

Tab 1	SB 58 by Harrell (CO-INTRODUCERS) Arrington ; Animal Cremation
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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 Favorable JU FP	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0
2	Presentation on Robotics in Agriculture by UF/IFAS		Presented
3	Presentation on Aquaculture by Dr. Nicole Kirchhoff, Live Advantage Bait		Presented
4	Presentation on Florida Dairy Farms		Presented
5	Presentation on Arterial Rural Highway Projects		Presented
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.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Agriculture

BILL: SB 58

INTRODUCER: Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: Animal Cremation

DATE: November 17, 2025

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Becker	Becker	AG	Favorable
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).

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).

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.

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.

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 or accept deceased companion animals for cremation through a provider to make a copy of the provider's written description of services available to owners or their representatives; providing construction; requiring certain providers to include a certification with the returned animal's cremation remains; specifying requirements for the certification; providing that certain acts are unlawful; providing civil penalties for initial and subsequent offenses; providing circumstances under which a person commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice or an unfair method of competition in violation of certain provisions; providing for a private right of action; providing powers of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; requiring that certain fines collected by the department be paid into the General Inspection Trust Fund; authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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Section 1. Section 501.961, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

501.961 Animal cremation.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as "Sevilla's Law."

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Commingling of significant amounts of cremation remains from different companion animals" means the commingling of remains such that specific cremation remains cannot be attributed to a particular animal or the cremation remains attributed to one companion animal contain more than 1 percent by weight of cremation remains from one or more other companion animals. The term does not include the presence of, in the cremation remains of a companion animal, the remains of any creature that was on or contained within the body of that animal at the time of cremation, including parasites, insects, food, or creatures eaten by that companion animal.

(b) "Communal cremation" means a cremation process in which companion animals are cremated together without effective partitions or separation during the cremation process such that the commingling of significant amounts of cremation remains from different companion animals is likely or certain to occur.

(c) "Companion animal" or "animal" means a deceased animal that had a companion relationship or a pet relationship with its owner at the time of the animal's death.

(d) "Cremation remains" means the material remaining after the cremation of an animal, which may include ashes, skeletal remains, and other residue resulting from the incineration

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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process, and which may be pulverized or otherwise processed by the provider of cremation services.

(e) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

(f) "Individually partitioned cremation" means a cremation process in which the commingling of significant amounts of cremation remains from different companion animals is unlikely to occur and:

1. Only one companion animal at a time is cremated in the incinerator; or

2. More than one companion animal is cremated in the incinerator at the same time, but each of the animals is completely separated from the others by partitions during the cremation process.

(g) "On a regular basis" means that the person or business entity referring animal owners or bringing business to a provider:

1. Has an ongoing contractual or agency relationship with the provider relating to the cremation of companion animals;

2. Regularly receives compensation or consideration from the provider or animal owners relating to the cremation of companion animals by the provider; or

3. Refers or brings to the provider the business of more than five animal owners in an average month.

(h) "Provider" means a person, company, or other entity engaging in the business of cremating deceased companion animals in this state.

(3) WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES.—

(a) A provider of companion animal cremation services

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shall, without charge, provide to all of the following a written description of the services the provider offers:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. The department.

4. Any other person, upon request.

(b) The written description of services:

1. May be in the form of a brochure;

2. Must be provided in quantities sufficient to allow its distribution to animal owners whose business is being referred or brought to the provider;

3. Must include a detailed explanation of each service provided for each type or level of cremation service offered. If any part of the deceased companion animal will be removed, used, or sold by the provider before or after the cremation, the written description of services must disclose that fact; and

4. May not include false or misleading information. A written description of services is misleading if it:

a. 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 under this subsection;

b. Uses the terms "private" or "individual" with respect to any communal cremation procedure or with respect to an

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individually partitioned cremation procedure that will cremate more than one companion animal at the same time;

c. Uses the terms "individually partitioned" or "separate" with respect to a communal cremation process; or

d. 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.

(4) BUSINESS ENTITIES OR PERSONS REFERRING OR BRINGING BUSINESS TO A PROVIDER.—

(a) A veterinarian, pet shop, or other business entity or person referring owners of deceased animals, or persons making arrangements on an owner's behalf, to a provider on a regular basis shall, at the time of the referral, make a copy of the provider's written description of services available to such person.

(b) A veterinarian, pet shop, or other business entity or person accepting, on a regular basis, deceased companion animals for cremation through services obtained from a provider shall make a copy of the provider's written description of services available to each animal owner, or person making arrangements on the owner's behalf, from whom a deceased companion animal is accepted.

(c) A copy of the written description of services may be given to the animal owner, or the person making arrangements on the owner's behalf, at the time the services are offered.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, publishing or otherwise disseminating advertising for a provider of companion

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animal cremation services does not, in and of itself, constitute referring or bringing business to that provider.

(5) CERTIFICATION; PENALTY FOR FALSE CERTIFICATION.—If a provider's services include the return of the cremation remains of the animal, the provider must include a certification along with the returned cremation remains. The certification must declare that, to the best of the provider's knowledge and belief, except as otherwise specifically indicated on the certificate, the cremation and any other services specified were provided in accordance with the representations of the provider in the applicable portions of the provider's written description of services.

(6) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—It is unlawful for a provider:

(a) To prepare or distribute a written description of services which the provider knows or should know to be false or misleading. A first offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500, and each subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000 but not more than \$2,500.

(b) To intentionally fail to prepare or distribute a written description of services as required by this section. A first offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500, and each subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000 but not more than \$2,500.

(c) To knowingly make a false certification under subsection (5). A first offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500, and each subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000 but not more than \$2,500.

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175 (7) VIOLATION AS A DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE OR UNFAIR
 176 TRADE PRACTICE.—In addition to any fine imposed under subsection
 177 (6), a person who commits an act or a practice declared to be
 178 unlawful under subsection (6) or who violates this section
 179 commits an unfair method of competition or an unfair or
 180 deceptive act or practice in violation of part II of this
 181 chapter and is subject to the penalties and remedies provided
 182 for such violations.

183 (8) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—In addition to any other
 184 penalties or remedies provided by law, a person injured by a
 185 violation of this section may bring a civil action to recover
 186 damages or punitive damages, including costs, court costs, and
 187 attorney fees. This subsection may not be construed to limit any
 188 right or remedy provided under law.

189 (9) POWERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.—

190 (a) The department may conduct an investigation of any
 191 person or provider if there is an appearance that, either upon
 192 complaint or otherwise, a violation of this section or of any
 193 rule adopted or order issued pursuant to this section has been
 194 committed or is about to be committed.

195 (b) The department may issue and serve subpoenas and
 196 subpoenas duces tecum to compel the attendance of witnesses and
 197 the production of all books, accounts, records, and other
 198 documents and materials relevant to an examination or
 199 investigation. The department, or its duly authorized
 200 representative, may administer oaths and affirmations to any
 201 person.

202 (c) The department may enter an order imposing one or more
 203 of the penalties set forth in subsection (6) if the department

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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 following:

219 1. Issuing a notice of noncompliance pursuant to s.
 220 120.695.

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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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.



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
Rules

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle".

