



Benefits of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation

November 2015



- The creation of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) helped the industry grow beyond the Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council (FCPRAC) and toward something more structured to manage a world-class research push.
- In the last referendum, December 2009, growers overwhelmingly approved the CRDF by a 3 to 1 margin.
- The CRDF is transparent; **it is run by growers for the benefit of growers.** The 13 member Board of Directors has super majority of growers and all of their business is conducted in public meetings and subject to Florida Sunshine laws. The CRDF Board or its Committees meet several times a month at the CREC in Lake Alfred and they are open to the public. CRDF staff meets with grower groups at their request several times a year. And the CRDF staff also completes a monthly newsletter that gets distributed via the FCM Triangle and Dr. Browning writes periodic columns for Citrus Industry magazine.
- The CRDF has played a huge role garnering significant state and federal citrus research dollars to supplement the funding growers are outlaying. The key to lobbying for these dollars is good communication and by utilizing the CRDF, the industry can paint a clear picture on where the state and federal dollars will land. Legislators know the money will be managed efficiently by the CRDF. Don't underestimate this advantage.
- In part due to the CRDF, Florida citrus researchers have enjoyed an unprecedented infusion of state and federal grant dollars over the past few years including \$125 million in the Farm Bill, more than \$20 million in state appropriations and about \$20 million in other federal dollars. Those dollars support projects that growers would otherwise have to fund.
- CRDF funded projects are now making great strides in providing solutions to citrus growers. CRDF projects helped create a network of Citrus Health Management Areas which are doing a tremendous job cooperatively killing the Asian citrus psyllid. CRDF-funded scientists are also finding rootstocks tolerant to HLB and giving growers the confidence to re-plant. Plus, the CRDF is leading the charge on getting two bactericides – streptomycin and oxytetracycline – registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. When approved sometime early next year, these two compounds will provide therapy for existing trees. In addition, CRDF projects have made headway on steam treatment therapies to knock back the HLB bacteria.
- Research has proven over time to provide solutions to pest and diseases, and other challenges confronted by Florida citrus growers. Florida Citrus Mutual is in full support of continued research and CRDF as the oversight organization.