Agriculture - 11/18/2025 3:30 PM Committee Packet Agenda Order

 Tab 1
 SB 58 by Harrell (CO-INTRODUCERS) Arrington; Animal Cremation

The Florida Senate COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

AGRICULTURE Senator Truenow, Chair Senator Grall, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 18, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:30 p.m.
PLACE: 301 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Truenow, Chair; Senator Grall, Vice Chair; Senators Bernard, Burton, and Rouson

| TAB | BILL NO. and INTRODUCER | BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS | COMMITTEE ACTION |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | SB 58 Harrell | Animal Cremation; Creating "Sevilla's Law"; requiring a provider of companion animal cremation services to provide certain individuals and entities with a written description of the services the provider offers; requiring certain providers to include a certification with the returned animal's cremation remains; providing that certain acts are unlawful; providing civil penalties for initial and subsequent offenses, etc. AG 11/18/2025 JU FP | |
| 2 | Presentation on Robotics in Agricult | ture by UF/IFAS | |
| 3 | Presentation on Aquaculture by Dr. | Nicole Kirchhoff, Live Advantage Bait | |
| 4 | Presentation on Florida Dairy Farms | s | |
| 5 | Presentation on Arterial Rural High | way Projects | |
| | Other Related Meeting Documents | | |
| | | | |

The Florida Senate BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

| | Prep | ared By: The | e Professional S | Staff of the Commit | tee on Agriculture |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| BILL: | SB 58 | | | | |
| INTRODUCER: | Senator Ha | rrell | | | |
| SUBJECT: | Animal Cr | emation | | | |
| DATE: | November | 17, 2025 | REVISED: | | |
| ANAL | YST | STAFF | DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
| Becker | | Becker | | AG | Pre-meeting |
| 2. | | | _ | JU | |
| 3. | | | | FP | |

I. Summary:

SB 58 designates this act as "Sevilla's Law." It requires a provider of companion animal cremation to provide a written description of their services to the owner of the deceased animal, the person making cremation arrangements for the owner, veterinarians, pet shops, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department), and any person, upon request. It prohibits written descriptions of services to contain false or misleading information. The provider must include a certification along with the returned cremation remains. The bill provides criteria for the certification. The bill provides civil penalties for unlawful acts by the provider. It also provides that certain fines collected by the department be paid into the General Inspection Trust Fund.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

There are currently no regulations relating to pet cremation in the state.

According to a 2013 study by the Pet Loss Professionals Alliance, 99 percent of pets are cremated, of which 7 percent were partitioned cremations, where a physical separation is employed to keep comingling of ashes to a minimum; 63 percent were group cremations, where several pets are cremated at once using no physical means of physical separation; and 30 percent were private cremations, where one pet is cremated at a time.¹

According to her family, "Sevilla" was cremated before her owners could say their final farewells or attend the private cremation that they had ordered. The owners were told by the

¹ Connecting Directors. Pet Loss Professionals Alliance Releases Findings of Inaugural Professional Survey. December 9, 2014. Pet Loss Professionals Alliance Releases Findings Of Inaugural Professional Survey (Last visited February 14, 2025).

BILL: SB 58 Page 2

crematorium that there had been a "catastrophic failure of process," which led Sevilla's family to request a DNA analysis from the University of Florida. The analysis indicated that they were unable to determine the cremains were those of a cat, but they identified glass, metal, and human DNA.²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates s. 501.961, F.S., to create the act cited as "Sevilla's Law." It provides definitions for the terms "commingling of significant amounts of cremation remains from different companion animals," "communal cremation," "companion animal or animal," "cremation remains," "department," "individually partitioned cremation," "on a regular basis," and "provider."

The bill requires a provider of companion animal cremation services (provider) to provide, without charge, to all of the following, a written description of the services that the provider offers:

- The owner of each deceased animal for whom the provider agrees to provide cremation services, or the person making cremation arrangements on the owner's behalf;
- All veterinarians, pet shops, and other business entities or persons known to the provider who refer animal owners or bring deceased animals to the provider on a regular basis;
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department); and
- Any other person, upon request.

The required written description of services:

- May be in the form of a brochure;
- Must be provided in quantities sufficient to allow its distribution to animal owners whose business is being referred or brought to the provider;
- Must include a detailed explanation of each service offered for each type or level of cremation service offered; and
- May not include false or misleading information.

A written description is misleading if it:

- Fails to include a detailed explanation of the cremation services offered or fails to include, for each type or level of cremation service offered, any of the disclosures required;
- Uses the terms "private" or "individual" with respect to any communal cremation procedure
 or with respect to an individually partitioned cremation procedure that will cremate more
 than one companion animal at the same time;
- Uses the terms "individually partitioned" or "separate" with respect to a communal cremation process; or
- Includes any text, picture, illustration, or combination thereof, or uses any layout, typography, or color scheme, which reasonably causes confusion about the nature of the services to be provided or obstructs certain parts of the written description of services.