Senator Gayle Harrell
Senate District 31

Cc: Katherine Becker, Staff Director
Evan Denny, Committee Administrative Assistant

REPLY TO:

☐ 312 SE Denver Avenue, Stuart, Florida 34994 (772) 221-4019 FAX: (888) 263-7895
☐ 404 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5031

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore

Agricultural Robotics

Dr. Nathan S Boyd

Dr. Arnold Schumann

Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis

Dr. Henry Medeiros

UF | IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



AUTONOMOUS MOVEMENT

CROP MANAGEMENT

HARVEST

PERMANENT

SPECIALTY FIELD

ROW CROP

INDOOR

Navigation & Autonomy



Permanent Tractor & Platform



Tractor



Platform/Carrier



Scouting



Drone Application



Permanent Application



Smart Spraying & Other Application



Permanent Crop Care



Physical Weeding & Thinning



Permanent Harvesting



Field Harvesting



Indoor AGV



Indoor Scouting



Indoor Application & Protection



Indoor Crop Care



Indoor Harvesting



This landscape focuses on companies offering smart and autonomous robotic solutions used for growing food crops, not mechanization or fixed automation. The landscape is extensive, but not exhaustive. Companies appear on the landscape only once, though some offer solutions in multiple categories. Best effort has been made to place companies appropriately, but logo positions are not necessarily exact. Note that some solutions may be applicable across crop systems.

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

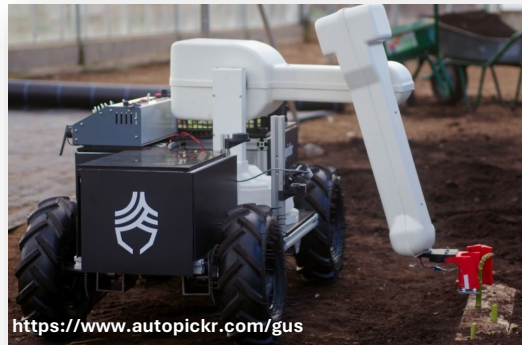


Emerging commercial applications

Harvesters



tomato



asparagus

Weeders



laser



mechanical

Sprayers



vineyards



orchards

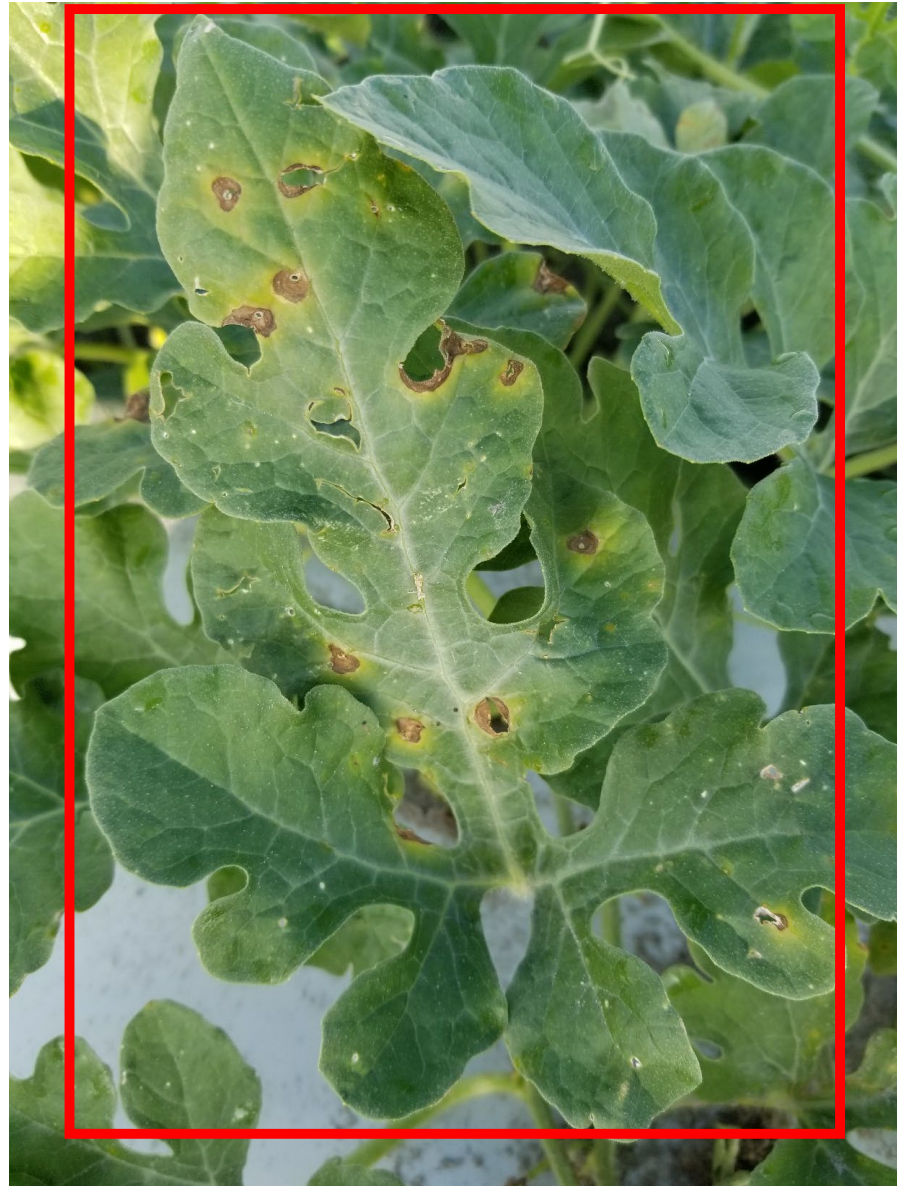
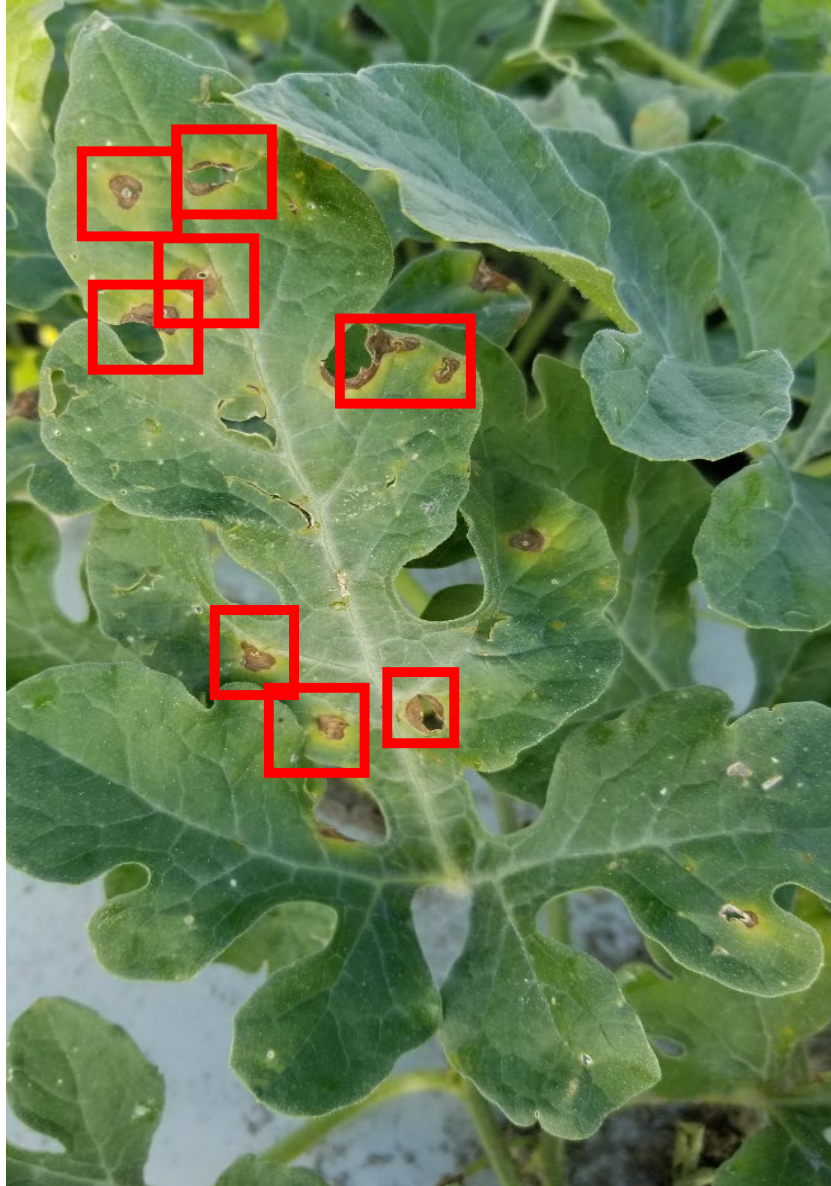
Agricultural Technology in 2025

