Summary of 2008-2009 Citrus Budget for the Central Florida (Ridge) Production Region

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Citrus budgets are tabulated annually for the Central, Southwest and Indian River citrus production regions of Florida. The attached budget costs are for the Central Florida (Ridge) citrus production region. These costs may not represent your particular grove situation. However, they represent the most current comparative cost estimates for Florida citrus. The budget costs items for the **Central Florida (Ridge)** represent a **custom managed operation.**

Budget analysis provides the basis for many grower decisions. Budgets can be used to calculate potential profits, determine cash requirements and determine break-even prices. The budget costs presented will serve as a format for growers to analyze their own individual records. The cost data were developed by surveying custom operators, suppliers, growers, colleagues with UF/IFAS and County Extension Agents in each production region.

Average cultural production costs decreased 10% between 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 seasons. This was because fuel and energy costs for equipment application decreased 18% for gasoline and 16% for diesel fuel over the 2007-2008 season; and fertilizer prices had the highest decrease of all the inputs averaging 21% less than the 2007-2008 season. However, chemical prices increased 2% above the previous season. The sluggish economies in the United States and internationally resulted in lower demand for fuel-based energy products and agricultural chemicals and fertilizers.

The 2008-2009 comparative budgets summary for a processed market cultural program are shown in Table 1. Two scenarios are presented: 1) Traditional/Historic Processed Orange Cultural Program **Without Citrus Canker and Greening** and 2) Processed Orange Cultural Program **With Citrus Canker and Greening.** Scenario one represents costs of traditional grove practices which have been performed for citrus grown for the processed juice market, but does not include citrus canker and greening management control programs. Scenario two is the same processed market cultural program for scenario one but expanded to include the additional costs for managing citrus canker and greening. Each budget scenario shows a Total Cost Per Acre **Without** and **With resetting-tree replacement**.

With the introduction of citrus greening in 2005, Florida citrus growers have had to develop new management strategies to identify and remove infected trees along with adding new spray programs to control the insect vector, the Asian citrus psyllid. Likewise, with the end of the citrus canker eradication program in 2006, to reduce the impact of canker infestations on new tree flushes and reduce fruit drop, copper spray material is being added with each spray tank mix. For fruit grown for the fresh fruit market, additional costs are incurred by growers to assure that the blocks and fruit can be certified "canker free" for shipments to the U.S. domestic and European markets. The estimated additional costs required to manage citrus greening and canker, based on the cultural programs being implemented in UF/IFAS CREC research groves and information from citrus growers were incorporated into Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4.