

County-Level Agricultural Losses from Hurricane Milton

The tropical system that would eventually become Milton originated in the western Caribbean Sea and consolidated in the Bay of Campeche on October 5, 2024. Gradual intensification occurred as it slowly moved eastward, becoming a hurricane early on October 7 and undergoing explosive intensification to become a Category 5 hurricane with winds of 180 mph (285 km/h). Increasing wind shear caused the hurricane to weaken as it turned northeast towards Florida, falling to Category 3 status before making landfall near Siesta Key late on October 9. Afterwards, Milton rapidly weakened as it moved across the state into the Atlantic Ocean. Hurricane Milton was associated with a significant tornado outbreak, heavy rainfall, and flooding.

Hurricane Milton affected over 5.7 million acres of agricultural lands across 57 counties in Florida. The annual value of agricultural production on these affected lands is estimated at \$8.6 billion statewide. Preliminary statewide estimates of agricultural production losses in Florida associated with Hurricane Milton range from \$190.4 million to \$642.7 million (Court, Qiao, Koeneke, & McDaid, 2024). The estimated losses vary across counties as illustrated in the map below. The highest estimated losses occurred in central and southern Florida, concentrated in areas with extensive, high value agricultural production and/or regions exposed to the most intense weather conditions.

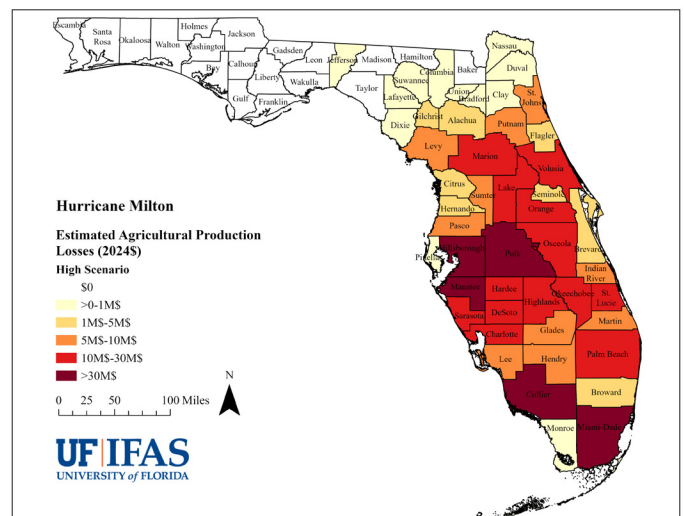
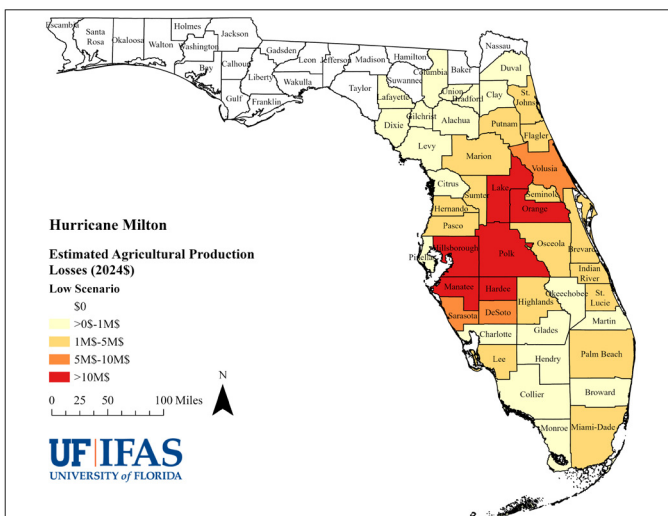


Figure 1. Estimated low scenario for agricultural losses (2024\$) due to Hurricane Milton in each county of Florida.

Figure 2. Estimated high scenario for agricultural losses (2024\$) due to Hurricane Milton in each county of Florida.



Table 1. Estimated county-level affected acreage, value of annual production on affected lands (2024\$, Thousands), and range of estimated agricultural production losses (2024\$, Thousands) due to Hurricane Milton.

