Florida Agricultural Policy Outlook Conference

Florida Legislative Session Recap

March 21, 2022
Site-Specific Nutrient Management
SB1000/HB1291

• Maintains current BMP compliance measures for all enrolled producers

• IFAS studies/research plan for other crops (See IFAS approps request)

• CCA + 4R provisions for citrus producers (until 2027)

• Sponsored by Sen. Ben Albritton and Rep. Lawrence McClure
Dade Co. regulation presumes all ag lands are contaminated, leading to costly & burdensome process

Ensures environmental site evaluation follows widely accepted practices
- DEP retains exclusive jurisdiction of establishing standards

BUDGET SUCCESS - FINAL IFAS

- **$8,763,753** - Research on nutrient application rate on citrus, corn, green beans, tomatoes, and potatoes with the intention of adding additional crops.
- **$3,615,000** – UF/IFAS base budget (Workload).
- **$1,100,000** - Geomatics program, an undergraduate program in the study of Geospatial Analysis, Surveying and Mapping and more.
- **$2.2 million** - Ecosystem Services Project which will develop an artificial intelligence (AI) tool to identify, validate, and quantify ecosystem services delivered by agricultural and natural systems in Florida.
- **$2.5 million** - Florida Friendly Landscaping to expand the program, outreach, and promotion to encourage ecologically sustainable, science-based landscaping practices to protect water resources.
- **$1.9 million** - Two student dorms. Graduate Students at the West Florida REC will benefit from much needed housing which is very limited in rural areas.
Huge Wins for FDACS Funding!

Conservation Easements $300M
(Rural & Family Lands)

FL Ag Promotion $19M
(Fresh from Florida)

Specialty Crop $1.5M

Block Grants
(MORE THAN) 60 DAYS OF SESSION

- Agritourism tax assessments (Rep. Tomkow)
  - Bona fide ag use is recognized

- Aquaculture Land Valuation (Rep. Tuck)
  - Consistency in ag assessment; 5-year moving avg for income methodology

- SFWMD commitments to Everglades funding (SB2508)

- Soil & Water Conservation District qualifications
  - Must be in “actively engaged in agriculture” and represent subdivisions
LOOKING AHEAD

• REDISTRICTING
  • Will the Governor accept the proposed maps?

• ELECTIONS
  • What will be the political dynamics after 2022 elections?

• FARM BILL
  • Will the 2023 Farm Bill deliver solutions for Florida agriculture, i.e. mechanization funding, dairy program changes, specialty crop funding, research for greening?
Senate Proposal – Congressional Districts
House Proposal – Congressional Districts
Governor’s Proposal – Congressional Districts