



Agriculture & Property Rights Subcommittee

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017
1:00 pm
12 HOB**

Committee Meeting Notice

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture & Property Rights Subcommittee

Start Date and Time: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 01:00 pm
End Date and Time: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 03:00 pm
Location: 12 HOB
Duration: 2.00 hrs

Agricultural Pests and Diseases - Current Status and Eradication Efforts

Panel Discussion on Citrus Greening

NOTICE FINALIZED on 01/04/2017 4:12PM by Kaiser.Debbi



The Florida House of Representatives

Commerce Committee

Agriculture & Property Rights Subcommittee

Richard Corcoran
Speaker

Tom Goodson
Chair

AGENDA

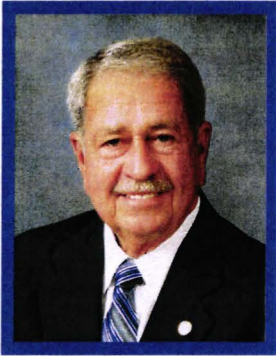
January 11, 2017
12 House Office Building
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

- I. **Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. **Introduction and Welcome by Chair**
- III. **Discussion of Current Status and Eradication Efforts for Agricultural Pests and Diseases**
 - A. Dr. Mike Short, State Veterinarian, Director of Animal Industry, DACS
 - B. Dr. Trevor Smith, Director of the Division of Plant Industry, DACS
- IV. **Panel discussion on Citrus Greening**
 - A. Dr. Michael Rogers – Center Director at IFAS Citrus Research & Education Center, Lake Alford
 - B. Ms. Callie Walker – Chief of Pest Eradication and Control, DACS
 - C. Mr. Rex Clonts, President, Clonts Groves, Inc.
 - D. Mr. Larry Black, General Manager, Peace River Packing Company
 - E. Mr. John Barben, Vice President, Barben Fruit Company and Robert J. Barben, Inc.
- V. **Adjournment**



FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture & Property Rights
Subcommittee



Rep. Goodson
Chair (R-51)



Rep. Porter
Vice Chair (R-10)



Rep. Edwards
Democratic Ranking Member (D-98)



Rep. Albritton
(R-56)



Rep. Brown
(D-45)



Rep. Byrd
(R-11)



Rep. Clemons
(R-21)



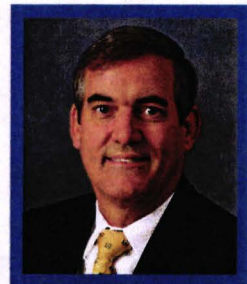
Rep. Diamond
(D-68)



Rep. Donalds
(R-80)



Rep. Henry
(D-26)



Rep. McClain
(R-23)



Rep. Raburn
(R-57)



Rep. Raschein
(R-120)



Rep. Roth
(R-85)



Rep. Slosberg
(D-91)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

Division of Animal Industry

In 2016, the division conducted 185 disease investigations in Florida. The investigations included a suspected 28 foreign and emerging diseases.

The Division of Animal Industry protects the state from animal pests and diseases, which could have major economic and public health consequences, and ensures that all federal and state animal health codes are followed. Examples of recent disease investigations include:

- The **New World Screwworm** infestation response in the Lower Florida Keys— The infestation was reported to the division on September 29, 2016 and confirmed by USDA on October 3, in Big Pine Key, Florida. Florida's endangered Key deer population, which only exists in the Keys in Florida, has already suffered significant losses due to this infestation. Rapid and thorough response efforts are imperative to save this endangered species and prevent further spread to people and animals.

New World Screwworms are fly larvae (maggots) that can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people. This is the first time in 30 years that there has been an infestation in the United States and more than 50 years since screwworm has been in Florida.

Screwworm larvae most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal's living flesh. If detected early, animals and people can be treated and fully recover.

The primary method of eradication is the release of sterile flies. This technique proved successful in the eradication of the screwworm fly from the United States and Central America. To date, over 72 million sterile flies have been released in 28 different locations in the infested area in the Keys. To ensure the flies were not transported out of the infested area, an Agricultural Interdiction Station was established in Key Largo to inspect animals leaving the Keys. At the end of 2016, more than 8,900 animals had been assessed negative for screwworm.

- **ZIKA**— On February 3, 2016, the Florida Surgeon General declared a public health emergency in response to several travel-related cases of the Zika virus in Florida.

