

Citrus connection



HIGHLANDS COUNTY CITRUS GROWERS **President's Column** by Aaron Nelson

September can in many ways feel more like the start of a new year than January 1st does. It's a new football season, a new school year, and many churches and other organizations transition from their less densely populated summertime schedules to busier "school year" calendars.

After taking our usual summer break during the months of July and August, the Highlands County Citrus Growers Association's board of directors met again in September, and we had a busy agenda. We had several guests that provided us with updates on various issues. We heard from our new Highlands County extension director Dr. Katie Lawson on her first few weeks on the job. Tamara Woods gave us an update on CRAFT existing tree program and the new tree planting program. Callie Walker from FDACS talked to us about changes in citrus blackspot quarantine requirements. Finally, Matt Joyner from Florida Citrus Mutual spoke to us about plans for a new Plant Transformation Center at the University of Florida as well as giving an update on the status of 2022 federal disaster relief programs. It was a full meeting!

In my last column I talked a lot about the lack of rainfall this summer. Since then, we've put a dent in that deficit thanks in large part to Hurricane Idalia skirting to the west of our state. While we are certainly thankful for the much needed rain from Idalia, and are glad that she missed us here in Central Florida, we should remember in our prayers the folks as well as the farmers in the Big Bend region that took the brunt of the storm. I've read stories of how pecan growers in north Florida and south Georgia were impacted particularly hard.

We know all too well how hurricanes can wreak havoc on our lives and businesses. Despite the mess Hurricane Ian left us with a year ago, it seems we have some good momentum going into this fall from a grove health perspective. Many of the groves I manage seem to be responding well to the shot of OTC they received earlier in the year with more leaves and better fruit retention to this point in early maturing varieties. I'll be glad to see November come where the threat of a storm undoing the good things happening in the groves greatly diminishes!

Finally, there are lots of industry opportunities in the next several months so be sure to check out the calendar of events page for dates of upcoming events such as the HCCGA Citrus Fun Shoot as well as the initial 2023/2024 crop forecast and Florida Citrus Mutual luncheon. Hope to see you there!

Aaron Nelson

**AUG
2023**

- USDA Crop Forecast
- HLB Treatment Approved
- CRAFT Program Update
- Citrus Hall of Fame Nominations
- HCCGA Member Directory
- UF/IFAS Breeding Program
- '23-'24 Citrus Production Update
- Diarepes Root Weevil Update
- All in for Citrus Podcast
- HCCGA Citrus Fun Shoot
- Soil Moisture Sensors
- Fed. Marketing Order Amended



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2023 Calendar of Events

October 9

Commissioner Wilton Simpson & Congressman Scott Franklin Ag Listening Session @ Lake Placid Government Center

October 12

Initial 2023-2024 USDA Citrus Crop Forecast and Florida Citrus Mutual Grower Luncheon

November 14-16

Ag-Venture @ Highlands County Fairgrounds

December 9

2023 HCCGA Citrus Fun Shoot @ OK Corral Gun Club



For additional information about any of these meetings or events, contact Ray or Jan at the HCCGA office



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Executive Director's Report

BY RAY ROYCE

On Monday, October 9th Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson and US Congressman Scott Franklin will host an agricultural listening session at the Lake Placid Government Center. The doors will open at 2:00 PM with the meeting starting at 3:00 PM. The information and listening session is slated to last approximately an hour. This is a great opportunity to hear from these leaders directly, and for growers and others in the Ag community to share your concerns with them directly.



If you are considering putting new trees in the ground in the coming year you should look into the info coming soon on CRAFT's website at: www.craftfdn.org about the Cycle Five **New Trees Plantings Program**.

Congratulations to Robin Lofton, her team at AgNet Media and the many Expo vendors for executing another great Citrus & Specialty Crop Expo. The educational seminars at the 2023 Citrus Expo were very informative and well presented. There was an interesting blend of talks about everything from citrus production tips to overarching agricultural issues. You can view some of the educational seminars' talks at: <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus-research/presentations/citrus-expo-2023/>.

The Expo will be held at the Florida State Fairgrounds again next year, with event dates expected to be announced relatively soon. Our friends at AgNet Media are truly committed to our industry, and provide a wide range of educational information through a multitude of communicative avenues – so thank you Robin and the AgNet folks for all of your work!

Registration is now open for the **2023 HCCGA Citrus Fun Shoot**, so save the date of **Saturday, December 9th** or better yet – get your registration flier filled out and sent in. We look forward to another great event at a new location this year – **OK Corral Gun Club**, located just east of Okeechobee. So get your shooting teams organized early and join us for a great day of outdoor camaraderie and a fabulous lunch. If you can't be there, and/or would like to gain some really good PR for your company, give us a call to discuss a sponsorship package that will provide you excellent visibility and/or recognition before, during and after the shoot.

I want to remind our members and friends again that HCCGA has created a social media presence to not only to help keep our members better informed, but to increase our “reach” to the non-member public in order to provide assistance with “OJ demand enhancing efforts” as well. Please assist us in this process by checking out our three venues: our **Facebook** page at <https://www.facebook.com/hccga>, the HCCGA **Blog** at www.hccga.wordpress.com, where you will be asked to subscribe in order to receive e-mail notifications when new material is posted, and our **Twitter** account **@hccitrusgrowers**. Also please share any material that you think needs to be more widely circulated on social media with me.

