

Tab 1	SB 210 by Harrell ; Animal Cremation
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Tab 2	SJR 318 by Truenow ; Identical to H 01215 Ad Valorem Tax Exemption
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The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

AGRICULTURE
Senator Truenow, Chair
Senator Grall, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2025**TIME:** 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**PLACE:** 301 Senate Building**MEMBERS:** Senator Truenow, Chair; Senator Grall, Vice Chair; Senators Bernard, Boyd, Burton, and Rouson

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 210 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; providing that the written description may not contain false or misleading information; providing that certain acts are unlawful; providing civil penalties for initial and subsequent offenses, etc. AG 02/18/2025 Favorable JU FP	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0
2	SJR 318 Truenow	Ad Valorem Tax Exemption; Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to exempt certain tangible personal property from ad valorem taxation, etc. AG 02/18/2025 Favorable FT AP	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0
3	Presentation by Traci Deen, President and CEO of Conservation Florida		Presented
4	Presentation by Dr.Jamie Ellis, Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida		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 210

INTRODUCER: Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: Animal Cremation

DATE: February 17, 2025

REVISED:

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Becker	Becker	AG	Favorable
2.			JU	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 210 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.

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 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

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).

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 to owners or their representatives. It requires providers to include a certification with the

² <https://sevillaslaw.com/sevilla%E2%80%99s-story> (Last visited February 14, 2025).

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, 2025.

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 \$258,714 in fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$177,852 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.

By Senator Harrell

31-00518-25

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to animal cremation; creating s.
3 501.961, F.S.; providing a short title; defining
4 terms; requiring a provider of companion animal
5 cremation services to provide certain individuals and
6 entities with a written description of the services
7 the provider offers; requiring that the written
8 description include a detailed explanation of each
9 service offered; providing that the written
10 description may not contain false or misleading
11 information; requiring certain persons or entities
12 that make referrals to providers or accept deceased
13 companion animals for cremation through a provider to
14 make a copy of the provider's written description of
15 services available to owners or their representatives;
16 providing construction; requiring certain providers to
17 include a certification with the returned animal's
18 cremation remains; specifying requirements for the
19 certification; providing that certain acts are
20 unlawful; providing civil penalties for initial and
21 subsequent offenses; providing circumstances under
22 which a person commits an unfair or deceptive act or
23 practice or an unfair method of competition in
24 violation of certain provisions; providing for a
25 private right of action; providing powers of the
26 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
27 requiring that certain fines collected by the
28 department be paid into the General Inspection Trust
29 Fund; authorizing the department to adopt rules;

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

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

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(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 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

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in this state.

(3) WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES.—

(a) A provider of companion animal cremation services 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 offered 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

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117 this subsection;

118 b. Uses the terms "private" or "individual" with respect to
 119 any communal cremation procedure or with respect to an
 120 individually partitioned cremation procedure that will cremate
 121 more than one companion animal at the same time;

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

124 d. Includes any text, picture, illustration, or combination
 125 thereof, or uses any layout, typography, or color scheme, which
 126 reasonably causes confusion about the nature of the services to
 127 be provided or obstructs certain parts of the written
 128 description of services.

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

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

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

144 (c) A copy of the written description of services may be
 145 given to the animal owner, or the person making arrangements on

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146 the owner's behalf, at the time the services are offered.

147 (d) For purposes of this subsection, publishing or
 148 otherwise disseminating advertising for a provider of companion
 149 animal cremation services does not, in and of itself, constitute
 150 referring or bringing business to that provider.

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

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

162 (a) To prepare or distribute a written description of
 163 services which the provider knows or should know to be false or
 164 misleading. A first offense is punishable by a fine of at least
 165 \$1,001 but not more than \$1,500, and each subsequent offense is
 166 punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000 but not more than
 167 \$2,500.

168 (b) To intentionally fail to prepare or distribute a
 169 written description of services as required by this section. A
 170 first offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$1,001 but not
 171 more than \$1,500, and each subsequent offense is punishable by a
 172 fine of at least \$2,000 but not more than \$2,500.

173 (c) To knowingly make a false certification under
 174 subsection (5). A first offense is punishable by a fine of at

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175 least \$1,001 but not more than \$1,500, and each subsequent
 176 offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000 but not more
 177 than \$2,500.

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

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

192 (9) POWERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.—

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

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

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204 person.

205 (c) The department may enter an order imposing one or more
 206 of the penalties set forth in subsection (6) if the department
 207 finds that a provider or a person or business entity that
 208 regularly refers animal owners to a provider, or an agent, a
 209 servant, or an employee thereof:

210 1. Violated or is operating in violation of this section or
 211 department rule or order;

212 2. Refused or failed, or any of its principal officers
 213 refused or failed, after notice, to produce any records of such
 214 provider, person, or business entity or to disclose any
 215 information required to be disclosed under this section or
 216 department rules; or

217 3. Made a material false statement in response to any
 218 department request or investigation.

219 (d) Upon a finding as set forth in paragraph (c), the
 220 department may enter an order doing one or more of the
 221 following:

222 1. Issuing a notice of noncompliance pursuant to s.
 223 120.695.

224 2. Issuing a cease and desist order that directs the
 225 provider, person, or business entity to cease and desist
 226 specified activities.

227 3. Imposing an administrative fine in the Class II category
 228 pursuant to s. 570.971 for each act or omission.

229 4. Imposing an administrative fine in the Class III
 230 category pursuant to s. 570.971 for each act or omission that
 231 involves fraud or deception.

232 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the

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233 administrative proceedings that could result in the entry of an
234 order imposing any of the penalties specified in paragraph (d)
235 are governed by chapter 120.

236 (f) All fines collected by the department under paragraph
237 (d) must be paid into the General Inspection Trust Fund.

238 (10) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—The department may adopt rules
239 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

240 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.



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

February 4, 2025

Senator Truenow
304 Senate Office Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Truenow,

I respectfully request that SB 210 –Animal Cremation be placed on the next available agenda for the Agriculture Committee.

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:

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Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore

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: SJR 318

INTRODUCER: Senator Truenow

SUBJECT: Ad Valorem Tax Exemption

DATE: February 18, 2025 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Burse	Becker	AG	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	FT	_____
3.	_____	_____	AP	_____

I. Summary:

SJR 318 proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to permit the legislature to provide ad valorem tax relief for tangible personal property on agricultural land.

If adopted by the Legislature, the proposed amendment will be submitted to Florida’s electors for approval or rejection at the next general election in November 2026.

If approved by at least 60 percent of the electors, the proposed amendment will take effect on January 1, 2027.

II. Present Situation:

General Overview of Property Taxation

The ad valorem tax or “property tax” is an annual tax levied by counties, municipalities, school districts, and some special districts. The tax is based on the taxable value of property as of January 1 of each year.¹ The property appraiser annually determines the “just value”² of property within the taxing jurisdiction and then applies relevant exclusions, assessment limitations, and exemptions to determine the property’s “taxable value.”³ Property tax bills are mailed in

¹ Both real property and tangible personal property are subject to tax. Section 192.001(12), F.S., defines “real property” as land, buildings, fixtures, and all other improvements to land. Section 192.001(11)(d), F.S., defines “tangible personal property” as all goods, chattels, and other articles of value capable of manual possession and whose chief value is intrinsic to the article itself.

² Property must be valued at “just value” for purposes of property taxation, unless the Florida Constitution provides otherwise. FLA. CONST. art VII, s. 4. Just value has been interpreted by the courts to mean the fair market value that a willing buyer would pay a willing seller for the property in an arm’s-length transaction. *See, e.g., Walter v. Schuler*, 176 So. 2d 81 (Fla. 1965); *Deltona Corp. v. Bailey*, 336 So. 2d 1163 (Fla. 1976); *S. Bell Tel. & Tel. Co. v. Dade Cnty.*, 275 So. 2d 4 (Fla. 1973).

³ *See* s. 192.001(2) and (16), F.S.

November of each year based on the previous January 1 valuation, and payment is due by March 31 of the following year.⁴

The Florida Constitution prohibits the state from levying ad valorem taxes,⁵ and it limits the Legislature’s authority to provide for property valuations at less than just value, unless expressly authorized.⁶

Ad Valorem Taxation of Tangible Personal Property

Article VII, section 1, also grants exclusive authority to local governments to levy ad valorem taxes on tangible personal property.⁷ The Florida Constitution includes the following exemptions and authorization for exemptions for tangible personal property:

- Section 1 specifies that motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, trailers, trailer coaches, and mobile homes are subject to license taxes, but may not be subject to ad valorem taxes.
- Under section 3, household goods and personal effects are granted an exemption of at least \$1,000.
- Local governments are authorized under section 3 to grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, which may apply to tangible personal property.
- Also exempt under section 3 is \$25,000 of the assessed value of tangible personal property⁸, and the assessed value of solar or renewable energy devices may be exempt pursuant to general law⁹.
- Under section 4, tangible personal property “held for sale as stock in trade” may be exempted from taxation.¹⁰

Agricultural Land Valuation

Property appraisers annually classify, for assessment purposes, all lands within a county as either agricultural or nonagricultural.¹¹ Only lands that are used primarily for “bona fide agricultural purposes” shall be classified agricultural.¹² In determining whether the use of the land for agricultural purposes is bona fide, the following factors may be taken into consideration:

- The length of time the land has been so used.
- Whether the use has been continuous.
- The purchase price paid.
- Size, as it relates to specific agricultural use, but a minimum acreage may not be required for agricultural assessment.

