

Citrus Notes



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Dear Growers,

Inside this Issue:

Health Care Reform: Preparing for 2014	2
HACCP for Florida Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Packinghouses	2
New Citrus Variety Options for Florida Growers	2
Oil Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Program	3
Fall 2013 Farm Labor Supervisor Core Training Scheduled	4
Citrus Soil and Leaf Sampling	4
NOAA Predicts Active 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season	5
Agricultural Tax Planning - The FY 2014 Obama Budget	5
Pesticide News & Information	7

Where to start? Well how about July 10th? That is when FFVA will be holding a program on preparing for the Health Care Reform Act. On July 22nd and 23rd, in Lake Alfred there will be HACCP training for fresh fruit and vegetable packinghouses. Then on July 31st, in Lake Alfred the New Varieties Development & Management Corp. (NVDMC) will be showcasing new citrus variety options for growers. On August 1st, in Lake Alfred there will be an oil spill prevention and countermeasure program or the SPCC. We also included a review on citrus soil and leaf sampling. The NOAA 2013 hurricane forecast, our monthly agricultural tax planning article and the Pesticide News & Information section.

Enjoy,

Chris Oswalt
Citrus Extension Agent
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Health Care Reform: Preparing for 2014



I have attached a flyer with additional information on a program being offered by the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association (FFVA) on health care reform. This event is open to any growers, but advanced registration is required to get an accurate count for meals. Membership in FFVA is not required for you to attend. The closest meeting for our area would be on July 10, 2013. The first is at noon in Lake Alfred at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center and at 5:30 p.m. at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Balm. The flyer registration is another hyperlink to the registration page.



HACCP for Florida Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Pack-houses

Training is to be held at Ben Hill Griffin Citrus Hall, UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred on July 22nd and 23rd, 2013. Food Safety is critical to the fresh produce industry. In addition to being a major public health issue, food safety issues have had an adverse economic impact on growers, packers, processors and shippers of fresh produce.

In addition to a discussion of current and proposed legislation, the latest research on produce safety and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMPs), the workshop will cover the elements of putting together a comprehensive food safety program.

The hands-on course will teach participants how to develop and document a food safety management program based on the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) for their specific operations.

Breakout sessions are structured to teach participants how to identify and prevent food safety hazards, monitor hazard reduction procedures, develop control measures and methods to document and verify the results of their efforts.

The workshop, accredited by the International HACCP Alliance, is targeted to produce packers, to assist in the development and customization of food safety pro-

grams for their facilities, using a HACCP-based approach.

The registration information and a brochure is included at the end of the newsletter

New Citrus Variety Options for Florida Growers



MAITLAND, Fla. (June 5, 2013) – New Varieties Development & Management Corp. (NVDMC) has announced a schedule of statewide grower meetings supporting the launch of the new FAST TRACK citrus evaluation program.

NVDMC has worked closely with the University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Plant Improvement Team and Florida Foundation Seed Producers, to establish a new and innovative program through which growers can register to plant 5-30 trees of experimental fresh citrus selections. Through FAST TRACK, commercial growers will participate in the trial process and provide feedback that will inform release and commercialization decisions. Growers will be integral to the release and commercialization process. FAST TRACK is intended to reduce the amount of time necessary to evaluate and release promising new varieties. The program is for fresh fruit varieties only. FAST TRACK Growers will receive benefits for their participation.

All interested commercial citrus growers should plan to attend one of the meetings. A presentation will explain details about the program and registration documentation will be distributed. Representatives from the IFAS Plant Improvement Team and FFSP will also be present. Each meeting will last approx. 90 minutes.

July 31st

9:30 AM: Lake County IFAS Extension Office, 1951 Woodlea Rd., **Tavares**, FL 32778-4204

2:00 PM: IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, 700 Experiment Station Rd., **Lake Alfred** FL 33850

August 1st

9:30 AM: Highlands County IFAS Extension Office, 4509 George Blvd., **Sebring**, FL 33875-5837

2:00 PM: UF Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, 2685 State Road 29 North, **Immokalee**, Florida 34142

August 2nd

9:30 AM: Indian River Research and Education Center, 2199 South Rock Rd., **Ft. Pierce** FL 34945

2:00 PM: Brevard County Extension Office, 3695 Lake Drive, **Cocoa**, FL 32926

Seating may be limited. Please RSVP by fax to (321) 214-0223 or email to Lucy.Nieves@ffva.com



Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program, August 1, Lake Alfred

The EPA has developed the Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) program to prevent oil spills into waters of the United States. The program calls for farmers and other facilities to have an oil spill prevention plan, called the SPCC Plan. These plans can help farmers and agricultural facilities be prepared to prevent and respond to oil spills and protect water resources needed for farming operations. You are covered by the SPCC program if:

- a. Store, transfer, use or consume oil or oil products;
- b. Have an aggregate aboveground oil storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons or completely buried storage capacity greater than 42,000 gallons; and
- c. It could reasonably be expected to discharge oil into or upon water of the U.S. or adjoining shorelines.