I mention this again, because we all need to take a few moments on a regular basis to “share our stories” on social media, and participate in the dissemination of promotional material for Florida citrus products. The primary driver for higher prices to the grower is increased demand at retail, and we all need to help in a small way in promoting our product.

While we strive to keep our members as informed as possible on a wide range of local issues, please never hesitate in contacting me day or night (cell phone: 863-381-8551) for additional information if you need it; or if I can be of any assistance on any matter, large or small. *And remember, if you are not getting regular e-mail updates from us (usually several a week plus this newsletter every month), then we do not have a good e-mail address for you – so please let us know.*

Thanks, Ray



Info Notes

2023 Citrus Expo Presentations

The educational seminars at the 2023 Citrus Expo are now available online at: <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus-research/presentations/citrus-expo-2023>

2023-2024 Florida Citrus Production Guides

The 2023-2024 Florida Citrus Production Guides are available to pick up at the UF/IFAS Highlands County Extension office or the handbooks are available online (with printable sections) at: <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/production-guide>

2023 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute Presentations Online

The 2023 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute was held on April 4th at the South Florida State College Avon Park campus. The educational presentations were recorded and are available online at the citrus agent's website: Here you will also find PDF versions of the slides. <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/archived-presentations/2023>

UF/IFAS Podcasts for Growers

UF/IFAS and Southeast AgNet have partnered to provide the latest news on citrus-related research in a monthly "All in for Citrus" podcast. The podcasts feature short interviews with scientists working to find solutions to citrus greening and other devastating citrus diseases. The podcast complements the new research update website and citrus newsletter at: <http://citrusresearch.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter-sign-up>. Podcasts may be downloaded to your mobile phone, tablet or computer to be listened to at your convenience.

"Florida OJ Break" License Tags

The HCCGA office has a very good supply of the "Take A Florida Orange Juice Break" license plates to share. Please feel free to stop by the HCCGA office and get one for your vehicles. We also have a limited supply of a few other types of OJ related tags.

Sales Tax Exemption Forms for Ag Uses

Florida Farm Bureau has a very informative page on their website that lists a number of potential agriculturally related items that may be exempt from sales tax. It also contains a recommended exemption form to be utilized. It can be found at: <https://www.floridafarmbureau.org/agricultural-sales-tax-exemptions-in-florida>

UF/IFAS Research Website

The updated Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) website at <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus-research> is now live. The revamped site has the latest research information on HLB management, detailed information on rootstock trials, access to on-line presentations from UF/IFAS research scientists, EDIS documents sorted by topic for easy access, and more.

UF/IFAS OJ Break Programs

The central Florida UF/IFAS citrus extension agents are providing an OJ Break Grower meeting series in a twice monthly virtual program format. Upon registration you will be sent a Zoom link for each meeting. To see the upcoming meeting topics and register for the Zoom notice – go to: <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/oj-break>.

Restricted Use Pesticide Exams

Restricted Use Pesticide exams are done using laptops at most UF/IFAS county Extension offices. Whether you are taking the test for the first time, renewing your license, or adding a new category, you can take your exam at most county Extension offices. In Highlands County, the Extension office is scheduling exams for Wednesdays and Fridays. You can schedule your exam online at <https://pesticideexam.ifas.ufl.edu/public/countyList.faces>.

FDOC Webinars

The Florida Department of Citrus hosts monthly webinars in order to provide key information on various topics important to the Florida Citrus industry. To receive notifications on webinars and other topics, please e-mail news@citrus.myflorida.com and ask to be added to FDOC's email distribution list.



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2023 USDA Crop Citrus Forecast Luncheon

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Putnam Ranch
 8290 Martin Lane
 Zolfo Springs, FL**



USDA Citrus Crop Forecast

October 12th

The initial USDA Citrus Crop Forecast will be released at 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 12th. Florida Citrus Mutual will host a grower gathering and BBQ lunch that day at the Putnam Ranch near Zolfo Springs starting at 11:00 AM.

In addition to a wide array of industry related folks sharing updated industry news, there will also certainly be a number of political leaders including the planned attendance of US Congressman Scott Franklin - so save the date.

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We take pride in collaborating with growers to develop programs aimed at their specific needs. An example of this is our work with Clermont-based McLean Family Farms in their battle against citrus canker and HLB. The family grows organic citrus, along with peaches and vegetables. The family also produces Uncle Matt's organic orange juice.

The McLeans applied Magna-Bon CS 2005, which is Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)-listed for organic production, in combination with KeyPlex 350 OR. According to Ben McLean III, the products provide "significant benefits" in helping reduce canker symptoms and improved micro-nutrient deficiencies.


"Overall, what we saw was an increase in the health and productivity of the grove," says McLean III. "There was a significant visual improvement in the health and color of the grove."

Ben's dad, Benny McLean Jr., who heads the family farm and is also Production Manager of Uncle Matt's Organic (headed by his other son, Matt) says he noticed a difference in "the look" of the grove after only two days of the first application.

"The leaf color was the biggest thing that stood out," he adds, noting the farm has used Magna-Bon CS 2005 in other growing areas, but this was the first time it was ever used in this orange grove.

We are proud to partner with USDA and UF/IFAS by donating product to help these organizations with their can-

ker management programs.

We also support the regional tradeshow, conferences, and various associations throughout the state all year long. If you see us at a show, make sure to stop by and say hello! 