⁴ Sections 197.162 and 197.322, F.S.; *see also* FLA. DEP’T OF REVENUE, *Florida Property Tax Calendar* (Dec. 2016), available at: <https://floridarevenue.com/property/Documents/taxcalendar.pdf>.

⁵ FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 1(a)

⁶ FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 4.

⁷ *See also* FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 9(a).

⁸ Section 196.183, F.S., specifies the conditions for the general exemption of \$25,000 of the assessed value of tangible personal property.

⁹ Section 196.182, F.S., specifies the conditions for exemption of renewable energy source devices.

¹⁰ This exemption for inventory is restated at section 196.185, F.S., and inventory is defined at section 192.001(11)(c), F.S.

¹¹ Section 193.461(1), F.S.

¹² Section 193.461(3)(b), F.S.

- Whether an indicated effort has been made to care sufficiently and adequately for the land in accordance with accepted commercial agricultural practices, including, without limitation, fertilizing, liming, tilling, mowing, reforestation, and other accepted agricultural practices.
- Whether the land is under lease and, if so, the effective length, terms, and conditions of the lease.
- Such other factors as may become applicable.

When the land is classified as agricultural, the property appraiser shall consider the following use factors only:

- The quantity and size of the property;
- The condition of the property;
- The present market value of the property as agricultural land;
- The income produced by the property;
- The productivity of land in its present use;
- The economic merchantability of the agricultural product.
- Such other agricultural factors as may from time to time become applicable, which are reflective of the standard present practices of agricultural use and production.¹³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to permit the legislature to provide ad valorem tax relief for tangible personal property on agricultural land.

If adopted by the Legislature, the proposed amendment will be submitted to Florida's electors for approval or rejection at the next general election in November 2026.

The joint resolution also provides the ballot statement, which will appear on the November 2026 ballot if adopted by the Legislature, as follows:

AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATURE TO EXEMPT TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY ON AGRICULTURAL LAND FROM TAXATION.—Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, beginning with the 2027 tax roll, to exempt tangible personal property located on land classified as agricultural, used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land from ad valorem taxation.

If approved by at least 60 percent of the electors, the proposed amendment will take effect on January 1, 2027.

¹³ Section 193.461(6)(a), F.S.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The mandate provisions in Article VII, section 18 of the Florida Constitution, do not apply to joint resolutions.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

Article XI, s. 1 of the Florida Constitution authorizes the Legislature to propose amendments to the Florida Constitution by joint resolution approved by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house. Article XI, s. 5(a) of the Florida Constitution requires the amendment be placed before the electorate at the next general election¹⁴ held more than 90 days after the proposal has been filed with the Secretary of State or at a special election held for that purpose. Constitutional amendments submitted to the electors must be printed in clear and unambiguous language on the ballot.¹⁵

Article XI, s. 5(d) of the Florida Constitution requires proposed amendments or constitutional revisions to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county where a newspaper is published. The amendment or revision must be published once in the 10th week and again in the 6th week immediately preceding the week the election is held.

Article XI, s. 5(e) of the Florida Constitution requires approval by 60 percent of voters for a constitutional amendment to take effect. The amendment, if approved, becomes effective on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following the election, or on such other date as may be specified in the amendment.

¹⁴ Section 97.021(16), F.S., defines "general election" as an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even-numbered years, for the purpose of filling national, state, county, and district offices and for voting on constitutional amendments not otherwise provided for by law.

¹⁵ Section 101.161(1), F.S.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

If approved by 60 percent of voters in November 2026, beginning with the 2027 tax roll, landowners with tangible personal property on agricultural land will be exempt from ad valorem taxes. This will result in an indeterminate positive fiscal impact as landowners take advantage of ad valorem tax savings

C. Government Sector Impact:

Article XI, Section 5(d) of the Florida Constitution requires proposed amendments or constitutional revisions to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county where a newspaper is published. The amendment or revision must be published in the 10th week and again in the 6th week immediately preceding the week the election is held.

The Division of Elections (division) within the Department of State pays for publication costs to advertise all constitutional amendments in both English and Spanish,¹⁶ typically paid from non-recurring General Revenue funds.¹⁷ Accurate cost estimates for the next constitutional amendment advertising cannot be determined until the total number of amendments to be advertised is known and updated quotes are obtained from newspapers.

There is an unknown additional cost for the printing and distributing of the constitutional amendments, in poster or booklet form, in English and Spanish, for each of the 67 Supervisors of Elections to post or make available at each polling room or each voting site, as required by s. 101.171, F.S. Historically, the division has printed and distributed booklets that include the ballot title, ballot summary, text of the constitutional amendment, and, if applicable, the financial impact statement. Beginning in 2020, the summary of such financial information statements was also included as part of the booklets.¹⁸

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

¹⁶ Pursuant to Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (52 U.S.C.A. § 10503)

¹⁷ See Ch. 2020-111, Specific Appropriation 3132, Laws of Fla.

¹⁸ Section 100.371(13)(e)4., F.S. See also Ch. 2019-64, s. 3, Laws of Fla.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This resolution amends section 3, Article VII of the Florida Constitution.

This resolution also creates a new section in Article XII of the Florida Constitution.

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.

By Senator Truenow

13-00670-25

2025318__

Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 3 of Article VII and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to exempt certain tangible personal property from ad valorem taxation.

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

That the following amendment to Section 3 of Article VII and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.—

(a) All property owned by a municipality and used exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such portions of property as are used predominantly for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.

(b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to every head of a family residing in this state, household goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less

Page 1 of 5

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

13-00670-25

2025318__

than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less than five hundred dollars.

(c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law. Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and improvements to real property related to the expansion of an existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal property of such new business and tangible personal property related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.

(d) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad

Page 2 of 5

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

13-00670-25 2025318__

valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law.

(e) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein:

(1) Twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of property subject to tangible personal property tax shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation.

(2) The assessed value of solar devices or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax may be exempt from ad valorem taxation, subject to limitations provided by general law.

(3) Tangible personal property that meets all of the following conditions shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation:

a. Located on property classified as agricultural land, as specified by general law.

b. Used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities.

c. Owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land.

(f) There shall be granted an ad valorem tax exemption for real property dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes, including real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or by other perpetual conservation protections, as defined by general law.

13-00670-25 2025318__

(g) By general law and subject to the conditions specified therein, each person who receives a homestead exemption as provided in section 6 of this article; who was a member of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard; and who was deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature shall receive an additional exemption equal to a percentage of the taxable value of his or her homestead property. The applicable percentage shall be calculated as the number of days during the preceding calendar year the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature divided by the number of days in that year.

ARTICLE XII

SCHEDULE

Ad valorem exemption for tangible personal property on land classified as agricultural.—This section and the amendment to Section 3 of Article VII, which authorizes the legislature to provide for a tax exemption for certain tangible personal property, apply beginning with the 2027 tax roll.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be placed on the ballot:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3

ARTICLE XII

AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATURE TO EXEMPT TANGIBLE PERSONAL

13-00670-25

2025318__

117 PROPERTY ON AGRICULTURAL LAND FROM TAXATION.—Proposing an
118 amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the
119 Legislature, beginning with the 2027 tax roll, to exempt
120 tangible personal property located on land classified as
121 agricultural, used in the production of agricultural products or
122 for agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or
123 leaseholder of the agricultural land from ad valorem taxation.

