

South Florida Fair

Please visit the Extension Exhibits in Building 5 at the South Florida Fair which runs from January 14 through January 30, 2005. In keeping with the fair's Hollywood theme, this year's agriculture exhibit is entitled, "Stars of Palm Beach County Agriculture." The display will provide the public with information about the importance of agriculture to the county. If you would like to help with the display, volunteer to staff the booth, or donate produce for use in the exhibit, please contact Darrin Parmenter at 561-233-1718.

Upcoming Events

Monday ~ January 3, 2005

West Palm Beach Office
 8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (4 CEUs)
 1:00pm Ornamental & Turf (2 CEUs) Test Review
 all day Testing, Any Category

Friday ~ January 7, 2005

Everglades Research and Education Center
 10:45am
 First Friday Seminar
"Understanding and Managing Agricultural Risks Due to Climate Variability"

Wednesday ~ January 12, 2005

Belle Glade Office
 8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (4 CEUs)
 1:00pm Private Applicator (2 CEUs) Test Review
 all day Testing, Any Category

Friday ~ January 28, 2005

West Palm Beach Office
 8:00am General Standards/Core Training in Spanish
 Mounts Building Auditorium
 531 North Military Trail

Wednesday ~ February 2, 2005

Belle Glade Office
Worker Protection Standard Train the Trainer Conference

Friday ~ February 4, 2005

Everglades Research and Education Center
 10:45am
 First Friday Seminar
"How ECHO Helps Groups Working with Small-Holder Farms in Developing Countries through Problem Solving, Unique Seeds and Emphasis on Experimentation"

Monday ~ February 7, 2005

West Palm Beach Office
 8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs)
 1:00pm Natural Areas Weed Management (2 CEUs) Test Review
 all day Testing, Any Category

Wednesday ~ February 9, 2005

Belle Glade Office
 8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs)
 1:00pm Agricultural Row Crop Test Review (2 CEUs)
 all day Testing, Any Category

Friday ~ February 11, 2005

West Palm Beach Office
 8:00am Private Applicator Agriculture Training in Spanish
 Mounts Building Auditorium
 531 North Military Trail



EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Palm Beach County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

January/February, 2005

2002 USDA Agricultural Census

In June of 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the new 2002 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census of agriculture attempts to reach every agricultural operator in America through a mail survey. Below is a synopsis of facts and figures related to agriculture in the U.S., Florida, and Palm Beach County. For additional information, go to www.usda.gov/nass/.

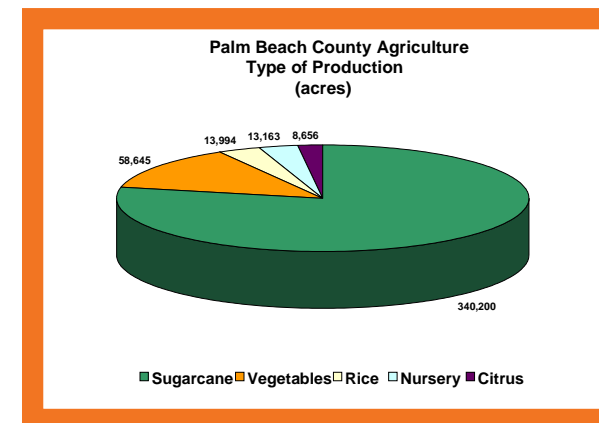
United States

The number of farms decreased from 2.17 million to 2.13 million during the period of 1992-2002. Only two size groupings of farms increased during these 10 years: 10-49 acre farms and the 2000+ acre operations. This indicates that there are more hobby farmers and corporate business operators, but less family farm-type operations.

- ◆ 62% of the agricultural sales were collected from only 3% of the farms.
- ◆ 55% of the farms had total sales less than \$10,000, and more than 1/2 of the farms reported net losses rather than net gains. The average farm had a net cash income of \$19,000.
- ◆ 13% of farm expenses went to farm labor, 10% to chemicals and fertilizers, and energy costs accounting for 7%.
- ◆ 56% of farm operators are at least 55 years old, while only 10% are 34 years old or younger. The average age of a farm operator is 55 years.