Efficiency /
Automation

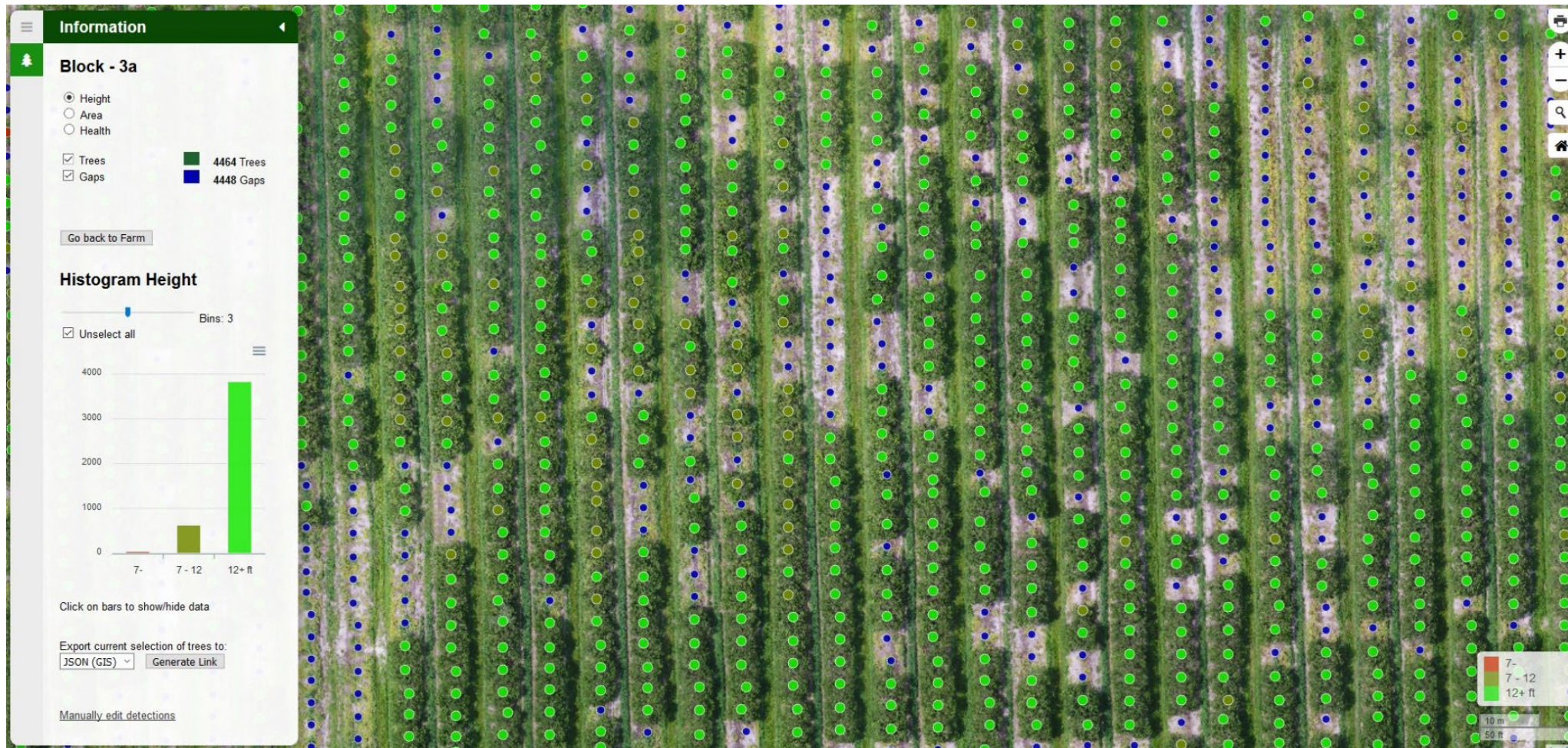


The background of the slide is a collage of fresh produce. On the left, there are three yellow potatoes. To their right is a vertical strip of fresh green spinach leaves. Further right is another vertical strip of ripe red strawberries. On the far right is a vertical strip of dark purple/black blackberries. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is centered over the middle of the collage, containing the text "2025 Dirty Dozen".

