



# THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

**Vol. 9, No. 07**  
**July 2013**

## Extensive Training Slate Offered

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (FL SART) is collaborating with several training partners to offer a series of six DHS-certified Agroterrorism Prevention courses in Florida. All courses are open to U.S. citizens and are free of charge through DHS grant funding. Training partners include the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, University of California Davis, the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the University of Florida-Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences and the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces.



## **AWR 151** **Understanding the** **Dangers of** **Agroterrorism**

The course goal is to increase awareness among local and regional emergency response teams about the potential targets and impacts of agroterrorism. The course stresses the importance of responding to incidents of intentional contamination as well as natural disasters using the “all hazards” approach. This training has been approved for 3.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.

### July 18 in St. Augustine

12:30 pm registration, 1:00 - 5:00 pm training

St. Johns County Health Dept., 1955 US 1 South, Suite 100

### August 6 in Davie

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 12:30 pm training

Broward College, Institute of Public Safety, Bldg. 22, Room 152, 3501 SW Davie Rd.

### September 25 in Immokalee

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 12:30 pm training

IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Ctr., 2685 State Road 29 N

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September in 26 in Brooksville

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 12:30 pm training

Hernando County Emergency Operations Center,  
18900 Cortez Blvd.



**AWR 152  
Principles of  
Preparedness for  
Agroterrorism and  
Food Systems'  
Disasters**

The course goal is to prepare participants with the skills and knowledge to recognize agroterrorism vulnerabilities. Topics include identifying targets, developing prevention, protection and mitigation strategies, employing the principles of building multi-disciplinary response teams, and identifying the roles of the local, state and federal agencies prior to and during an agricultural or food system disaster. This training has been approved for 6.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.

September 19, 2013 in St. Augustine

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 5:00 pm training  
St. Johns County Health Dept., 1955 US 1 South,  
Suite 100

November 6 in Brooksville

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 5:00 pm training  
Hernando County Emergency Operations Center,  
18900 Cortez Blvd.

November 7 in Immokalee

8:00 am registration, 8:30 - 5:00 pm training  
IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education  
Center, 2685 State Road 29 N



**AWR 153  
Principles of  
Detection and  
Diagnosis,  
Strategies and  
Technologies**

The course goal is to inform members of frontline response teams about the importance of early detection and diagnosis, proper sample collection and the steps involved in an agroterrorism-related outbreak investigation. The course includes strategies to improve and increase detection and diagnosis efficiency as well as the epidemiological and criminal investigation process. This training has been approved for 4.5 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.

July 19, 2013 in Daytona Beach

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training  
Volusia County EOC, 3825 Tiger Bay Rd.

November 21, 2013 in St. Augustine

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training  
St. Johns County Health Dept., 1955 US 1 South,  
Suite 100

December 11 in Brooksville

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training  
Hernando County Emergency Operations Center,  
18900 Cortez Blvd.

December 12 in Immokalee

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 4:00 pm training  
IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education  
Center, 2685 State Rd. 29 N

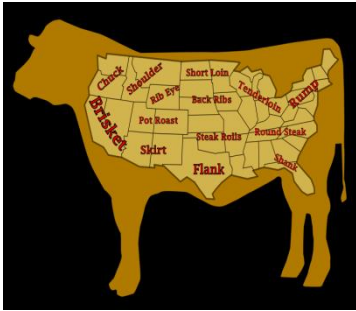


**AWR 154  
Principles of  
National Incident  
Management  
System (NIMS),  
Team Building and  
Risk  
Communication**

The course goal is to describe the operational features of NIMS, understand how NIMS is essential for community preparedness, outline the logistics of the Incident Command System (ICS), understand methods of team building and explain principles of risk communication. This course meets all of the NIMS/ICS training requirements for FEMA IS-700 NIMS. This training has been approved for 6.0 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.

September 18, 2013 in Daytona Beach

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 5:00 pm training  
Volusia County EOC, 3825 Tiger Bay Rd.



### AWR 155 Principles of Frontline Response to Agroterrorism and Food Systems' Disasters

The goal of this course is to demonstrate how an effective frontline emergency response can reduce or mitigate the effects of an agricultural emergency, an act of agroterrorism or other food systems disaster. This course includes a plan that can be used as an "all hazards" approach against a wide variety of potential problems and occurrences within the agricultural community. This training has been approved for 5.0 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.

November 22, 2013 in Daytona Beach

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 5:00 pm training  
Volusia County EOC, 3825 Tiger Bay Rd.



### AWR 156 Principles of Planning and Implementing Recovery

The goal of this course is to provide the fundamental framework for orchestrating the recovery from an incident of agroterrorism. The course will cover the four critical factors for success in a community recovery effort and be able to apply them in a hypothetical crisis. This training has been approved for 6.0 CEUs for Certified Environmental Health Professionals.

