



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

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Contents

- March Advisory Board Meeting Is A Not-To-Be-Missed Event!
- Florida is Pro-Active on Incident Command Responder Training
- UF Bee College & Master Beekeeper Program
- Quotes & Notes: Formative Meetings NASAAEP
- NASAAEP Elects Directors, Develops Certificate of Incorporation, By Laws
- US Home Foreclosure Rate Affecting Animal Care
- HSUS Conference "Animals in Disaster" Scheduled for June
- New Training Module: Evidence Collection and Chain-of-Custody
- Crop/Livestock Disaster Loss Claims Eligibility is Extended
- In Review: Introducing Florida Aquaculture
- FSA Delays Dairy Disaster Assistance Sign-up

March Advisory Board Not-To-Be-Missed!



The March 2008 SART Advisory Board meeting will be held at 10:00 AM Wednesday March 5th at the 41-acre Marion County 4-H Farm, 5151 SE 58 Ave., Ocala, FL 34480-7459 (352) 671-8400. The meeting will begin immediately following the closure of a 48-hour live SART training event held as a "planned, response to a local disaster." The event will test equipment, coordination and procedures across several of the SART disaster response partners. For a front-row-and-revealing opportunity to hear about Florida's to-date preparedness, this is a not-to-be-missed meeting!

Incident Command Responder Training

Minimum Responder Requirements

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards for agency and NGO personnel, minimum responder requirements are to complete:

- IS 100 (Introduction to Incident Command System)

- IS 200 (ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents) and
- IS 700 (National Incident Management System, An Introduction).

These courses may be taken free on line at one's leisure:

- IS 100 <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp>
- IS 200 <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is200.asp>
- IS 700 <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>

“When you complete the on line courses,” says John Haven, Director of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, “DHS emails a certificate of completion to you fairly quickly - in many cases within minutes. Although these courses were not written from an agricultural or animal perspective, the same concepts nevertheless apply.”



Advanced Responder Requirements

To qualify as a supervisor/manager, one must also complete:

- IS 300 (Intermediate Incident Command System) and
- IS 400 (Advanced Incident Command System) is recommended.

These courses cannot be satisfactorily completed on line. According to John Haven, Director of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, they require tabletop exercises and discussion for the material to come together meaningfully. (Taking IS 200 in a live setting may help it come together more easily.)

Additional Courses

A number of other FEMA courses are available that pertain to important topics specific to animals and their handling: see <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>.

Florida's Pro-Active Solution

1. Basic/Introductory: The UF College of Veterinary Medicine, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, FDACS and the County Extension Service have developed a training schedule designed to teach the fundamentals (IS 100, IS 200, IS 700 and IS 300) of the Incident Command System to SART members and to SART affiliates such as Veterinary Reserve Corps members in a classroom setting.

Classes will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for two days as noted below. (They are Fridays and Saturdays to try to balance between government employees and volunteers who may need to take time off from work to attend.)

- RDSTF Region I: DeFuniak – February 15/16
- RDSTF Region III: Ocala – March 28/29
- RDSTF Region II: Tallahassee – April 25/26
- RDSTF Region V: Kissimmee – May 30/31
- RDSTF Region VII: West Palm – June 20/21
- RDSTF Region VI: Ft Myers – July 11/12
- RDSTF Region IV: Bartow – TBD

2. Intermediate/Advanced: In addition to the basics, certificate classes will be offered in IS 300. The course is 2 ½ days, beginning at noon on Thursday, running from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, and finishing in the late afternoon on Saturday. Classes will be at the respective county extension office. Courses are free and all training materials will be provided.

- Leon County: Tallahassee - June 12/13/14
- Osceola County: Kissimmee - July 24/25/26
- Palm Beach County: West Palm Beach - August 7/8/9
- Polk County: Bartow – August 22/23



Attendees must show proof of completion of IS 100, IS 200 and IS 700 to participate in IS 300. If you have registered for these courses, you may also register for 300, provided that you will have completed the others before the IS 300 course begins. (An elective for the general responder, ICS 300 is required for supervisors and incident management team general staff members. Please indicate your role in registering.)

To Register

- Before registering, please check with your supervisor
- Remember that classes will be at the county extension office
- All students should have email that they can access remotely

Please do not wait until the last minute to register. Class rolls will close 45 days prior to a course start date. Based on feedback and participation levels, additional IS 100, IS 200, IS 300 and IS 700 classes may be scheduled in the fall and an IS 400 class later in the year.

Registration is being handled through Gary Painter painteg@doacs.state.fl.us and all courses are free.

UF Bee College & Master Beekeeper Program

The University of Florida/IFAS is holding its first annual ***Bee College & Honey Show***, March 13-15th at the Mid-Florida Research & Education Center, Apopka, FL. Jamie Ellis, bee specialist and Assistant Professor at UF, will chair the college. Information may be obtained at <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/>.

