



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

**Vol. 9, No. 05
May 2013**

Florida SARC Presents Awareness Courses

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition is teaching "Small Animal Emergency Sheltering: Awareness Level" to promote effective response for animals during disasters. Registration is required, but due to a grant from Florida Emergency Management and Homeland Security there is no fee to attend. This course is certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management, course code FL-003-RESP.



Course Topics include: Personal Preparedness, Deployment Preparedness, Daily Care and Feeding, Animal Behavior, Assisting in Shelter Set Up, Proper Cage Cleaning and Disinfection, Stress Management, Zoonotic Diseases, Personal Safety, Overview of the Incident Command System and more.

May 18 – Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Broward County EOC, 201 NW 84th Ave., 2nd Floor Ops., Plantation, FL 33324

May 18 – Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Osceola County OEM, 2586 Partin Settlement Rd., Room ICC, Kissimmee, FL 34744

June 15 – Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Hernando County EOC, 18900 Cortez Blvd., Training Room, Brooksville, FL 34601

For more information or to register online go to <http://www.flsarc.org/Training.html> or contact Melissa Forberg training@flsarc.org, Pam Burns pamburnssarc@gmail.com or Consie Von Gontard training@flsarc.org.

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DHS Certified Training Continues

Florida SART is collaborating with several training partners to offer DHS certified training courses in Florida. Because DHS grant funding is used to make these presentations available, courses are open and free to all U.S. citizens. Courses are targeted however to the requirements of public health, agricultural, emergency response, government and industry personnel.

MGT 337 – Food Vulnerability Assessment Training

Broward College, Institute of Public Safety, Building 22 – Room 152
3501 SW Davie Road, Davie, FL 33314
8:00 am – 5:00 pm on Tuesday May 28 and 8:00 – Noon on Wednesday May 29.



This 1 ½-day course is designed to assist food regulation, law enforcement, government partners and industry personnel in the prevention and deterrence of terrorist and criminal acts that target the food industry.

Participants will learn to use the CARVER + Shock method to perform detailed vulnerability assessments of agricultural facilities. Realistic, hands-on training incorporates video of actual facilities and interactive case studies with practical exercises.

Participants will learn to assess vulnerabilities both at the community and the individual facility level, and to identify and implement mitigation measures to reduce vulnerabilities. (The training is approved for 11.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.)

PER 259 – Sharing Information and Intelligence Related to Food Importation and Transportation

Mid-County Conference Center
8751 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, FL 33771
8:00 am – 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 4



This one-day course is designed to prepare participants to utilize and implement effective sharing of information and intelligence to enhance food safety and defense related to food importation and transportation.

PER 259 is targeted at law enforcement, state Fusion Center personnel, emergency managers and responders, agricultural extension, public health, food and agriculture professionals, transportation industry, and federal, state, local, tribal and regional officials. (The training is approved for 7.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.)

Training partners include the Center for Agriculture and Food Safety and Preparedness at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (the course provider), the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences and Florida's Regional Domestic Security Task Forces.

To register

Specific course information and additional registration options can be found on the Florida Division of Emergency Management online training calendar at <http://trac.floridadisaster.org/TRAC/trainingcalendar.aspx#InkMarch> or <http://www.vet.utk.edu/cafsp/>

If you have questions regarding any of these courses, or about registration, please contact Art Johnstone at ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org or (850) 251-4184.

SART Advisory Board Discusses Response to Radiological Event



Dale Dubberly



Roger Rankin

With 30 members and guests present the Florida SART Advisory Board met at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Alachua Regional Service Center, Alachua on Wednesday, May 2. The meeting's primary purpose was to focus on radiological emergencies and the need for effective animal and plant agricultural response.

SART Planner Stephen Barineau previewed the new Florida SART video (soon to be available on the SART web site at Flsart.org). The video explains the SART function as a MAC and how it develops a coordinated network of response entities.

Regarding SART accomplishments, Joe Kight mentioned the positioning of MARE units and livestock panels in each region. Of special note is the development of SARC, the State Agricultural Response Coalition, which can respond with trained volunteers to small animal emergencies. Consie von Gontard said more than 1,000 people have been qualified through the DHS-approved small animal emergency sheltering course, which was written and tested in Florida. A follow-up, operations and management level small animal sheltering course is being planned through Dr. Joan Dusky and her staff and students at the University of Florida.

Roger Rankin's power point presentation, "Response to a Nuclear Plant Incident in Florida," generated discussion about decontamination of farm animals. The group voiced unanimous agreement that more studies needed to be done and additional techniques developed for large animals.



