

## Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

August – 2009

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### Exploring the Potential of Biofuel Feedstocks for the Florida Treasure Coast

UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Extension is partnering with the USDA /ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory in Ft. Pierce to sponsor an exciting program focusing on the potential for growing biofuel crops on the Treasure Coast. The reality is that we have thousands of acres of land on our Treasure Coast area that is no longer in citrus production. It is critical to the economic future of these landowners and to our communities that these acres become productive once again. The Citrus Greening Disease situation precludes replanting most of these acres to citrus in the near future. Planting transitional biofuel crops that are sustainable and help to lessen our dependence on foreign oil suppliers could prove to be very beneficial to our area producers.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, August 27 at the **USDA/ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory** at 2001 S. Rock Road in Ft. Pierce. The agenda and list of very knowledgeable presenters for this important meeting are posted on the following page:



## Exploring the Potential of Biofuel Feedstocks for the Florida Treasure Coast

This workshop is designed to provide insight into the potential of growing Biodiesel feedstock here on the Treasure Coast.

Thursday, August 27, 2009 - 8:30 to 12:30  
USDA/ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory  
2001 S. Rock Road  
Fort Pierce, Florida, 34945

**Facilitator:** Anita Neal, Director, UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension

- 8:30 **Current status of the domestic and international biodiesel industry**  
Dr. Randall von Wedel, CytoCulture International, Inc
- 9:00 **Sunflower as a rotational biodiesel feedstock**  
Dr. Dan Chellemi, Research Plant Pathologist, USDA/ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory, Fort Pierce
- 9:30 **Key issues impacting Jatropha as a biodiesel feedstock**  
Dr. Wagner Vendrame, ornamental production, UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Educational Center, Homestead
- 10:00 **Integration of Algal Turf Scrubbers into crop production systems**  
Dr. T.J. Evens, Research Ecologist, USDA/ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory, Fort Pierce
- 10:30 **Planktonic algal culturing for biofuel feedstock production**  
J.R. Aspinwall, Midwest Research Institute
- 11:00 **Pyrolysis and its potential contribution for 2<sup>nd</sup> generation biofuels**  
Dr. Akwasi Boateng, Chemical Engineer, ARS-Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania
- 11:30 **The Snohomish County Washington Biofuels Initiative**  
Deanna Carveth, Project Specialist, Snohomish County Biofuels
- 12:00 **The Vermont Biodiesel Initiative**  
Chris Callahan, project Engineer, Callahan Engineering, PLLC

*For more information or to sign up for this program, please contact the St. Lucie County Extension Office at 772-462-1660.  
Persons requiring special accommodations must contact the office 48 hours prior to program.*

*The Foundation for The Gator Nation*  
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## 2009 Citrus Expo

This year's Citrus Expo will feature the theme "Using Today's Innovations Toward future Success". The Expo will be held at the Lee Civic Center in Ft. Myers on August 19-20, 2009. Pre-Registering for the event will enter you in a grand prize drawing and help the organizers to plan for your complimentary meal tickets. The program features pest management, production economics, mechanical harvesting, current research and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) topics. There will be CEU and CCA credits offered for appropriate portions of the program on both days. In addition, the Citrus Expo boasts the citrus industry's largest trade show with more than 150 exhibiting companies on display.

Click on the following hyperlink to go to the Citrus Expo website and see a copy of the program, registration details and a list of hotels in the area:

<http://www.citrusexpo.net/>



## Mechanical Harvesting Workshop

Harvesting activities for the 2009-2010 season are just around the corner. We have scheduled a Mechanical Harvesting Workshop to be held on Thursday, September 24 at the **Indian River Research and Education Center**, 2009 S. Rock road in Ft. Pierce.

Even though we are a long way from using current mechanical harvesting technology for our fresh fruit harvesting, interest and utilization in processed fruit harvesting continues to gain momentum. Please let your harvesting contractors know about this meeting in the event that I don't have them on my mailing list.

Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Workshop  
Thursday, September 24  
Indian River Research and Education Center

9:30 AM - Registration and Welcome

9:45 - Concerns on Tree Health, Dr. Jim Syvertsen, CREC

10:15 - Abscission Chemical Update, Dr. Bob Ebel, SWFREC

10:45 - Current Machinery and Machine Enhancements, Dr. Reza Ehsani, CREC

11:15 - Mechanical Harvesting Economics, Dr. Fritz Roka, SWFREC



# Citrus Health Response Program Update Abandoned Grove Initiative

A publication of the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner

Recognizing the pest and disease risks associated with abandoned citrus groves, the state has initiated a comprehensive plan for their removal and destruction. This initiative will help mitigate the impact of exotic citrus pests and diseases (namely citrus greening and citrus canker) by identifying abandoned groves and working cooperatively with county tax assessor offices and property owners regarding abatement options and tax incentives which will foster removal of these reservoirs of infection.

## Key components:

- Catalog all abandoned groves throughout the state
- Map all high-risk abandoned groves
- Contact abandoned grove owners to ask their intentions for properties
- Inform owners if their groves are not kept in production, they will not be considered part of CHRP.
- Inform owners if they eliminate live citrus trees in abandoned groves, it is considered a bona fide agricultural practice and will remain in compliance with CHRP guidelines, thus maintaining their agriculture exempt status.

*Agricultural land tax exemption* – FDACS' interpretation and position on Section 193.461(7), Florida Statutes, is that if you have a valid CHRP compliance agreement and are in good standing, then the property covered by the agreement is considered in agricultural use, thus for tax purposes is eligible for agricultural land use classification. County property appraisers in citrus-growing areas are developing policies that comply with Section 193.461(7), Florida Statutes.

Property owners with abandoned groves should contact their local CHRP office for more information (see back). Proper documentation is required by county tax assessor offices for exemption, so please contact your local CHRP office for details. If you know of abandoned groves in your area, please report the property to your local CHRP office.

### Abandoned Grove Defined:

No commercial fruit harvest during last two seasons

No production care during the past two years, including weed control and mowing

Grove use transferred to other uses (pine or livestock)



# Citrus Health Response Program Overview

## Citrus Health Response Program Mission

*Working together to produce healthy citrus*

- Ensure security of citrus germplasm and citrus nursery programs
- Support effective disease / disease vector management
- Monitor defensible phytosanitary protocol that allows fresh fruit movement to all markets
- Implement citrus nursery clean stock program

## Resources for the Industry

*Tools to support citrus*

- Compliance agreements and business plans designed to provide guidance and protect citrus
- Grower Assistance Program – decontamination training, survey assistance, self-survey and business plans
- Best Management Practices
- Participate with growers in the Business Plan Share Program

## Citrus Germplasm Introduction Program

*Important disease-free start*

- Ensures citrus germplasm is free from any known graft-transmissible pathogens
- Each variety undergoes years of intensive testing before release
- Provides approved germplasm to citrus budwood registration program
- New 20,000 sq ft facility at future Alachua County budwood site

## Citrus Budwood Registration

*Responding to disease pressures*

- Provides clean budwood to citrus industry
- Facilities located outside of citrus-growing area
- 80,000 sq ft facility in Levy County
- Redundant 60,000-sq-ft location planned in Alachua County

## Citrus Nursery Guidelines

*Providing clean stock for citrus groves*

- Rules and regulations to protect industry, 5B-62
- Geographic separation of new nurseries and groves
- Citrus nursery stock is propagated and housed in approved insect-proof structures
- All citrus nurseries are on 30-day inspection cycle
- Compliance agreements are required



