RIVER RAMBLINGS

The newsletter of the
Indian River Citrus League
JANUARY 2017

2017 Florida Citrus Show

Featuring Advancements in HLB Management and More

The educational program for the 2017 Florida Citrus Show is jammed packed with the latest research and production information related to HLB. The event will be held at the Harvert L. Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce on January 25-26.

"We had a record attendance at the 2016 Florida Citrus Show," says Doug Bournique, Executive Vice President of the Indian River Citrus League. "Looking at the 2017 educational program and all the other activities we have planned, I believe we have the potential for another great event for growers and the citrus industry."

There is a lot of discussion among growers regarding how to lower input costs while still properly mitigating HLB. With the addition of bactericides, the conversation has become even more pressing.

The Florida Citrus Show will host a unique, interactive grower and researcher panel that will probe the question of what the appropriate spend on crop inputs is and where cuts can be made to improve a grower's bottom line.

*See **SHOW** page 3*

Educational Programs
An information-rich educational program led by citrus leaders and grower panels

Exhibits
Indoor and outdoor exhibits showcasing the latest products, equipment and services

Networking
A networking lunch where you can exchange ideas and experiences with fellow citrus growers

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www.ircitrusleague.org
2001 S. Rock Road, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

2017 Indian River Citrus League Banquet

Tuesday, January 24, 2017 | Cocktail Reception 6:00 p.m. | Dinner 7:00 p.m. The Club at Pointe West | 7500 14th Lane | Vero Beach, Florida

Number of persons attending _____

Contact person:_____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name_____ Name: _____

$50 Per Person. Payment Enclosed: $ _____ (credit cards not accepted)

Please make checks payable to: Indian River Citrus League

Mail to: 2001 S. Rock Rd. | Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

Deadline for payments: January 18, 2017

In lieu of tickets, reservations will be held at the door.

SHOW Continued from page 1

In addition to the educational opportunities, the two-day event will feature a trade show comprised of suppliers showcasing the latest products, services, technologies, and equipment available to the industry.

Don't miss out on this premier event in Florida Citrus. For more information and to pre-register, visit www.citrusshow.com

See the complete schedule of events on page 9.

Upcoming Events

January 24, 2017 – IRCL Banquet – The Club at Pointe West – Vero Beach
January 25-26, 2017 – Florida Citrus Show – Fenn Center – Ft. Pierce
March 31, 2017 – IRCL River Fun Shoot – Quail Creek Plantation - Okeechobee

2017 INDIAN RIVER CITRUS LEAGUE BANQUET

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

The Club at Pointe West | 7500 14th Lane | Vero Beach, Florida

Cocktail Reception 6:00 p.m. | Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Tickets $50

Payment and registration form required by January 18, 2017

Registration form attached. Please print out and mail to:

Indian River Citrus League | 2001 S. Rock Road | Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

772.595.5026 | info@ircitrusleague.org

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Thank You!

We are grateful for the generous support of our sponsors for the January 24, 2017 Indian River Citrus League banquet. While we are still accepting sponsorships for the unfilled business categories, we would like to thank the following companies for their support and partnership. For additional information about sponsorship availabilities, please contact the League office at 772/595-5026 or email at info@ircitrusleague.org

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FLORIDA COAST EQUIPMENT

SOUTHEASTERN AERIAL CROP SERVICES

Special Meeting

Florida Citrus Production Manager's Association

February 8, 2017
11:00 AM

Bert J Harris, Jr. Agriculture Center
4509 George Blvd.
Sebring, Fl 33875

Members only

There will be no meeting January 11th

The meeting February 8, 2017 will not include an educational session.

We will be addressing:

- Additions to current FCPMA By-Laws
- Discussion of Board review and update of By-Laws
- FCM/FCPMA integration and transition discussion

For inquiries contact David Howard - 772-562-3886 or email at dhoward@gravesbrotherscompany.com

Lunch will be provided free of charge for all attendees

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2017 River Fun Shoot

100-Target Fun Shoot on March 31, 2017 at Quail Creek Plantation

8:30 a.m. Registration — 9:30 a.m. Shot Gun Start

RAFFLE DRAWING | GREEN BIRD CONTEST | AWARDS | GREAT LUNCH

Participation Levels

All levels include one raffle ticket per shooter registered

Gold Sponsorship $700
Includes 4 shooters, lunch, use of one four-seat cart, one station sign and recognition during awards ceremony

