Climate Change & Agriculture *Handout*

Students learn about the impacts of climate change on Florida agriculture.

Palm Beach Post

Letters: Greenhouse gas regulations too costly for farmers
April 7, 2010

Florida's farmers and ranchers, like most Americans, have been struggling to make ends meet. How well they fare takes on added importance, since their fellow citizens can ill afford to add skyrocketing food costs to their list of challenges.

Because of this, the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed regulation of greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act could not have been more poorly timed. These regulations come with overwhelming economic costs, affecting not just the agriculture industry but small and large businesses throughout the state.

To comply with the EPA's new rules, businesses will have to make expensive renovations to existing structures or purchase new buildings and equipment. Additionally, these regulations will lead to lengthy, time-consuming permitting processes. And unless other nations agree to adhere to the same standards, American businesses will face a competitive disadvantage.

As Florida's largest agriculture organization, representing nearly 140,000 members, we are committed to fighting these harmful regulations. Recently, delegates from the American Farm Bureau Federation adopted a resolution urging Congress to pass legislation that would stop the EPA from setting regulations on greenhouse gases.

Additionally, the Florida Farm Bureau supports congressional actions addressing this situation, including the bipartisan Resolutions of Disapproval by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo.

Ultimately, the cost to cultivate, harvest and process crops affects every one of us when we check out at the grocery store. We encourage all Floridians to contact their senators and representatives in Washington about this important issue.

JOHN HOBLICK
DeLeon Springs

Editor's note: John Hoblick is president of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation.

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Orange County					
	Volume (Acres, Head)	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Apiculture					
Bee Colonies (1)	4,831	active	active	active	active
Citrus					
Grapefruit (3)	117	harvest	harvest	fruit set	harvest
Oranges (3)	4,805	harvest	harvest	fruit set	harvest
Tangelos, tangerines, lemons, etc. (3)	671	harvest	harvest	fruit set	harvest
Field Crops					
Forage (1)	912	semi-dormant	grow	grow/mow	grow/mow
Horticulture					
Acres in open (1)	4,393	in production	in production	in production	in production
Greenhouses/sq ft (1)	32,728,420	in production	in production	in production	in production
Livestock					
Beef Cattle/Calves (4)	13,000	over-winter	calving	grow	grow
Goats (1)	121	over-winter	kidding	grow	grow
Horses/Ponies (1)	1,491	over-winter	foal	grow	grow
Poultry-Layers(1)	2,247	in production	in production	in production	in production
Sheep (1)	107	over-winter	lambing	grow	grow

Sources:
(1) 2002 Census of Agriculture
(2) 2005 USDA NASS Quick Stats
(3) 2004 USDA NASS Quick Stats
(4) 2006 USDA NASS Quick Stats

Name: Date: