

# S A R T

## Florida Disaster Preparedness S. A. R. T.



for Animals  
and Agriculture



**Florida State Agricultural Response Team**  
Coordinating Disaster Response for Animals and Agriculture

# FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



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# **Florida SART**

## **Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture**

This publication was made possible by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART).

### **DEVELOPED BY**

**LeiAnna Tucker**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**Benjamin Motes**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Many Florida SART partner agencies and FDACS staff contributed to this Guide through their expertise, editing and review. These Florida SART partners are recognized throughout this Guide by their logos and others listed below. This Guide was a collaborative effort and would not have been possible if it were not for their contribution.

#### **Florida State Agricultural Response Team (Florida SART)**

**Angie B. Lindsey**, Ph.D., University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

**Bryan Benson**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**Carissa Wickens**, Ph.D., University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

**Jeremy Dunkley**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**Hyatt Sudano**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**Kevin See**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**Kara Hooker**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**Lawrence Garcia**, D.V.M., University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine

**Nicholas Morrow**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**Nicole Martin**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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This Guide is available for download on the Florida SART website at [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org) and on the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences website at [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/disaster\\_preparedness\\_and\\_recovery](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/disaster_preparedness_and_recovery).



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# Introduction

Welcome to the ***Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture***, developed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART).

This Guide will explore the various animal and agricultural sectors in the state of Florida that are at risk from natural and man-made disasters, and what you can do to help prepare and protect animals and agriculture before a disaster strikes. The recommendations and resources in this Guide are applicable to preparing for all hazards

such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, disease introduction, hazardous material spills, and more.

## **Florida's Animals and Agriculture are at Risk**

Agriculture is Florida's second largest industry, with a \$132 billion economic impact. This important

industry faces great risk from potential natural and man-made disasters such as disease introduction and agroterrorism.

- ▶ Our borders are extremely porous with 14 major seaports, 20 commercial airports and hundreds of smaller airfields.
- ▶ On average, more than 112 million tourists with their luggage visit the state each year.
- ▶ Billions of tons of freight and over 11 million commercial and private cargo trucks enter Florida each year.
- ▶ More tropical storms and hurricanes hit Florida than any other state.

### **Will you be ready when the next disaster strikes?**

A hurricane is on the way. Thousands of residents with pets are looking for a pet-friendly shelter. Horses and livestock may need rescue from floods and downed fences. Citrus groves are threatened. Fish farms are at risk of flooding and electrical outage. Food could become contaminated. Livestock may be without food or water for days. Mosquito population levels are expected to drastically increase. What will you do to meet the special needs of animals and agriculture?

### **About State Agricultural Response Team (SART)**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the lead agency for animal and agricultural emergencies. To fulfill its responsibilities as lead to Emergency Support



Function 17 (ESF-17), the Department facilitated the development of the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) as a planning, training, and response support group with the aid of the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (UF/IFAS), UF College of Veterinary Medicine, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). SART partners have specific skill sets and resources that can be utilized to address the needs of the state of Florida. SART is composed of partner agencies and organizations including local, state, and federal agencies, private sector entities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). SART is statutorily authorized under Chapter 252, State Emergency Management Act, Florida Statutes.

### **SART Mission Statement**

SART is a multiagency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to strengthening all-hazard disaster capabilities through partnerships. Florida SART will support an effective and coordinated incident response for the animal and agricultural sectors in the state of Florida.





# Pets

If there is not an option for people to seek an emergency shelter with their pets, such as a pet-friendly shelter, then people could risk their own lives to save their pets by sheltering at home.

In general, local preparedness plans that accommodate people with pets, service animals and other animals, support public safety and mental well-being and achieve greater cooperation among evacuees. Keeping pets and their owners together has mutual benefits and reduces stress for not only the human but the pet, too. The human-animal bond has a positive impact on the family - pets included - and has psychological benefits of comfort and security. When a person is without his pet, that person can experience sadness, stress, anxiety, or loss of unity until he is reunited with his pet. Disasters exacerbate these stresses even more because

of the strong bond and attachment that owners have with their pets. The safety of pets during a disaster is a human responsibility, and if we keep animals safe during disaster, then we are also keeping humans safe.

## **IF An Evacuation Is Necessary, Take Your Pets**

The single most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to take them with you when you evacuate. Animals left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost or killed. Animals left inside your home can escape through storm-damaged areas, such as broken windows. Animals turned

loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents. Leaving dogs tied or chained outside in a disaster is a death sentence. If you leave during a disaster, even if you think you may be gone only for a few hours, take your animals. Once you leave, you have no way of knowing how long you will be kept out of the area, and you may not be able to go back for your pets.

### **Do Not Forget ID**

Your pets should always wear up-to-date identification. It is a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area. If your pet is lost, you will want to provide a number on the tag that will be answered even if you are out of your home.

### **Find a Safe Place Ahead of Time**

Plan ahead to ensure that your family and pets will have a safe place to stay. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research. Contact hotels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets. Ask about

any restrictions on number, size and species. Ask if “no pet” policies would be waived in an emergency. Make a list of pet-friendly places and keep it handy. Call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home. Check with friends, relatives or others outside your immediate area. Ask if they would be able to shelter you and your animals or just your animals, if necessary. If you have more than one pet, you may have to be prepared to house them separately. Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might be able to shelter animals in emergencies and include 24-hour telephone numbers. Ask your local animal shelter if it provides foster care or shelter for pets in an emergency. This should be your last resort, as animal shelters have limited resources and are likely to be stretched to their limits during an emergency.

### **Evacuation Planning**

You may not be in a flood zone or have to flee a wildfire, but even a hazardous material incident on a nearby street could force you to evacuate immediately. It pays to be prepared!





Follow evacuation orders from local officials. All mobile home residents should have an evacuation plan at the first sign of a disaster. Evacuate to the safest location you can that is as close as possible to home. Long-distance evacuation can be a problem when highways are crowded. When planning for hurricanes, identify your evacuation zone in case local

officials recommend or order the evacuation of your zone. Be prepared for one hurricane category higher than the one being forecast, because hurricanes often increase in strength just before making landfall. Your local humane organization or local emergency management agency may be able to provide you with information about your community's disaster response plans. As the disaster approaches don't wait until the last minute to get ready. Warnings of hurricanes or other disasters may be issued hours, or even days in advance. Call to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets. Bring pets into the house and confine them so you can leave with them quickly if necessary. Make sure each pet and pet carrier has up-to-date identification and contact information. Include information about your temporary shelter location. Make sure your disaster supplies are ready to go, including your pet disaster kit.

### **Pet-Friendly Shelters**

There must be options where people can go with their pets to shelter safe from the disaster. A pet-friendly shelter is a public emergency shelter that accommodates people and their household pets. The Federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (The PETS Act) and Florida law require that state and local emergency preparedness plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency. Contact the county emergency management agency and check their website or social media for pet-friendly shelters available during a disaster.

## **IF You Do Not Evacuate**

If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together.

Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification.

Have any medications and a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers, along with your other emergency supplies. As the disaster approaches, do not wait until the last minute to get ready.

## **In Case You Are Not Home**

An evacuation order may come, or a disaster may strike when you are not home. Make evacuation arrangements well in advance for a trusted neighbor, family member or friend to take your pets and meet you at a specified location. Be sure the person is comfortable with your pets, knows where your animals are likely to be, knows where your disaster supplies are kept, and can locate the key to your home. A pet-sitting service may be able to help but discuss the possibility well in advance.

## **After the Disaster**

Planning and preparation will help you weather the disaster, but your home may be a very different place afterward, whether you have taken shelter at home or elsewhere. Do not allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pet will probably be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations. For a few days, keep dogs on leashes and keep cats in carriers inside the house. If your house is damaged, they could

escape and become lost. Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible and be ready for behavioral problems that may result from the stress of the situation. If behavioral problems persist, or if your pet seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.



## CANINE GO KIT PREP GUIDE



DOG'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE UPDATED: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMITMENT

Pets are part of the family. To keep them safe, you must commit to preparing in advance:

- Keep pets with you. Generally, the best place for your pets is wherever you are.
- Prepare a canine evacuation (Go) kit and refresh it annually

### RELOCATION OPTIONS

If you and/or your pets need to evacuate your home, determine your options and gain approval from your friends, relatives, or other accommodation options. Plan alternatives. Pet-Friendly Emergency Shelters should be your last option. Disasters require you to be flexible with alternative plans.

EVACUATION OPTIONS	CONTACT INFO & LOCATION
NEIGHBOR (If you are not home)	
EVACUATION LOCATION #1	
EVACUATION LOCATION #2	
ALTERNATIVE	
PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER	

### IDENTIFICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> COLLAR/TAG #	<input type="checkbox"/> MICROCHIP #	<input type="checkbox"/> TATTOO #
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		
BREED	SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	D.O.B.
COLOR-MARKINGS		
SPAYED-NEUTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	VACCINES CURRENT: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

PET PARENTS NAME(S)	
PET PARENTS PHONE:	ALTERNATE PHONE:
LOCAL CONTACT:	PHONE:
VETERINARIAN NAME:	PHONE:
PET SITTER/BOARDING:	PHONE:
OTHER CONTACTS:	PHONE

**PLEASE KEEP EVACUATION KITS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**

## CANINE GO KIT PREP GUIDE



### GEAR

- Leash (6 feet ideal)
- Collar/harness
- Paw Protectors
- Restraint while traveling
- Favorite toys

### HOUSING

- Plastic kennel or wire crate
- Food bowl or paper plates
- Water bowl
- Blanket or bedding

**TIP:** Use a waterproof storage container for your evacuation kits like a 5-gallon plastic bucket with lid or XLG Ziploc "Big Bags."

### FOOD & WATER

- 7 Days of dry dog food

See the chart below to estimate the total amount of dry food for 7 days. NOTE: Some experts recommend up to 14 days. These are estimates. You and your Veterinarian are the best to determine your dog's needs.

#### DOG FOOD NEEDED FOR 7 DAYS

ADULT BODY WEIGHT	POUNDS NEEDED
10	1-2
30	3-4
50	4-5
70	5-6
90	6-7
120	8-9

### SANITATION

- Poop bags
- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Newspaper
- Pet-safe disinfectant

### FIRST AID KIT

Contents of a human first aid kit plus:

- Pet first aid booklet
- Vet Wrap bandages
- Oral syringe or turkey baster
- Dawn dishwashing detergent
- Styptic Powder
- Flea, tic, and parasite prevention
- 7-day supply of medications

- 7 Days of fresh drinking water

Use this chart to estimate the water your dog will need for 7 days. NOTE: These are estimates and your Veterinarian and you are the best to determine your dog's needs.

#### WATER NEEDED FOR 7 DAYS

ADULT BODY WEIGHT	GALLONS NEEDED FOR 7-DAYS
10	1-2
40	2-3
60	3-4
80	4-5
110	6-7
140	7-8

### MAKE COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS

It is **very important to PRINT & INSERT** the documents into a bag or attach them to this form. Store them for online access as well. Prepare both because cellphone coverage and electricity may not be available.

- Health and/or vaccination records
- Medical/behavioral instructions
- Photo to help prove ownership of pet
- Photo to identify pet if lost

**PLEASE KEEP EVACUATION KITS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**

## FELINE GO KIT PREP GUIDE



CAT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE UPDATED: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMITMENT

Pets are part of the family. To keep them safe, you must commit to preparing in advance:

- Keep pets with you. Generally, the best place for your pets is wherever you are.
- Prepare a feline evacuation (Go) kit and refresh it annually

### RELOCATION OPTIONS

If you and/or your pets need to evacuate your home, determine your options and gain approval from your friends, relatives, or other accommodation options. Plan alternatives. Pet-Friendly Emergency Shelters should be your last option. Disasters require you to be flexible with alternative plans.

EVACUATION OPTIONS	CONTACT INFO & LOCATION
NEIGHBOR (If you are not home)	
EVACUATION LOCATION #1	
EVACUATION LOCATION #2	
ALTERNATIVE	
PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER	

### IDENTIFICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> COLLAR/TAG #	<input type="checkbox"/> MICROCHIP #	<input type="checkbox"/> TATTOO #
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		
BREED	SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	D.O.B.
COLOR-MARKINGS		
SPAYED-NEUTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	VACCINES CURRENT: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

PET PARENTS NAME(S)	
PET PARENTS PHONE:	ALTERNATE PHONE:
LOCAL CONTACT:	PHONE:
VETERINARIAN NAME:	PHONE:
PET SITTER/BOARDING:	PHONE:
OTHER CONTACTS:	PHONE

**PLEASE KEEP EVACUATION KITS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**

## FELINE GO KIT PREP GUIDE



### GEAR

- Leash (6 feet ideal)
- Collar/harness
- Paw Protectors
- Restraint while traveling
- Favorite toys

### HOUSING

- Plastic kennel or wire crate
- Food bowl or paper plates
- Water bowl
- Blanket or bedding

**TIP:** Use a waterproof storage container for your evacuation kits like a 5-gallon plastic bucket with lid or XLG Ziploc "Big Bags."

### FOOD & WATER

- 7 Days of **dry cat food**

In general, a typical adult 9-10 pound cat will need about 1-2 pounds of food for a 7-day period. NOTE: Some experts recommend up to 14 days. These are estimates. You and your Veterinarian are the best to determine your pet's needs

### SANITATION

- Cat litter, tray & scoop
- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Newspaper
- Pet-safe disinfectant

### FIRST AID KIT

Contents of a human first aid kit plus:

- Pet first aid booklet
- Vet Wrap bandages
- Oral syringe or turkey baster
- Dawn dishwashing detergent
- Styptic Powder
- Flea, tic, and parasite prevention
- 7-day supply of medications

- 7 Days of fresh **drinking water**

Typically, a healthy 9-10 pound cat will need from 1-2 gallons of water for a 7-day period. NOTE: These are estimates and your Veterinarian and you are the best to determine your pet's needs.

### MAKE COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS

It is **very important** to PRINT & INSERT the documents into a bag or attach them to this form. Store them for online access as well. Prepare both because cellphone coverage and electricity may not be available.

- Health and/or vaccination records
- Medical/behavioral instructions
- Photo to help prove ownership of pet
- Photo to identify pet if lost

**PLEASE KEEP EVACUATION KITS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**

## BIRDS GO KIT PREP GUIDE



PET'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE UPDATED: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMITMENT

Pets are part of the family. To keep them safe, you must commit to preparing in advance:

- Keep pets with you. Generally, **the best place for your pets is wherever you are.**
- Prepare an evacuation (Go) kit and refresh it annually

### RELOCATION OPTIONS

If you and/or your pets need to evacuate your home, determine your options and gain approval from your friends, relatives, or other accommodation options. Plan alternatives. Pet-Friendly Emergency Shelters should be your last option. Disasters require you to be flexible with alternative plans.

