



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

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Hurricane Season Officially Begins June 1

Enhanced Activity Expected in 2013

The 2012 season began with Debby in May and this year, Andrea has already dragged her soggy garments through the state.

There is an old mariner's ditty about Caribbean hurricanes:



June- too soon.

July- stand by!

August- look out you must.

September- remember.

October- all over

"My biggest concern is that while they [Federal authorities] say sequestration will stop during a disaster, are they [the Florida National Guard] going to be ready in the meantime?" Florida Governor Rick Scott during the Governor's Hurricane Conference in Fort Lauderdale. "What that means is your job [the job of first responders] gets harder, because I'm going to try to get as many people to move here as possible."

Officially, the Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1 and lasts until November 30, but as the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory notes, "There is nothing magical in these dates, and hurricanes have occurred outside of these six months. These dates were selected to encompass over 97 percent of tropical activity." Still, the lab notes there's a "very peaked season from August to October."



A map from the National Weather Service in Tallahassee shows the area where Tropical Storm Andrea made landfall around 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2013. (National Weather Service photo)

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Philip Klotzbach and William Gray from Colorado State University presented to this year's Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference (May 5-10, Ft. Lauderdale). They have studied Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Probability for many years and below is a summary for 2013 dated April 10. The link to their complete report is <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts:>

“We anticipate that the 2013 Atlantic basin hurricane season will have enhanced activity compared with the 1981-2010 climatology. The tropical Atlantic has anomalously warmed over the past several months, and it appears that the chances of an El Niño event this summer and fall [an El Niño event depresses hurricane activity] are unlikely.

“We anticipate an above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the United States coastline and in the Caribbean. Coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them, and they need to prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much or how little activity is predicted.”

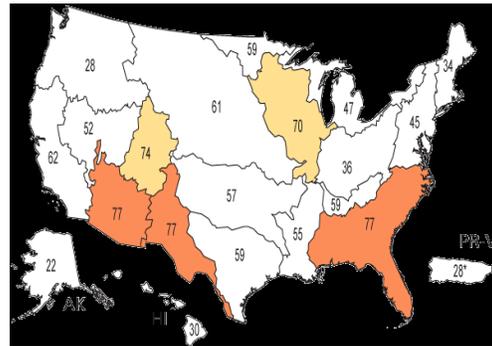
The early forecast from NOAA parallels that of Gray and Klotzbach. NOAA predicts 13 to 20 named storms, seven to 11 that could become hurricanes and three to six major hurricanes that could be category three or higher, according to Kathryn Sullivan, acting NOAA administrator.

Sullivan cautioned that the facts, figures and percentages of predictions are less important than readiness. “The important news today is about preparedness,” she said. “Now is the time to think ahead about the hurricane season that is coming. If you live along those shorelines, this is your warning, this is your announcement.”

NOTE: Bill Gray and Phil Klotzbach's presentation from the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference has been posted online. For a glimpse into the enormous number of variables these researchers juggle to prepare their forecast, click <http://typhoon.atmos.colostate.edu> for their presentation.

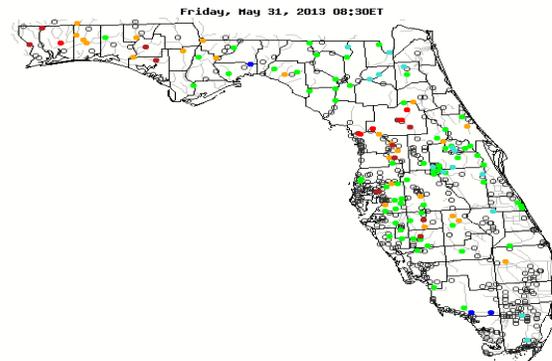
USGS Maps Streamflow

Is Florida slowly losing its water resources or is it happening much more rapidly than we typically believe? It is a question of vital interest to agriculturalists and residents alike. Below is a map of real-time streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year. The first USGS map is the U.S. as a whole, and the second map is Florida.