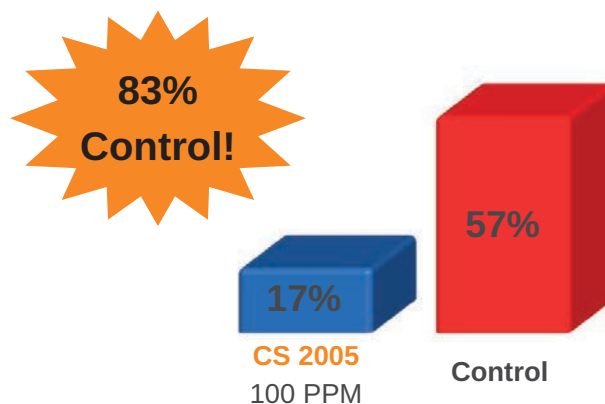
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HLB Treatment Approved in Florida

Invaio Sciences in late August announced that its **Trecise** technology to deliver **ArborBiotic** for the suppression of HLB in oranges received approval from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The approval came under section 24(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.



Invaio stated that the product's closed-system design does not require drilling. Unlike conventional injection treatments, this minimally invasive system requires 90% less active ingredient as it delivers directly into the tree's vascular system. Trials of the solution have shown an average yield increase of 30% after one treatment, as well as increased Brix and a reduction in fruit drop, the company added.

Because it applies active ingredients directly in the conductive tissues of the tree, the risks of misapplication and residues are reduced. The closed-system design also reduces risk of exposure to workers and the environment.

The product offers protection for young and non-bearing trees. It has a 120-day pre-harvest interval, which is 60 days shorter than conventional injection treatments.

Source: Invaio Sciences

CRAFT Program Updates

- The application period for the second round of **Existing Tree Therapies** program has closed and applicants will be contacted shortly about their status.
- Applications for the Cycle Five round of the traditional CRAFT **New Trees Plantings Program** will open at the first of October. Details will be available on the CRAFT website at: www.craftfdn.org. soon.



Citrus Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations are being sought for potential inductees to The Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, with induction ceremonies scheduled to take place at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024 at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. The luncheon is co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Citrus and Florida Citrus Mutual. Eligible nominees are those distinguished leaders who have made significant contributions to the Florida citrus industry in any of the following fields: pioneers, harvesting, packing, processing, marketing, scientific and/or educational areas.



Last year's inductees were citrus pioneer A.G. Smith (deceased), of Wauchula, Fla., and Gilbert Bowen (deceased), of Winter Haven, Fla. Due to date changes associated with Covid, these two men will be inducted in March along with the Class of 2024, which will be selected in December of this year.

The deadline for entries is November 1, 2023. Any nominations received after this date will be considered for the following year. Additional information or nomination forms are available by contacting Brenda Eubanks Burnette at (561) 351-4314 or via email at Brenda@BurnetteandAssociates.com and by visiting the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame web site at www.floridacitrushalloffame.com.

Completed nomination forms should be e-mailed to Ms. Burnette at: Brenda@BurnetteandAssociates.com.

Hard copies should be sent to Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, P. O. Box 1576, Bartow, FL 33831-1576.

The Florida Citrus Hall of Fame luncheon will also pay homage to the Florida Citrus Queen/Miss Florida Citrus Centennial Celebration taking place in 2024, with the women who represented the industry over the years honored as guests at the luncheon, followed by a Centennial Celebration Gala the next night at Nora Mayo Hall in Winter Haven. The first Florida Citrus Queen was chosen in January of 1924 in Winter Haven as part of the Florida Orange Exposition. If you know of someone who was a Florida Citrus Queen or Miss Florida Citrus, please send in their contact information so they can be included in the festivities.



TAKING ORDERS FOR 2024 AND 2025

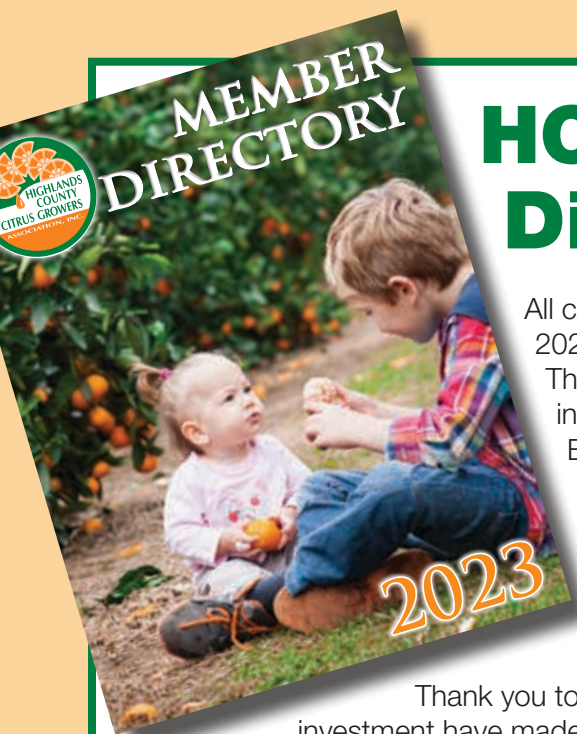
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HCCGA Member Directory

All current HCCGA members should have received a copy of the 2023 Annual HCCGA Grower & Associate Member Directory recently. This year's 72 page 8.5 X 11 full color booklet includes Association information such as: Grower contact information, Associate Member Bios, Sponsorship Recognitions, Board Members, Officers, etc.