While the Florida Department of Health is the lead agency in this public health emergency, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is supporting response efforts by doing the following:

- Testing more than 6,090 mosquito samples at the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, consisting of more than 78,000 mosquitoes. Since May eight samples have tested positive for the Zika virus;
 - Monitoring mosquito control activities across the state and notifying local mosquito control districts of arbovirus activity or events; and
 - Providing technical assistance to mosquito control districts and the Department of Health.
-
- **Equine Herpes**—outbreak was discovered at a large thoroughbred training facility in South Florida. More than 800 horses were quarantined for 21 days to mitigate the spread of the virus that can attack a horse’s neurological system.

The division is comprised of a team of veterinary and inspector field staff, the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Kissimmee, and administrative support in Tallahassee. The division mission is accomplished by:

1. Responding to cases of suspected reportable dangerous, transmissible animal diseases.
2. Participating in multiple state and federal animal disease monitoring programs by conducting routine inspections and testing for diseases such Tuberculosis, High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Classical Swine Fever, Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP), and Vesicular Stomatitis (VS).
 - **The re-introduction of HPAI into the United States is of the utmost concern for 2017.** HPAI causes high mortality in domestic poultry and some strains can cause human illness. The 2015 outbreak in the U.S. cost over \$1 billion to eradicate and approximately 50 million birds were euthanized. To ensure early detection, the division is performing enhanced avian influenza surveillance statewide. This includes commercial poultry, backyard flocks, fairs/exhibitions, live bird markets and for high-risk premises such as animal sale markets and regular sick bird investigations. In 2016, over 20,000 samples were tested for avian influenza in Florida. Increased outreach education efforts were conducted focusing on biosecurity and how to report sick birds to prevent the spread of avian diseases.
 - In 2016, the division tested more than 500 internationally imported horses for CEM, and tested approximately 20,000 poultry samples for the presence of HPAI. This testing was collected by field staff and performed at the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (BADDL).
3. Providing laboratory services to the agricultural industry through the **Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (BADDL)**.

The Bronson Animal Diagnostic Laboratory has never been more active in supporting public health.

- **Testing mosquitoes for the Zika virus.** To date, BADDL has tested more than 78,000 mosquitoes in 6,090 pools (batches of 50 or less) and identified eight Zika positive mosquito pools. The ongoing surveillance effort is essential for detecting the Zika virus in Florida mosquito populations, which is an important aid in response efforts, reducing the risk of human exposure.
 - BADDL received several designations that continue to distinguish the laboratory in the animal diagnostic field. BADDL received full accreditation from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, valid through 2019.
 - An accredited laboratory is one that can provide a full range of diagnostic services year-round in a majority of the following essential disciplines: necropsy, histopathology, clinical pathology, bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology, serology, and toxicology.
 - BADDL joined the Vet-LIRN System of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a Level 1 Laboratory. This program coordinates response to high priority feed/drug contamination events. The network provides the means for rapid response to reports of animal injury and establishes protocols to facilitate veterinary diagnostic reporting to the FDA.
 - BADDL is also a member laboratory within the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). NAHLN now forms part of a nationwide strategy to coordinate the work of all organizations providing animal disease surveillance and testing services.
4. **Conducting animal inspections** at concentration points such as fairs, livestock markets, animal sales and shows. Division personnel inspected more than 900,000 animals for signs of disease in 2016.
5. **Coordinating the response to agricultural emergencies through ESF-17.** The ESF-17 mission areas include domestic animal, wildlife, and pet issues, pre-harvest agricultural issues and vector control issues. The State Agricultural Response Team, with more than 25 participating agencies, continue to support ESF-17 by acting as a multiagency coordination group by sharing information and providing guidance and resources. Emergency management activities were very active in 2016. Incidents included a Zika virus outbreak in South Florida, Hurricane Hermine, Hurricane Matthew, and a New World Screwworm outbreak in the lower Florida Keys.