Team Sponsorship $450
Includes 4 shooters, lunch and station sign

Individual Shooter $125
Includes 100-target shooting round and lunch

Station Sponsorship $125
Includes lunch for two and a station sign

Golf cart rental $50 (limited # of carts) | Lunch only $30

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RESERVATION FORM

Please sign me up for: ❑ Gold ❑ Team ❑ Station ❑ Individual ❑ Lunch ❑ Cart

Contact Name:_____

Company (for signage and publication use):_____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Team Entry

Shooter #1 _____ ❑ male ❑ female ❑ under 16

Shooter #2 _____ ❑ male ❑ female ❑ under 16

Shooter #3 _____ ❑ male ❑ female ❑ under 16

Shooter #4_____ ❑ male ❑ female ❑ under 16

Payment Information: Make check payable to Indian River Citrus League and mail along with completed form to: 2001 S. Rock Road, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945.

❑ Enclosed is my check for $_____ or ❑ Send Invoice for $_____

Questions: Please contact Karen Smith at 772/595-5026 or info@ircitrusleague.org

2017 Florida Citrus Show Agenda

Join citrus growers from across the state as we come together to learn the latest from the top industry experts.

FLORIDA Citrus SHOW
January 25-26, 2017
www.CitrusShow.com

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

8:50 – 9:00 am
Welcome – Indian River Citrus League
Scott Lambeth, Chairman IRCL

9:00 – 9:20 am
Fresh Fruit Production and Food Safety
Dr. Mark Ritenour, UF-IFAS-IRREC

9:20 – 9:40 am
New Grapefruit Varieties
Dr. Jude Grosser, UF-IFAS-CREC

9:40 – 10:00 am
Grapefruit Production: Cost and Benefit Analysis
Dr. Ariel Singerman, UF-IFAS-CREC

10:00 – 11:00 am
Visit the Trade Show

11:00 – 11:25 am
Citrus Planting Incentives
USDA/FSA (Tree Assistance Program
FDACS Grower Renovation Cost-Share Program

11:25 – 11:45 am
Breeding Citrus Scions at USDA
Dr. Ed Stover USDA-ARS

11:45 – 12:00 pm
Rapid Selection of Grapefruit Variants for HLB Resistance
Dr. Ping Duan, USDA-ARS

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch – Visit the Trade Show

1:30 – 1:55 pm
HLB Management in Brazil- Observations and Lessons Learned from a Recent Citrus Grower Tour
Dr. Steve Futch, UF-IFAS Multi-County Citrus Agent

1:55 – 2:30 pm
Grower Panel on Managing New Varieties

2:00 – 3:30 pm
Visit the Trade Show

3:30 – 3:55 pm
Asian Citrus Psyllid Management
Dr. Jawwad Qureshi, UF-IFAS-IRREC

3:55 – 4:15 pm
Future Possibilities of ACP Control using Compounds Associated with Poncirus
Dr. David Hall USDA-ARS

4:15 – 4:35 pm
The Unfolding Story of Psyllid Ecology: Attractants, Arrestants & Stimulants
Dr. Steve LaPointe USDA-ARS

Thursday, January 26, 2017

8:00 – 8:30 am
Visit the Trade Show – Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:50 am
HLB and Nutrient Managment
Dr. Alan Wright, UF-IFAS-IRREC

8:50 – 9:10 am
Root Health of HLB-Infected Citrus
Dr. Evan Johnson, UF-IFAS-CREC

9:10 – 9:30 am
Fruit Quality of Poncirus trifoliata X Citrus reticulata Hybrids
Dr. Anne Plotto, USDA-ARS

9:30 – 9:50 am
Progress on Optimization of Bactericides for HLB Management
Dr. Kent Morgan, Agrosource/USDA-ARS

9:50 – 10:55 am
Visit the Trade Show

10:55 – 11:20 am
Postbloom Fruit Drop Update
Dr. Natalia Peres, UF/IFAS-GCREC

11:20 – 11:40 am
Advances in New Molecule Discovery to Control HLB
Dr. Bob Shatters, USDA-ARS

11:40 am – 12:00 pm
Development of Advanced Intelligent Spray Technologies for Tree Fruit
Dr. Heping Zhu, USDA-ARS, Wooster,OH

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch – Visit the Trade Show
Tayloring a Production Programs to Fit a Budget

1:30 – 2:25 pm
Interactive Grower and Researcher Clicker Survey on Managing Rising Production Costs While Mitigating HLB

2:25 – 3:20 pm
Discusison

3:20 – 3:30 pm
Summary and Concluding Remarks

Summary of Three Incentive Programs Available to Florida Citrus Growers

Ariel Singerman, Assistant Professor and Extension Economist
University of Florida, IFAS, CREC, Lake Alfred, FL

This article summarizes the objectives, eligibility requirements, and applicable procedures of three incentive programs currently available to Florida citrus growers. The first two programs, the Citrus Grove Renovation/ Re-establishment Support Program and the Abandoned Grove Abatement Initiative are sponsored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The third program, the Tree Assistance Program, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.