This booklet has become a valuable year-round resource guide for all of our members, grower and associate alike, so take a few moments to peruse through it and take note of who our members and supporters are.

Thank you to the sixty-seven Associate members who through advertising investment have made the production and distribution of this directory possible. Please try to patronize the directory's advertisers whenever they can provide a good or service to your business – because we appreciate their investment in our Association.

UF/IFAS Breeding Program Advancements

It “appears” that UF/IFAS is about to make a very significant change in the way that they approach their citrus breeding programs, and move extremely quickly to do so. While the absolute final funding scenario authorization has not yet come from UF President Ben Sasse, the **Plant Transformation Center** looks to be staffed and operational very soon. Thank you to UF/IFAS Senior Vice President Dr. Scott Angle for understanding the industry's urgency for dramatic breeding program enhancements, and for working with President Sasse and others to get the new center into place.

The center will seek to move **concepts** to **transformation** while undertaking **field evaluation & regulatory/intellectual properties activity** for quicker **commercialization**. Basically utilizing fresh faces, new ideas and advanced technology to get to the future faster.

The center will capitalize on work that is currently being done on transgenics and gene editing (CRISPR) to develop capacity for rapid plant genome improvements for citrus while simultaneously working on the regulatory process for federal approval of modified citrus lines. Much of the work will center on **“proteins”** and the ability to utilize the nearly 30,000 proteins in the citrus genome codes to make plant improvements.

The center will have an independent PhD level director with AI, genetics and private sector experience to coordinate all activity in addition to increased staffing, lab capacity, equipment and field trail capacity. Some improvements associated with the project have already been put in place, and the complete program is expected to be fully staff and operational by the end of the year or very early next year.

2023–2024 Citrus Production Guide

The 2023–2024 Citrus Production Guide is now available to growers. The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) publication includes the latest technical advice on HLB management, tree nutrition, grove management and other aspects of Florida citrus cultivation. The guide is a comprehensive reference meant to assist growers in development and management of citrus groves in Florida, said Tripti Vashisth, a UF/IFAS horticulture associate professor and a member of the guide's editorial team.

Additions this year include new fertilizer recommendations for some nutrients that have been recently changed and information on the plant growth regulator gibberellic acid. Information on pesticides registered for use in Florida citrus is also updated in every new edition.

Topics covered in the guide include planting, irrigation, fertilization, weed control, insect management and disease management. For a grove management practice to be recommended in the guide, a minimum of two years of field-validated data is required. About 50 UF/IFAS personnel contributed to the latest edition.

“Each year, we update the guide with new information as it becomes available,” Vashisth said. “This is a fundamental component of the UF/IFAS faculty mission to continue to meet the needs of our growers as we learn about and/or develop new tools and strategies for citrus production.”

Hard copies of the updated production guide are available at local UF/IFAS Extension offices in citrus-growing counties and at the UF/IFAS CREC in Lake Alfred. The guides are also available online at: <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/production-guide>.



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CRAFT's mission is to move lab and research solutions into commercial groves for commercial-scale field trials, collect data on the results of those field trials and create an integrated data management system allowing growers, researchers and other interested parties to analyze the efficacy and efficiency of various strategies, treatments and therapies.

For additional information, contact Tamara Wood - 863.698.9276 or tamara@craftfdn.org

Diaprepes Root Weevil Update for Florida

Florida's populations of *Diaprepes abbreviatus* root weevil have been uncharacteristically low so far in 2023, entomologist Lauren Diepenbrock reported recently. The adult pests are normally active in April–May and in the fall, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences assistant professor noted.

Prior to the discovery of HLB disease in Florida in 2005, growers who had extensive diaprepes outbreaks in their groves considered it the worst pest they could have. It remains the most economically damaging root weevil in Florida citrus, Diepenbrock said.

Diaprepes lay eggs between citrus leaves, juveniles hatch, enter the soil and feed on large quantities of tree roots. The damage to the roots provides entry points to pathogens, especially Phytophthora. The combination of diaprepes and Phytophthora, termed the diaprepes/Phytophthora complex, can be lethal to Florida citrus.

“Diaprepes can cause immense amounts of damage on their own. Add in the pathogen, and there is a greater risk of root loss and tree mortality,” stated a slide in Diepenbrock’s presentation. The entomologist suggested that growers choose rootstocks that are tolerant of or resistant to Phytophthora to reduce the impact of the disease complex.

Cultural Management

Avoidance of wet soil can aid in diaprepes management. Diepenbrock said weevil abundance and damage are highest in wet soil, and that trees stressed by wet soil are less tolerant of weevil damage. Additionally, some weevil natural enemies are less abundant in wet soil.

Soil pH above 6.5 can also stress trees, and some natural diaprepes enemies are intolerant of high soil pH, Diepenbrock added.

Landscape fabric can prevent larvae from entering the soil and adults from exiting. Herbicide savings equaled the cost of the fabric, Diepenbrock stated. She added that individual protective covers, frequently used in recent years to prevent HLB-spreading psyllids from feeding on trees, can also prevent diaprepes egg laying.

Biological Control

The entomopathogenic nematode (EPN) *Steinernema riobrave* is effective against diaprepes, but other EPNs may not be as effective, Diepenbrock said. She reported that EPNs are more effective on Florida’s Central Ridge than in flatwoods.