Rankin mentioned that the term "shelter in place" was gradually being replaced by the term "remain indoors," which is both specific and descriptive

Dale Dubberly's power point presentation was FDACS' "Radiological Emergency Response." He noted that the Florida Department of Health was the lead agency for radiological emergencies and stressed that in any emergency, especially one involving radiological contamination (fallout), producers must document losses.



Kendra Stauffer discussed large animal decontamination, noting that few advances in the science had been made since 1960 and that the area was problematic. The only substantial science in "the dairy area" concerned breast feeding of infants. Not only would animals need to be dealt with following a disaster, but their food and water and the resulting radiological contamination – whether washed or brushed or vacuumed away – would need to be dealt with and any news of a radiological emergency could cause panic among the public.

Joe Kight showed a webinar from Dr. Thomas Johnson of Colorado State University. "Strategies for Radioactive Decontamination of Livestock" presented current information, but admitted that a great amount of work needed to be done. Generally, livestock would shelter in place, in a covered area if possible, but given the great numbers of large animals in Florida this was

probably impractical for anyone other than a very small operation, and efficiently moving huge numbers of cows and goats and horses was neither practical nor possible.

Official minutes of the Advisory Board meeting are posted online at <http://www.flsart.org/jsp/member/OperationsMeetingMinutes.jsp>.



**Shadow Evacuation
& Radiological
Planning
GAO Recommends
Moving from 10- to 25-
mile Emergency
Planning Zone**
<http://yubanet.com/usa/GAO-Report-Finds-NRC-Does-Not-Understand-Shadow-Evacuation-Phenomenon-at-Nuclear-Reactor-Sites.php>

On April 10 the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report finding that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) does not adequately understand the “shadow evacuation” phenomenon at nuclear reactors, and that emergency planning regulations don’t adequately account for the likelihood that far more people would evacuate, from much further distances than NRC plans, in a real nuclear emergency.

The GAO warned that by failing to account and plan for the actual numbers of people who would evacuate in a nuclear emergency, “NRC may not be providing the best planning guidance to licensees and state and local authorities.”

The “shadow evacuation” phenomenon was demonstrated at the 1979 Three Mile Island accident, where some 5,000 pregnant women (and children under five years of age) within five miles of the site were advised to evacuate. But well over 100,000 people from 25 and more miles away actually fled.



The GAO prepared the report in the wake of a 2011 investigative series from the Associated Press showing significant population increases near many nuclear reactors, and a population outside the immediate 10-mile Emergency Planning Zones that is largely unaware of what to do in the event of a nuclear accident.

Nuclear Information and Resource Service – NIRS is a national information/networking center for citizens and environmental activists concerned about nuclear power, radioactive waste, radiation and sustainable energy issues.

The GAO report is available here: http://www.gao.gov/prerelease/files/0G94_d13243.pdf

More background information on nuclear emergency planning issues can be found at <http://www.nirs.org/reactorwatch/emergency/emergencyhome.htm>.

500 Years of Florida Agriculture

This year, Florida commemorates the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de León's discovery of Florida. What makes this anniversary so unique is that Ponce de León's convoy of explorers was the first group of Europeans to document such a landing and appropriately name their discovery “La Florida.” Juan Ponce de Leon named this land “La Florida” because it was the season known in Spain as “Pascua Florida,” the Festival of Flowers, and because much of the land’s vegetation was in bloom.

Florida's agricultural history began when the first



Adam H. Putnam, Florida
Commissioner of Agriculture

Paleo-Indian cultures migrated into Florida following herds and gathering food sources. Naturally, fish, shellfish and wildlife comprised most of the diet of early inhabitants. Agricultural crops were first

cultivated around 500 AD with corn, squash, cucumbers and beans becoming an important food source.

After the Europeans discovered Florida and established settlements throughout the land, they introduced many of the crops that make up Florida's landscape today. Ponce de Leon planted citrus trees near St. Augustine and brought cattle to the new land. Then came pineapples, tomatoes, oysters, orchids, equine and much, much more. Today, we produce nearly 300 agricultural commodities in Florida.

Though the agricultural production of early settlers was just enough to feed themselves, it marked the beginning of a booming industry that would grow to the more than \$100 billion in economic impact today.

I encourage all Floridians to join in celebrating our 500th anniversary and honoring the growth, expansion and diversification of Florida agriculture.

Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture

Under the Radar



Good reason for training! Even presidents sometimes need training.

"I found out that tails, legs and necks are not handles. They will come off!" Overheard at the May SART Advisory Board Meeting. President Lyndon Johnson occasionally lifted his beagles by the ears.