Citrus Grove Renovation/ Re-establishment Support Program

In August 2016, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) instituted the Citrus Grove Renovation/ Re-establishment Support Program. The objective of the program is to assist citrus growers who intend to invest in irrigation and nutrient management systems as part of their efforts to establish or re-establish citrus groves.

The proposed projects must make use of micro-jets or drip irrigation and be designed to fulfill the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards and specifications, if applicable.

Eligibility requirements
To qualify for assistance, growers need to:

1. Show proof of citrus production history since at least 2008
2. Be enrolled in the FDACS, Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP), Citrus Best Management Practice (BMP) Program
3. Have a Division of Plant Industry (DPI) Compliance Agreement
4. Offer proof of a placed order for the reset trees needed to re-plant the entire block

The grove renovation project needs to be on at least 10 acres and involve a complete (not partial) replanting of blocks. In addition, it is required that the grower signs a cost-share agreement in which it is specified that:

α) At the end of the project, the property is subject to an implementation assurance evaluation, which includes a mobile irrigation laboratory evaluation

β) The grower must maintain the operation infrastructure for at least three years after completion

Note that the program is not retroactive. Therefore, growers who have already updated their irrigation systems are not eligible for reimbursement.

What does the program cover?

The Citrus Grove Renovation Program will reimburse growers for 100% of the costs of engineering and design of the grove rejuvenation project. In addition, the program will also cost-share 75% of the labor and material expenses that qualify for improvement of irrigation and nutrient management systems. However, the 75% cost sharing part of the program is capped at a maximum of $250,000 per grower.

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It is worth noting the Citrus Grove Renovation Program can be combined with other programs that might be available in the grower's area such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. However, the combined reimbursement cannot exceed 75% of eligible project costs.

The cost of engines (using any type of fuel) is eligible for cost-share reimbursement as long as the purchase is justifiable from a water-saving perspective (e.g.: automating the grove's irrigation system). However, the reimbursement for engines is capped at a maximum of $25,000. Building protection for equipment also qualifies for cost-share reimbursement under this program.

What does the program NOT cover?

The expenses the program does not cover include, but are not limited to:

- Costs related to land preparation
- Cost of reset trees
- Construction of wells

Timeframe and deadline for completing the project

The installation of systems needs to be completed by June 30, 2017. Trees do not need to be planted by then, but the grower needs to provide proof of the purchase of the trees that will be planted in the grove.

Submission procedure

At the time of submission, proposals must include:

1. Description of project including tree density
2. Timeframe for completion
3. Map of project area
4. Two quotes for the cost-sharing part of the project

Examples

The following is an example for a 100-acre grove renovation project; its purpose is to illustrate the calculations involved in the program.

Item	Grower cost ($)	FDACS cost sharing	FDACS amount of cost sharing ($)	Maximum FDACS ($)	Reimbursement to grower ($)
Engineering and design	40,000	100%	40,000		
Subtotal Engineering and design	*40,000*		*40,000*	*n/a*	*40,000*
Main, sub-main and tubing	160,000	75%	120,000		
Fertilizer injection system	8,000	75%	6,000		
Automation equipment	16,000	75%	12,000		
Engine	30,000	75%	22,500	**25,000**	
Subtotal labor and material costs	*214,000*		*160,500*	**250,000**	*160,500*
Total	**254,000**		**200,500**		**200,500**

The following is an example for a 200-acre grove renovation project; its purpose is to illustrate the calculations involved in the program.