Oil of any type and in any form is covered, including, but not limited to: petroleum; fuel oil; sludge; oil refuse; oil mixed with wastes oils; and other oils and greases, including synthetic oils and minerals oils.

Under the act, a farm is “a facility or tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during the year.”

To calculate oil storage, simply add up the container oil storage capacities and compare your totals capacities to the SPCC thresholds. For these totals you would use the container maximum volume and not the actual amount of product stored in the containers. Count only containers that have a storage capacity of 55 gallons and above.

When trying to determine if your facility could reasonably discharge oil into or upon water of the US, consider the geography and location of our facility relative to nearby waters (such as streams, creeks, ditches, canals and lakes). You would need to determine if these structures or water bodies may transport an oil spill to nearby streams. You should also consider whether precipitation runoff could transport spilled oil off your site into waterways.

When considering the possibility of offsite movement, you should assume that man-made features, such as dikes, equipment or other structures that could prevent, contain, hinder or restrain an oil spill are not present.

To learn more about this program, the Extension Service will be conducting a 2-hour seminar beginning at 10 AM at the Citrus Research & Education Center, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred on Thursday, August 1st. The program will also be offered in Arcadia the day before at the Turner Exhibition Hall, 2250 NE Roan Street, Arcadia on Wednesday, July 31st.

Preregistration is required for both locations and can be made by calling the DeSoto County Extension Service (for the Arcadia location) at 863-993-4846 or the Polk County Extension Service Office (for the Lake Alfred location) at 863-519-8677 ext. 111.



Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program

**Fall 2013
Farm Labor
Supervisor**

Core Training Scheduled

Attached to this newsletter you will find information and registration links to the 2013 Fall Farm Labor Supervisor Core Training Program. This training is for supervisors of farm workers including field supervisors, labor contractors, crew leaders, growers, bus and van drivers, and office staff, including payroll and HR.

These sessions will be held in five locations in south and central Florida. This year we will be holding one of these trainings here in Bartow on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Stuart Conference Center, 1710 US Hwy 17 S. This will be the northern most training to be held this fall in Florida.

**Citrus Escape Trees and
HLB**



The Citrus Research Development Foundation has funded Dr. Fred Gmitter to begin looking for trees that continue to perform well in areas of high HLB pressure. Our hope is that if you happen to have citrus trees that continue to perform well in these situations, that you will report this to your local UF/IFAS Citrus Extension Agent. Your help in helping to identify these thriving trees could greatly enhance our efforts to find any naturally occurring tolerance or resistance in Florida citrus trees. If you have any trees that may fit this description, give me a call at 863-519-8677 ext. 108 or email me at: wcoswalt@ufl.edu. We would like to document these trees to see if further investigation is needed.



Citrus Soil and Leaf Sampling

(reprinted from May/June 2012 Citrus Notes)

It is approaching the optimum time of the year to collect citrus soil and leaf samples for analysis. As a quick review I have included the basics of soil and leaf sampling for citrus trees.

Select representative trees from an operational unit that you intend to manage nutritionally the same. Typically 15 to 20 trees are selected over this management unit for sampling. Collect your leaf and soil samples from these trees. You could further reduce the year to year variability in interpreting your analysis results by sampling the same trees from one year to the next. Today, GPS technology is everywhere from a portable unit in your truck to most smart phones. Even handheld units have become very affordable over the past few years. Use this technology to sample the same areas (trees) year after year.

Soil analysis is limited to providing very specific information that you, as a grove manager, can use in your production decisions. This information includes soil pH, phosphorous, calcium, magnesium and copper (if you specifically request the copper analysis). From these 15 to 20 trees take a single soil core of an 8 inch depth from within the irrigation pattern of each tree. Place the cores in a clean bucket for collection. When you have collected all the necessary cores from a production unit, thoroughly mix the sample cores together. Take approximately one pint of the soil from the mixed sample for analysis. Also don't forget that not all soil testing laboratories use the same extraction procedures to determine soil nutrient levels. Make sure, if you change soil testing labs from one year to the next, that you understand how to interpret the results.

