

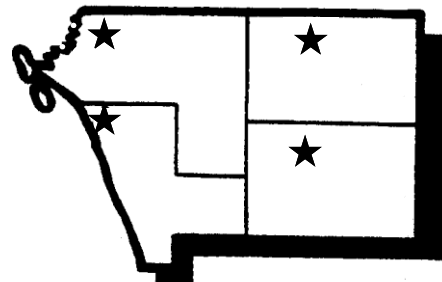
## West Central Citrus Letter

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



**October 1, 2013**

### **Globally Harmonized System – New Training Requirement**

OSHA has developed a new rule whereby all companies, including agriculture, are required to train workers on the new label elements and on safety data sheets (SDS) of chemicals by December 1, 2013. The SDS forms replace the older material safety data sheets (MSDS) that have been used for numerous years.

This new international system of classification and labeling of chemicals is classified by the type of hazard. The system is based upon hazards to health, physical and environmental factors. The new label elements and SDS requirements are designed to improve worker understanding of the hazards associated with chemicals in their workplace.

The initial training which is required by December 1, 2013 is to cover:

- Product identifier: how a hazardous chemical is identified
- Signal word: indicated the relative level of severity of hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label (i.e. Danger and Warning labels)
- Pictogram: shape (square with point at top) and symbol in black on white background
- Hazard statement(s): nature of hazard
- Precautionary statement(s): describes recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure

To help farmers meet the training requirements, the Extension Service will offer trainings on Thursday, Oct. 24 at the DeSoto County Extension Service Office in Arcadia and repeated on Oct. 31 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office in Wauchula. Both training sessions will begin at 3:30 PM and lasts approximately 45 minutes.

The program does not have a registration fee but pre-registration is required as both meeting rooms are limited to 30 participants. Additional trainings can be scheduled at farmer locations or as needed.

### **Ag Financial Management Conference, Oct. 21-22, Orlando**

The Florida Agriculture Financial Management conference will be held on October 21-22 at the Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate.

Educational sessions will cover topics including economic forecasting, risk management, banking and lending trends, business succession planning, regulatory issues, compliance measures surrounding the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act, and external factors influencing cash flow.

For more information or to register, please visit [www.fafmc.org](http://www.fafmc.org).

**New Variety Display Dates**

Each year the variety improvement group at CREC and New Variety Development Corporation host a number of new citrus variety displays at either the research center in Lake Alfred or Ft. Pierce. The dates for 2013-14 season are currently scheduled for November 12, December 17, January 17 and February 18. All events will be held at the CREC in Lake Alfred except January 17 which will be at the Indian River Research & Education Center in Ft. Pierce. For more information, please contact Lucy Nieves, at 321-214-5252.

**Farm Labor Supervisor Core Training, Arcadia, Oct. 22**

The annual farm labor supervisor core training session will be conducted in Arcadia on October 22 at the Family Service Center, 310 West Whidden Street. The 8-hour training session will begin at 8 AM and conclude at 5:00 PM. Topics covered during the training program include: Wage & Hour; Discrimination/Harassment, EEOC; Worker Protection Standards, Field Sanitation, Food Safety; and, Safe Driving.

The training is offered in both English and Spanish and targeted to supervisors of farm workers, field supervisors, labor contractors, crew leaders, growers, bus and van drivers, office staff including payroll and human resource directors.

Additional classes will be conducted in Homestead (Sept. 10), Belle Glade (Sept. 24), Bartow (Oct. 23), and Immokalee (Oct. 29).

Registration is \$80.00 per person and includes lunch. To register, please visit the web at <http://fls2013arcadia.eventbrite.com>.

For more information on the program, please contact Ms. Julie Carson at [carsonj@ufl.edu](mailto:carsonj@ufl.edu) or 239-658-3462.

**Private and Core Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Oct. 23, 2013, Wauchula**

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 507 Civic Center Drive in Wauchula. The class will review the materials contained in the test to obtain a private applicator pesticide license. The class will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at noon with the test being given at 1:00 P.M.

Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) will be offered to individuals that have a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$43.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals and refreshments. To attend the class for only CEUs, the registration fee is \$5.00. If you wish to attend the class to obtain CEUs or to take the test, please call the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 863-773-2164 to register. Pre-registration is requested prior to Oct. 15, 2013.

**Citrus Acreage**

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service has recently published its citrus acreage report for 2013. In 2013, the Florida citrus acreage is now at 524,640 which is a 1% decrease or a reduction of 6,853 acres. While 8,262 acres were planted in 2013, 15,115 were taken out of production. Total orange acreage is 459,311, grapefruit 47,656, specialty fruit 17,673 acres, for a total of 524,640 acres of all citrus varieties.

Polk County remains in the number 1 position for citrus production with 81,696 acres. Locally, DeSoto has 65,187 acres of citrus which is an increase of 929 acres in 2013. Hardee had a slight decrease of 102 acres for a total of 46,690 acres. Manatee County had a decrease of 361 acres and now has 17,939. Sarasota's acreage remained nearly constant at 1,335 acres.

From the reported acres, the top 10 citrus producing counties based on total production are Polk as number 1 followed by Hendry, Highlands, DeSoto, Hardee, Collier, Indian River, St. Lucie, Manatee and Charlotte rounding out the top 10 producing counties.

**Abandoned Citrus Acreage**

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service has recently published its citrus abandoned acreage report. The total abandoned acreage in the state is 132,547 acres which is down from 136,533 in 2012. In local counties, the abandoned acreage is: DeSoto with 3,112; Hardee 2,858; Manatee 3,139 and Sarasota with 131 abandoned acres. To be considered as abandoned the following conditions must exist: no production care during the past 2 years, no weed control or grass mowing, livestock present, weather damage, neglected trees that are not economically feasible to maintain, or no commercial harvest during the last 2 season.

These abandoned acres do pose a risk to those groves where citrus growers are actively controlling psyllids. Growers need to work with local agencies and county governments to develop programs to assist or encourage growers to remove abandoned citrus trees to lessen the problem with psyllids.

### USDA NRCS Cost Share Programs

Jack Creighton with the USDA/NRCS has announced several governmental programs for citrus producers in Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Deadline for participation in the program is November 15, 2013. NRCS program include:

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) deals with various water monitoring devices or replacing micro-irrigations systems
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages best management conservation activities

For more information, please contact Jack Creighton at USDA/NRCS at 941-907-0011.

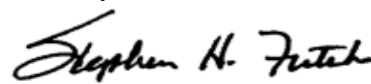
### 2014 Syngenta Florida Internship Opportunities

Each year, Syngenta offers intern opportunities to college students that are interested in production agriculture. Syngenta will offer 7 intern positions with an approximate start date of May 19, 2014 and end of August 15, 2014 in Florida. If you know of a student that would be interested in an internship with Syngenta, please have them contact Cody Hoffman at [cody.hoffman@syngenta.com](mailto:cody.hoffman@syngenta.com) before the end of January 2014. Internship opportunities offer excellent chance to develop new skills and gain knowledge. Applicants should be either sophomore or junior level students, however senior year students would be considered.

### Dates to remember:

Oct. 21-22	Ag Financial Management Conference, Orlando
Oct. 22	Farm Labor Supervisor Core Training, Arcadia
Oct. 23	Restricted Use Pesticide License Review & Testing (Core and Private category), Wauchula
Oct. 24	GHS Training, Arcadia
Oct. 31	GHS Training, Wauchula
Nov. 12	New Variety Fruit Display, Lake Alfred

Sincerely,



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