2025 Dirty Dozen

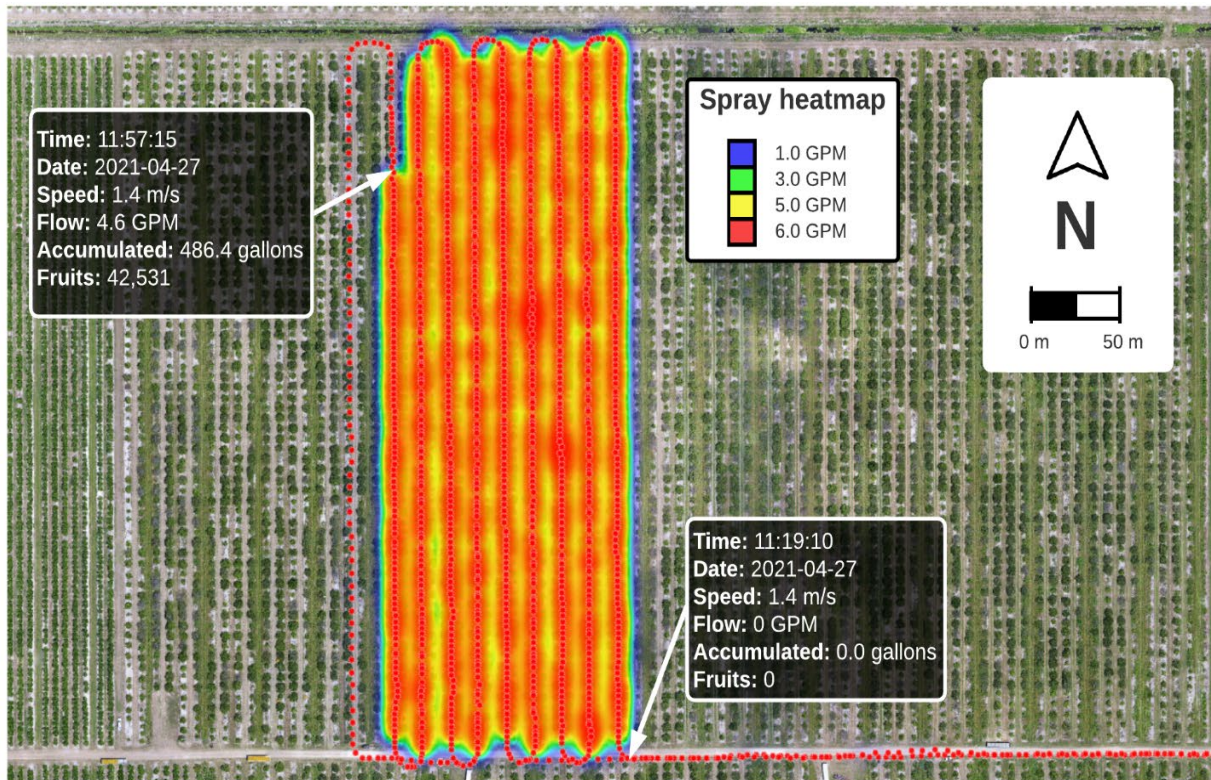


Agroview – <https://www.agintel.ai/>

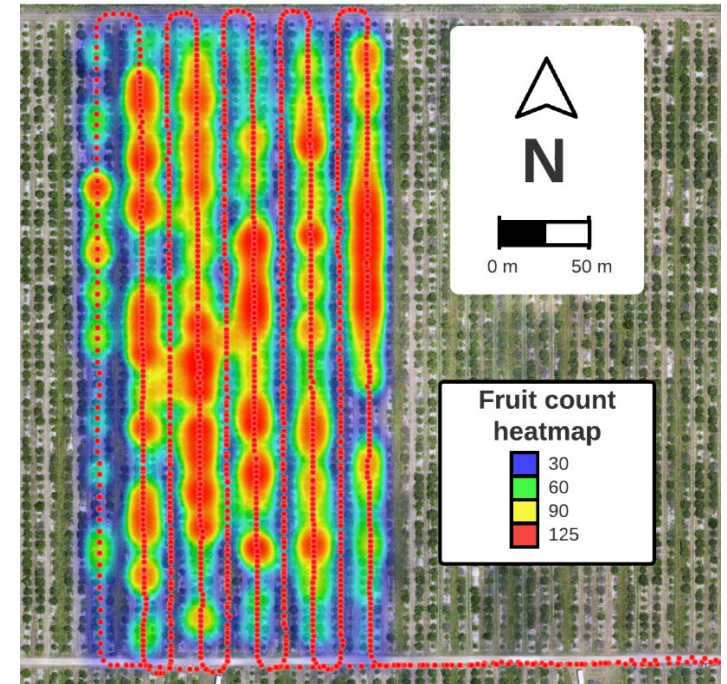


Smart Tree Sprayer using Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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



