

Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER)

by Christina Law, DVM, NCDA&CS

Many times as a large animal veterinarian, I have been called out for cows down in a creek branch, or horses stuck in the mud or fallen in a hole, and as I was attempting to help rescue the animal, I found myself thinking, "There has to be a better way." Now, I know that more times than not, there is a better way. In late April I had the opportunity to take the Operations Level TLAER course hosted by Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, through their Emergency Services Training program. What an education I got! The course instructors are Tomas Gimenez, DVM and Rebecca Gimenez, PhD with Tori Miller and Justin McLeod as assistant instructors. The participants in the class were a combination of fire and rescue personnel, law enforcement, animal control, veterinarians and veterinary techs/assistants (including some VRC members), military, Agriculture Extension and others.

The operations level course is a three day intensive training for technical rescue of large animals (horses, cattle, and other livestock). The morning lecture sessions included information on disaster prevention and preparedness, evacuation planning, traffic situations such as overturned trailers or animals at large,

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TLAER participants learn proper sling techniques.

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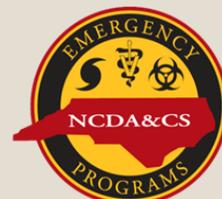


NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &
CONSUMER SERVICES

Emergency Programs Division

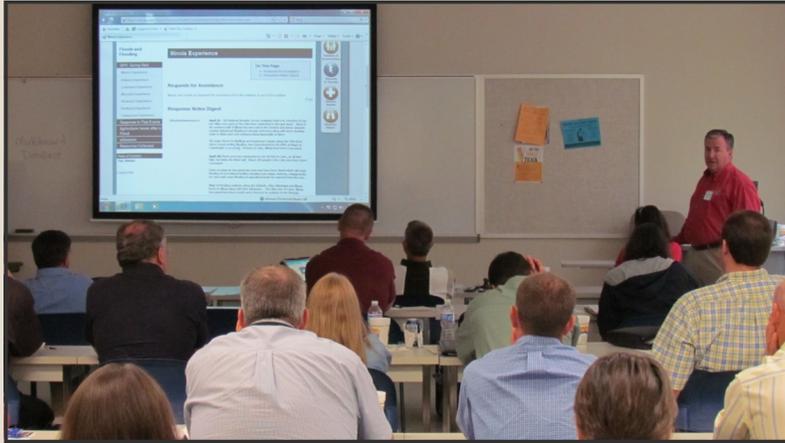
Steve Troxler, Commissioner

Sharron Stewart, Director



Extension Workshop Series

By Karen Beck, DVM, PhD, NCDA&CS



NCDA&CS held a series of regional workshops this summer to bring together partners involved in disasters that affect agriculture in NC. The first workshop was held in Fletcher on May 24, followed by the next in Mount Olive on June 7 and the last in Greensboro on June 9. As part of the agenda, each agency gave a brief presentation on who they are and what they do with the goal of educating partners on how they might interface with each other in a disaster and what capabilities or resources (whether it is people or process or contacts or equipment) each brings to the table. The agenda also included presentations

