

Citruslines

The Mission of UF/IFAS is to develop knowledge in agricultural, human and natural resources and to make that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life.

Winter 2008

January, February & March

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

IFAS Extension
Lake County Extension



Upcoming Events

<http://cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>

Greening Field Trip	S. Florida	February 1st
Estate Planning Seminar	Tavares	February 5th
Weed Control for Citrus	Tavares	February 19th
Pesticide Applicator Training	Sanford	February 21st
Mature Citrus Mentors	Tavares	March 18th

Dear Growers,

I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! This past year has provided me the fortune of getting to meet and know many of you better. I feel blessed that I get to work with a great group of people whom make my job very enjoyable. It is my desire to help you and the citrus industry in any way that I can. Looking ahead at 2008, we all have a big challenge in combating citrus greening disease, but if we combine our efforts as an industry I know we will prevail. Many research projects are being conducted, information gleaned from these efforts will help to maximize production practices. Also, innovations from the growers themselves will continue to be disseminated and will contribute to the knowledge base that will allow us to remain a competitive industry. I am excited about the year ahead and wish you all the best!

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, Larry R. Arrington, Director, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, publishes this information to further the purpose of the May 8 and June 30, 1914 Acts of Congress; and is authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. Single copies of extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county extension offices. Information about alternate formats is available from IFAS Communication Services, University of Florida, PO Box 110810, Gainesville, FL 32611-0810.



Some more thoughts on Greening

Greening of course is on everyone's minds these days. I have been challenged by some to think "outside of the company line" concerning the promotion of grove surveying and removal of symptomatic trees. They feel as if tree removal is not the answer and it only weakens the citrus industry. The reason for recommending tree removal is to prevent the spread of the disease. In instances where infection levels are low (which it is in Central Florida), I think this is a wise practice.

That being said, I recently took a field tour to South Florida with the other multi county extension agents. I found the experience to be enlightening. Some of the groves in South Florida have 40-65% infection rates and tree removal was being implemented. It is hard to justify removing half of your trees per acre and maintaining the rest in a grove. It makes me realize that I should clarify my advice on survey and removal. I believe survey and tree removal to be an important activity in our area due to low infection levels. If infection levels rise to the point where a large percentage of trees need to be removed then an alternate action would in my opinion be more appropriate.

In conjunction with survey and removal of infected trees, should be a pesticide program for psyllid control. Some area growers are having good success in suppressing the psyllid population levels in their groves. Effectively controlling the vector of the disease is an important piece to the greening challenge. The citrus growers that are actively controlling the psyllid, scouting for the greening symptoms, and removing any inoculum are going to slow the spread and "buy time" until we have more answers. Does that mean I am not for trying new or different approaches or ideas? No, I think where the disease is more established there exist the opportunity to evaluate different production practices, in lieu of tree removal.

There are many questions that have yet to be answered, but I see many in our industry working hard to find those answers. With these answers will come new and revised production practices. I am encouraged by growers that continue to push ahead, try new things, learn from the mistakes, and refuse to wait for someone else to solve their problems. I am also encouraged by researchers who are busily collecting data, evaluating data, and making conclusion from that data. Through these efforts Florida citrus production will endure the presence of greening.



2007 Census of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) is conducting a 2007 Census of Agriculture. The Census takes place every five years, it counts the nations farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and many other important issues. The NASS Census provides information that is used by federal, state and local governments, extension agents, agribusinesses and many other organizations. Census data is used to make decisions about many things that directly impact farmers. By responding to the Census you demonstrate the value of agriculture in the U.S. and your local community. Participation in the Census is required by law no matter how large or small your operation. That same law protects the confidentiality of all responses. The Census is to be mailed out December 28th, 2007 and the NASS is asking for replies by February 4th, 2008. The results of the Census will be published in February 2009. For more information about the NASS Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call toll-free (888) 424-7828. If you did not receive a census Maggie has extra copies at our office.

Need Core CEU's?

