

# Citrus Notes



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for  
Polk &  
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Counties

## IMPORTANT DATES

**AUGUST 15 - 16, 2018**  
**CITRUS EXPO**  
North Ft. Myers, FL

**AUGUST 23, 2018**  
**PACKINGHOUSE DAY**  
CREC - Lake Alfred

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2018**  
**OJ/BREAK - LEMON WORKSHOP**  
CREC - Lake Alfred

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**  
**PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE GROWER TRAINING**  
CREC - Lake Alfred

## CONTACT INFO

### POLK COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

PO Box 9005, Drawer HS03  
Bartow, FL 33831  
(863) 519-1052  
Email: [wcoswalt@ufl.edu](mailto:wcoswalt@ufl.edu)

### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

5339 County Road 579  
Seffner, FL 33584  
(813) 744-5519  
Ext. 541231

FDA Updated the List of Equivalent

## Agricultural Water Testing Methods



Last  
September  
11<sup>th</sup>, FDA

released a list of

methods equivalent to EPA 1603, the prescribed method in the Produce Safety Rule, greatly expanding laboratory accessibility for testing your water. All of those methods (on page one of the factsheet attached) involved quantifying (i.e. determining the actual number of) *E. coli* present in a 100 ml water sample. Those tests needed to be used whether you were testing production (pre-harvest) water with the currently “challenging” Microbial Water Quality Profile of the Geometric Mean (GM) and Statistical Threshold Value (STV) or harvest and postharvest water (including ice, handwashing, and water used for cleaning) where the standard was simply no detectible *E. coli* in a 100 ml sample.

What this update has done (page 2) is provide equivalent tests for harvest and postharvest water (including ice, handwashing, and water used for cleaning) so that instead of quantifying (i.e. determining the actual number of) *E. coli*, now you can just test to see if *E. coli* is present or absent in the 100 ml water sample using one of the tests on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page. The advantage of these tests are that they are often less expensive.

FDA has proposed delayed compliance dates for Ag Water (an additional 4 years beyond your compliance date to meet all other requirements), and continues to look at water related requirements of the Produce Safety Rule. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please let one of us know. (Dr. Michelle

Danyluk, 863-956-8654, email: [mddanyluk@ufl.edu](mailto:mddanyluk@ufl.edu) or Travis Chapin, 863-956-8642, email: [tkchapin@ufl.edu](mailto:tkchapin@ufl.edu)).

2018

### Citrus Expo

Big changes will be happening at the 27<sup>th</sup> Citrus Expo on Aug 15–16, 2018. AgNet Media is expanding the event to include a program for vegetable and specialty crop growers. The expanded program will in no way reduce the attention to citrus topics. With the help of exhibitors, sponsors and industry groups, these efforts are expected to grow the event to better serve more growers and enhance the investments of vendors and sponsors alike.

In 2018, additional concurrent sessions will address seasonal production issues for vegetable growers and give updates on alternative crops under study. General session seminars will address important timely topics of universal interest to growers, farm planners, personnel managers, agribusiness owners and industry leaders. Program topics in development include labor, the 2018 farm bill, crop insurance, disaster funding updates and more.

Registration and program information can be found at the following link: <http://citrusexpo.net/>.



*The Foundation for the Gator Nation*

*An Equal Opportunity Institution*

## Applications Being Accepted from Florida Producers Recovering from the Effect of 2017 Hurricanes

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA July 18, 2018— U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Florida Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting State Executive Director Justin Teuton today announced that agricultural producers affected by hurricanes in 2017 now may apply for assistance to help them recover and rebuild their farming operations. Signup began July 16, 2018, and continues through November 16, 2018.

“Congress and President Trump moved quickly to help producers recover from the devastating effects experienced by producers in Florida and other states,” said Teuton. “We will do all we can to help producers who visit our county offices to apply for this program, or for other disaster assistance available through the Farm Service Agency.”