County (Listed in descending order by Estimated Agricultural Production Losses - High Scenario)	Affected Agricultural Lands (Acres)	Estimated Annual Value of Production on Affected Agricultural Lands (2024\$, Thousands)	Estimated Agricultural Production Losses - Low Scenario (2024\$, Thousands)	Estimated Agricultural Production Losses - High Scenario (2024\$, Thousands)
Manatee	119,960	\$530,917	\$43,241	\$94,295
Hillsborough	91,902	\$403,647	\$29,698	\$74,032
Miami-Dade	55,072	\$914,215	\$4,845	\$58,429
Collier	108,809	\$566,698	\$821	\$45,879
Polk	285,786	\$238,254	\$14,746	\$30,231
Orange	76,300	\$273,018	\$15,053	\$29,919
Hardee	227,977	\$240,769	\$12,563	\$28,329
Palm Beach	433,221	\$1,171,220	\$1,531	\$24,464
Lake	110,959	\$204,144	\$11,127	\$22,253
DeSoto	224,440	\$226,802	\$6,589	\$21,655
Volusia	58,111	\$192,223	\$9,957	\$19,825
Highlands	330,612	\$244,176	\$2,886	\$17,581
Okeechobee	324,269	\$273,724	\$621	\$15,096
St. Lucie	106,647	\$145,548	\$1,172	\$13,818
Sarasota	67,863	\$65,136	\$6,526	\$12,845
Marion	222,294	\$155,229	\$4,043	\$12,647
Charlotte	116,817	\$115,774	\$444	\$11,044
Osceola	457,204	\$104,343	\$3,842	\$10,820
Martin	144,969	\$216,643	\$107	\$9,819
Hendry	439,209	\$621,195	\$197	\$9,578
Levy	144,365	\$127,308	\$284	\$9,247
Lee	41,495	\$102,758	\$1,117	\$8,616
Sumter	95,872	\$62,598	\$3,417	\$7,474
Glades	256,844	\$143,205	\$390	\$7,223
Indian River	71,157	\$69,402	\$1,510	\$6,730
Pasco	84,185	\$52,103	\$2,838	\$5,908
St. Johns	15,749	\$48,727	\$1,748	\$5,769
Putnam	51,310	\$51,548	\$1,686	\$5,029
Brevard	89,046	\$51,585	\$2,262	\$4,905
Seminole	20,258	\$25,389	\$1,580	\$3,044
Alachua	123,415	\$91,097	\$117	\$2,996
Hernando	34,862	\$26,730	\$1,428	\$2,956
Flagler	27,571	\$20,901	\$1,098	\$2,931
Gilchrist	62,653	\$94,059	<\$100	\$1,760
Broward	5,307	\$45,346	<\$100	\$1,758
Citrus	29,832	\$12,793	\$626	\$1,552
Bradford	25,306	\$22,410	<\$100	\$649
Duval	14,012	\$14,600	<\$100	\$502
Clay	15,851	\$8,144	<\$100	\$405
Pinellas	533	\$2,138	\$123	\$239
Monroe	5	\$2,204	<\$100	\$172
Dixie	26,979	\$11,784	<\$100	\$112
Columbia	64,533	\$51,795	<\$100	<\$100
Nassau	18,140	\$14,288	\$-	<\$100
Suwannee	119,772	\$258,947	\$-	<\$100
Lafayette	38,182	\$79,190	<\$100	<\$100
Union	23,789	\$13,788	<\$100	<\$100
Jefferson	33,174	\$46,104	\$-	<\$100

Note: Losses less than \$100,000 are represented as '<\$100' in the table.

Reference

Court, C. D., Qiao, X. Koeneke, R., & McDaid, K. (2024). Preliminary County-Level Assessment of Agricultural Production Losses Resulting from Hurricane Milton. UF/IFAS Economic Impact Analysis Program, Food and Resource Economics Department, University of Florida.