

# Florida SART Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. to Noon  
Florida Farm Bureau, 700 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville, FL 32608

## Attendance

Tom Ackerman, USDA OIG  
Mike Aerts, FFVA  
Jenifer Chatfield, FDOH  
Terry Clekis, FVMA  
Kim Duffiney, USDA/APHIS  
Frankie Hall, FFBF  
Linda Harrison, FWCC  
Ed Hartin, USDA/APHIS-WS  
John Haven, UF/CVM  
Paul Hornby, USDA/APHIS-PPQ

Joe Kight, FDACS – ESF-17 ECO  
Jason Marlow, FWCC  
Maggie Murphy, SE Milk  
Gary Newton, FDACS  
David Perry, FDACS  
Sue Rantuccio, FDACS  
Rick Sapp, SART Sentinel  
Kendra Stauffer, USDA/APHIS-VS  
Dean Wright, FL Feed Assn.

## 1 Call to Order

Florida SART co-chair **David Perry** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Florida Farm Bureau building in Gainesville.

## 2 2011 Planning Meeting Review

Florida ESF-17 Joe Kight reviewed the Florida SART Planning Meeting held February 28 - March 2 in Altamonte Springs. Nearly 200 SART partners registered to attend. Reviews and presentation summaries are available on the SART web site at [www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org). At the SART home page check the left-hand column and click either on “The SART Sentinel” for photos and presentation summaries or on “Conference Presentations” for PDFs of presentations.

“I thought we had a wonderful planning meeting with a lot of SART partners engaged in the conversation,” Kight said, “and partnering is what SART is all about. Biennial planning meetings help solve the problem of keeping all parts of the team informed, involved and communicating.”

## 3 State Hurricane Exercise – May 23-26

Joe Kight reviewed plans for a statewide hurricane exercise to take place May 23-26 (see [www.floridadisaster.org/trainingcalendar/moreinfo.asp?id=2068](http://www.floridadisaster.org/trainingcalendar/moreinfo.asp?id=2068) “Hurricane "GRIFFIN" will follow the track of Hurricane Frances that made landfalls respectively September 5 and 6, 2004. The hazards will be a hurricane, possible tornados, flooding, and wind damage.”).

The exercise will test a move of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from Tallahassee to Camp Blanding, near Starke in Bradford County and also:

1. The state’s ability to respond to a stranded 1000-head herd of dairy cattle near Okeechobee. In the exercise, the milking parlor was destroyed and we have 30 hours, otherwise the ability of this large herd to give milk will be seriously compromised. There are many questions, such as:
  - a. Are there sufficient portable milking machines and can we get them to the dairy in time?
  - b. Should the herd be dispersed and if so how and what agency is responsible.
2. In Marion County a shelter operation will be developed for 300 small animals. Marion Emergency Management Director Captain Chip Wildy of the sheriff’s staff will function as on-site supervisor. The test will be to set up this shelter with equipment including two MARE Units in eight hours. No live animals will be involved.
3. Emphasizing that it isn’t “just about ice and tarps,” the hurricane exercise will test a cattle feed emergency. Planners will work with the commercial feed and transportation industries.

**4 Animal/Agricultural Training Exercise – November 15**

Planning is underway to hold an animal/agricultural training exercise in Polk County in mid November, Joe Kight said. Tentatively named “Operation Bovine Reclamation,” the exercise is not, strictly speaking, a SART exercise but a Region 4 event: Citrus, Hernando, Hardee, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sumter Counties. The scenario begins with a train derailment and “a major spill of anhydrous ammonia near Bradley Junction.” An event of this magnitude requires a broad multi-jurisdictional response because it will effect cattle and vegetable crops as well as people and companion animals in the immediate area.

**5 New Madrid Seismic Zone National Level Exercise – May 16-20**

Dr. Kendra Stauffer discussed an exercise scheduled for mid May that is designed to respond to an earthquake (a “seismic event”) on the New Madrid Fault. Although it has been relatively dormant, the New Madrid Seismic Zone or Fault Line is actually a major seismic zone and a prolific source of intra-plate earthquakes (earthquakes within a tectonic plate) in the southern and mid western United States, stretching to the southwest from New Madrid, Missouri. (For basic information about the New Madrid Fault try the Wikipedia entry [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Madrid\\_Seismic\\_Zone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Madrid_Seismic_Zone).)

Florida is not an official player or participant in this eight-state exercise, Stauffer said, but it will be highly instructive because, among other scenarios, it tests response and reaction to major Mississippi River bridge collapses. SART co-chair David Perry will spend a week in Washington, DC to take part in the follow-up review or “hot wash.”