Another effort at biological control has not worked well. Diepenbrock reported that egg parasitoids of diaprepes were introduced to Florida from Caribbean countries. Some establishment of the parasitoids occurred, but it hasn’t led to effective control.

Other Management Methods

Monitoring of diaprepes is useful for timing management actions, Diepenbrock said. She noted that egg laying begins seven to 10 days after adults emerge from the soil, so insecticides should be targeted for diaprepes life stages based on monitoring data. Ovicide can be targeted to when eggs are likely present. Insecticidal barriers can be applied to the soil surface to kill neonates as they drop to the soil in an effort to prevent access to tree roots.

The choice of insecticides should be integrated with the rotation of active ingredients used for other ongoing management programs, Diepenbrock said. She suggested that growers see the Florida Citrus Production Guide chapter on root weevil management for recommended chemistries.

How to Access the “All In For Citrus” Podcast

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and AgNet Media produce a monthly podcast called **All In For Citrus**. It features timely information useful to growers provided by UF/IFAS researchers and Extension agents.

The podcast started in September 2018 and has steadily grown an audience. Episodes run from 30 to 45 minutes and regularly feature Michael Rogers, director of the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC), and two additional guests. The podcast is a great and easy way to keep up with the latest research and applied techniques.

There are multiple ways to listen to the current and past episodes. A new episode is normally released and published online the third week of the month. It appears on AgNet Media’s **Citrus industry** website at: <https://citrusindustry.net/allinforcitrus/>. along with an archive of all the episodes. It is also available on the UF/IFAS CREC Facebook page.

The podcast can also be easily accessed on your mobile phone. Go to the play store or podcase icon on your phone. Type in Podbean and download that app to your phone. (All In For Citrus is published on the Podbean platform). Once the Podbean app is loaded, open the app and search for All In For Citrus podcast. It should pop right up. You can even follow the podcast.

You can also download the podcast to listen to it at any time or share it with others from the Podbean app. Another option is to find the podcast using Google search by typing in All In For Citrus podcast. To get a specific episode, be sure to add the month and year in which you are interested.

The link below will take you to information about how to access podcasts on any device: <https://www.thepodcasthost.com/listening/how-to-listen-to-a-podcast>.

So, to recap, listen to the All In For Citrus podcast on the web, through social media or on your phone. If you have topic ideas you would like to hear addressed in the podcast, please email Ruth Borger at: rborger@ufl.edu to share your thoughts.



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Alico Citrus Internship- Summer 2024



Program Overview

As an intern with Alico Citrus, you will receive an opportunity to see all components of the citrus caretaking business. This is a paid internship. You will have a designated mentor and assigned rotation throughout the organization for the summer. You will get the chance to see all aspects of our business from production to the corporation side. This internship will give you the potential to gain a diverse training along with contact to the citrus industry as well as prospective employment opportunities after college.

Intern Focus

- Production
- Human Resources
- Accounting
- Business Administration



Contact Info:

Karah Holt

Internship

Coordinator

kholt@alicoinc.com

Qualifications

- Seeking future in employment in the Florida Citrus Industry.
- Basic familiarity with agriculture.
- Basic computer skills.
- Pertaining to the internship, willingness to work outside.
- Self-motivated, detail oriented, honest, and a good personality.
- Ability to relocate to or originally from one of the following counties: Polk, Highlands, Hardee, Desoto, Hendry, Collier, or Lee.
- Freshman through Senior level
- Satisfactory results of a pre-employment background check, drug test, and driving record



Alico Citrus Internship Program

Apply Here!

[Citrus Intern App](#)

Deadline to apply by Jan 5th, 2024



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2023 HCCGA Citrus Fun Shoot

December 9th

Registration is now open for the **2023 HCCGA Citrus Sporting Clays Fun Shoot** that will take place on **Saturday December 9th**. While our Fun Shoot has continued to evolve over the past 26 plus years, some things remain the same for us – providing a great opportunity for fellowship with others within our industry and greater agricultural community, fun shooting, great food and some fabulous green bird station and raffle prizes.

Our 26th Annual Citrus Fun Shoot and Prime Rib & Seafood luncheon extravaganza will be held at the **OK Corral Gun Club**, a world class shooting destination located just east of Okeechobee, for the first time this year.

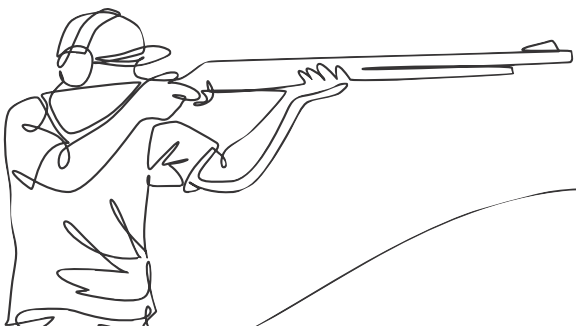
OK Corral Gun Club, situated on a 350 acre site, is one of Florida's premier outdoor shooting and recreational facilities. The club has two 15 station sporting clays courses, a 7 station sub gauge course, 2 FITSAC Parcours, rifle and pistol ranges, a cowboy action shooting range, an elevated wobble deck, a trap and skeet range and a fully stocked pro shop. The club also has a large air-conditioned ballroom that our event's Seafood & Prime Rib luncheon will be based in, 24 cabins and several multi bedroom houses available for rent if desired. They have also recently added several pickle ball courts if you, or others in your party, want to add other activities to the day or an overnight stay. For more information about **OK Corral Gun Club**, go to: www.okcorralgunclub.com.