The bill requires entities that make referrals to providers or accepts deceased companion animals for cremation through a provider to make the provider's written description of services available

² https://sevillaslaw.com/sevilla%E2%80%99s-story (Last visited November 17, 2025).

BILL: SB 58 Page 3

to owners or their representatives. It requires providers to include a certification with the returned animal's remains and provides requirements for such certification. It provides that the following acts are unlawful and come with civil penalties:

- For a provider to prepare or distribute a written description of services that the provider knows or should know to be false or misleading.
- To intentionally fail to prepare or distribute a written description of services as required by this section.
- To knowingly make a false certification concerning persons referring or bringing business to a provider.

The bill provides circumstances under which a person commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice or engages in an unfair method of competition in violation of certain provisions. It provides that a person who is injured by a violation of this act may bring a civil action to recover damages or punitive damages, including costs, court costs, and attorney fees. The bill provides for the powers of the department and authorizes the department to adopt rules to implement the act.

Section 2 provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

| A. | Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions: |
|----|--|
| | None. |

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

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B. Private Sector Impact:

There could be a burden on providers to create and share a detailed list of services offered. The bill provides fines of up to \$2,500 for unlawful acts by providers.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimates the bill will have an impact on the department of \$291,766 in recurring and \$105,709 in nonrecurring funds in fiscal year 2026-2026 and an impact of \$291,766 in recurring funds in fiscal years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 501.961 of the Florida Statutes:

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

By Senator Harrell

31-00190-26 202658

A bill to be entitled An act relating to animal cremation; creating s. 501.961, F.S.; providing a short title; defining terms; requiring a provider of companion animal cremation services to provide certain individuals and entities with a written description of the services the provider offers; specifying requirements for such written descriptions of services; requiring certain persons or entities that make referrals to providers 10 or accept deceased companion animals for cremation 11 through a provider to make a copy of the provider's 12 written description of services available to owners or 13 their representatives; providing construction; 14 requiring certain providers to include a certification 15 with the returned animal's cremation remains; 16 specifying requirements for the certification; 17 providing that certain acts are unlawful; providing 18 civil penalties for initial and subsequent offenses; 19 providing circumstances under which a person commits 20 an unfair or deceptive act or practice or an unfair 21 method of competition in violation of certain 22 provisions; providing for a private right of action; 23 providing powers of the Department of Agriculture and 24 Consumer Services; requiring that certain fines 25 collected by the department be paid into the General 26 Inspection Trust Fund; authorizing the department to 27 adopt rules; providing an effective date. 28

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 ${\tt CODING:}$ Words ${\tt stricken}$ are deletions; words ${\tt \underline{underlined}}$ are additions.

Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

| | 31-00190-26 202638 |
|----|---|
| 30 | |
| 31 | Section 1. Section 501.961, Florida Statutes, is created to |
| 32 | read: |
| 33 | 501.961 Animal cremation |
| 34 | (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as "Sevilla's |
| 35 | Law." |
| 36 | (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term: |
| 37 | (a) "Commingling of significant amounts of cremation |
| 38 | remains from different companion animals" means the commingling |
| 39 | of remains such that specific cremation remains cannot be |
| 40 | attributed to a particular animal or the cremation remains |
| 41 | attributed to one companion animal contain more than 1 percent |
| 42 | by weight of cremation remains from one or more other companion |
| 43 | animals. The term does not include the presence of, in the |
| 44 | cremation remains of a companion animal, the remains of any |
| 45 | creature that was on or contained within the body of that animal |
| 46 | at the time of cremation, including parasites, insects, food, or |
| 47 | creatures eaten by that companion animal. |
| 48 | (b) "Communal cremation" means a cremation process in which |
| 49 | <pre>companion animals are cremated together without effective</pre> |
| 50 | partitions or separation during the cremation process such that |
| 51 | $\underline{\text{the commingling of significant amounts of cremation remains from}}$ |
| 52 | different companion animals is likely or certain to occur. |
| 53 | (c) "Companion animal" or "animal" means a deceased animal |
| 54 | $\underline{\text{that had a companion relationship or a pet relationship with its}}$ |
| 55 | owner at the time of the animal's death. |
| 56 | (d) "Cremation remains" means the material remaining after |
| 57 | the cremation of an animal, which may include ashes, skeletal |
| 58 | remains, and other residue resulting from the incineration |

