

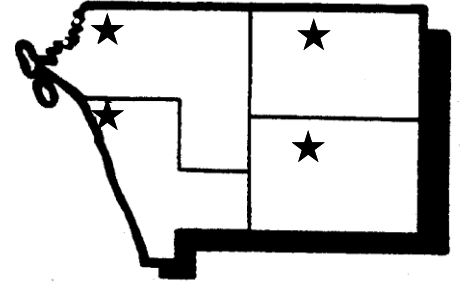
West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service
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Arcadia FL 34266
863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service
507 Civic Center Drive
Wauchula FL 33873
863/773-2164

Manatee Extension Service
1303 17th Street West
Palmetto FL 34221
941/722-4524

Sarasota Extension Service
6700 Clark Road
Sarasota FL 34241
941/861-9900



January 19, 2016

Citrus Production School, February 16, 23, March 1, 2016

The annual Citrus Production School will be conducted on Tuesday evenings, February 16, 23 and March 1 at the Family Service Center, 310 W Whidden Street, Arcadia, FL from 7 PM – 9 PM.

Topics for the annual event include: PFD and canker update; psyllid management; role of nutrients in citrus production; thermotherapy; antibiotics for HLB therapy; RNAi update and more.

To register for the program, please see the enclosed registration form. Registration is \$20 per person.

A total of 6 (2 for each session) continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for each of the 3 sessions in either private or ag tree crop categories for those that currently have a restricted use pesticide license.

Safety Morning, March 8, 2015

The annual “Safety Morning” will be held at the Turner AgriCivic Center in Arcadia on Tuesday, March 8. The program will begin at 7:00 AM with registration and the safety presentations will begin at 7:30 AM. The program will conclude around 11:30 AM.

Topics for the annual safety event include: Worker Protection Standards handler training, first

aide, general farm safety, PPE, equipment safety, and understanding the pesticide label.

Preregistration is requested prior to Feb. 29 and the registration fee is \$3.00 per person. Please see the attached flyer for a full list of topics, times and registration requirements. Classes will be conducted in English and Spanish, thus be sure to note which class (English or Spanish) you want the participants to attend.

Private and Core Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, March 3, Wauchula

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Thursday, March 3 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 507 Civic Center Drive in Wauchula. The class will review the materials contained in the test to obtain a Private Applicator pesticide applicator license. The class will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at noon with the test being given at 1:00 P.M.

Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) will be offered to individuals that have a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$55.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals (Core and Private) and refreshments. To attend the class for only CEUs, the registration fee is \$5.00. If you wish to attend the class to obtain CEUs or to take the test, please call the

Hardee County Extension Service Office at 863-773-2164 to register. Pre-registration is requested prior to February 26.

Brazil Citrus Tour, June 18-25, 2016

We are looking at taking another group to Brazil to see their citrus industry. The tentative time period is scheduled for June 18-25, 2016. As in the past, we will depart on Saturday (June 18) with arrival in Brazil on Sunday morning. Our citrus visits will begin on Monday morning and our group will depart Brazil on Friday evening with arrival back to Florida on Saturday morning, June 25. We will spend the entire week in the state of Sao Paulo looking at citrus operation to see how they are working on control measures to manage HLB. In the past we have visited groves, citrus nursery and packing houses. Each tour has been slightly different with actual stops to be determined in the near future.

Once we get 10 people what will commit to going on the citrus tour we will be develop a complete itinerary with locations visited. We anticipate the trip to cost approximately \$2,500 which will include hotel, ground transportation and airfare to and from Florida. The final cost may vary slightly due to exchange rates, increases in airfare and the total number of participants. The maximum number of participants is limited to 15.

If you are interested in traveling to Brazil in June of 2016, please call or email and I will add you to a list of possible participants.

Florida Citrus Show, Jan. 27-28, Ft. Pierce

The annual Florida Citrus Show will be held at the Havert L. Fenn Center, Ft. Pierce. The two-day event will have both an educational program and trade show for both days. To obtain more information on the program, please visit their website at <http://citrusshow.com>.

Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN)

While our winter season thus far has been extremely warm, it would be good to remember to look at the FAWN tools that are available for use on freeze events.

The two tools that are most commonly used by citrus growers on freeze events are the “Cold Protection Toolkit” and “Citrus Leaf Freezing” data.

Within the cold protection toolkit you will find the “Minimum Overnight Temperature” and the “Wet-bulb Irrigation Cutoff Temperature.” The minimum overnight temperature is based upon the Brunt equation using your local sunset air and dew point temperatures. Your temperatures are entered into the program and it will provide you with an estimated minimum temperature based upon the entered data for your location. The wet-bulb irrigation cutoff is based upon current conditions at your site and will aid in reducing water and fuel usage by shutting off the irrigation system when a safe temperature is reached on the morning after a freeze event. Please remember you do not need to keep the irrigation system running until all the ice is melted to shut off the irrigation system.

The system also has a forecast tracker for FAWN site which allows you to determine how accurate the forecasts have been over the last few nights to fine tune your local forecast to your locations.

Flower Bud Induction Overview & Advisory

The flower bud induction overview and advisory is being posted about every three weeks by Dr. Gene Albrigo and is available via the internet at <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/>. Please be sure to keep up with these advisories to make sure you are doing those practices that will enhance bloom in the spring of 2016.

In the advisory that was issued on January 4, it discussed strategies that you can do to enhance flowering by water stress (managing irrigation) or the application of PO3 sprays.

As we progress through the winter, I am sure other practices will be able to be incorporated into your production program that may enhance bloom, so please be sure to check for the latest advisory.

Florida’s Minimum Wage Remains Unchanged for 2016

The 2016 Florida minimum wage is \$8.05 per hour effective January 1, 2016. Florida law requires the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to calculate a minimum wage rate each year. The annual calculation is based on the percentage increase in the

federal Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers in the South Region for the 12-month period prior to September 1, 2015.

Employers must pay their employees the hourly state minimum wage for all hours worked in Florida. The definitions of *employer*, *employee*, and *wage* for state purposes are the same as those established under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and its implementing regulations. Employers of *tipped employees*, or those covered under the H2A program have other minimum wage rates based upon the law.

Employees who are not paid the minimum wage may bring a civil action against the employer or any person violating Florida's minimum wage law. The state attorney general may also bring an enforcement action to enforce the minimum wage. FLSA information and compliance assistance can be found at: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/compliance/comp-flsa.htm>.

Florida Statutes require employers who must pay their employees the Florida minimum wage to post a minimum wage notice in a conspicuous and accessible place in each establishment where these employees work. This poster requirement is in addition to the federal requirement to post a notice of the federal minimum wage. Florida's minimum wage poster is available for downloading in English and Spanish from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's website at: <http://www.floridajobs.org>.

The federal poster can be downloaded from the U.S. Department of Labor's website at: <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm>.

Dates to Remember

Jan. 27-28 Florida Citrus Show, Ft. Pierce
Feb. 16, 23, Mar 1 Citrus Production School, Arcadia
Mar. 3 Pesticide License Review and Testing,
Wauchula
Mar. 8 Safety Morning, Arcadia

Sincerely,



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Enclosure:

Citrus Production School
Safety Morning