards environment.

The conference met all of my expectations.

Robert Brandes, DVM
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA



Robert Halman

I enjoyed the conference greatly. The bee presentation was quite informative!! It looks like we have a lot to think about and coordinate when preparing for disasters. It is a tremendous task, but I think that we are more prepared than other states and this conference helps to achieve those goals.

**Angela Snow, Emergency Management Director
Glades County**

The people who represented our county said it was a great conference and they learned from it. We are all looking forward to next year's conference. I enjoyed the first one I attend in St Pete.

**Tami Treadway, ESF-17 Co-Coordinator
Sarasota County Sheriff/Animal Services**

The SART conference was well set up and gave some good information for beginners. For those individuals that have been doing this type of work or related work for some time it was not new. Maybe, in the future, since SART has been around for a while there can be advanced information or new items. I know that I didn't need to hear anymore about all the stats for the hurricanes and wildfires in Florida because we lived through them (several times).

The panel for Pet-Friendly Evacuation Sheltering [2:00 pm Thursday] had some wonderful resources BUT Emily [Emily Meyer, Dept. of Emergency Management Community Assistance Consultant] needed to have her own hour because she had good information and it didn't allow for the other panel members to have adequate time to give their views/experiences (10 min isn't enough).

Overall the conference was good and it was a nice location.

The "Michael Vick" information [presented by Tom Ackerman, Office of the Inspector General-USDA] was very good because it was new and allowed for individuals to see how other agencies are affected besides Animal Services and Sheriff's Offices.

Bill Armstrong from Hillsborough Animal Services has such valuable information and was an excellent resource for this program, keep him.

**Richard H. Ziegler, Director
Leon County Animal Control**

I will use your starting points:

1. I found interesting the Agro-Terrorism presentation [Neel Barnaby, FBI-USDOJ] and the presentation on the economic impact of emergencies on Florida [Dr. Alan Hodges, IFAS-UF].
2. I re-established contact with the neighboring county animal control personnel.
3. The sessions I liked most was the honey bees [Beware of the Bees, Dr. Jamie Ellis, IFAS-UF] then the agriculture economic impact.
4. I brought this idea home, one we might be able to use How Lake County uses a tiered system in training their disaster volunteers.
5. I wish we had the disaster animal mobile trailer I talked about.

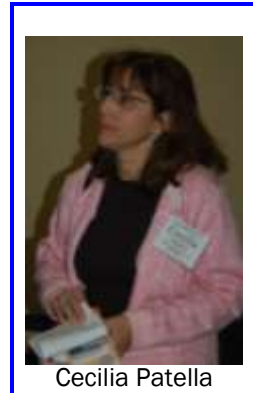
**Linc Hay, DART and N-DART
Sarasota**

I thought the location (Cocoa Beach) was nice and it was well organized.

I found the actual information somewhat aged and repetitious to what was offered at the 2007 SART conference.

It was apparent that several of the speakers were very knowledgeable and I am sure could have shared a wealth of information had the focus been concentrated on organization, agency cooperation and preparation/mediation. I think it would have been much more interesting had they not appeared to be addressing amateurs with little disaster experience.

Reimbursement information and website locations for reimbursement along with the Michael Vick presentation were the most interesting and meaningful sections for me. I would have liked to have heard more from the other panelists on Pet Sheltering as I thought not all had an opportunity to impart all they were prepared to share with the audience.



John Haven, Director
College of Veterinary Medicine, UF

I like the idea that the conference had a theme, which this year put a heavy focus on pet friendly shelters. While several counties have made amazing strides at developing them, the lack of progress by several is disheartening. Everyone by this time should know the importance of the human-animal bond, and recognize the importance of being able to help people get out of harm's way, means there will be fewer people to have to rescue later. Katrina proved people won't leave without their pet family members.

Considering the tight financial environment, I think we had great turn out from the counties. I think everyone walked away with a recognition that there are a lot of resources available across the state of Florida, and we need to redouble our efforts to identify them, and catalog them, and continue to train everyone on how to obtain them during a crisis.

Karen Taylor, Animal Control
St. Lucie County

I enjoyed the whole conference; especially organizing pet friendly shelters brought back some very good information. I also made some good contacts while there.

Tim Manning, Dispute Resolution Coordinator
Florida FSA/USDA

We were well pleased with the conference turnout – had between 120 and 130 people – and hope that all attending got something out of it. We hope attendees will return home and begin working to develop a local county SART program, perhaps beginning with a “communications tree” for emergency responses.