EVACUATION OPTIONS	CONTACT INFO & LOCATION
NEIGHBOR (If you are not home)	
EVACUATION LOCATION #1	
EVACUATION LOCATION #2	
ALTERNATIVE	
PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER	

### IDENTIFICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> BAND/TAG #	<input type="checkbox"/> MICROCHIP #	<input type="checkbox"/> TATTOO #
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		
SPECIES:	D.O.B.	
COLOR-MARKINGS		
SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	VACCINES CURRENT:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

PET PARENTS NAME(S)	
PET PARENTS PHONE:	ALTERNATE PHONE:
LOCAL CONTACT:	PHONE:
VETERINARIAN NAME:	PHONE:
PET SITTER/BOARDING:	PHONE:
OTHER CONTACTS:	PHONE

**PLEASE KEEP EVACUATION KITS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**

## BIRDS GO KIT PREP GUIDE



### GEAR

- Favorite toys
- Handling gloves/supplies
- Perches

### HOUSING

- Cage or similar enclosure
- Food bowl or paper plates
- Water bottle/dish
- Plant mister (for cooling in hot climates)
- 7 Days of absorbent, disposable material
- Blanket or cloth to cover cage/reduce stress
- Hot water bottle (for warming birds)

### SANITATION

- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Pet-safe disinfectant

### FIRST AID KIT

Contents of a human first aid kit plus:

- Pet first aid booklet
- Vet Wrap bandages
- Oral syringe or turkey baster
- Dawn dishwashing detergent
- Styptic Powder
- 7-day supply of medication
- Vitamin/Electrolyte packs (Stress packs)

### FOOD & WATER

- 7 Days of food, supplements, & treats.

NOTE: Some experts recommend up to 14 days. These are estimates. You and your Veterinarian are the best to determine your pet's needs.

- 7 Days of fresh drinking water.

NOTE: You and your Veterinarian are the best to determine your pet's needs.

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- Health and/or vaccination records
- Medical/behavioral instructions
- Photo to help prove ownership of pet
- Photo to identify pet if lost

**TIP:** Use a waterproof storage container for your evacuation kits like a 5-gallon plastic bucket with lid or XLG Ziploc "Big Bags."

**PLEASE KEEP EVACUATION KITS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**

## POCKET PET GO KIT PREP GUIDE



PET'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE UPDATED: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMITMENT

Pets are part of the family. To keep them safe, you must commit to preparing in advance:

- Keep pets with you. Generally, **the best place for your pets is wherever you are.**
- Prepare an evacuation (Go) kit and refresh it annually

### RELOCATION OPTIONS

If you and/or your pets need to evacuate your home, determine your options and gain approval from your friends, relatives, or other accommodation options. Plan alternatives. Pet-Friendly Emergency Shelters should be your last option. Disasters require you to be flexible with alternative plans.

EVACUATION OPTIONS	CONTACT INFO & LOCATION
NEIGHBOR (If you are not home)	
EVACUATION LOCATION #1	
EVACUATION LOCATION #2	
ALTERNATIVE	
PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER	

### IDENTIFICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> COLLAR/TAG #	<input type="checkbox"/> MICROCHIP #	<input type="checkbox"/> TATTOO #
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:		
SPECIES:	SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	D.O.B.
COLOR-MARKINGS		
SPAYED-NEUTERED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	VACCINES CURRENT: <input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

PET PARENTS NAME(S)	
PET PARENTS PHONE:	ALTERNATE PHONE:
LOCAL CONTACT:	PHONE:
VETERINARIAN NAME:	PHONE:
PET SITTER/BOARDING:	PHONE:
OTHER CONTACTS:	PHONE

**PLEASE KEEP EVACUATION KITS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**

## POCKET PET GO KIT PREP GUIDE



### GEAR

- Non-glass enclosure while traveling
- Favorite toys
- Handling gloves

### HOUSING

- Cage or similar enclosure
- Food bowl or paper plates
- Water bottle/dropper
- 7 Days of disposable bedding

**TIP:** Use a waterproof storage container for your evacuation kits like a 5-gallon plastic bucket with lid or XLG Ziploc "Big Bags."

### FOOD & WATER

- 7 Days of food, supplements, & treats.
- NOTE: Some experts recommend up to 14 days. These are estimates. You and your Veterinarian are the best to determine your pet's needs.

### SANITATION

- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Pet-safe disinfectant

### FIRST AID KIT

Contents of a human first aid kit plus:

- Pet first aid booklet
- Vet Wrap bandages
- Oral syringe or turkey baster
- Dawn dishwashing detergent
- Styptic Powder
- 7-day supply of medication

- 7 Days of fresh drinking water. 1 gallon should be sufficient per pocket pet.

NOTE: You and your Veterinarian are the best to determine your pet's needs.

### MAKE COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS

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- Health and/or vaccination records
- Medical/behavioral instructions
- Photo to help prove ownership of pet
- Photo to identify pet if lost

**PLEASE KEEP EVACUATION KITS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS**



# Animal Shelters

Every year, the University of Florida (UF) shelter emergency response team provides pre- and post-disaster assistance to animal shelters across the state.



## Prepare Your Shelter For Disaster

UF coordinates with local, state and national organizations to assess needs and coordinate assistance for animal shelters. One of the most critical needs is the evacuation of shelter animals in the path of a hurricane out of harm's way. Even more critical is the preparedness of each shelter and the animals in their care.

## Here's what you can do now:

Update your emergency response shelter contact information with the UF Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program on their website at: [www.sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu](http://www.sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu)

- ▶ Make sure UF has your shelter's emergency contact information before a threat is looming so that UF can keep you updated and coordinate any assistance you might need.
- ▶ What UF needs is your shelter's point of contact, a direct line to that contact such as the cell phone number and social media/messenger connection. Why is UF asking for this? UF has found that trying to call a shelter's main line during or after a hurricane, when the power may be out, will hinder efforts in getting you the resources and assistance you and the animals in your shelter need.

Cell phone service, while more reliable than landlines, may also be interrupted. Social media is often the most reliable method for reaching you in certain situations.

- UF will not use this information for any other purpose, and all emergency contact information will remain confidential at UF.

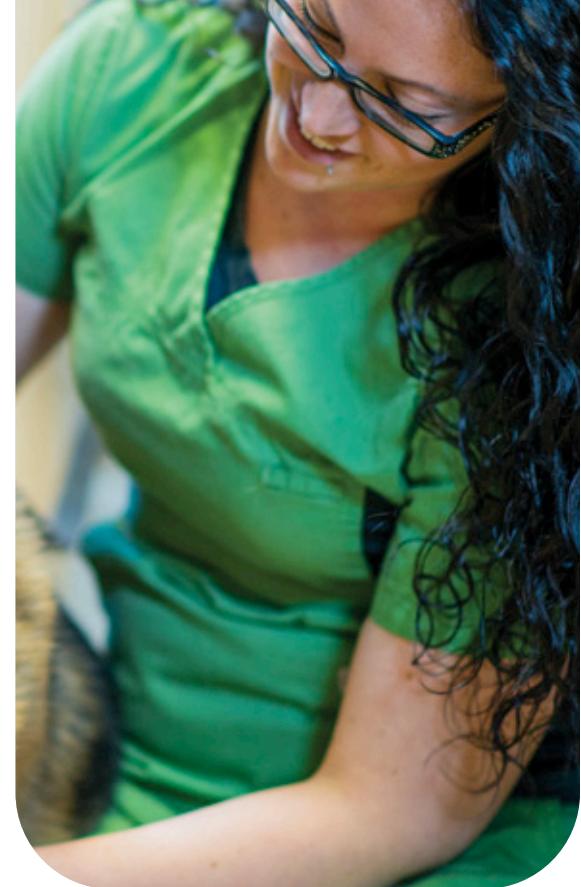
## Get your animal shelter ready for a storm:

- Be ready to take advantage of any pre-storm transport offered so that you can reserve your limited space for post storm victims.
- Transport out any pre-storm animals that are off their stray hold and available for adoption.
- Update and print medical records in case you lose power (place each animal's record in a plastic sheet protector which can be taped or attached to a carrier).
- Place ID bands on the animals to avoid confusion during transport (if they are microchipped that is great too as long as the chip number is recorded in their medical history).



- Gather crates/carriers for transport and/or temporary fostering.
- Ask the community for help with temporary fostering during the storm so you can free up space in the shelter for post-storm victims.
- Make sure you have enough food, water and supplies on hand for 7 days in case help is not able to reach your shelter.
- Make sure you know the contact information for your County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 contacts. These contacts can be found on the Florida SART website on the "County Contacts" webpage at: [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org)





► Private animal shelters should have a plan to work with your local resources first (other shelters in the area, transport teams, volunteers, etc.) to prep and handle the storm. If your local resources cannot help and it is a dire emergency/life-threatening situation to animals, contact your County EOC and county ESF 17 contact to request resources.

## What Relocation Shelters Should Know

### **Source Shelters:**

- 1 Identify your animals:** Put an ID band on every animal. Place a microchip, if possible. Take a picture of the animal's face and full body. Be sure every crate is well-labeled with the pet's ID and that its cage card is taped on the crate in a plastic baggie.
- 2 Put your records in order:** Print a hard copy of available intake information and medical records or transmit them electronically.

### **3 Tell your transport partner what to expect:**

Send an inventory of the transport to your destination shelter. Ideally, this should be done at least 24 hours in advance, but it might not be possible until you are loading the vehicle since the situation is constantly in flux.

### **4 Protect your animals:** Vaccinate, deworm and provide heartworm preventive.

### **5 Do not send post-storm strays out of the area:** Relocation is great for animals that were in the shelter at the time of the storm and were already available for adoption. After the storm, it is recommended to keep strays in the area for an extended hold period to enable displaced families to find their pets.

### **Destination Shelters:**

- 1 Be prepared for anything:** The ability of source shelters to comply with 1-5 above

may be compromised, and you may need to complete any missed tasks.

- 2 Protect your incoming animals:** In mass relocations, pets are best served by standardized protocols for vaccination. With few exceptions for well-documented medical records, it is safest to simply provide vaccinations and parasite medications at intake based on diseases common in the source and destination regions.
  - **Vaccinate** cats against panleukopenia, herpes and calicivirus using a live virus vaccine.
  - **Vaccinate** dogs against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, and parvo using a modified live virus vaccine. Vaccinate against *Bordetella* and parainfluenza using an intranasal vaccine.
  - **Vaccinate all animals** over 3 months old against rabies.
- 3 Treat for parasites:** Ticks, fleas, mange, and ear mites are common in the South. So are hookworms, roundworms, whipworms, and tapeworms. *Giardia* and *cryptosporidium* may be increased in moist conditions following a storm.
- 4 Protect your existing population:** Double-check that all animals are current on vaccinations, and house relocated animals separately from the existing population.

#### **Disease Control:**

- 1 Quarantine all new arrivals:** Although not perfect, a strict quarantine of one week should allow for expression of most

common incubating infections such as parvo, panleukopenia, influenza, and kennel cough. Distemper can have a longer incubation period.

- 2 Heartworm:** Follow guidelines from the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and the American Heartworm Society, which provide recommendations that prevent the spread of heartworm to new regions via relocation programs.
- 3 Gastrointestinal infections:** Perform fecal examinations followed by Fecal Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) panels when diarrhea does not respond to good diet and routine deworming.
- 4 Skin infections:** Perform skin scrapes, Wood's lamp exams, and cultures as indicated for skin disease.
- 5 Respiratory infections:** Perform PCR panels when moderate to severe signs are present, animals fail to respond to routine care, or disease spreads among animals. Know the signs of canine influenza virus.
- 6 Things you have never heard of:** Local veterinarians report the presence of leptospirosis, heterobilharzia, pythiosis, Chagas, and sundry odd fungal and algal infections in many states often affected by hurricanes. It is impossible to know everything that might be encountered, so be watchful for unusual cases.





# Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training

The Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training is the first of its kind to be offered in Florida. The training provides guidance to private, local, and state entities on how to plan for and operate a pet-friendly shelter to ensure that individuals evacuating from a disaster with their household pets are accommodated.

## Course Overview

While this training will provide you with basic information and guidance, further training with local or state emergency management programs is essential to fully prepare for pet-friendly sheltering in your community. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) developed this training collaboratively with the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART). This training is state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (Course Code FL-017).

## Course Objectives

At the completion of this online training, you should be able to:

- ▶ Understand the benefits of and requirements for opening pet-friendly shelters during emergency evacuations.
- ▶ Understand the concept of the Incident Command System (ICS) and how it can be applied to pet-friendly shelter planning and operations.

- ▶ Identify strategies and planning considerations for writing a pet-friendly shelter plan for all-hazards.
- ▶ Understand the benefits of establishing partnerships and Multiagency Coordination Groups with key agencies and organizations to achieve local resource allocation for pet-friendly shelter preparedness.
- ▶ Understand the critical role social media plays in emergency communications, and how to develop an accurate and effective message about available pet-friendly shelters in a disaster.
- ▶ Apply best practices when setting up a pet-friendly shelter.

## Primary Audience

The target audience includes local and state government agencies, emergency management agencies, county employees, shelter volunteers, veterinary and animal care services, and persons involved with the planning and response for emergency sheltering of individuals and household pets during disasters.



## Prerequisites

None

## Course Length

Total course length is approximately 4 hours to complete. You will be given 7 days to complete this training from the date you register. If you do not complete the training within 7 days, then your training registration will restart, and you will be required to complete the training from the beginning again.

## Course Requirements

Students must pass the Final Exam to receive the state-certified Certificate of Completion.

Register at [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org)





# Horses

With a population of over 385,000 horses, Florida ranks as the third largest equine state in the United States.



## Why Horse Owners Should Be Prepared

Disaster preparedness is important for all animals, but it takes extra consideration for horses because of their size, nature, and their transportation needs. It is imperative that you are prepared to move your horses to a safe area in the event of a disaster. During an emergency, the time you have to evacuate your horses will be limited. With an effective emergency plan, you can have enough time to move your horses to safety. You cannot risk leaving your horses behind because you are unprepared or wait until the last minute to evacuate rendering evacuation too difficult.

Once you leave your property, you may not know how long you will be kept out of the area. If left behind, your horses could be unattended for days without care, food or water.

## Before Disaster

Due to the unpredictable nature of disasters, it is best practice to always keep horses current on immunizations including West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Rabies, and Tetanus Toxoid. Keep documents readily available including current Coggins test, health certificate or Equine Extended Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI), and insurance information (if the owner has equine insurance coverage).

## Horse Evacuation Tips:

- ▶ Make arrangements in advance to have your horse trailered in case of an emergency. If you do not have your own trailer or do not have enough trailer space for all of your horses, be sure you have several people on standby to help evacuate your horses. If you do not trailer often, check the trailer for safety aspects like tires, brakes and floor structure seasonally.
- ▶ Do you know where you can take your horses in an emergency evacuation? Make arrangements with a friend or another horse owner to stable your horses, if needed. Contact your local animal care and control agency, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management authorities for information about shelters in your area. Always confirm your sheltering location's specific policies and if space is available. Some locations will require you to bring your own panels, require or restrict owner care, and may require proof of a negative Coggins test. It is best to work with potential sites ahead of time for ease of check-in. Additionally, not all shelters have facilities for human capacity, so prepare space for yourself as well. Do not share belongings/food or interact with other sheltering animals to reduce risk of disease transmission and injury.
- ▶ Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plans. Post detailed instructions in several places—including the barn office or tack room, the horse trailer, and barn entrances—to ensure they are accessible to emergency workers in case you are not able to evacuate your horses yourself.
- ▶ Place your horses' Coggins tests, veterinary papers, identification photographs, microchip number if applicable, and vital information—such as medical history, allergies, and emergency telephone numbers (veterinarian, family members, etc.)—in a watertight envelope or bag. Store it all in a labeled envelope or a clear waterproof bag with your other important papers in a safe place that can be quickly reached.
- ▶ Keep halters ready for your horses. Each halter should include the horse's name, your name, your telephone number, and another emergency telephone number where someone can be reached.
- ▶ Prepare a basic first aid kit that is portable and easily accessible.
- ▶ Have a supply of water, hay, feed, and medications for several days for each horse you are evacuating. Keep a small grooming kit with first aid supplies, including single or washable leg wraps and polos, antibiotic cut ointment, non-stick pads, and antibiotic eye ointment. Additionally, consider having towels set aside to keep your horse clean and dry while evacuating or sheltering. Bring plenty of fly spray, hay nets, and your own buckets.
- ▶ Are your horses comfortable being loaded onto a trailer? If your horses are unaccustomed to being loaded onto a trailer, practice the procedure so they become used to it. This will reduce risk of injury for you and your horse during high stress situations.
- ▶ Ensure you watch your horses closely for signs of disease, colic, stress ulcers, injuries



and other ailments that may appear post evacuation. It might also be necessary to quarantine animals if separated from one another during the evacuation process.

