



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM



Special Features of this Issue:

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- *Introducing Jay Floyd, SART's New Planner*
- *Millions of Hens Affected by Bird Flu in Iowa*

Dr. Saqib Mukhtar from his work at Texas A&M University. (Photo by Robert Burns)

"I hope to be able to contribute to the emerging and existing issues in the area of agriculture and horticulture to improve the lives of the people of Florida and beyond."

—Dr. Saqib Mukhtar,
Associate Dean for Extension

Welcoming Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, New Associate Dean for Extension

Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, the new Associate Dean for Extension, and State Program Leader for Agricultural Programs, has started in his new role at the University of Florida. Dr. Mukhtar replaces Dr. Joan Dusky who retired in late 2014.

As the [Florida Alligator reported](#), Dr. Mukhtar was drawn to the job at UF/IFAS because of the connection the program has to Florida residents. "It has several very strong programs that have been developed by the thorough input from the citizens of Florida and very important stake holders," Mukhtar said. "And I hope to be able to contribute to the emerging and existing issues in the area of agriculture and horticulture to improve the lives of the people of Florida and beyond."

On April 27th, Dr. Mukhtar joined Dr. Nick Place, Dean and Director for

Extension, for Extension Connections, a monthly webinar designed to advance organizational communication and provide updates, organizational initiatives, and training on key topics for the Extension community. During the forum, Dr. Mukhtar expressed a number of ideas and goals on the future of IFAS Extension. His focus will be on working with technology to ensure agricultural producers are as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible.

The next webinar is scheduled for May 18, 2015. To participate in these virtual events, additional information may be found at: <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/connect.shtml>.



UF CVM VETS Team Sprints Forward

The University of Florida (UF) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is a lead member of Florida SART. As a “quick strike” resource, the college has been tasked to assist the state in response to animal and agricultural disasters whenever an emergency has been officially declared. The UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) team stands ready for deployment in response to disasters anywhere in the southeastern United States.

According to UF's **John Haven**, the CVM VETS team leader, “The training tempo traditionally slows in the summer, but right now it feels as though we're in a sprint!” This past Valentine's Day, the team provided support to the USAR dog certification program at the Florida Fire College. In the last week of February, the team delivered its two-day *Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue* course a total three times – in Stuart County, Volusia County, and a multi county cadre in St. Johns County. March 14 had the team in support of “The Caravan” which terminated its horse and buggy ride from California to Florida, and required medical support for the heat on its last leg.



CVM student Jennifer Groover repels from the O'Connell Center catwalk 100 feet above the gym floor.

One of the unique programs at the UF CVM is their two-day operations class that is broken down into wet labs for the students and a final day of repelling and rope climbing at a unique location. March 28 resulted in a great training with students getting to work from various locations in the UF O'Connell Center, including repelling off the catwalk.

According to Haven, “Last month, the UF CVM delivered a disease wet lab on Glanders, which is timely given the outbreak along the Texas border.” It also has the team leader working with National Fire Protection Association Technical Standards Committees 1006 and 1670 to fine tune the latest national standards in animal technical rescue. Lastly, the Haven will go to Texas A&M's deployment exercise to plan for future collaboration on regional training.

(Continued CVM VETS, page 3.)

CVM VETS (Continued)

This month, as the start of hurricane season approaches, UF CVM and FDACS will be teaching a full 24-student class of ICS-300 made up of CVM students and State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) volunteers. Lastly, the UF CVM will deliver the two-day Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue course to Hernando County, which is using training grant funds for the course.

2015 isn't a traditional year for UF CVM VETS. June will be the team leader recertification in Confined Space Technical Rescue at the Technician Level. This will be followed by a planning phase for the next sprint – there will be several more Operations Level Animal Technical Rescue courses delivered in the fall; and in the spring of 2016, there will be an overnight deployment workshop that needs to be planned for the Panhandle. Haven is also planning to get recertified as Swiftwater Rescue Technicians in October.

The VETS team equipment and training has been funded primarily through grants and donations. For more information, please contact John Haven, CVM director and VETS team leader, at 352-294-4254.



In March, CVM VETS supported "The Caravan" a horse and buggy ride from California to Florida. The team provided medical support on their home stretch in the Sunshine State.

SART Advisory Board Meeting, September 16, 2015



Mark your calendars! The next SART Advisory Board meeting is set for September 16, 2015 in the Ocala, Florida area.

As the meeting approaches, additional details will be posted online at www.flsart.org.

Enrollment Open: Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Class

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) and The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Florida has three upcoming opportunities currently available for their *Awareness Level Small Animal Sheltering class*.