Leaf analysis can be used for all essential elements including those determined in the soil analysis. As mentioned above, leaf samples can and should be collected from the same trees as the soil samples. One hundred healthy leaves from the 15 to 20 trees should be collected. These leaves should be 4 to 6 months old from non-fruiting twigs. This time frame will generally be between the months of July to September. In handling the leaf samples, keep the collected leaves out of the heat. If they can not be sent out immediately, place in a refrigerator for overnight storage. For macronutrient analysis, the leaves need not be washed. If micronutrient analysis is desired, then the leaves will need to be washed to remove surface contamination. Washing of leaves can be done by soaking the leaves in a mild detergent solution and rubbing them between your thumb and forefinger. The washing of leaves should be done as soon as possible after collection. Some micronutrients are exceedingly difficult to remove (copper,

manganese and zinc) through surface washing. One final thought on leaf analysis, as it relates to enhanced nutritional spray programs, is that it may be exceedingly difficult to make judgements using leaf analysis if you are applying frequent nutritional sprays to your trees.

NOAA Predicts Active 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season



(From: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130523_hurricaneoutlook_atlantic.html)

In its 2013 Atlantic hurricane season outlook issued today, [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](#) is forecasting an active or extremely active season this year.

For the six-month hurricane season, which begins June 1st, NOAA's Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook says there is a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 7 to 11 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher).

These ranges are well above the seasonal average of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes.

Three climate factors that strongly control Atlantic hurricane activity are expected to come together to produce an active or extremely active 2013 hurricane season. These are:

- A continuation of the atmospheric climate pattern, which includes a strong west African monsoon, that is responsible for the ongoing era of high activity for Atlantic hurricanes that began in 1995;
- Warmer-than-average water temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea; and
- El Niño is not expected to develop and suppress hurricane formation.

"This year, oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the Atlantic basin are expected to produce more and

stronger hurricanes," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. "These conditions include weaker wind shear, warmer Atlantic waters and conducive winds patterns coming from Africa."

NOAA's seasonal hurricane outlook is not a hurricane landfall forecast; it does not predict how many storms will hit land or where a storm will strike. Forecasts for individual storms and their impacts will be provided throughout the season by NOAA's [National Hurricane Center](#).

Agricultural Tax Planning - The FY 2014 Obama Budget

(Author: Thomas J. Bryant, CPA is Tax Partner, Beasley, Bryant & Company, CPA's, P.A., Lakeland, Florida (863) 646-1373).

President Obama released his FY 2014 Proposed Budget in April. It is similar in many respects to his FY 2013 Budget that was presented to Congress in 2012. **This article focuses on some of the main tax provisions of Obama's 2014 Proposed Budget but does not discuss ObamaCare which contains other hidden fees and taxes.** A new study by the Tax Policy Center (TPC) reveals that many households will see some increase in their Federal tax payments under the President's Proposed Budget, with much of the tax increase borne by the wealthiest of Americans, the top 1%. If you have income over \$30,000, you will most likely see your Federal income tax increase under the President's Budget.

THE OBAMA FY 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

Overall, the President asked Congress to immediately begin work on corporate tax reform to close loopholes, lower the corporate tax rate, encourage investment in the United States "and not add a dime to the deficit". However, the budget does include a number of specific provisions some of which are listed below. The tax provisions cover business, individuals, environmental and energy, other miscellaneous, and estate and gift taxes.

Winners

- Permanently extends Section 179 expensing for small businesses with a \$500,000 deduction limit and a phase-out beginning at

\$2,000,000, indexed for inflation for years beginning after 2013.

- Permanently extends and enhances the research tax credit and permanently extends the work opportunity tax credit.
- Provides a temporary 10% tax credit for small businesses that hire new employees or increase wages. The maximum credit would be \$500,000.
- For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, makes permanent the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers with three or more qualifying children. Also extends several other credits.
- Provides a tax credit for qualifying medium and heavy duty alternative fuel commercial vehicles and extends and makes permanent several other alternative energy credits.

Losers

- **Reduces** itemized deductions and other tax preferences to **28%** for families with **incomes in the top three highest tax brackets (33%, 35%, and 39.6%)**. This includes all itemized deductions; foreign excluded income; tax-exempt interest; employer sponsored health insurance; retirement contributions; and selected above-the-line deductions. These are severe limitations and will cost these taxpayers **\$529 billion in FY 2014**.
- Implements the “Buffett rule” which **requires millionaires to pay no less than 30% of income** (after charitable contributions) **in taxes**. This is called the **“fair share tax” (\$53 billion in increased taxes)**.
- **Prohibits** individuals from accumulating **over \$3 million** in tax-preferred retirement accounts (**\$9 billion tax increase**).