We want to thank our shoot's Title Sponsors: **TradeMark Nitrogen, Alan Jay Fleet Sales, PGIM Real Estate, Hood Citrus Caretaking, Peace River Citrus Products, Magna-Bon, AgNet Media, Tropicana Brands Group, Cowpokes Watering Hole Restaurant, CRAFT, Glade & Grove Supply, Syngenta, Carden & Associates, Cutrale Citrus Juices USA, Wedgworth Fertilizer, Everglades Equipment Group, Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company, and Duke Energy**. Our Seafood & Prime Rib Luncheon sponsor is **Farm Credit of Florida**.

Florida State Sen. Ben Albritton is sponsoring our Live/Online Scoring and our HC County Attorney **Sherry Sutphen's** and her law firm **Roper PA** are sponsoring our "Shooters Only" gun raffle drawing again this year.

We will once again have 5 Green Bird Stations on each of the two courses we will utilize for the shoot that will provide for a chance for those shooters hitting a green bird to be in drawings for 10 great prizes, and **HC County Commissioner Chris Campbell, Harvey's Fertilizer & Chemical** and **Quality Roofing & Sheet Metal** have already sponsored three sets of those stations. That leaves 2 sets of stations currently available for sponsorship – so if you are interested in getting some great PR for your company, before, during and after the shoot for only a \$750.00 investment - give us a call to discuss Green Bird Station sponsorship.

See the registration flier in this month's newsletter for additional information about shooting participation and station sponsorship OR to get signed up for this great event. Look forward to seeing many of you at **OK Corral Gun Club** on **Saturday, December 9th**!



2023

CITRUS FUN SHOOT



100 Target Fun Shoot • Dec. 9, 2023 • 8:30 am
Held at OK Corral Gun Club

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PARTICIPATION LEVELS

All levels include one raffle ticket per registered shooter

- **Gold Sponsorship \$1000**
Includes up to 6 shooters, lunch, use of one shooting cart, signage and recognition during awards ceremony
- **Team Sponsorship \$675**
Includes 4 shooters, lunch and station sponsorship sign
- **Individual Shooter \$175**
Includes 100 target shooting round and lunch
- **Station Sponsorship \$150**
Includes lunch for one and a station sign
- **Lunch Only \$50**

SIGN ME UP!

Please check a Participation Level: Gold Team Station Individual Lunch Only

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ OR Bill me \$ _____

Sponsor Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please attach shooting participants' names and contact info (address, phone & e-mail) to the back of this form.

For additional information, contact Jan or Ray at the HCCGA office at 863-385-8091 or admin@hccga.com.

Mail or E-mail form to: HCCGA, 6419 U.S. Hwy. 27 S., Sebring, FL 33876; E-Mail: admin@hccga.com.

For information about OK Corral Gun Club, go to: www.OKCorralGunClub.com.

Soil Moisture Sensors Improve Irrigation

By Davie Kadyampakeni, Sandra M. Guzmán and Aija Paolillo

Using soil moisture sensors for irrigation scheduling can reduce water stress in citrus trees. Sensors that are easy to calibrate and maintain, specifically designed for managing irrigation and fertigation on Florida's sandy soils, are the preferred choice. These tools enable growers to use their water resources wisely and efficiently.

There are at least seven different operating principles used by various brands of electronic soil water sensors: time domain reflectometry (TDR), time domain transmission (TDT), frequency domain reflectometry, amplitude domain reflectometry, phase transmission, tensiometer and resistance granular matrix sensors. The suitability of each sensor depends on the cost, accuracy, response time, installation, need for calibration, management, maintenance, durability and soil type.

For Florida sandy soils, sensors that require minimal soil disturbance are preferred. TDR and TDT sensors are more ideal due to low maintenance requirements, high degree of accuracy and low need for calibration. Sensors are typically operated by battery power, and some also utilize solar panels. When deciding on a location, be sure to find an area with adequate light coverage if using solar-operated sensors.

Some sensors may have a built-in rain gauge. This is beneficial to determine amounts of rainfall in a particular area and if the precipitation is causing the change in soil moisture, especially if you do not have a weather station near your grove.

When installing sensors in the root zone, it is important to place them within a 1 to 1.5-foot radius of the irrigated zone to make sure the sensor is reporting accurate information. When the sensor is installed outside the irrigated zone, one can overestimate the need for irrigation by assuming that soil moisture is low and needs to be replenished. For proper irrigation planning, install sensors in the active root zone, which is typically within the top 12-inch soil depth.

To prevent nutrients from leaching beyond the root zone, it is important to install TDR or TDT sensors at depths of 18 or 20 inches (or even deeper, if possible) to detect any shifts in soil moisture. If using a soil moisture probe, having one at 24-inch depth might suffice. Elevated soil moisture below 18 inches indicates a higher likelihood for nutrient leaching, underscoring the need to fine-tune the irrigation rate. For better accuracy, it is preferred to install the sensors after a rain event or in a well-watered soil to reduce the influence of air gaps.

Get guidelines on how to install soil moisture sensors at: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AE551>.