I am often asked "How can I get more Core CEU's (Continuing Educational Credit Unit) ?". I try to apply for Pesticide Applicator CEU's for my programs if possible. Most of the time the topics do not cover "Core" subjects. There is an easy way to obtain CEU's on-line. The University offers all types of CEU's at

<http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/onlinepesticideceus/>

however these modules have a small fee associated with them. A free way to earn core CEU's is on-line at

<http://www.ornamentaloutlook.com/ceu/>

There you will find an article series for each month of the year. You can read the article and submit an electronic question and answer form to receive one Core CEU. When you click on the link to receive your questions you will be provided with contact information of who and where to send the question and answers form. The easiest way is to email, however you can fax or mail the results. Articles are valid for up to one year after they are released. That means there is a possibility of twelve core CEUs to be earned, more than enough to renew your licenses. Of course there also is our CEU DAY held twice a year. This years will be June the 24th in Tavares and November 6th in Orlando, see enclosed flyer for more details.



Greening Field Trip to South Florida February 1st 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

As most are aware citrus greening disease is much more prevalent in South Florida. Last year we took a field trip to Highlands County to look at greening and canker. This year we will visit S.W. Florida. We will be leaving the Agricultural Center in Tavares at 7 A.M. I will be driving the county van which can hold ten additional people. Please sign up as soon as possible if you would like a ride. Our first stop will be at McKinnon Corp's grove in Fel-da. Maury Boyd manages this grove which was diagnosed with greening back in 2005. Instead of removing infected trees, Maury has implemented a nutritional program, that has captured the attention of the citrus industry. In 2005 the grove was PCR confirmed for greening. The grove was in decline, having greening symptomatic foliage and fruit. Today the grove has less visual foliage symptoms and "normal" fruit. What is happening? No one knows for sure but it has sparked interest in researching the procedures and results.

From the McKinnon grove we will go to the University of Florida's Southwest Research and Education Center in Immokalee to have a BBQ lunch. My hope is we will be able to tour the new greening PCR facility that is scheduled to run grower greening samples in the late spring. This depends on if the equipment has arrived by 2/1. We also will be visiting Cooperative Producers, Inc's grove to hear and see what production practices are being implemented to combat greening in their groves.

The cost is \$15.00, please call Maggie at 352-343-4101 to sign up by **Jan. 25th.**

Inheritance Tax Laws, Estate Planning, Conservation Easements

Feb. 5th 9AM-2:30PM

Please plan on joining us on Feb. 5th in Tavares at the Agricultural Center to learn about how to protect your assets and beneficiaries in the event of your death. The difference between planning or not planning can cost a lot of money and cause a headache for your heirs. We will also be covering conservation easements options that could be beneficial to your agricultural production.

9:30 Introduction and Welcome Martha Thomas

9:40 Cattle Industry and Private Land Owner Update Larry Rooks, President Florida Cattlemen's Association

10:00 Estate Planning and Taxes John Feldman, Attorney At Law Board Certified Wills, Trusts and Estates

11:45 How Conservation Easements and Agriculture Work Together

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Conservation Easement Options Ellen Huntley Dube, Conservation Trust For Florida

Registration: **\$15.00 per person** (includes lunch and reference material). Make checks payable to: Lake County Agricultural Advisory. Mail Check to: Lake County Extension Office 1951 Woodlea Road Tavares, FL 32778. R.S.V.P to Maggie Jarrell 352-343-4101 by **January 29.**



Nighttime OJ Meeting

Feb. 19th 6PM-9PM

Central Florida citrus growers responded that weed control was the second most important topic in the 2007 survey. To address this there will be a night time OJ meeting on weed control in citrus at the Lake county agricultural center in Tavares. Our speaker will be Dr. Meg Singh. Dr. Singh has over 20 years of experience working with weed control in citrus.

As part of the program a BBQ dinner sponsored by Helena and Triangle chemical companies will be provided starting at 6 pm. So if you would like a free meal and to learn more about effective weed control in your groves please RSVP to Maggie at 352-343-4101 by **Feb. 15th**. An accurate head count is needed to ensure enough food. CEU's applied for.

Mature Citrus Mentors (Old Timers)

March 18th 11:00-?

Did you work the grove with a hoe growing up? Do you remember the '62 freeze? Then you maybe considered an Old Timer. This year we will again be reuniting with old friends and transferring knowledge from our citrus industry elders.

If you are an old timer please plan on joining us at the Lake County Agricultural Center in Tavares starting at 11 AM. There will be a BBQ lunch provided, cost is \$20. Registration is required. Please register with Maggie Jarrell at 343-4101 by **March 7th**.

Private Agricultural License Review & Exam

Feb. 21st 8:30-4:00

A pesticide license is required by any persons who apply or supervise the application of restricted use pesticides for agricultural production. This certification requires a passing grade of 70% on the General Standards and Private exam. This certification must be renewed ever 4 years either by testing or by 8 CEU's.