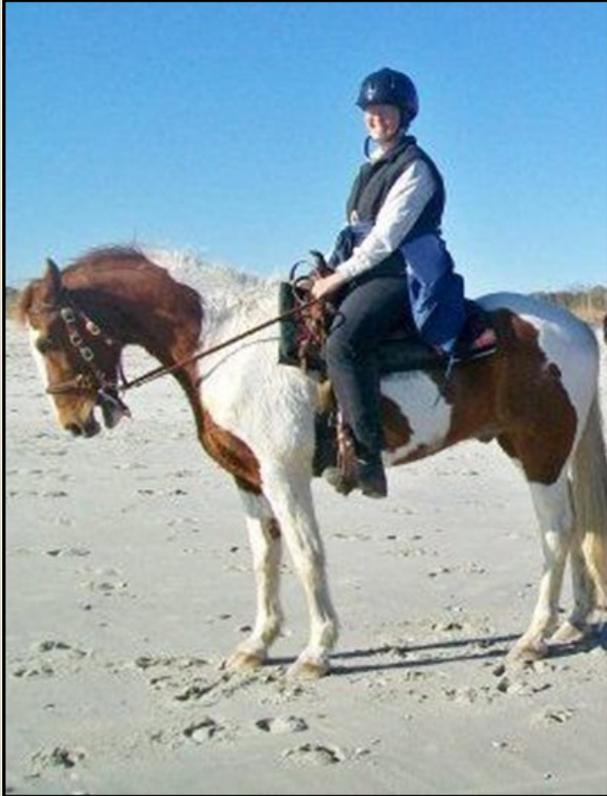
on the Animal Health Network, the Extension Disaster Education Network and NC Emergency Management's tools for situational awareness as well as the Foot and Mouth Disease Exercise Series hosted by NCDA&CS last summer. Participants included NCDA&CS Agronomic Services, Veterinary and Emergency Programs Divisions, NC A&T and NCSU Cooperative Extension Service, and local and state emergency management officials. These meetings provided an opportunity to improve our disaster planning process and to forge relationships in advance of a disaster.



(Pictures on this page were taken at the Mt. Olive workshop and the Greensboro workshop.)

VRC COORDINATOR	UPCOMING EVENTS:	REQUIREMENTS FOR VRC DEPLOYMENT
<p>Mandy Tolson, DVM Southeast Regions Emergency Programs Veterinarian (252) 813-0989 Mandy.Tolson@ncagr.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see our website for future training and activities. • Don't forget to plan to join us on November 4, 2011 at NVC for the public practice track! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICS 100,200, and 700 • Biosecurity/PPE Training • Knowledge of NC Emergency Management • Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions • Attendance at VRC Meetings • Sign a Code of Conduct
<p>COMPLETE YOUR VRC REGISTRATION AT WWW.SERVNC.ORG</p>		

VRC SPOTLIGHT: Laurie Hamilton



Laurie Hamilton, DVM

Laurie graduated from NCSU in 1972 with a BS in Wildlife Biology, and earned a DVM from NCSU-CVM in 1985. In the interim, Laurie worked for several years in the swine industry in NC.

After receiving her DVM she worked in private mixed-animal practice in Clinton, NC. The many scary experiences of both small and large animal clients during Hurricanes Fran and Floyd made the importance of disaster planning for animals quite clear. (One family barely made it out in the middle of the night through 3 feet deep water, with a young baby and 2 dogs in their truck, and their cow tied to the bumper!) Laurie is a member of the NCSART and NCVRC. She enjoys training for animal emergencies and has participated in sheltering and CAMET use, ICS, FAD preparedness, and most recently technical large animal emergency rescue operations.

For the past 12 years Laurie has been employed at Sampson Community College as an Instructor of Animal Science Technology. She incorporates portions of FAD and disaster preparedness into several of the courses she teaches. She encourages students to participate further in animal disaster planning and response, especially those who are already involved through volunteer fire/rescue and National Guard.

She has assisted Dr. Maria Correa (NCSU-CVM) in developing biosecurity and FAD prevention training brochures for farm workers sponsored by the NPPC. The Animal Science Department of Sampson Community College works closely with local livestock production businesses to provide continuing education opportunities. One example was a Handling Livestock Traffic Accidents workshop which included classroom training on how to rescue and contain animals in the event of a tractor-trailer overturn; in addition, a scrap trailer was overturned and participants were taught how and where to cut into the trailer to best rescue the animals. Sampson Community College welcomes the opportunity to facilitate training opportunities of benefit to our state livestock industry.

Laurie particularly appreciates all the personnel with the NC State Veterinarian's office, NCDA&CS and NCSU-CVM who make the training opportunities available, as well as manage emergencies when they happen.

VRC MISSION: Train and prepare professionals in the animal care community to respond to disaster events (all hazards) that affect both production and companion animals. Our members will serve as a resource for our state and the nation.

NOTES: To see recent news and updates, please visit the VRC website at 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.