The program, known as the 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) was authorized by Congress earlier this year by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Eligible crops, trees, bushes, or vines, located in a county declared in a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation as a primary county are eligible for assistance if the producer suffered a loss as a result of a 2017 hurricane. Also, losses located in a county not designated as a primary county may be eligible if the producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a hurricane or wildfire in 2017. A list of counties that received qualifying hurricane declarations and designations is available at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/wildfires-and-hurricanes-indemnity-program/index>. Eligibility is determined by Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees.

Agricultural production losses due to conditions caused by last year’s wildfires and hurricanes, including excessive rain, high winds, flooding, mudslides, fire, and heavy smoke, could qualify for assistance through the program. Typically, 2017 WHIP is only designed to provide assistance for production losses, however, if quality was taken into consideration under the insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy, where production was further adjusted, the adjusted production will be used in calculating assistance under this program.

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or NAP coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. A list of crops covered by crop insurance is available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Actuarial Information Browser at <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser>.

Eligibility will be determined for each producer based on the size of the loss and the level of insurance coverage elected by the producer. A WHIP factor will be determined for each crop based on the producer’s coverage level. Producers who elected higher coverage levels will receive a higher WHIP factor.

The 2017 WHIP payment factor ranges from 65 percent to 95 percent, depending upon the level of crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage that a producer obtained for the crop. Producers who did not insure their crops in 2017 will receive 65 percent of the expected value of the crop. Insured producers will receive between 70 percent and 95 percent of expected value; those who purchased the highest levels of coverage will receive 95-percent coverage. Each eligible producer requesting 2017 WHIP benefits will be subject to a payment limitation of either \$125,000 or \$900,000, depending upon their average adjusted gross income, which will be verified. The payment limit is \$125,000, if less than 75 percent of the person or legal entity’s average adjusted gross

income is average adjusted gross farm income. The payment limit is \$900,000, if 75 percent or more of the average adjusted gross income of the person or legal entity is average adjusted gross farm income.

Both insured and uninsured producers are eligible to apply for 2017 WHIP. However, all producers receiving 2017 WHIP payments will be required to purchase crop insurance and/or NAP, at the 60 percent coverage level or higher, for the next two available crop years to meet statutory requirements. Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two applicable years will be required to pay back the 2017 WHIP payment.

To help expedite payments, a producer who does not have records established at the [local USDA service center](#) are encouraged to do so early in the process. To establish a record for a farm, a producer needs:

- Proof of identity: driver’s license and Social Security number/card;
- Copy of recorder deed, survey plat, rental, or lease agreement of the land. A producer does not have to own property to participate in FSA programs;
- Corporation, estate, or trust documents, if applicable

Once signup begins, a producer will be asked to provide verifiable and reliable production records. If a producer is unable to provide production records, USDA will calculate the yield based on the county average yield. A producer with this information on file does not need to provide the information again.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs, please contact: Marcinda Kester ([marcinda.kester@fl.usda.gov](mailto:marcinda.kester@fl.usda.gov)), County Executive Director, for Polk ((863) 533-2051) & Hillsborough ((813) 752-1474 ext 2) Counties or find your local USDA service center at <https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip>.



# WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS)

## POSTERS

Thanks to the Polk County Extension Citrus Advisory Committee we have available complimentary copies of the newly updated EPA approved WPS posters for your use. The posters are available here at my office in Bartow, at 1702 US Hwy 17 S. If you are in Hillsborough, I'll leave some copies at my Seffner Office, 5339 CR 579. If you plan to pick up at the Seffner office, please call (813) 744-5519 to make sure we have adequate copies for your needs.

The posters are thinly coated on the front side for some level of weather protection although the back is likely more susceptible to the elements.

Approved training materials for the new Worker Protection Standard are available at the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative website: <http://pesticideresources.org/>. This site has the newly updated EPA approved WPS training materials. Some of these include training videos in both English and Spanish along with approved powerpoint presentations for those of you that want to provide a more active training experience.