Explanation - Rank						
83	76-82	64-75	21-63	9-20	2-8	1
Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

Streamflows at much-below normal levels were reported in the South Atlantic-Gulf, Rio Grande and Lower Colorado regions. Below normal conditions were measured in the Upper Mississippi and Upper Colorado regions.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

Hogs Gone Wild: Feral Swine in Florida

YOUR FERAL SWINE TEST QUESTIONS

1. Are hogs – wild or otherwise – native to America?
2. How many wild hogs are estimated to inhabit the U.S.?
3. How many states report a wild hog invasion?
4. How many of those total wild hogs are estimated to live in Florida?
5. Are wild hogs a noxious pest?
6. If wild hogs are captured should they be immediately integrated with a domestic herd and fed the same garbage foods fed to other livestock?
7. T/F: Several diseases in Florida livestock – Swine Brucellosis and Pseudorabies, for example – can be traced to wild hogs.
8. FSD stands for _____?
9. T/F: The best way to keep wild hogs in confinement is with trained “hog dogs” and, believe it or not, with a species of domestic cat that is “swine-fever tolerant.”
10. T/F: Hunting of wild hogs is illegal in Florida.

Answers to these questions, taken from http://www.freshfromflorida.com/ai/pdf/brochures/DACS-P-01510_Swine_Trappers.pdf, can be found at the end of this month’s SART Sentinel.

Feral Pig Distribution in the U.S.



According to the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the popularity of wild pigs as a game species has played a major role in the expansion of their range throughout the U.S. The sudden presence of wild pigs in new areas is most often a result of escapes of stocked animals from privately owned, “game-proof” fenced hunting preserves and/or illegal translocation: the practice of capturing wild pigs, transporting them to new locations, and releasing them into the wild.

Under the Radar

Florida SARC Offers June Awareness Course

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

Course Topics include:

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

June 15 – Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Hernando County EOC, 18900 Cortez Blvd., Training Room, Brooksville, FL 34601

June 22 – Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
St. John's County Emergency Operations Center, 100 EOC Dr., St. Augustine, FL 32092

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

BERP – Bovine Emergency Response Plan

“The accident scene is not the place to build your team,” says Lisa Pederson. Lisa is Extension Beef Quality Assurance Specialist, North Dakota State University.

Lisa was a guest presenter at the 2013 SART Planning Meeting in Daytona in January. She coupled a power point presentation with an unusually pointed (and often humorous) discussion of bovine emergency operations ... especially those involving vehicles and responders who are inexperienced handling cows and horses.



January 7, 2013: A truck and trailer carrying cattle ran off the road on Interstate 75 near Gainesville, Florida. The crash caused northbound and southbound traffic to slow down while responders gathered escaped cows. One person was treated for injuries and taken to Shands Hospital at UF. By 5:00 p.m., traffic reopened for all lanes.

The SART web site contains lots of information which impinges directly on your ability as a response team member? Here's the link to Lisa's presentation:
<http://www.flsart.org/SART/buildingabetterteam/2013presentation/2013pdf/sart%20meeting.pdf>.

Agroterrorism Preparedness Workshop

On June 5, 2013 the Florida Association for Food Protection (FAFP) is offering an Agroterrorism Preparedness Workshop. This six hour workshop includes delivery of a 3.5 hour, DHS-certified agroterrorism preparedness course, and a workshop designed to allow participants to explore and apply some of the concepts and tools being offered by the nation's federal food safety agencies.

The course and workshop are being offered free of charge, with funding provided by DHS through the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium.

Registration includes a \$20 fee for lunch, which will be provided.

Workshop speakers are Art Johnstone of Grant Partners, Inc. and Dr. Jennifer Chatfield, DVM.

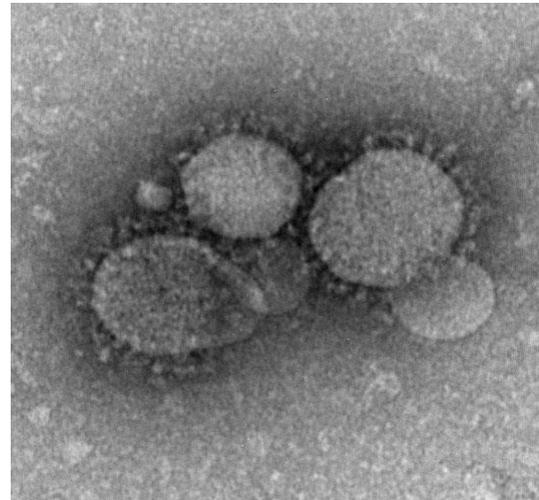
The course begins with an 8:30 am sign-in and ends at 4:00 pm.

The course will be held at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort in the Walt Disney World Resort

complex, 1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. (Call (407) 828-4444 for directions.)

