



THE SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Cow Rescue Emphasizes Training

On Friday May16, the Collier County Sheriff's Office received a call from a citizen regarding a cow that was stuck in the mud. The CCSO Agriculture Bureau activated the Region 6 Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Team (TLAER) and members from the Collier County Sheriff's Office Agriculture Bureau. In addition, District Four Road Patrol Deputies, Lee County Sheriff's Office Agricultural Crimes Unit, The Hendry County Sheriff's Office Agricultural Patrol and the Corkscrew Fire Department responded.

Upon arrival the cow was found in the edge of a large lake stuck up to her neck. Using mud lances, nylon rescue straps, ropes, a rescue glide and water provided by the Corkscrew Fire Department, the cow was pulled by human power out of the mud. The cow was in good condition and was being monitored by its owner.

The following photos show the progression of events resulting in the rescue.



The brief video clip (below) illustrates the teamwork needed to pull the cow out of the mud once all of the straps and ropes were put in place.

[Cow rescue video](#)

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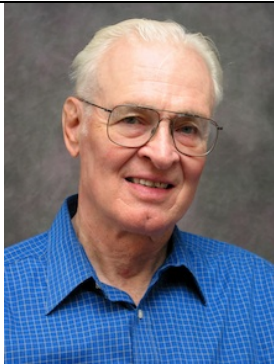
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The UF Vet School's John Haven notes: "This team went through their two year refresh training shortly before performing this rescue. They have participated in something like 14 rescues."

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Hurricane Season 2014 - Predictions



Dr. William H. Gray

**Dept. of Atmospheric Science
Colorado State University
Philip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray**

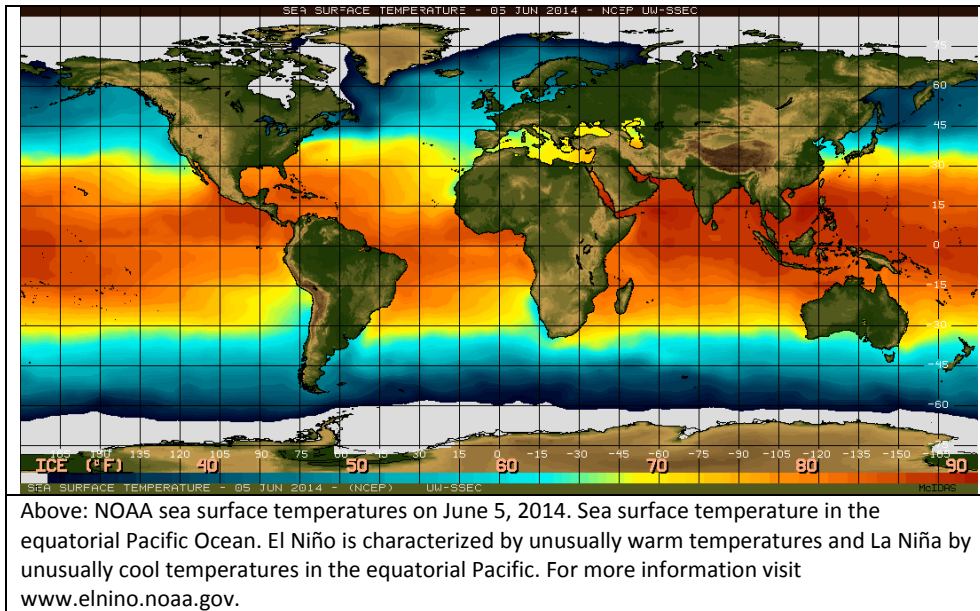
Note: CSU Professor Emeritus Bill Gray, PhD, received the first Robert and Joanne Simpson Award at the 2nd Annual National Tropical Weather Conference this year. The award recognized Gray's "outstanding contribution to tropical meteorology and his distinguished role in pioneering the first seasonal hurricane forecast."

As of June 2, we continue to foresee a below-average 2014 Atlantic hurricane season. The tropical Atlantic remains slightly cooler than normal, while El Niño is in the process of developing. However, the transition to El Niño has slowed some in recent weeks, and the tropical Atlantic has anomalously warmed, causing us to increase our forecast slightly. We are still calling for a below-average probability of United States and Caribbean major hurricane landfall. [The Tropical Meteorology Project, <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/>]

NOAA

In its 2014 Atlantic hurricane season outlook issued [May 22], NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (www.noaanews.noaa.gov) is forecasting a near-normal or below-normal season.

The main driver of this year's outlook is the anticipated development of El Niño this summer. El Niño causes stronger wind shear, which reduces the number and intensity of tropical storms and hurricanes. El Niño can also strengthen the trade winds and increase the atmospheric stability across the tropical Atlantic, making it more difficult for cloud systems coming off of Africa to intensify into tropical storms.