- Restructures the Federal wage reporting process by changing from annual to quarterly reporting.
- Lowers the threshold for Electronic Wage Reporting for W-2/3s from 250 to 50.
- Currently the FUTA tax rate many employers pay is 0.6% as those in states that meet certain requirements receive a 5.4% credit. Employers in states that do not meet the Federal requirements are subject to a reduction in the credit and also pay the interest assessed on the state UI debt. Under the President’s budget, the reduction in the FUTA credit and the interest payments would be suspended in years 2013 and 2014 (These provisions are winners). But, beginning in 2016, the wage base would be **raised from \$7,000 to \$15,000 per worker, doubling the cost to employers**.
- Denies deductions for punitive damages.
- Permits IRS to issue guidance about the proper classification of workers (employee vs. independent contractor) and to require prospective reclassification of workers who are determined to be misclassified whose **reclassification under current law is prohibited**.
- Beginning in 2015 the Obama Proposed Budget would change the way the federal government measures inflation from the standard Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the alternative chained CPI.
- Reinstates and makes permanent the 0.2% FUTA surtax for wages paid after 2013.
- Reduces the tax gap by modernizing tax administration to “prevent evasion and cheating”. This includes expanded information reporting, increasing required electronic compliance and more penalties.
- **Returns the estate and gift tax exemption and rates to 2009 levels beginning in 2018.**

The top tax rate would increase to **45%** and the exclusion amount would be reduced to **\$3.5 million** for estate taxes and **\$1 million** for gift taxes. The top tax rate for estate and gift taxes is currently **35%** and the exclusion for both taxes is **\$5 million** for individuals. **These proposals would wipe out all of the recent gains in reducing the estate and gift tax, a \$79 billion tax increase.**

There are international tax proposals and many other proposals that were not mentioned in this article.

Summary and Conclusion

The Obama Proposed Budget contains massive tax and related changes. I have covered only a number of these budget proposals and some of them only briefly. More likely than not, most of these provisions will not become law, but some may. This proposed budget does however give us insight as to the President's vision as we financially plan for the future of our operations.

For more information on this topic and other tax planning for farming and ranching, please contact me at (863) 640-2008 or



Tom@beasleybryantcpa.com and/or Ryan Beasley at (863) 646-1373 or Ryan@beasleybryantcpa.com.

Pesticide News & Information

EPA Sued by Beekeepers/Nicotinoids Questioned

A lawsuit filed by a coalition of beekeepers and activists seeks to ban certain nicotinoid insecticides. The lawsuit accuses the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of failing to protect pollinators and the use of these materials should be suspended. Nicotinoids, the world's most widely used insecticides, are also facing the prospect of suspension in the European Union, after the health commissioner pledged to press on with the proposed ban despite opposition from the UK and Germany.

"We have demonstrated time and time again over the last several years that the EPA needs to protect bees," said Peter Jenkins, an attorney at the Center for Food

Safety who is representing the coalition. "The agency has refused, so we've been compelled to sue."

"America's beekeepers cannot survive for long with the toxic environment EPA has supported," said Steve Ellis, a Minnesota and California beekeeper and one of the plaintiffs who filed the suit at a federal district court. "Bee-toxic pesticides in dozens of widely used products, on top of many other stresses our industry faces, are killing our bees." The EPA has not commented about the lawsuit, but said in a statement: "We are working aggressively to protect bees and other pollinators from pesticide risks through regulatory, voluntary and research programs. Specifically, the EPA is accelerating the schedule for registration review of the neonicotinoid pesticides because of uncertainties about them and their potential effects on bees." However, even the accelerated review will not be completed before 2018. The insecticides named in the lawsuits are clothianidin, manufactured by Bayer, and thiamethoxam, made by Syngenta. Neither company chose to comment on the lawsuit, but industry group Crop Life America (CLA) is representing some of the companies.

A series of scientific studies in the last year have increasingly linked nicotinoids to harmful effects in bees, including huge losses in the number of queens produced, and big increases in "disappeared" bees that fail to return from foraging trips. Disease and habitat loss are also thought to be factors in the recent declines in populations of bees and other pollinators. A proposal to suspend the use of three neonicotinoids across the EU ended in a hung vote in mid-March. But Tonio Borg, the European commissioner for health and consumer policy, said that he would take the proposal to appeal. If member states maintained their positions, the insecticides would be suspended. "The health of our bees is of paramount importance," said Borg. "We have a duty to take proportionate yet decisive action to protect them wherever appropriate."

The lawsuit against the EPA argues that, via conditional registrations, the Agency rushed the neonicotinoids into the market without sufficient examination and since that time has failed to take account of new information. The action by the coalition, which also includes the Sierra Club and the Center for Environmental Health, follows an emergency petition in March

2012 which demanded the EPA suspend the use of clothianidin but was not acted upon.

