

# RIVER RAMBLINGS



The newsletter of the  
**Indian River Citrus League**  
JUNE 2018

## It's a Wrap 2017-2018 Season Update

Even though the industry faced challenges in the 2017-2018 season there were some major accomplishments impacting our Indian River growing region that were achieved, and several of the successes impacted the citrus industry as a whole.

The 2018 Florida Citrus Show marked another hugely successful gathering in Ft. Pierce in January. Over 800 were in attendance for the two-day education program and trade show at the Havert L. Fenn Center with standing-room-only during many of the sessions. Also, the trade show was packed and sold out with more than 100 exhibitors. It is becoming known as a "can't miss" event for growers seeking the latest information on critical production issues."

The big attraction for the show was the educational programs focusing on new scion and rootstock updates from USDA and IFAS, HLB control, and dealing with impacts from Hurricane Irma. Other presentations touched on biostimulants and nutrient utilization, grapefruit economics update, and the capability of photonic fence technology to detect, track and intercept flying psyllids. The last day ended with a grower panel on HLB-infected citrus management considerations after the storm.

The Florida Citrus Show is hosted in partnership between the Florida Grower, UF/IFAS, USDA and the Indian River Citrus League. The 2018 Florida Citrus Show is slated for **January 23-24, 2019** in Ft. Pierce at the Havert L. Fenn Center. As always, kicking off the show was the Indian River Citrus League Banquet at The Club at Pointe West in Vero Beach. Next year's banquet will be held on **January 22, 2019** at Pointe West.

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On March 23, 2018 the second annual Indian River Citrus League River Fun Shoot was held at Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee. Each participant shot 100 clays from 14 different station locations. Besides a green bird 50/50 cash pot raffle there were also fantastic raffle prizes that were given out. Next year's shoot date is set for **Friday, March 29, 2019** at Quail Creek Plantation. Please mark your calendars and if interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact the League office.

On May 24, 2018, League President, Pat Schiard, was appointed to the Florida Citrus Commission to serve out the term of Lee Bouldin, who resigned. He will serve for a term beginning May 24 and ending May 31, 2019.

The League's Production Committee has been working hard to create n "initiative" for grapefruit growers to receive funding for the immediate propagation of potential new HLB tolerant grapefruit rootstock/scion combinations. The League has just received notice that the MAC Committee has approved funding for 30, ten-acre sites. This is a huge step forward for the future of grapefruit in the state and many people help guided this effort, especially Pat Schirard, Daniel Scott and David Howard along with assistance from Dr. Greg Hodges of FDACS/Division of Plant Industry.

Finally, Doug Bournique continues to serve on the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the SJRWMD Governing Board, Indian River Lagoon Council, SFWMD Water Resources Advisory Council and the Advisory Committees for USDA Horticultural Lab and UF/IFAS/IRREC.



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# Recap of the League's May Board Meeting

**USDA'S 2017 WHIP AND BLOCK GRANT** update was provided by Mike Sparks of Florida Citrus Mutual. He shared that USDA approved disaster programs for agriculture totaling \$500 million in relief. The WHIP Program (2017 Wildfires and Hurricane Indemnity Program) was created for farmers, ranchers and other agricultural victims of the 2017 storms. The other USDA financial assistance comes from the \$340 million block grant earmarked for Florida citrus growers to help them recover from Irma damages in this and future seasons. It is hopeful to have roundtable discussions statewide to present the programs to growers sometime in early July.



**TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** update was provided by Jenny Hoover of the Farm Service Agency/USDA. This is a nationwide program that provides orchardists and nursery tree growers with cost share assistance to replant eligible trees, bushes, and vines following a natural disaster.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 prescribed several changes to the program, including the removal of the \$125,000 per person and legal entity payment limitation. Eligible producers should file for TAP assistance by the later of these two dates:

- 90 days of the disaster or when damages from the disaster are noticed; or
- 60 days after the regulation is published on the Federal Register later this summer.