**6 Miami Animal Import Center – dates TBD**

Dr. Stauffer also discussed the initial planning for an exercise at the Animal Import Center ([www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/area\\_offices/states/maic\\_info.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/states/maic_info.html)) of the Miami International Airport. She explained some of the legal and multi-jurisdictional complexities of

the site and summarized situations that could arise. For instance, how to deal with animals on airplanes in case of injuries – who is responsible, how does reimbursement take place what about exotic animals? There are many complexities involving local, state and national agencies.

An exercise tentatively in July or August would test communication and coordination among stakeholders. Horses are the focus as they are the most commonly imported animals into the Miami Animal Import Center.

#### **7 Large Animal Rescue Training/Exercise – April 30 – May 1**

John Haven, UF Veterinary Medical School Director, and VETS team leader, outlined Large Animal Disaster Response Training scheduled for April 30 – May 1. This training exercise will involve partners in government and the private sector. In the past, exercises have been small-animal focused and now SART and its partners have a good idea of how to go about working together for this type response. “We have a deficit in horse skills,” Haven said, “and this could be a problem for SART.” He noted the October 2010 herd impoundment in Arkansas (see [www.lhpa.org.au/news/horse-herd-in-need-of-owner](http://www.lhpa.org.au/news/horse-herd-in-need-of-owner)).

The event will be held at UF’s Horse Training Unit on May 1. In the morning it will involve horse handling skills, including basic behavior, handling, safety and trailering issues. The afternoon will be an applied learning exercise where 15 or so horses will be "rescued, relocated, decontaminated, medically evaluated and sheltered.” He expects between 60 and 100 people and about 15 horses. There is optional camping the night of April 30.

#### **8 New SART Training Courses**

FDACS’ David Perry discussed two new SART training classes:

1. Operations Level Large Animal Rescue
  - a. This is a written course and done in the summer. It is DHS-approved which means funding is available. It is also the first of its kind in the US.
2. Shelter Awareness
  - a. This is being written into the proper FEMA/DHS format.

Once these classes are approved, Perry said, we can offer classes at no charge. It’s a lot to ask volunteers to spend \$60-\$80 per class.

#### **9 Governor’s Hurricane Conference – May 16-20**

Joe Kight outlined the class on standardizing the credentials (based on recognized and successful training) of emergency responders which he is helping present at the Governor’s Hurricane Conference (see [www.flghc.org](http://www.flghc.org)) this year. We’re working on standardized language and TOE (Table of Organization and Equipment) for different types of animal and agricultural response needs such as an Agricultural Assessment Team: what kinds of skills are needed and how should team members be equipped?

## 10 Regional SART Planning Meetings

There is plenty to work on other than hurricane and small animal emergency response, Joe Kight suggested, and he is proposing regional SART Planning Meetings for Florida's 7 emergency response regions (see <http://www.floridadisaster.org/Response/DomesticSecurity/index.htm>). These would focus on regional planning and coordination to raise awareness of agricultural needs in each county following a disaster: dairy, poultry, horses, field crops, etc. "We're pretty solid on the small animal side," he said, but there are numerous other emergencies that need to be addressed.

## 11 The Florida Vet Corps

Dr. Terry Clekis, who is in private veterinary practice in Manatee County and is also volunteer chairman of the Florida Veterinary Medical Assn. Disaster Awareness program, discussed the Vet Corps' efforts to help veterinarians in Florida get prepared for emergencies and make the public, especially pet owners, aware of the problems they will encounter if there is a serious public event. (see [www.flsart.org/vetcorps/index.htm](http://www.flsart.org/vetcorps/index.htm) and [www.flsart.org/pdf/vet\\_corps.pdf](http://www.flsart.org/pdf/vet_corps.pdf))

Vet Corps teaches veterinarians and vet techs about the risks and threats, Clekis said. Part of our goal is to be sure that vets know who they can deal with at local and state levels.

As a non-governmental organization FVMA is ready to take over administration of the Florida Vet Corps. After all, the state is struggling with budget issues and personnel shortages. Has the blessing of FDACS in moving forward.

"This is a win-win situation," said Joe Kight. "FVMA will certainly be more flexible and nimble in its approach to Vet Corps."

"Our interest is helping FVMA take over Vet Corps and run with it," David Perry said.

## 12 Additional Discussion

- A. Priorities of power companies in the aftermath of disasters. (Bring business, industry and households back on line. Agriculture has low priority.)
- B. Dairies and poultry houses in emergencies where power may be unavailable. (Each is required to have a generator and 72 hours of fuel.)

"All of the issues about planning and response can be solved at the local level if you get the right people together." John Haven

The next meeting of the Florida SART Advisory Board is set for September 21, 2011. SART Advisory Board minutes are posted on the SART web site and can be accessed through [www.flsart.org/SART/login](http://www.flsart.org/SART/login).

Rick Sapp  
April 2011