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

2/18/25

Meeting Date

Agriculture

Committee

STR 318

Bill Number or Topic

Name

Tripp Hunter

Phone

850-668-2825

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Address

201 S Monroe

Email

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

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 Farm Bureau

☐ 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)

2/18/25

Meeting Date

Agriculture

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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SB 318

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Chad Kunde

Phone

(850) 766-7896

Address

136 S Bronough St

Email

ckunde@flchamber.com

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32301

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 Chamber
of Commerce

☐

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

2/18/25

Meeting Date

Agriculture

Committee

318

Bill Number or Topic

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Nancy Stewart

Phone

850-385-7805

Address

1400 Village Square Blvd 3-156 SK

Email

nancy.stewart@nancyblackstewart.com

Street

Tallahassee FL

32312

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:

Florida Poultry Federation

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 \(flsenate.gov\)](https://www.flsenate.gov/2020-2022-Joint-Rules.pdf)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

2/18/25

Meeting Date

Agriculture

Committee

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

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318

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Jim Spratt

Phone

850-228-1296

Address

1195 Monroe St

Street

Email

Jim@magnoliastrategiesllc.com

TLH

City

FL

State

32301

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 Nursery, Growers & LANDSCAPE Association

☐

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)

02/18/2025

Meeting Date

Agriculture

Committee

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

318

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Alex Haley**

Phone **(850) 617-7700**

Address **400 S. Monroe St PL - 10**

Email **N/A**

Street

Tallahassee

Florida

32399

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 Department of Agriculture
& Consumer Services**

☐ 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

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Agriculture, *Chair*
Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment,
and General Government
Appropriations Committee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Banking and Insurance
Fiscal Policy
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and
Domestic Security
Transportation

SENATOR KEITH TRUENOW

13th District

February 7, 2025

Senator Keith Truenow
304 Senate Office Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Chairman Truenow,

I would like to request that SJR 328 Ad Valorem Tax Exemption; Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to exempt certain tangible personal property from ad valorem taxation be placed on the next available agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Truenow".

Senator Keith Truenow
Senate District 13

KT/dd

CC: Katherine Becker, Staff Director
Evan Dennis, AA

REPLY TO:

- ☐ Lake County Agricultural Center, 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, Florida 32778 (352) 750-3133
- ☐ 16207 State Road 50, Suite 401, Clermont, Florida 34711
- ☐ 304 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5013

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Land Acq Presentation
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Meeting Date

2.18.25

Committee

Agriculture

Name

Traci Deen

Phone

(352) 376-4770

Address

37 N ORANGE AVE, STE 323

Email

Traci@conservationfla.org

Street

ORLANDO

City

FL

State

32801

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
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S-001 (08/10/2021)



CONSERVATION FLORIDA

Traci Deen, Esq.
President + CEO





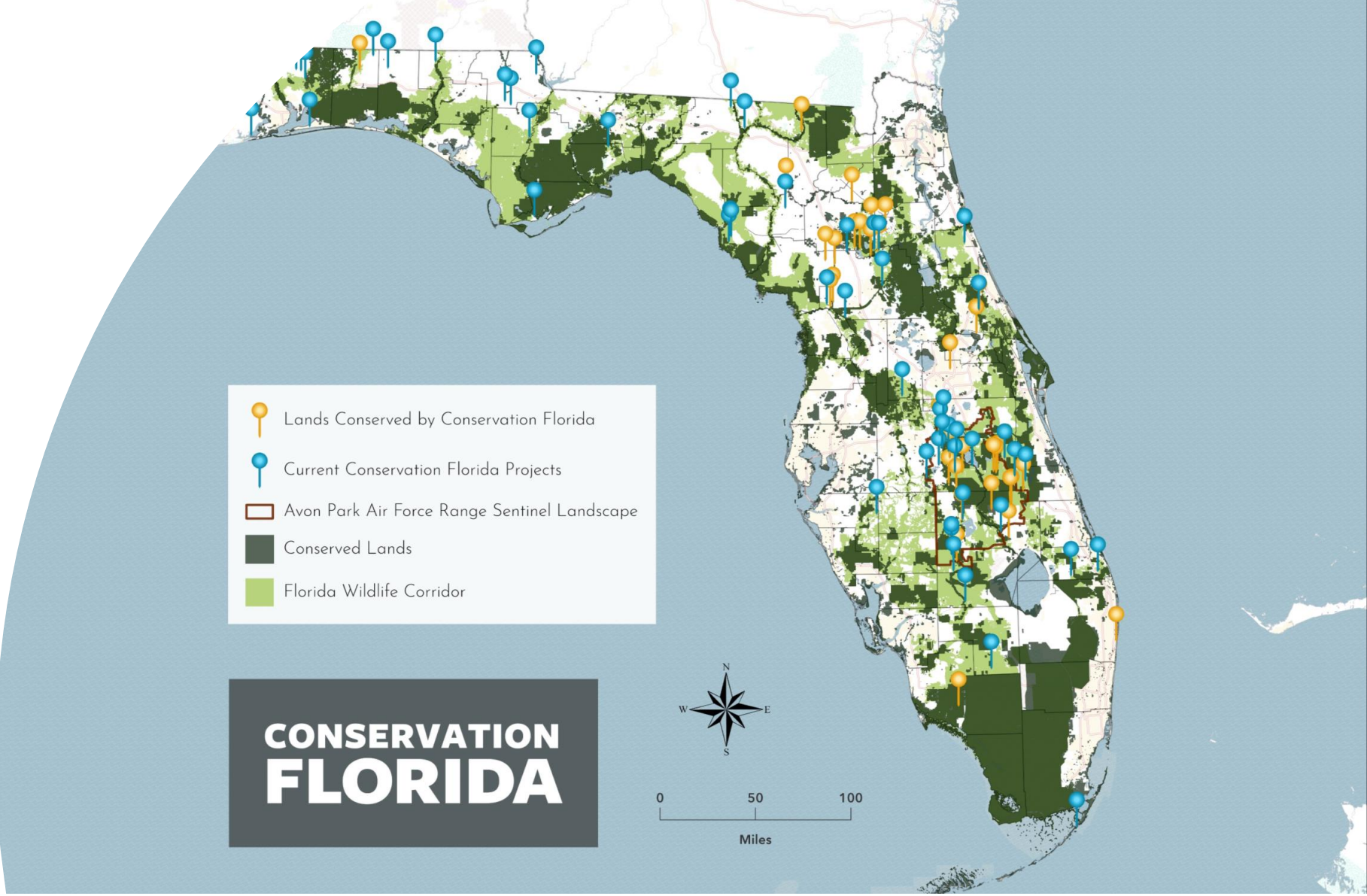
@oldfloridavibes

About

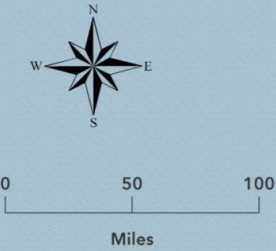
Conservation Florida

**PROTECTING FLORIDA'S
WATER, WILDLIFE, AND WILD
PLACES, AND CONNECTING THE
FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**

- 
- This map of Florida illustrates the state's conservation efforts. It features a legend with five categories: 'Lands Conserved by Conservation Florida' (orange pins), 'Current Conservation Florida Projects' (blue pins), 'Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape' (brown outline), 'Conserved Lands' (dark green shading), and 'Florida Wildlife Corridor' (light green shading). The map shows a high density of conservation projects in the central and southern parts of the state, particularly in the Wildlife Corridor. A scale bar and compass rose are located in the lower right, and the 'CONSERVATION FLORIDA' logo is in the lower left.
-  Lands Conserved by Conservation Florida
 -  Current Conservation Florida Projects
 -  Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape
 -  Conserved Lands
 -  Florida Wildlife Corridor

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**





CONSERVATION FLORIDA

We save land by facilitating, purchasing, or accepting donations of land and conservation easements, serving as a trusted community partner to support statewide land conservation, and through effective advocacy, education, and outreach programming.





Photo by Adam Strang Bass

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



Photo by Carlton Ward Jr./Wildpath

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**



Photo by Adam Strang Bass

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Photo by Adam Strang Bass

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FLORIDA**

CONNOR HOW



Photo by Adam Strang Bass

**CONSERVATION
FLORIDA**

CONSERVATION
FLORIDA





CONSERVATION
FLORIDA

Conservation Wins

Carlton Ward, Jr., Wildpath

Thanks to *Your* Support!

Status of honey bee populations in the U.S.