Tornado Response in Alabama

by Allen Broadwell, NCDA&CS

In the aftermath of a series of deadly tornadoes that swept through Alabama on April 27th, a NCDA&CS task force was deployed at the request of the Alabama Department of Agriculture. These storms resulted in major widespread damage to grower houses and loss of critical utility infrastructure dealing a serious blow to the state's poultry industry. The assigned mission was to deliver equipment and technical support to the affected poultry

industry. The team assisted Alabama with depopulation and mortality management using AVMA approved foam technology.



The team consisted of six personnel representing the following divisions: Emergency Programs, Plant Industry and Veterinary. The task force departed on May 1 and returned on May 4 to Raleigh. During the deployment, we were separated into two strike teams in order to maximize the available resources in the timeliest manner.

The mission was very successful in mitigating potential disease outbreaks that could have further threatened the remaining undamaged farms. The team brought home valuable lessons that will improve our response plans. NCDA&CS is currently making improvements to our communication system, foam equipment, supply inventory, and resource management in a continuing effort to enhance future operations.

(Poultry house pictures were taken by the 2011 Alabama Tornado Deployment Task Force.)



Got To Be NC Festival

by Carrie Sticklin, NCDA&CS



The 2011 Got to Be NC Festival was held at the NC State Fairgrounds on May 20 – 22 in Raleigh, NC. This celebration featured over 1,000 pieces of antique farm equipment, a Food and Wine Expo, a Fiber Fair, carnival rides, draft horse pull, Border Collie herding demonstrations, animal exhibits, tractor pull, music, and an abundance of food. Barbecue, bluegrass, and regional roller derby competitions were only a few of the activities held during this three day event. Admission and parking were free.

While 75 fiber artists were busy knitting, spinning and weaving at the Carolina Fiber Fest in the Graham building, people were enjoying food and wine sampling in the Expo building. The Food and

Wine Expo showcased dozens of North Carolina food companies and wineries and had expanded this year to include NC cheeses. (Continued on page 5)

Got To Be NC Festival

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The Emergency Programs Division (EP) was responsible for ensuring Aedin's law (G.S. 106-520.3A) compliance during this event. This law requires a permit from NCDA&CS for all animal contact exhibits at sanctioned agricultural fairs in NC. Examples of animal contact exhibits include, but are not limited to, petting zoos, pony rides, and milking booths.

As part of EP's outreach and education, EP setup a display booth in the Graham building to inform the public about emergency preparedness and response related to agriculture. The booth included information to assist farmers after the devastating tornadic activity in April. Several NC citizens who approached our booth recognized the

displayed tornado pictures as devastated sites near their home or in their county. EP personnel were available to answer questions and enjoyed communicating with the public about Departmental projects.

Disaster Response: A Kansan's Local Perspective

by Dr. Christine Skaer, President/Director KS State Animal Response Team

I am a small animal practitioner in Wichita, KS. I followed in my father's footsteps and purchased his practice in 2010. My dreams of becoming a veterinarian also involved doing disaster response. I wanted to respond to oil spills and hurricanes and thought that becoming a vet would help me "support my habit". However, I quickly found out that I'm needed around my clinic and it's not really feasible to run off around the country/world to respond to disasters AND try to run a busy practice. The opportunity to join my two passions and stay close to home presented itself after the Greensburg tornado of 2007. We had a very small animal response team in KS, but it was really in name only at that point. I'd had some disaster training, albeit minimal. I joined the Pratt County Humane Society as they headed up the response. We noticed that the lack of prior planning in the state really complicated/hindered our response and I decided that we couldn't let this happen again in KS. So, we've worked tirelessly over the last few years to build an animal response network in KS. We have about 20 different local teams and are beginning to develop these into regional response units.