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Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

| | 31-00190-26 202658 |
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| 59 | process, and which may be pulverized or otherwise processed by |
| 60 | the provider of cremation services. |
| 61 | (e) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and |
| 62 | Consumer Services. |
| 63 | (f) "Individually partitioned cremation" means a cremation |
| 64 | process in which the commingling of significant amounts of |
| 65 | cremation remains from different companion animals is unlikely |
| 66 | to occur and: |
| 67 | 1. Only one companion animal at a time is cremated in the |
| 68 | incinerator; or |
| 69 | 2. More than one companion animal is cremated in the |
| 70 | incinerator at the same time, but each of the animals is |
| 71 | completely separated from the others by partitions during the |
| 72 | cremation process. |
| 73 | (g) "On a regular basis" means that the person or business |
| 74 | entity referring animal owners or bringing business to a |
| 75 | <pre>provider:</pre> |
| 76 | 1. Has an ongoing contractual or agency relationship with |
| 77 | the provider relating to the cremation of companion animals; |
| 78 | 2. Regularly receives compensation or consideration from |
| 79 | the provider or animal owners relating to the cremation of |
| 80 | companion animals by the provider; or |
| 81 | 3. Refers or brings to the provider the business of more |
| 82 | than five animal owners in an average month. |
| 83 | (h) "Provider" means a person, company, or other entity |
| 84 | $\underline{\text{engaging in the business of cremating deceased companion animals}}$ |
| 85 | in this state. |

(a) A provider of companion animal cremation services $\label{eq:page 3 of 9} \text{Page 3 of 9}$

(3) WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES.-

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Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

202658_

31-00190-26

| 88 | shall, without charge, provide to all of the following a written |
|-----|--|
| 89 | description of the services the provider offers: |
| 90 | 1. The owner of each deceased animal for whom the provider |
| 91 | agrees to provide cremation services, or the person making |
| 92 | cremation arrangements on the owner's behalf. |
| 93 | 2. All veterinarians, pet shops, and other business |
| 94 | entities or persons known to the provider who refer animal |
| 95 | owners or bring deceased animals to the provider on a regular |
| 96 | basis. |
| 97 | 3. The department. |
| 98 | 4. Any other person, upon request. |
| 99 | (b) The written description of services: |
| 100 | 1. May be in the form of a brochure; |
| 101 | 2. Must be provided in quantities sufficient to allow its |
| 102 | distribution to animal owners whose business is being referred |
| 103 | or brought to the provider; |
| 104 | 3. Must include a detailed explanation of each service |
| 105 | provided for each type or level of cremation service offered. If |
| 106 | any part of the deceased companion animal will be removed, used, |
| 107 | or sold by the provider before or after the cremation, the |
| 108 | written description of services must disclose that fact; and |
| 109 | 4. May not include false or misleading information. A |
| 110 | written description of services is misleading if it: |
| 111 | a. Fails to include a detailed explanation of the cremation |
| 112 | services offered or fails to include, for each type or level of |
| 113 | cremation service offered, any of the disclosures required under |
| 114 | this subsection; |
| 115 | b. Uses the terms "private" or "individual" with respect to |
| 116 | any communal cremation procedure or with respect to an |

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Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

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| | 31-00190-26 202658 |
|-----|--|
| 117 | individually partitioned cremation procedure that will cremate |
| 118 | more than one companion animal at the same time; |
| 119 | c. Uses the terms "individually partitioned" or "separate" |
| 120 | with respect to a communal cremation process; or |
| 121 | d. Includes any text, picture, illustration, or combination |
| 122 | thereof, or uses any layout, typography, or color scheme, which |
| 123 | reasonably causes confusion about the nature of the services to |
| 124 | be provided or obstructs certain parts of the written |
| 125 | description of services. |
| 126 | (4) BUSINESS ENTITIES OR PERSONS REFERRING OR BRINGING |
| 127 | BUSINESS TO A PROVIDER.— |
| 128 | (a) A veterinarian, pet shop, or other business entity or |
| 129 | person referring owners of deceased animals, or persons making |
| 130 | arrangements on an owner's behalf, to a provider on a regular |
| 131 | basis shall, at the time of the referral, make a copy of the |
| 132 | provider's written description of services available to such |
| 133 | person. |
| 134 | (b) A veterinarian, pet shop, or other business entity or |
| 135 | person accepting, on a regular basis, deceased companion animals |
| 136 | for cremation through services obtained from a provider shall |
| 137 | make a copy of the provider's written description of services |
| 138 | available to each animal owner, or person making arrangements on |
| 139 | the owner's behalf, from whom a deceased companion animal is |
| 140 | accepted. |
| 141 | (c) A copy of the written description of services may be |
| 142 | given to the animal owner, or the person making arrangements on |
| 143 | the owner's behalf, at the time the services are offered. |
| 144 | (d) For purposes of this subsection, publishing or |

 $\underline{\text{otherwise disseminating advertising for a provider of companion}}$ Page 5 of 9

