



Palm Beach County  
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Belle Glade, FL 33430

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# PALM BEACH COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER



July/August 2006

## EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

**West Palm Beach**  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>July 10</b> 8:00 am - noon 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Pesticide Applicator Training, West Palm Beach</b> General Standards/Core Training & Test Review (4 CEUs) Ornamental & Turf Test Review (2 CEUs)
<b>July 12</b> 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	<b>Pesticide Applicator Testing, Belle Glade</b> Any Category (no reviews)
<b>August 7</b> 8:00 am - 10:00 am 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Pesticide Applicator Training, West Palm Beach</b> General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs) Natural Areas Weed Management Test Review (2 CEUs)
<b>August 9</b> 8:00 am - noon 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Pesticide Applicator Training, Belle Glade</b> General Standards/Core Test Review (4 CEUs) Agricultural Row Crop Test Review (2 CEUs)

Please pre-register for Pesticide Applicator Trainings held at Belle Glade Office.  
Phone: (561) 996-1655.

Please Note: Testing for any category is offered 8:00 am - 4:00 pm on Pesticide Applicator Training dates of: July 10, July 12, August 7, and August 9 .

## GLADES YOUTH HAVE FUN WITH FARM SAFETY

In mid-May over 150 fourth-grade students from around the Glades area gathered for a fun educational day filled with sessions on farm safety. Not every child in the Glades lives on a farm, but farming touches all their lives in some way.

During the Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day children learned ways to live and play safely around farm areas, and what to do if there is an accident. Instructors and volunteers from local safety organizations and agricultural businesses spoke about a variety of topics including tractor and chemical safety.

This event was truly a community effort! We would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations who shared their time and talents. A special "thank you" goes to Pahokee Fire Chief Gary Burroughs and Vegetable Agent Darrin Parmenter, event coordinators, and the following donors:

- A. Duda & Sons, Inc.
- Allstate Resource Management
- Bank of Belle Glade
- Belle Glade Volunteer Fire Department



Above: Cesar Asuaje, Hispanic Farm Labor Extension Agent, describes potential dangers in field environments. Below: Alyssa Dodd, Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent, explains the rules for the Personal Protective Equipment Relay.

- Florida Crystals Corporation
- King Ranch, Inc.
- Marcia Allen/DuPont Crop Protection
- Okeelanta Corporation
- PBC 4-H Foundation
- Shan Brooks/Syngenta Crop Protection
- Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida
- Thad Boatwright/Monsanto Technology
- U.S. Sugar Corporation
- Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau



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## NEWS AND NOTES

Back injuries are the most common and costly work related farm injury, costing \$10,000 or more for a first-time injury. For example, in California there are about 3,400 back injuries in agriculture yearly with an estimated cost of \$35 million or more.

Lifting and twisting are the major causes of back injuries.

However, there is a dispute as to whether worker training or interventions such as reducing weight loads are most effective at reducing injuries.

Research suggests that back injuries increase when loads of 55 pounds (25kg) or more are lifted repeatedly. However, switching to smaller tubs can reduce earnings for piece-rate workers, who must

make more trips to the truck.

University of California, Davis researchers introduced 50-pound tubs, and found that workers filled them to an average 46 pounds, compared to 57 pounds for traditional tubs, but had fewer back injuries.

*Adapted from Rural News July 2006, UC Davis.*

## HURRICANE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has assistance programs to provide funds to eligible agricultural producers who suffered losses due to 2005 Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, and Wilma. Sign-up began in May 2006 at local FSA offices. Below you will find a brief description of each program along with the Web site address where you can access a more detailed fact sheet.



### Hurricane Indemnity Program 2005 Hurricane Assistance

*Published May 2006*  
This program provides funds to eligible agricultural producers who suffered crop losses.  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/hip06.htm>

### Tree Indemnity Program 2005 Hurricane Assistance

*Published May 2006*  
This program provides funds to eligible owners of commercially grown fruit trees, nut trees, bushes, and vines that produce an annual crop and were lost or damaged.  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/tip06.htm>

### Feed Indemnity Program 2005 Hurricane Assistance

*Published May 2006*  
This program provides payments to eligible livestock owners who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs.  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/fip06.htm>

### Livestock Indemnity Program 2005 Hurricane Assistance

*Published May 2006*  
This program provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who suffered eligible livestock deaths.  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/lip06.htm>

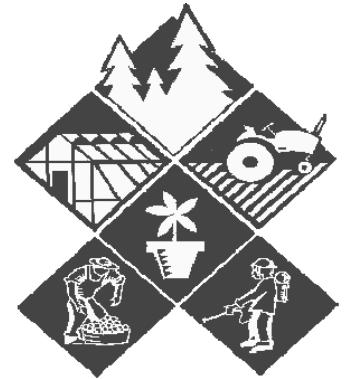
To request hard copies of these publications or for more information please contact your local Farm Service Agency office:

USDA Farm Service Agency  
West Palm Beach Service Center  
750 S. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Phone: (561) 683-2285

*Assistance is part of a \$4.5 billion USDA package of aid to help agricultural producers and rural communities recover from the 2005 hurricane season.*

## WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS (WPS): TIPS FOR COMPLIANCE



Based on the WPS Road Shows held here in Palm Beach County and across the state, a number of observations and questions arose. Here are a few things to keep in mind relevant to compliance with the WPS.

- ✓ Do not put the WPS posting sign at the front gate to your farm. This implies that the entire farm is under a re-entry interval (REI) which may not be the case. Each treated field block should be posted.
- ✓ Central location information has to be posted in an accessible location for employees. This consists of the large WPS poster and application information. Since most farms do not have a fax machine, some growers have found it time consuming to write all the required information for each application. A "short cut" is to have an index sheet there with your application information that contains an alphabetized list of all the chemicals you use, the active ingredient, EPA registration number, REI, the licensed applicator's name and license number.
- ✓ If you are using a tank mix of products in an application, list all ingredients and base the re-entry time on the material with the longest REI.
- ✓ What if a large farm is split by a dirt or paved road? Do you need more than one central location? When we posed this question to inspectors we were told that one central location would suffice as long as it was contiguous property directly on each side of the road. They did recommend having a sign on one side indicating that the central location was on the other side and include this information in your worker/handler training.
- ✓ Why do you have to have decontamination supplies available for 7 days for products with 4 hour REIs, but 30 days for products with REIs longer than 4 hours **or with no REI**? This is because when the WPS went into effect back in 1992, some products either did not have REIs established or it was not reflected as such on the label. Those with no REI on the label are either older products or have not gone through the newer data assessments and reviews. As time goes on, this should become less of an issue.
- ✓ Inspectors now must issue a fine for failure to provide pesticide safety training, failure to comply with restricted entry intervals, failure to post treated areas to prevent early reentry, and failure to provide the essential personal protective equipment to workers or handlers. This fine is not just a flat rate of \$250 but is \$250 multiplied by the number of workers involved in each infraction.

*Used by permission from Phyllis Gilreath, Agriculture Agent, Manatee County and Alicia Whidden, Vegetable Crops Agent, Hillsborough County, UF IFAS Extension.*

For more information on the WPS for agricultural pesticides visit UF IFAS on the Web:

[http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/pest\\_protect.html](http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/pest_protect.html)

Thank you



**KNIGHT MANAGEMENT,  
INC.**

*Cane Citrus Corn Cattle*

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