*Davie Kadyampakeni and Sandra M. Guzmán are UF/IFAS assistant professors.
Aija Paolillo is a former UF/IFAS multi-county citrus agent.*

PRIVATE APPLICATOR EXAM REVIEW

**Lourdes Pérez Cordero , UF/IFAS
Extension Highlands County**



Photo courtesy Lourdes Pérez Cordero

Photo credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS



The UF/IFAS Extension Highlands County in collaboration with the UF/IFAS Extension Polk County presents “Private Applicator Exam Review.” Course presenters will be Lourdes Pérez: UF/IFAS Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent of Highlands County and Luis Rodríguez: UF/IFAS Small Farms & Pesticide Education Agent of Polk County.

This presentation is will be conducted on September 28, 2023 beginning at 8:30 AM. This training is designed to prepare students for the Ch. 487 pesticide licensing exam which will be offered that afternoon. Applicators will learn about pest and pest control strategies in agricultural settings, Worker Protection Standards, application equipment, calculations, and other topics..

The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to our events. For disability accommodations, please contact Lourdes Pérez Cordero at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

September 28, 2023

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location:

Bet J Harris Jr. Agricultural Center
Conference Room 2, 4509 George
Blvd, Sebring, FL 33825

Pre-registration required.

<https://privateapplicator.eventbrite.com/>

Cost: \$15 per person



CEUs Available:

4 Private, Ag Row, Ag Tree

For more information contact:

Lourdes Pérez Cordero,
lperezcordero@ufl.edu
863-402-6540

<http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu>

Florida Growers Vote to Amend Federal Marketing Order

Florida citrus producers voted to amend the federal marketing order regulating the handling of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and pummelos grown in Florida, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on Aug. 29.

In a referendum held April 1 - May1, all amendments met the requirement of being favored by two-thirds of the producers voting or by two-thirds of the volume represented. The vote outcome for each amendatory change is:

Amendment 1 – Reduce the size of the Citrus Administrative Committee from 18 to 10 members. The amendment was favored by 97.78% of voting citrus producers, representing 99.98% of the production volume voted in the referendum.

Amendment 2 – Revise the nomination and selection process, removing the designation of shipper members, changing the deadline for committee nominees from June 10 to April 10, and changing the deadline for presenting nominees for selection to the secretary of agriculture from June 20 to April 20. The amendment was favored by 100% of voting citrus producers, representing 100% of the production volume voted in the referendum.

Amendment 3 – Reduce the member requirement for quorum from 10 to seven members and reduce the requirement to pass any motion or approve any committee action from eight to six concurring votes. The amendment was favored by 97.78% of voting citrus producers, representing 99.98% of the production volume voted in the referendum.

Amendment 4 – Add authority to accept voluntary contributions from domestic sources. The amendment was favored by 97.78% of voting citrus producers, representing 99.98% of the production volume voted in the referendum.

A final rule amending the marketing order will be published in the Federal Register.

More information about the marketing order is available on the 905 Florida citrus webpage on the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) website at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/moa/905-florida-citrus>. Information about federal marketing orders is available on AMS's Marketing Orders and Agreement webpage or by contacting the Market Development Division at 202-720-8085.

Authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, marketing orders are industry-driven programs that help producers and handlers achieve marketing success by leveraging their own funds to design and execute programs that they would not be able to do individually. AMS provides oversight to fruit, vegetable and specialty crop marketing orders to ensure fiscal accountability and program integrity.

Source: USDA

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Informational Websites



FDOC Grower Website

The Florida Department of Citrus website at: www.FDOCGrower.com. is in place to provide growers with relevant information about the citrus industry. FDOC Grower features timely information about economic and market research, scientific updates, marketing activities and Florida Citrus Commission meetings in an easy-to-navigate format.

2022-2023 Florida Citrus Production Guides

The 2022-2023 Florida Citrus Production Guides are available online (with printable sections) at: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cg101>.

HLB Nutrient Management Web Site

Some HLB nutrient management information to accompany the HLB Guidance document has been put on the CREC website at: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/greening/index.shtml>.

CREC Citrus Industry Update

The UF/IFAS Citrus Industry Update can be found on the CREC website: www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu. These informational newsletters can be located in the publications area. Growers that would like to be added to the e-mail distribution list can do so by contacting the CREC staff at: cankergreeningupdates@crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

Black Spot Info

Information about citrus black spot is available on the Lake Alfred CREC website at: www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/black_spot/citrus_black_spot.htm

Citrus Research & Education Center Lake Alfred

www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

2023 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute Presentations Online

The 2023 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute was held on April 4th at the South Florida State College Avon Park campus. The educational presentations were recorded and are available online at the citrus agent's website: Here you will also find PDF versions of the slides. <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/archived-presentations/2023>

South Florida Water Management District

www.sfwmd.gov.

Safe Fruits & Veggies Website

The Alliance for Food and Farming (AFF) was formed in 1989 to represent farmers of fruit and vegetables. The information on their website linked below was developed in conjunction with experts in the fields of toxicology, risk analysis, nutrition, health and farming to demonstrate how safe the food supply raised by Americans farmers is for the consuming public. You should consider utilizing facts and videos from this website in social media posts to help promote agricultural products to the general public. <https://www.safefruitsandveggies.com>

CRDF Website

The Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) has a renovated website designed to make it easier for users to find information on research projects. For the latest in cutting edge citrus disease research information: www.citrusrdf.org.

Research Updates Website

There is a website that provides a venue where you can check on all ongoing citrus related research. Each research project has a brief synopsis of what is happening so far, who is funding it, who the researchers are, etc. The site also provides a wide range of other updated information from UF/IFAS. So check out <http://citrusresearch.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com>

University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

www.ifas.ufl.edu.