Jamie Ellis (jdellis@ufl.edu)

Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology

University of Florida

Entomology and Nematology Department

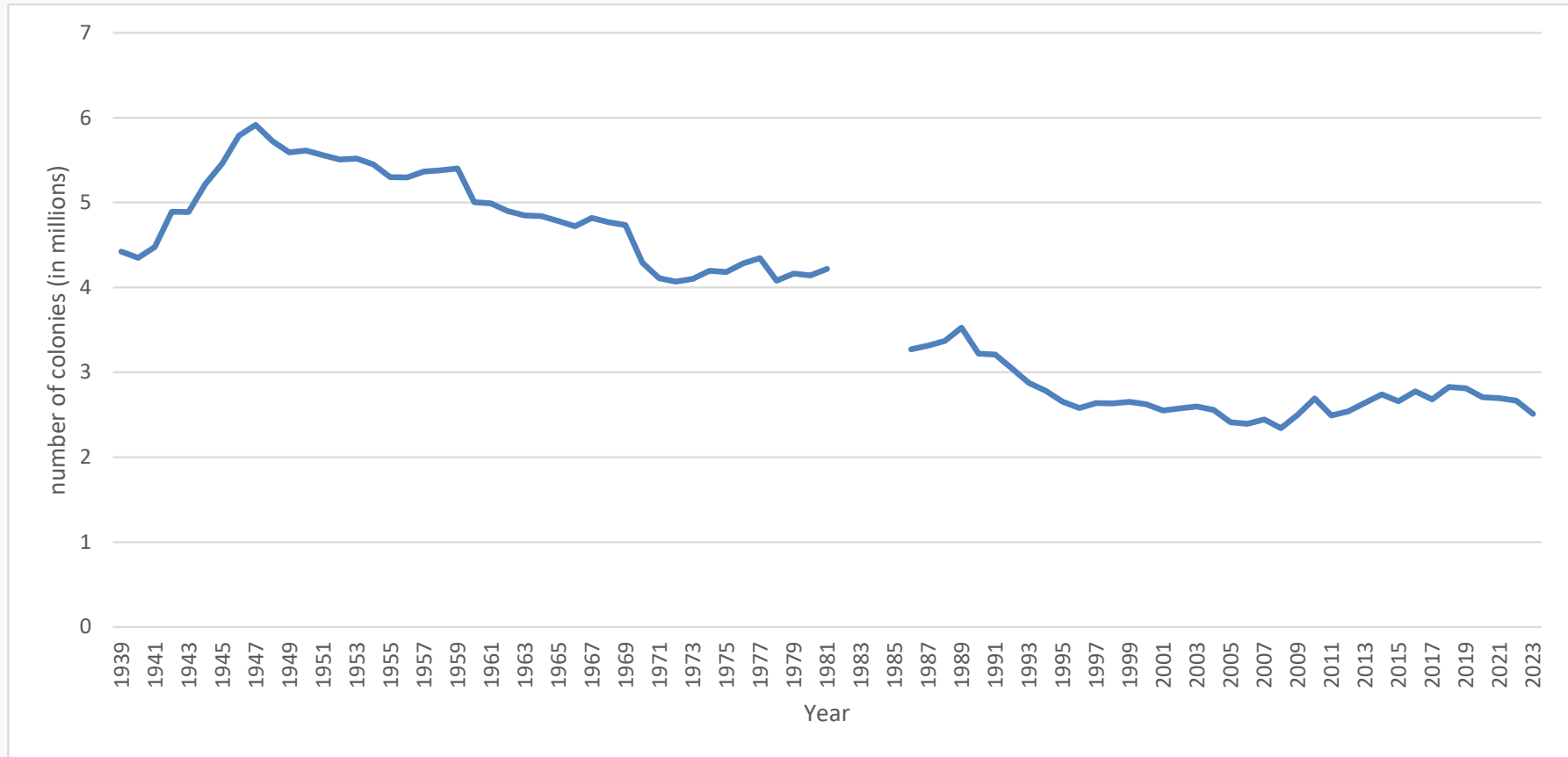
How to navigate this presentation:



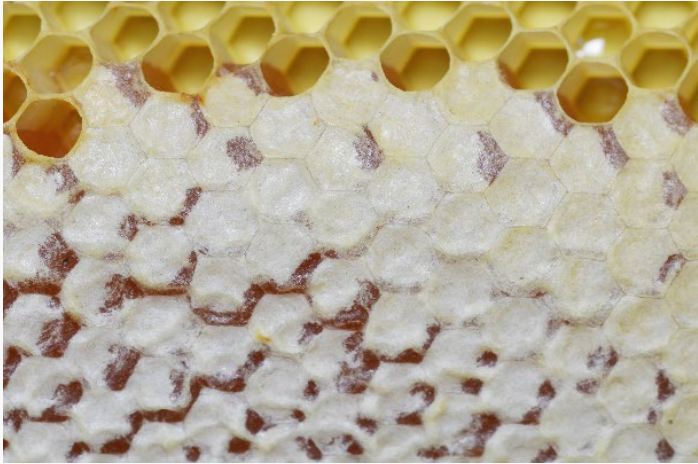
Western Honey Bee: *Apis mellifera* L.



Number of Honey Producing Colonies in the U.S.



Honey Production in the U.S.



138.6 million lbs (62.9 million kg) of honey produced by 2.5 million colonies in the U.S. in 2023 (NASS 2024).

The value of the honey produced was \$349 million USD.



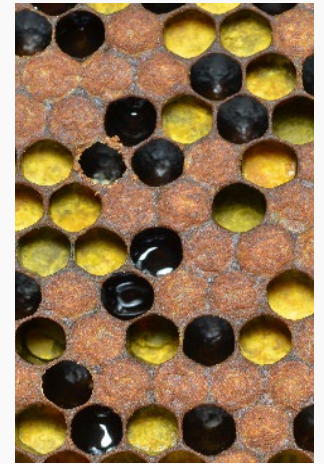
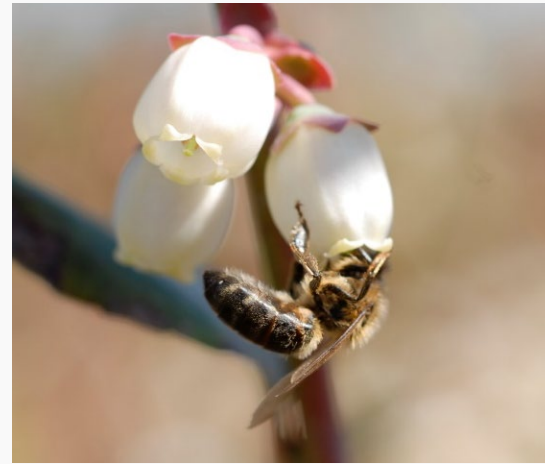
Florida in 2023: 4.7 million lbs honey (2.1 million kg), \$13.9 million USD in value (NASS 2024).

Pollination in the U.S.

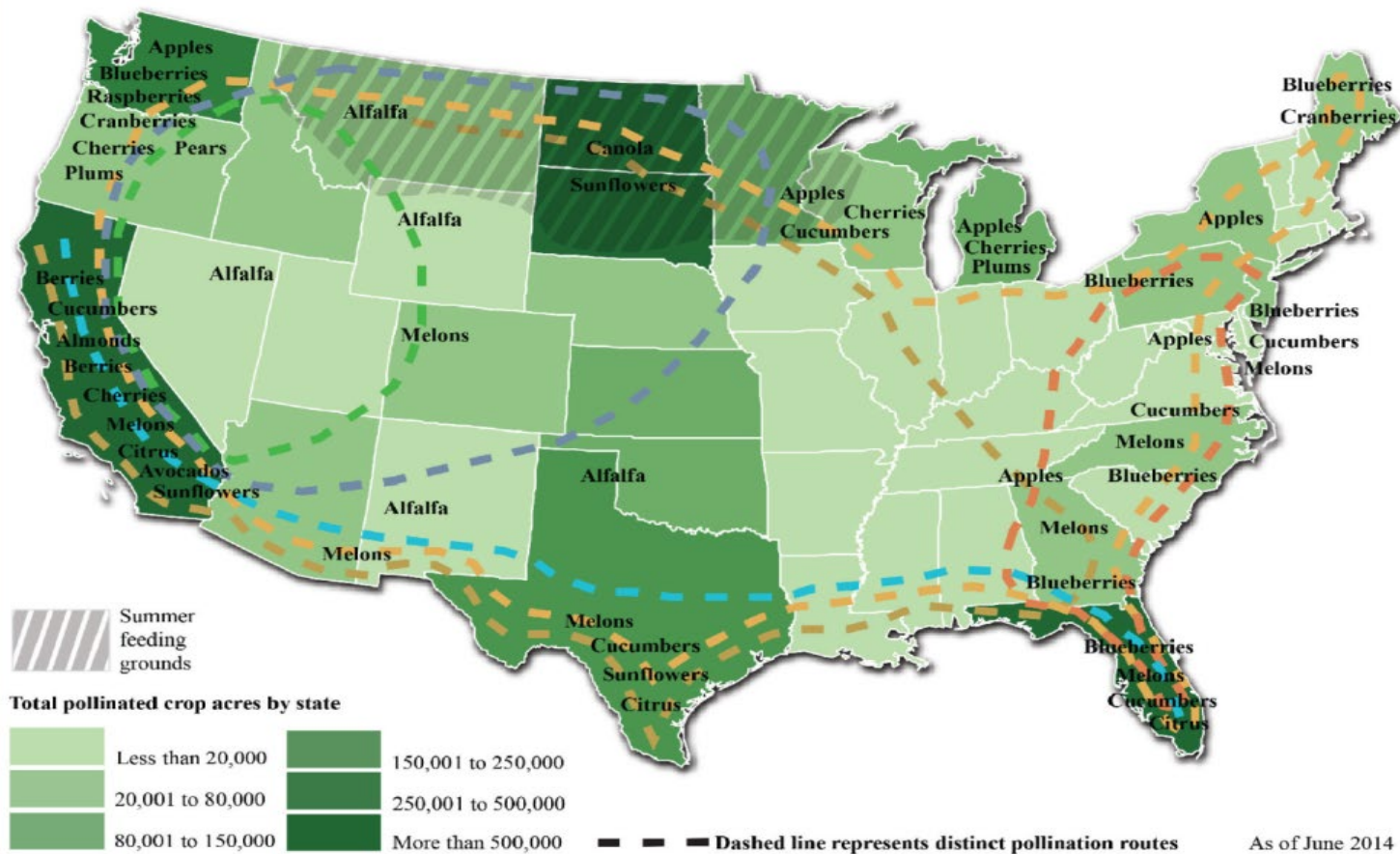
Value of increased yield and quality achieved in U.S. through pollination by honey bees: \$15 billion USD.*

A significant percentage of global food production is dependent on pollination services provided by honey bees.