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Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

| | 31-00190-26 202658 |
|-----|---|
| 146 | animal cremation services does not, in and of itself, constitute |
| 147 | referring or bringing business to that provider. |
| 148 | (5) CERTIFICATION; PENALTY FOR FALSE CERTIFICATION.—If a |
| 149 | provider's services include the return of the cremation remains |
| 150 | of the animal, the provider must include a certification along |
| 151 | with the returned cremation remains. The certification must |
| 152 | declare that, to the best of the provider's knowledge and |
| 153 | belief, except as otherwise specifically indicated on the |
| 154 | certificate, the cremation and any other services specified were |
| 155 | provided in accordance with the representations of the provider |
| 156 | in the applicable portions of the provider's written description |
| 157 | of services. |
| 158 | (6) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—It is unlawful for a provider: |
| 159 | (a) To prepare or distribute a written description of |
| 160 | services which the provider knows or should know to be false or |
| 161 | misleading. A first offense is punishable by a fine of at least |
| 162 | \$1,000 but not more than $$1,500$, and each subsequent offense is |
| 163 | <pre>punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000 but not more than</pre> |
| 164 | <u>\$2,500.</u> |
| 165 | (b) To intentionally fail to prepare or distribute a |
| 166 | written description of services as required by this section. A |
| 167 | first offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$1,000 but not |
| 168 | more than $$1,500$, and each subsequent offense is punishable by a |
| 169 | fine of at least \$2,000 but not more than \$2,500. |
| 170 | (c) To knowingly make a false certification under |
| 171 | subsection (5). A first offense is punishable by a fine of at |
| 172 | least \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500, and each subsequent |
| 173 | offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000 but not more |

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than \$2,500.

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Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

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- (7) VIOLATION AS A DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE OR UNFAIR
 TRADE PRACTICE.—In addition to any fine imposed under subsection
 (6), a person who commits an act or a practice declared to be unlawful under subsection (6) or who violates this section commits an unfair method of competition or an unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of part II of this chapter and is subject to the penalties and remedies provided for such violations.
- (8) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—In addition to any other penalties or remedies provided by law, a person injured by a violation of this section may bring a civil action to recover damages or punitive damages, including costs, court costs, and attorney fees. This subsection may not be construed to limit any right or remedy provided under law.
 - (9) POWERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.-

- (a) The department may conduct an investigation of any person or provider if there is an appearance that, either upon complaint or otherwise, a violation of this section or of any rule adopted or order issued pursuant to this section has been committed or is about to be committed.
- (b) The department may issue and serve subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of all books, accounts, records, and other documents and materials relevant to an examination or investigation. The department, or its duly authorized representative, may administer oaths and affirmations to any person.
- (c) The department may enter an order imposing one or more of the penalties set forth in subsection (6) if the department

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Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

31-00190-26

| 204 | finds that a provider or a person or business entity that refers |
|-----|--|
| 205 | animal owners to a provider, or an agent, a servant, or an |
| 206 | employee thereof on a regular basis: |
| 207 | 1. Violated or is operating in violation of this section or |
| 208 | department rule or order; |
| 209 | 2. Refused or failed, or any of its principal officers |
| 210 | refused or failed, after notice, to produce any record of such |
| 211 | provider, person, or business entity or to disclose any |
| 212 | information required to be disclosed under this section or |
| 213 | department rules; or |
| 214 | 3. Made a materially false statement in response to any |
| 215 | department request or investigation. |
| 216 | (d) Upon a finding as set forth in paragraph (c), the |
| 217 | department may enter an order doing one or more of the |
| 218 | <pre>following:</pre> |
| 219 | 1. Issuing a notice of noncompliance pursuant to s. |
| 220 | <u>120.695.</u> |
| 221 | 2. Issuing a cease and desist order that directs the |
| 222 | provider, person, or business entity to cease and desist |
| 223 | specified activities. |
| 224 | 3. Imposing an administrative fine in the Class II category |
| 225 | pursuant to s. 570.971 for each act or omission. |
| 226 | 4. Imposing an administrative fine in the Class III |
| 227 | category pursuant to s. 570.971 for each act or omission that |
| 228 | involves fraud or deception. |
| 229 | (e) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the |
| 230 | administrative proceedings that could result in the entry of an |
| 231 | order imposing any of the penalties specified in paragraph (d) |
| 232 | are governed by chapter 120. |

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Florida Senate - 2026 SB 58

| | 31-00190-26 202658_ |
|-----|--|
| 233 | (f) All fines collected by the department under paragraph |
| 234 | (d) must be paid into the General Inspection Trust Fund. |
| 235 | (10) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—The department may adopt rules |
| 236 | pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section. |
| 237 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026. |
| | |
| | |
| | |

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 ${\tt CODING:}$ Words ${\tt stricken}$ are deletions; words ${\tt \underline{underlined}}$ are additions.