It's been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. It's also been exhausting, but in a good way. I received a letter today from a woman who lost her home in the recent tornado in Reading, KS. Her dog was lost during the storm and it's the first patient I found when I entered the town after the tragedy. The dog had a traumatic amputation of his left rear limb and a large open abdominal wound. We didn't know who owned him, and he didn't have identification, but he was obviously suffering. Although I hated to, we had to euthanize him immediately without knowing who/where his family was. I later found his mom and told her what happened. I had documented the wounds with pictures which she wanted to see. I took him to Wichita for cremation and got donations from the company to perform that service.

His mom's letter arrived today. She said "I feel blessed to have met you, even under these circumstances. I want you to know that you truly make a difference in people's lives. We are so grateful that you were there for Jack when we could not be. That he had such a caring person with him at the end has been a great comfort to us during this difficult time".

This sums it all up for me. It's why I spend all of my free time trying to make sure that animals are included in disaster plans in KS. I may not be able to run off around the country helping, but I can sure help my neighbors in KS.

Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER)

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and appropriate field euthanasia methods for veterinarians and non-veterinarians. The afternoon sessions were hands on training of techniques used to safely and appropriately rescue animals from all types of precarious situations that may be encountered in the field. Live, trained animals are used to provide real life training experience. Emphasis is placed on team work and the safety of both humans and animals in a rescue situation. Incident Command System (ICS) was utilized in all scenarios.

Participants learned how to perform some basic and commonly used rescue techniques including forward and backward assist and sideways drag. Then, far more complex procedures were practiced, including a mud rescue using a sling application and aerial lifting, a night time search and rescue scenario (for "lost/injured" horses and riders), and a simulated barn fire using fog machines for smoke, in which the firemen participated in full turn out gear. This is just a glimpse of all the scenarios and procedures participants learned in this course.

The instructors were energetic, lively, and completely engaging in both lecture and practicum. They taught common sense ways to safely rescue large animals even when a responder may not have access to the most highly technical equipment.



TLAER is important for emergency services fire and rescue personnel as they are often first on the scene in an incident (i.e. overturned trailer on the highway, barn fires). TLAER is also immeasurably important for veterinarians and their staff, horse and livestock owners, facility operators, County Animal Response Team (CART) or State Animal Response Team (SART) members, horse and cattle groups and associations, Agriculture Extension, search and rescue teams, other specialty rescue groups, and anyone else who may be faced with a large animal rescue situation. I hope to see the TLAER course offered by more community college programs. I also see the benefit in this course being included in the veterinary school curriculum as it provides invaluable knowledge and skills across the disciplines, not just for large animal practitioners.

For more specific information such as sponsoring a TLAER course, scheduling, or contacting the instructors, please visit the TLAER website at www.TLAER.org.

AGRICULTURAL TORNADO RESPONSE - APRIL 16, 2011

by Mark Howell and Sharron Stewart, NCDA&CS

Experts from the National Weather Service have estimated that the US has experienced 1,475 tornadoes year to date for 2011. The average annual rate per year for the US tornadoes for the last 10 years is 1,274. Weather service experts state that the tornadoes which crossed North Carolina on April 16th, 2011, were not a meteorological surprise, as the weather services had been forecasting the potential for super cell thunderstorms on Saturday which could produce tornadoes as a result of weather moving across the country into NC.



The real surprise was in the number of storms creating tornadoes that hit heavily populated areas of the state. On Saturday afternoon April 16, 2011 super cell thunderstorms spawned 28 damaging and lethal tornadoes that swept across many of the Central and Eastern Counties in North Carolina. These tornadoes resulted in 24 fatalities, hundreds of injuries, and over 6,250 homes, businesses, and farms receiving minor to catastrophic storm damage. These tornadoes tracked over a large area of the state in swathes from ½ mile to

a mile wide and up to 60 miles in length.

In the mix of the businesses that received severe to catastrophic damage were food facilities and farms. The Food Lion Distribution Center and Alphin Brothers Seafood located in Dunn (Harnett County) received heavy impact from an Enhanced Fujita (EF2) tornado resulting in devastating damage. Additionally, many other food providers were impacted by the loss of power resulting in spoilage of perishable items. The Food and Drug Division as well as the Meat & Poultry Inspection Division of NCDA&CS began work immediately after the storm's impact to ensure the safety of food in affected areas and proper disposal of adulterated products.

