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Upcoming Events

Wednesday ~ October 27, 2004
DuPont Crop Protection Update
Sandland Vegetables
Richard's Steakhouse
6545 Boynton Beach Boulevard
11:30am - 1:00pm
For more information, contact
Darrin Parmenter at 561-233-1718.

Friday ~ October 29, 2004
Retirement Party for
Clayton Hutcheson
West Palm Beach Office
3:00pm - 6:00pm
Call 561-233-1759 to RSVP.

Monday ~ November 1, 2004
West Palm Beach Office
8:00am General Standards/Core
Test Review
1:00pm Aquatic Weed Control
Test Review
all day Testing, Any Category

Tuesday ~ November 2, 2004
Elections



Wednesday ~ November 3, 2004
DuPont Crop Protection Update
Sugarcane, Sweet Corn &
Other Muck Crops
E R E C
11:30am - 1:00pm
For details call Curtis Rainbolt
at 561-996-1655.

Friday ~ November 5, 2004
First Friday Seminar
"Citrus Canker Biology &
Status of Eradication Program"
E R E C
10:45am - 12:00pm

Wednesday ~ November 10, 2004
Belle Glade Office
8:00am General Standards/Core
Test Review
1:00pm Agricultural Row Crop
Test Review
all day Testing, Any Category

Thursday ~ November 11, 2004
County Offices Closed
Veteran's Day

Sunday ~ November 14 -
Tuesday ~ November 16, 2004
17th Intgernational Pepper
Conference
Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Resort
Naples, Florida
For more information, contact
GeneMcAvoy at 863-674-4092.

Thursday ~ November 25 -
Friday ~ November 26, 2004
County Offices Closed
Thanksgiving

Monday ~ December 6, 2004
West Palm Beach Office
8:00am General Standards/Core
Test Review
1:00pm Right-of-Way Test Review
all day Testing, Any Category

Wednesday ~ December 15, 2004
Belle Glade Office
8:00am Testing, Any Category



Thank you to U.S. Sugar Corporation for
sponsoring this month's newsletter.

Hurricanes Cause Havoc on Local Agriculture

It would be hard to imagine two hurricanes striking in relatively the same location in one year; however that was unfortunately what happened to the counties of Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie in 2004. And we have a month and a half of hurricane season yet to go.

Still reeling from Hurricane Frances, which struck during the Labor Day weekend, agricultural producers were faced with yet another formidable storm, Hurricane Jeanne, no less than three weeks later. Neither storm played favorites, as the vegetable, sugarcane, citrus, tropical fruit, nursery, and livestock industry all suffered substantial damage. In Palm Beach County, Frances and Jeanne caused an estimated \$70.3 million loss to crops and structures (not including nurseries, whose damage is still being tabulated).

Unfortunately, the major effect on the vegetable industry may not be felt until later in the year when many of the crops are harvested. Sweet corn, snap beans, and herbs, whose primary fall market is the holiday season, will be delayed. The duration of the delay varies on the severity of damage and the stage the plants were in when they were destroyed, although many growers will be unable to make the Thanksgiving and Christmas markets. Missing these crucial markets may end up being more detrimental than the storm itself.

Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne also damaged most of the sugarcane grown in the Everglades Agricultural Area. Leaf shredding,



lodging, and broken stalks were the most common types of damage and tended to be more severe in the northern growing areas. In addition, high amounts of precipitation and excess water in the canals resulted in saturated soils and delayed planting dates by several weeks in most areas. Sod farms were also affected by the storms,

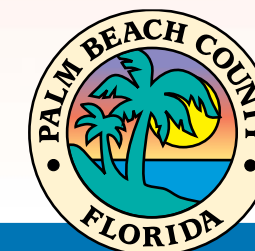
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Notes & Updates

Syngenta has added suppression of black rot in cole crops to their Actigard® (acibenzolar) label. (*Agricultural Chemical News*, 8/15/04).

Based on a request by Valent U.S.A. Corp., tolerances have been approved for the herbicide flumioxazin (Valor®). Tolerances of importance to Florida include sugarcane and tuberous/corn vegetables. (*Federal Register*, 8/25/04).

FDACS issued a special local needs registration SLN FL-040006 to Syngenta Crop Protection allowing for the increase of pymetrozine (Fulfill®) insecticide applications on tomato from two to four. (*FDACS notice of 8/12/04*).