## FDACS/DPI Citrus Health Response Program Offices Contact Information

### Avon Park

3397 US Hwy 27 South  
Avon Park, Florida 33825  
Phone: 863-314-5900

### Vero Beach / Ft. Pierce

8075 20th Street  
Vero Beach, Florida 32966  
Phone: 772-778-5069

### Immokalee

424 East Market Road, Unit 10  
Immokalee, Florida 34142  
Phone: 239-658-3684

### Tavares

4129 County Rd. 561  
Tavares, FL 32778  
Phone: 352-253-4547

### Winter Haven

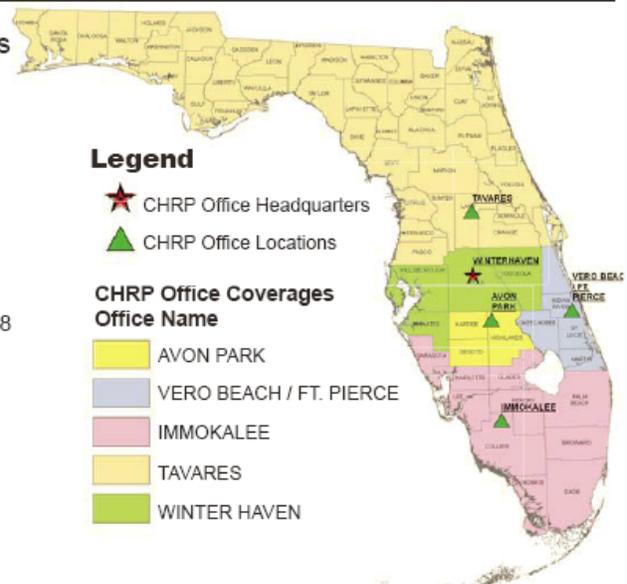
3027 Lake Alfred Road  
Winter Haven, FL 33881-1438  
Phone: 863-298-7777

### Legend

- ★ CHRP Office Headquarters
- ▲ CHRP Office Locations

### CHRP Office Coverages

- | Office Name             | Coverage Area |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| AVON PARK               | Yellow        |
| VERO BEACH / FT. PIERCE | Light Blue    |
| IMMOKALEE               | Pink          |
| TAVARES                 | Light Yellow  |
| WINTER HAVEN            | Light Green   |





# Packinghouse Day & The Indian River Postharvest Workshop

2009 Programs

## Packinghouse Day

**When:** Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Where:** Citrus Research and Education Center, 700 Experiment Station Road,  
Lake Alfred, FL 33850

**Time:** Registration opens at 8:30 A.M., Program starts at 9:30 A.M.

**Lunch Sponsor:** DECCO

## Indian River Postharvest Workshop

**When:** Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Where:** Indian River Research and Education Center, 2199 S. Rock Rd., Ft.  
Pierce, FL 34945

**Time:** Registration opens at 8:30 A.M., Program starts at 9:30 A.M.

**Lunch Sponsor:** JBT FoodTech

### Both programs will include presentations on:

- The latest developments on a new domestic citrus canker rule
- Issues in successfully completing third party certification programs: GAPs, HACCP and fruit quality
- New fungicides, application methods, and handling practices to minimize postharvest decay of citrus
- Effects of washing fruit before degreening
- Electronic detection of canker and other peel defects of citrus

For questions and the latest details, contact Mark Ritenour at 772-468-3922, ext. 167 ([mritenour@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:mritenour@ifas.ufl.edu)) or visit <http://postharvest.ifas.ufl.edu>.

## Video Presentations of the 2009 Citrus Greening Symposium

The Citrus Extension Agents hosted the 2009 Citrus Greening Symposium on April 6, 2009 in Bartow. The Symposium drew a big crowd from around the state. Chris Oswalt, Citrus Extension Agent for Polk and Hillsborough Counties, put together a terrific program and arranged for all of the presentations to be videotaped. In case you couldn't make the trip to Bartow that day, click on the following hyperlink which will take you to the videotaped presentations:

[http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/Citrus\\_Greening\\_Symposium\\_2009/Videos/CitrusGreeningSymposium2009.htm](http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/Citrus_Greening_Symposium_2009/Videos/CitrusGreeningSymposium2009.htm)

## New Federal Minimum Wage

As of July 24, 2009 the new Federal Minimum Wage is \$7.25 per hour, replacing the Florida Minimum wage which increased to \$7.21 per hour on January 1, 2009. Every employer of employees subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act's minimum wage provisions must post, and keep posted, a notice explaining the Act in a conspicuous place in all of their establishments so as to permit employees to readily read it. The content of the notice is prescribed by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor. An approved copy of the minimum wage poster is made available for informational purposes or for employers to use as posters. You can print your own color or B&W pdf copy of the poster from the following website:

<http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm>

You can also download the Florida poster (English and Spanish) at the following State of Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation webpage:

<http://www.floridajobs.org/minimumwage/index.htm>

## UF Agribusiness Management at IRREC

University of Florida Agribusiness Management degrees provide graduates with a very strong credential in a promising career, as agriculture remains the state's second ranking industry. Recent graduates who earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Agribusiness Management at the Fort Pierce location, the UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center, now hold prominent positions with organizations such as the UF/IFAS St. Lucie Cooperative Extension, Indian River State College, Syngenta Crop Protection, and privately owned citrus management and production firms. Starting salaries range from \$35,000 to \$40,000. For those who earned degrees so that they may be promoted, an average pay raise is about \$5,000 annually.