The following producers can file applications:

- Producers who did not previously apply for TAP for 2017 or 2018 losses; and
- Producers who had applied and received an adverse determination that their 2017 or 2018 TAP application was filed late.

Additionally, producers with 2017 losses can also file an application or revise an original application because of the changes made through the Act.

Also, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) extended the filing deadline for debris removal and restoring water conservation structures. The sign up process is in place, and through the Bipartisan Budget Act, it has been agreed upon to extend the deadline to almost a year. So there

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## **RECAP con't. from page 3**

is still time to sign up. This is the program that did not have AGI qualification. If you had applied, you will receive an acknowledgment letter and from that point the applicant will have six months to get the practices completed then apply through the FSA office for reimbursement. If applicant has a delay in getting the practices completed, then please contact the FSA to discuss extension possibilities.

**THE GROWER EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL HLB TOLERANT GRAPEFRUIT VARIETIES MAC PROPOSAL** was presented by Dr. Greg Hodges of DPI. The MAC proposal was submitted on May 17, 2018. The proposal, in partnership the Indian River Citrus League, will evaluate the potential HLB resistant grapefruit rootstocks and scions in the Indian River growing district. The overarching goal of this proposal is to plant large field trials of some of the newest experimental grapefruit scion/rootstock combinations that may have more tolerance to HLB and monitor them over the next 8 to 10 years. The funding request is for \$3 million.

Dr. Hodges also updated the Board on DPI's trunk injection program using oxytetracycline. There was a meeting held on April 5, 2018 that included representatives from DPI, Matt Joyner of FDOACS and industry stakeholders. Lead researcher is Dr. Nian Wang of UF/IFAS/CREC and he will be joined by Dr. Duan Ping of USDA/ARS and two other researchers. Currently a proposal is being drafted for a funding request. A secondary meeting is scheduled to address the regulatory process.

**BRIEFING ON OPTIMIZING APPLICATION STRATEGIES AND UPDATE ON CURRENT FIELDS TRIALS WITH FIRELINE AND FIREWALL** WAS PRESENTED BY Dr. Robert Shatters briefed the Board on the streptomycin application trials. The study has shown a 15-20 percent improvement after one year of application. It was concluded that adjuvants still matter and continue to improving spray penetration. When using Firewall and Fireline, there is a list available on AgroSource's website providing the recommended adjuvants. In his Power Point Presentation, Dr. Shatters provided details of developing alternative delivery strategies, better detection strategy and finding more effective antimicrobials.

**THE FERROUS IRON PROJECT** was presented by Dr. Randy Niedz of USDA/ARS. He provided an update and recapped the claim by the Japanese and a patent that ferrous iron specifically can cure and clear out the HLB out of a tree. It was speculated that what they were seeing might be due to the Fenton chemistry that is unique to ferrous iron. The idea is to stabilize ferrous iron, and keep it continuously applied to the tree. This method is something that growers can try right now.

Currently there are two experiments ongoing with Dr. Greg McCullum (USDA/ARS) in the greenhouse, with data collection in about two to three weeks, and by Mr. Daniel Scott, in the field. To date, grower meetings have been held in Polk County and in Immokalee sharing the research. There is a lot of interest with growers trying different things. As information and data becomes available, it will be captured and uploaded to the League's website to make the information and data available. It is still unknown, if this will work, but with participants trying different things and reporting it, then hopefully someone will discover something that can be honed in on.

Dr. Niedz briefly touched on the Nano bubble gas delivery (ultra-fine bubble technology) research that he is working on. Nano bubble technology that delivers very high rates of gasses in solution. Oxygen in particular is one that is being focused on because of its known enhancing effects on plant growth. Currently Dr. McCullum will be developing in the greenhouse HLB plants to test the ultra-fine bubble technology. There is also a field block of about 300 valencia trees where the irrigation lines will be split so that the rows can be alternated and apply ultra-fine bubbles directly in. This is being

**RECAP con't. from page 4**

viewed as a proof of concept experiment so it can be looked at in the greenhouse and in the field. Currently waiting on a custom-built device (generator) to deliver the Nano bubbles on a larger scale.