*Morse and Calderone, 2000. The value of honey bees as pollinators of U.S. crops in 2000.



Pollinator movement and crops in the U.S.



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service; Sautzman (2011), with input from commercial beekeepers and apiculture experts, including Dr. Jeff Pettis and Dr. David Epstein, an entomologist and authority on pollinators with the USDA's Pest Management Policy. Crop production acres are from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012 Agricultural Census.

Average Gross Loss Rates of Managed Honey Bee Colonies*

	United States	Florida**
Winter Losses	29.6%	31.1%
Summer Losses	24.6%	32.4%
Annual Losses	42.7%	44.3%

Winter loss rates from winter 2006/2007 through winter 2023/2024

Summer loss rates from summer 2012/2013 through summer 2023/2024

Annual loss rates from 2012/2013 season through 2023/2024 season

*Bee Informed Partnership (<https://beeinformed.org> and Apiary Inspectors of America/Auburn University Annual Honey Bee Loss Surveys).

**Florida averages missing 2022/2023 data

Number of Beekeepers in Florida in 2025

Classification	Number of Beekeepers (% of total)
Backyard (1 – 40 colonies)	4,598 (87%)
Sideline (41 – 100 colonies)	168 (3%)
Commercial (≥101 colonies)	509 (9.6%)
Exempt	29 (<1%)
TOTAL	5,304

*Colonies used to pollinate watermelon, cantaloupe, squash, blueberries, multiple seed crops, etc.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Plant Industry
Apiary Inspection Section

Economic Contributions of FL Beekeeping Industry in 2020

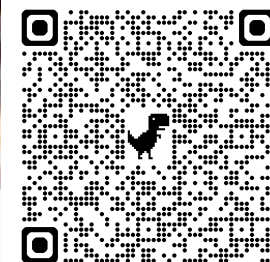
Total revenues: \$93.36 million

-\$60.35 million for honey bee products

-\$33.29 million for crop pollination

Employment: 2,437 workers

Capital investment by FL beekeepers: \$17.07 million



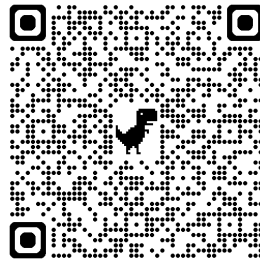
Economic Contributions of FL Beekeeping Industry in 2020

\$24.11 million in labor income

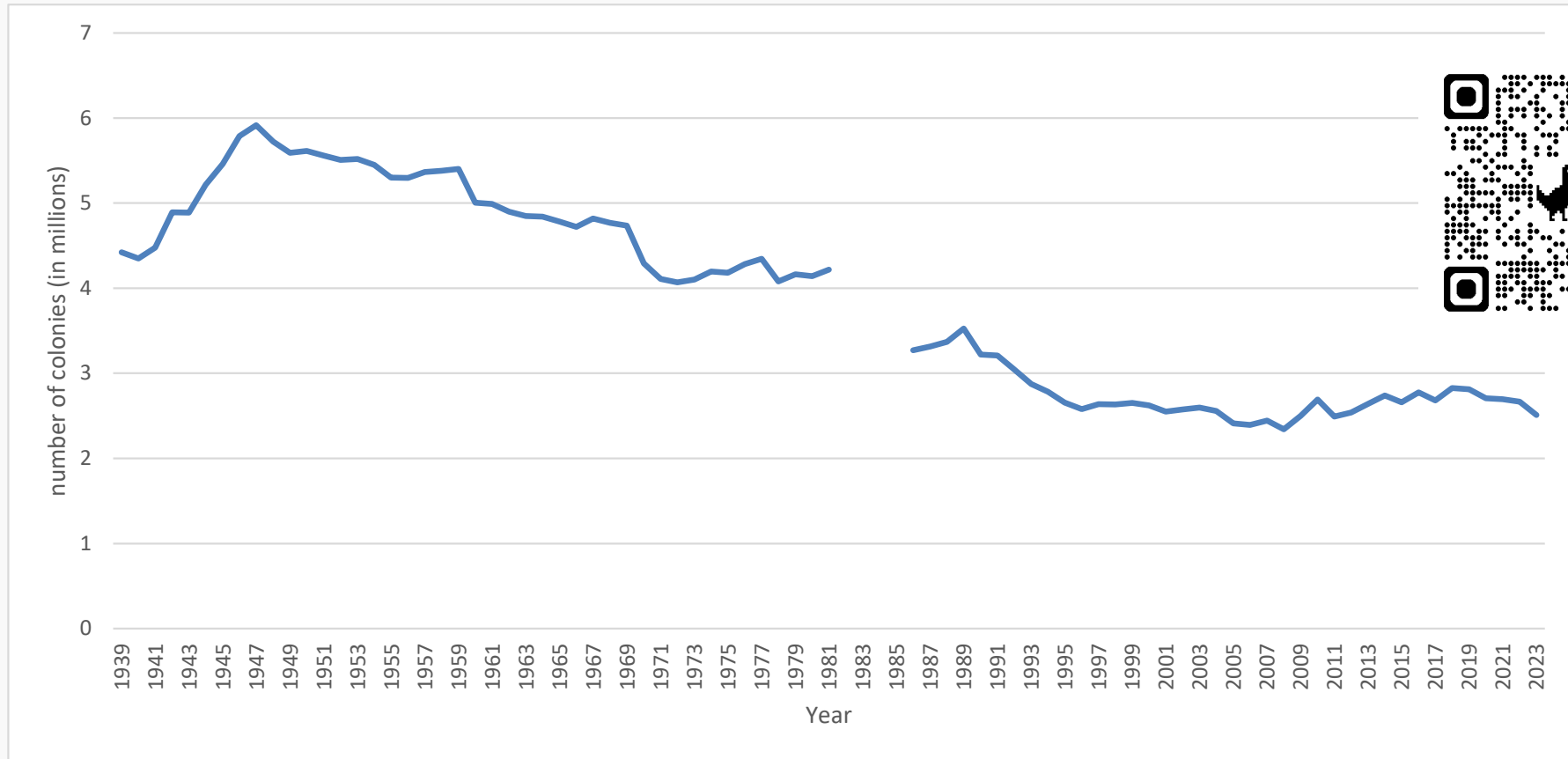
\$41.86 million in value added from total personal and business income

