

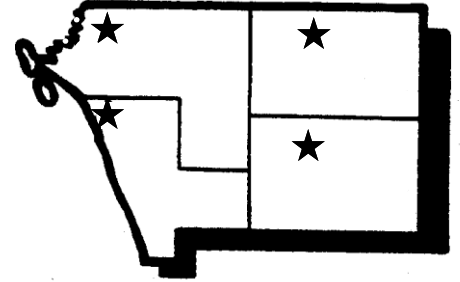
## West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service  
2150 NE Roan Street • Arcadia FL 34266  
863/993-4846

Manatee Extension Service  
1303 17th Street West • Palmetto FL 34221  
941/722-4524

Hardee Extension Service  
507 Civic Center Drive • Wauchula FL 33873  
863/773-2164

Sarasota Extension Service  
6700 Clark Road • Sarasota FL 34241  
941/861-9900



November 15, 2011

### Agricultural Compliance Seminars, Dec. 5, 2011

The U. S. Department of Labor will be conducting a series of Agricultural Compliance Seminars around central Florida during December. The program will be conducted in Arcadia on Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at the South Florida Community College campus from 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM. Preregistration is not required. Topics covered during the program include: migrant housing; transportation; disclosure; wage and hour worked records; farm labor contractor registration cards; authorization to transport, house, and drive; required posters; and, field sanitation (portable toilets, hand washing stations, drinking water).

H-2A topics will also be discussed and include: the application process; adverse effect wage rate; employer responsibilities; hours worked vs. hours offered; and 3/4 guarantee.

Additional classes will be offered on Dec. 6 in Avon Park at the South Florida Community College and on Dec. 7 at the Florida Strawberry Growers Association in Dover.

### Weather Program, Dec. 14, 2011, Arcadia

The Extension Service will be conducting a “Winter Weather Program” at the Turner Exhibition Hall on December 14 (Wednesday) beginning at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be provided to all registered for the program. Topics covered during the 2-hour program will include: climate outlook; what is new with FAWN; FAWN Freeze Alert Tool; how to

access FAWN via computer and phone; general freeze protection principles (how water works in protecting crops); understanding dew point and wet bulb forecasted information; using wet-bulb based cutoff temperatures to shutoff irrigation systems after use on freeze events; discussion on different freeze events; using Brunt equation to estimate minimum temperatures; understanding leaf freezing points in determining when to use irrigation for freeze protection; and a subscription service for recorded weather information.

Pre-registration is required to attend the program and is required prior to December 12 to reserve your free lunch. To register, please call the DeSoto County Extension Service at 863-993-4846 or by email to Cindy Heflin at [clheflin@ufl.edu](mailto:clheflin@ufl.edu).

### Area CHMAs

The CHMAs for Hardee and DeSoto Counties are up and functional. These sites can be viewed on the web by entering ‘CHMA’ or — <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/chmas/index.shtml> into your web browser. Once at the site you will find lots of information on developing a psyllid management program or other timely information to aid in greening management.

Information is frequently added to the site, thus viewing information on a timely basis is beneficial. If you need assistance regarding psyllid management or about CHMAs, please do not hesitate to call or email.

**Citrus Production School, Arcadia, Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7**

Mark your calendars now for the annual citrus production school that will be held in Arcadia. A full listing of the program will be provided in the January 2012 newsletter.

**New FAWN Weather Service**

The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) will deploy an alert system that will notify users by either text message or email when freeze conditions occur at ANY user-selected FAWN site. During the winter of 2010/2011, this system was tested with 2 FAWN sites as a pilot project, and the response to participate was overwhelming.

For the winter of 2011/2012 and beyond, a system has been developed that will disseminate alerts from all 36 sites. Registered users will receive a set of 4 alerts on nights when temperatures are critically low. The first alert occurs when the temperature at a user-selected FAWN site falls to within 2 degrees F of the user-selected critical temperature. A second alert occurs when the temperature at the FAWN site is equal to the user-selected critical temperature. A third occurs when the temperature at the FAWN site rises to within 2 degrees F of the Wet Bulb Based Irrigation Cutoff Temperature for that site. The final alert occurs when the temperature at the FAWN site is equal to the Wet Bulb Based Irrigation Cutoff Temperature for that site. Notification in this manner allows production managers to receive important weather related information to make decisions for freeze protection and saving water and energy while in the field. A subscription is required and is \$50 per season for text message alerts, \$20 per season for email alerts, or \$60 for both.

Further information can be received by registering for the FAWN email list at the following web link:

<http://www.lists.ufl.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fawn-l&A=1>

**Increase in Minimum Wage**

Florida's minimum wage will increase by 36 cents to \$7.67 per hour effective January 1, 2012. This increase in minimum wage reflects the increase in cost of living. The minimum wage may be adjusted January 1 of each year.

**Florida Citrus Show, Ft. Pierce, Jan. 25-26, 2012**

The annual Florida Citrus Show will be held on January 25-26, 2012 at the Havert L. Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce. Information regarding the program and registration can be found at <http://citrusshow.com>.

**International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting & Handling Systems of Fruits & Nuts**

A symposium on mechanical harvesting will be conducted on April 2-4, 2012 at the Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred. To find more information on the program, please visit their website at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/harvest/>.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Dec. 5 Agricultural Compliance Seminars, Arcadia, South Florida Community College
- Dec. 14 Winter Weather Program, Arcadia, Turner Exhibition Hall, 10 AM, Pre-registration required
- Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7 Citrus Production School
- Jan. 25-26 Florida Citrus Show, Ft. Pierce

Sincerely,

*Stephen H. Futch*

Stephen H. Futch, Ph.D.  
Extension Agent, Multi-County  
Phone: 863-956-1151  
Email: [shf@ufl.edu](mailto:shf@ufl.edu)  
Nextel: 158\*17\*31393