Florida Citrus Industry Research Coordinating Council
Priorities for 2008

Issue	*Rank*	*Status*
Greening	1	Critical
Canker	2	Critical
Genomics	3	Critical
Abscission	4	Essential
Plant Improvement	5	Essential
Mechanical Harvesting	6	Essential
Pest Management	7	Essential
Health Benefits	8	Essential
High Value By Products	9	Essential
Grove Production System	10	Essential
Fertilization/Irrigation	11	Essential
Food Safety	12	Important
Processing Techniques	13	Important
Off Flavor	14	Important
Fresh Structure	15	Important
Health/Nutrition Fresh Juice	16	Important
Lab Testing Methods	17	Important
Fresh Squeezed Juice	18	Important
Caribbean Fruit Fly	19	Important

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Florida Citrus Industry Research Coordinating Council
2008 Annual Report

The Florida Citrus Industry Research Coordinating Council (FCIRCC) annually establishes research priorities based on input from all segments of the industry. Projects from each research agency are obtained and evaluated. Priority areas that lack adequate resources are identified as "Gaps" and documented for further investigation. A final review with the directors at each research agency and industry organization verifies the research gaps and the resources needed to bridge these gaps.

This year the FCIRCC established a prioritized list of 19 items as shown on the back page. These items were then placed into three categories: *Critical*, *Essential* and *Important*. Greening (HLB), citrus canker and genomics were at the top of the list and deemed *Critical*. These items will require maximum funding and an intensive research effort if the Florida citrus industry is to survive.

Eight issues (noted on back) were determined to be *Essential* research needs. Work must continue with these projects to assure more efficient production, harvesting and marketing of the crop.

The remaining eight priorities are *Important* to the industry and especially relevant to the various segments. A concerted effort needs to be made to continue work with the Important needs. In a few cases, special attention must be given to establish research projects in this category.

A detailed "Gaps Analysis" was done to determine if there was sufficient research work being done in each priority area. It was evident that all Critical and Essential priorities were being addressed.

There are some Gaps in the Important area. With the tremendous emphasis on greening and canker, attention to post-harvest research has declined. Development of a strong post-harvest research program will take time. The Gaps with fresh fruit structure and processing technology must be addressed. The establishment of a joint USDA/IFAS/FDOC facility at the Citrus Research and Education Center would be a major step, and the Council encourages processors and packers to pursue this opportunity vigorously. In addition, it is important to fill the flavor chemist position at the USDA Winter Haven lab. Some priorities in this category can be covered if the FDOC would include fresh juice in their studies on the health and nutritional value of citrus, and if work in food safety would look at fresh juice as well. The Council encourages researchers in the area of fresh fruit to work with colleagues in California whenever possible.

Gaps/Needs Recommendations

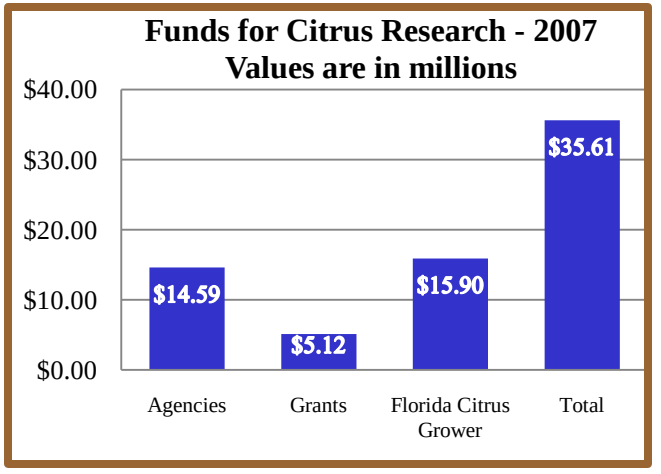
- Continue to provide adequate funding to support ongoing viable projects with greening and canker (establish new ones if needed)
- Provide necessary funding to sequence the citrus genome
- Establish or identify specific projects that deal with mechanical harvesting
- USDA-Winter Haven Lab – a modern facility dedicated to post-harvest research; fill the flavor chemist position and explore reassignment of staff to address off-flavor in juice.
- Continue funding the new variety corporation
- Explore funding sources (California) to expand fresh fruit work with peel disorders
- Incorporate fresh juice into ongoing work in food safety and health/nutrition.
- Develop framework to handle the greatly increased grower dollars for citrus research
- Establish a nonprofit public/private corporation that would fill the gap between research results and field implementation

Summary Information 2007

	Personnel		*Source of Funds* (millions)		
Agency	Scientists	Support Staff	Agency $	Grant $	Industry $
UF/IFAS	31.5	183	6.4	4.3	0.7
USDA –ARS Ft. Pierce	10.5	32	7	0.04	2
USDA –ARS Winter Haven	8	15	1.73	1	
DOC	7	7		0.55	10.4
FDACS-DPI	2	7	0.58	0.03	
FCPRAC/FLA Legislature					5.5

Sources and Spending of Research Dollars

The tables, graphs and figures shown attempt to provide a general view of the financial situation for 2007. There are some interesting items to note.



The level of citrus industry support for research is increasing dramatically. Numbers for 2007 reflect over $15 million from growers, which is 45 percent of the funds available for citrus research. It should be noted that the numbers for 2008 could be significantly higher reflecting the strong commitment the industry has made for greening/canker research. The $15 million for 2007/2008 includes funds to obtain registration of the abscission chemical CMNP, health/wellness research to support the marketing effort, state legislature special funding for infectious disease control, FDOC matching dollars for the state dollars, and "production box tax" dollars.

Number of projects and funding levels support the seriousness of greening/canker. The number one and number two FCIRCC priorities are receiving significant dollars and reporting numerous research projects ($7.5 million and 106 projects for 2007).

Those agencies receiving substantial industry support have a much larger support staff-to-scientist ratio. This reflects the large number of scientists, technicians, and support personnel on "soft" dollars. It also points out that UF faculty and USDA scientists are becoming research managers. A change in the research administration is taking place. Sudden reduction in industry dollars would have a dramatic negative impact on the two primary research agencies.

Agency support for the main research organizations is dropping. The state of Florida has made significant reductions to the IFAS budget over the past three years and federal support for USDA has remained level for the past three years. If citrus research is to expand (or even remain at current levels) at these two core organizations, growers must continue to provide significant funding support.

In order to have a sustainable citrus industry research program, grower dollars need be available. A long term financing arrangement must be in place. A likely option is to increase the self imposed "box tax" for research. A thoughtful and detailed approach must be followed to assure a balance between advertising and research dollars.