

Under the Citrus Tree

Highlands County Extension Service

4509 George Boulevard, Sebring, Florida 33875

November 22, 2013 Volume I Issue IV



Growers & Friends:

The Holidays are quickly approaching. If you have not bought or gathered your bird for next week, now is the time. There are a lot of things going on around the Heartland. This month I held the first OSHA Revised Hazard Communications Training here in Highlands County. I have reprinted the information about this rule change and a flyer about another upcoming class, for your information. If you or someone in your organization handles hazardous materials (not just pesticides), this training is for you. Check out the enclosed flyer and I hope to see you on December 19th. We are approaching year end for a lot of reasons: First, the calendar says so; secondly the University says it is time to evaluate how our programming has gone and prepare our schedules for next year. In that vein, you will find in this edition of the newsletter a request for you to complete a survey. Please take a few minutes to help me out and let me know what you need out of this newsletter. Happy Thanksgiving!

Regards,

Laurie

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What's going on?

December 1st, 2013 Deadline for OSHA Changes in Training

OSHA has revised its Hazard Communications Standard to align with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. Two significant changes contained in the revised standard require the use of new labeling elements and a standardized format for what was formally known as MSDS sheets. Please see the attached OSHA FACT SHEET & **meeting announcement regarding upcoming training.**

UF/IFAS Highlands County Citrus Program Newsletter Survey

Please take a few minutes to evaluate this newsletter. I am quickly coming into the beginning of my first calendar year on the job and I want to make sure I am bringing you the programming and information that you want and need. This survey is anonymous and the information collected will not be shared or used by anyone else but me.

https://ufl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4GDX2lja6BWqGMJ

CREC Rootstock Field Day

The CREC is hosting a Rootstock Field Day for citrus growers on Thursday December 12, 2013. The field day will feature Dr. Grosser's rootstock trial in nearby Waverly Florida. Buses will leave the CREC at 8:00, 9:00, and 10:00 a.m. The tour will take about two hours.

You can register by Eventbrite at rootstockfieldday@eventbright.com or by email or telephone. See the attached flyer for more details.

Weather Station Cost Share Program

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is sponsoring a program for producers to purchase and install on-site weather stations. The stations will collect real-time data on rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, dew point, wind speed and direction.



The data will be accessible on producer's smart phones, computers and the UF Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN).

To qualify, producers must be enrolled in the FDACS Best Management Practices program. Producers with up to 300 acres in production can qualify for one station, and may apply for up to five additional stations for each 300 acres in production. FDACS will provide 75% of the cost with a \$5,000.00 cap per station and \$25,000 per producer.

For more information contact Ms. Susie Bishop located in the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District Office in the Bert Harris Ag Center, 4505 George Boulevard, Sebring, FL., or sbishop@highlandsswcd.org or (863) 402-7020.

Highlands County Citrus Grower Forum

Join us on December 10th for the next Citrus Grower Forum. This roundtable meeting provides a time for citrus growers in Highlands and surrounding counties to come together to discuss hot topics and possible solutions. There is no formal presentation or long speeches. A "Topic of the Day" will be circulated prior to the meeting. See the attached flyer for more details.

UF Survey on the use of Dimethoate & Atrazine

In an email from Dr. Mark Mossler of the UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office we were asked to pass along two survey links and ask for your help. These pesticide benefit surveys are used to help maintain labeling for which Florida Stakeholders have needs. At this time there are two chemicals that they are requesting feedback on:

The Dimethoate survey is at:

https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cUapAjAWYbbMCYR

And the atrazine is at: https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3QU7Ea4ZmFamLn7

As you can imagine, Dimethoate is very important in our current battle for Asian Citrus Psyllid Control. Please fill out the survey and encourage others to do so as well.

Winter Weather Watch Now Available

The 2013-14 edition of the Polk County Winter Weather Watch program will begin on November 15, 2013. The program provides growers with winter weather forecast information specifically geared toward agricultural interests in West Central and Southwest Florida. The program provides subscribers with an unlisted phone number for (24 hour/7 days a week) access to daily weather forecasts. Chris Oswalt, the UF/IFAS Extension Polk County Extension Agent provides this service and it is really great. See the attached letter and application materials.

2013-2014 Program Sponsors

On behalf of the UF/IFAS Extension Highlands County Citrus Program I would like to thank the companies who have sponsored our Citrus Extension Program for 2013-2014. In lieu of individual program sponsorships, we solicit and accept season sponsorships for the entire program. I have attached the first of these sponsors to this newsletter.

It is not too late! If you do not see your name or your companies listed, feel free to give me a call or drop me an email and I will be happy to send you some information. As budgets get tighter and tighter our program will continue to bring top-notch programming thanks to these generous sponsors.



Bountiful Blessings to you
and yours this Thanksgiving!