See PROGRAMS page 12

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Item	Grower cost ($)	FDACS cost sharing	FDACS amount of cost sharing ($)	Maximum FDACS ($)	Reimbursement to grower ($)
Engineering and design	40,000	100%	40,000		
Subtotal Engineering and design	*40,000*		*40,000*	*n/a*	*40,000*
Main, sub-main and tubing	320,000	75%	240,000		
Fertilizer injection system	16,000	75%	12,000		
Automation equipment	32,000	75%	24,000		
Engine	60,000	75%	45,000	**25,000**	
Subtotal labor and material costs	428,000		321,000	**250,000**	250,000
Total	**468,000**		**361,000**		**290,000**

Abandoned Grove Abatement Initiative

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) recognizes the risks of pest and disease associated with abandoned and unmanaged citrus groves and therefore, has put in place the Abandoned Grove Abatement Initiative. Following the original initiative and the Abandoned Grove Removal Project that was sponsored by the Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group (HLB MAC), the State of Florida with funding from the Legislature has budgeted $4 million for removal of abandoned groves. The funding would cover the removal of approximately 15,000 acres.

The objective of the initiative is to mitigate the impact of exotic and endemic citrus pests and diseases on commercial citrus. By identifying abandoned groves and working cooperatively with county property appraisers' offices, the FDACS provides property owners with an incentive for the removal and destruction of abandoned groves which harbor the inoculum of disease. By destroying unwanted and unproductive citrus trees, property owners will receive an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement.

A land owner with a current Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement on file with the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP), is eligible to maintain their agricultural classification (i.e.: greenbelt exemption) on that land for 5 years. However, the compliance agreement does not transfer with the sale or transfer of the land.

Definition of abandoned grove

An abandoned citrus grove is defined as a grove having no production care or commercial harvesting activities, minimal or no production value, or no longer being economically viable as a commercial citrus grove.

Eligibility requirements

To qualify for the Abandoned Grove Abatement Initiative, the grove has to be located within a Citrus Health Management Area (CHMA) and be deemed abandoned as defined above. Priority will be given to abandoned acreage that had been consented for removal by landowners under the HLB MAC Abandoned Grove Project but not removed because the budget needed for

*See **PROGRAMS** page 13*

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removing the total number of acres consented exceeded the funding available for that project.

The program does not include cost reimbursement on past removals, even if done recently. However, land owners that remove trees independently of the FDACS abandoned grove removal project are eligible to receive an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement.

Procedures

The push and burn technique will be used for removal and destruction of trees (no disking will be involved.) However, before the removal, the grove will be subject to an insecticide spray to prevent psyllids from migrating to neighboring locations. The removal of trees will occur within 30 days of the spray.

Should the total number of acres consented to be removed by landowners applying for this initiative exceed the funding available, the USDA CHMA's ranking will be used to establish the priority for removal.

Upon completion of tree removal, the land owner will be provided with an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement and a compliance agreement number. The qualified lands will be classified as agricultural for up to 5 years from the date the Compliance Agreement was signed at the de minimis value of up to $50 per acre on a single year methodology, while land is fallow or otherwise non income-producing.

The statute does not provide that lands assessed under the CHRP at de minimis value will be renewed for appraisal at de minimis value after the initial 5 years.

Replanting provision

If the landowner decides to replant citrus trees, the owner may subsequently elect to re-plant citrus (only) and retain the assessed de minimis value for a total of 5 years from the date the original Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement was signed. If instead, the landowner decides to plant a crop other than citrus, the greenbelt exemption will change to the new land use.

Tree Assistance Program for Florida Citrus Greening

On September 17, 2014 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced additional support for commercial[1] Florida citrus growers to manage greening. Such support is in the form of an expanded Tree Assistance Program (TAP). The original program assisted growers in the event of a loss occurred within a single year due to a natural disaster such as a hurricane. The expanded TAP recognizes that greening affects trees over time. Therefore, the program will provide growers cost-sharing financial assistance to replace trees that meet a mortality criterion within a time period of up to six years.

Eligibility

The TAP is available for individuals or legal entities with an average annual adjusted gross income (AGI), during the last three years, of $900,000 or less. AGI refers to taxable income; that is, gross income minus adjustments such as farm expenses, and personal deductions and exemptions.

How the program works

The grower can choose the length of the time period for which to claim a loss due to greening. That is, growers can choose to apply for TAP during any single year in which a stand sustained a

1 To qualify as a commercial operation, fruit needs to be marketed

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mortality loss greater than 18%. Or, alternatively, growers can apply for TAP after the stand has accumulated tree mortality in excess of 18% over a period of up to six years.

To receive financial assistance, growers will first need to obtain approval from the FSA for the trees they intend to replace. Thus, an authorized FSA representative will visit the grove and assess the trees' condition prior to tree removal. Citrus trees will meet the program's mortality criterion when they are either biologically dead or no longer are commercially viable due to greening.

