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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 6**      **Pesticide Applicator Training, West Palm Beach**  
8:00 am - noon      General Standards/Core Training & Test Review (4 CEUs)  
1:00 - 3:00 pm      Aquatic Weed Control Test Review (2 CEUs)
- March 7**      **Worker Protection Standard Workshops** (see page 3 article)
- March 8**      **Pesticide Applicator Training, Belle Glade**  
8:00 - 10:00 am      General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs)  
1:00 - 3:00 pm      Private Applicator Test Review (2 CEUs)
- April 3**      **Pesticide Applicator Training, West Palm Beach**  
8:00 - 10:00 am      General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEUs)  
10:00 am - noon      Private Applicator Test Review (2 CEUs)  
1:00 - 3:00 pm      Aquatic Weed Control Test Review (2 CEUs)
- April 5**      **Pesticide Applicator Training, Belle Glade**  
8:00 am - noon      General Standards/Core Training & Test Review (4 CEUs)  
1:00 - 3:00 pm      Agricultural Row Crop Test Review (2 CEUs)
- April 13**      **SPANISH Pesticide Applicator Training, West Palm Beach**  
8:00 am - 5 pm      General Standards/Core Test Review
- April 14**      **SPANISH Pesticide Applicator Training, West Palm Beach**  
8:00 am - 5 pm      Ornamental and Turf

Please Note: Testing for any category offered 8:00 am—3:30 pm on Pesticide Applicator Training dates of: March 6 and 8, and April 3 and 5.



Palm Beach County  
2976 State Road 15  
Belle Glade, FL 33430

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# PALM BEACH COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER



March/April 2006

## FEBRUARY FREEZE HITS THE AREA

Soon after the USDA announced they will provide \$1.2 billion in aid to agricultural producers, primarily in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas, for damage incurred during the 2005 hurricane season, growers in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) were hit with another disaster. In the early morning hours of February 14 temperatures began to plummet below the freezing line. By 2:00 AM, some locations were witnessing temperatures in the mid to upper 20's. To make matters worse, there was little or no air movement and the freezing temperatures continued well past daybreak.

Even though final damage numbers have yet to be developed, preliminary reports indicate that losses will be in the \$10's of million. Very few crops escaped the cold temperatures – sweet corn, green beans, sugarcane – will all be affected. Other crops, such as sod, lettuce and leafy crops, radish, and celery, likely suffered variable degrees of damage, although not immediately evident – this damage will eventually be seen by lower than expected crop yields.



Sweet corn freeze damage is evident, but as of late February the final damage figures have yet to be determined.

The current sugarcane harvest will be variably impacted by the freeze. For those mills scheduled for a late February/early March shut-down, setbacks will likely be minimal since freeze-damaged cane can be harvested, transported, and milled in a timely manner. Young, short growth from recently planted sugarcane and young "ratoon" or "stubble" regrowth from recently harvested sugarcane has suffered significant freeze damage which equates with lost growth potential.

Across the sugarcane landscape, freeze-impacted fields that previ-



ously hosted plant stands at different stages of regrowth are now synchronized on the same growth cycle (i.e. starting from scratch). This will impact yield potential for the 2006/2007 harvest simply because many fields will be harvested when sugarcane has not

(Continued on page 2)

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yet reached its full growth potential.

Tuesday's freeze comes after Hurricane Wilma knocked out crops that would have sold during Thanksgiving and Christmas and an early January freeze. Many of the damaged crops from the February freeze were destined for the Easter market.

The disaster aid from Hurricane Wilma will be distributed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) by way of five new programs; the Tree Indemnity Program (TIP), the Hurricane Indemnity Program (HIP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Feed Indemnity Program (FIP); and an Aquaculture Block Grant program. For more information on disaster relief, please contact the Palm Beach County FSA office at (561) 683-2285.