August 5, 2013 in Bradenton

8:30 am registration, 9:00 - 5:00 pm training

Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47th Terr. E.

If you have questions regarding any of these courses, or about registration, contact Art Johnstone at [ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org](mailto:ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org) or (850) 251-4184. To register you're your name, agency/company name, e-mail address and telephone number to [ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org](mailto:ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org). Be sure to specify which course(s)/location(s) you want to attend.

## Foreign Animal & Emerging Diseases Awareness Course Draws Students from Across the U.S.

"Over the last several centuries, agriculture has grown to become the strongest pillar of Florida's economy. Today, the agriculture industry has a \$120 billion impact on Florida's economy and supports nearly one million jobs. The Sunshine State is also home to an amazing array of natural disasters. Hurricanes, tropical storms and tropical depressions, tornadoes, wildfires, and floods regularly affect Florida's residents and visitors. Between 2004 and 2005, Florida was affected by 7 named hurricanes and 2010-2012 were years devastated by wild land fires and drought.

<p>Course Organizers (left - right): Dr. Michael Dark, DVM-UF and Dr. Kendra Stauffer, DVM-USDA, with Dr. Lisa Farina, DVM-UF.</p>	<p>Col. Eunett James-Mack, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Florida Agriculture Liaison (left), and Dr. Danielle Stanek, DVM-FDOH.</p>

"Florida has 15 seaports, 14 international airports, 90 million visitors a year and 40% of all U.S. imports from Latin and South America pass through Florida.

“Florida has over 4,200 Accredited Veterinarians (2nd behind California) but does more export/import certificates than any other state and is home to one of only three animal import centers.



Above participants (left – right): Dr. Dan Wolf, DVM-FWCC, Dr. Lisa Walker, DVM-US Army, and Mr. Michael Milleson, USDA-APHIS-WS.



Dr. Lisa Conti, DVM, Deputy Commissioner /Chief Science Officer FDACS, and (right) Dr. Greg Christy, DVM-FDACS-DAI.

“This four-day multifaceted skills and knowledge enhancement course was made possible by the collaboration of over 20 different stakeholders. It includes multiple stakeholder levels involved in agriculture in the state of Florida and coincides with the video teleconferencing of the Foreign Animal Disease Course at Plum Island. A special thank you goes out to the Dean of the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, for the use of their state-of-the-art facilities and professional staff.”

*Dr. Kendra Stauffer,  
Area Emergency Coordinator, USDA-VS  
Dr. Michael Dark,  
Dept. of Infectious Diseases and Pathology, UF-CVM*



Team 2 takes a sample during the Biosecurity and PPE rodeo exercise on Thursday afternoon, June 13.



Team 3 handles the sample with care after suiting up during the “PPE rodeo” during the FAD Awareness Course.

## Wildfire Awareness

The US Forest Service says one-third of US housing units are located within a mile of a forest or fire-prone landscape. As housing densities increase in fire-risk areas and wildfires increase in number and intensity due to climate change, it is necessary to take precautions because “landscapes that are drier, less resilient, and more likely to burn once ignited.”



- **Physical dwelling:** When you smell smoke, it's too late to un-reel a garden hose. Create a “personal wildfire defense zone:”
- Create a three- to five-foot fire-free zone around structures.
- Remove potential ignition sources (pine needles, leaves, woodpiles, propane tanks, etc.) within that zone.
- Clear gutters, eaves and decks of leaves and debris.
- Remove tree limbs overhanging the house and lower limbs that could allow a ground fire to climb to upper limbs.
- Keep trees and shrubs pruned and spaced to slow an approaching fire.
- Choose less fire-prone deciduous trees rather than evergreens near the home.
- Plant fire-resistant vegetation and keep lawns green and watered to serve as firebreaks. Rock gardens and xeriscapes serve the same purpose.
- Use nonflammable (Class A) roofing materials, and install glass (not plastic) skylights.
- Wide driveways and nonflammable walkways slow or stop wildfire.

The family unit: Families should develop an evacuation plan. Fires can grow quickly and effective, organized response can sometimes take hours. Urge families to develop a plan, discuss it within the family and with trusted neighbors: gathering points, alternative routes, important documents, telephone numbers and addresses, animals, money and credit cards, a dependable gassed-up vehicle.

The community: Support community awareness including a community wildfire plan: water availability, evacuation routes, zoning and landscaping. Support continuing education about wildfires.

Remember this most frightening thought from the U.S. Forest Service: If your home or business catches fire and that fire starts a wildfire, you could be held responsible for paying the full cost of extinguishing the wildfire.

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## Under the Radar

### Florida SARC Offers August Awareness Course

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.

