



# CITRUS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION GROWER RESEARCH REPORT

Volume 5, Issue 2

November 2015

## 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

## Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Most meetings are held in the Ben Hill Griffin Hall at the UF-IFAS, CREC campus in Lake Alfred, Florida.

12/7/15 - Commercial Product Delivery	1:30 pm
12/8/15 - Board of Directors	9:30 am
1/25/16 - Board of Directors	9:30 am

- Residue data packet to establish crop tolerance or exemption
- Expert letter supporting strength of evidence
- Support from industry needing the solution

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-

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ations. The trials are located in private groves in St. Lucie and Hardee County (bedded) and Polk and Lake County (Ridge). Trees include Valencia, Rio Red Grapefruit, and Ray Ruby Grapefruit on a variety of rootstocks (sour, Swingle, Carrizo).

The trees being evaluated are in varying stages of decline due to HLB; most are heavily managed for psyllid control, nutrient applications, root health, etc.

The CRDF evaluation team is working with the commercial scale-up thermal treatment applicators to collect pre-treatment PCR bacterial measures and other parameters. According to the protocol, periodic data collection following treatments will assess the tree health response as well as the specific impact on CLas bacteria.

In cases where there are no untreated controls, the test will likely be limited to the “short version evaluation.” Having 9 locations under evaluation is ahead of the plans, and the CRDF anticipates being able to conduct many additional evaluations beyond those estimated in the work plan and budget.

Register online for the December 3 field day by the December 1 deadline at <https://thermotherapyfield-day2015.eventbrite.com> or call Sarah White 863-956-8632. The address for Field Day site: 2033 Tindel Camp Rd. Lake Wales, FL 33898 - Latitude and Longitude: 27.982987, -81.570449.

## CRDF Receives Clean Audit

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.



About 100 people attended the recent CRDF sponsored Rootstock Field Day at an A. Duda & Sons site outside of Felda, FL.

Attendees observed seven different rootstocks being grown in a randomized and replicated trial. The rootstocks in the trial are UFR 2, UFR 3, UFR 4, UFR 16, US 942, US 812, and Swingle. Each rootstock plot is replicated 5 times. The scion is Valencia, and the trees were planted in March 2015.

The group also saw a planting of HLB-tolerant Sugar Belle® 'LB8-9' trees on swingle and US 897. These trees were planted in a high density production system. There were 2 established plantings that Duda planted in collaboration with Dr. Jude Grosser that were visited during the field day as well.

For more information contact Brandon Page at [bpage@ufl.edu](mailto:bpage@ufl.edu)



*Photos by Dr. Mongi Zekri*