CRDF Submits Emergency Exemption Packet to FDACS

The Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) has taken a big step forward in obtaining Section 18 Emergency Exemption for two bactericides designed to knock back the HLB bacteria.

In October, the CRDF worked closely with the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and its subsidiary, Third Party Registrations, and submitted an exemption petition to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) regarding emergency use of Firewall® (streptomycin), Fireline® (oxy-tetracycline) and Mycoshield® (oxy-tetracycline).

Over the next two months, FDACS will review the packet before sending it to the Environmental Protection Agency by early 2016. The EPA usually takes 60-90 days for review. The exemptions typically last for one year and can be renewed. Grower use is immediate upon approval and issuance of a letter by the EPA.

“We made a very strong case to regulators about how vital these exemptions are to the Florida citrus industry,” said Harold Browning, Chief Operating Officer of the CRDF. “These bactericides could be important in slowing HLB disease, and we are confident growers will have these tools in the toolbox by spring 2016.”

The Section 18 petition will have to show the EPA several things including:

- Measure of economic loss to warrant emergency consideration
- Lack of alternatives to provide solution
- Evidence of effectiveness of intervention and economic benefit
- Field use pattern established (draft use label)
- Supporting data for claims

Among other factors, the EPA will also consider the following:

- Human dietary risk assessment.
- Occupational risk assessment.
- Ecological and environmental risk assessment.

AgroSource and Nufarm Americas are the registrants of the bactericides. Each company has been working with Florida growers on field trials using the products. Data from these trials are supporting the petition.

December Thermotherapy Field Day to Showcase Trials

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the CRDF’s Thermotherapy Field Day on December 3 at CREC - Lake Alfred and a grove outside of Lake Wales.

The event will run from Noon to 2:30 PM and will showcase Wheeler Farm’s thermotherapy (TT) trial conducted cooperatively with Premier Energy and CRDF.

Wheeler Farm’s trial is one of nine established in which the CRDF is participating in tree evalu-
The Lake Wales, FL accounting firm of Bunting, Tripp & Ingley LLP recently completed an audit of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation and found that the CRDF’s financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the CRDF as of June 30, 2015 and 2014, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

CRDF Receives Clean Audit

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