

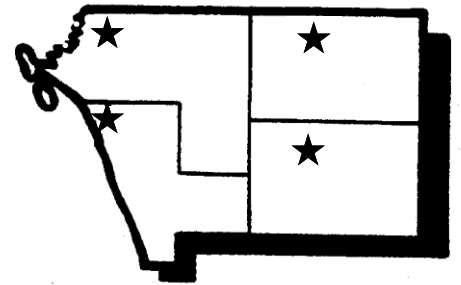
## West Central Citrus Letter

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



**August 1, 2017**

### **Citrus Expo, Aug. 16 & 17, 2017, North Ft. Myers**

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Citrus Expo will take place August 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> at the Lee Civic Center in North Fort Myers. The theme for the Expo is “Challenge, Change, and Opportunity.” For more information on the program, please visit <http://citrusexpo.net/program/>.

Two continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered for license holders of restricted use pesticide licenses for each of the three sessions. CEUs will also be offered for Certified Crop Advisors.

### **Food Safety Modernization Act, Aug. 23, Wauchula**

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is the most sweeping reform of our food safety laws in more than 70 years. It aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by shifting the focus from responding to contamination to preventing it. Operations that sell fresh fruit and vegetables will have greater regulations than those commodities that are not usually eaten fresh.

UF/IFAS and the Florida Department of Agriculture will be conducting a program to explain how the need Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) will affect farming operations on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Wauchula. Compliance dates for the largest farm operations will start in January 2018.

This grower meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup> requires pre-registration. For more information on the program or how to register, please see the enclosed flyer.

The dinner for the meeting is being sponsored by Crop Protection Services, Florida Fertilizer Company, Inc., Helena, and Howard Fertilizer and Chemical.

### **Grapefruit Rootstock Survey**

The Indian River Citrus League is interested in locating grapefruit groves planted on rootstocks other than sour orange or Swingle citrumelo to make observations on tree performance and response to HLB. Evaluations are needed to aid growers in assessing whether other rootstocks(s) may be suited for planting in the Indian River area and elsewhere. Currently, both sour orange and Swingle citrumelo are performing less than desired and alternative rootstocks need to be evaluated to enhance productivity for future plantings.

If you have grapefruit blocks grown on other than sour orange or Swingle citrumelo rootstock that you would be willing to share information on, please contact any of the citrus extension agents (Steve Futch, Laurie Hurner, Garima Kakkar, Chris Oswalt, Juanita Popenoe, or Mongi Zekri).

### **2017-18 Citrus Production Guides**

The annual citrus production guides (formerly the citrus pest management guide) are now available at the Extension Service offices in either Wauchula or Arcadia. They will also be available at the Extension

booth at the Citrus Expo to be held in Ft. Myers on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you want the latest version of the production guide, please stop by the Extension Service office and pick up a free copy. The Extension Service office will not mail copies due to the postage cost.

The new production guide has been updated to include new chapters on the horticultural management of Florida citrus along with the standard chapters on pest and disease management.

**CHMA Cycle 104**

The data for cycle 104 psyllid scouting is now available,

[http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/chmas/chma\\_ranking.shtml](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/chmas/chma_ranking.shtml) .

This data represents the time period July 3 – July 21, 2017. Data for the previous 103 surveys are also present at the site and can be accessed by clicking on the survey tabs at the bottom of the file.

**Dates to Remember**

- Aug. 16-17 Citrus Expo, N. Ft. Myers
- Aug. 23 Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- Aug. 23 FSMA meeting, Wauchula (pre-registration required)
- Aug. 24 Packinghouse Day, Lake Alfred
- Sept. 19 WPS Train-the-Trainer, Wauchula
- Nov. 14, 15 Farm Labor Supervisor Training, Arcadia

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch

Extension Agent, Multi-County  
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Email: [shf@ufl.edu](mailto:shf@ufl.edu)

Enclosure: Understanding FSMA program flyer

# Understanding How the Food Safety Modernization Act Affects Farming Operations

Wednesday,  
August 23, 2017  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**UF** IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Still wondering how the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) affects your farming operation? Compliance dates for the largest growers start in January 2018. Come hear about how the new food safety regulations affect your operation and the opportunities that UF/IFAS and Florida Division of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) are providing to help you be prepared.

Steve Futch and Travis Chapin from UF/IFAS Extension and Scott McClure from the FDACS will be conducting the meeting and outlining what you need to know to prepare to comply with the act.

A sponsored dinner meal will be provided for those who preregister.

## ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Call UF/IFAS Extension Hardee County office, 863-773-2164 or <https://fsmaprogram2017.eventbrite.com>

Register by Friday, August 18, 2017

## LOCATION

UF/IFAS Extension Hardee County  
507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula



FLORIDA FERTILIZER COMPANY, INC.



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For more information, please contact Steve Futch, 863-956-8644, [shf@ufl.edu](mailto:shf@ufl.edu)