Payments

Payments will be triggered when the stand sustains damage or mortality in excess of 18%. Therefore, the TAP will reimburse the grower for a proportion of the expenses incurred when replacing any number of trees greater than 18% for the time period for which claims are made.

The calculation for TAP payments is the lesser of the following:

α) 65% of the actual cost of replanting and 50% of the actual cost of site preparation
β) The maximum eligible amount established for each individual practice by FSA

In addition, payments are subject to a mandated sequestration (i.e.: reduction) of 7.3%. Table 1 shows an example of the TAP payment calculations for replacing one tree, assuming the requirement for 18% mortality has been fulfilled. Note that the FSA will examine each practice individually for computing payments.

Table 1. Example of TAP cost sharing for replacing one tree

Individual practice	(1) Grower cost per tree ($)	(2) Grower cost per acre ($)	(3) TAP cost sharing	(4) = (1) or (2) x (3) TAP amount of cost sharing ($)	(5) Maximum amount FSA ($)
Cost of reset	8		65%	5.20	8 per tree
Planting cost	2.64		65%	1.72	2 per tree
Site preparation		11.88	50%	5.94	500 per acre
Subtotal				12.86	
Sequestration 7.3%				0.94	
Total TAP payment				11.92	

Other payment considerations include the following:

1. An annual cap of 500 acres has been established on the cumulative total quantity of acres for which a grower can receive TAP payments.
2. The total payments under TAP will be capped to a maximum of $125,000 per individual or legal entity per application.
3. There will be no partial payments. For example, growers will not receive a partial payment after site preparation is complete. They will only receive a single payment after resets are planted.
4. Resets planted under TAP that get infected by greening are not re-eligible for cost-sharing assistance due to greening for another six years.
5. The new types of trees planted may differ from those replaced if the new types have the same general end use, as determined and approved by the FSA County Committee.

See PROGRAMS page 15

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6. All approved practices must be completed by the grower within 12 months of the approval of the TAP application by the FSA.
7. One-for-one. The cost-sharing program is for replacing a tree with a single tree (even if the grower replaces a tree with two or more trees to increase density).
8. There will be no financial assistance for abandoned groves.

Example

The following is an example for the calculation of the payment's trigger and its amount based on a one-acre grove.

Trigger

To qualify for assistance, the program requires the stand to sustain cumulative tree mortality over 18%. Assuming there are 100 trees in the hypothetical one-acre grove, cost-sharing payments will be triggered when the number of trees to be replaced is greater than 18 (=100 x 18%).

Payment

Assuming a total of 28 trees need to be replaced in the hypothetical grove, the expanded TAP will provide cost-sharing for the expenses related to the replacement of 23 trees (=28 x [100%-18%]). Further assuming the grower in this example has the same costs as those described in Table 1, the TAP cost-sharing payments for each practice after sequestration are as follows.

TAP payment for the cost of:

- Resets: $110.87 (=5.2 x 23 x [100% - 7.3%])
- Planting: $36.59 (=1.72 x 23 x [100% - 7.3%])
- Site preparation: $126.65 (=5.94 x 23 x [100% - 7.3%])

Therefore, in this example, the total TAP payment adds up to $274.10 per acre.

Summary

The above programs provide incentives for Florida citrus growers to establish or re-establish citrus groves, remove abandoned citrus acreage, and replant new citrus trees. All three programs provide support at the farm-level. However, we expect their effects to benefit the citrus industry as a whole by contributing to prevent further downsizing.

Sources:

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Ad Copy Specifications

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- Please embed all fonts.
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Logos
- When submitting logos, convert all fonts to outlines.
- Preferred format: vector eps

Color
- We print in 4-color CMYK process.
- All pantone colors must be converted to CMYK.
- Black type should be made with 100% black.

Resolution
- Resolution should be a minimum of 300 dpi at actual size.
- 72 dpi images pulled from websites are not acceptable.
- Line art should be scanned at a minimum of 600 dpi.

File Format
- PDF files and InDesign files are preferred (collected output to include layout, linked pictures, embedded pictures, color profiles, screen fonts and printer fonts).
- Other file formats accepted:
  eps (Adobe Illustrator)
  tif (Adobe Photoshop)
  jpg (Adobe Photoshop)

Ad Size Specifications / Rates

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  $50/month w/ a monthly commitment through June

- **1/2 Page**
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  $150/month w/ a monthly commitment through June

- **Full Page**
  8.5 inches across by 11 inches down
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  $225/month w/ a monthly commitment through June

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