\$80.75 million in output or industry revenues

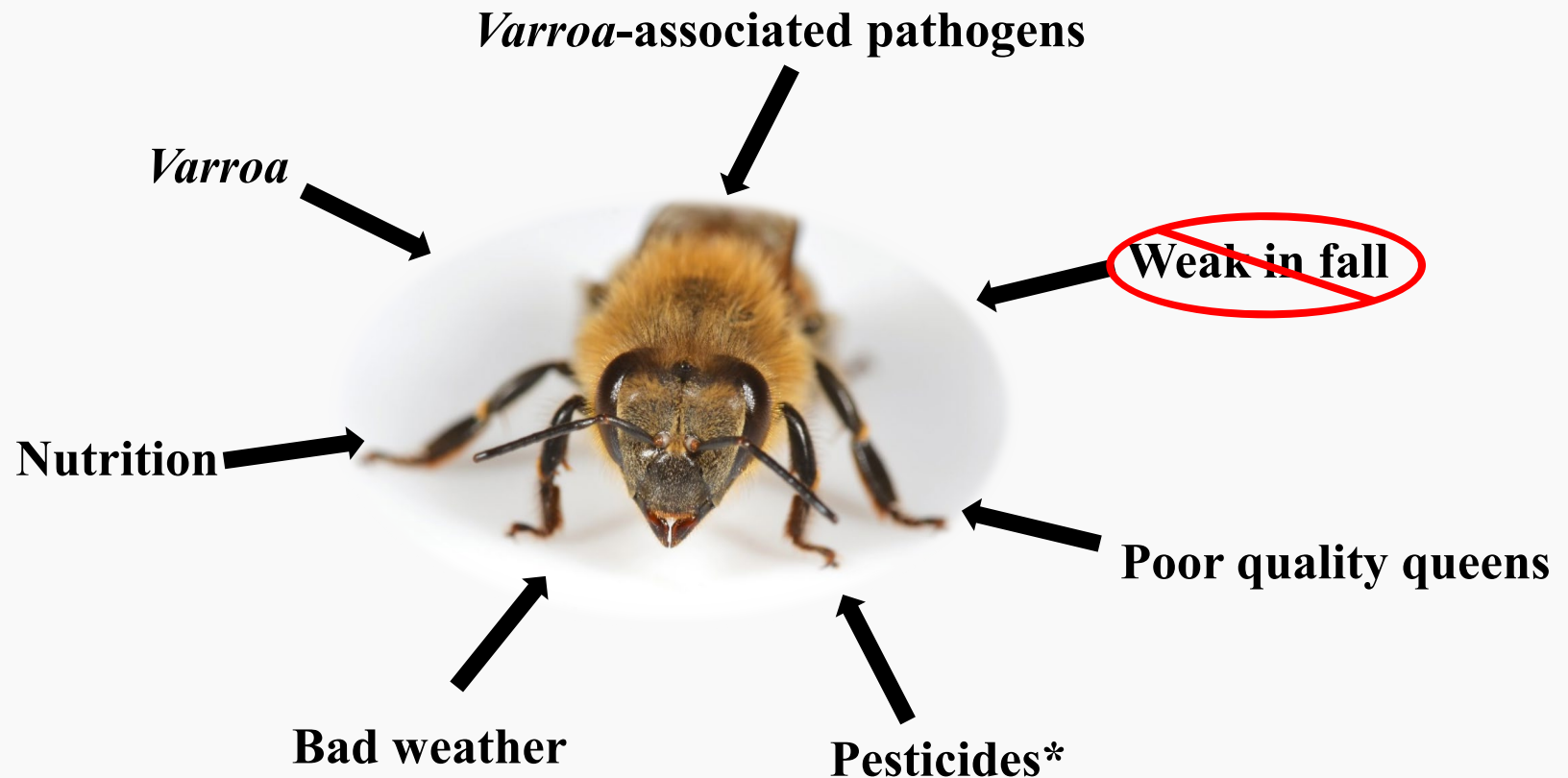
\$8.53 million in local, state, and federal taxes



Number of Honey Producing Colonies in the U.S.



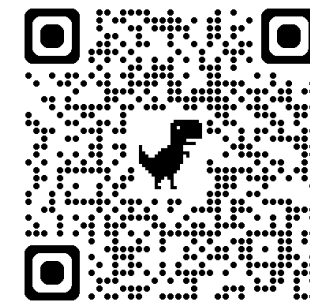
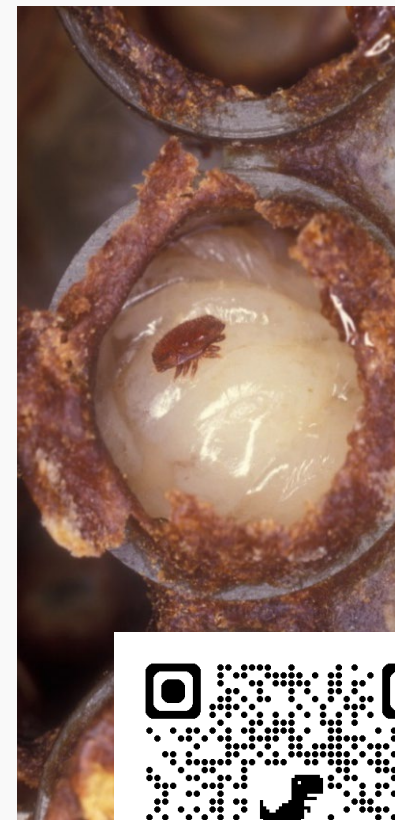
Identifying the Primary Enemies of Honey Bee Health



Bee Informed Partnership Annual Honey Bee Loss Reports

*When considering only commercial beekeeper responses

Varroa destructor



Queen Quality



Nutritional Fitness

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REVIEW article

Front. Sustain. Food Syst. , 09 November 2021
Sec. Agroecology and Ecosystem Services
Volume 5 - 2021 |
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2021.772897>

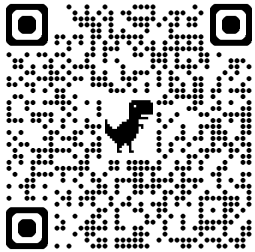
This article is part of the Research Topic
Pollen as Food for Bees: Diversity,
Nutrition, and Contamination
[View all 9 articles >](#)

Reviewing the Efficacy of Pollen Substitutes as a Management Tool for Improving the Health and Productivity of Western Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Colonies

 Emily R. Noordyke*  James D. Ellis

Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory, Entomology and Nematology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, United States

Western honey bees (*Apis mellifera* L.) collect pollen, fat, vitamins, and minerals. Beekeepers feed pollen to mitigate a lack of natural pollen resources in the use, it is unclear if pollen substitutes are beneficial. We review the literature regarding pollen substitute consumption/palatability of pollen substitutes. (2) 4



  HONEY BEE RESEARCH & EXTENSION LABORATORY



Weather Impacts



NOAA Satellite, Hurricane Humberto, 15 September 2019

Emerging Threat: Yellow Legged Hornet



FDACS-DPI

YLH Resources

Vespa velutina

entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/BEES/Vespa_velutina.html

Featured Creatures
Entomology & Nematology | FDACS/DPI | EDIS

common name: yellow-legged hornet (suggested common name)
scientific name: *Vespa velutina* (Lepeletier, 1836) (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Vespidae)

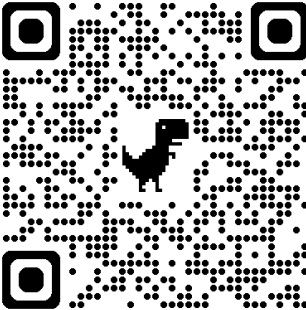
[Introduction](#) - [Distribution](#) - [Description](#) - [Life Cycle and Biology](#) - [Predatory Strategies](#) - [Economic Importance](#) - [Management](#) - [Selected References](#)

Introduction ([Back to Top](#))

The yellow-legged hornet, *Vespa velutina* (Lepeletier) (**Figure 1**), is a pest of concern outside of its native range. *Vespa velutina* is native to Southeast Asia (Monceau et al. 2014) and has invaded several European regions, first appearing in France in 2004 (Monceau et al. 2014). As a generalist predator, they are a pest of honey bees and a major concern to many beekeepers. *Vespa velutina* has not been intercepted in North America, but it is believed to have high invasion potential.



Figure 1. *Vespa velutina* (Lepeletier), feeding on nectar. Photograph by [Karine](#) from Monceau et al. 2014. Used with permission.



DIFFERENTIATING FLORIDA NATIVE WASPS FROM YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET: A COMPARISON GUIDE


DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY

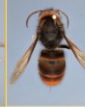
Vespidae is a family that contains some of the most recognizable and frequently encountered wasps. Many species are social and form nests that vary in size from a few individuals to many thousands. At rest, the wings are folded along the length of the body, giving them a dark and slender appearance.

Wasp Subfamilies

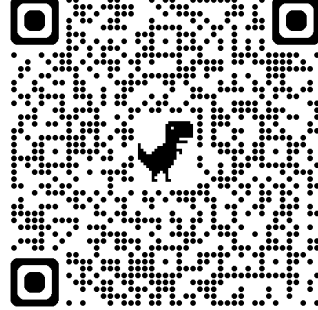
Vespidae (eastern yellow jacket)	Polistinae (paper wasp)	Eumeninae (potter wasp)
		

Three subfamilies can be found in Florida: Eumeninae (potter wasps), Polistinae (paper wasps), and Vespinae (hornets and yellow jackets). The Eumeninae are solitary wasps that often use clay to build nests for their offspring. Polistine wasps are social and form nests with open cells, and these are commonly encountered on the undersides of eaves or other human-made structures. These are best identified by the straight to gently arched profile of the abdomen near its anterior end.

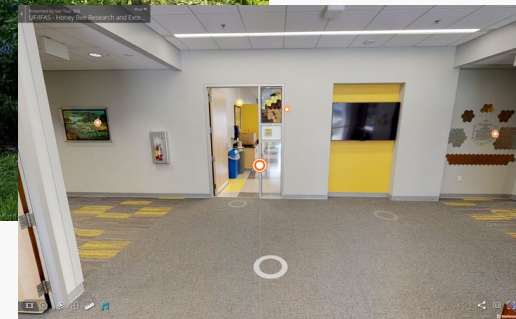
In Florida there are three native species in the subfamily Vespinae: the southern yellow jacket (*Vespa squamosa*), the eastern yellow jacket (*Vespa maculifrons*), and the bald-faced hornet (*Dolichovespula maculata*). Species in this subfamily have a blocky, abrupt anterior end of the abdomen that differentiates them from the paper wasps. These wasps tend to aggressively defend their nests and are well known for their painful stings. The invasive *Vespa velutina*, yellow-legged hornet, is also in the same subfamily Vespinae and can be mistaken for Florida's native species.