The outlook calls for a 50 percent chance of a below-normal season, a 40 percent chance of a near-normal season, and only a 10 percent chance of an above-normal season. For the six-month hurricane season NOAA predicts a 70 percent likelihood of 8 to 13 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 3 to 6 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1 to 2 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher).

These numbers are near or below the seasonal averages of 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes, based on the average from 1981 to 2010.

The Weather Channel

anatomy of a hurricane
in the northern hemisphere

After one of the quietest hurricane seasons in decades, forecasters with The Weather Channel (www.weather.com) predict a below-average 2014 Atlantic hurricane season. The early outlook released March 24 calls for 11 named storms, including five hurricanes, two of which are predicted to attain major hurricane status (Saffir-Simpson Category 3 or stronger). This is slightly below the long-term average of 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

"The early dynamical model runs suggest another relatively slow season," said Dr. Todd Crawford, chief meteorologist for Weather Services International (WSI), a part of the The Weather Company. "Three independent statistical techniques all suggest 11 named storms this year."

FL Agriculture – The Good News

Florida’s agriculture industry is estimated at \$108 billion overall.

Florida exports agricultural products to more than 170 countries and territories. Canada is the leading destination, receiving almost a quarter of exports, followed by the Netherlands, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Panama. The fastest growing major markets include South Korea, Germany, Chile, Brazil and Hong Kong.

The state's leading export commodities include meat, fruit, vegetables, nuts and fish. Florida continues to be a leader in the production and export of grapefruit – especially to Japan – oranges, orange juice, strawberries, blueberries and watermelon. The fastest-growing exports included pure-bred breeding horses, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and snap beans.

BSE Death in Texas



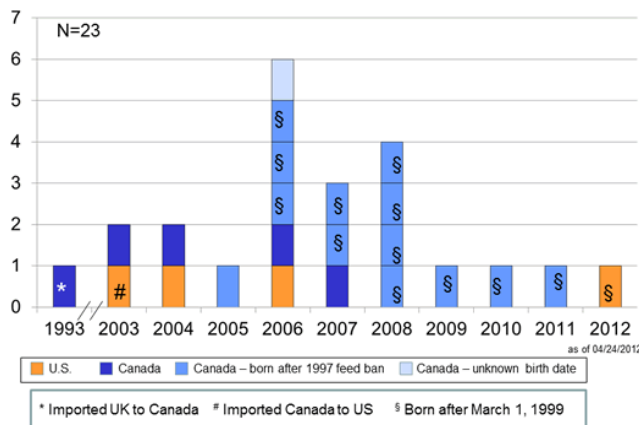
Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed the fourth death in the U.S. from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as “mad cow disease.”

The Texas patient died in May and lab tests from an autopsy confirmed he had variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), a deadly disorder first reported in 1996 in the United Kingdom. vCJD has killed more than 220 people and prompted the slaughter of millions of cattle.

The CDC said the victim had traveled extensively in Europe and the Middle East and that “supports the likelihood that infection occurred outside the United States.” All three previous U.S. deaths were linked to an infection acquired elsewhere — two in the U.K. and one in Saudi Arabia.

Kathy Simmons, chief veterinarian for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association also cited the infection's likely overseas origins: “There have been no documented cases of vCJD associated directly with beef consumption in the United States.”

BSE Cases in North America, by Year and Country of Death, 1993 - April 2012



Simmons noted that the World Organization for Animal Health last year changed the U.S. status for BSE to negligible, the lowest possible risk, citing safeguards that include an FDA ban on mammalian-derived proteins in livestock feed and random testing of cattle.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture tests the brains of 40,000 dead animals, or less than 0.1 percent of all U.S. cattle, for BSE each year. That is however down 90 percent since 2005, when the department announced a limited-time surge to sample high-risk cattle.

Under the Radar

Florida SARC Courses

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition is teaching “Small Animal Emergency Sheltering – Awareness Level” to promote effective response for animals during disasters. Registration is required, but due to grants from Florida Division of Emergency Management and U.S. Homeland Security, no fee is charged for attendance. This course is certified by FDEM as course code FL-003-RESP.

Date & Time: Saturday June 14, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: Old Town Hall, 1000 Town Hall Avenue, Jupiter

Date & Time: Saturday June 21, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: Flagler County Emergency Operations Center, 1769 E Moody Blvd., Bunnell

Date & Time: Sunday, June 29, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: Collier County Domestic Animal Services, 7610 Davis Blvd., Naples

Date & Time: Sunday, August 10, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: American Red Cross Capital Area Chapter, 1115 Easterwood Dr., Tallahassee

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition was formed by many diverse groups of highly qualified animal responders dedicated to protecting the entire family during disasters. When a hurricane, fire, tornado or other disaster threatens the state of Florida, we will be there to assist with teams of professionally trained volunteers dedicated to care for the animals that rely on us.