- ▶ There may be times when taking your horses with you is impossible during an emergency. Consider different types of disasters and whether your horses would be better off in a barn or loose in a field. Your local humane organization, agricultural extension agent, or local emergency management agency may be able to provide you with information about your community's disaster response plans.

## Personal Safety

The first priority in dealing with large animals is avoiding personal injury. Animals in emergency situations with possible injuries are nervous, anxious, unpredictable, and can be dangerous. Horses can "kick" with either one or both back feet. They can also "strike" with their front feet,

bite, headbutt, crowd or crush, and run you over if left with no other option. Horses are vigilant by nature and under high stress situations even the best trained horses can behave fractiously.

## Understanding Horse Behavior

Horses like to be in groups and can be territorial. It is best to separate mares and foals from other horses and to separate stallions. Know your animal and be aware of their mental health. Some horses benefit from interaction with their owners and others may feel more stress from it. Plan to provide ample quality forage to reduce stress and maintain gut health during the evacuation and sheltering process.

## Horse Nutrition

Horses need good quality hay (round bales should be avoided). Adult horses weighing 1,000 pounds need 10-15 pounds of hay per day. During an emergency situation, grain is not necessary, except for lactating mares, juvenile animals,

or severely underweight horses. A minimum of 10 gallons of fresh water per horse per day is recommended. If possible, bring water from home as some horses may not drink unfamiliar water and may become dehydrated. Appropriate types of hay are Coastal Bermuda grass, Timothy, Orchard grass, Alfalfa, and peanut.

## Horse Identification

Ensure you have a current photo of each horse with its owner. Label each horse with either a luggage tag on halter, microchip, brand/tattoo, livestock chalk, or use clippers to shave your phone number into their coat. You should make the information visible and noticeable, from a distance, if possible, in case your horse cannot be caught. Make notes of any critical health or behavior aspects that may impact your horse's well-being such as dietary restrictions or unhandled status. Never permanently affix

identification around the horse's neck or head. Instead use leather or breakaway halters or breakaway neck straps/collars.

## Injured Horses

Horses that cannot stand up are not fit for transport and should be considered for humane euthanasia with your veterinarian. Owners of horses that are used for pleasure and competition or valuable purebred animals may disagree with the decision to euthanize the animal. The owner may want to have the animal treated by a licensed veterinarian. In the absence of the owner, loading and transport of a horse that cannot stand up or walk to a suitable place where additional care can be provided requires veterinarian recommendation. The safety of responders along with the comfort and safety of the animal must be considered at all times.



# Equine Care Checklist

## Preparing Your Horses

### Pasture vs. Barn

- Depending on the shelter or structures available, horses are often best kept out at pasture during a storm.
- ▶ Keeping horses indoors is only recommended if you can confirm the structure was built to withstand hurricane-force winds. If structures are compromised in the storm, horses can be trapped inside, which can lead to serious injury or death.
- If you are in a known flood zone or in threat of a flood, consider evacuating horses to an area you know will not flood.

### Preparing Horses

- Utilize a method of identification in the event horses are separated from you during the storm (multiple methods/pieces of identification are best).
  - ▶ Braid a dog tag with your contact information into the horse's mane.
  - ▶ Water resistant livestock paint can be used to write contact information on the horse's side.
  - ▶ Consider microchipping as a form of permanent identification, which can be done by your veterinarian.

- Remove nylon or rope halters. Recommend, only using breakaway halters or a breakaway leather strap/neck collar.
- A fly mask can be worn to prevent eye injuries during the storm.

### Food and Water Supply

- Stock up on water. Keep 10 to 12 gallons of water per horse, per day in stock and prepare for 3 days minimum (7 days is best).
  - ▶ Line trash cans with plastic bags, use troughs, and/or use rain barrels to store water before the storm.
- Stock up on extra feed and hay before the storm to prepare for potential transportation or supply issues.
  - ▶ Ensure you have enough forage to last at least 72 hours post-storm, but a 7-day supply is best.
  - ▶ Keep feed in a safe, dry place that will not be impacted during the storm.

### Preparing the Pasture

- Secure loose objects or remove them from pastures.
- Do not place horses in pastures with an electric fence, barbed wire, or power lines.
- Move animals to higher ground before a storm to keep them away from floods.

## Preparing Equipment

- Park horse trailers and tractors away from trees.
- Top off gas tanks in case you need extra fuel after the storm.
- Check tires/make sure trailers and equipment are in good working condition.

## First Aid Kit and Health

- Gather the following items for a first aid kit:

- ▶ halters and lead ropes
- ▶ flashlight with extra batteries
- ▶ clippers
- ▶ fly spray
- ▶ Phenylbutazone (Bute) and/or Banamine®
- ▶ thermometer
- ▶ Chlorhexidine or Betadine solution
- ▶ bandage materials
- ▶ antibiotic cut ointment
- ▶ antibiotic eye ointment
- ▶ duct tape
- ▶ gloves
- ▶ scissors

- Make sure horses are up to date on all vaccinations and have a negative Coggins test in case you need to evacuate.

## Post-Disaster Recovery

### Check Animal Condition

- Once the storm has passed, check animals for injury or illness.
- If a horse is missing, contact your local animal control office.

### Food and Water

- Ensure each horse has food and water.
- If you rely on well water and experienced any flooding, keep potential contamination issues in mind when you are refilling water troughs.
- Ensure food has not been soiled, is dry and free of mold.

### Check Pastures

- Make sure flooding has receded before reintroducing horses to the area.
- Check fence lines and the rest of the pasture for debris or any other damage that could cause injury.

### Record Damages

- Document any damage to trucks, trailers, barns or other insured structures or equipment.



# Animal Technical Rescue Training

Animal Technical Rescue (ATR) occurs when an emergency involving a small or large animal requires specialized skill sets and rescue equipment beyond what is typically available.

Incidents may involve ATR from holes, gorges, mud, water, overturned trailers, and more. These incidents may necessitate low or high angle technical rescue by individuals trained in the disciplines of rope rescue, confined space rescue and swift-water rescue. A team of trained individuals can provide a safe, humane response for animals in these circumstances.

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) partnered with the University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service

(UF VETS) Team at the College of Veterinary Medicine to create the state's first recognized animal technical rescue training. Through this partnership, the Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Level and Operations Level trainings was developed. Both trainings are state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management, eligible for Continuing Education credits with the Florida State Fire College, and compliant with the most up-to-date versions of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1670 Standards for Search and Technical

## Rescue and NFPA 1006 Job Performance Requirements for Technical Rescue.

ATR is best performed with cooperation between Fire/Urban Search and Rescue, law enforcement (e.g., Ag Law, Animal Control, Mounted Units, Sheriff, etc.), livestock stakeholders (e.g., Extension Agents, Ranch Owners, etc.), and veterinary professionals. Trainees learn an overview of the need for animal technical rescue, resources to activate, how to assist rescue teams, scene safety in animal emergencies, large and small animal rescue equipment, and proper techniques

to safely extricate animals from hazardous emergency situations using scenario-based training.

To Find, host or sponsor an ATR training, visit the UF VETS Team website at [www.ufl.edu](http://www.ufl.edu) or the Florida SART website at [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org).



**UF** | Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



# Livestock

Disaster preparedness is important for all animals, but it is particularly important for livestock because of the animals' size and their shelter and transportation needs.

## Why Livestock Owners Need to Be Prepared

It is imperative that you be prepared to protect your livestock, whether by evacuating or by sheltering in place, and make a disaster plan to protect your property, your facilities, and your animals.

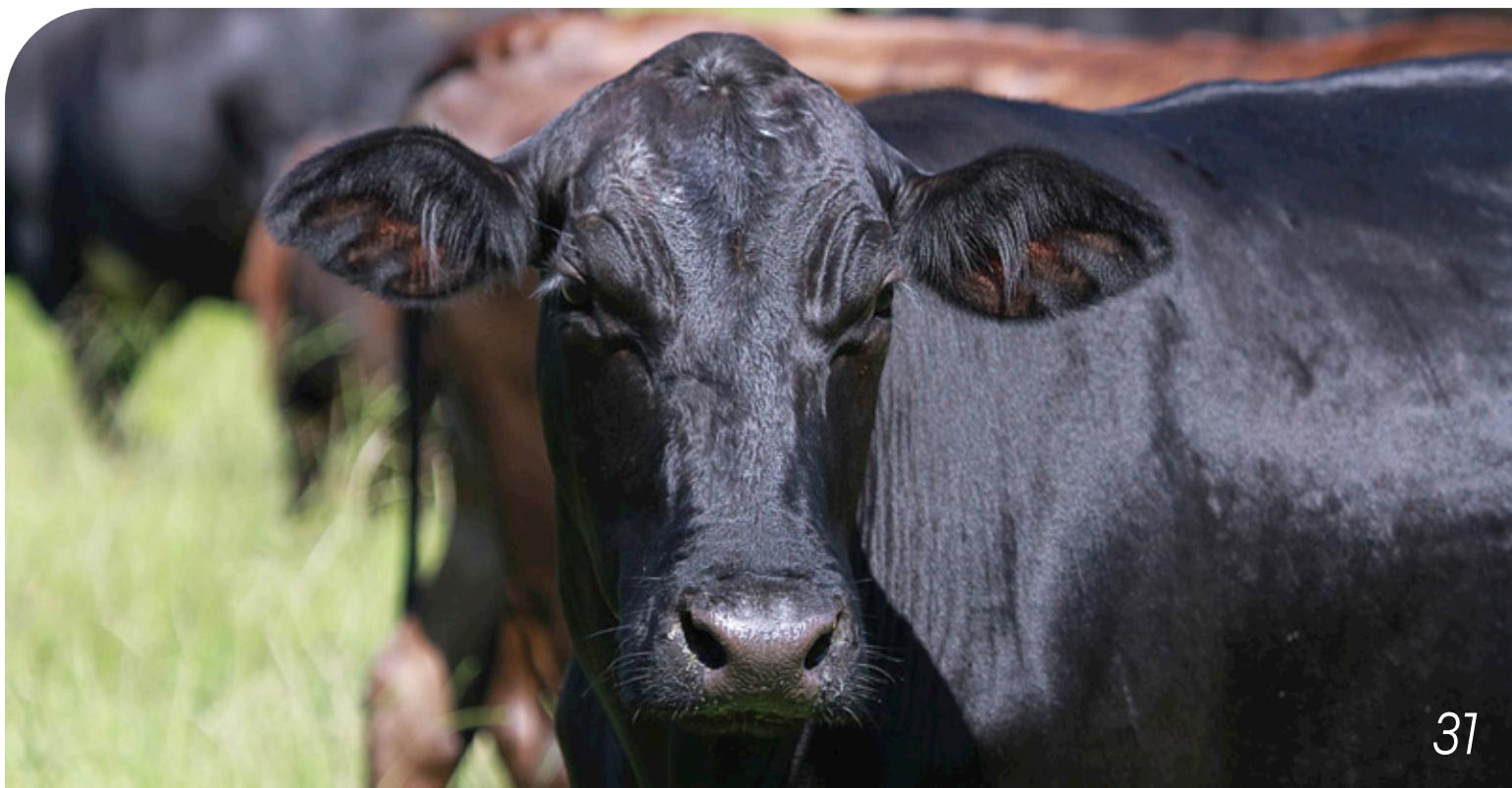
## Take Precautions

- ▶ Create a list of emergency telephone numbers, including those of your employees, neighbors, veterinarian, state veterinarian, poison control, local animal shelter, animal care and control, county extension service, local agricultural schools, trailering resources,

and local volunteers. Include a contact person outside the disaster area. Make sure all this information is written down and that everyone has a copy.

- ▶ Make sure every animal has durable and visible identification.
- ▶ Ensure that poultry have access to high areas in which to perch, if they are in a flood-prone area, as well as access to food and clean water.
- ▶ Reinforce your house, barn and outbuildings with hurricane straps and other measures.

- ▶ Perform regular safety checks on all utilities, buildings and facilities on your farm.
- ▶ Use only native and deep-rooted plants and trees in landscaping. Nonnative plants are less durable and hardy in your climate and may become dislodged by high winds or broken by freeze.
- ▶ Remove all barbed wire and consider rerouting permanent fencing so that animals may move to high ground in a flood and to low-lying areas during high winds.
- ▶ Install a hand pump and large containers to provide water for your animals for at least 7 days since municipal water supplies and wells may become contaminated during a disaster.
- ▶ Identify alternate water and power sources. A generator with a safely stored supply of fuel may be essential, especially if you have electrical equipment necessary to the well-being of your animals.
- ▶ Secure or remove anything that could become blowing debris; make a habit of securing trailers, propane tanks and other large objects. If you have boats, feed troughs or other large containers, fill them with water before any high wind event. This prevents them from blowing around and gives you an additional supply of water.
- ▶ If you use heat lamps or other electrical machinery, make sure the wiring is safe and that any heat source is clear of flammable debris.
- ▶ Label hazardous materials and place them all in the same safe area. Provide local fire and rescue and emergency management authorities with information about the location of any hazardous materials on your property.
- ▶ Remove old, buried trash—a potential source of hazardous materials during flooding that may leech into crops, feed supplies, water sources, and pasture.





- ▶ Review and update your disaster plan, supplies and information regularly.

## Sheltering in Place

If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to confine large animals to an available shelter on your farm or leave them out in pastures. Owners may believe that their animals are safer inside barns, but in many circumstances, confinement takes away the animals' ability to protect themselves. This decision should be based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the sheltering building.

Survey your property for the best location for animal sheltering. If your pasture area meets the following criteria, then your large animals may be better out in the pasture than being evacuated:

- ▶ No exotic (nonnative) trees that uproot easily.
- ▶ No overhead power lines or poles.

- ▶ No debris or sources of blowing debris.
- ▶ No barbed wire fencing (woven wire fencing is best).
- ▶ Not less than one acre in size (if less than an acre, your livestock may not be able to avoid blowing debris).

If your pasture area does not meet the above criteria, you should plan to evacuate. Whether you evacuate or shelter in place, make sure that you have adequate and safe fencing or pens to separate and group animals.

## Evacuation Planning

The leading causes of death of large animals in hurricanes and similar events are collapsed barns, dehydration, electrocution, and accidents resulting from fencing failure. If you own farm animals, you should take precautions to protect them from these hazards, no matter what the disaster potential for your area.