The division works closely with public health officials as many diseases are zoonotic, meaning they can affect both humans and animals. Such diseases include West Nile Virus (WNV), Tuberculosis, Zika, and Rabies. This partnered approach in controlling diseases in humans and animals is called “One Health.” The Department is committed to the One Health approach to disease management and current initiatives include:

- Testing mosquitoes for the Zika virus.
- BADDL testing for Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) at commercial egg producer farms. Testing commercial egg farm environments for SE is part of a Food and Drug Administration program to ensure a safe and wholesome egg for consumers.
- Testing for WNV in a cooperative program with the Florida Department of Health. Horses act as sentinels to detect the West Nile Virus circulating in Florida. By testing sick horses in specific areas of the state where the virus is circulating, appropriate response can be taken by county health officials, veterinarians and animal owners to take appropriate precautions to prevent infection.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

Division of Plant Industry

Division of Plant Industry's mission is to protect Florida's native and commercially grown plants and the state's apiary industry from harmful pests and diseases by:

- Inspecting more than **10,000** nurseries and stock dealers annually
- Issuing more than **14,000** export certificates annually
- Conducting approximately **1.3 million** inspections of **56,000** exotic fruit fly traps annually
- Responding to the interception of exotic fruit flies by conducting emergency programs that involve expanded trapping, bait treatments, regulatory actions, and public outreach to prevent the establishment of these pests that are major threats to Florida agriculture
- Certifying close to **41,000** acres of citrus groves responsible for producing **2.6 million cartons** of fruit free of Caribbean fruit fly
- Maintaining records of **4,339** beekeepers and **497,900** honeybee colonies
- Conducting survey programs for a number of commodities including tomato, corn, potato, cotton, forest and nursery for more than 36 exotic pests, including emerald ash borer, *Tuta absoluta*, Asian longhorned beetle, palm weevils, psyllids, Mexican rice borer, light brown apple moth, laurel wilt and *Mikania micrantha*
- Completing more than **300,000** separate plant pest identifications annually
- In 2016, identifying an estimated **20** exotic species established within the state, all representing new U.S. and/or state records.
- Evaluating and processing **363** or more plant, arthropod and pathogen permits, **30** Federal Registers evaluations involving commodity movement from foreign countries and **30** evaluations for pests that were recommended for deregulation by USDA-APHIS.

The Division of Plant Industry also does the following in support of the mission—

- **Rears and releases beneficial insects** to control plant pests and diseases. These insects include the phorid fly that attacks imported fire ants, *Tamarixia radiata* that parasitizes the citrus-greening disease-carrying Asian citrus psyllid, or the colorful and efficient air potato beetle that feeds on this highly invasive plant. This past year, 3,289,872 *Tamarixia* were reared and released, 1,978,563 phorid flies were reared and released, and 110,195 air potato beetles were reared and released.

- Partners in the **Citrus Health Response Program**, a holistic approach taken to protect citrus production from root to fruit through research, disease management and outreach efforts.

Highlights include:

- Annual surveying of more than **246,000 acres** of commercial citrus grove.
- Producing over **418,000** horticulturally superior bud eyes at Department's Chiefland budwood facility for distribution to commercial Florida citrus nurseries where they are utilized to produce **4.3 million citrus tree propagations**.
- Operate the Florida Citrus Repository at LaCrosse – the Department's new 25,000 sq. ft. citrus germplasm facility that has the potential to release up to 30 new varieties a year.
- Conducting applied research to help with citrus greening.

Continued decreases in Asian citrus psyllid populations resulting from coordinated pesticide applications that are part of the Citrus Health Management Area (CHMA) initiative.

- **Manages the state's Giant African Land Snail Eradication Program**. The destructive snails were detected in Miami in September 2011. As of December 2016, the program has collected more than **169,000 snails** on 696 properties in 31 core areas in Miami-Dade County and one core area in Broward County. Numbers of live snails being collected continue to decline sharply due to effective baits, new survey strategies, the addition of two detector dog teams, and the program's ability to quickly respond and gain control of new core areas. Research projects continue to determine more effective methods to eradicate this invasive pest. **In 2016, a core decommissioning process was initiated with 9 cores being decommissioned and with 6 more identified for decommissioning in 2017**. Consensus remains that eradication is achievable employing available resources and techniques.
- Maintains **262 Africanized honey bee (AHB)** bait traps around the state and maintains a USDA-certified laboratory to analyze the thousands of AHB samples submitted annually. Participates in statewide training of emergency responders related to AHB attacks, and conducts extensive community education and outreach promoting the message of "**Look, listen, run!**" if being attacked by AHB.
- Partners in the Laurel Wilt Working group.
 - Division services 46 funnel-shaped traps every two weeks in Miami-Dade County near the commercial avocado production area.
 - Entomologists identify all the beetles collected from the traps.
 - Approximately **24 sentinel sites** with avocado trees are inspected monthly.
 - The state's **Save the Guac** program and website continue to distribute messages about steps that can be taken to prevent the introduction of harmful pests and diseases like laurel wilt. For example, simply buying local firewood and burning all firewood before leaving a campsite are easy ways to prevent the spread of wood-boring disease-bearing insects.

