

# THE VRC CONNECTION

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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### NCA&CS, PARTNERS TEAM UP FOR FEED

FOOD AND DRUG PROTECTION, FDA HELP ENSURE QUALITY PRODUCTS

NCA&CS has many programs in place to protect North Carolina consumers. One of these programs is the Feed Section of the Food and Drug Protection Division. The Feed Section is the enforcement agency for North Carolina's Commercial Feed Law. The Feed Section conducts inspections at retail and manufacturing levels across the state to assure quality feed products that meet the feed laws are being offered for sale. The

Section operates in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration to confirm the licensed feed mills in the State are operating under current Good Manufacturing Practice regulations and that farms, feed mills, and trucking firms are operating in compliance with federal regulations regarding restricted use protein products and the transmission of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. See Page 2.



### VET REPRESENTS VRC AT AgERT

Dr. Christa Gallagher, DVM, CCRP, who recently traveled to Anniston, AL to attend the Weapons of Mass Destruction Basic Agricultural Emergency Response Training (AgERT), explains why this was "one of the best training courses I have attended in my veterinary career" on Page 3.



### VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

The VRC has made the switch to ServNC, which is currently the only system we utilize. If you are a current member and are not receiving announcements, please check your ServNC account, which must be completed before you can be approved. The website to join and complete your membership is [www.servnc.org](http://www.servnc.org). The registration process takes about 30 minutes and is very comprehensive. Please be as complete as possible when you register. This information is secured and your privacy will be honored.

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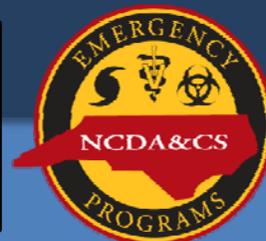


**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES**

**Emergency Programs Division**

*Steve Troxler, Commissioner*

*Sharron Stewart, Director*



# MAY CAMET TRAINING A SUCCESS

## NEW MODULES COVER ACTIVATION TO DEMOBILIZATION

On May 19<sup>th</sup> an Advanced CAMET (Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer) and Eastern Regional Sheltering Training was given at the Bob Martin Agriculture Center in Williamston. This training was attended by 60 potential volunteers from across eastern North Carolina. There was a great representation of attendees from different partners in disaster preparedness.

This day long training covered all of the basics of setting up a regional shelter for small animals and equines at the Bob Martin Agriculture Center. The day started with a overview of activating the regional shelter and how it would interact with the local and state Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Dr. Jimmy Tickel discussed these topics as well as how to prepare for and staff an evacuation shelter and then how to transition into an extended stay shelter. Dr. Tickel also reviewed the Equine Sheltering Plan for handling horses during a disaster. Rick Scott, Industrial Hygienist with PHRST 1 (Public Health Regional Surveillance Team), also talked to the group about co-location sheltering from a public health perspective.

NCDA & CS Emergency Programs Division (EP) has been working hard to create training modules for the CAMETs that are already positioned across the state. This training was the first opportunity to use the new modules to train volunteers. The modules consist of six presentations that cover everything you need to know about how to use the CAMET properly. The modules explain how to move the CAMET, liability and responsibility of using and owning a CAMET, use of the equipment in the CAMET, using the CAMET and its supplies in setting up a shelter and restocking and demobilizing the CAMET. Presenters from EP and NC Emergency Management presented these modules to the participants. The rest of the afternoon was hands-on training. The participants were given the opportunity to see what was inside the basic CAMET and to use the equipment inside.

It was a great training with a great group of participants. Everyone was excited to learn and excited to work together. It is very important that we work with all of our partners in planning for and training for potential disasters. When we are faced with a real disaster it will be essential to have formed those working relationships so that we can all get through any situation together.

## VRC COORDINATORS

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

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR VRC DEPLOYMENT

- ICS 100, 200, and 700
- Biosecurity/PPE Training
- Knowledge of NC Emergency Management
- Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions
- Attendance at VRC Meetings
- Signing a Code of Conduct

NCVRC ONLINE  
[www.ncvrc.org](http://www.ncvrc.org)

## Teaming up for feed, *continued*

Recently the Feed Section became involved in one of the newer programs the NCDA&CS is helping develop: The Rapid Response Team. North Carolina is one of six pilot states for this federally backed program. After being awarded a federal grant, the state has gone to work putting together a comprehensive team of specialized individuals that will respond in the event of a food or feed related illness outbreak. These "strike teams" will work with other national, state and local organizations to determine the outbreak cause as quickly as possible in order to greatly reduce the number of affected people and/or animals.

The organizations involved will depend on the scope of the outbreak and the affected parties, such as state and local public health departments and animal health organizations.

