

FLORIDA CITRUS MUTUAL

Working for the Florida citrus grower

Focused, Committed and Making a Difference



STATE INITIATIVES: Mutual had another great year in Tallahassee securing significant appropriations from state general revenue dollars to help the industry by bolstering research and marketing efforts. State appropriations include funding for Citrus Research and Development Foundation, large-scale, scientific field trials, new varieties activities and FDOC marketing programs, generating more than \$32 million dedicated to Florida citrus and **equating to a savings to growers just north of 58 cents per box, versus having to pay for the funding of these programs ourselves.**



RESEARCH & MITIGATION: Over the past decade from state and federal sources, FCM has had a big role in securing well over \$400 million in funding to support citrus research and disease mitigation. Sources include the state of Florida, the Farm Bill, Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group, Congressional Appropriations and the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP).



CRAFT PROGRAM: FCM was instrumental in the creation of the Citrus Research and Field Trial (CRAFT) program. With nearly 5,000 acres of field plantings that incorporate research, design and evaluation, CRAFT will give researchers and growers vital data for the future of Florida citrus.



H-2A ISSUES: Working through our Congressional delegation, the U.S. Department of Labor and the National Council of Agricultural Employers, FCM pushes constantly to improve the H-2A guest worker program and provide growers with a reliable, efficient work force.



CITRUS CROP INSURANCE IMPROVEMENTS:

The United States Department of Agriculture's Federal Crop Insurance Corp (FCIC) approved a new Actual Production History (APH) crop insurance program that is available to growers for the 2021-22 season. The APH offering is based on production history instead of the static reference values currently calculated by the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Florida Citrus Mutual played a vital role in submitting the request and following through with the creation of the APH program. In addition, FCM was successful in getting improvements to the current dollar plan so growers have more options to choose from.





TRADE: Global trade has grown by leaps and bounds since the rise of the Florida citrus industry. Citrus is grown across the globe – whether its China, South Africa, Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica or Brazil. Since its foundation more than 70 years ago, one of Florida Citrus Mutual’s primary functions is protecting Florida citrus growers from unfair trade. We’ve always said Florida growers can compete with anyone on a level playing field.

FCM engaged in two major trade issues during the 2020-21 season.

- Retaliatory Tariffs levied by the European Union against Florida Grapefruit.
- Cheap Mexican OJ imports into the United States has resulted in increasing inventories and depressing grower returns. We’ve enlisted some of the brightest trade minds in Washington to look at the market situation and craft a long-term solution to keep our industry viable in such a complex global environment.



USDA JUICE PURCHASES: In order to reduce the substantial OJ inventories, FCM worked with the USDA to purchase orange juice through the Section 32 and Trade Mitigation programs. Secured \$130 million for USDA domestic orange juice purchases in the past two years which totaled 31 million pound-solids. Reduced Florida inventories have resulted in upward pressure on grower returns.



FLORIDA CITRUS RECOVERY BLOCK GRANT: In the wake of Hurricane Irma FCM helped secure the Florida Citrus Recovery Block Grant with a program budget of \$340 million. FCM continues to provide guidance to growers relative to Hurricane Irma Block Grant payments.



STATE & FED PAC ACTIVITIES: FCM sponsors and manages both a state and federal Political Action Committee (PAC) which allow the Florida citrus grower to financially support candidates who understand citrus issues and set policy accordingly. The PACs are funded through various events such as auctions, sporting events and grassroots campaigns.



FINANCES: There has been no increase in FCM assessment rate for the past 12 years. Despite challenging times, FCM remains financially strong and the staff and budget are lean and efficient. Our stringent audits are always positive. We are doing more with less.



PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA: Mutual serves as the primary media representative, talking to various international, national, state and local media on behalf of the citrus industry. FCM communicates to grower and allied members on a regular basis through our bi-monthly newsletter the *Triangle*, on social media through our newly created Facebook page, and email blasts to FCM members. In addition, FCM is updating our website for a new and improved look and ease of use site for members.

To learn more about Florida Citrus Mutual’s Grower and Allied Memberships, please visit www.flcitrusmutual.com or call 863.682.1111.