Scientific Research Committee Report



Agenda

- Program for Expedited Propagation (PEP) FY24-25 Update #2
- Citrus Research and Field Trials Foundation (CRAFT) Update- Tamara Wood
- Same Vendor- New Contract
  - CRAFT (Royalty Reimbursement program for HLB resistant trees and technologies)

PEP FY 2024-25 Update #2

- Program Varieties: Lennon Early R20-T30 (Parson Brown), Lennon Early R21-T36 (Hamlin), Hamlin N14-10, OLL DC-3-36, OLL DC-3-40

- Nurseries reported strong growth, large canopies, and great tree health for all varieties

- Initial tests with rootstock grafting show positive results

Results Reported 6/30/2026

Variety	Lennon Early R20- T30 (Parson Brown)	Lennon Early R21-T36 (Hamlin)	Hamlin N14-10	OLL DC-3-36	OLL DC-3-40
Initial Increase Trees	606	606	1064	888	846
Additional Budded Trees	3,172	5,583	4,420	2,769	490
Orders Received	5,845	10,586	56,039	8,208	5,061

Citrus Research and Field Trials Foundation, Inc. Update



WHAT'S NEW AT CRAFT?

Tamara Wood
Interim Executive Director

CRAFT
CITRUS RESEARCH AND FIELD TRIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

ROOTED IN RESEARCH.
GROWING A STRONGER FUTURE.

CRAFT'S MISSION



Organized as a Direct Service Organization under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 2019

Mission to move lab and research solutions into commercial groves for commercial-scale field trials; collect data on results of commercial field trials; create an integrated data management solution



Initial goal of 5,000 acres enrolled in the program over two-year period



Originally focused on new, solid and reset plantings, Existing Tree Therapies added in 2023

CRAFT'S SUPPORT

Total Funding thru 2025-2026	$195,095,334
Grower Allocations	$185,755,427
Grower Payments Released (as of 7.30.2026)	$126,232,820

CRAFT'S SUCCESS

Seven Cycles of Traditional New Plantings

More than 33,000 acres and 5.5 Million newly planted trees under nearly 1,400 grower agreements

Four Rounds of Existing Tree Therapies

More than

107,000 acres of treated mature trees under more than 1,700 grower agreements

CRDF'S MISSION



Organized as a Direct Service Organization under the University of Florida in 2010

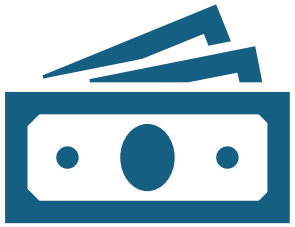


Mission to advance disease and production research and product development activities to ensure the survival and competitiveness of Florida's citrus growers through innovation and research

CRDF'S SUPPORT



Grower Box Tax



State and Federal Funding



Private Partnerships

More than $341 Million in funding thru 2025

CRDF'S SUCCESS

Funded Research Projects

More than 670 research projects have been funded by CRDF since 2010.

Promising Technologies, Therapies and Production Practices

Research advancing CRISPR technology in citrus, direct systemic injection of antimicrobials, more tolerant rootstocks/scions, and more.

GROWING A STRONGER FUTURE





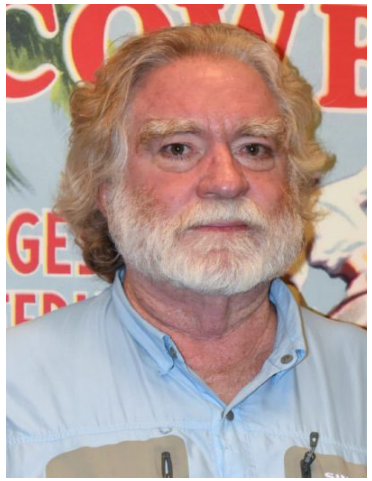
In 2026, the Florida Legislature enacted legislation requiring CRDF and CRAFT to merge by October 1, 2026, bringing basic research and commercial-scale field trials under one organization.