In contrast, recent research commissioned in the UK has differed from studies suggesting nicotinoid effects on honeybees. On March 26th, agriculture minister David Heath confirmed that the results of research into the field effects of nicotinoid seed treatments on bumble bee colonies showed no relationship between colony growth and residues in pollen or nectar in the colonies. The research, conducted by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), reinforces previous advice by Government scientists and the independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides that the evidence available does not indicate harmful effects of nicotinoid use on bees under field conditions.

A second study published by the UK Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), on March 27th assessing the key evidence available on nicotinoids and bees, found that laboratory based studies demonstrating sub-lethal effects on bees from nicotinoids did not replicate realistic conditions. Commenting on the new research, Crop Protection Association chief executive Nick von Westenholz said: "The crop protection sector welcomes the robust, evidence-based approach taken by DEFRA on this issue, which stands in stark contrast to the knee-jerk response we have seen in Brussels. I hope it will encourage those who have been calling for a ban on products such as these to take a step back and consider what measures are really needed to protect bee health, rather than simplistically blaming the nearest chemical. These products undergo an incredibly rigorous approvals process, which ensures their environmental impact is minimized. Removing crop protection products from use is not 'playing it safe', but has serious implications for the production of safe and affordable food in the UK and Europe." (*The Raw Story*, 3/22/13 & Crop Protection Association, April, 2013).

EU to Ban /Nicotinoids for 2 Years

The European Union will ban three of the world's most widely-used pesticides for two years because of fears they are linked to a plunge in the population of bees critical to the production of crops. The executive European Commission said on Monday it would press ahead with the ban on a class of pesticides known as

neonicotinoids, produced mainly by Germany's Bayer and Switzerland's Syngenta, despite the EU's 27-member states failing to reach an agreement on the matter.

The Commission proposed the ban in January after EU scientists said the chemicals posed an acute risk to honeybees, which pollinate many of the crops grown commercially in Europe. However, pesticide manufacturers and some scientists say no link has been proven between the use of neonicotinoids and a sharp decline in bee numbers in Europe in recent years - a phenomenon known as "colony collapse disorder." Syngenta criticized the Commission's decision, blaming declining bee numbers on habitat loss and diseases carried by parasites such as the Varroa mite. "The proposal is based on poor science and ignores a wealth of evidence from the field that these pesticides do not damage the health of bees," the company said in a statement.

The ban will hit sales of Syngenta's popular Cruiser® seed treatments, widely used to protect crops such as rapeseed and maize from aphids and other pests. But it could boost sales of chemical alternatives to neonicotinoids produced by rival firms such as Dow, leading some scientists to point out that little is known about the effects of such older compounds on bee health. Syngenta and Bayer say research shows a neonicotinoid ban could cost Europe billions of euros in lost crop yields. A 2011 United Nations report estimated that bees and other pollinators such as butterflies, beetles and birds facilitate worldwide pollination that leads to \$203 billion a year in agricultural production.

In total, 15 EU countries voted in favor of the ban - two more than the last time governments voted on the issue in March - but they failed to reach the weighted majority needed to adopt the ban outright, meaning the decision passed to the Commission. The ban will apply to the use of neonicotinoids on all crops except winter cereals and plants not attractive to bees, such as sugar beet. It will apply from December 1, 2013 - five months later than originally proposed by the Commission. (*Reuters*, 4/29/13).

Section 735 Tumult

A number of stories have been generated by a section of the agricultural spending bill signed into law in

March. Many authors phrase Section 735 as the “Monsanto Protection Act.” This provision was drafted last year and has been in printed versions of the bill that have been circulating widely in Washington for more than nine months. To date, no court has ever held that a biotechnology crop presents a risk to health, safety or the environment. Getting approval for any transgenic crop or food is a long process, with companies providing years of internal and independent data, which are then carefully reviewed by various government agencies. Beyond that, the USDA cannot approve a new seed variety until it conducts an Environmental Assessment (EA). This is the point in the process where critics hope to generate a critical mass of negative public opinion. By law, the EA must consider any and all factors relating to the “human environment,” which is very ambiguously defined, encompassing human health and leaving all kinds of legal openings for groups to target. If a group such as the Center for Food Safety or the Institute of Responsible Technology or the Union of Concerned Scientists challenges the EA for not considering one issue or another, the assessment can be deemed insufficient and a new one must be ordered. This has happened twice in recent years, with alfalfa and sugar beets. Alfalfa hay, a nutritious, easily digestible livestock feed, is an \$8 billion a year business and country’s fourth-most-valuable crop. Monsanto makes GM alfalfa seeds, as part of the company’s Roundup Ready® line. They are genetically modified to tolerate glyphosate, the herbicide commercially known as Roundup®. When farmers use Roundup®, a comparatively mild herbicide, instead of other harsher chemicals to kill weeds, they actually cut down on overall toxic chemical use.