Latest on Citrus Greening Threat and Research

Huanglongbing (HLB; citrus greening) is thought to be caused by the bacterium, *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*. HLB has seriously affected citrus production in a number of countries in Asia, Africa, the Indian subcontinent and the Arabian Peninsula, and was discovered in July 2004 in Brazil. Wherever the disease has appeared, citrus production has been compromised with the loss of millions of trees. HLB has not been reported in Australia or in the Mediterranean Basin. In August 2005, the disease was found in Homestead and Florida City. Since that time, HLB has been found in commercial and residential sites in all counties with commercial citrus.

The early symptoms of HLB on leaves are vein yellowing and an asymmetrical chlorosis referred to as "blotchy mottle." The blotchy mottle symptom is the most diagnostic symptom of the disease, especially on sweet orange. Leaves may be small and upright with a variety of chlorotic patterns that often resemble mineral deficiencies such as those of zinc, iron, and manganese. Some leaves may be totally devoid of green or with only green islands.

Early symptoms of yellowing may appear on a single shoot or branch. The yellowing usually spreads throughout the tree over a year, especially on young trees, and affected trees may show twig dieback, causing the productivity to decline within a few years. Fruit are often few in number, small, may be lopsided with a curved central core, and fail to color properly, remaining green at the styler end. Many fruit drop prematurely from afflicted trees. A yellow stain may be present just beneath the peduncle (stem) on a cut fruit. The affected fruit often contain aborted seeds and have a salty bitter taste.

IFAS Bulletin

Last year, economists from the University of Florida determined that between 2006 and 2011, citrus greening – huanglongbing or HLB – had already cost the state of Florida \$4.5 billion in lost economic output and 8,257 jobs. Although the psyllid carrier was found in 1998, greening was only detected in 2005 in Homestead.

Lake Wales grower and Florida Citrus Commission member Ellis Hunt Jr. noted an “unprecedented number” of Hamlin oranges dropping from the trees before the harvest began this past year. Hunt says he was shocked and both he and the USDA have predicted that the drop of Valencia oranges will be “well above average.”

Jay Clark, a Wauchula grower who is also a Citrus Commission member, said it was now “... questionable whether we can grow a young tree to maturity.”

U.F. IFAS researchers have developed a three-pronged approach to combat citrus greening:

1. control the Asian citrus psyllid,
2. understand the bacteria itself and
3. breed citrus trees that will tolerate or resist infection.

*Excerpted from Explore:
Research at the University of Florida
Spring 2013, Vol. 18, No. 1
www.cred.ifas.ufl.edu*

Who let the pigs out?

The Baja Men might be shivering in their boots about now. After all, they were the group who popularized the July, 2000 single, “Who Let the Dogs Out” which is now heard at sporting events from coast to coast.



The Minnesota State Patrol recently experienced a busy day rounding up pigs along Interstate 94 after

a semitrailer crash closed part of the highway. The April 14 crash took place near Barnesville, about 25 miles southeast of Fargo, ND, and involved three semis. One truck carried about two dozen pigs and another was hauling cattle. After the crash, the pigs – barely phased by the ruckus – were seen grazing in a snowy area near one of the flipped-over semitrailers.

State Patrol Sgt. Jesse Grabow told a local newspaper that it took some time to round up the pigs, but the cattle were trapped in the semi and were not loose. Driving in the area was difficult due to snow and blowing snow. Eastbound lanes of the Interstate were temporarily closed while the animals were recovered and the crash site was cleaned up.

According to Dr. Carol Lehtola, recently retired from IFAS and who sent the tip to the SART Sentinel, a follow-up article emphasized the need for training for law enforcement officers, especially since most no longer come from a farm or ranch background. Thanks Carol – be well!

Raw Milk: the perfect food ... or not?

The subject of raw milk sales was discussed at the recent SART Advisory Board meeting. The sale of raw milk for human consumption is illegal in Florida. FDACS interprets the definition of “sell” in the state administrative code to extend the ban on raw milk sales to any “cowshare” (buying a percentage of a cow so that one may legally ownership) agreements as well.

FDACS policy permits the sale of raw milk for animal consumption, on the farm or in retail stores, even though there is no state law that covers this issue. Containers should have a label clearly stating that the raw milk is for animal consumption only.

Note for example that Jersey Acres Farm in Myakka City, which sells raw milk, adds this to its web site: “Please do not discuss using these dairy products for yourself or for your family with us, as this would jeopardize our license.”

<http://www.floridarawmilk.com/raw-milk/florida-raw-milk-laws>

A newspaper article in the Sun Sentinel of Palm Beach in March, 2010 contained the following

information which is typical of the health data in the raw milk debate:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration noted that 12 people who consumed raw milk in Michigan were sickened by campylobacter bacteria, which can cause severe gastrointestinal symptoms. Health officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have warned the public for decades to avoid raw milk. In the decade from 1998-2008, at least 1,614 were sickened after consuming raw milk, including 187 hospitalizations and two deaths.