Florida

◆ Florida continues to be a leading agricultural state, ranking 9th among all states with a total market value of production of \$6.2 billion (crop sales accounted for \$5 billion).



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Notes & Updates

Coming Soon

Cooperative Extension is planning a series of presentations on food safety. Topics covered will be field and packing house safety, proper worker hygiene, basics of food-borne pathogens, third-party auditing, as well as implementing your own food safety program. Dates will be announced in the near future. If you would like any further information, please contact Darrin Parmenter at 561-233-1725.



Palm Beach County
 Extension
 Agriculture

Belle Glade Office

2976 State Road 15
 561-996-1655

Laura Powell

Manpower Development
 lea@ifas.ufl.edu

West Palm Beach Office

559 North Military Trail
 561-233-1725

Cesar Asuaje

Hispanic Farm Labor
 Crasuaje@ifas.ufl.edu

Darrin Parmenter

Vegetables
 DMParmenter@ifas.ufl.edu



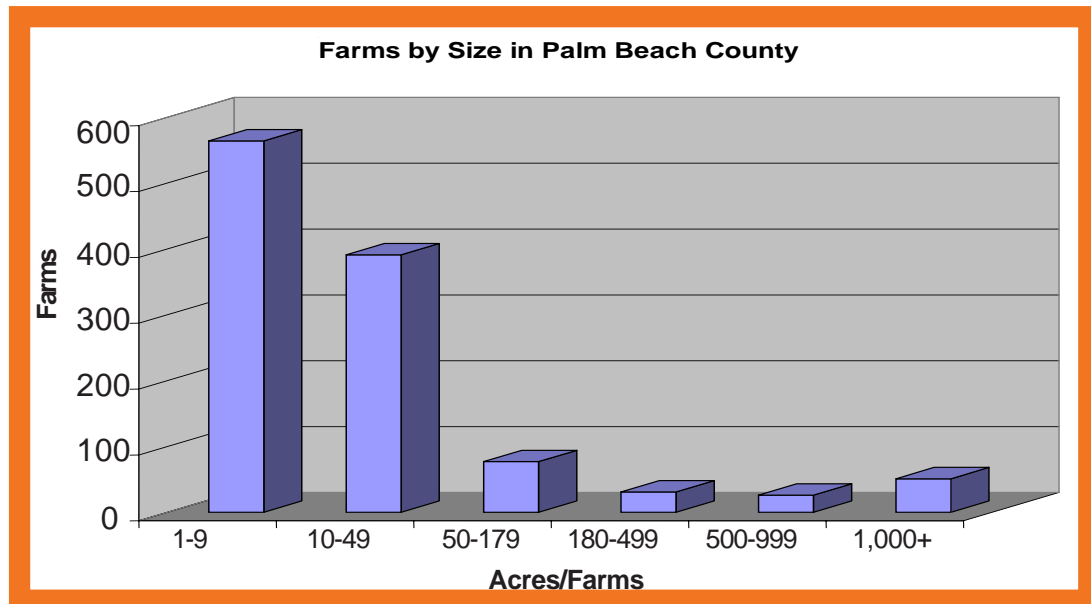
Thank you to SUGAR FARMS CO-OP for sponsoring this month's newsletter.

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- ◆ There were 44,081 farms in 2002, down 4% from 1997.
- ◆ The market value of production, average per farm, was \$141,609 in 2002, up 6% from 1997.
- ◆ In terms of acreage, Florida ranked first in orange and grapefruit production, second in sugarcane production, and fourth in vegetables harvested.
- ◆ Outside of California, Florida is the largest producer in the commodity groups of: vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes; fruits, tree nuts, and berries; and nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod. Florida also ranked third in the value of sales in the commodity group of horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, and burros.