When disaster strikes, the team of trained volunteer responders will be there to shelter and protect Florida's companion animals.

This Awareness Level class gives students the knowledge necessary to work in an emergency animal shelter. This class provides expertise and practical experience required to become a professional disaster animal responder. The Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering class is certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and is required to respond in Florida to help companion animals during a disaster.

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

For more information about the courses, and to register, please visit: <http://flsarc.org/Training.html>

May 30th Course - Naples

When: Saturday May 30, 2015 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT

Where: Collier County Domestic Animal Services, 7610 Davis Boulevard, Naples, FL 34104

June 7th Course - Lakeland

When: Sunday June 7, 2015 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT

Where: SPCA Florida Adoption Center, 5850 Brannen Rd S., Lakeland, FL 33813

June 20th Course - Tallahassee

When: Saturday June 20, 2015 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT

Where: At Home Veterinary Care, 1833 Junwin Court, Tallahassee, FL 32308

June 20th Course - Gainesville

When: Saturday June 20, 2015 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM EDT

Where: Alachua County Emergency Operations Center, 1100 SE 27th Street, Gainesville, FL 32641





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Introducing Jay Floyd, SART's New Planner

This month, SART welcomes **Jay Floyd** to the team. Jay replaces Leslie Stout who took a position with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Mr. Floyd is originally from Jacksonville, but moved to Tallahassee in 1989. Having graduated from Florida State University in 1998 with a degree in Criminology, he went on to earn his Corrections and Law Enforcement certification in 1999.

Jay worked for 15 years with the Florida Department of Corrections, occupying the positions of Officer, Sergeant, and Classification Officer. During those years he worked in the department's Emergency Operations Center during escapes, natural disasters, and multiple training exercises.



In talking with *The Sentinel*, Mr. Floyd said, "In my short time in the SART planner position, I have realized that there are a lot of parallels between my old job and new one. The Department of Corrections is responsible for providing inmates with shelter, food, and care much the same as SART does for animals."

Jay is married to his wife, Tori; and his hobbies include gardening, cooking, target shooting, and fishing. When people ask him where he met his wife, Jay jokes that they met in prison. (Tori is employed as a State Probation Officer.)

To reach Jay, email: Jay.Floyd@FreshFromFlorida.com or phone at 850-410-0923.

UPDATE: With Labrador Retrievers, FDACS Continues Response to Giant African Land Snails

In the past year, the GALS program has hired two new inspectors to join the team. They are Bear and Sierra, and their handlers are Larry Bynum and Omar Garcia (experienced snail hunters), this according to Mark Fagan with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Both the Labradors and their handlers attended a 13-week training course at the U.S.D.A detector dog training facility in Newnan, Georgia. The K-9 team is used primarily on properties that are difficult for human counterparts to survey. They have become a valuable asset to the eradication program.

Like almost any eradication program, this program is an ongoing learning experience. Last year the teams were approved for a metaldehyde-based molluscicide (snail baits) which has proven to be very effective against Giant African Land Snails.

According to Fagan, "We now have a mortality rate that runs between 90 and 100 percent every week."

Currently there are 27 total core areas in Miami-Dade County and one core area in Broward. However, late in April, another core was found in the town of Cutler Bay in Miami-Dade County. All detections were the result of calls to our helpline.

Over the course of the program, the Division of Plant Industry has mounted an unprecedented outreach campaign. The team has used billboards, bus boards, print advertising, television, and radio. Other outreach activities include K-12 schools and colleges. Activities have taken place in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties

FDACS reminds you to call the helpline at 1-888-397-1517 to report snail sightings.



Sierra alerts FDACS handler Omar Garcia of a Giant Africa Land Snail.

Millions of Hens Affected by Bird Flu in Iowa

Between 3.8 and 5.3 million egg-laying hens may be in danger after a lethal strain of the bird flu was discovered in a flock in Iowa late last month. Iowa is the top U.S. egg-producing state, and already one of the twelve U.S. states to have detected avian influenza (IA) infections in 2015.

According to Business Insider, the infected Iowa birds were being raised near Harris, Iowa, by Sunrise Farms, an affiliate of Sonstegard Foods Company, the company said. The farm houses 3.8 million hens, according to the company, which sells eggs to food manufacturers, government agencies and retailers.

In the ongoing response to the AI, recent developments have now prompted the state of Wisconsin to declare a state of emergency. AI is a viral disease affecting birds, but the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk for human infections to be low. To date, no human cases have yet been found.

Read more from Business Insider at:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/a-lethal-strain-of-bird-flu-has-struck-an-iowa-chicken-farm-with-millions-of-hens-2015-4>



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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.

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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