Packing Your Digital Go-Bag Essential Disaster Health Information on Your Mobile Device

There are many mobile resources and apps available to assist responders, public health professionals and others in the disaster and preparedness workforce who have information needs before and during emergencies and disasters. However, loading these resources on a mobile device just prior to or during a disaster may be too late. Finding and evaluating the best tools and resources takes time, as does learning how to use them effectively and quickly. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has developed a suite of widely-used resources for mobile devices such as WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) and has evaluated and made accessible on their Web site many other mobile apps and other information resources that are useful in emergency and disaster situations.

Check out the NKM list of disaster and emergency apps at: <http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/disasterapps.html>. The NLM April 25th webinar recording and presentations can be found at: <http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/dismetings.html>

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SART Co-Founder Tim Manning Retires

After a 33-year career promoting the agricultural industry, Tim Manning recently retired. Many in SART will recall Tim's continuous and energetic efforts on behalf of effective agricultural planning

and response, including his promotion of the MAC idea in Florida's SART program.



2007: SART Co-Founder Tim Manning introduces then Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson.



2009: Tim Manning demonstrates his smart phone to SART Sentinel editor Rick Sapp at SART Planning Meeting.

In November of 2009 Tim was appointed to serve as Florida Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director and his active role in SART necessarily took a back seat to statewide leadership of the federal agency. He had previously been the Mediation and Appeals Coordinator at the agency and had served FSA, formerly the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), where he had been District Director and Administrative Officer.

Tim was raised on a cattle and timber ranch in Putnam County. He and his family had one of the last naval stores operations in Florida. After high school, Tim was responsible for that family business, including cutting and replanting 1,500 acres of timber. Additionally, he owned a cow and calf operation in Northeast Florida.

Having been raised on a farm and having ranched himself, Tim understood the challenges facing farmers and ranchers in today's economy. He was committed to working with all commodity groups, state, and federal agencies to promote Florida's agricultural industry.

Tim attended the University of Florida where he received his degree in Agriculture. After graduation he taught Vocational Agriculture while working on his Master's Degree.

Controlling the Invasive Lionfish

The lionfish. A voracious predator that poses a significant threat to native salt water species. The fish is from the Indo-Pacific region, originally, but now it's practically everywhere. If we're not careful one might show up in the shower!

Tom Frazer of UF's IFAS has been leading a research effort to determine how to control these invasive exotics. How much manpower is needed? How much financial support? Studies around Little Cayman Island in the Caribbean have tentatively suggested that intensive collecting would reduce the numbers and the size of the fish collected, but would not eliminate them from the habitat.



"This is a new and voracious predator on these coral reefs and it's undergoing a population explosion," said Mark Hixon, an Oregon State University professor of zoology, expert on coral reef ecology and leader of an OSU research effort. "The threats to coral reefs all over the world were already extreme, and they now have to deal with this alien predator in the Atlantic. Lionfish eat many other species and they seem to eat constantly. Native fish literally don't know what hit them."

"I call them the Norwegian rats of the sea," said George Burgess, director of shark research at the Florida Museum of Natural History. "Just like rats, they are spreading all over the world, and you can shoot them, poison them, or curse them all you want, but they aren't going to go away."

If you love to fish or even to eat seafood such as grouper, snapper and shrimp, this is a continuing story worthy of your attention.

<http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2010/apr/li>
[onfish-invasion-continuing-expand](http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2010/apr/li)

and

<http://www.research.ufl.edu/publications/explore/>

What are "Communities of Practice?"

First Responder Communities of Practice are a network of vetted, active and retired first responders, emergency response professionals and federal, state, local, or tribal Homeland Security officials sponsored by DHS Science & Technology Directorate's First Responders Group.

Registered members of this professional network share information, ideas, lessons learned and best practices, enabling them to more efficiently and effectively prepare for all hazards. Members use tools such as wikis, blogs and RSS feeds to collaborate online on the creation and management of critical planning, training and other initiatives. Through information sharing and active participation in community workspaces, members are able to leverage each other's experiences to meet mission objectives.

First Responder Communities of Practice not only offers information repositories and content creation tools, but also provides networking capabilities for practitioners across the country to connect with one another in a trusted, online environment.

NASAAEP, the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs

www.nasaaep.org, invites responders who are government employees to join and to participate in the "Household Pet and Service Animal Planning Preparedness and Response" community. This community includes individuals and organizations involved in household pet and service animal planning, preparedness and response, especially in direct collaboration with local, state and federal agencies. The First Responder Communities of Practice team vets all new users to ensure the authenticity of members and to keep the focus of the site on homeland security, emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

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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