**DATE & TIME:** Saturday, August 3  
8:00 am to 6:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Collier County Domestic Animal Services, 7610 Davis Blvd,  
Naples, FL 34104

For information and registration go to <http://www.flsarc.org/Training.html> or contact Melissa Forberg [training@flsarc.org](mailto:training@flsarc.org),

Pam Burns [pamburnssarc@gmail.com](mailto:pamburnssarc@gmail.com)  
or Consie Von Gontard [training@flsarc.org](mailto:training@flsarc.org).

## FACA Presents Awards

Florida Animal Control Association President Dave Walesky recently presented that non-profit group's annual Outstanding Achievement Awards for 2013.

They are:

Outstanding Agency

City of Jacksonville, Animal Care & Protective Services

Honorable Mention: Animal Services of Sumter County and Charlotte County

Outstanding Animal Control Officer

Mary Kirkland, Polk County Sheriff's Office Animal Control

Honorable Mention: Ericka Hudson, Gilchrist County Animal Services

Outstanding Cooperative Team Achievement

Charlotte County Animal Control

Supervisor of the Year

Ronald Cooper, Broward County

Employee of the Year

Tracey Sayles, Bradford County Sheriff's Office



## Most Recent Overview of Florida Agriculture (and Mining)

The Florida Agricultural Statistics Service gathers unbiased and reliable agricultural data and compiles current statistics in cooperation with USDA/NASS and UF/IFAS.

Data is important in making production and marketing decisions. According to the most recent figures available:

1. Florida has 47,500 commercial farms, using a total of 9.25 million acres;
2. Florida ranks second in the value of vegetable production;
3. Florida ranks first in cash receipts for oranges, grapefruit, fresh snap beans, sweet corn, watermelons, fresh cucumbers, squash and sugarcane;
4. Florida ranks second in the production of greenhouse and nursery products;

5. Florida accounts for 65 percent of total U.S. citrus production;
6. Nationally, Florida ranks 11th in beef cows;
7. Florida ranks seventh in agricultural exports with \$3.1 billion;
8. Florida is the world leader in phosphate rock production, annually producing 65 percent of the U.S. supply and 10 percent of the world supply.

For more particular information, check out this page <http://www.florida-agriculture.com/consumers/crops/agoverview/> from FDACS.

## More Wildfire News: Hope amid the Ashes

The Black Forest wildfire northeast of Colorado Springs has devastated the area. John Haven forwarded images however of hope which we pass along with all of our fingers crossed for the best possible outcome for the animals and the people.



Five whitetail fawns were rescued from the Black Forest Fire. Taken to a rehab facility, they will be cared for until they can care for themselves in the wild.



Members of the Kit Carson Riding Club offered to care for horses and other large animals evacuated from the path of the Black Forest Fire in June. At the time of this bulletin, they were caring for about 100 horses, goats and bulls. Another 150 to 175 animals had come through the club's facility and been relocated with private landowners who contacted the club offering to help.

## The "Community Cat"

"Since there have been ongoing questions about whether or not domestic cats are considered non-native species covered by the FWC statute against introducing or releasing nonnative animal species in Florida, we decided to take the question directly to the FWC General Counsel. The questions posed were:

1. are domestic cats considered a species covered by 379.231(formerly 372.265), Florida Statutes; and
2. does Florida law prohibit the feeding of out door community cats.

"The basic conclusion of the General Counsel of FWC is that domestic cats are NOT covered under the provision preventing the release of non-native species and there are no laws preventing the feeding of outdoor cats. The written opinion in effect reaffirms what was discussed at the FACA Educational Conference where the point was made if domestic cats were covered then so would domestic cattle, etc."

*Excerpted from FACA Trax Newsletter  
First Quarter 2013  
<http://floridaanimalcontrol.org/facatrax>*

## Terms worth knowing – "Opportunity Sampling"

Opportunity Sampling or "convenience sampling" is a type of non-probability sampling where participants are selected based on naturally occurring groups.

For example, let's say a responder wants to learn whether school children generally understand their family evacuation plan in case of an emergency. Instead of taking a totally random sample of school-aged children, he or she visits a local school and selects one of the classes as a sample.

## Water World – Why Conserve?

The majority of earth is covered in water, so why do we need to conserve? Although more than 70 percent of the earth's surface is water, more than 96 percent is salt water we cannot use. The remaining 2.5 percent of Earth's water is fresh water, and it is distributed as follows:

1. More than half is locked up in permanent ice.
2. 30 percent is held in groundwater.
3. Only a little over 1.3 percent is surface water, the main source of water for human use.



This means that of all the water on earth, we can only use about 0.01 percent (this increases to around 1 percent if you include groundwater). Florida has a multitude of springs, rivers, and lakes, but all the surface water is sustained by our groundwater resources, mainly the Floridian Aquifer. If we use water faster than the aquifer can be recharged through rainfall, we deplete our water resources.

[http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot\\_topics/sustainable\\_living/water\\_conservation.html](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/sustainable_living/water_conservation.html)

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## 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](http://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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