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Committee on Higher Education, Chair
Health Policy, Vice Chair
Appropriations
Appropriations Committee on Health and
Human Services
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Education Postsecondary
Environment and Natural Resources

SENATOR GAYLE HARRELL

31st District

October 13, 2025

Senator Truenow 335 Knott Building Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Truenow,

I respectfully request that SB 58 – Animal Cremation, be placed on the next available agenda for the Committee on Agriculture.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Thank you,

Senator Gayle Harrell

Senate District 31

Layle

Cc: Katherine Becker, Staff Director

Evan Denny, Committee Administrative Assistant

Agricultural Robotics

Dr. Nathan S Boyd

Dr. Arnold Schumann

Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis

Dr. Henry Medeiros





Drone

Application



SPECIALTY FIELD

ROW CROP

INDOOR

PERMANENT



Permanent

Tractor & Platform











Permanent

Crop Care

LEGER ST (CLEMENS

robotic Perception FINITE ROBOTICS

WITHOVER

♦Algro

Permanent

Harvesting

FINE

OMC

Fieldwork





AGV

Berkvens

metazet

DENSO



agrifac



ISPRIA CASE



AIGEN

What is making this possible?

- Investment
- Open-Source Software
- Commoditization of robotic platforms
- Community-supported robot programming libraries
- Dissemination of deep learning tools and techniques





Emerging commercial applications



Harvesters



tomato



aspargus

Weeders



laser



mechanical

Sprayers



vineyards



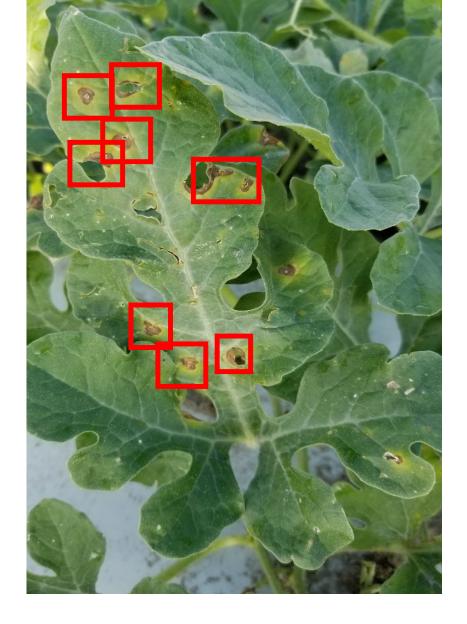
orchards

Agricultural Technology in 2025

Efficiency / Automation









Agroview – https://www.agintel.ai/

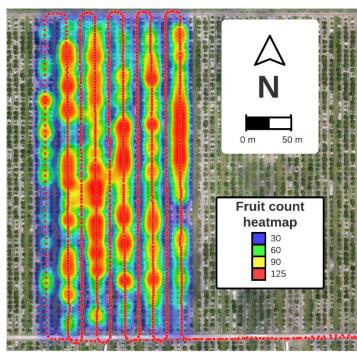


Smart Tree Sprayer using Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Spray path and spraying heat-map



Fruit detection and fruit heat-map



Key Points

- Lower input costs for growers
- Higher yields and quality
- Fewer pesticides in the environment
- Fewer pesticide residues on food.



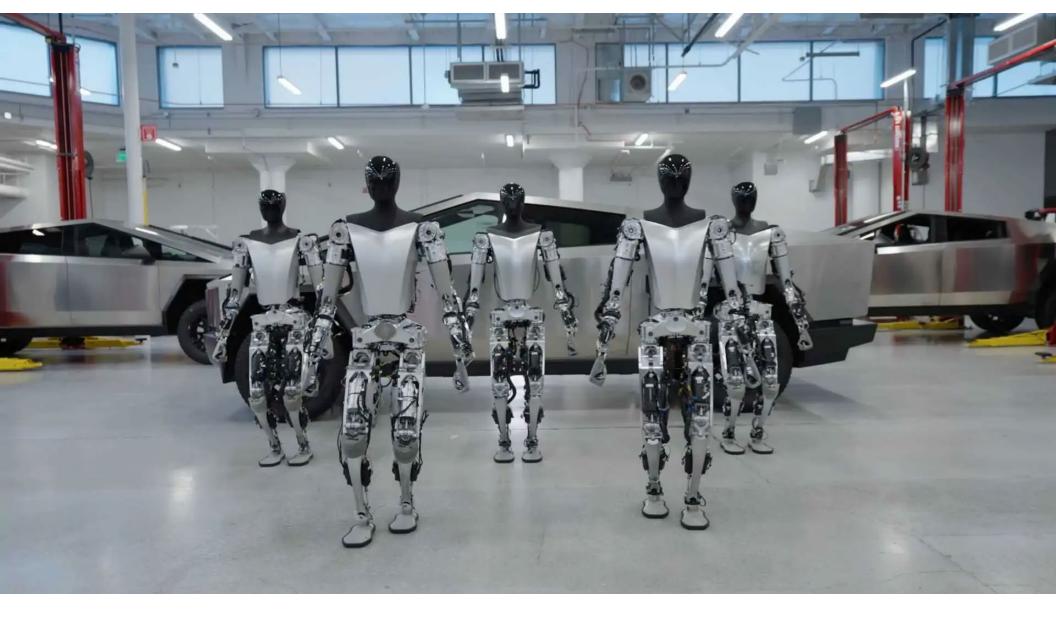


Labor is the issue











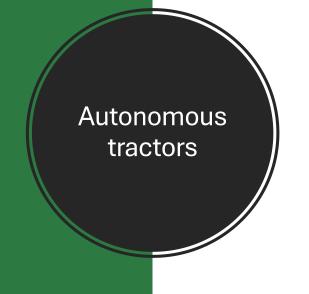
Robotic automation in agriculture

- Precision irrigation, fertigation, and seeding
- Bloom and yield estimation
- Plant health and development monitoring
- Harvesting, pruning, thinning