GROWING A STRONGER FUTURE: LEADERSHIP












GROWING A STRONGER FUTURE: ADVISEMENT

CRAFT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Dr. Fernando Alferez
University of Florida – SWFREC

Dr. Ozgur Batuman
University of Florida – SWFREC

Dr. Randall Niedz
USDA-ARS – U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory

Dr. Jawwad Qureshi
University of Florida – SWFREC

John Chater, Ph.D.
University of Florida - CREC

Ajia M. Paolillo
FDACS – Division of Plant Industry

GROWING A STRONGER FUTURE: ADVISEMENT

CRDF RESEARCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

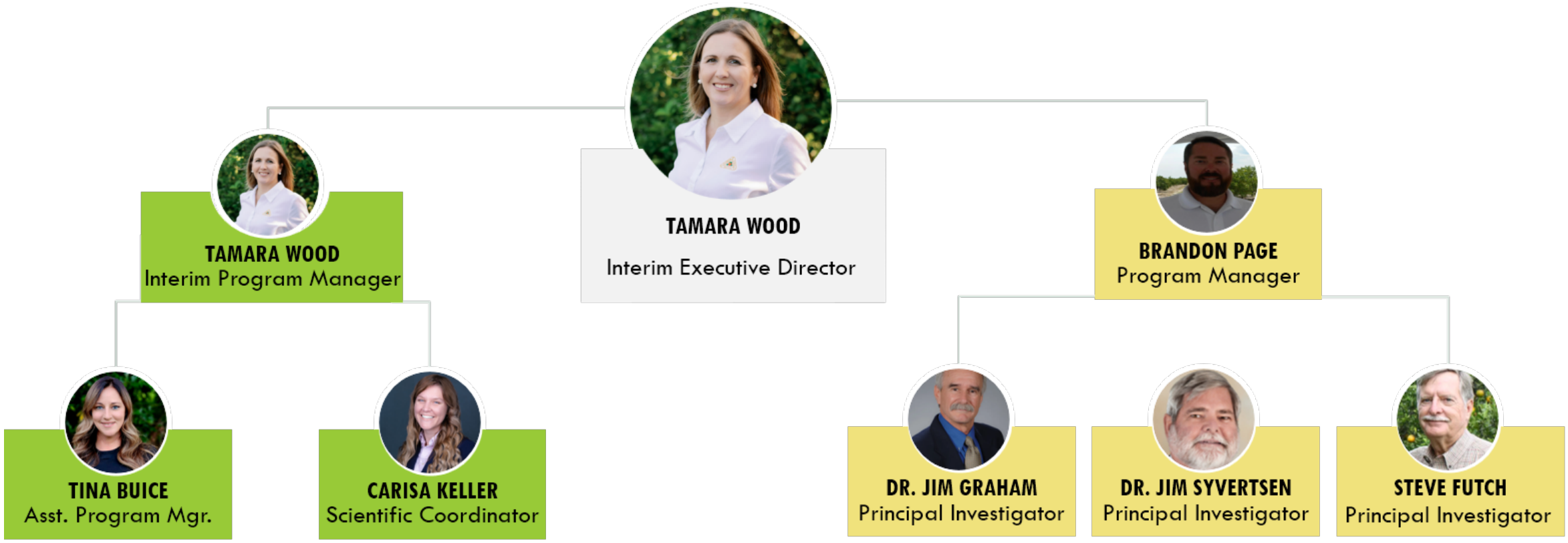
GROWERS

Deeley Hunt
Ed Leotti
Matt Machata
Charlie McKee
Riley McKenna
Aaron Nelson

RESEARCHERS

Dr. Brian Scully (USDA Retired)
Dr. Scott Adkins (USDA-ARS – U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory)
Dr. Chris Gunter (UF/IFAS)

GROWING A STRONGER FUTURE: STAFF



GROWING A STRONGER FUTURE: WHERE WE ARE

$164.5 MILLION – STATE FUNDING

- $160 MILLION FOR LARGE-SCALE FIELD TRIALS
- $4.5 MILLION FOR BASIC RESEARCH

Additional funding from the USDA-MAC will support the maintenance of existing projects, continued data collection, and administrative expenses.

CRAFT BASIC RESEARCH: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

$4.5 MILLION

- A portion of the $4.5 Million is already allocated for subsequent years of previously approved research projects.
- A Request for Proposals will be issued for basic research in the next couple months.
- The RFP and all details will be posted on the CRAFT website – www.craftfdn.org

CRAFT FIELD TRIALS:
CYCLE 8 & ETT ROUND FIVE APPLICATIONS

$160 MILLION+

- Applications are NOW OPEN!
- Applications close at 11:59 p.m. on October 30, 2026
- Three Programs
  - Existing Tree Therapies
  - Existing Tree Therapies Extensions
  - Cycle 8 Traditional New Tree Planting

CRAFT FIELD TRIALS:
EXISTING TREE THERAPIES ROUND FIVE

EXISTING TREE THERAPIES

Evaluating treatments designed to improve the health and productivity of mature citrus trees affected by HLB.