After an exhaustive review, the USDA gave Roundup Ready® permitted alfalfa in 2005. But the Center for Food Safety contended that the government hadn’t adequately evaluated the potential environmental consequences. In 2007, in *Monsanto Co. v. Geertson Seed Farms*, a federal court agreed with the Center for Food Safety, prohibiting Monsanto from selling Roundup Ready Alfalfa pending yet another assessment. This was incredibly disruptive to thousands of farmers, who had planted alfalfa, which is a perennial crop so does not have to be reseeded each year. The legal status of a field of GM alfalfa planted legally after the USDA had deregulated GM alfalfa was suddenly changed under the court ruling. Farmers

were being told that they had to follow a new set rules in handling their crop. For more than four years, they didn’t know if the technology was going to be available for their use. The confusion and patchwork of conflicting regulations, court decisions and labeling requirements dealt a sizable economic blow to one of the country’s most important export crops.

The alfalfa case standoff eventually made it to the Supreme Court. The evidence in support of the safety and public benefits of GM alfalfa was so strong that in 2009, the Obama administration had Solicitor General Elena Kagan file a brief on the biotechnology company’s behalf, even though the government was not a defendant in the appeal. To no scientist’s surprise, in June 2010 the Supreme Court overturned the lower court’s injunction that had prohibited Monsanto from selling pesticide-resistant alfalfa seeds. “An injunction is a drastic and extraordinary remedy, which should not be granted as a matter of course,” Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the 7-1 majority, concluding that the U.S. District Court in San Francisco had “abused its discretion.” The temporary injunction, by then determined to be abusive, proved a financial disaster for the farm industry and many individual farmers who had suspended planting alfalfa pending a final resolution.

An almost identical situation occurred with sugar beets, 95% of which are grown from GM seeds. In 2010, the Center for Food Safety and some organic farmers who stood to gain by attacking conventional and GM crops convinced a court on procedural grounds - there was no finding of environmental or health dangers - to void the five-year-old approval of transgenic sugar beet seeds. Despite no evidence of any potential harm, that November, a federal judge ordered the GM sugar beet seedlings - all but 5% of the nation’s beet crop - pulled from the ground, as required by law. If the decision had stood, it could have destroyed as much as half of America’s granulated sugar production on purely technical grounds. The saga only ended in July of last year when the USDA allowed unrestricted planting of GM sugar beets.

Section 735 provides legal consistency for farmers and businesses so that they will not be affected by temporary findings by competing court systems as activist challenges make their way up the legal food chain. The provision will protect farmers who buy GM seeds and plant them under the belief that it is legal to do so be-

cause the seeds have been subjected to extensive USDA scrutiny and approval. (American Enterprise Institute, 4/1/13).

Closer® Insecticide

The EPA has granted unconditional registrations for the new insecticide sulfoxaflor (Transform®/Closer®). The EPA is granting the use of sulfoxaflor on barley, bulb vegetables, canola, citrus, cotton, cucurbit vegetables, fruiting vegetables, leafy vegetables, low-growing berries, okra, ornamentals (herbaceous and woody), pistachio, pome fruits, root and tuber vegetables, small vine climbing fruit (except fuzzy kiwifruit), soybean, stone fruit, succulent, edible podded and dry beans, tree nuts, triticale, turfgrass, watercress and wheat. Occupational worker and food safety data confirm these uses are safe when sulfoxaflor is used in accordance with the labeling terms and restrictions. The ecological effects profile for sulfoxaflor also supports the registration finding. One area of focus in the review involved pollinator health, and the final label includes significant instructions for protecting pollinators. The EPA performed its data evaluation and assessments in collaboration with counterpart agencies in Canada and Australia. Scientists from the three authorities reviewed over 400 studies and peer reviewed each other's work. The registration will provide growers with a new pest management tool for use on piercing/sucking insects. Sulfoxaflor has been used under an emergency clearance on cotton in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Louisiana to control the tarnished plant bug, an insect that has developed resistance to alternative registered pesticides. Sulfoxaflor belongs to its own new insecticide subclass in terms of its mode of action, so it is expected to be used by producers faced with pests that have developed resistance to other alternatives. (EPA release, 5/6/13).