Palm Beach County

- ◆ Even with the decrease of agricultural acreage due to urban development, Palm Beach County is still one of the top agricultural counties in the U.S. Palm Beach County ranked 19th nationally in total value of agricultural products sold; however, when livestock and poultry are removed from the totals, it's rank jumps to 8th.
- ◆ Palm Beach County has more acres of sugarcane than anywhere else in the country, as well as having the 2nd most reported acreage in sweet corn (Grant County, WA reported more acreage).
- ◆ Palm Beach County's top crop items, in terms of acreage, are sugarcane, all vegetables harvested, sweet corn, and rice. In all of these categories, we were ranked 1st in the state of Florida.
- ◆ Breaking down all vegetables harvested, Palm Beach County also has the most acreage in bell peppers, eggplant, lettuce, radishes, celery, and herbs in the state.
- ◆ The average farm has a net cash farm income of operation of \$300,000, indicating that a relatively high amount of very large operations are operating within the county.



Curtis Rainbolt Accepts New Position

Dr. Curtis Rainbolt has accepted a position at the Everglades Research and Education Center as Assistant Professor of Agronomy with a focus on weed science, beginning December 3, 2004. Dr. Rainbolt served as the Regional Specialized Sugarcane Agent for Palm Beach County Extension, working on the transfer of technology and information to sugarcane, rice, and sod growers in a five county area. As an Extension Agent, Dr. Rainbolt was actively involved with other faculty involved in sugar cane and rice production to produce information fact sheets, present educational programs, and conduct field trials and demonstrations. Dr. Rainbolt's research and extension program will address weed science research and extension in agronomic crops in southern Florida with a focus on sugarcane, rice, and commercial sod.

Featured Pest

Leafminers

(Liriomyza sativae and L. trifolii)

With the on-set of cooler weather across the peninsula, growers across the state can expect to see an increase in leafminer pressure. Leafminers attack many crops but are particularly damaging on celery, crucifers, cucurbits, okra, potato and tomato. In South Florida, populations peak between October and March while in central Florida they are a problem in both spring and fall.



The two major species of leafminer that cause problems in vegetables in Florida are the vegetable leafminer (*Liriomyza sativae*) and most commonly (*L. trifolii*) - sometimes referred to as the celery leafminer but which has no approved common name. The adults are small yellow and black flies about the size of a gnat. The female punctures or "stipples" the leaves with her ovipositor to lay eggs in the leaf tissue or to feed on sap.

An integrated pest management program that stresses conservation of natural enemies is the primary tactic for the successful control of leafminer. Chemical control is difficult due to the feeding habits inside the leaf of the host plant. Insecticides that specifically target the leafminer are recommended as use of broad-spectrum materials may decimate beneficial insects including those that attack leafminer. This often results in a larger leafminer problem if the pesticide reduces field densities of leafminer parasites.



Due to its feeding habit, this pest is resistant to many insecticides. Cyromazine (Trigard) alternated with abamectin (Agrimek) are effective against leafminer in tomato. Both of these products have limited crop registrations and must not be used on unregistered crops. Spinosad (Spintor) has also given good results and is labeled on a wide range of crops.

Rotate products in different classes. Trigard, Agri-Mek and Spintor are all in chemical different classes. Do not apply more than 2 consecutive applications of a single product. Some other materials that may be used to conserve beneficials include azadirachtin (Neemix) and insecticidal oils. Both products are approved for use by organic growers.

From Gene McAvoy, South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline, 11/22/04.

Classes Offered in Spanish

Cesar Asuaje will be offering pesticide safety and education classes in Spanish. A General Standards/ Core training and test review will be offered on January 28, 2005 at the Mounts Auditorium in West Palm Beach. On February 11, 2005, a Private Applicator - Agriculture class will be offered at the same location. Classes are designed to help participants perform pesticide related tasks more safely and to help prepare for restricted use pesticide exams. Participants with English reading skills are encouraged to take the restricted use pesticide exam, in English, following the class. Pre-registration is required. For more information, or to register for either class, please contact Cesar Asuaje at 561-233-1727.

Worker Protection Standard Train the Trainer

A train the trainer class will be offered at the Belle Glade Extension Office on February 2, 2005. Class participants will be certified as trainers for both Agricultural Workers and Handlers. A \$10 registration fee includes a copy of the WPS "How to Comply Manual" and all course materials. Pre-registration is required. CEU'S will be available for licensed pesticide applicators. For more information, or to register for the class, please call Laura or Chris at 561-996-1655.