Implications and Opportunities

- AI & Robotics should increase overall agricultural production by ~35% by 2030
- Robotic harvesting valued at \$236 million in 2022 but set to rise to \$6.8 billion by 2030.
- Agriculture drone market expected to reach \$18.22 billion by 2030





FLORIDAC®MMERCE



AgTech as a new target industry









The Future Is Bright

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Nathan S Boyd

Gulf Coast Research and Education Center University of Florida

Florida Aquaculture

Dr. Nicole Kirchhoff
CEO and Owner
Live Advantage Bait LLC







Challenges

Land Stability and Legal Protections

Access to Capital

Lack of Insurance and Hurricane Vulnerability

Water Qualitybarrier and opportunity

Florida Aquaculture

The foundation is built.
The momentum is here.
And the industry is ready to lead.



Dr. Nicole Kirchhoff
Founder and CEO
Live Advantage Bait LLC



My Florida Dairy Farm & Business Story

Kevin Lussier
Dairy Farmer & Cheese Maker
Alachua County

Committee on Agriculture, Florida Senate



November 18, 2025



Our family & farm story...

- Lussier Dairy Farm was started in 1993 by my parents in Hawthrone, Alachua County
- In 2019 we leased another farm that had an existing cheese making business which that chapter in our story is discussed later
- In 2023 we sold the original farm and continued operating the new leased farm which we purchased in 2024



Our cheese making story...

- With the help of parents and others, and funding/grants, we started cheese operations in 2020 while still being dairy farmers
- The timing wasn't the best with COVID but we made it
- We are not the only Florida dairy farmers in the value-added dairy business, and these are a couple our friends you might have sampled their ice cream or milk:





2











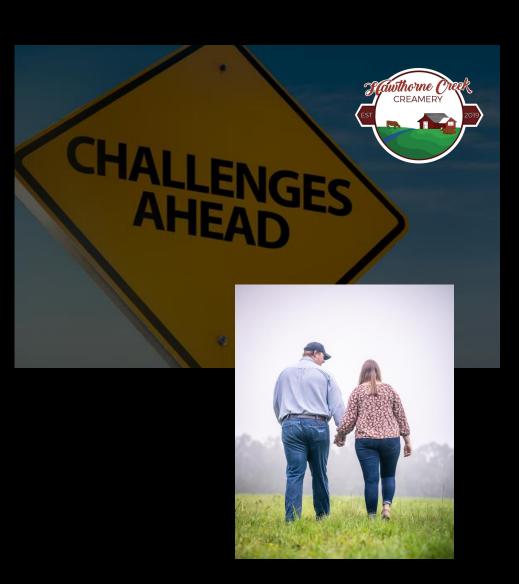
Our cheese making story...

- We sell full wheels and wedges to customers wholesale and online
- The following are a couple of the major wholesale customers:





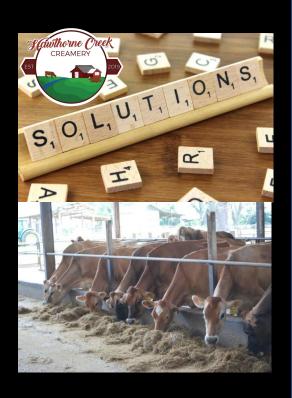
 Because of our loyal customer base we have seen continual growth, even with the challenges faced



Challenges we face to survive & grow...

- Inflation and operation costs
- Access to capital with good terms to allow innovation and expansion
- Regulatory burdens
- Skilled labor and wages
- Seasonality of the business
- Access to supporting businesses and services

Possible solutions to challenges...



UDFF has developed more comprehensive solutions for the entire dairy supply chain, and I will defer to the testimony of my fellow dairy farmer and friend, Jacob Larson. Here are a few ideas I want to highlight that are more focused on my cheese making:

- Enhanced grant opportunities to innovate and expand
- Incentives for buyers of "Fresh from Florida" products like dairy
- More FDACS funding in general and their "Fresh from Florida" program to enhance advertising for our farm products
- Make funding for "Farmers Feeding Florida" initiative permanent
- Enhanced support from the State to assist in our compliance with Federal rules and regulations









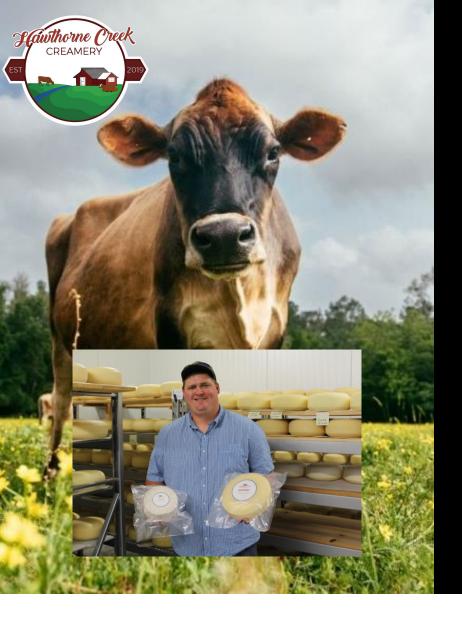




Our story wouldn't have been possible without the following...