Health Care Reform: Preparing for 2014

FFVA district meetings offer important information for employers

Agricultural employers must prepare now for how the Affordable Care Act will affect their operations in 2014. Join FFVA at a district meeting near you that will cover the details of compliance with the new law and how it will affect employers and their workforce.

We are offering meetings in seven locations. Click on the appropriate meeting link below to register online. A complimentary meal will be provided. Advance registration is required for an accurate meal count.

- [Homestead, July 8, 5:30 p.m.](#)
- [Immokalee, July 9, Noon](#)
- [Belle Glade, July 9, 5:30 p.m.](#)
- [Lake Alfred, July 10, Noon](#)
- [Wimauma, July 10, 5:30 p.m.](#)
- [Fort Pierce, July 11, Noon](#)
- [Sebring, July 11, 5:30 p.m.](#)

Representatives from J. Rolfe Davis Insurance will discuss the requirements and implications of the law. Topics will include:

- Who will be required to provide health insurance
- Which employees must be covered
- Penalties associated with the law
- How H-2A employees are affected

Please forward this to anyone who you think would be interested; the event is not limited to FFVA membership. Contact FFVA at (321) 214-5200 for more details or if you have questions.

Registration Form

This Form may be used for more than one person at the same organization. Substitutions are acceptable. Course enrollees should be familiar with the basic principles of food safety.

**Florida Packinghouse HACCP Workshop,
CREC, July 22 & 23, 2013.**

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Check # _____

**Important: Make checks payable to
“University of Florida – FSHN”**

Course Registration of \$400 (\$250 for gov’t/academic employees) is requested by July 8st, 2013.

Registration will be confirmed upon receipt of registration materials.

Mail Registration to:

Anne Burrage
CREC, 700 Experiment Station Rd.
Lake Alfred, Fl, 33850

amburr@ufl.edu
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HACCP for Florida Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Packinghouses



July 22 & 23, 2013

Room 2 & 3
Ben Hill Griffin Building
Citrus Research and Education Center
700 Experiment Station Rd
Lake Alfred, FL 33850

Sponsored by
Food Science and Human Nutrition Department
Citrus Research and Education Center
University of Florida, IFAS

Accredited by
The International HACCP Alliance



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Food Safety is critical to the fresh produce industry. In addition to being a major public health issue, food safety issues have had an adverse economic impact on growers, packers, processors and shippers of fresh produce.

In addition to a discussion of current and proposed legislation, the latest research on produce safety and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMPs), the workshop will cover the elements of putting together a comprehensive food safety program.

The hands on course will teach participants how to develop and document a food safety management program based on the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) for their specific operations.

Breakout sessions are structured to teach participants how to identify and prevent food safety hazards, monitor hazard reduction procedures, develop control measures and methods to document and verify the results of their efforts.

The workshop, accredited by the International HACCP Alliance, is targeted to produce packers, to assist in the development and customization of food safety programs for their facilities, using a HACCP-based approach.

PACKINGHOUSE HACCP AGENDA

Monday, July 22nd

- 8:00 Registration
- 8:30 Welcome
- Introduction to Food Safety and the HACCP System
- Hazards
- Prerequisites to HACCP – GAPs, GMPs, SOPs, SSOPs
- Hazard Analysis (Principle 1)
- Identification of Critical Control Points (Principle 2)

5:00 Adjourn

Tuesday, July 23rd

- 8:00 Coffee
- 8:30 Review
- Establishment of Critical Limits (Principle 3)
- Critical Control Point Monitoring (Principle 4)
- Corrective Actions (Principle 5)
- Verification (Principle 6)
- Recordkeeping (Principle 7)
- Regulations – Food Safety Modernization Act
- HACCP Review
- HACCP Exam
- 5:00 Adjourn

INSTRUCTORS

Michelle Danyluk

Assistant Professor UF IFAS CREC

Renee Goodrich Schneider

Associate Professor UF IFAS FSHN

Keith Schneider

Associate Professor UF IFAS FSHN

LOCATION

Lake Alfred is easily accessible from either the Orlando or Tampa airports. You can access a map and more information about the center at www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu

Lodging is available in the nearby towns of Haines City, Auburndale or Winter Haven, FL.

REGISTRATION

The fee for the course is \$400 for industry participants. A reduced fee of \$250 is available for government/academic employees that make prior arrangements.

Registration will be limited to the first 36 registrants.

Registration includes the course materials, two lunches, coffee breaks and certificate of completion.

Participation for the entire 2 days is required for the certificate.