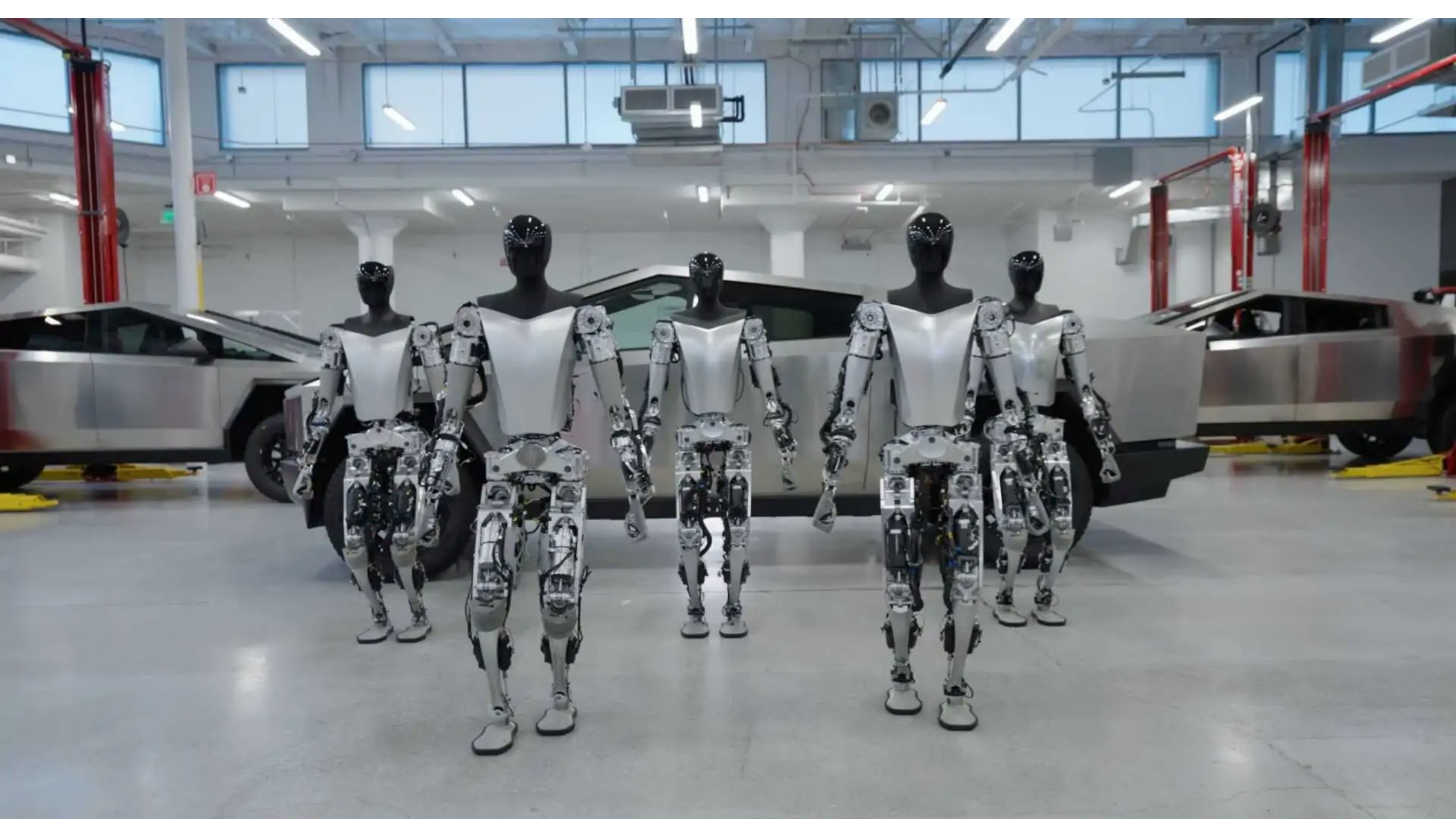
Aging farm operators

Limited domestic labor

Labor shortages

Population trends



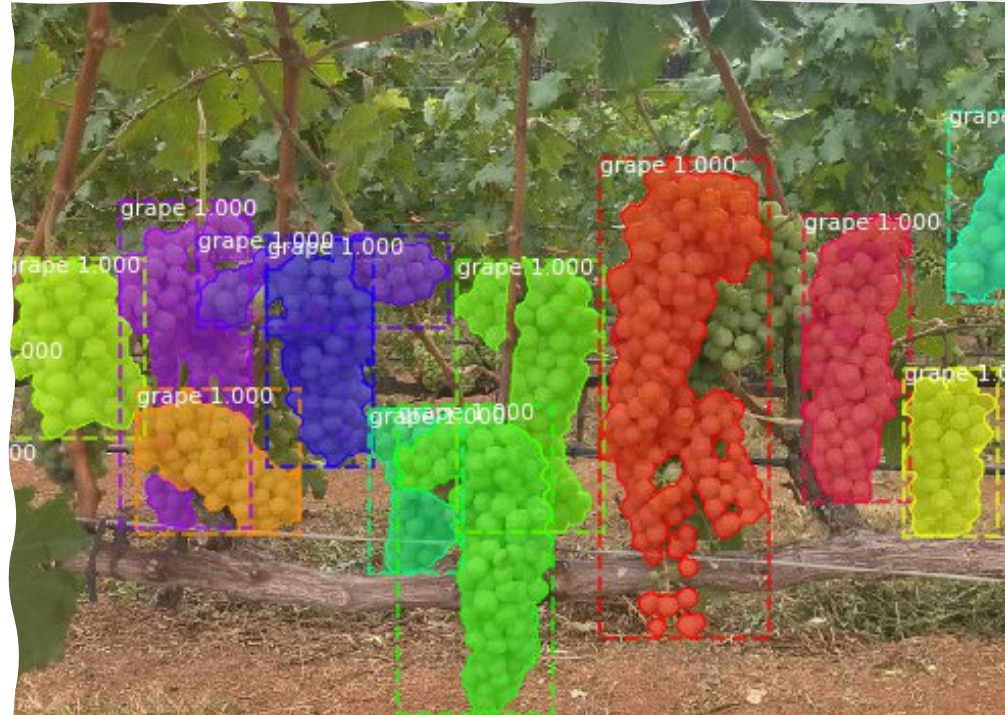




THE TERMINATOR

Robotic automation in agriculture

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



Autonomous tractors





GREENFIELD ROBOTICS



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





FLORIDACOMMERCE



AgTech as a new target industry

Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture





The Future Is Bright



Nathan S Boyd

Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
University of Florida

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Ag Robotics
Bill Number or Topic

11/18/2025
Meeting Date

Agriculture
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Dr. Nathan Boyd Phone 813-419-6613

Address Gulf Coast Research and Education Center Email nboyd@ufl.edu
Street 14625 C.R. 672
Balm FL 33598
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.



I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:



I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

Florida Aquaculture

Dr. Nicole Kirchhoff

CEO and Owner

Live Advantage Bait LLC





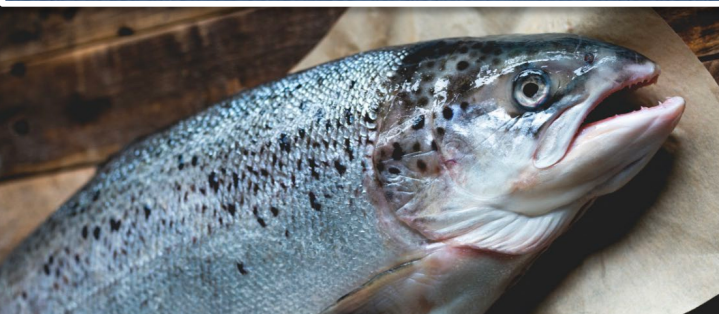
**90% U.S. seafood is imported
\$25 billion trade gap**



Florida Aquaculture



900 licensed farms



\$200 Million



Challenges

**Land Stability and
Legal Protections**

Access to Capital

**Lack of Insurance
and Hurricane
Vulnerability**

**Water Quality-
barrier 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

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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18 Nov 2025

Meeting Date

Aquaculture 13

Bill Number or Topic

Ag.

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Nicole Kirchhoff

Phone

561-818-0173

Address

4270 SW Country Place

Email

NKirchhoff@gmail.com

Street

Palm City

FL

334990

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against



Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Agriculture 13
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

11/18/25
Meeting Date
Senate AG Cmtte
Committee

Name Adrienne Johnson Phone 850-524-0916

Address 3495 Gardenview Way Email adriennejtsaa@gmail.com
Street

Tallahassee FL 32309
City State Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida shellfish
Aquaculture Association

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)



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 Hawthorne, 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:





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...



**CHALLENGES
AHEAD**



- 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



The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



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representing:

☐

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

11-18-25

Meeting Date

Dairy 14

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jacob Larson

Phone _____

Address P.O. Box 2122

Email _____

Street

Okeechobee

FL

34973

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



FLORIDA'S RURAL & ARTERIAL ROADWAYS

Huiwei Shen

Chief Planner, Florida Department of Transportation

Florida Senate Committee on Agriculture

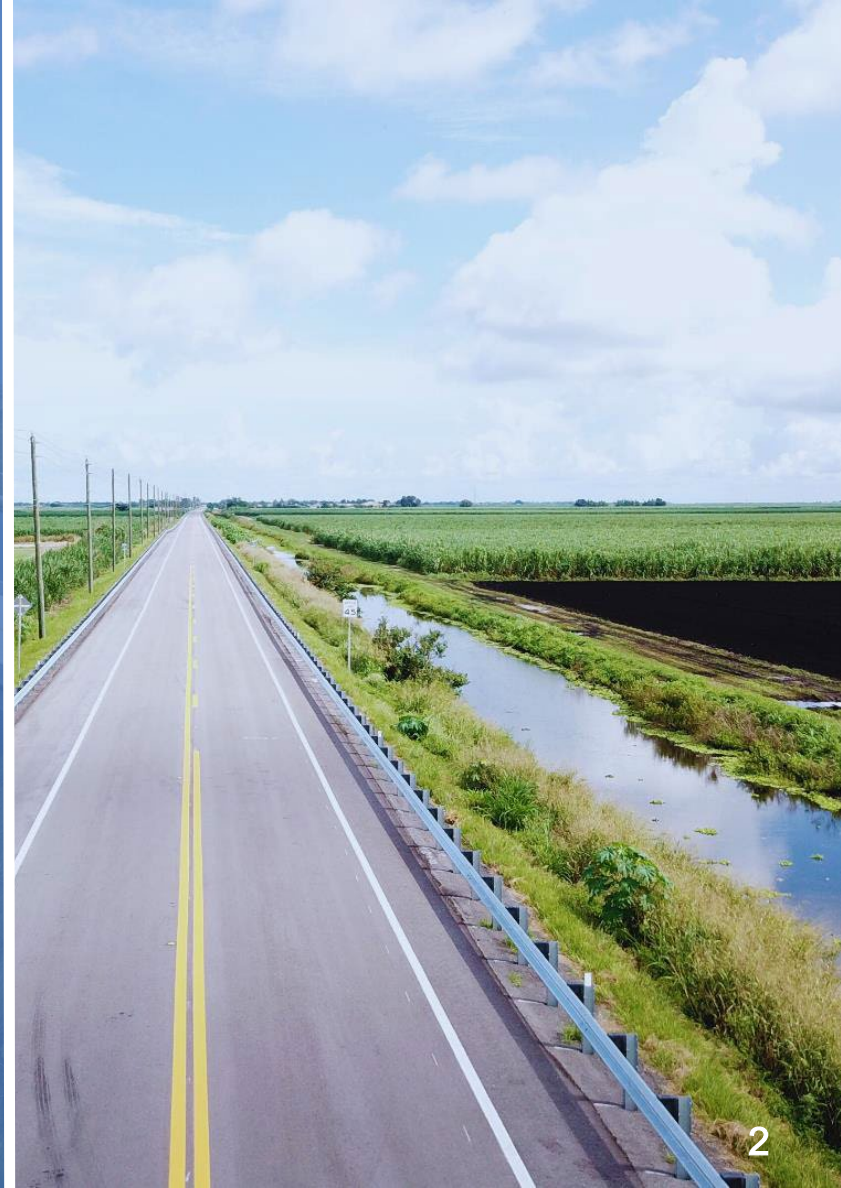
November 18, 2025



ARTERIAL HIGHWAY PROGRAM

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

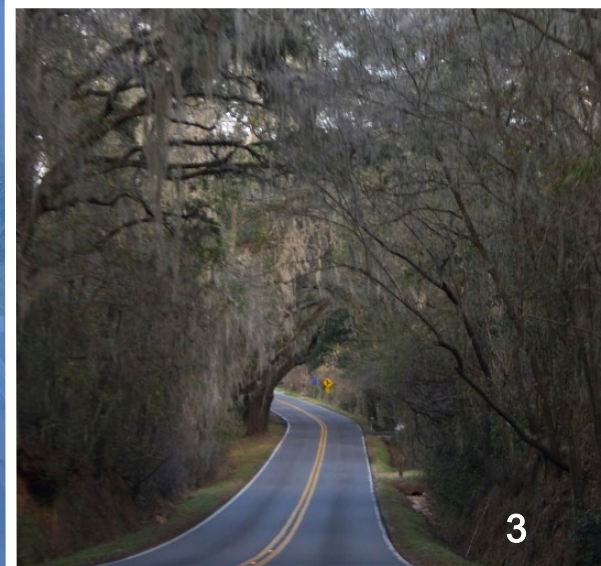
- Maintain safety on the State Highway System
- Relieve congestion on Florida's roadways
- Connect Florida's rural communities to the state's economic centers
- Provide a reliable and resilient state transportation system to support the movement of both people and goods





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

Uses:

- Improves arterial highways with controlled access facilities

Eligibility:

- Grade Separations
- Lane Widening
- New Road Construction

ARTERIAL WIDENING PROGRAM

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

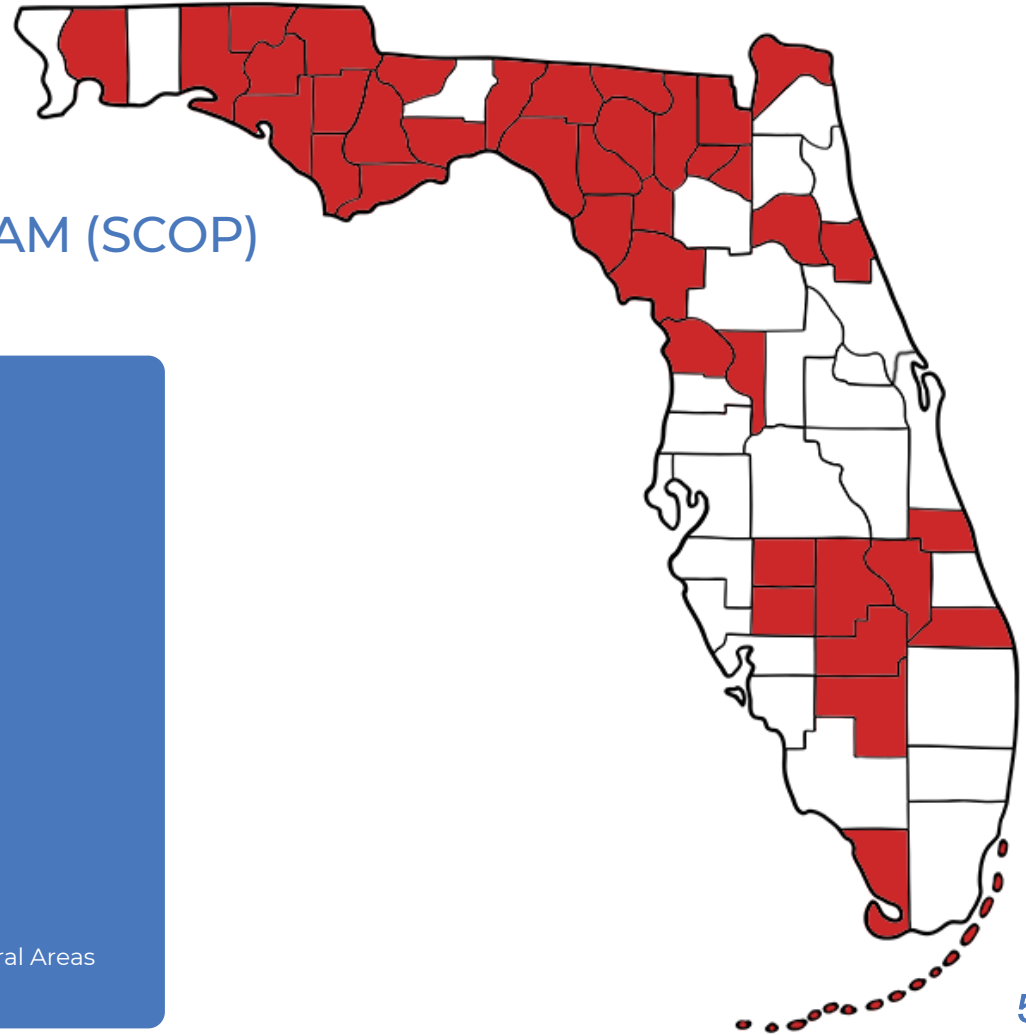
Funding:

- 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)

Uses:

- Resurfacing and reconstruction projects on County Roads

Eligibility:

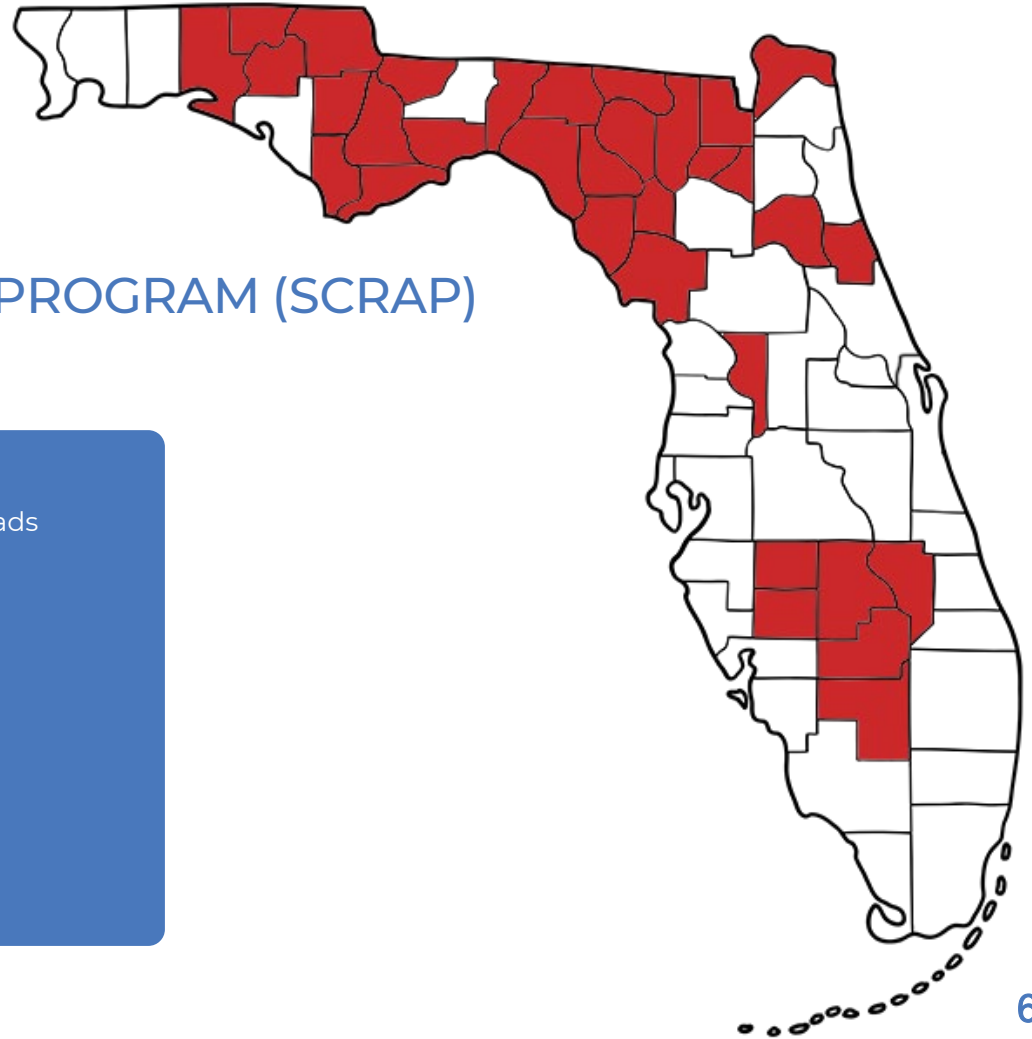
- Based on eligible counties; Population <75,000