- Family, faith and our cows
- State and federal agency partners-supporters
- Dairy farmer advocates like UDFF and FFB
- Industry mentors
- Others like you



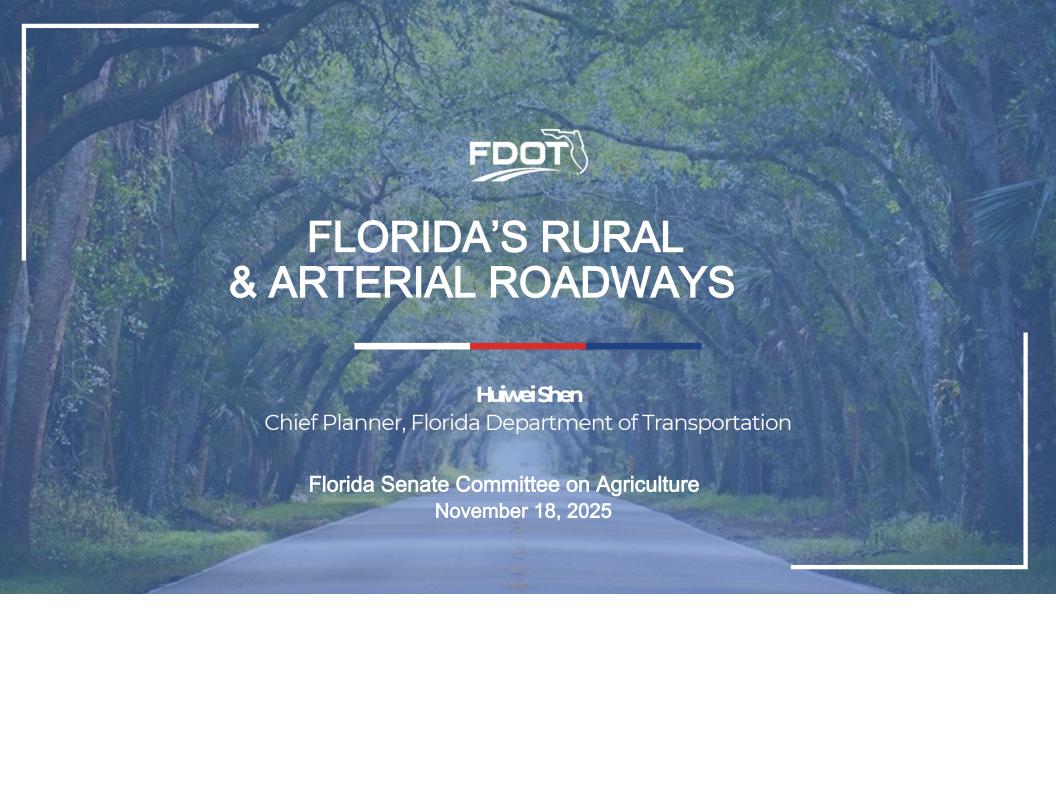
Thank you for allowing me to speak before this Committee and appreciate your interest & your help in writing the future chapters in our story!

My Florida Dairy Farm & Business Story

Kevin Lussier Dairy Farmer & Cheese Maker Alachua County

Committee on Agriculture Florida Senate November 18, 2025







ARTERIAL HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Florid a has taken a fresh look at providing funding dedicated to arterial highways, which is necessary to:

- Maintain safety on the State Highway System
- Relieve congestion on Florida's roadways
- Connect Florida's rural communities to the state's economic centers
- Provide a reliable and resilient state transportation system to support the movement of both people and goods





PROGRAMS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

- County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP)
- Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program
- Seaport Investment Program
- Arterial Highways Program
- New Starts Transit Program
- Public Transportation
- Shared Use Nonmotorized Trail Network (SUN Trail)
- Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)
- Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)
- Strategic Economic Corridors
- Strategic Intermodal System (SIS)
- Transportation Disadvantaged
- Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)







ARTERIAL PROGRAMS

ARTERIAL HIGHWAYS PROGRAM

ARTERIAL WIDENING PROGRAM

Uses:

• Improves arterial highways with controlled access facilities

Eligibility:

- Grade Separations
- Lane Widening
- New Road Construction

Uses:

• Increases capacity by widening existing two-lane arterial rural roads to four lanes