"In accordance with the provisions of ADA, this document may be requested in a different format."

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due to a reduction in sales and increased disease pressure from excess water. Fields of mature, ready to harvest, rice were severely damaged by the storms, while later planted field suffered considerably less.

Growers who were affected by either of the hurricanes must contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) in order to receive emergency funds, indicating the damage incurred to the crop or structures. In Palm Beach County, FSA can be reached at 561-683-2285.

Payments for eligible fruits and vegetable producers will be based on a per acre basis, and payments for plasticulture vegetable producers will be based on the type of planting application or method installed or completed at the time the hurricanes hit. A producer must certify to a minimum of 50% loss in production or plant population, as applicable, to be eligible for payments. The following table provides payment details.

- Plasticulture Planted Acres (with Plants): \$2,500 per acre
- Plasticulture Acres With No Planted Acres (no Plants): \$2,000 per acre
- Plasticulture Double-Cropped Plastic Acres: \$1,000 per acre
- Conventional Row-Cropped Vegetable Acres Suffering Substantial Losses: \$250 per acre
- Tropical fruit (carambola, longan, lychee, mango) in Citrus Bands I and II: \$5,000 per acre subject to payment limit

Nursery growers will see payments based on a percentage of inventory loss plus a flat rate payment of \$250 per acre to address general clean up costs from the hurricanes.

Each producer payment is limited to \$80,000 and will not be available for producers whose adjusted gross income is \$2.5 million or higher, unless 75 percent is derived from farming and forestry. In addition, producers will be required to agree to purchase crop insurance for next year's crop. The closing date for sign-up will be announced at a later date, but producers will be given ample opportunity to complete the process. Producers in any of the eligible counties are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to begin the sign-up process.

Interviews for the Senior Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The three candidates for the Senior Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources position will be presenting a seminar that will be available via video-conference at several of the Research and Education Centers through out the state. Each presentation will be from 3:30-5:00 on the following dates:

Thursday, October 21, 2004
Thursday, October 28, 2004
Monday, November 1, 2004

Dr. Elsa Murano
Dr. William "Randy" Woodson
Dr. Jimmy Cheek

If you are interested in participating in any of the video-conferences, or for more information, please contact the Extension Office.



Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson speaks to more than 50 agricultural producers from Palm Beach and other nearby counties about financial assistance from the state and federal governments.

Featured Pest

Pink Hibiscus Mealybug

The Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHM) has been found recently in several locations in Palm Beach County. Agricultural producers should be on the lookout for this insect. PHM has been a major pest to hundreds



of unrelated plant species in India, Egypt, and the Caribbean. Some of the crops grown in this area that may be affected include tomatoes, lettuce, beans, sugarcane, mangos, citrus, squash, cucumbers, peppers, and many types of ornamental plants. The PHM can be differentiated from other mealybugs by the absence of body fringe, pinkish body color, white waxy egg clusters and pinkish to reddish

fluids when crushed. A more complete list of plant species that may be affected can be found at DPI's site: www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/phm.html. For more information about PHM that has been found in Florida, for a picture of PHM, and the controls available, visit Dr Lance Osborne's site at: <http://www.mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/lso/PinkMealybug.htm>.



Photographs by Marshall Johnson, UC Kearney Agricultural Center

Florida Agricultural Worker Safety Act

The new Florida Agricultural Worker Safety Act (FAWSA) went into effect on July 1, 2004. The primary purpose of the act is to ensure that information is made available to farm workers about specific hazards associated with the use of agricultural chemicals. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) will enforce the act.

A brief summary of the provisions that affect growers includes the following changes:

- ◆ Pesticide dealers are required to provide an MSDS sheet for all new products purchased and each time the MSDS sheet is updated.
- ◆ Agricultural employers must make available an MSDS sheet to agricultural workers upon their request, or upon the request of anyone they designate to represent them. This MSDS sheet must be provided within two working days. In the case of a medical emergency, the MSDS must be provided immediately to the worker, their representative, or medical personnel assisting the worker.
- ◆ FDACS must make available a one page safety sheet for trainers to provide for workers. The safety sheet is currently available in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole. Additional languages will be available soon. Please call (850) 488-3314 for copies of the safety sheet.
- ◆ The FAWSA prohibits agricultural employers from taking any retaliatory actions against employees that exercise their rights under this bill.