- ▶ Evacuate animals as soon as possible, if local officials issue evacuation orders for your location. Be ready to leave once the evacuation is ordered, especially if you will be hauling a high-profile trailer such as a horse trailer. Even a fire truck fully loaded with water may be considered "out of service" in winds exceeding 40 mph. If there are already high winds, it may not be possible to evacuate safely.
- ▶ Arrange for a place to shelter your animals. Plan ahead and work within your community to establish safe shelters for farm animals. Potential facilities include fairgrounds, other farms, racetracks, humane societies,

convention centers, and any other safe and appropriate facilities you can find. Survey your community and potential host communities along your planned evacuation route.

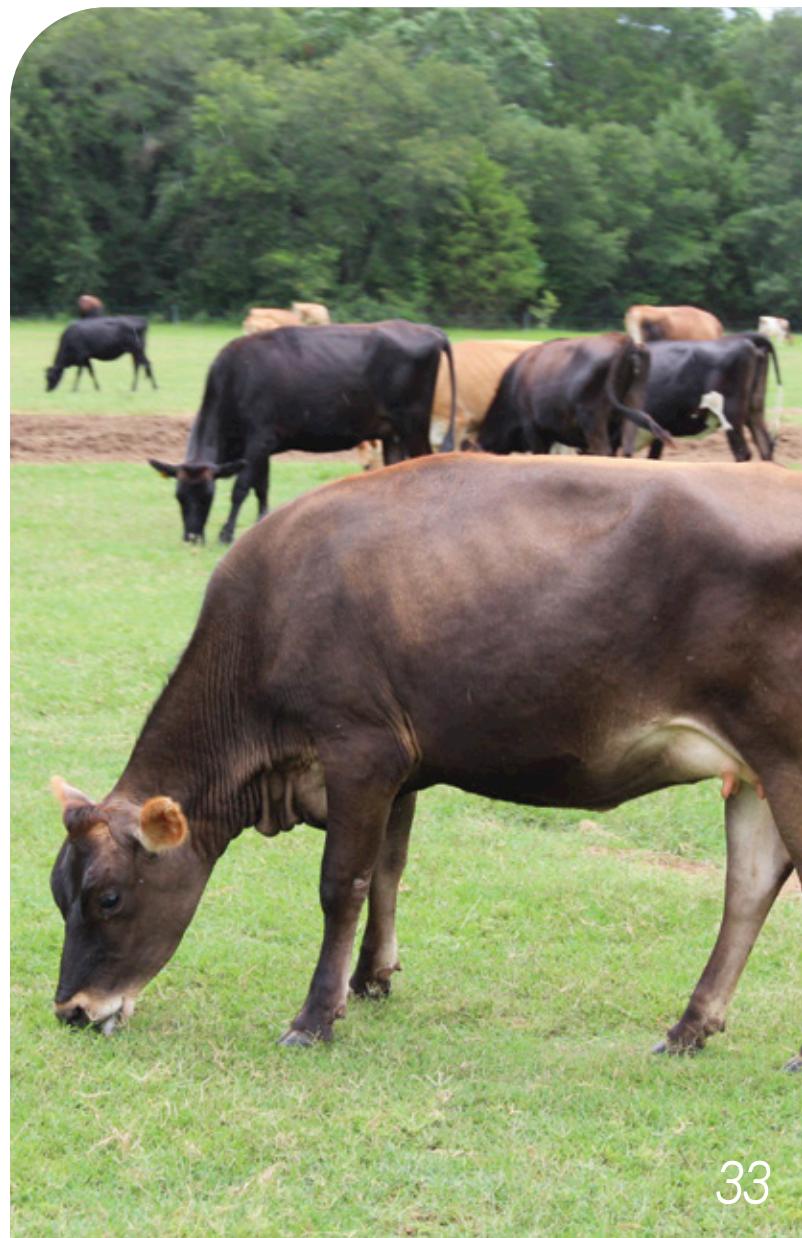
- ▶ Contact your local emergency management agency and become familiar with at least two possible evacuation routes well in advance.
- ▶ Set up safe transportation. Trucks, trailers and other vehicles suitable for transporting livestock (appropriate for transporting each specific type of animal) should be available, along with experienced handlers and drivers.
- ▶ Take all your disaster supplies with you. You should have or be able to readily obtain feed, water, first aid supplies, handling equipment, tools, and generators, if necessary.
- ▶ If your animals are sheltered off your property, make sure they remain in the groupings they are used to. Also, be sure they are securely contained and sheltered from the elements, if necessary, whether in cages, fenced-in areas or buildings.

### Farm Disaster Kit

Make a disaster kit so you have supplies on hand in the event of a disaster. Place the kit in a central location and let everyone know where it is. Check the contents regularly to ensure fresh and complete supplies. Include the following items, then add items that you use every day:

- ▶ Current list of all animals, including their location and records of feeding, vaccinations, and tests. Make this information available at various locations on the farm. Make sure that you have proof of ownership of all animals.

- ▶ Supplies for temporary identification of your animals such as plastic neck bands and permanent markers to label your animals with your name, address and telephone number.
- ▶ Basic first aid kit.
- ▶ Handling equipment such as halters, cages and appropriate tools for each kind of animal.
- ▶ Water, feed and buckets. Tools and supplies needed for sanitation.
- ▶ Disaster equipment such as a cell phone, flashlights, portable radios, and batteries.



- ▶ Other safety and emergency items for your vehicles and trailers.

Your local humane organization, agricultural extension agent or local emergency management agency may be able to provide you with information about your community's disaster response plans.

### **Temporary Containment of Livestock**

To ensure safety and security at the scene of an incident involving livestock, it is critical to contain and secure the animals.

- ▶ If on a roadway, call law enforcement to consider closing the roadway.
- ▶ Contain and treat injured livestock as soon as possible.

- ▶ Seek a containment area that is safe from further danger.
- ▶ Containment area should have sufficient space for the animals.

### **Cattle Behavior**

- ▶ Cattle may stampede if frightened. Their instinctive reaction to danger/fear is to flee.
- ▶ All bulls should be considered very dangerous and unpredictable. Use extreme caution when dealing with bulls.
- ▶ Cattle require space as there is always a possibility they may charge or kick when frightened.
- ▶ Cattle use their heads as protection and will swing them using their weight to shove other animals or humans out of the way.

### **Tips for how to handle large animals during an emergency**

- ▶ In an emergency such as an accident involving an animal hauling trailer or loose animals on a highway or major road, call 9-1-1 and law enforcement. Animal services, animal control, and local cattlemen's associations in the area may assist as well. Contact the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) for help locating local animal rescue operators. Your county may have an Animal Technical Rescue Team with the equipment necessary for large animal rescues. Animal Technical Rescue teams are available on the Florida SART website at [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org).
- ▶ Human safety is always more important than livestock safety.





- ▶ Limit use of sirens, horns, and other loud noises.
- ▶ Limit use of flashing lights, especially at night.
- ▶ Do not immediately attempt to get animals up or moving.
- ▶ Remember, all animals are unpredictable and potentially dangerous during a disaster. Stress and injuries may alter an animal's behavior significantly. You may need an expert such as a veterinarian.
- ▶ Animals become nervous after a disaster. To help prevent injuries, limit the number of people on scene.
- ▶ If the animal is loose, containing the animal should be top priority.
- ▶ Moving slowly with patience is always best when moving or handling farm animals.
- ▶ When approaching the animal, remain calm and quiet. Always keep your escape route open for safety.
- ▶ Have a designated animal monitor during a rescue.
- ▶ Leave extrication efforts to the professionals. Winches should never be used as an extrication tool. Lower legs, ears, tail, head, and neck should never be used as attachment points for extrication. If using legs is the only possible way to extricate the animal, it is important to use padding beneath the webbing or rope. Failing to do this can cause compression injuries, which significantly decrease chances of survival. A veterinarian should be contacted as soon as possible.





# Dairy

There needs to be an emphasis on having an emergency action plan for all dairy establishments, hauling companies and cooperatives to minimize food-borne illness and ensure a continuity of operations following a power outage or other damage from a disaster.

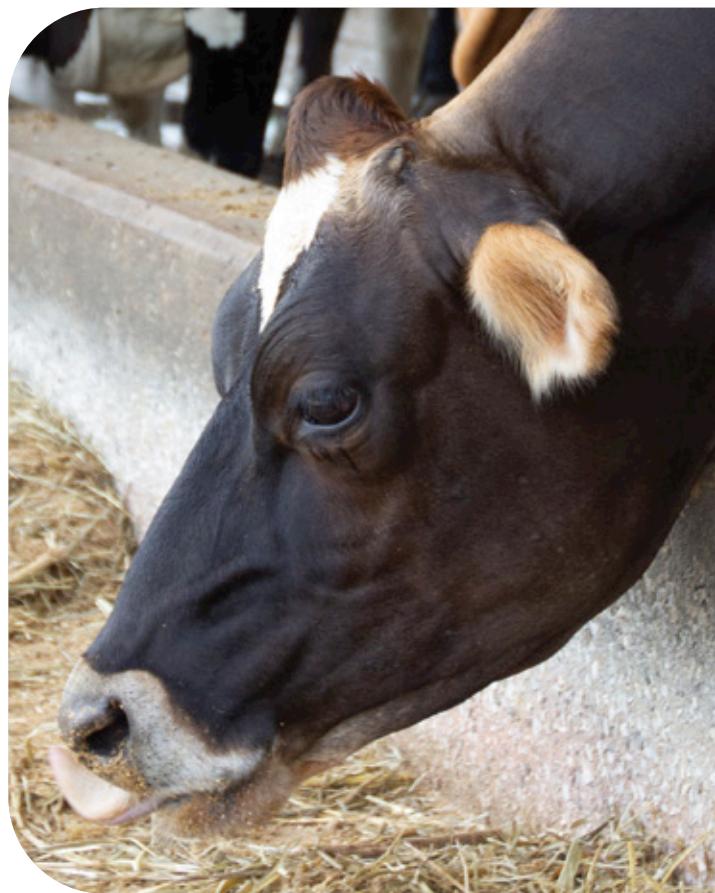
## Before the Disaster

- ▶ Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) inspectors may contact dairy facilities in their territories to assess potential public health risks to dairy supply.
- ▶ Facilities are encouraged to make necessary preparations to protect against structural damage to milk storage areas, silos, parlors, barns, etc.
- ▶ Producers should contact their co-ops, contracted milk plants and hauling companies to address any potential problems.
- ▶ Possible contingency plans to ensure continued production of dairy products need to be discussed.
- ▶ Facility addresses and contact information can be updated using the Dairy Questionnaire provided by the FDACS

Division of Food Safety. This questionnaire is also available on the Florida SART website at [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org).

## After the Disaster

- ▶ As soon as it is safe to do so, FDACS inspectors will immediately begin contacting dairy facilities and taking note of damages, power outages, possible public health risks, interruptions to production, and more. Facilities should expect this assessment and be prepared to report any problems.
- ▶ FDACS inspectors will keep track of contacted facilities and their status.
- ▶ The FDACS Bureau of Dairy Industry is typically able to contact, assess and report on all dairy facilities statewide within a few hours after a disaster.



# Dairy

## Disaster Preparedness Checklist

**This checklist provides hurricane preparedness considerations for dairy industry partners.**

- Do I have access to or own a generator that is sized appropriately to meet all my power needs in the case of power failure to my operation?
- If I do have access to or own a generator, is it working properly and has it been maintained so that I may depend on it to sufficiently power my operation for up to two weeks?
- Do I own or have access to parts to fix or service my generator in case of mechanical or service issues?
- Do I have a contact in case repair is beyond the scope of my knowledge?
- Do I have ample fuel to power my generator? Where will I get fuel if needed and still without power?
- Do I have a plan to move employees around during and post storm, in which curfews may be levied, to attend to the immediate needs of the operation?
- Do my employees have access to fuel for personal vehicles to get to and from my facility post storm?
- Do I have procedures in place to check on all my employees post storm to ensure their safety? Are they familiar with these procedures?
- How long can I operate on my current supply of chemicals, resin and/or single service containers? Do I have a backup plan to access these supplies if my current shipping options are interrupted or no longer available?
- In the case of structures collapsing, do I have the proper equipment or know who to contact to clear my barn to ensure the needs of the cattle?
- Do my employees, barn and cattle have fresh, clean potable water available to them in case of a power failure? What about food/feed? Do I have a backup plan to receive any of these goods if my current means of transportation is interrupted?
- In the case of milk being adulterated or not meeting cooling requirements, do I have a plan to safely dispose that milk to allow the continuation of milking operations? Do I have the ability to document that disposal for insurance/regulatory purposes? Who do I report that to?
- If I have a tunnel barn, do I have a plan for the cattle in case of a power outage? Do I have backup generators or can I turn the cattle out to pasture?
- If I currently direct load, will I have enough tankers available as to not disrupt milking operations? If applicable, are my old bulk tanks clean, working and available to store milk?

# Dairy

## Contacts List

- Milk Pick-up \_\_\_\_\_
- Cooperative \_\_\_\_\_
- Power Company \_\_\_\_\_
- Water Repair \_\_\_\_\_
- Heavy Equipment Repair \_\_\_\_\_
- Heavy Equipment Rental \_\_\_\_\_
- Generators \_\_\_\_\_
- Structural Issues \_\_\_\_\_
- Milking Equipment Repair \_\_\_\_\_
- County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) \_\_\_\_\_
- Sheriff's Office \_\_\_\_\_
- Fire Rescue \_\_\_\_\_
- Attorney \_\_\_\_\_
- Fuel/Gas Delivery \_\_\_\_\_
- Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_
- Electrician \_\_\_\_\_
- Plumber \_\_\_\_\_
- Dairy Inspector \_\_\_\_\_

**1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) • [www.fdacs.gov](http://www.fdacs.gov)**

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Division of Food Safety • 3125 Conner Blvd, MS C-18 • Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650



# Captive Wildlife

**The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)** Captive Wildlife Office is primarily responsible for regulating the possession of wildlife in captivity in Florida. The Captive Wildlife Office issues licenses and permits for the possession, sale and exhibition of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. A permit or license is required to possess, sell or exhibit wildlife in most cases.

## Why Captive Wildlife Owners Need to Be Prepared

Disasters can strike at any time – sometimes without warning. Going through disasters cannot only be stressful on you and your family, but it can also be stressful on your wildlife. The best defense against disasters is to be properly prepared. Having a plan of action before, during and after a disaster can ease the stress on both you and your wildlife.

*Here are a few things captive wildlife owners and facilities can do right now to prepare:*

- 1 Review and update your Captive Wildlife Critical Incident Disaster Plan (CIDP), Part B.** FWC requires a CIDP of all new and renewal applicants wishing to possess captive wildlife (for personal use, exhibition, or public sale), venomous reptiles and/or reptiles of concern. The CIDP ensures that you are proactive in preparing for any emergency event

that could potentially disrupt the orderly operation of your facility or impact public safety. Your CIDP needs to be realistic and easily carried out. Have several copies of your CIDP available so that everyone at the facility will have a clear understanding of the plan. The CIDP template can be found on the FWC website at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).

**2 Have an up-to-date evacuation plan in place.**

Your plan should include somewhere safe for your wildlife to go if evacuation is necessary. Have a minimum of two evacuation routes prepared, if possible, in case one route is blocked or impassible. Additionally, have multiple locations planned and available where wildlife can be temporarily housed.

**3 Make sure your transportation equipment is adequate and functional.**

Transportation equipment can include, but is not limited to, travel trailers, travel enclosures and chemical immobilization equipment. Some questions to ask yourself now are: Do I have equipment capable of transporting my wildlife? Is the equipment I have operable at this time? If not, what do I need to do to ensure the transportation equipment is functional when needed? Do I have enough darts and chemicals for my wildlife that requires immobilization?