There is a cooperator from Kansas who builds ozone systems. He has units that he has reduced down to irrigation scale. He's donating a couple of his units that one will be installed at the Packers and the second one installed at the split-line experiment at the lab.

**SUPERSOUR ROOTSTOCKS** briefing was presented by Dr. Kim Bowman. He noted that for grapefruit, a new rootstock needs the following: good tolerance to HLB, good tree health, good fruit productivity and good fruit quality. The three soon to be released SuperSour rootstocks are identified as meeting these criteria are: US SuperSour 1, US SuperSour 2 and US SuperSour 3. He provided an overview and trial results of each rootstock and noted that SuperSours 1 and 2 are best suited for the Ridge growing area and SuperSour 3 for the River growing area. He stated that other SuperSour rootstocks likely to be released in 2019-2021.

**THE USE OF ETCHING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE ABSORPTION OF HLB THERAPY** update was presented by Dr. Harold Browning of Premier Citrus ApZ LLC. The new laser technology that could improve the delivery and effectiveness of chemicals to kill HLB. The laser technology is designed to bypass the leaf cuticle thus penetrating the leaf; etching a swath 12"-15" in size forming a band along one side of the tree, then applicators would follow behind and apply only to the band area. Currently the project is in the prototype phase; commercial scale is the goal and working with materials that are currently available.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 17, 2018, 10 A.M. AT THE USDA LAB.** This will be a joint board meeting with Florida Citrus Packers. Also, the Citrus Administrative Committee will meet at 12 noon at the same location.



Ag Fact #237:

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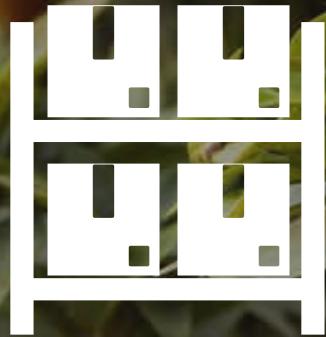
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# New Citrus Cost Share Program

FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy has a new citrus cost share program, Citrus Renovation Irrigation Support Program (CRISP), to assist with irrigation improvements on groves that are being replanted. The application period will open on June 15, 2018 and close at 4 PM July 31, 2018. There are some changes to this program so please review the requirements carefully.

Some of the key differences from the previous program:

- Land designated for cost share must have previously been planted in citrus
- Land must be cleared at time of application of any trees/livestock
- Trees must have a confirmed delivery of no later than March 30, 2019
- Trees must be in ground by May 31, 2019 and prior to reimbursement

Please direct any questions to the Kayla Nickerson, Project Manager

Kayla Nickerson  
(850) 688-5628 Cell  
(863) 451-3423 Office  
[Kayla.Nickerson@FreshFromFlorida.com](mailto:Kayla.Nickerson@FreshFromFlorida.com)

Citrus Renovation Irrigation Support Program (CRISP)

\$1,000,000 Northern Everglades Area Funding  
\$2,000,000 Outside of Northern Everglades Area Funding

## Qualifications for Participation

- Proposed project area enrolled in the FDACS BMP Program prior to June 15, 2018
- Production records since 2011 – must be sales records from packinghouse, processor, Schedule F or verifiable sales receipts – producer spreadsheets will not be accepted
- Documentation of seedling tree commitment to re-establish entire block and confirmed delivery date no later than March 30, 2019
- Grower must have a FDACS, Division of Plant Industry Grower/Caretaker Compliance Agreement
- Ground must have previously been planted in citrus and be cleared of trees or other existing crops/livestock prior to application submittal
- Projects must be south of Ocala and be traditional in-ground plantings

## Project Minimum Requirements

- Solid block planting of a minimum of 10 acres and a complete irrigation zone
- Must include under the tree micro sprinklers or drip irrigation
- Baseline level of water conservation – minimum practice is automatic water shutoff – although full remote start automation, soil moisture probes, fertilizer injection systems, and water reuse systems are encouraged