Yellow-Legged Hornet		Native Hornet	
<i>Vespa velutina</i> (yellow-legged hornet), Georgia	<i>Vespa velutina</i> (yellow-legged hornet), Taiwan	<i>Dolichovespula maculata</i> (bald-faced hornet), Florida	<i>Vespa squamosa</i> (southern yellow jacket), Florida
			

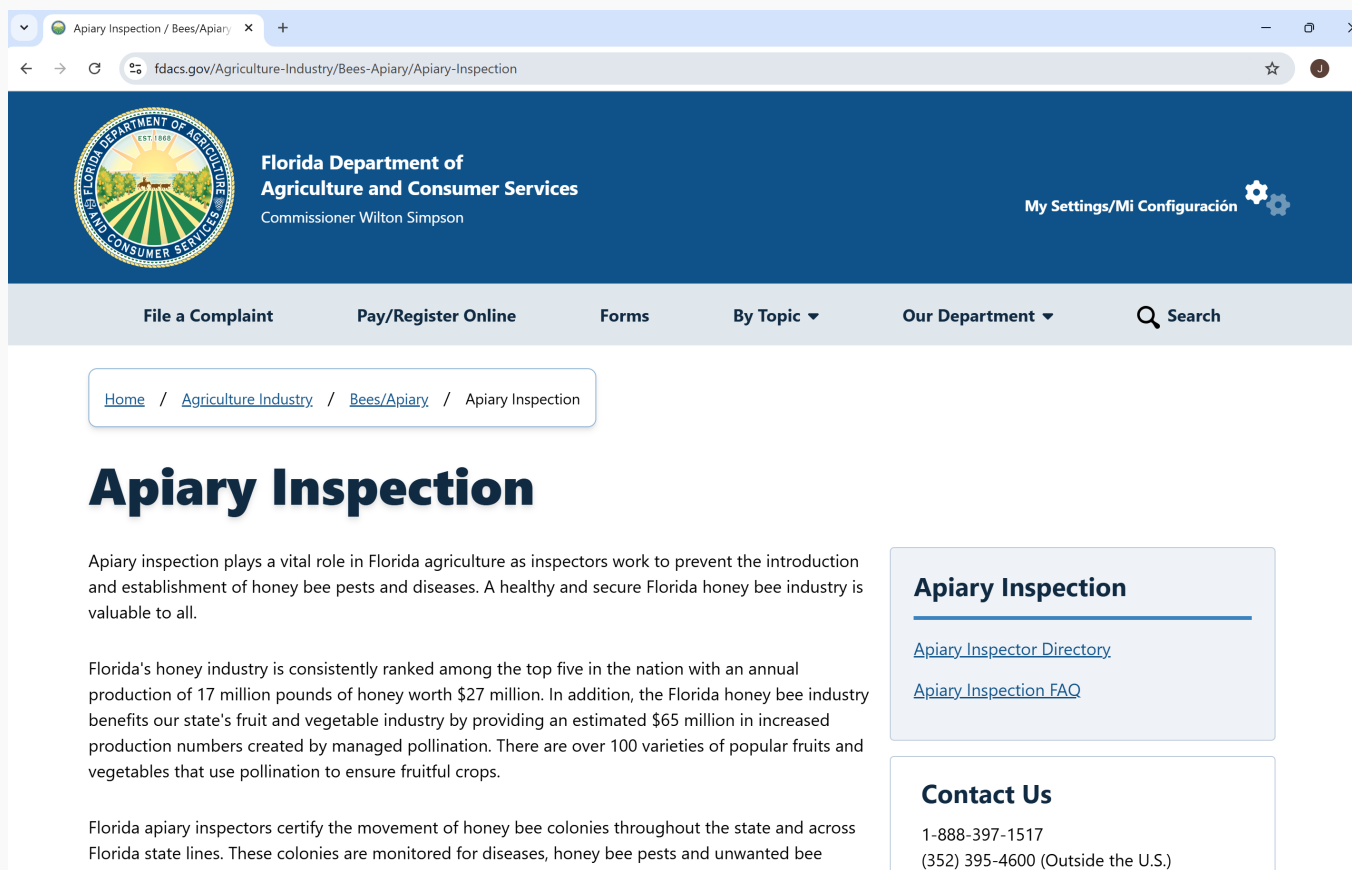
FDACS.gov/YLH



The UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory



The FDACS-DPI Apiary Inspection Program



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Bees-Apiary/Apiary-Inspection. The page header features the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services logo and the text "Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services" and "Commissioner Wilton Simpson". A navigation bar includes links for "File a Complaint", "Pay/Register Online", "Forms", "By Topic", "Our Department", and a search icon. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: [Home](#) / [Agriculture Industry](#) / [Bees/Apiary](#) / [Apiary Inspection](#). The title "Apiary Inspection" is prominently displayed. Below the title, there is a paragraph explaining the role of apiary inspection in Florida agriculture. To the right, there are two boxes: "Apiary Inspection" with links to "Apiary Inspector Directory" and "Apiary Inspection FAQ", and "Contact Us" with phone numbers: 1-888-397-1517 and (352) 395-4600 (Outside the U.S.).

Apiary inspection plays a vital role in Florida agriculture as inspectors work to prevent the introduction and establishment of honey bee pests and diseases. A healthy and secure Florida honey bee industry is valuable to all.

Florida's honey industry is consistently ranked among the top five in the nation with an annual production of 17 million pounds of honey worth \$27 million. In addition, the Florida honey bee industry benefits our state's fruit and vegetable industry by providing an estimated \$65 million in increased production numbers created by managed pollination. There are over 100 varieties of popular fruits and vegetables that use pollination to ensure fruitful crops.

Florida apiary inspectors certify the movement of honey bee colonies throughout the state and across Florida state lines. These colonies are monitored for diseases, honey bee pests and unwanted bee

Apiary Inspection

[Apiary Inspector Directory](#)

[Apiary Inspection FAQ](#)

Contact Us

1-888-397-1517
(352) 395-4600 (Outside the U.S.)



The FDACS-DPI Honey Bee Diagnostics Laboratory



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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Honey Bee Diagnostics Laboratory

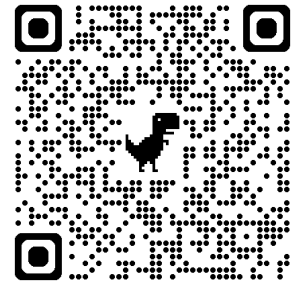
The Honey Bee Diagnostics Laboratory (HBDL) at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Plant Industry supports Florida beekeepers and the apiary industry.

The HBDL applies traditional and molecular tools to diagnose bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens as well as arthropod pests affecting honey bee health, including regulatory disease and pest issues like American foulbrood, Africanized honey bee, *Tropilaelaps* and unidentified biotic factors. The rapid diagnostic testing used by the lab assists management decision-making and strengthens the health of Florida apiaries.