Bee College is an educational event for anyone interested in honeybees. No prior bee knowledge is necessary. Bee College consists of two days of morning lectures and afternoon workshops in two tracks, one for beginners and one for experienced beekeepers. Schedules are available at [beginners track](#), [experienced track](#). (Bee College is not part of the Master Beekeeper Program.)



A new **Master Beekeeper Program**, designed specifically for beekeeper education, will be held coincidental to the college. Only beekeepers registered with FDACS ([click here to register with FDACS](#)), can participate and attendees must have owned at least one hive of bees for at least one year. Information about this program is available at [Requirements document](#). (the day before Bee College will be given as a review for exams. Those exams will be given at 2:00 PM (practical) and 7:00 PM (written) on Thursday, March 13th.)



For additional information, contact Nancy Gentry at (386) 684-3433 farmbees@gmail.com or Michael O'Malley at (352) 392-1901 omalleym@ufl.edu.

Quotes from the Formative Meetings of NASAAEP

"To have an effective response, you have to work within the system. To go out on your own freelancing is just not going to work." – *Scott Mason, DVM, Oklahoma Disaster Preparedness Coordinator*

"As a rule, when 'it' hits the fan and you need boots on the ground quickly, America's vet schools are right there. We can deploy 12 veterinarians and technicians in a fully sustained MASH Unit for all-hazard, all-species disaster response." – *John Haven, Director, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine*



Chris Crnich, Nevada, and John Wight, Orlando, FL

"It's clear that no one person or group can do it alone." – *Heather Case, DVM, MPH, Assistant Director, Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness and Response, AVMA*

"A SART begins to be woven into the fabric of a community by responding to small emergencies, possibly one animal at a time. We are preparing to shelter whatever animal [the public] has that we can

handle: aquariums to snakes," according to *Joel Hersh, Pennsylvania State Preparedness Coordinator/PA SART*. "We have two levels of volunteers: workers (who

must be NIMS compliant with 100, 200, 700 with HazMat awareness) and product suppliers (who do not need to be NIMS trained). Our volunteers, by the way, pay for their own background checks.”

“It has been a four-year effort to get emergency planners to recognize the needs and impacts of agriculture and animals,” says *Billy Dictson, Director, Office of Biosecurity, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, New Mexico State University*. “The principal difference between the east and west is the sheer number of people and Florida, like New Mexico, is a gateway for thousands of people and who knows what else every day!”

NASAAEP Elects Directors Develops Certificate of Incorporation, By Laws

In two days of open and well-attended meetings during the American Veterinary Medical Association conference in Orlando, January 22nd and 23rd, interested members of the U.S. emergency preparation and response community adopted a slate of directors to guide the fledgling National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) into 501 (c)(3) “charitable and educational” corporate status.

NASAAEP’s purpose is to foster “a national network of state animal and agricultural emergency programs and other stakeholders to promote effective all-hazards animal and agricultural emergency management, including policy making, planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts, that helps ensure the safety and health of people, animals, agricultural infrastructures, food systems, and the economy. Such activities include, without limitation:”

- (a) Enhance communication between animal and agricultural emergency programs, including State Animal/Agricultural Response/Resource Teams (“SART”), state veterinary medical reserve corps, any similar state programs, tribal programs, local programs, and national partners;
- (b) Promote best practices and models for program management, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;
- (c) Cultivate resources that strengthen preparedness and response capabilities at the local, state, tribal, and national level;
- (d) Facilitate and promote the development of a national animal emergency management framework through coordination and capacity building between and among states, and support of credentialing standards, shared training initiatives, and national training standards.



Kevin Dennison, DVM, Colorado, moderated the formative NASAAEP meeting.

Interim Board of Directors

Jane Davis, IL Veterinary Emergency Response Team – Kane County

Kevin Dennison, DVM Director – Animal Emergency Management Programs
Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation

Arnie Goldman, DVM, MS

Executive Director, CT State Animal Response Team – Canton Animal Hospital

Dick Green, Ed.D.

Emergency Relief Manager – Disasters –
International Fund for Animal Welfare

Warren J. Hess, DVM

Field Veterinarian, Utah Dept. of Agriculture,
Division of Animal Industry

Scott Mason, DVM

Oklahoma VMA/Veterinary Medical Reserve
Corps/SART – Putnam Animal Hospital

Anne M. McCann

Delaware Emergency Management Agency

Debrah Schnackenberg

Director, Animal Emergency Services, American
Humane Association

Kelle Straw

Director of Corporate Communication and Public
Affairs – Merial

Elizabeth A. Wang

Executive Director, Texas State Animal Resource
Team (TXSART)



Penny Burke, FEMA/DHS,
Citizen Corps: “Citizen Corps
asks you to embrace the personal
responsibility to be prepared; to
get training in first aid and
emergency skills; and to
volunteer to support local
emergency responders, disaster
relief and community safety.”