- NEW acreage
- Participation payment of **$450 per treated acre.**
- Approved treatments include, but are not limited to, brassinosteroids, 2,4-D, gibberellic acid, and the direct systemic injection of approved antimicrobials. Growers are welcome to submit applications for other treatments that will be considered by the CRAFT TWG for inclusion on a case-by-case basis.
- Participants commit to a **three-year evaluation period**, including annual treatment and harvest reporting and compliance with the grower participation agreement.



CRAFT FIELD TRIALS:
EXISTING TREE THERAPIES EXTENSION

EXISTING TREE THERAPIES EXTENSION

Evaluating the impact of continued use of approved treatments on trees previously enrolled in ETT Rounds 1-4.

- Participation payment of **$200 per treated acre.**
- Treatments utilized in the Extension program must be consistent with the treatment approved for use in the initial ETT agreement.
- Participants commit to an additional **one-year evaluation period**, including annual treatment and harvest reporting and compliance with the grower participation agreement.



CRAFT FIELD TRIALS:
CYCLE 8 TRADITIONAL NEW TREE PLANTINGS

TRADITIONAL NEW TREE PLANTINGS

Evaluating grower-selected rootstock and scion combinations under commercial growing conditions.

- Participation payment of at least **$35 per tree**
- Participants commit to submitting annual production data and complying with the grower participation agreement for a **period of six years** following planting
- Planted between **August 4, 2025* and June 30, 2028**
  (*trees that were included in Cycle 7 applications but not funded, and that were planted after January 1, 2025 may be eligible for application in Cycle 8)



CRAFT FIELD TRIALS:
CYCLE 8 TRADITIONAL NEW TREE PLANTINGS

TRADITIONAL NEW TREE PLANTINGS

Evaluating grower-selected rootstock and scion combinations under commercial growing conditions.

- Royalty Reimbursement Program
  - CRAFT will pay participating growers up to $6 per tree in reimbursement, for **ANY** commercially available tree or eligible biological delivery technology for which a royalty payment is required.
  - CRAFT has committed up to $4 million for the program.
  - Requesting FDOC to consider an additional $2 million in funding, continuing the program as established in Cycle 7.



CRAFT FIELD TRIALS:
CYCLE 7 ROYALTY REIMBURSEMENT RECAP

CYCLE 7 ROYALTY REIMBURSEMENT

- **$2M from FDOC to provide reimbursements to growers for eligible tree royalties**
  - **Hamlin N14-10**
  - **UF Sweet Orange OLL DC 3-36**
  - **UF Sweet Orange OLL DC 3-40**
  - **CarriCea or BeneCea Rootstock**

- **360,196 trees**
  - **46,640 Hamlin N14-10**
  - **16,010 OLL DC 3-36 or 3-40**
  - **303,642 Soilcea**



CRAFT FIELD TRIALS: QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE

CRAFT STAFF

Available to answer any questions.

- **Tamara Wood**
  tamara@craftfdn.org or 863.698.9276
- **Tina Buice**
  tina@craftfdn.org or 863.214.3731
- **Carisa Keller**
  carisa@craftfdn.org or 941.268.7495

FY2026/27 Program for Expedited Propagation

Non-recurring $2,000,000

- Exempt from state procurement requirements
- Agreement(s) must be in place by January 1, 2027
- Services and Funds end date - June 30, 2027

Funds in Section 80 of Specific Appropriation 2320 are provided to the Department of Citrus for the purpose of entering into agreements;

1. To increase the production of trees that show tolerance or resistance to citrus greening,
2. To advance technologies that produce tolerance or resistance to citrus greening, and
3. For the advancement of greening tolerant or resistant trees using clustered, regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats.

Program Outline

- Working with CRAFT as part of their Cycle 8 program

- Eligibility includes any commercially available tree or eligible biological delivery technology that shows HLB tolerance/ resistance for which a royalty payment is required was limited to specific emerging tree varieties
    - PEP FY25-26 was limited to specific emerging tree varieties

- Reimburse growers for royalty fees through CRAFT for up to $6 per tree dependent on documentation of applicable royalties and proof of payment

New Contract/ Same Vendor: Citrus Research and Field Trials Foundation

Business Unit: Scientific Research

DOC Contract Number: 26011

Amount: $2,000,000

Funding: 57101511003

Term: Execution – June 30, 2027

Status: New Contract

Purpose: To mitigate some of the royalty fees paid by growers for HLB tolerate/ resistant trees and technologies in Year 8 of Craft. The Department, through CRAFT, will reimburse growers provided documentation of royalty and proof of payment.

Recommendation: *Staff recommends approval*

Thank You