

CLASS NOTES

Season 1, Episode 1: How Hurricanes Impact Florida Agriculture - Assessing Short-Term Impacts



Featured Guest: Dr. Christa Court, Director of the UF/IFAS Economic Impact Analysis Program

Key Takeaways

- Florida has experienced more hurricanes than any other state.
- After each storm, the UF/IFAS Economic Impact Analysis Program uses data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and surveys to estimate agriculture-related losses.
- The work that occurs after a hurricane is interdisciplinary.
- Understanding losses improves the processes of disaster declaration, relief, and recovery.
- It is vital to consistently adapt and improve research methods to stakeholders' needs.

Additional Resources

- UF/IFAS Economic Impact Analysis Program Website : go.ufl.edu/EIAP
- USDA Farm Service Agency Disaster Assistance Programs: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index>

Discussion Questions

- Dr. Court named a couple of the other types of experts she works with after a storm, can you think of any others who might be able to help?
- How do you think farmers might use Dr. Court's reports? What about lobbyists or policy makers?
- What are some of the different things that might change the impact of a hurricane on agriculture?
- How do you think hurricanes are different from other natural disasters? Would Dr. Court's team be able to study them the same way?
- Why might a storm that impacts a smaller area be harder to study than one with a larger path?
- If you were looking to study a hurricane, what types of data would you look for? Where would you go to find it?

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