Eligibility:

- Two-lane arterial rural highways with at least 15% truck traffic
- Widening of existing two-lane arterial roads to four lanes



LOCAL PROGRAMS

SMALL COUNTY OUTREACH PROGRAM (SCOP)

Uses:

- Repairing or rehabilitating county bridges
- Paving unpaved roads
- Addressing road-related drainage improvements
- Resurfacing or reconstructing county roads
- Capacity or safety improvements to county roads

Eligibility:

• Based on Eligible Counties; population <200,000

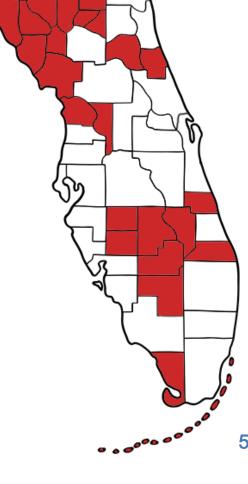
Funding:

• Up to 75% of the project cost

Local Match:

• 25%; Waivers available

Additionally: SCOPM is a special appropriation for designated Rural Areas of Opportunity municipalities and communities





LOCAL PROGRAMS

SMALL COUNTY ROAD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SCRAP)

• Resurfacing and reconstruction projects on County Roads

Eligibility:

Uses:

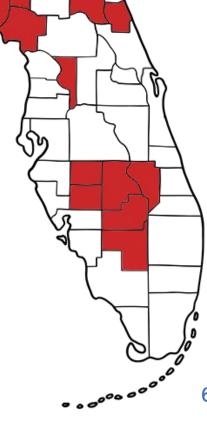
• Based on eligible counties; Population <75,000

Funding:

• Up to 100% of project costs

Local Match:

No match required





LOCAL PROGRAMS

COUNTY INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM (CIGP)

Uses:

• Improve a transportation facility or relieve congestion located on the State Highway System

Eligibility:

• Must be consistent with local MPO plans & local government comprehensive plans

Funding:

• Up to 50% of the project cost

Local Match:

• 50%; Waivers available

TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP)

Uses:

• Improve regionally significant transportation facilities, roads, and public transportation

Eligibility:

• Must be consistent with local government comprehensive plans

Funding:

• Up to 50% of project costs

Local Match:

• 50%; Waivers available



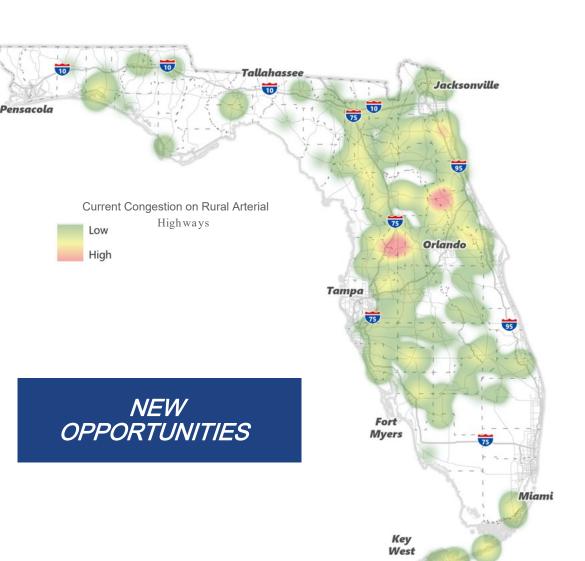
FUNDING LOCAL PROGRAM PROJECTS

Current 5-Year Adopted Work Program

| Description | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | Grand Total |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| CIGP | \$94,370,146 | \$40,204,213 | \$40,160,001 | \$40,320,002 | \$40,400,000 | \$255,454,362 |
| SCOP | \$98,420,660 | \$80,983,929 | \$79,690,400 | \$79,410,400 | \$79,080,400 | \$417,585,789 |
| SCRAP | \$27,963,192 | \$25,000,001 | \$25,000,001 | \$25,000,001 | \$25,000,001 | \$127,963,196 |
| TRIP | \$129,821,455 | \$49,127,369 | \$50,126,402 | \$49,684,801 | \$49,201,801 | \$327,961,828 |
| TOTAL | \$350,575,453 | \$195,315,512 | \$194,976,804 | \$194,415,204 | \$193,682,202 | \$1,128,965,175 |



FLORIDA'S RURAL NEEDS ARE GROWING



MORE DRIVERS



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Must strategically evaluate and prioritize projects

FULLY FUNDED

Total Projects: 13

Programmed Amount: \$874 Million

PARTIALLY FUNDED

Total Projects: 44

Programmed Amount: \$515 Million **Unfunded Amount:** \$4.58 Billion

UNFUNDED

Total Projects: 123

Programmed Amount: Unfunded Amount: \$11.42 Billion

Pensacola

FUTURE PROJECTS: \$16 BILLION

Fully Funded Projects (In Progress)

Future

Opportunities

Tallahassee