## 2018 Farm Labor Supervisor Training

To help employers and supervisors of agricultural workers comply with labor laws, UF/IFAS Extension is offering a training program in Wimauma. The Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program will take place on October 9th (8:30 am - 4:30 pm) and October 10th (8:30 am - 3:30 pm), 2018 at the Highlands County Extension Service and October 23rd (8:30 am - 4:30 pm) and October 24th (8:30 am - 3:30 pm), 2018 at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research & Education Center. Four classes are offered on October 23rd: Farm Labor Contractor Basics and Navigating the H-2A Process, Wage/Hour Regulations and Managing H-2A Workers, EEOC Compliance- Harassment and Discrimination, and Management Communications. Four different classes are offered on October 24th: Safe Driving, Pesticide Safety, Heat Stress Prevention, and Hand Labor Equipment Safety. Registration starts at 8:00 AM both days. Classes are taught in both

English and Spanish in separate rooms at the same time. There is a \$50 fee per class. *If you choose to attend all 8 classes to earn your Certificate of Farm Labor Management, the fee would be \$350. Please select the "Complete Certificate Program" option in either English or Spanish.* Anyone completing all classes and passing a test in each class will earn a *Certificate of Farm Labor Management*. First Aid and CPR classes may count in place of certain classes listed above. Lunch is provided.

For further information, please contact Barbara Hyman (hymanb@ufl.edu, 239-658-3461). The attached flyer has registration and additional program information.

## September OJ Break Lemon Production in Florida

Over the past few years, there has been some renewed interest in the potential to produce lemons here in central Florida.



Historically, lemons in Florida have been produced for the fresh market. The freezes of the 1980's, along with an increasingly unpredictable fresh lemon market, Florida lemon acreage decreased. Recently there has been an increasing interest in the fresh lemons, peel oil, and lemon juice. This, along with the apparent tolerance of certain varieties of lemons to HLB, many growers are asking the question are lemons a right fit for my operation.

We have put together for the September OJ Break a workshop on the potential for lemon production here in Florida, specifically central Florida.

The workshop will be held at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, BHG Hall, 700 Experiment Station Rd., Lake Alfred, FL. Registration will begin at 8:45 a.m., with the program starting at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be sponsored by Maxijet Inc.

I'll be providing registration and program information in next months issue of Citrus Notes newsletter.

# FDA FACT SHEET

## Produce Safety Rule (21 CFR 112)

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### EQUIVALENT TESTING METHODOLOGY FOR AGRICULTURAL WATER

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FDA has determined that the following quantification methods are scientifically valid and at least equivalent to the method of analysis in § 112.151(a), “Method 1603: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in Water by Membrane Filtration Using Modified membrane-Thermotolerant *Escherichia coli* Agar (Modified mTEC)” (December 2009), in accuracy, precision, and sensitivity in quantifying generic *Escherichia coli* in agricultural water when used in connection with the criteria described in § 112.44(a) or § 112.44(b).

1. Method 1603: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in Water by Membrane Filtration Using Modified membrane-Thermotolerant *Escherichia coli* Agar (Modified mTEC) (September 2014). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA-821-R-14-010.
2. Method 1103.1: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in Water by Membrane Filtration Using membrane-Thermotolerant *Escherichia coli* Agar (mTEC) (March 2010). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA-821-R-10-002.
3. Method 1604: Total Coliforms and *Escherichia coli* in Water by Membrane Filtration Using a Simultaneous Detection Technique (MI Medium) (September 2002). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA-821-R-02-024.
4. 9213 D – Natural Bathing Beaches (2007). In: Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 22nd Edition (Rice E.W., et al., Ed.), 9-46 – 9-48. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. (2012).
5. 9222 B – Standard Total Coliform Membrane Filter Procedure (1997), followed by 9222 G – MF Partition Procedures (1997) using NA-MUG media. In: Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 21st Edition (Eaton A.D., et al., Ed.), 9-60 – 9-65, and 9-70 – 9-71, respectively. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association. (2005).
6. D 5392-93 – Standard Test Method for Isolation and Enumeration of *Escherichia coli* in Water by the Two-Step Membrane Filter Procedure. In: Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Volume 11.02. ASTM International. (1996, 1999, 2000).
7. Hach Method 10029 for Coliforms – Total and *E. coli*, using m-ColiBlue24 Broth PourRite Ampules.
8. IDEXX Colilert Test Kit, but only if using IDEXX Quanti-Tray/2000 for quantification.
9. IDEXX Colilert-18 Test Kit, but only if using IDEXX Quanti-Tray/2000 for quantification.