**4 Inventory your supplies.** Prior to a natural disaster occurring, ensure that you have enough supplies to cover the needs of your wildlife. Some supplies to consider are food, water, medication(s), and supplemental vitamins. Suggested practice is to have enough provisions/supplies to last at least 3 days.



**5 Conduct routine maintenance.**

Routinely inspect the wildlife enclosures, as well as their surroundings, for required maintenance. Repairing loose or rusty fencing, adding additional connecting material, fixing any drainage issues or erosion around the bottom of enclosures, and trimming or cutting any limbs or trees near enclosures can help prevent serious damage.

**6 Have copies of the veterinary records for your wildlife.** These records should be stored in a safe location and may be helpful and necessary for reentering the state should you be forced to evacuate to another state with your wildlife.

**7 It is encouraged to communicate with your local Captive Wildlife Investigator at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, if you have any questions or concerns.**





# Apiaries

Florida is home to over 300 species of bees that assist in the pollination of agricultural commodities and support overall ecosystem health.

The pollinator of main concern, and the one that best represents the issues of all pollinators in the state, is the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*). Honeybees contribute significantly to the food supply. In Florida, commodity crops like blueberries, watermelons, cucumbers, and onions would produce little to no fruit if it were not for the honeybee. Apiaries need special care during disasters to ensure the safety of your bees.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) developed a guide on how to prepare your bee colonies for possible hazards. If you have any questions regarding preparing your bee-hives this hurricane season, reach out to your local UF/IFAS Extension office, located in every county.



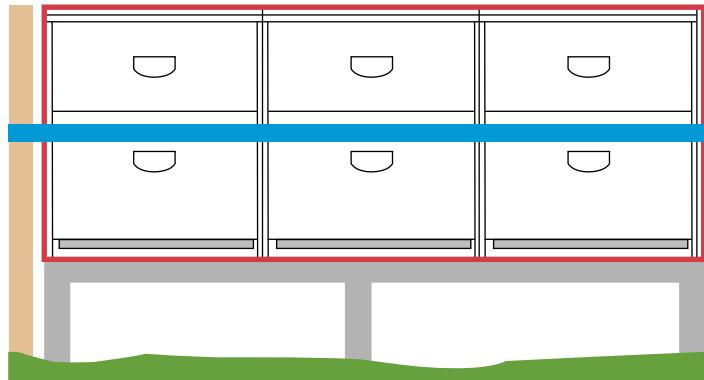
After a storm, it is difficult for bees to find blooms because the wind likely blew them away. This is why it is important to be prepared with syrup or pollen substitute.

# Apiaries

## Disaster Preparedness Checklist

### Secure or Remove Hive Equipment

First, it is important to secure hive equipment to battle strong winds, sometimes over 50 mph. There is the potential for hives to tip over if on elevated stands or for feeders to blow away. This can further expose your colonies to the elements. Be sure to remove any external feeders to diminish the chance of them being blown off, allowing wind and rain into the hive.



Vertical ratchet strap shown in red to keep lids secure, horizontal ratchet strap shown in blue to secure to t-post or rebar. Photo credit: UF/IFAS Extension

### Move Hives

The hives should be moved away from low-lying areas or secured on sturdy; elevated hive stands. With heavy rainfall, the hives could be flooded. Hives should also be moved away from trees to avoid falling tree limbs, a result of high winds in the storm. You should also be aware of other debris present in the apiary that could fall on or be blown into the hives.

### Secure Hives

Hives should be secured with ratchet straps to keep the different parts of the hive, including the bodies and lid, secured to the bottom board. Ratchet straps secured around the perimeter of the hive can help secure the lid. A t-post or piece of rebar driven into the ground near the hives can serve as something to secure hives to. A horizontal ratchet strap secured to a post in the ground can help keep the hives in place and upright.

### Tilt Hives

To prevent buildup of water in the bottom of hives, tilt your hives slightly forward to

create a pitch for rainwater drain off. If hives are tilted backward, water can build up and drown the colony or cause them to escape

### Prepare Supplies

Sometimes, the aftermath of the storm can have a more detrimental effect on your apiary than the storm itself. Once a storm passes, the bees are finally able to go outside to forage after being stuck inside for days due to wind and rain. However, the storm most likely blew the blooms off any flowering plants, so pollen and nectar will be very scarce in the field. Just as with your own hurricane preparedness kit, it is a good idea to have extra supplies on hand to be prepared for the aftermath of the storm. In some cases, roads may be closed, and businesses shut down, subsequently syrup and pollen substitutes may be temporarily unavailable or completely inaccessible. Have extra food on hand for this situation.





# Aquaculture

## **Aquaculture is Agriculture**

Aquaculture is susceptible to natural, man-made, and biological disaster like any other industry in Florida. Impacts to aquaculture facilities can have a major impact on the Florida economy.

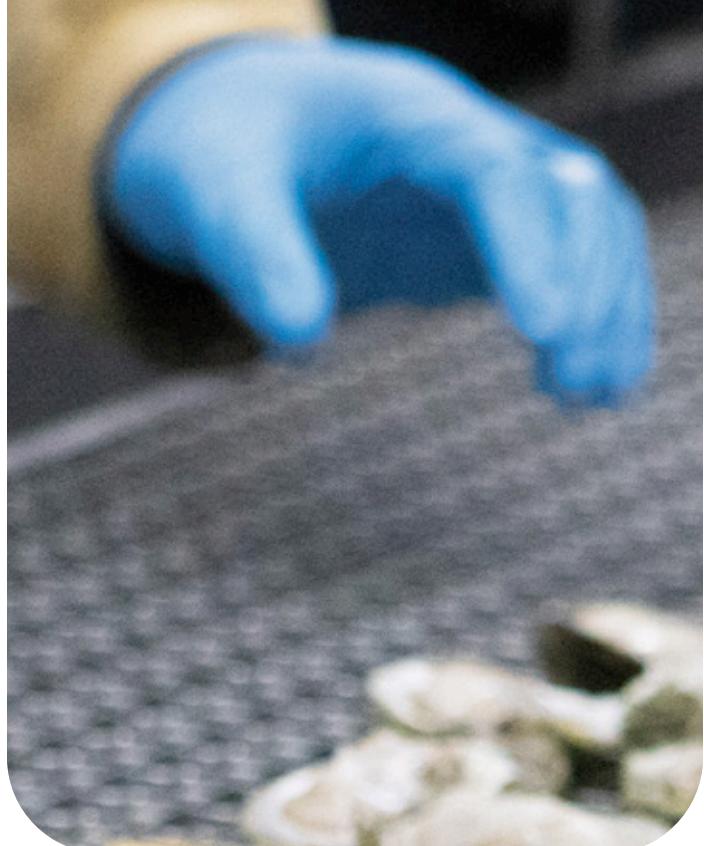
There are approximately 1,000 certified aquaculture farms in Florida, located in every region of the state, which culture approximately 1,500 varieties of fish, plants, mollusks, crustaceans, corals and aquatic reptiles for food and nonfood markets including seafood, freshwater and marine aquarium hobbyists, high fashion leather, water gardening, bait, biological control, "seed" for national and international aquaculturists, sporting, conservation, and education. Farm gate sales of Florida aquaculture products (in real dollars) as reported by the United States Department of Agriculture

(USDA) totaled approximately \$71.6 million in 2018, placing Florida 9th in the nation for total overall aquaculture value in 2018. The Florida Aquaculture Policy Act (Chapter 597, Florida Statutes) established that aquaculture is agriculture, and consolidated state regulatory responsibilities under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

For more information on the impacts of aquaculture on the Florida economy, visit [www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-offices/Aquaculture](http://www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-offices/Aquaculture)

## Storm Water Management

Florida receives an average 50" of rainfall from about 120 storms a year. Given the intensity and frequency of these storms, the resulting storm water runoff can present a risk to sensitive downstream receiving water bodies both in terms of its potential to transport pollutants (natural or synthetic) from the land and in the volume/rate of discharge. Of primary importance is the so-called "first flush." This term describes the washing action that storm water has on accumulated pollutants in a watershed. Studies in Florida have determined that the first one inch of runoff generally carries 90 percent of pollutants released by virtue of the storm-induced discharge.



## Emergency Management and Quarantine of Aquaculture Facilities

### Basic Needs for an Aquaculture Operation

Aquaculture basic needs include:

- ▶ Water (suitable supply, quality source, and filtration)
- ▶ Air (oxygen supply)
- ▶ Temperature control

### Post-Disaster Shellfish Plant Inspection

After a disaster, the following actions are implemented to determine whether shellfish processing plants are capable of producing wholesome products.

- ▶ FDACS staff call the plants that have been impacted by the storm.



- ▶ If contact is made, staff determine if there was loss of power, the length of time power was lost, the type and amount of product on hand, the measures taken to ensure temperature abuse has not occurred (e.g., ice, portable generators, refrigerated vehicles or trailers), the integrity of water supply, the extent of facility damage, the extent of storm surge and length of time for repairs.

Plant management will be informed of what actions will be necessary before processing can resume. FDACS staff will then follow up with an in-person inspection as soon as practical.

- ▶ If no phone contact can be established, FDACS staff will conduct an on-site inspection as soon as it is safe to do so. Special attention is given to structural integrity, water supply, cooling systems and ice production. Plant management will then be informed of what actions will be necessary before processing can resume.

When processing plants have extensive damage, the processing certification may be suspended. FDACS notifies the USDA as to the status of processing plants listed on the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shipper List.

## Biosecurity at Florida Aquaculture Facilities

Biosecurity management, or the prevention of introduction and transfer of disease-causing organisms (pathogens), is integral to the success of all types of commercial aquaculture facilities regardless of the species produced. A successful biosecurity management plan includes good animal husbandry practices to minimize stressors, pathogen mitigation and appropriate sanitation protocols. FDACS encourages aquaculturists to develop a written biosecurity plan as part of an on-farm health management program. Sources of information, including health management classes are available through the University of Florida, Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory and

are distributed by the Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association, among others.

## Pathogen Mitigation

Each aquaculture species has different diseases of concern, generally caused by four main pathogen categories: bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites.

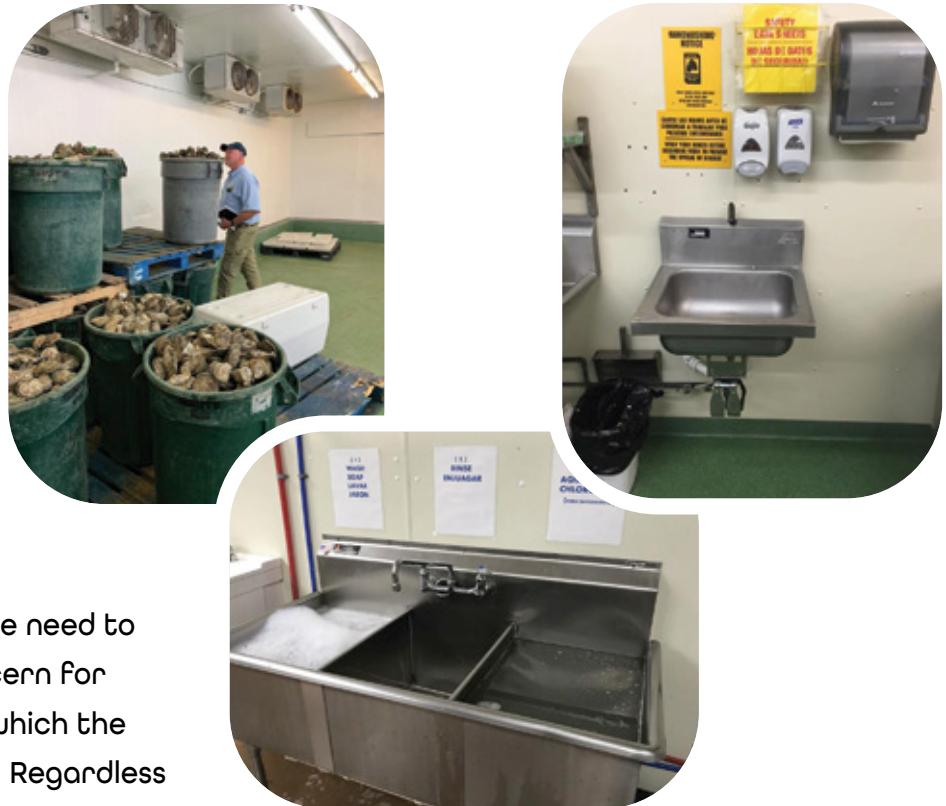
Each of these pathogens requires different diagnostic and treatment protocols, emphasizing the need to know the specific pathogens of concern for the species at your facility and for which the biosecurity plan is targeted to avoid. Regardless of pathogen type, controlling exposure requires identifying the critical control points of the individual facility, as no two are alike.

## Disinfection Stations

A footbath is just a first step towards biosecurity to keep pathogens from moving onto, around, or off your facility.

Footbaths should be refreshed daily or more frequently if exposed to UV light or organic material which inactivate the sanitizing properties.

Production equipment coming into direct contact with rearing water and animals are common pathogen vectors and should be disinfected and rinsed after each use. Sanitation records, hand-washing stations and equipment disinfection stations should be part of your biosecurity plan.



## Critical Control Points

### Animals

Maintain quarantine procedures, separate animals at different life stages or health status and observe appearance and behavior regularly.

### Water

Protect source and test for contaminants.

### Feed

Store feed per manufacturer's recommendations, use before expiration date and dispose of spoiled or outdated feed.

### Vector

Mitigate access to wildlife and people because of their potential to spread pathogens.

### Fomites

Clean and disinfect to minimize the spread of pathogens via equipment, vehicles, boats, etc.





# Biosecurity for Animal Disease Prevention

## What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity is what a producer or farmer can practice to reduce the chances of infectious diseases being carried onto the farm or facility by people, animals, equipment, or vehicles.

The threats of a foreign animal disease, emerging diseases from other areas of the world, as well as the spread of high impact endemic diseases within the United States have increased awareness of the need for enhanced biosecurity on the farm.

## How do animal diseases spread?

► **Direct Contact** - When animals are close enough to touch. There is an immediate transfer of a disease agent to a host through open wounds, mucous membranes, or the skin. Disease transmission may occur by contact

with blood, saliva, nasal or other discharge, nose-to-nose contact, rubbing, or biting from an infected animal.

- **Fomites/Indirect Contact** - Transfer of a disease agent by contact with an inanimate object such as water buckets, equipment, vehicles, clothing, and footwear. A fomite passively transfers or carries a disease agent.
- **Aerosols** - The disease agent is contained in suspended particles or droplets passed through the air from one animal to another.

▶ **Ingestion** - Consumption of a disease agent in contaminated feed or water or by licking or chewing contaminated objects.

▶ **Vectors** - A disease agent spread by blood-feeding insects such as mosquitoes, ticks, biting midges and flies.

Some diseases are considered high consequence, meaning they spread rapidly from animal to animal/herd to herd, and are expensive and difficult to eradicate.

▶ **Zoonotic** - A disease that can be passed directly or indirectly between animals and humans. Some examples of zoonotic diseases include rabies, anthrax, West Nile virus, Lyme disease and salmonellosis.

▶ **Endemic Diseases** - Endemic is the constant presence and/or commonness of a disease or infectious agent of animals within a geographic area. Anthrax is endemic in limited areas of the western and midwestern United States, for example.