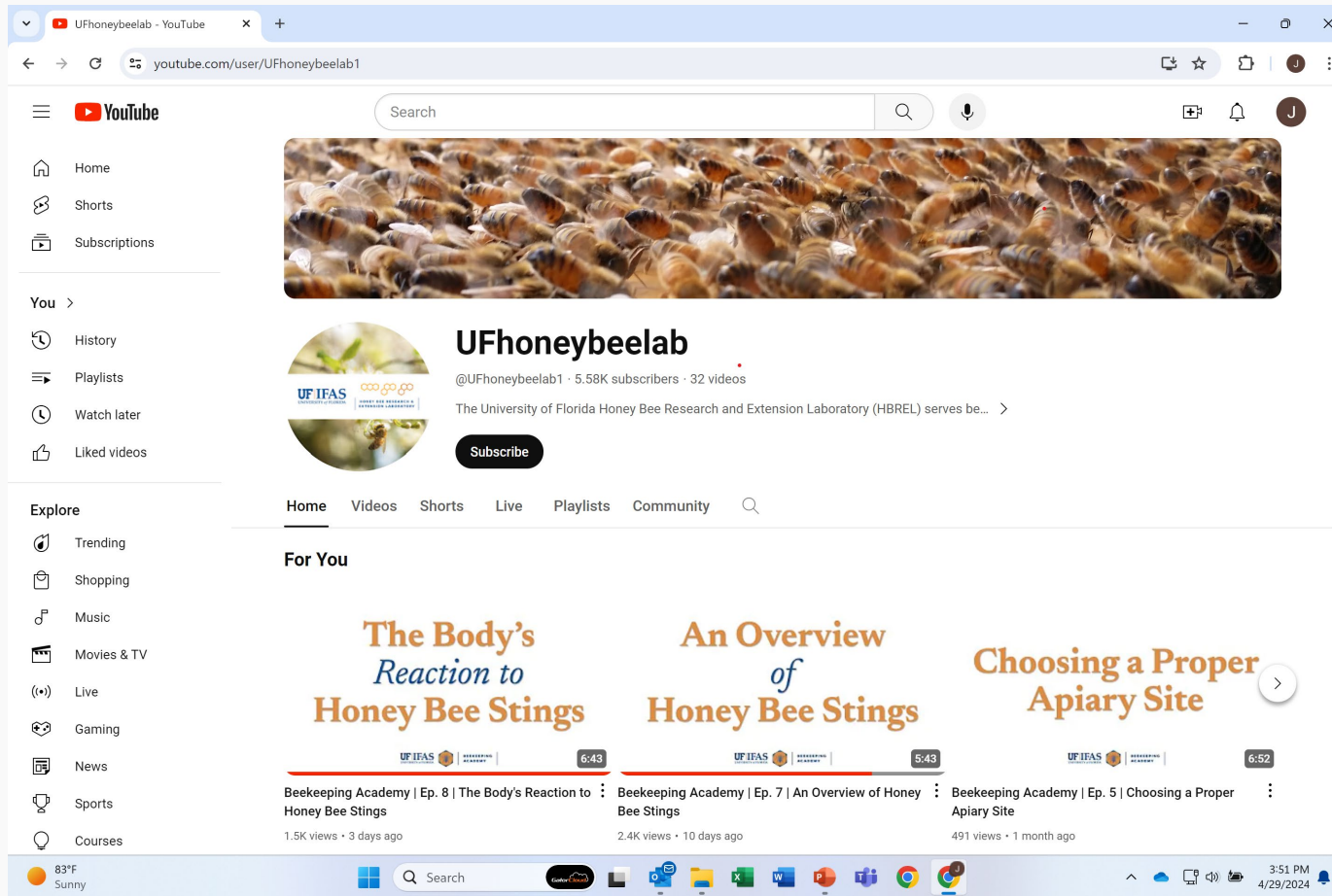
Diagnostic Service Capabilities

Bees/Apiary

- [Apiary Inspection](#)
- [Beekeeper Registration](#)
- [Honey Bee Diagnostics Laboratory](#)**
- [Pollinator Protection](#)



YouTube Beekeeping Series: Beekeeping Academy



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The University of Florida Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory (HBREL) serves be... >

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An Overview of Honey Bee Stings

Choosing a Proper Apiary Site

Beekeeping Academy | Ep. 8 | The Body's Reaction to Honey Bee Stings

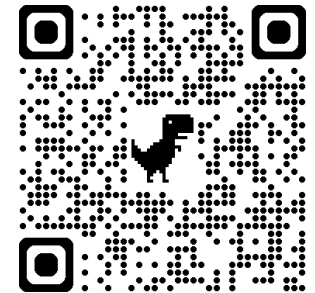
Beekeeping Academy | Ep. 7 | An Overview of Honey Bee Stings

Beekeeping Academy | Ep. 5 | Choosing a Proper Apiary Site

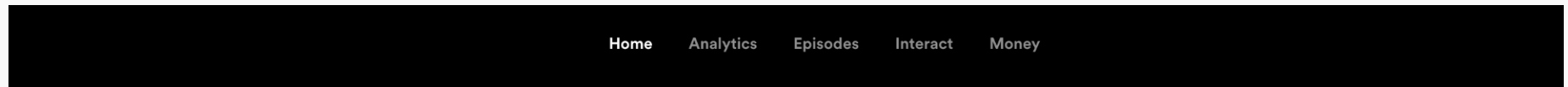
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Two Bees in a Podcast



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HONEY BEE RESEARCH &
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Western Honey Bee: *Apis mellifera* L.



Acknowledgements

I would like to thank:

- The entire HBREL team
- FDACS-DPI
- Florida State Beekeepers Association
- Our funding partners (including individual supporters)



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



**FOUNDATION FOR
THE PRESERVATION
OF HONEY BEES, INC.**



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Thank You for Your Attention.

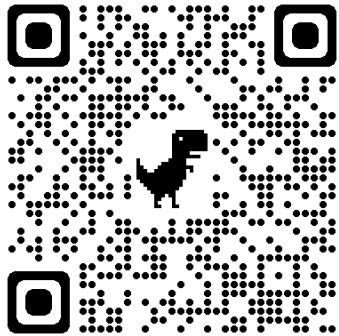
For more information, visit: www.UFhoneybee.com

Follow the laboratory on X, Instagram and Facebook: @UFhoneybeelab

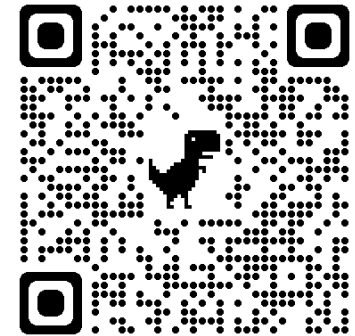
Two Bees in a Podcast (visit the laboratory's website)



HONEY BEE RESEARCH &
EXTENSION LABORATORY



Jamie Ellis (jdellis@ufl.edu)
Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology
Entomology and Nematology Department
University of Florida



The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Meeting Date

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Phone

Address

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Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

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For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

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In Support

☐

Against

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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)



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

SENATOR ERIN GRALL

29th District

February 12, 2025

Dear Chair Truenow,

I respectfully request an excused absence from the Committee on Agriculture on February 18, 2025 at 11:00am.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin K. Grall". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Senator Erin Grall
Florida Senate, District 29

COMMITTEES:

Education Postsecondary, *Chair*
Agriculture
Appropriations
Appropriations Committee on Agriculture,
Environment, and General Government
Appropriations Committee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Education Pre-K -12
Ethics and Elections

SELECT COMMITTEE:

Select Committee on Resiliency

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 3209 Virginia Avenue, Suite A149, Fort Pierce, Florida 34981 (772) 595-1398
- ☐ 306 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5029

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President of the Senate

DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 301

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Committee on Agriculture

Judge:

Started: 2/18/2025 11:01:07 AM

Ends: 2/18/2025 12:07:49 PM

Length: 01:06:43

11:01:07 AM Chair Truenow calls meeting to order
11:01:08 AM Roll call
11:01:22 AM Pledge of Allegiance
11:01:48 AM Chair Truenow makes opening remarks
11:02:13 AM Tab 3, Presentation by Traci Deen, President and CEO of Conservation Florida
11:02:52 AM Traci Deen, President and CEO of Conservation Florida
11:18:25 AM Questions:
11:18:32 AM Senator Burton
11:19:49 AM Traci Deen
11:21:55 AM Senator Boyd
11:23:04 AM Traci Deen
11:23:40 AM Chair Truenow thanks Traci Deen
11:24:18 AM Tab 4, Presentation by Dr. Jamie Ellis, Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida
11:24:55 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis, Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida
11:41:35 AM Questions:
11:41:46 AM Senator Boyd
11:41:59 AM Senator Burton
11:42:22 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:43:08 AM Senator Burton
11:43:19 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:44:13 AM Senator Burton
11:44:40 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:45:47 AM Senator Burton
11:45:55 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:46:31 AM Senator Rouson
11:46:56 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:47:28 AM Senator Rouson
11:47:36 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:48:43 AM Senator Rouson
11:49:12 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:49:47 AM Senator Bernard
11:50:04 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:52:27 AM Senator Burton
11:52:48 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:54:39 AM Chair Truenow
11:54:49 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:56:33 AM Chair Truenow
11:56:42 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:56:55 AM Chair Truenow
11:56:59 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:57:52 AM Chair Truenow thanks Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:58:25 AM Dr. Jamie Ellis
11:58:42 AM Tab 1, SB 210 by Harrell, Animal Cremation
11:58:52 AM Senator Harrell explains the bill
12:03:20 PM Senator Harrell close on the bill
12:03:37 PM Roll call
12:03:59 PM Tab 2, SJR 318 by Truenow, Ad Valorem Tax Exemption
12:04:01 PM Chair Truenow passes the gavel to Vice Chair Boyd
12:04:17 PM Senator Truenow explains the bill
12:05:15 PM Chair Boyd recognizes public appearances
12:05:58 PM Senator Truenow closes on the bill
12:06:35 PM Roll call

12:06:53 PM Vice Chair Boyd passes gavel back to Chair Truenow
12:07:01 PM Chair Truenow makes closing remarks
12:07:40 PM Senator Rouson moves to adjourn
12:07:42 PM Meeting adjourned