- Manages an expanded **detector dog program**. As in other areas where detector dog skills have become invaluable, so to have those skills been added to the division's tools and techniques for detecting pests and disease.

- **Promotes the Travelers Don't Pack a Pest program** – a successful campaign to educate international travelers about the risks associated with bringing undeclared agriculture items into the U.S. Campaign consists of a video and signage featuring Linus, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture detector dog. Program video is airing in the nation's 20 busiest international airports where 85% of international travelers enter the U.S., program signage is displayed at several major ports of entry in Florida including Miami International Airport, and partnerships have been formed with Caribbean countries including Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands. Partnerships are underway with Haiti and Suriname. More than **800 signs** are now on display in **50 major ports** of entry throughout Florida and the Caribbean.
 - **Don't Pack a Pest Website** was launched to assist travelers in determining which agricultural products are allowed or prohibited entry into the U.S. If travelers are educated before they arrive at their port of departure, they will be spared the disappointment of having prohibited items seized. The website features a "Can I Bring It?" database with information from the USDA's import requirements database.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

CITRUS HEALTH RESPONSE PROGRAM

The Citrus Health Response Program, known as CHRP (“chirp”), is a cooperative effort developed in 2006/2007, of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Division of Plant Industry (FDACS-DPI) with the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) along with industry stakeholders, and researchers to mitigate the impact of pests and diseases of citrus in the interest of preserving Florida’s citrus industry.

The devastation caused by citrus canker, citrus black spot (CBS), citrus greening (HLB) and the Asian Citrus Psyllid or ACP (the vector for HLB), can have a long-term impact on the agricultural industry in terms of crop loss, domestic and international market loss and on the consumer in terms of product availability and price increases. The combined services provided through the CHRP cooperative initiative is a holistic approach to the protection of citrus production. It concentrates on the development and implementation of standards for citrus inspection, regulatory oversight, disease management, and education and training. Although Florida may have been the impetus for the development of such a program the concept has been applied to all U.S. citrus producing states. Those cooperative efforts include:

- Issuance of compliance agreements for growers/caretakers, harvesters/haulers, processors and packinghouses, commercial citrus grove survey, pre-harvest survey for fresh fruit, citrus nursery inspections, nursery environs surveys (both commercial and residential), multiple pest survey, citrus black spot general survey along with citrus black spot quarantine and corridor surveys, and ACP monitoring. Growers can request surveys to inspect, test and identify diseases that they do not recognize.
- The Citrus Health response program also provides biological control rearing (i.e. Tamarixia) and distribution to help control ACP populations. Our rearing facilities in Gainesville and Dundee raised **3,289,872** tamarixia.
- The Abandoned Grove Initiative has allowed for the voluntary removal of **25,506** acres of abandoned grove across the State of Florida which accounts for **862** Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreements issued.
- The program also ensures that the citrus industry has access to disease free propagating material. This is accomplished through our Budwood/Germplasm Facilities. In **2015-2016** the Budwood Facility provided **418,403** bud-eyes which resulted in **4.3 million** propagations by commercial nurseries. Under the Citrus Nursery Inspection program every propagating nursery is inspected every thirty days, currently there are **80** statewide.

- Another key part of CHRP is the development of CHMAs, Citrus Health Management Areas of which there are **55** present throughout the state. CHMAs are comprised of groups of growers and other citrus partners who voluntarily work in area wide groups to share information and develop timed insecticide sprays in their respective areas to combat pests and disease. They have played an important part in the CHRP abandoned grove initiatives and voluntarily allow monitoring of ACP in **5,600** statewide grove blocks which provide growers with information on the data that is recorded during monitoring inspections by CHRP inspectors. With the assistance of UF/IFAS the CHMAs also have a website they can use to see ACP counts and other current information helpful in the management of HLB.

CHRP was designed to be a flexible program, responsive to the needs of the citrus industry and adjusting as required to respond to threatening pests and diseases. The program is constantly seeking input from the industry to best provide the support services needed to ensure a future for citrus in Florida.