Abandoned Animals Increase Due To Home Foreclosures



Gainesville SART member Carol Lehtola recently brought our attention to an article on CNN.com about the increase in homeless and abandoned animals due to the massive home foreclosure situation caused by a dramatic rise in interest rates. The article, based on information from Stockton, CA and dated January 29th can be found at www.cnn.com/2008/US/01/29/foreclosure.pets.ap/index.html. Local animal shelters said they were “overwhelmed;” a spokesperson noted that the pressure to euthanize abandoned pets was increasing because the volume was so great and that, perhaps as a result of the uncertain economy, new homeowners were loath to adopt these abandoned animals.

HSUS Schedules National Conference On Animals In Disaster

The Humane Society of the United States has scheduled a national conference on “Animals In Disaster” for June 2-6 at the Doubletree Hotel-Sacramento in Sacramento, CA. According to a handout, the event will host practical training, guest speakers and workshops on:



- Developing exercises to test your disaster planning
- Building disaster-resilient communities
- Learning tools and techniques for large and small animal rescue
- Valuing volunteers – the underused resource
- Creating private-public partnerships that work
- Rethinking the catastrophic event
- Raising the bar on animal disaster response qualifications and cooperation

For more information contact HSUS at (301) 258-3103; e-mail disaster@humanesociety.org; visit www.humanesociety.org/disaster; or write to The HSUS Disaster Services, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

New SART Training Module “Evidence Collection and Chain-Of-Custody Issues”

Prepared by Colonel Darrell Liford, Director of Law Enforcement, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement, DOACS, a new SART training module titled “Evidence Collection and Chain-Of-Custody Issues” is available through <http://www.flsart.org/library/index.htm>.



Ludford’s topics and major points will be helpful not only in cases of agroterrorism or bioterrorism, but in more straight-forward and every-day cases of vandalism or theft. In all cases, the victim or witness is directed to immediately call 9-1-1.

These points and others are stressed:

1. Clues to recognizing and managing the scene of a crime or a suspicious event. It is important to assess any immediate danger to yourself or others.
2. How to be a good witness to an event or at a scene. Ludford

notes that because a casual observer – as opposed to a trained law

- enforcement investigator – is usually the first person on site, careful observations are critical to understanding and solving problems.
3. Understanding evidence and how it is collected. Evidence may be what is present ... or what is not present, including your complete notes and descriptions. If possible, rope off the area and keep people out. Watch where you step, what you touch and disturb nothing unless absolutely necessary. Note who enters, who leaves and take pictures.
 4. Understand the evidence chain-of-custody. If you take something, secure it properly. If you pass something along, get signature and identification.

Recent UF TLAER Course – Fun, Informative For Everyone



Photos courtesy Dr. Amanda House UF Equine Extension veterinarian

2007 Eligibility Is Extended for Livestock, Crop Disaster Claims

According to the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), eligibility to apply for 2007 programs covering livestock and crop losses has been extended. Now, the previous date of February 28, 2007 is extended for losses from crops planted and livestock/livestock feed through December 31, 2007.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before December 31, 2007 or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before that date.

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) compensates producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007 due to a natural disaster while the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates producers for livestock losses.

"This adds 10 months to the amount of eligible time that losses can be considered," said Kevin Kelley, State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

More information is available at local FSA offices or online at www.fsa.usda.gov under "Disaster Assistance Programs." Contact Kevin Kelley, State FSA Executive Director, (352) 379-4500 or Tim Vonderfecht, State Agriculture Specialist, (352) 379-4522.

In Review

Florida SART Training Module "Introducing Florida Aquaculture"

Tropical fish farms in Florida. Above the "freeze line" heating is required. At about \$80 million/year, Florida ranks 3rd in U.S. (behind Mississippi and Arkansas) in value of product sold from its 160 farms. Top 4 sales categories are tropical fish (42.6%), aquatic plants (21.4%), clams (18.4%) and shrimp (7.5%).

www.flsart.org/library/index.htm

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Florida's "Freeze line" runs roughly Southwest-Northeast across the central peninsula, from Tampa through Orlando to Daytona Beach.

FSA Re-Schedules Dairy Day Sign-Up

Sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) is postponed until FSA publishes final regulations in the Federal Register. Sign-up was scheduled to resume February 4.

FSA delayed sign-up because regulatory requirements mandated the issuance of a proposed rule for public comment. FSA is finalizing its review of the numerous comments received and expects to publish final regulations for DDAP-III soon.

About the SART Sentinel

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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.