For information and registration go to <http://www.flsarc.org/Training.html> or contact Melissa Forberg training@flsarc.org (352) 658-1224, Pam Burns pamburnssarc@gmail.com, Andy Bass training@flsarc.org or Consie Von Gontard training@flsarc.org.

Xin: SART Mobile Site

A Letter from Dr. Jiannong Xin, Office of Information Technology, UF/IFAS

All,

More and more people are dependent on smartphones in their daily lives, and they want to be connected with useful information when they need it most.

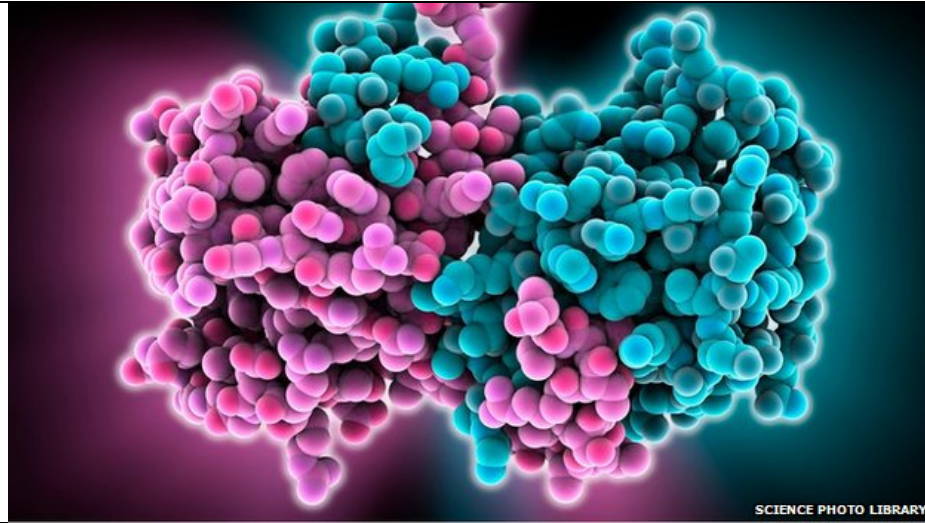
I'm pleased to inform you that the SART mobile site is now available for your review at <http://www.flsart.org> or go directly at <http://www.flsart.org/m/>. Unlike the full website, the mobile version intends to provide important information suitable for small devices and call/email contacts at your fingertips.

For your convenience, you may add the SART mobile site on the Home Screen of your phone. [Attached](#) is a step by step instruction Fan prepared. The procedure might be a little different if you have a different version of iOS or Android.

Please send us your inputs for any comments/corrections/revisions.

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Photo of the Week – Ebola Virus



Four people died of Ebola recently in Sierra Leone, the first confirmed cases in that country following an outbreak in Guinea. There is no cure or vaccine for Ebola - one of the world's deadliest viruses. Although people have a better chance of surviving if it is identified early and they get supportive medical care, Ebola can kill up to 90 percent of those infected and is passed on through contact with the fluids of infected people or animals, such as urine, sweat and blood. In Guinea, there have been a total of 258 cases of Ebola, with 174 deaths - 146 of which have been laboratory-confirmed.

The Importance of Communication

Tenerife is the largest and most populous island in Spain's Canary Islands, which lie about 800 miles southwest of Gibraltar. Supported principally by tourism, Tenerife consequently has a popular zoological garden, a zoo called Loro Parque (Parrot Park). In that zoo reside a variety of displays and cages housing orcas, piranhas, sharks, and alligators – as well as chimpanzees, jaguars, tigers and so on – plus, for the flowered set, an orchid garden. It is that “and so on” group, however, that requires our attention because an incident there in the first week in May is instructive for Florida responders. Here is an excerpt about an incident as reported in the Tenerife newspaper, La Opinión. reported in the Tenerife newspaper, La Opinión.



- Loro Parque holds periodic training sessions and drills simulating animal escapes. A staff member consequently dressed in a gorilla costume and was “running around the zoo in costume to add realism to the drill.”
- Apparently, not everyone at the zoo was informed of the drill because a zoo veterinarian – who had worked at the zoo for only two months – hearing about a gorilla on the loose, loaded his tranquilizer dart gun and stalked the feral and dangerous simian. The veterinarian’s dart gun was filled with enough tranquilizer, La Opinión reported, to “take down a 400 pound gorilla.”
- At last report the man in the gorilla suit suffered a severe allergic reaction to the tranquilizer and was taken to the hospital where he was reportedly in serious condition.

NOTE: A bulletin recently issued by authorities at Loro Parque insists that the injured employee was not wearing a gorilla suit and that the incident was simply an accident that occurred during a routine emergency drill. A week after the incident, the injured 35-year old employee was reported in good health and had returned to work ... following a good night’s sleep.