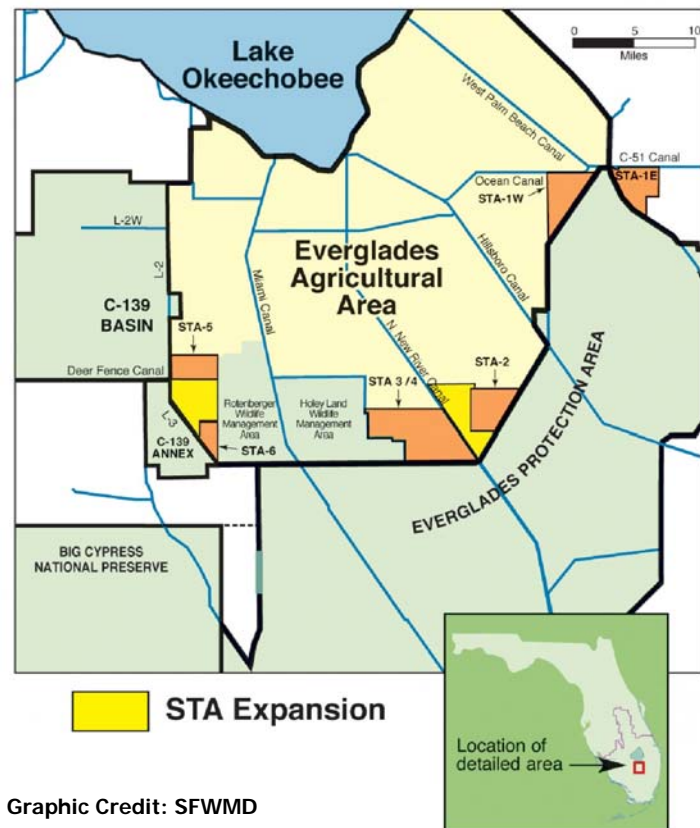
## NEWS AND NOTES

On December 28, the EPA published an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the bacteriophages that specifically target the bacterial pathogens *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* when used as bactericides on tomato and pepper. The EPA registration number for the Omnilytics product (AgriPhage®) is 67986-1. (Federal Register, 12/28/05).

In case some of you may be interested, a proposed Canadian trade mission to Florida, sponsored by the Florida Foreign Trade Association and Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, will be discussed in Miami on March 29-30. Ontario, Canada has a vision of developing an Ontario to Florida fruits and vegetables supply chain. They want to source from Florida rather than California. Twenty Canadian firms will be coming to the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Miami International Airport to meet with local producers, packers, and organizations. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Colyer with the Miami Dade School of Business at (305) 237-7490.

Although the WPS is not new, interpretation and implementation issues still exist and changes are coming. Each workshop participant will learn how to assess their specific overriding compliance with the Standard and how to make

## GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATES EXPANSION OF STAS



Graphic Credit: SFWMD

On February 9th, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District hosted a groundbreaking event to celebrate the expansion of existing stormwater treatment areas (STAs) in the Everglades Agricultural Area.

The expansions are part of *Acceler8*, a program approved by the Governor's Office in late 2005 to accelerate the design, construction, and implementation of eight Everglades restoration projects.

The existing STA-2, a 6,430 acre constructed wetland treatment system located in southern Palm Beach County (located between the North New River Canal and Water Conservation Area 2A) will be expanded by an additional 2,000 acres.

Also, STA-5, a 4,118 acre wetland treatment system located adjacent to the Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area in Hendry County will be expanded by an additional 2,560 acres.

The expansions are expected to enhance the ability of the STAs to further reduce phosphorus and help achieve state water quality standards for the Everglades while providing public access and recreational opportunities.

## WPS WORKSHOPS OFFERED MARCH 7TH

PBC Extension in cooperation with FDACs, FFVA, and the University of Florida Pesticide Information Office will conduct workshops in Belle Glade and Boynton Beach that address the real "how to" on better compliance with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

These workshops are in response to questions about the Standard, upcoming changes, documented violation problems, and the greater overall attention and higher priority given to worker protection by both the state legislature and the printed news media. *All vegetable, sugarcane, citrus, other related commodity producers and associated groups/individuals are encouraged to attend.*

Although the WPS is not new, interpretation and implementation issues still exist and changes are coming. Each workshop participant will learn how to assess their specific overriding compliance with the Standard and how to make

WPS-type improvements at their own facility. Circumstance variability, individual field level examples, and updates on newly available compliance guidance will be discussed.

It will be beneficial to send as many managerial/field coordination people as necessary to assure that your company's adherence to the Standard is accomplished. The information you take away from this session will pay you and the industry dividends in the future.

### Workshop Details

What? WPS Update Workshops

When? March 7<sup>th</sup>

Time: 11:30 a.m. at the EREC, Belle Glade

Time: 5:30 p.m. at Richard's Steakhouse, Boynton Beach

*Please Note: Each workshop should take no longer than 2 hours.*

Questions? Please contact Darrin Parmenter at (561) 233-1725 or Ron Rice at (561) 996-1655.



*Look forward to Field Days for bell peppers, snap beans, and more this spring!*

## LABEL UPDATE: ENVOKE™

In response to local requests, suggestions, and updated research results, Syngenta Crop Protection has made the following improvements to the Envoke label.

First, the use directions for plant cane and ratoon cane have been simplified. Second, the label now carries a control claim for Florida Pellitory when applied at the rate of 0.3-0.6 oz./acre to weeds 1-4 inches in size. Third, a number of additional crops have been added to the rotational crop restrictions portion of the label. This addition reduces the plantback interval from

18 months to 12 months or less depending on the crop. Please consult the label for specific crop recommendations. Finally, a series of tests conducted by Dr. Curtis Rainbolt (UF/IFAS Everglades REC, Belle Glade) in the Spring of 2005 conclusively demonstrate the tank mix efficacy of Envoke or Envoke + Asulox when combined with 2,4-D.

If you should have further questions regarding these label improvements please contact Shan Brooks Syngenta Sales Representative at 561-966-4921 or John Taylor Syngenta Technical Support Rep at 561-694-8671.

Thank you



Hilliard Brothers of Florida  
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**for sponsoring this newsletter issue.**