If an individual owner or veterinarian feels that an animal's illness is related to their feed they may make contact with their area Feed Inspector or the Feed Section of the NCDA&CS, who would then direct them in how to proceed. With a confirmed illness, the area feed inspector would go out and take samples of the suspect feed and submit for analysis. The laboratory does need to know what the veterinarian suspects as the illness cause, as blanket testing of feed is currently unavailable at the NCDA&CS Constable Lab. Examples would be mycotoxins, mineral deficiencies, or unapproved medications. If reports of multiple illnesses bearing the same case history were to come in, this would be an opportunity for the Rapid Response Team to step in and work with animal health care professionals and organizations to quell the outbreak.

**COMPLETE YOUR VRC  
REGISTRATION AT**

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

# VET REPRESENTS VRC AT AgERT

## TRAINING FOCUSES ON WMD RESPONSE

Article provided courtesy of Christa Gallagher, DVM

Last April I had the unique opportunity to represent the NCVRC in attending the Weapons of Mass Destruction Basic Agricultural Emergency Response Training (AgERT) in Anniston, Alabama. This was a four day course held at The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), a federal training facility under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



This course was designed to give agricultural responders and traditional responders simultaneous training in the event of an act of agro terrorism; specifically one involving CBRNE, or Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive hazards. Class work in the form of lectures, videos, and demonstrations covered topics including the identification of CBRNE incidents, response actions using ICS, zoonotic and foreign animal disease, epidemiology, and animal carcass disposal. Hands-on, OSHA operations level training was used to demonstrate selecting and using appropriate PPE, conducting decontamination, using CBRNE specific survey and monitoring equipment, and crime scene preservation. After three days of intense training at the CDP, our fourth day was spent at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine participating in a performance-oriented practical team exercise involving two agro terrorism scenarios.

I would say without hesitation that this was one of the best training courses that I have attended in my veterinary career. The level of professionalism and efficiency of the course coordinators and instructors was evident from the moment we arrived at the CDP. The instructors were very experienced in their respective fields of expertise and were patient and enthusiastic in sharing their time and knowledge. The coursework was a thorough review of foreign animal diseases for veterinarians, but also introduced comprehensive information on hazmat decontamination and crime scene detection and preservation that is historically more of a traditional responder responsibility. Case studies and sidebars were used throughout the lecture notes to make the material more relevant to agroterrorist events of past and present day. In addition, CDP's medical technicians were diligent in their constant monitoring of our health status during training exercises. Finally, one of the best aspects of AgERT was that it included not only veterinarians, epidemiologists, and animal technicians, but also included traditional responders in law enforcement, fire, EMS and others.

*Christa Gallagher DVM, CCRP is a 1993 graduate of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Gallagher owns and operates Arbor Creek Animal Hospital & Rehabilitation Clinic in Holly Springs.*

## ABOUT VRC

**OUR MISSION** To train and prepare professionals in the animal care community to respond to disaster events (all hazard) that affect both production and companion animals. Our members will serve as a resource for our state and the nation.

# VRC SPOTLIGHT:

Michael P. Martin,  
DVM, MPVM, ACPV

I am an Assistant Professor at the North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine (NCSU, CVM) in the Population Health and Pathobiology Department and a board certified Diplomate by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians. My position at the CVM includes acting as the field clinician and epidemiologist for the Poultry Health Management team. I also have clinical teaching responsibilities including coordinator for our Poultry Health Management senior veterinary rotation.



Dr. Martin

Since I started at the college in July 2005, I have been interested in the national and state response to disasters affecting animals. I have always been impressed by the opportunities in North Carolina to be involved with groups such as the NCVRC and impressed by the talented people working to keep our state as prepared as possible for events like these. I was thrilled when our NCSU, CVM became the first veterinary school in the nation to require Veterinary Response Corps training for all third year students. I am proud to be working with others at the CVM and our state government on this program.

Outside of my teaching responsibilities, I have tried to be as involved as I can by interacting with state agencies, getting training, and assisting with educational programs when possible. I have completed several training programs and look forward to increasing my knowledge as the opportunity arises. I have greatly enjoyed these training sessions and the opportunity to assist, whether it is here at the CVM or with Avian Influenza Strike Force training for our community. I personally believe that the NCVRC is an extremely valuable resource for our state and I am proud to be a part of it. In my opinion, the NCVRC is critical as an advocate group for animals affected by disasters in North Carolina.

*To see recent news and updates, please visit the VRC website at [www.ncvrc.org](http://www.ncvrc.org). If you have questions about the VRC or would like to offer suggestions or articles for future newsletters, contact Mandy at [mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov](mailto:mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov).*