With regard to criteria described only in § 112.44(a), FDA has determined that the following presence/absence methods are scientifically valid and at least equivalent to the method of analysis in § 112.151(a), “Method 1603: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in Water by Membrane Filtration Using Modified membrane-Thermotolerant *Escherichia coli* Agar (Modified mTEC)” (December 2009), in accuracy, precision, and sensitivity in detecting generic *Escherichia coli* in agricultural water.

1. TECTA™ EC/TC medium and the TECTA™ Instrument: A Presence/Absence Method for the Simultaneous Detection of Total Coliforms and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) in Drinking Water. (2014).
2. Modified Colitag™ Test Method for the Simultaneous Detection of *E. coli* and other Total Coliforms in Water. ATP D05-0035. (2009).
3. IDEXX Colilert Test Kit
4. IDEXX Colilert-18 Test Kit
5. IDEXX Colisure Test Kit
6. E\*Colite Bag or Vial Test for Total Coliforms and *E. coli* in Potable Water. Charm Sciences, Inc.
7. 101298 ReadyCult Coliforms 100. EMD Millipore (division of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany).

### For more information:

- **FSMA Final Rule on Produce Safety.**  
<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm>

Have you seen our Blog? [FDA Voice](#)



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The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, and products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.

**FARM LABOR SUPERVISOR TRAINING  
SCHEDULE FOR FALL, 2018**

<b>DAY 1</b>		<b>DAY 2</b>	
DAY 1—TIME	Classes	DAY 2—TIME	Classes
8:00 am - 8:30 am	Registration	8:00 am - 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 am - 10:15 am	Farm Labor Contractor Basics & Navigating H-2A	8:30 am - 10:00 am	Safe Driving
10:30 am - 12:15 pm	Wage/Hour Regulations & Managing H-2A Workers	10:15 am—11:30 am	Pesticide Safety
12:15 pm—1:00 pm	Lunch	11:30 am - 12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm—2:30 pm	EEOC Compliance—Harassment and Discrimination	12:15 pm—1:30 pm	Heat Stress Prevention
2:45 pm - 4:30 pm	Management Communications	1:45 pm - 3:30 pm	Hand Labor Equipment Safety

**Oct. 9 -10, 2018**  
**SEBRING**

**UF/IFAS Highlands County Extension Office**  
4509 George Blvd.  
Sebring, FL 33875  
Ph: 863-402-6540  
**Register:**  
<https://fls2018sebring.eventbrite.com>

**Oct. 23 -24, 2018**  
**WIMAUMA**

**UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research & Education Center**  
14625 CR 672  
Wimauma, FL 33598  
Ph: 813-419-6670  
**Register:**  
<https://fls2017wimauma.eventbrite.com>

**Who should take these classes?** Labor Supervisors, Contractors, Crew Leaders, Foremen, Bus & Van Drivers, Human Resources, Payroll, Compliance, Labor Managers, and Farm Managers.

**Language:** English or Spanish

**Class information:** A Certificate of Farm Labor Management is earned by attendees who pass tests in all classes.

**FEE: \$50 per class, \$350 for the Complete Certificate Program (one student must attend all 8 classes)**

**Minimum Class Size:** 10 participants

**To register visit:** <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/economics/fls> or go directly to the Eventbrite page shown for each location.

**For More Information, contact:** Barbara Hyman (239) 658-3461 ([hymanb@ufl.edu](mailto:hymanb@ufl.edu)) or Fritz Roka (239) 658-3428 ([fmroka@ufl.edu](mailto:fmroka@ufl.edu))