Such a degree would provide an exemplary background for those seeking management positions with the large grocery retailers, one of the most secure employment prospects. Those who wish to start a business of their own would hold the knowledge and resources to be successful in a region that supplies the rest of the nation with yearlong food and plant products.

Courses in business management, human resources, and finance are part of a rigorous curriculum offered by the state's most prestigious educational institution—the University of Florida. As competition to enter the University of Florida Gainesville campus becomes increasingly competitive, the UF campus in Fort Pierce has enrollment spaces available now for fall semester 2009.

Jane Bachelor, who holds an MBA, and is a lecturer and marketing coordinator at the UF center, is offering two courses in the fall which support the Agribusiness Management degree program and the professional development certificate program. She is a business and human resources expert with significant experience. The course, **Principles of Agribusiness Management**, provides participants with general business management and leadership skills. **Advanced Agribusiness Management** further develops those skills as course participants create business plans for their own actual or anticipated future businesses.

Scholarships from the Bud Adams Family, the Bryan Schirard Memorial, the Treasure Coast Gator Club, the Garden Club of Indian River County and the University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are available to eligible applicants.

For information about UF/IFAS degree and course offerings at the UF Indian River Research and Education Center, please contact Student Support Services Coordinator Jackie White (772) 468-3922, Ext. 148, or by e-mail: [jkwhite@ufl.edu](mailto:jkwhite@ufl.edu)

### Platinum® Insecticide Labeled for Citrus

Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. has announced the addition of non-bearing and bearing citrus varieties to the Platinum® 75SG label. The product is a soil-applied, broad spectrum insecticide that can be used in the management of Asian Citrus Psyllid, Citrus Leaf Miner and a number of other citrus insect pests. The active ingredient, thiamethoxam, is a second generation neonicotinoid that has been placed in mode of action group 4A. Alternating with products containing imidacloprid will help avoid potential resistance issues. The label recommends drench or broadcast applications to bare ground for maximum efficacy and to avoid possible mortality to bees that feed on treated weed flowers. Contact your agrichemical supplier or Syngenta representative for more information.

### New Pesticide Training Webpage

We've just added a new page to the St. Lucie Extension Website with lots of good information relative to Pesticide Application Safety and Certified Pesticide Applicator training and licensing. The St. Lucie County Extension agents are committed to providing timely and comprehensive training for our Certified Pesticide Applicator clients. Take a minute to click on the following hyperlink and see all the sites we've gathered under one handy page:

<http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/PesticideTraining.html>

### General Standards (Core) Pesticide Applicator Training

Preparation for the General Standards Exam required for all of the Certified Pesticide Applicator Categories. 2 General Standard CEU's will be offered for individuals who are current license holders (This includes Private Applicator and Ag Tree Crop). Ken Gioeli, Natural Resources Agent will be offering this course on Wednesday, September 2, and again on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. **Pre-registration is required** to help Ken prepare his handout materials and the cost is \$20. Call (772) 462-1660 for details and to pre-register.

## Dates to Remember

- Citrus Expo, Ft. Myers, August 19-20
- Exploring the Potential of Biofuel Feedstocks, USDA/ARS Horticultural Research Lab, Ft. Pierce, August 27
- Packinghouse Day, CREC, Lake Alfred, August 27
- Indian River Postharvest Workshop, IRREC, Ft. Pierce, August 28
- Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Workshop, IRREC, Ft. Pierce, September 24
- Certified Pesticide Applicator General Standards Training, September 2 and October 7, 2009

## Just for Fun

Uncle Buford hired himself out on the weekends as a guide for wild hog hunters. Taking a group out one Saturday, they found themselves completely lost.

"I thought you were the best guide in Arkansas," yelled one of the hunters. "How come is it we're lost?"

"That's true," replied Uncle Buford, "but I think we're in Tennessee now."

A blind redneck and his Seeing Eye dog walked into the local "handy dandy beer store". He grabbed the dog by the tail, picked him up over his head, and started swinging him around in a circle. (This store had wider-than-normal aisles) The puzzled clerk looked at him and asked, "Can I get you anything?"

"No thanks," replied the blind man. "I'm just looking around."

Hope you're having a great summer,

Tim

Tim Gaver, Extension Agent II - Citrus  
[Tgaver.49@ufl.edu](mailto:Tgaver.49@ufl.edu)

UF/IFAS St. Lucie Cooperative Extension  
<http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu>

(Click on the CITRUS tab at the upper left for my citrus section)

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