▶ **Emerging Diseases** - A disease can be considered "emerging" if it is newly identified or previously unknown, causes disease, infection, or infestation in animals, and has the potential to result in significant animal or public health impacts.

▶ **Foreign Animal Disease** - A foreign animal disease is an important transmissible livestock or poultry disease believed to be absent from the United States and its territories that has a potentially significant health or economic impact.

## **Prevention is the key to successful biosecurity!**

### **Create and Implement a Visitor Policy**

Visitors, salespeople, tourists, staff, and veterinarians can all serve as carriers and spread disease.

- ▶ Require all visitors to check in with a designated farm representative.
- ▶ Monitor all visitors while on the farm.
- ▶ Post signs to inform visitors of rules to be followed while on the farm.
- ▶ Do not allow visitors into the livestock area or barns unless necessary.
- ▶ Visitors should put on disposable booties or disinfect footwear before entering the livestock area.
- ▶ Provide hand-washing stations or disposable gloves to visitors.
- ▶ Do not allow anyone onto the farm who has visited a farm in a foreign country until 7 days have passed after returning to the United States.

### **Protect Animals From Disease Introduction**

There are actions that livestock owners can take for their animals and the environment to prevent the introduction of animal diseases onto their property.

- ▶ Never purchase ill animals.
- ▶ Isolate any newly purchased animals to look

For signs of developing illness or disease. A good rule is to isolate newly purchased animals for 30 days. Feed and handle these animals last.

- ▶ Animals returning from a show, auction or event should be treated as newly purchased animals and isolated for 30 days.
- ▶ Immediately isolate any ill animals.
- ▶ The farm perimeter fencing should be secure to prevent contact with animals from neighboring farms.
- ▶ Limit animal contact with pets and wildlife, which can spread disease.
- ▶ Do not feed table scraps, human food products or garbage to animals.
- ▶ Do not lend or borrow equipment unless it is cleaned and disinfected before it is used.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect all vehicles or trailers carrying livestock between shipments.

- ▶ Clean and disinfect all equipment used on ill animals before use on healthy animals.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect dehorners, hoof knives and clippers between animals.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect nursing bottles and buckets after each feeding.
- ▶ Vaccinate against diseases regularly.

### **Personnel Training and Sanitation**

To uphold biosecurity, it is important that all farmworkers and employees understand their role and responsibility in preventing the spread of animal diseases.

- ▶ Train all farmworkers to recognize signs of animal illness and disease.
- ▶ Farmworkers must ensure disease is not spread between animals at work and animals at home.
- ▶ Farmworkers should arrive to work in clean clothes and boots or use clothing and boots left on the farm.





- ▶ Wash hands thoroughly with disinfectant soap before and after accessing livestock areas or barns.
- ▶ Feed and handle healthy animals first, and ill animals last.
- ▶ Have employees use disposable gloves, coveralls and booties, or disinfectant footbaths to prevent the spread of disease between healthy livestock and ill animals.

## Controlling Vehicle and Equipment Movement

Diseases can enter a farm and be spread by equipment and vehicles, either directly or in plant material, soil, or manure; therefore, posing a high biosecurity risk.

- ▶ Limit visitor access to the farm via one gate.
- ▶ Park all vehicles away from livestock areas.
- ▶ Keep visitor and service vehicles from driving over feed delivery or manure handling routes to prevent the spread of potentially infectious organic material.
- ▶ Locate holding pens for animal pickups near the road and away from the livestock area or barns.

## *What should a producer do if their animals are showing signs of a reportable or foreign animal disease?*

A reportable animal disease is one that, by law, must be reported to state animal health officials. Reporting helps identify animal disease outbreaks, limit their spread, and minimize the impact to animals and people. Anyone who has knowledge of, or suspects the existence of, any of the reportable animal diseases or pests in Florida should immediately report suspicions or findings to the State Veterinarian.

### **State Veterinarian's Office - Florida**

**Telephone:** (850) 410-0900 (during office hours)  
1-877-815-0034 (after hours)

**Email:** RAD@fdacs.gov

**Online:** [www.fdacs.gov/rad](http://www.fdacs.gov/rad)

### **List of Reportable Diseases:**

- ▶ Reportable Animal Diseases • Animal Diseases
  - Animals • Consumer ResourcesHome - Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ([fdacs.gov](http://fdacs.gov))
- ▶ USDA APHIS • National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS)

### **Biosecurity Resources:**

- ▶ Stay Healthy at Animal Exhibits • Healthy Pets, Healthy People • Center for Disease Control
- ▶ Biosecurity • The Center for Food Security & Public Health • Iowa State University
- ▶ Secure Food Supply Plans • The Center for Food Security & Public Health
  - Iowa State University





# Vector Control

Mosquito population levels can drastically increase in flood-prone areas of Florida in the aftermath of hurricanes and other storm systems, which may pose a serious health threat and potentially hamper response and recovery efforts.

Local and state officials must take the necessary actions to prevent a health and safety threat as soon as possible. The following guidelines are for Florida county emergency managers for requesting emergency mosquito control assistance from the State of Florida.

## **Mosquito Control Incident Response Team**

► The Mosquito Control Incident Response Team (MCIRT) assists Florida counties undergoing repair and recovery activities

following a disaster with mosquito control abatement once Public Assistance eligibility requirements are met.

- Adhering to the Incident Command System structure, the MCIRT is a specialized unit within the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) to deal with mosquito control issues.
- Designed for rapid deployment, the MCIRT assists with coordination between state and federal agencies, concurrency requirements and may provide mosquito surveillance and identification assistance.

- ▶ Please be advised that this assistance can only be provided when there has been an Emergency Declaration by the President of the United States or the Governor of Florida, and repair and recovery activities of the requesting county have commenced. If there are no repair and recovery efforts occurring in the county, the MCIRT will not be activated.

## **Emergency Declaration**

- ▶ The Mosquito Control Incident Response Team (MCIRT) can only be activated when the President of the United States or the Governor of Florida declares that an emergency or major disaster exists in the county requesting emergency mosquito control assistance. The declaration establishes the federal cost share, type of incident, incident period, designated areas, types of assistance, and the federal coordinating officer.
- ▶ The assistance Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides through its Public Assistance Program is subject to cost share, which will be specified in the declaration document.
- ▶ Following an emergency declaration, county emergency managers must coordinate with their county mosquito control personnel prior to requesting assistance for emergency mosquito control from the State of Florida.

## **Request For Emergency Mosquito Control Assistance**

After an emergency declaration has been issued, repair and recovery efforts have been initiated, and the county emergency manager has

coordinated with mosquito control personnel, a formal request for emergency mosquito control assistance must be made using WebEOC. The following support documentation must be entered:

- ▶ **Florida Department of Health Letter** indicating a serious health threat or a mosquito nuisance that is severely hampering recovery efforts.
- ▶ **County Administrator/Board of County Commission Letter of Support** for operation of low-flying aircraft and the application of pesticides.
- ▶ **Three-year Baseline Mosquito Surveillance Trap Data** to compare with post-incident mosquito counts and identification.
- ▶ **County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Map of Proposed Spray Zone(s)**
- ▶ **Media/Social Media Plan** to inform residents and interested parties 48 hours prior to the initiation of mosquito control operations. Parties may include local law enforcement, volunteer fire departments, Florida Department of Health, county extension agents, newspaper, radio, and television.

After the county information has been entered in WebEOC, the MCIRT will evaluate the request and determine if the county is eligible for emergency mosquito control assistance from the State of Florida. If MCIRT assistance is not possible, the county will be directed to request federal reimbursement for conducting their own mosquito control activities. It is important to note that all communication between the county and the MCIRT for assistance must be done through WebEOC.





# Food Safety

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Food Safety is directly responsible for assuring the public of a safe, wholesome and properly represented food supply.

The Division of Food Safety accomplishes this through the permitting and inspection of food establishments; inspection and evaluation of food products; and the performance of specialized laboratory testing on a variety of food products sold and/or produced in Florida. The division proactively monitors food from manufacturing and distribution to retail.

## **The FDACS Division of Food Safety:**

- ▶ Administers and enforces the food and poultry and egg laws.
- ▶ Supports the enforcement of other food safety laws, and investigates consumer complaints related to food.

- ▶ Regulates food establishments such as supermarkets and grocery stores, convenience stores, coffee shops, bakeries, retail meat markets, seafood markets, juice and smoothie bars, bottled water plants, ice and water vending machines, all food processing plants, food warehouses, food salvage stores, and certain mobile food units selling only prepackaged foods or non-potentially hazardous food items.

## **Response Structure**

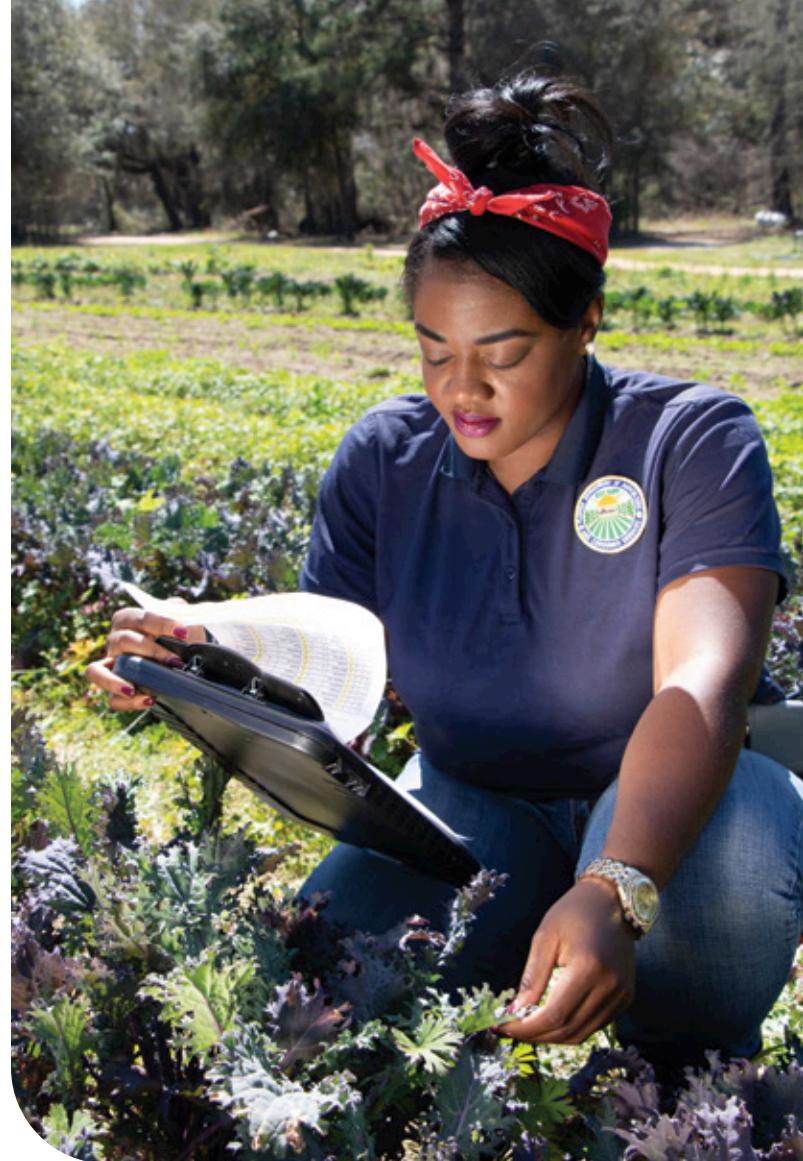
- ▶ The Division of Food Safety responds to natural disasters, man-made disasters, food recalls, food-borne outbreaks, and intentional food contamination events, in coordination

with FDACS and regulatory agencies involved in food safety response.

- ▶ The Division of Food Safety performs outreach initiatives and maintains an emergency contact list for local and state food safety coordinators.

## Mission Response

- ▶ The Division of Food Safety reports critical information to their business center or emergency response coordinator. Examples of critical information are boil water notices, major power outages, critical damages, flooding, and reporting any unusual activity at a food establishment, during normal operating conditions and post-disaster.
- ▶ The Division of Food Safety tracks disasters on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and coordinates information within the division as necessary.
- ▶ Upon receiving the needed information/obtaining the needed situational awareness, the Division of Food Safety may implement the incident command system, as necessary, to devise the proper incident response for manufacturing, retail foods, and dairy sections, and may activate its District Strike Team (DST) in the affected areas.
- ▶ If the DST is activated, it may conduct emergency phone assessments, utilizing a standard form to triage potentially affected food establishments. After triaging the food establishments, the DST may determine if the food establishment



needs to be inspected in person. Through this effort, the DST maintains situational awareness of food establishments, noting any unusual activities that could compromise food safety.

- ▶ The Division of Food Safety also collects data received via complaints from Florida residents/consumers and calls that may come in from other agencies and local governments to help maintain the integrity of the food supply in Florida before, during and after a disaster or emergency event.



# Damaged Food Guidance for Food Establishments

## *Power Outages, Floods, Fires, Sewage Backup, Transportation Accidents, Disasters*

Food products can become contaminated or distressed from events including power outages, floods, sewage backup, fires, transportation accidents and disasters. Food establishments should have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) prior to an event which they can follow when these conditions occur to assist in preventing and reducing food-borne illness in situations that may affect food safety.



### **Food Product and Food Packaging to be evaluated which cannot be salvaged**

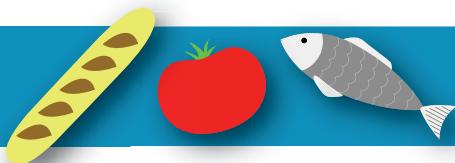
- Exposed foods, bulk foods, fresh produce, meat, poultry, fish and eggs;
- Paper or cellophane-wrapped foods which can collect filth or split at the seams making it virtually impossible to remove dirt or sanitize properly such as candies, cereals, bread, cakes, chewing gum, etc. This would include products in secondary packaging (cake mixes, cereals) which the outer package is of porous material;
- Any porous items that are used with food or that come in contact with the mouth including disposable flatware, plastic utensils, and paper, foam, or plastic dishware;
- Food products in containers with screw caps, snap-lids, crimped caps (soda bottles), twist caps, flip tops, snap open, and similar-type closures can have filth lodged under the cap lips, threads, lugs, crimps, and snap-rings, making them virtually impossible to detect and remove; and
- Cans that are dented, leaking, bulging, or rusted.



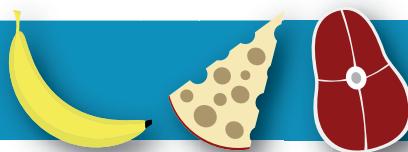
### **Food Products which can be salvaged must meet requirements of the regulatory authority**



- Commercially prepared foods in all-metal cans or retort pouches; and
- Foods which have maintained refrigeration requirements of <41 degrees F or have maintained a solid frozen state.



### **Disposal of food**



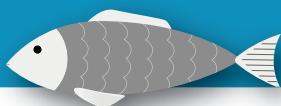
- Remove and secure damaged products to an isolated area to prevent contamination to the facility, other food items or the public.
- Clearly mark storage area and/or storage containers "NOT FOR SALE" if disposal is to be at a later time.
- Small volumes of food should be denatured (e.g. with bleach, a detergent or other cleaning product to render unusable), placed in sealed black plastic bags, and placed in a closed refuse container outside the facility.
- Large volumes of food should be stored in a closed and secured container in a secure location until disposed of by the refuse disposal company or transportation to the landfill.
- Landfills should be contacted prior to delivery of food from a private individual or carrier to insure acceptance.