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

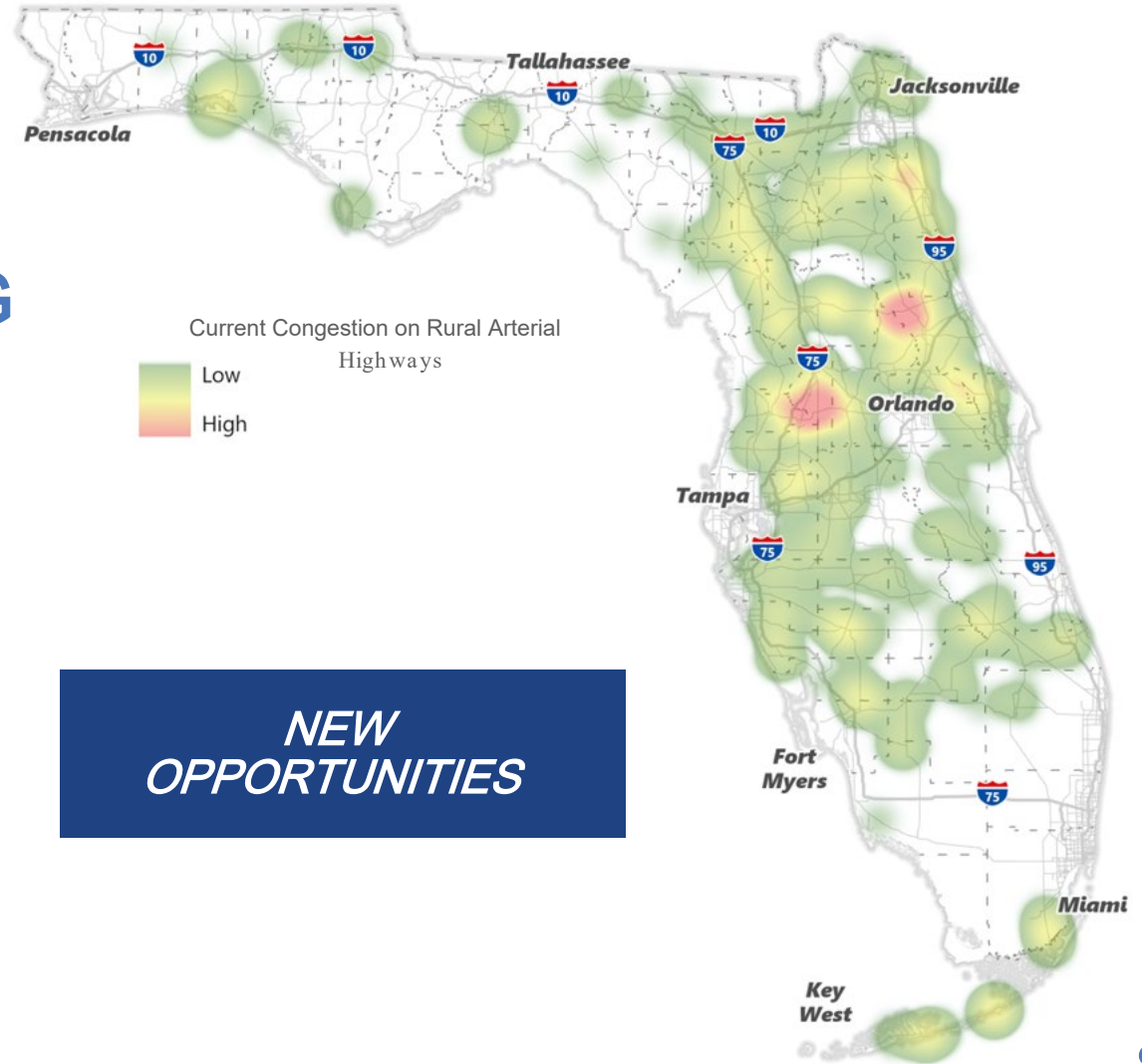
MORE DRIVERS



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



*NEW
OPPORTUNITIES*





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

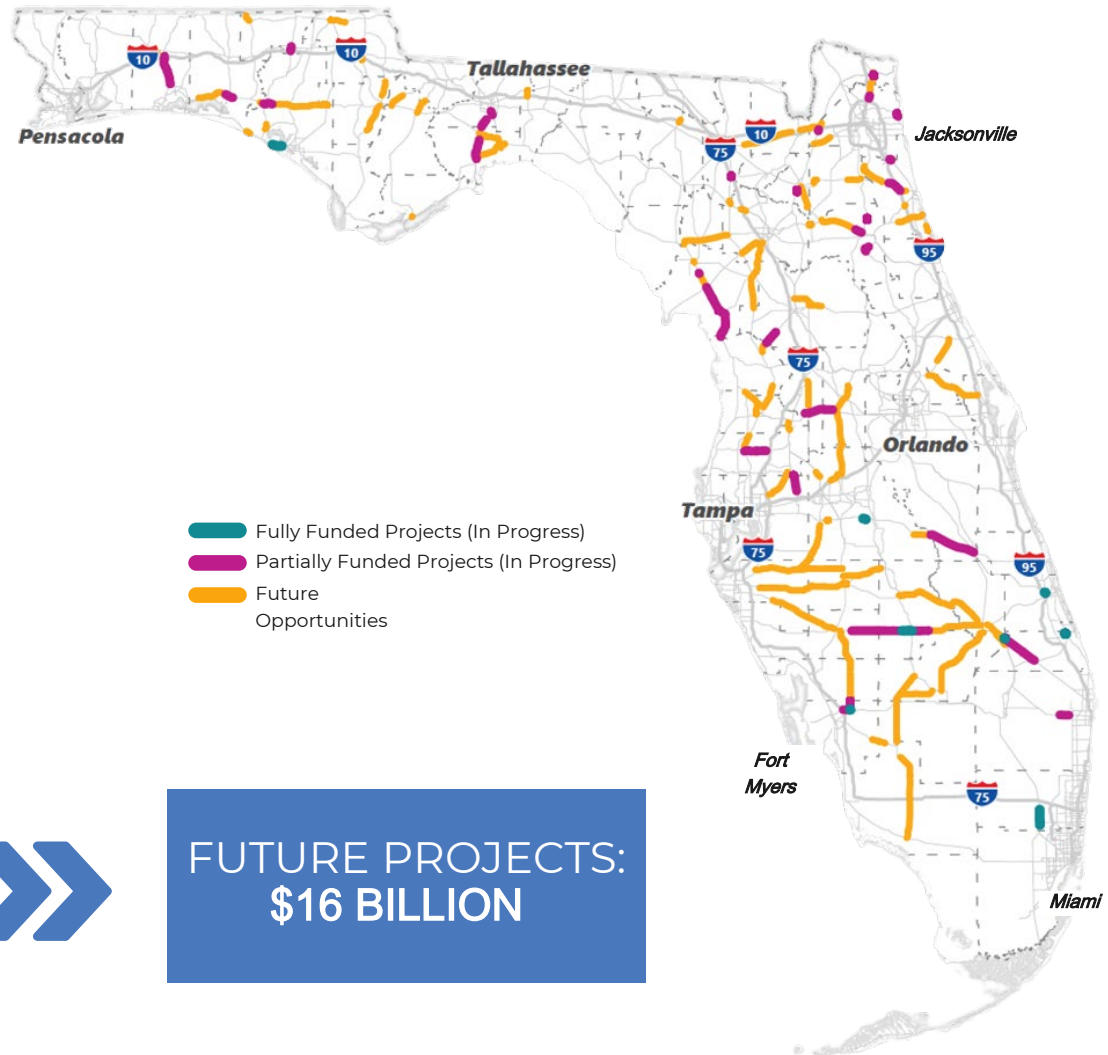
Unfunded Amount: \$4.58 Billion

UNFUNDED

Total Projects: 123

Programmed Amount: \$0

Unfunded Amount: \$11.42 Billion



**FUTURE PROJECTS:
\$16 BILLION**



THANK YOU

Jack Rogers
Florida Department of Transportation
Jack.Rogers@dot.state.fl.us
(850) 414-4147

November 18 2025

Meeting Date

Senate Committee on Agriculture

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Rural Arterial Roads 15

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Huiwei Shen**

Phone **850-414-4147**

Address **605 Suwannee Street**

Email **jack.rogers@dot.state.fl.us**

Street

Tallahassee

Florida

32399

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 301

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Agriculture Committee **Judge:**

Started: 11/18/2025 3:32:10 PM

Ends: 11/18/2025 4:38:33 PM

Length: 01:06:24

3:32:10 PM	Chair Truenow calls meeting to order
3:32:14 PM	Roll call
3:32:30 PM	Pledge of Allegiance
3:32:50 PM	Chair Truenow
3:33:15 PM	Tab 1: SB 58 by Harrell, Animal Cremation
3:33:27 PM	Senator Harrell
3:38:55 PM	Chair Truenow
3:39:10 PM	Senator Harrell closes
3:39:21 PM	Roll call
3:39:44 PM	Tab 2: Presentation on Robotics in Agriculture by Dr. Nathan Boyd, UF/IFAS
3:39:50 PM	Chair Truenow reports SB 58
3:40:09 PM	Chair Truenow
3:40:31 PM	Dr. Boyd
3:50:08 PM	Vice Chair Grall
3:50:25 PM	Tab 3: Presentation on Aquaculture by Dr. Nicole Kirchhoff, Live Advantage Bait
3:50:46 PM	Dr. Kirchhoff
4:03:00 PM	Vice Chair Grall
4:03:03 PM	Questions:
4:03:10 PM	Bernard
4:03:26 PM	Dr. Kirchhoff
4:04:27 PM	Appearance Forms:
4:04:40 PM	Adrienne Johnson, Florida Shellfish Aquaculture Association
4:06:23 PM	Vice Chair Grall
4:06:30 PM	Tab 4: Presentation on Florida Dairy Farms by Florida Farmers Jacob Larson and Kevin Lussier
4:06:55 PM	Kevin Lussier
4:13:35 PM	Questions:
4:13:45 PM	Senator Burton
4:14:00 PM	Lussier
4:14:28 PM	Vice Chair Grall
4:14:51 PM	Jacob Larson
4:22:08 PM	Questions:
4:22:10 PM	Chair Truenow
4:22:25 PM	Jacob Larson
4:22:48 PM	Truenow
4:22:54 PM	Larson
4:23:31 PM	Chair Truenow
4:23:40 PM	Tab 5: Presentation on Arterial Rural Highway Projects by Huiwei Shen, FDOT
4:24:06 PM	Huiwei Shen, FDOT
4:35:40 PM	Questions:
4:35:44 PM	Chair Truenow
4:36:00 PM	Huiwei Shen
4:36:43 PM	Senator Bernard
4:37:10 PM	Huiwei Shen
4:37:22 PM	Chair Truenow makes closing remarks
4:38:27 PM	Meeting Adjourned