Farms and nurseries were not spared on this bleak Saturday afternoon in April. Fields, roads and farm ponds were littered with building materials, heavy farm equipment, vehicles, metal curing barns, trees and other vegetation. Many buildings were completely removed from their foundations and tossed like matchbox toys in the fury of the twisted winds.

NCDA&CS set up a response structure and began dispatching calls to staff for reports from their home areas which began an informal preliminary assessment around 5 pm on Saturday, April 16th. More formal plans for response began to shape up over the next several hours with a decision to broaden the incident command structure to include food issues on Sunday, April 17th. NC Emergency Management was notified that the NCDA&CS had set up a command structure which would develop objectives and teams for response to agricultural and food facilities impacted by the storm. Teams worked on Sunday and Monday to map out the path of the storm and facilities located in the path of likely touch downs to set priority for response.



AGRICULTURAL TORNADO RESPONSE—APRIL 16, 2011

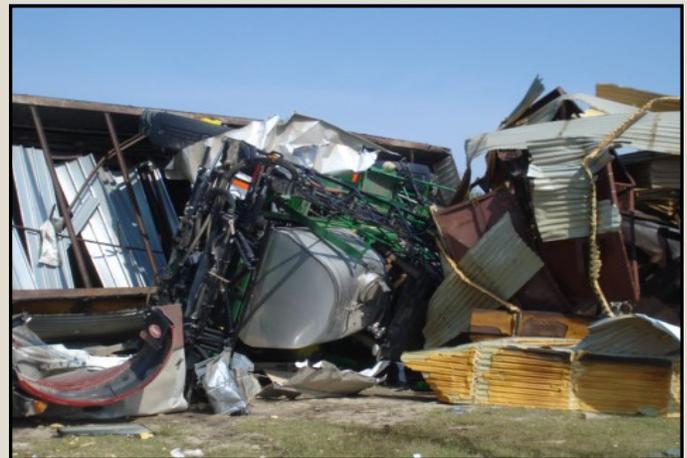
Within a couple of days, the Department set up a 1-800 line to receive calls from farmers and related businesses to report damage or receive information on assistance. A website, <http://www.ncagr.gov/agtap>, was developed to: provide information on resources that were available from federal and state government programs, provide links for farmers to exchange equipment/plants, provide a volunteer resource site for citizens and groups to volunteer to remove field debris.



The Commissioner and staff acquired a helicopter through our Emergency Management partners to fly over the counties most affected by the tornadoes to view the damage to the agricultural community. Upon returning from the flight, the Commissioner stated, “ He had never seen such immediate destruction of the agriculture infra-

structure”- referring to buildings, storage bins, curing barns, equipment, and farm vehicles. It was eye-opening to those who toured damaged areas that winds could rip reinforced metal buildings from foundations and toss heavy farm machinery and nursery stock hundreds of yards across the fields.

Outside of taking care of their homes and families, debris removal was the most obvious immediate business need of farmers in order for recovery to begin and to meet crop planting deadlines. Much emphasis was placed on debris removal with a variety of solutions including the use of prison labor. In Bertie County, the first county involved in this effort, farmers had great praise for the coordinated efforts by NC Emergency Management, NCDA&CS, and NC Department of Corrections to clear fields and rural Rights of Way, allowing planting to begin. To further assist with debris issues, NCDA&CS worked with other agencies to develop HB 268 which the Governor signed into law, allowing owners to bury debris and relaxed some restrictions on burning until June 1st.



Over the days and weeks to follow, Emergency Programs Division employees visited the county Disaster Recovery Centers to learn more about the storm related resource needs and federal assistance available for farmers. In addition, staff continued to provide information on NCDA&CS efforts following the tornadoes and assist local communities with recovery efforts. Recovery is on-going in the affected communities and will be for a long time to come. Many of us travel areas that are forever marked by the twisted remains of the tornadoes which ravaged our state on April 16th.