In preparation for or immediately after an emergency the food establishment should assess needs and make immediate arrangements with contracted waste disposal companies to provide refuse containers which can be secured to hold large quantities of products which need to be transported to a landfill. Arrangements should also be made for transportation to the landfill as soon as the refuse container is filled.



**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

Information to develop an Emergency Action Plan for a food establishment can be found at  
[FoodProtect.org/guides-documents](http://FoodProtect.org/guides-documents)



CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Manager	
Regional Office	
Home Office	
Insurance Carrier	
Food Supplier	
Lawyer	
Water Utility Company	
Sewer	
Electricity	
Gas	
Phone	
Emergency Broadcast	
Police (911)	
Fire (911)	
Radio/TV Station	
Local Emergency	
Plumber	
Electrician	
Well Driller	
Licensed Water Hauler	
Local Regulatory Agency	
Bottled Water	
Commercial Ice	
Dry Ice	
Refrigerated Truck	
Refrigeration Warehouse	
Portable Generators	
Waste Hauler	
Local Landfill	
Septic Tank Pumper	
Drain Cleaner	
Cleaning Equipment	
Janitorial Service	
Fire Extinguisher Service	
Bldg Restoration Specialist	

For food products which cannot be salvaged, complete, proper and safe

# disposal is required



to ensure these products do not reappear as damaged merchandise for human consumption.

The following questions should be considered allowing a food establishment to include the proper disposal method(s) as part of their EAP:

- What is/are the contaminant(s) (e.g. water, chemicals)?
- How is the contaminated food categorized (e.g. hazardous waste, municipal waste, non-hazardous waste)?
- How much contaminated product is there for disposal?
- What are the transportation requirements and needs for moving the contaminated product to these disposal facilities?
- Are permits or releases required for the product disposal from the local or food jurisdictional agency?
- Is a health and safety plan needed for the workers involved in the disposal or determination process?
- Will the jurisdictional food agency need to be involved in overseeing the disposal process?
- What jurisdictional food agency must be involved for reconditioned product to re-enter commerce?
- Who and where are the disposal facilities for different categories of bulk food waste?

Multiple agencies respond using the best skills and expertise available for adverse food incidents or events utilizing the Incident Command Structure in a uniform and efficient response or recovery.

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
- Florida Department of Health (DOH)
- Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations (DBPR)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)



# Radiological Emergencies

## Agriculture & Nuclear Power in Florida

Radiation is invisible, tasteless, and odorless. People are constantly exposed to natural or man-made sources of radiation.

Radiation occurs naturally, from sunlight, water, soil, and the materials used to build homes. Man-made radiation comes from sources such as x-rays, medical tests and industrial products including smoke detectors. This natural and man-made radiation is called background radiation.

Nuclear power plants are designed to operate safely. However, an accident could potentially be serious enough to result in a release of radioactive materials.

Federal authorities have established two emergency zones as the basis for planning to protect the public. Residents living within a 10-mile radius of the plant should be aware

of protective measures to prevent direct exposure in the event of a radioactive release. People within a 50-mile radius should be aware of protective measures against eating and drinking potentially contaminated foods and liquids. This 50-mile area is called the "Ingestion Pathway Zone."

An accidental release of radiation into the atmosphere has the potential to impact you, your family, your livestock and the quality and marketability of your farm products. The information in this pamphlet, along with the instructions you will receive from emergency officials, will help minimize the effects a radiological event could have on your farm or ranch.

## If an Emergency Occurs

In the event of a radiological emergency at a nuclear power plant, several methods will be used to warn the public. Within the 10-mile area, sirens, radio and television outlets, and emergency vehicles' loudspeakers provide warning to area residents. Outside the 10-mile area, radio, and television outlets, and in some cases door-to-door notification, serve as primary warning to area residents.

State and county emergency officials will determine protective actions to be taken, and you will be kept informed. Do not take actions unless emergency officials advise you to do so.

During the emergency, state and county officials will release information to the media on a regular basis. This information will include the latest status on the emergency and actions that are

being taken to protect you, your family, and your farm. The local agricultural extension agent will also be a resource for emergency information and protective actions.

Additionally, your county's Citizens Information Line may be activated. There will be a toll-free telephone number which citizens can call and receive official information on the status of the emergency. This information will broadcast on local television and radio with emergency alerts.

## Protecting Yourself and Your Farm

In the event of a radiological emergency that involves the release of radioactivity into the environment, you will be advised of actions to prevent the contamination of milk, water, and food products. Additionally, state and local governments will take actions to prevent the consumption of contaminated products.

The main cause for exposure to radiation for individuals within 50 miles from a nuclear power plant radiological emergency is the consumption of contaminated foods, such as milk, fresh fruits, vegetables, processed products, and water.

## Protecting Pets and Service Animals

- ▶ Messaging should clearly communicate instructions for indoor animals that were not exposed and are likely uncontaminated as well as for animals that are/were outside and potentially contaminated. Messages should include how animals should be managed by owners according to whether the owners are sheltering in place or evacuating.
- ▶ Some animals may be stranded in evacuated and/or hazardous zones. Provisions will



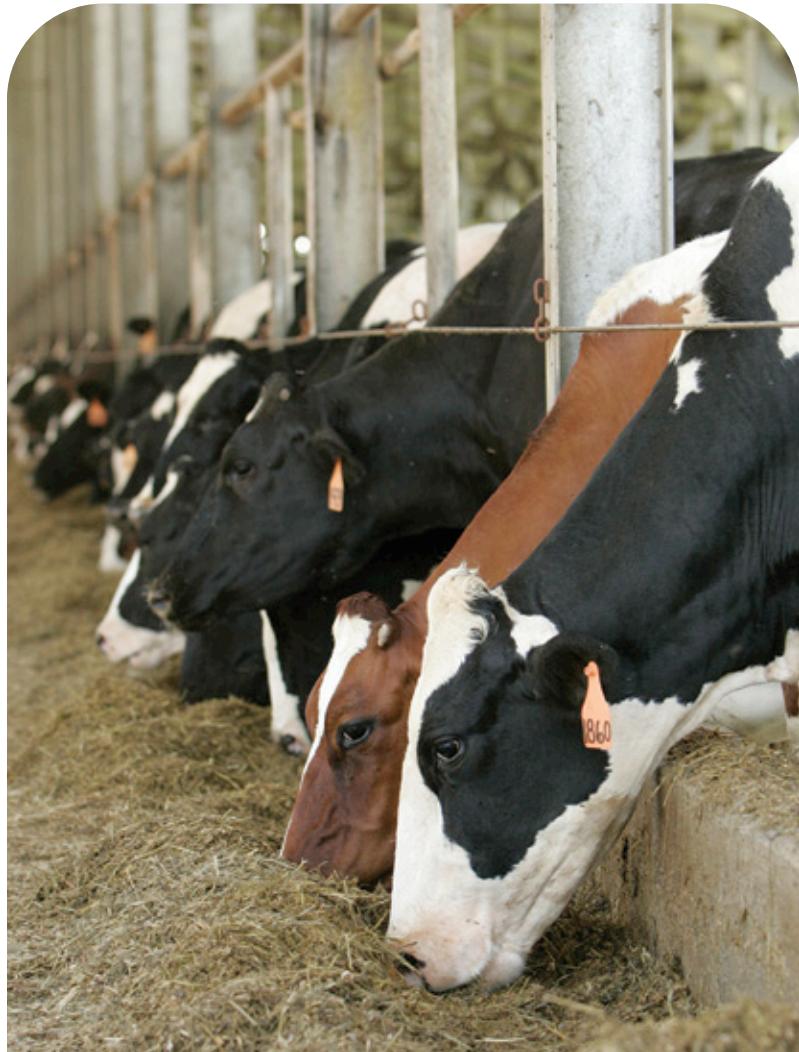


be needed to remove them when safe for responders and when adequate resources are present. Some owners may attempt to reenter evacuated areas (perhaps unsafely) to remove their animals. Meeting this need as soon as it can be safely addressed will help protect the public.

- ▶ Stray pets may be contaminated and may have moved from a more contaminated area to a less contaminated area. Animal control agencies for jurisdictions surrounding the incident should be trained to safely handle pets of unknown origin and need to be able to get them screened for contamination. Partnerships with local public health agencies might be optimal for working out specific procedures for each jurisdiction.
- ▶ Incident levels requiring decontamination may change with the scale of the incident.

Emergency officials will advise the public of any required decontamination for them or their animals. As a precaution, people exiting from an incident without needing decontamination should be advised to bathe and change clothes, including bathing animals once they find suitable accommodations.

- ▶ If resources for decontamination are not available, contaminated animals should be held in a separate location with adequate care and feeding. Animals should be decontaminated as resources become available.
- ▶ Fully trained and equipped animal decontamination teams are necessary to develop and maintain, requiring training,





equipment, Personal Protective Equipment, medical clearance, respirator fit testing, and addressing worker/volunteer liability issues.

## Protecting Farm Animals

Farm animals will not normally be evacuated during a radiological emergency, so sheltering in place is the most effective way to limit contamination.

### ***Protecting farm animals can be done in several ways:***

- ▶ Place the animals in an enclosed shelter and close doors and windows, if possible. Limit entry of rainwater into the structure. Provide for adequate air supply to prevent overheating and suffocation. Shelter dairy animals first.
- ▶ Prevent contact with radioactive contamination if the animals must remain outside, as much as possible. For example,



pack the animals closely in an outdoor pen or herd them into a ravine, road underpass, cave, culvert, or wooded area.

- ▶ Avoid surface and standing water.
- ▶ Avoid allowing animals to graze unless directed to by your extension agent or other state or local officials.



## **milk**

The most critical food product within 50 miles is milk because of the rapid distribution from the cow to the consumer, the short period of time it takes for contamination to appear and the potential effects on children.

### **Protective actions that can be taken are:**

- ▶ Remove and shelter dairy animals from contaminated pasture and provide a substitute of uncontaminated stored feed.
- ▶ Store or relocate contaminated milk to facilities that will process the milk and store it to allow the radiation to deteriorate.

## **Protecting Farmland and Crops**

The actual length of time the land should remain uncultivated depends upon the amount and types of radioactive material that settled on the land.

### **Emergency officials will:**

- ▶ Take samples to determine the type and levels of contaminations to recommend treatment procedures or alternative uses of the land.

### **Additional Protective Actions:**

#### **▶ Standing crops**

Contamination will either wash off or dissipate to safe levels during the growing process.

#### **▶ Small grains**

Stored grain can be made safe by milling and polishing or storing the contaminated grain until the radioactivity dissipates.

#### **▶ Fruits and vegetables**

Some fruits and vegetables may be eaten after washing, removing the outer layer of leaves or skin, and washing the remainder with soap and water.

#### **▶ Roots and tubers**

Potatoes and carrots can generally be eaten after they are peeled.

If food crops or other food products must be destroyed, they will be collected and treated as radioactive waste and transported to specific storage facilities.

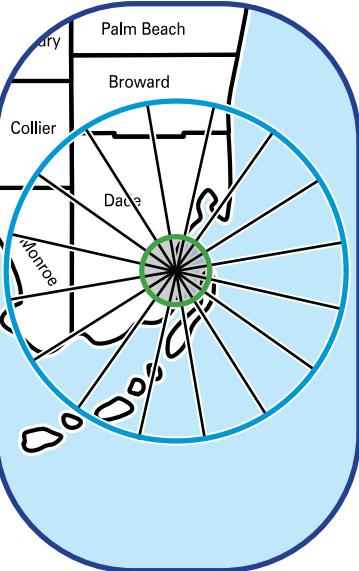
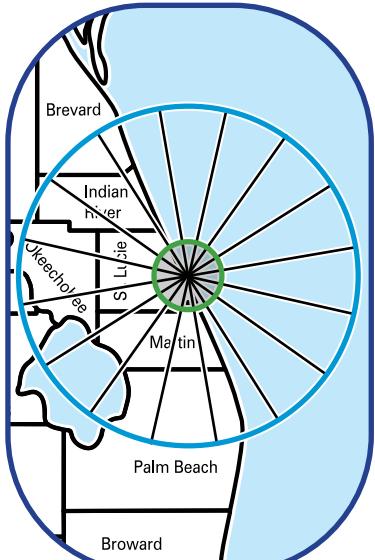
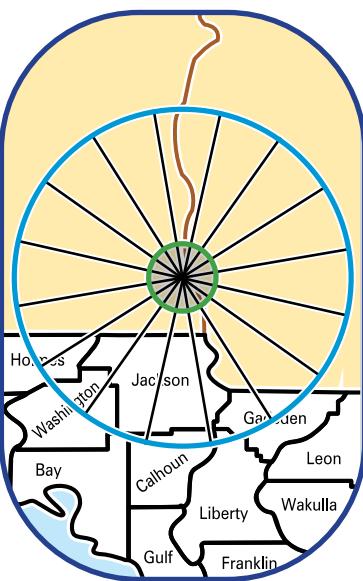
For information on harvesting, storing, and decontaminating your crops and land, contact your local agriculture extension agent.



# Potentially Affected Counties

## in the Ingestion Pathway Zone

Farley Nuclear Power Plant	St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant	Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant
Bay	Brevard	Collier
Calhoun	Glades	Broward
Gadsden	Highlands	Miami-Dade
Holmes	Indian River	Monroe
Jackson	Martin	
Liberty	Okeechobee	
Washington	Osceola	
	Palm Beach	
	St. Lucie	





# Mental Health

## Mental Health Resources for Agriculture Producers

### Mental Health Resources for Agriculture Producers

#### ► **Rural Health Information Hub:**

A comprehensive guide to the mental health challenges facing farmers and ranchers, with information on the root causes of stress, farmer demographics, mental health needs, and barriers to accessing care. Find tools and examples for developing programs to help address farmer mental health.

#### ► **Rural Resilience:**

An online course provides participants the skills to understand the sources of stress, learn the warning signs of stress and suicide, identify effective communication

strategies, reduce stigma related to mental health concerns and connect farmers and ranchers with appropriate mental health and other resources.

#### ► **Coping with Rural Stress:**

As part of its Rural Stress Task Force, University of Minnesota Extension created this “Coping with Rural Stress” website with resources to help rural residents cope with stress. The website features an assortment of original and non-original mental health/stress resources, publications, recorded video conferences, help lines, etc.

► **Farm Aid:**

A nonprofit farmer advocacy program that includes a crisis hotline, resource hub for locating crisis assistance, and fact sheets on mental illness and suicide in farmers.

► **Farm and Ranch Stress:**

North Dakota State University Extension has developed several online resources to help farmers and ranchers cope with the stress. Their Farm and Ranch Stress website features an assortment of original and non-original mental health/stress resources there are publications, recorded video conferences, help lines, etc.

► **TransFARMation:**

A podcast and radio series about coping with stress from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Red River Farm Network. The twice-monthly podcast features farmers talking through how they navigated tough times.

► **ISU Extension COVID-19 Resources:**

A webpage by Iowa State University Extension Dairy Team with tips and resources for taking care of mental health, specifically targeting dairy farmers and currently featuring resources for dealing with COVID-19.

► **Agricultural Safety & Health**

**Information Clearinghouse:**

***Farm Stress & Decision Making***

***During Challenging Times:*** A

webpage by Extension professor, John Shutsuke, explaining farming

stress with tips and resources for taking care of mental health.