Eating Invasives

A recent ABC News feature by Ramit Plushnick-Masti (AP: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/us-eliminate-invasive-species-eating-23861717>) recommended a simple proposition for ridding America of many of its invasive species. Eat them.



Wild cuisine: Lionfish used in ceviche with wild fennel and red onion. Photo courtesy Christopher Testani.



Lionfish

An aggressive invasive that damages reefs and devours native species. Very edible with flesh that is a buttery, flaky meat, perfect for cerviche or even as a lobster alternative.

Giant tiger prawn

A crustacean similar to shrimp, but with a massive appetite that lets it grow to over a foot in length. Palatable – even gourmet.

Feral hog

Delicious when properly prepared and barbecued ... and ridding America’s fields and forests of wild hogs is a service to everyone. Unfortunately, the wild hog breeds very rapidly. (When does an invasive become a permanent resident?)

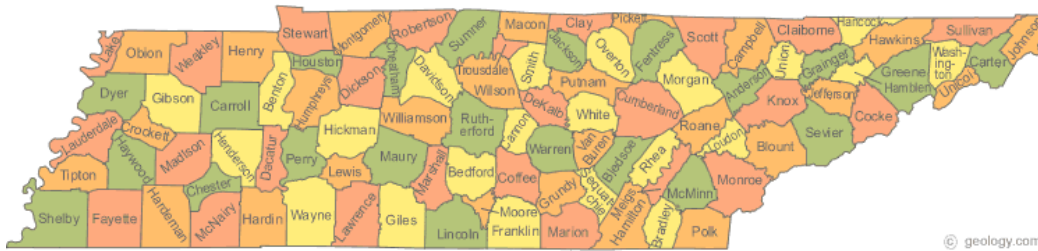


Asian carp?

A voracious bottom feeder spreading across the U.S. Not so much. Mushy “ill tempered” meat (says the Editor who has eaten carp and is not, as you might be able to tell, fond of them).

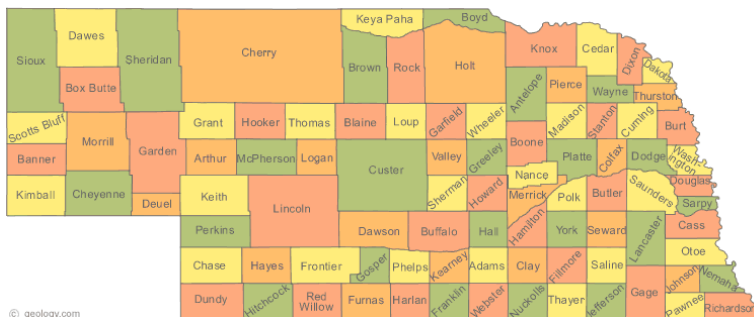
“Damage from invasive species extends beyond the environment,” Plushnick-Masti writes. “A Cornell University study concluded that they caused more than \$120 billion in economic harm annually. Feral hogs cost Texas alone about \$52 million in agricultural damage every year, according to a study by Texas A&M University.”

Rap Sheet: The Latest from the USDA’s OIG



1. Tennessee: On February 14, 2014, in U.S. District Court in Tennessee, a producer who committed crop insurance and bankruptcy fraud was sentenced to 51 months in prison and ordered to pay \$888,500 in restitution. The producer’s ex-wife participated in the scheme and was sentenced to 20 months’ imprisonment and was ordered to pay restitution of \$178,500, jointly and severally with the producer and a third co-defendant who was previously sentenced. The producer has a long history of tobacco program fraud, having previously gone to prison for tobacco violations, and the U.S. Government has over \$30 million in combined civil judgments against him.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation was initiated after evidence of fraud was revealed during the course of the producer’s bankruptcy. OIG’s investigation disclosed that he hid assets by putting tobacco farming operations and crop insurance policies in straw producers’ names. OIG found that a third co-defendant received approximately \$164,000 in crop insurance indemnities for the 2009 crop year that were actually under the control and direction of the producer. These funds had been deposited in accounts belonging to his ex-wife and were not disclosed to the bankruptcy court.



2. Nebraska: On March 24, 2014, in U.S. District Court in Nebraska, the co-owner of a meat processing plant that distributed mislabeled and uninspected meat was sentenced to 2 years of probation. The USDA OIG investigation determined that the woman and her husband, who owned the plant, directed their employees to falsely label packages of ground beef with the Federal mark of inspection, although the packages

contained meat that had been processed without USDA inspection. The mislabeled meat products were sold to a public school system. Uninspected meat products were also sold to a food cooperative. The owners were charged with violations of the Federal Meat Inspection Act. The woman pled guilty in October 2013 to a misdemeanor count of misbranding meat. Her husband previously pled guilty to the sale of misbranded meat.

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.fl sart.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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