

By Senator Grimsley

26-03668-17

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Citrus Research and Education Center for its 100 years of service to the state's citrus producers and residents.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred celebrates 100 years of service to the state of Florida, its residents, and its agricultural producers in 2017, and

WHEREAS, the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center is the state's oldest and largest agricultural research and education center and the largest facility in the world devoted to a single commodity, and

WHEREAS, the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center began in 1917 after a group of Polk County citrus growers raised nearly \$14,000 to purchase land for a research station, and the center was later legally established by the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, today the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center employs 250 people and is also home to the scientific research staff of the Florida Department of Citrus, and

WHEREAS, the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center spans more than 600 acres of groves and has greenhouses, a fresh fruit packinghouse, a juice processing pilot plant, and more than 40 laboratories, and

WHEREAS, the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center has an enduring legacy of service to the citrus industry in the center's work to develop the technology for making frozen

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30 concentrate orange juice, as well as new orange, grapefruit, and
31 lemon varieties, contributing to the state's multi-billion
32 dollar citrus production, and

33 WHEREAS, UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center
34 scientists have been at the forefront in fighting diseases that
35 have threatened or continue to threaten the state's citrus crop,
36 including solutions for yellow spot, greasy spot, alternaria
37 brown spot, and citrus canker, and in leading the fight against
38 the devastating Huanglongbing, also known as citrus greening,
39 and

40 WHEREAS, UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center
41 scientists and researchers have achieved advances in precision
42 agriculture, especially the use of global positioning system
43 satellites, computers, unmanned aerial vehicles, and other
44 technology to analyze groves for disease and pests, soil
45 deficiencies, and other problems that may otherwise go
46 undetected, and have developed best management practices that
47 minimize the negative effects of herbicides and pesticides on
48 the environment, NOW, THEREFORE,

49

50 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

51

52 That the Florida Senate commends the University of Florida
53 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Citrus Research and
54 Education Center for its 100 years of service to the state's
55 citrus producers and residents.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
57 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the University
58 of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Citrus

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59 Research and Education Center as a tangible token of the
60 sentiments of the Florida Senate.