► **Tips & Resources for Taking Care of Your Mental Health:**

A webpage by Acceleron (owned by Bayer, formerly Monsanto) created for farmers with tips and resources on taking care of mental health.





► **Disaster Preparedness & Resiliency:**

A webpage by Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS) on disaster preparedness and stress management and resiliency. This includes factsheets, handouts, and resource recommendations for managing stress.

► **University of Florida/IFAS Extension Disaster Education and Resource Hub, Health & Well-being Programs:**

The UF/IFAS Extension Disaster Handbook prominently includes a section on mental health in English and Spanish, including easy-to-read coping strategies and in-depth research articles on trauma, fact sheets on health and well-being, and face-to-face couples' education classes.

► **Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium:**

Peer Listening Online Course: A training for aquaculture workers on peer listening to help those in crisis.

► **Florida Agricultural Mediation Program (FAMP):**

The Agricultural Mediation Program helps resolve disputes between producers and their lenders, creditors, or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies with which they work.

**Resources For Farmworkers**

► **Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations, Inc. (COFFO):**

Operating in Collier and Miami Dade Counties is the Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organization. The nonprofit agency assists low-income families, the poor, farmworkers, and immigrants. They offer emergency assistance and referrals to programs to get people on track for stability. Although the focus is not mental health, they can arrange mental health or substance abuse counseling and help subsidize prescription medications.

► **Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.:**

The Farmworker Coordinating Council is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive social and human services to Palm Beach County's farmworkers and their families. Although the focus is not mental health, they offer counseling and sponsor support groups.

► **Florida Association of Community Health Centers:**

Health Centers are community-based and patient-directed organizations that serve people with limited access to health care. These include low-income patients, the uninsured, those with limited English proficiency, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, individuals, and families experiencing homelessness, and those living in public housing. Community Health Centers offer behavioral and mental health services.

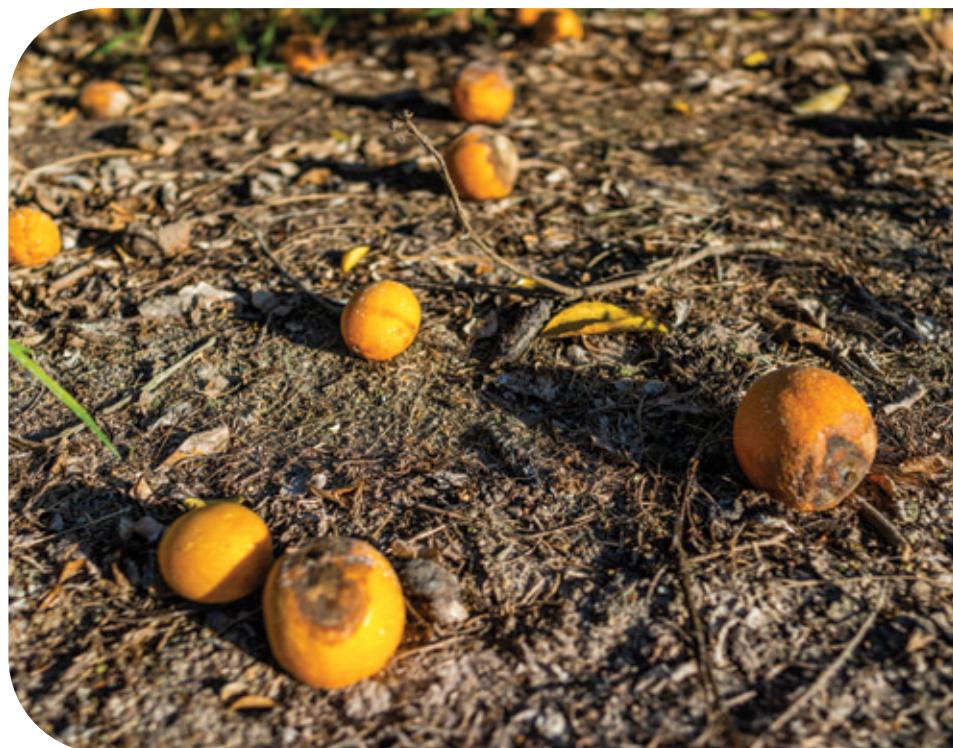
► **Migrant Health Program:**

Most of the migrant health centers are private nonprofits operated by community organizations. They offer free and reduced health care to migrant farmworkers.

**Resources For the General Public**

► **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** is an adult education program designed to increase mental health literacy. It includes training modifications to meet the needs of rural communities. These programs are taught by

a certified MHFA instructor, usually a staff member from local mental health authorities or from organizations focused on behavioral health, mental health, or addictions. The training is taught in various formats – including online – but most commonly is given through a single 8-hour session or over two days in 4-hour sessions.



► **QPR Gatekeeper Training:**

QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer. It is an emergency mental health gatekeeper training intervention for lay and professional gatekeepers (someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide). QPR teaches these gatekeepers to recognize and respond positively to someone exhibiting suicide warning signs and behaviors.

- ▶ **Crisis Text Line:**  
Crisis Text Line is a global not-for-profit organization providing a free mental health texting service through confidential crisis intervention via SMS message.
  - ▶ **Veterans Crisis Line:**  
A free, confidential counseling and resource service available to veterans and those concerned for veterans.
  - ▶ **National Alliance on Mental Illness:**  
The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is a mental illness advocacy group offering classes and training programs for people living with mental illnesses, their families, community members, and professionals.
  - ▶ **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**  
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a United States-based suicide prevention network of over 160 crisis centers that provides a 24/7, toll-free hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.
  - ▶ **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:**  
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is a branch of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. For getting help, the website has a treatment locator for facilities, information, and resources on mental illness, preventing suicide, substance use, etc., and a national help line for treatment referral and information.
  - ▶ **Florida Department of Health:**  
Provides information and referrals for stress management, substance abuse, and suicide prevention, emergency preparedness, and response (includes a subsection on behavioral health) in Florida.
  - ▶ **Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention:**  
Provides suicide prevention training to Police, EMS, Teachers, Students, Clubs, Community Organizations, etc., local support groups, and runs prevention programs in local schools.
  - ▶ **Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition:**  
A nonprofit organization composed of loss survivors, crisis center staff, researchers, and concerned citizens. The website provides information and referrals to the public on suicide prevention, crisis services, support groups, etc.
  - ▶ **Resources:**  
Mental Health • Community Health Resources  
• Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
- 

# Disasters and Mental Health Online Training



Over the course of four modules, this 2.5-hour training sponsored by Florida SART and carried out by University of Florida Family, Youth, and Community Sciences (FYCS) faculty members Drs. Heidi Radunovich and Angie Lindsey provides focused information on mental health stress and disaster recovery within the agricultural sector. It is geared towards:

- Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) members and partners
- UF/IFAS Extension faculty and staff
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services employees
- Farmers, ranchers and their families
- Agricultural workers
- First responders
- Organizations providing services within agricultural communities
- Any community members who are active during disaster response

Training can be accessed at <https://e-learning.ag/courses/disasters-mental-health/>

1

## Disaster Stress & Mental Health

45 min. content + 15 min. activity

- The unique impacts disasters have on agriculture
- Stress and the impacts it has on the body
- Disaster stress
- Coping skills to manage stress
- The differences between stress & trauma
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Case study activity

2

## Community Recovery After Disasters

30 min. content + 15 min. activity

- The four phases of community response
- Factors impacting individual recovery
- Long-term problems in disaster recovery
- Factors impacting community recovery
- How different types of disasters impact recovery
- Ways in which a community can plan for a successful recovery
- Case study activity

3

## Coping & Providing Support After Disasters

30 min. content + 10 min. activity

- Ways to manage stress
- Specific physical and mental coping techniques
- Providing support after disasters
- Best practices in supporting children
- Self care key practices for first responders
- Resources for additional help and referrals
- Knowledge Check Quiz

4

## Disaster Stress & Mental Health Resources

15 min. content

- The final module discusses special programs for disaster health & mental health resources, resources for producers and farmworkers, and resources for the general public. It also includes a Mental Health Resource guide which can be downloaded.

Free, self-paced training with certification!

Access training through QR code



Center for  
Public Issues Education

FYCS

FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SCIENCES  
the science of helping people together



FLORIDA  
EDEN

EXTENSION DISASTER  
EDUCATION NETWORK



# Florida Veterinary Corps

## Safeguarding Animal and Public Health in Florida

Florida veterinarians and animal health technicians have volunteered to assist animal owners and local officials in responding to animal emergencies.

The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state. Anyone who would like to join the Florida Veterinary Corps, please visit the Florida SART website at [www.flgart.org](http://www.flgart.org) to apply.

### Why a Florida Veterinary Corps?

- ▶ The Florida Veterinary Corps (The Corps) has been established to enlist veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are willing to volunteer their services in responding to animal emergencies in the state of Florida.
- ▶ During activation, Corps volunteers will work within an incident command structure under

state Emergency Support Function 17 as part of the State Emergency Response Team.

- ▶ The Corps will be a component of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, under its Florida State Agricultural Response Team, in cooperation with the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.
- ▶ Corps volunteers will be kept informed as to the status of emergencies and the need for volunteers depending upon the specific emergency.

- ▶ Volunteers may serve in veterinary infrastructure assessment teams, in triage or emergency animal treatment teams, and in animal disease surveillance or control teams under an incident command system.

## Rationale

- ▶ Protecting agriculture in Florida begins locally and requires cooperation, participation, and partnership.
- ▶ Federal or other outside assistance to deal with an animal disease emergency may not be available for hours or days.
- ▶ Animal agriculture in Florida is highly vulnerable to severe disruption and financial loss through natural disasters and exotic or zoonotic diseases.
- ▶ Counties and state agencies must be prepared to respond to animal disasters through planning and identification of human and material resources.



- ▶ Natural disasters are unpredictable and cannot be prevented.
- ▶ Florida has a high risk for introduction of a foreign animal disease.

## Obligation of Corps Volunteers

- ▶ Corps volunteers will serve only when activated and under the Incident Command System, under state Emergency Support Function 17 as part of the State Emergency Response Team, and adhere to all state regulations and rules.
- ▶ Minimal training will need to be completed online and during activation, as required.
- ▶ Communications will need to be maintained by Corps volunteers to stay informed as to emergency status and volunteer needs.
- ▶ Volunteers will only be activated in response to specific emergency situations. Volunteers called upon may decline service at any time.





The SART Sentinel



County Contacts



Media Gallery



Events Calendar

# Subscribe to the SART Newsletter & Website

**The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) has a variety of resources available on its website at [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org) to help prepare our state's animal and agricultural sectors for disaster.**

You can find training materials and resources on pet-friendly sheltering, animal technical rescue, vector control, food safety, how to volunteer with a SART organization, county contacts for key emergency management professionals in each county in Florida, a list of animal and agriculture disaster specialists, and a list of emergency response equipment that is available.

SART welcomes new members to its website at [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org) by providing unlimited access to educational and informational resources, the ability to post trainings and events to the Events Calendar, and more. SART members

are automatically enrolled into a subscription to the monthly SART newsletter, *The Sentinel*. Members receive unlimited access to SART training media, access to searchable member and resource contact information, and photos and videos from SART activities and responses. During the times leading up to disaster, SART members receive alerts and other pertinent SART information as well as situation reports (Sit Reps) during emergency activation. For more information regarding SART and Emergency Support Function-17 (ESF 17), please visit [www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org)





# The Sentinel

Newsletter of  
the Florida State  
Agricultural  
Response Team



## Mid-Year SART Update

Throughout the year, the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) has been involved in many activities dedicated to the safety and preservation of animals and agriculture.

Two SART-funded trainings that we want to highlight are the Animal Technical Rescue (ATR) trainings at the Florida Fire College, hosted by the University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (UF VETS) team, and the Small Animal Emergency Sheltering trainings offered by the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC).

From July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, SARC completed 13 trainings and certified over 100 individuals on small animal emergency sheltering with funding made possible by Florida SART.

The UF VETS team trained 73 personnel in animal technical rescue. The effort put forth by these two organizations helps to resolve resource gaps in disaster response by training more local personnel and first responders in emergency animal extrication and enhance capabilities and credentialing in animal emergency response.

If you are interested in taking either of these trainings, register for a membership account on the Florida SART website at, [www.flgart.org](http://www.flgart.org). Members will receive updates on training opportunities and access to virtual trainings such as the Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training.

See Mid-Year SART Update, page 2.

### Special Features of this Issue:

- Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training
- Heat Wave – Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!
- Biosecurity for Animal Disease Prevention

***"It's important to remember that it's not just the ambient temperature, but also the humidity that can affect your pet."***

— Dr. Barry Kellogg, VMD  
Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association  
Story begins on page 2.



# **Emergency Contact List**

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## For Animal & Agricultural Issues

### Notes:

# Our Partners



Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services

<p><b>UF   IFAS</b> UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA</p> <p>University of Florida/IFAS</p>	<p><b>FSA</b> FARM SERVICE AGENCY</p> <p>USDA/Farm Service Agency</p>	<p><b>Veterinary Services</b></p> <p>USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services</p>	<p><b>FLORIDA FARM BUREAU</b></p> <p>Florida Farm Bureau Federation</p>
<p><b>FVMA</b> Florida VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</p> <p>Florida Veterinary Medical Association</p>	<p><b>UF</b> College of Veterinary Medicine UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA</p> <p>University of Florida/College of Veterinary Medicine</p>	<p><b>Florida Animal Control Association</b></p> <p>Florida Animal Control Association</p>	<p><b>FNGLA</b> FLORIDA NURSERY, GROWERS AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION Leading Florida's Green Industry</p> <p>Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association</p>
<p><b>THE HUMANE SOCIETY</b> OF THE UNITED STATES</p> <p>Humane Society of the United States</p>	<p><b>Florida Cattlemen's Association</b></p> <p>Florida Cattlemen's Association</p>	<p><b>FAKC</b></p> <p>Florida Association of Kennel Clubs</p>	<p><b>USDA</b> <b>APHIS</b></p> <p>USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services</p>
<p><b>FFAA</b> Nourish • Protect • Engage Florida Fertilizer &amp; Agrichemical Association</p> <p>Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association</p>	<p><b>FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b></p> <p>Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</p>	<p><b>ASPCA</b></p> <p>The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</p>	<p><b>FFVA</b> FLORIDA FRUIT &amp; VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION</p> <p>Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association</p>
<p><b>SPCA FLORIDA</b> Animal Response Coalition</p> <p>Florida State Animal Response Coalition</p>	<p><b>FLORIDA VETERINARY TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION</b></p> <p>Florida Veterinary Technician Association</p>	<p><b>FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH</b></p> <p>Florida Department of Health</p>	<p><b>SOUTHEAST MILK</b> The Cooperative Built On Trust</p> <p>Southeast Milk, Inc.</p>
<p><b>Florida Aquaculture Association</b></p> <p>Florida Aquaculture Association</p>	<p><b>FAZA</b> FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS &amp; AQUARIUMS</p> <p>Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums</p>	<p><b>UF   Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program</b></p> <p>Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program</p>	<p><b>UNITED DAIRY FARMERS</b> of Florida</p> <p>United Dairy Farmers of Florida</p>

# Notes

# Notes



**Florida State Agricultural Response Team**

[www.flgart.org](http://www.flgart.org)

# FLORIDA AGRICULTURE AT-A-GLANCE



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