## Application/Approval Process

- Complete applications will be accepted beginning on 6/15/18 and ending at 4:00pm 7/31/18
- Applications to include a requested amount, calculated at 75% of eligible items; not to exceed \$250k per individual or entity

## **RECAP con't. from page 7**

- Applications will be date and time stamped upon receipt
- A verified complete date and time will be assigned to each application upon verification of completeness of packet
- Only verified complete application packets will be considered for funding
- Funds will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis until funds are expended

### **Application Completeness**

- Application must include acres, number of trees on order, and projected number of trees per acre
- A minimum of 2 vendor quotes, itemized with materials and labor; must be comparable and verifiable
- Chosen vendor must be identified
- Cost share request to include documentation and timing of funding from other sources; ie FARMS, NRCS
- Include timeline for implementation, with a required project completion date of May 31, 2019

### **Equipment/Material Special Cases**

- Remote start automation must include soil moisture monitoring and rain shut off
- Engines/motors that are necessary to install remote start automation are capped at \$25K; diesels must be tier 3 or 4 only
- Only new materials are eligible for reimbursement

### **Processing of Reimbursement Requests**

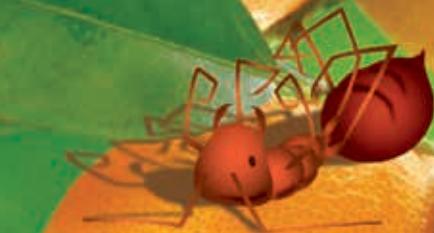
- Invoices submitted for reimbursement must be itemized with materials and labor; with pricing assigned to each
- Front and back copies of cancelled checks showing proof of payment of all invoices are required
- Final payment will be issued after: trees are planted, all invoices have been paid in full, a satisfactory (>80% efficiency) local MIL evaluation has been performed, a BMP Self Verification has been completed, and copy of the diagram/as-built/schematic of system is submitted

### **Completion of Project**

- All projects must be completed, with trees in ground, by May 31, 2019



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# Hurricane Irma Relief Meetings

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The USDA Farm Service Agency will hold several meetings around the state regarding the Wildfire Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP). This is the first step in the Hurricane Irma relief package and growers are urged to attend at least one meeting.

The WHIP is providing growers with up to \$900,000 in relief payments and will serve as a precursor to the block grant program administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Below are the dates, time and locations of the meetings:

**Monday, July 2, 2018**

IFAS Research & Education Center – Lake Alfred

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 3, 2018**

Bert Harris Ag Center – Sebring

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**Tuesday, July 3, 2018**

Dallas Townsend Ag. Center – LaBelle

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**Thursday, July 5, 2018**

USDA/ARS Research Center – Ft. Pierce

10 a.m. – 12 noon



## *Indian River Citrus League* 2018

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# Upcoming Events

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## June 13-15, 2018 – The Florida Industry Annual Conference

Bonita Springs, FL (Hyatt Regency Coconut Point)

## July 17, 2018 – Joint Board Meeting – Indian River Citrus League and Florida Citrus Packers

USDA/ARS Lab in Ft. Pierce at 10 a.m.

Citrus Administrative Committee will meet at 12 noon at the same location.

## August 15-16, 2018 – Citrus Expo

North Ft. Myers, FL (Lee County Civic Center)

## January 22, 2019 – Indian River Citrus League Banquet

Vero Beach, FL (the Club at Pointe West)

## January 23-24, 2019 – 2019 Florida Citrus Show

Ft. Pierce, FL (Fenn Center)

## March 29, 2019 – IRCL River Fun Shoot

Okeechobee (Quail Creek Plantation)

## Newsletter Advertising – Publication schedule is September through June.

For more information on these opportunities, please contact the League office.

772-595-5026 or [info@ircitrusleague.org](mailto:info@ircitrusleague.org)

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