Jiannong Xin

Steve Proctor, Emergency Management Director
Taylor County

[Suggestion: In the midst of a flooding crisis in North Central Florida – “tornadoes too,” he said – Steve called with feedback about the SART Conference and a suggestion. In the What Else Can We Do To Prepare category, he suggested having a time for live chat on the SART web site. The chat could be scheduled and either topic-focused or open for all response needs and ideas. In a climate of declining funding for travel and training, this could be a great way to maximize everyone’s time and effort.]

I’m a one-person emergency management shop here in Taylor County so the conference – especially all the networking opportunities at breaks and the reception – was very meaningful for me. I was like a “kid at Christmas” and especially impressed with the speakers. Although Taylor County has not had problems with Africanized bees yet, we can see it on the horizon and so Dr. Jamie Ellis’ talk about “killer bees” was informative. These topics are important in a county like Taylor where so much of the way of life is agriculture-specific. I keep notes and conference materials as reference and for instance the brochure from Lake County on pet-friendly shelters is truly going to be helpful.

APHIS-FDA Schedules International FMD Exercise

In June, APHIS’ Veterinary Services National Veterinary Stockpile, the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture (MSPSA) and Canada will conduct a 3-day, multi-state exercise focusing on an intentional introduction of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

The exercise will test and evaluate the emergency logistical responses of APHIS and the states through both tabletop and full-scale exercise. During the two-day tabletop portion, June 16-17, participants will learn about and discuss:

- Logistics planning, preparedness, coordination and communications.
- State and industry capabilities to respond.

- Issues relating to intra- and inter-state “stop movement” control, and
- USDA, regional, Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC), Area Command, state and Incident Command Post (ICP) roles during an outbreak.

Immediately following the tabletop exercise, a one-day full-scale exercise will take place in Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska and Canada (June 18) and in Kentucky (June 19). It will include logistic warehouse operations and deployment of counter-measures and simulated vaccine. The full-scale exercise lets participating states validate National Veterinary Stockpile plans, emergency shipments known as “push packs” and the clarity of documentation.

By bringing together 13 states, three countries (Mexico will observe), and multiple federal agencies, the FMD exercise seeks to test emergency response activities and provide training to emergency officials. The training will increase knowledge about response processes and improve regional coordination to strengthen the emergency response of all participants if an FMD outbreak occurs. For more information about the exercise: www.aphis.usda.gov/APHIS_News_4States/2009/April/index.html.

Flooding Photo Tells North Florida’s April Story



Photo of flooding in north central photo courtesy of Lieutenant Todd A. Smith, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department Regional Educational and Training Center.

NASAAEP Studies Standardization

In their March 11th national conference call, members of the fledgling National Association of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) discussed the need to standardize data collection on pets.

Louisiana's Renee Poirrier lead the discussion and noted that American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) pet counts overestimate actual numbers by as much as 90! In the Katrina situation, for example, rather than the estimated 12,000 to 23,000 pets originally estimated, just 7,500 pets sheltered. Then, in Gustav, for 37,000 people, she reports just 1,200 pets. "We hope to know the species, reproductive status, owner data and pet numbers," she said. "Louisiana has computerized shelter intake forms and adjusted the commonly accepted AVMA formula. Now we plan for just 20 percent in future estimates."

1. $\text{Population}/3 = \# \text{ Households}$.
2. $\# \text{ Households} \times 0.7 = \text{Household owning pets}$
3. $\text{Household owning pets} \times 1.5 \text{ pets per household} = \# \text{ Pets}$
4. $\# \text{ Pets} \times 0.2 = \text{the number Louisiana is now planning for}$.

The American Red Cross reports that 5 percent of the population in Indiana use public shelter whereas in Louisiana, that number is double, 10 percent.

An additional consideration was knowing how many pets actually went with their owners and how many evacuated in a pets-only transport. Apparently, in Louisiana, 42 percent went on the laps of owners, rather than by separate transport.

NASAAEP members discussed how these numbers affect "real-world" planning and how they might (or might not) be used to develop a national model. (For additional information contact Elizabeth Serca, State Program Manager, American Red Cross-National Headquarters, 2218 Pershing Drive, Austin, TX 78723 Office (512) 929-1250 Cell (512) 431-2209 SercaE@usa.redcross.org.)

One last look at new SART friends ... from the 2009 Conference!

			
Amanda Townsend	Mary Rudder, Dee Thompson and Lisa Russell	Karen McKenzie	Dana DaJarnatt

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The SART SENTINEL is an E-mail newsletter prepared monthly by Rick Sapp and 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.