2013

PROGRAMA DE ENTRENAMIENTO PARA SUPERVISORES DE TRABAJOS AGRICOLAS

CURSO DE FORMACION EN CUATRO AREAS CLAVES:

SESIONES DE LA MAÑANA

8:00am-10:00am

HORAS Y SALARIOS

2 horas



10:00am-12:00pm

DISCRIMINACION

2 horas



ACOSO SEXUAL/EEOC

SESIONES DE LA TARDE

1:00pm-3:00pm

WPS, SEGURIDAD Y SANIDAD DE ALIMENTOS

2 horas



3:00pm-5:00pm

MANEJANDO CON

2 horas

CUIDADO



PARA QUIEN: Supervisores de trabajadores del campo, contratistas, mayordomos, choferes de buses, dueños de granjas, empleados de oficinas incluyendo personal de nomina y recursos humanos.

IDIOMA: Ingles y Español. Por favor mencione cual prefiere cuando se registre.

HORA: 8:00 am a 5:00 pm

PRECIO: \$80.00 incluye almuerzo.

Ayude a proteger a su compañía de errores costosos. !!!

Limite las posibles responsabilidades que pueden resultar de no saber los incumplimientos.

Muestre a sus compradores y empleadores que Usted sabe de regulaciones.

INFORMACION DE REGISTRO

Homestead Martes 10 de Septiembre, 2013

<http://fls2013homestead.eventbrite.com>

Belle Glade Martes 24 de Septiembre, 2013

<http://fls2013belleglade.eventbrite.com>

Arcadia Martes 22 de Octubre, 2013

<http://fls2013arcadia.eventbrite.com>

Bartow Miercoles 23 de Octubre, 2013

<http://fls2013bartow.eventbrite.com>

Immokalee Martes 29 de Octubre, 2013

<http://fls2013immokalee.eventbrite.com>

Para mas informacion por favor pongase en contacto con Julie Carson: carsonj@ufl.edu o 239-658-3462

Participantes recibiran un **Certificado de Asistencia**.



2013 FARM LABOR SUPERVISOR CORE TRAINING PROGRAM

Training in four key areas:

MORNING SESSIONS

8:00am-10:00am

WAGE & HOUR



10:00am-12:00pm

DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT
EEOC



AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1:00pm-3:00pm

WPS/ FIELD SANITATION/
FOOD SAFETY



3:00pm-5:00pm

SAFE DRIVING



WHO: Supervisors of farm workers including field supervisors, Labor Contractors, crew leaders, growers, bus and van drivers, office staff including payroll and HR.

LANGUAGE: English and Spanish, please state preference when registering

TIME: 8:00am to 5:00 pm

FEE: \$ 80.00 includes lunch.

Help protect your company from costly mistakes. !!!

Limit your potential liabilities that may result from unknowing non-compliance.

Show your buyers and employers you know the regulations.

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Belle Glade Tuesday September 24, 2013

<http://fls2013belleglade.eventbrite.com>

Arcadia Tuesday October 22, 2013

<http://fls2013arcadia.eventbrite.com>

Bartow Wednesday October 23, 2013

<http://fls2013bartow.eventbrite.com>

Immokalee Tuesday October 29, 2013

<http://fls2013immokalee.eventbrite.com>

For more information please contact: Julie Carson at: carsonj@ufl.edu or 239-658-3462

Participants will receive an **Attendance Certificate**.

STATE BLOCK
GRANT
PARTNERSHIP





Fall 2013 Farm Labor Supervisor Core Training Schedule

DATE	CITY	LOCATION	Morning Session 8-12 pm	Afternoon Session 1-5 pm
Tuesday, Sep 10	Homestead	UF Miami-Dade Extension 18710 SW 288 Street Homestead, Fl 33030-4702 (305) 248-3311	Wage & Hour Discrimination Harassment	WPS, Field & Food safety Safe Driving
Tuesday, Sep 24	Belle Glade	EREC 3200 E Palm Beach Rd Belle Glade Fl, 33430 (561) 993-1500	Wage & Hour Discrimination Harassment	WPS, Field & Food safety Safe Driving
Tuesday, Oct 22	Arcadia	Family Service Center 310 W. Whidden Street Arcadia, Fl 34266-4193 (863) 993-4846	Wage & Hour Discrimination Harassment	WPS, Field & Food safety Safe Driving
Wednesday, Oct 23	Bartow	Stuart Conference Center 1710 US Hwy 17 South Bartow, Fl 33830-9005 (863) 519-8677	Wage & Hour Discrimination Harassment	WPS, Field & Food safety Safe Driving
Tuesday, Oct 29	Immokalee	SWFREC 2685 SR 29 N. Immokalee, Fl 34142 (239) 658-3462	Wage & Hour Discrimination Harassment	WPS, Field & Food safety Safe Driving

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