There will be a review and exam in Sanford on February 22nd. The review starts at 8:30 AM. There is a \$20 charge for the class.

It is advisable to purchase the "Applying pesticides correctly" and "The private applicator training manual" from the IFAS bookstore online at www.ifasbooks.ufl.edu or by calling 800-226-1764.

The private agricultural license itself cost \$60 which does not have to be paid until after you pass the exam. To register please call Richard Tyson at 407-665-5551.

Greening Summit

Spring 2008

The greening taskforce and the multi county extension agents are putting on a Greening Summit in three locations across the state.

The locations and dates have yet to be determined, but we will advertise as soon as they are set (should be early Jan. 08).

The idea of the Summit is for growers to come together and share their ideas and experiences with one another concerning greening production practices. This is your opportunity to express your opinions concerning greening!

USDA Designates 58 Florida Counties As Primary Natural Disaster areas - Decision allows growers to apply for USDA assistance.


The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 58 Florida counties as primary natural disaster areas because of losses caused by drought that occurred on Jan. 1, 2007 and continues. Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Volusia counties are all designated counties. Qualified farms are eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

La Nina - Winter Drought From the Southeast Climate Consortium www.agclimate.org

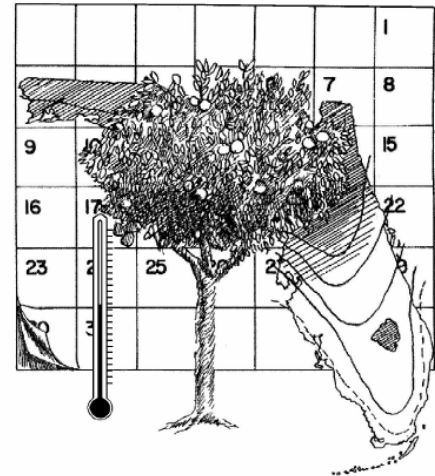
La Niña is commonly thought of as the opposite of El Niño. Under La Niña conditions, sea surface temperatures along the equator in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean are a few degrees colder than normal for a minimum of five months. La Niña typically returns every 2 to 7 years. Colder than normal sea surface temperatures have intensified and spread throughout the eastern and central Pacific Ocean near the equator. The colder than normal water has now taken the classic La Niña pattern and has reached at least moderate strength by most measures. Stronger than normal easterly trade winds over the area, the mechanism responsible for driving the development of La Niña, were strong and widespread in the month of September. This is a good indication that the La Niña will persist and possibly strengthen further throughout the fall and into winter. In their latest discussion, NOAA is predicting a weak-to-moderate La Niña. In light of recent developments, we think there is greater chance that this La Niña reaches moderate or even strong levels. The warmer temperatures will impact winter crops and fruit production, resulting in less chill accumulation over the course of the winter season. Warmer temperatures will also mean greater evaporation rates. Due to the jet stream configuration described above, severe or damaging freezes are less likely during La Niña than in neutral years. However, the risk of early or late season freezes (like in April of 2007) does not seem to be affected by the Pacific Ocean. For more information about La Nina go to www.agclimate.org.

Fall 2007

Ryan Atwood
Extension Agent
Lake County Agricultural Center
1951 Woodlea Rd.
Tavares, FL 32778
Phone: 352-343-4101
Fax: 352-343-2767
E-mail: raatwood@ufl.edu
<http://cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/citrus>



Notice webpage up and running but still a work in progress!



Winter Weather Watch service for the 07-08 season began on November 12th, if you would like to sign up there is still time. Contact myself or Maggie to register and receive the phone number. For those already subscribing, thanks for your support!



The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) has overhauled its Web site to make looking for weather data to protect their crops. The improved site which debuted in mid-October has a new user interface and database. The site features a more modern look, streamlined navigation, gives access to additional resources and its database is more efficient. Also a new web and

data server is in place for maximizing the site especially during times of heavy use like freeze events. The servers are monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by University of Florida personnel at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. If you have yet to look at the new site give it a try at :

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

You will find on the site:

1. Cold protection toolkit for assisting cold protection decision making.
2. A citrus irrigation scheduler.
3. Alter-rater for assistance determining when to spray for Alternaria based on weather conditions in your area.
4. Climate information and historical data from FAWN stations.