Indian River Research and Education Center, Ft. Pierce

<http://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu>.

United States Horticultural Research Laboratory, Ft. Pierce

http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=66-18-00-00

Florida Citrus Extension Agents Web Site

This web site: <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu> has been developed to help growers' access information from around the citrus industry. You are able to read their citrus newsletters, learn about scheduled meetings, and disseminate information across the citrus industry.

Highlands County Extension Web Site

This web site: <http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu> was developed and is managed right here in Highlands County. It contains a wealth of information, and links to even more information. You will find local extension citrus meeting announcements, registration information, etc.

IFAS EDIS/IFAS Solutions for Life sites

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> and <http://solutionsforyourlife.com>, for a plethora of information on citrus and other types of agriculture.

Soil and Leaf Tissue Testing

Information about techniques associated with soil and leaf tissue testing at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss531>.

Citrus Nutrition

For information on citrus nutrition, you can consult "Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees" by Drs. Obreza and Morgan. The entire publication can be viewed at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss478>.

FDOC Greening Research Updates

The latest greening research information can be viewed online at: <http://www.floridacitrus.org/oj/?s=greening>

FASS Reports

Florida Agricultural Statistics Service (FASS) Reports. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/.

USDA Citrus Crop Update Website

The USDA adjusts the citrus crop estimate on a monthly basis. Get the latest citrus crop estimate updates at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Publications/Citrus/index

Southeast AgNet

Daily Ag news posts, audio clips and updates, including citrus news, from the state's only farm broadcast service. They Tweet and provide RSS feeds too. www.southeastagnet.com

Citrus Industry Magazine

Citrus Industry Magazine has been a grower and industry favorite for 90 years. CEU Credit articles are now available on-line here with several scheduled to appear throughout the year. www.citrusindustry.net.

Low Volume Spray Application Techniques

Information from the Low Volume Spray Program series can be found online at: http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/PDF/LowVolumeApplication/LVA_program.htm The information includes currently labeled products for low volume application (2-5 gallons per acre), worker safety, application considerations and factors affecting application success.

SWFWMD Permit Info

You can search for SWFWMD pending permits (by application number, project name, or by county) or sign up for electronic notification of application requests at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us>. Click on the E-Permitting link on the Features List. Click the following link for access: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/permits/>

OSHA's Agricultural Website

This link is to OSHA's agricultural web page. <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/agriculturaloperations/index.html>

Florida Citrus Mutual

<http://flcitrusmutual.com>.

Florida Farm Bureau

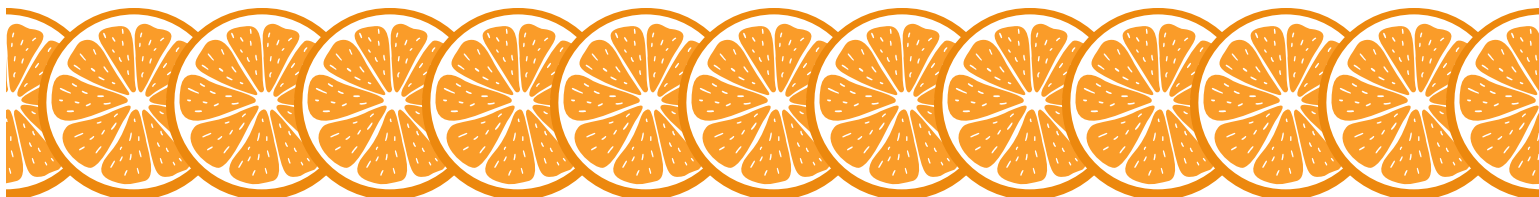
www.floridafarmbureau.org.

FAWN

The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) can be accessed on the web at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu>

Weather Underground

www.wunderground.com



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OK Corral Gun Club
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Orchid Island Juice Company
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Patriot Welding Supply
Peace River Citrus Products, Inc.
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Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery, Inc.
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Quail Creek Sporting Ranch
Rabo Agri Finance
Ridge Equipment Company
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The Avanti Company
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Cutting Edge Nutrition & Crop Protection for Trees Impacted by Citrus HLB

BRANDT, a leading provider of specialty inputs, offers a wide range of proprietary nutrition and crop protection products. The following products are recommended to help treat trees that have been impacted by Citrus HLB.

Spring Pre-Bloom through Post-Bloom Sprays:

Foliar Feed with Boron, Calcium and Magnesium

- BRANDT® Manni-Plex® Cal-Mag - high efficiency foliar calcium/magnesium
- BRANDT Manni-Plex for Citrus - high efficiency foliar nutrient combo for citrus
- BRANDT Smart B-Mo - high efficiency foliar boron/molybdenum
- Celite® 610 - mechanical insecticide that contains 100% diatomaceous earth, OMRI Listed

Complexed Nutrients:

Feed with Dry Lignosulfates

- Agra Sol - dry soluble powder chelated micronutrients

Summer Oil Sprays:

Foliar Feed and Protect

- BRANDT Smart K B - high efficiency foliar potassium/boron
- Nordox® 75 WG or 30/30 - copper fungicide, OMRI Listed
- TresOil® - emulsified fungicide/insecticide spray oil, OMRI Listed

For more information, contact J.R. Gough at
Jr.Gough@brandt.co or 863 781 0363

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