Registration information at <http://www.fafp.net/aec/aec-workshop/>
For questions check the SART Calendar or contact Art Johnstone at ajohnstone@grantpartnersinc.org or (850) 251-4184.

Coronavirus



MERS-CoV particles as seen by negative stain electron microscopy. Virions contain characteristic club-like projections emanating from the viral membrane. Photo courtesy CDC

It is not a Mexican beer. It can be passed between people in close contact, but health officials don't know much about it. It has a mortality rate of more than half of those infected ... and it is spreading. Of the 49 known infections, 27 people have died.

Most cases have occurred in the Saudi Arabian Peninsula, but cases have also appeared in France, Britain and Germany. "All of the European cases have had a direct or indirect connection to the Middle East," the World Health Organization said last month.

Coronaviruses (<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/about/>) cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, as well as a variety of animal diseases. The new coronavirus, MERS-CoV, acts like a cold virus and attacks the respiratory system. But symptoms, which include fever and a cough, are severe and can lead to

pneumonia and kidney failure.

Middle East respiratory system coronavirus, MERS-CoV, is “a threat to the entire world,” WHO says.

WHO Upgrades U.S. BSE Risk Status



The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE – www.oie.int) has upgraded the U.S. risk classification for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE – often called “mad cow” disease) to negligible risk.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack noted, “This is a significant achievement that has been many years in the making for the U.S., American beef producers and businesses, and federal and state partners who work together to maintain a system of interlocking safeguards against BSE that protect our public and animal health. This decision demonstrates OIE’s belief that both our surveillance for, and safeguards against, BSE are strong. U.S. beef and beef products are of the highest quality, wholesome and produced to the highest safety standards in the world.”

Last year, exports of U.S.-origin beef and beef products totaled \$5.5 billion. The new classification gives the U.S. leverage to sell additional beef products on the foreign markets.

Vilsack said the USDA would “continue to press trading partners to base their decisions on science, consistent with international standards. U.S. food and agricultural exporters and consumers worldwide benefit when countries adopt science-based international standards.”

Highs and Lows



Florida's all-time high temperature (in Fahrenheit) was 109 degrees, set on June 29, 1931 in Monticello. The lowest temperature on record was the -2 degree reading set on February 13, 1899 in Tallahassee. <http://ager.blogspot.com/>



Hogs Gone Wild: Feral Swine in Florida

YOUR FERAL SWINE TEST ANSWERS

1. Hogs are not a native American livestock species. They were introduced by European settlers.
2. Wild hogs numbers are estimated at more than 4 million animals.
3. Wild hogs inhabit as many as 39 states.
4. Florida estimates that more than 1 million wild hogs run loose inside the Sunshine State.
5. Wild hogs have a clear-cut negative impact on the state. They damage the natural environment and domestic animals through competition for food, habitat destruction and the spread of disease. Wild hogs may produce two litters a year and are difficult to control.
6. What? No, never ... on both counts!
7. False: With vigorous control mechanisms, FDACS, Florida agriculturalists and hunters have ensured that Florida is free of these diseases in its commercial production swine herds.
8. A trapper or Feral Swine Dealer (FSD) must register with FDACS and keep specific and accurate records.
9. All domestic animals including dogs and cats should be kept away from captured wild hogs.
10. False: Hunting of wild hogs in Florida is encouraged. Feral swine carry several transmissible diseases though, including Brucellosis, Pseudorabies, Leptospirosis, Trichinosis and Classical Swine Fever, that can be transmitted to domestic livestock or

humans. Hunters are at risk of becoming infected with Swine Brucellosis, Leptospirosis and Trichinosis if precautions are not taken when they dress feral pigs. Safety measures should include: wearing disposable gloves when dressing and cleaning pigs, avoiding direct contact with blood and reproductive organs, burying or burning gloves and remains from the dressed hog, cleaning up with hot water and soap after butchering, and thoroughly cooking meat from these animals prior to eating.

For more information, go to [http://www.freshfromflorida.com/ai/pdf/brochures/DACS-P-01510 Swine Trappers.pdf](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/ai/pdf/brochures/DACS-P-01510_Swine_Trappers.pdf).

About the SART Sentinel

The SART Sentinel is an e-mail newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the Sentinel are archived on the Florida SART Web Site www.flsart.org.

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in the SART Sentinel, please contact the editors.

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