



# Celebrating a century of science

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**F**irst, the fun part: You're invited to a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party. The Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) was established in 1917. In November, we'll celebrate its century of science with a special event.

Turning 100 is cause enough for celebration, but it will be more than a social event, because what may be the world's single largest research center dedicated to a single commodity still has opportunities to share its story. The industry changes, and so do we.

For example, not everyone realizes CREC is run by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). That means the center taps into a network of statewide academic expertise on citrus.

And while there's recognition that almost all of our faculty have a hand in the fight against HLB, what sometimes isn't fully appreciated is their wide variety of expertise: horticultural sciences, entomology, agricultural and biological engineering, food science, plant pathology, soil and water science, microbiology and cell science, and food and resource economics.

So we're determined to get the word out, even after a century. The more folks know us, the more we can help people with science-based solutions.

## A HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP

Getting that word out through a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration also tells you something else that's important to know: The UF/IFAS CREC is in your industry for the long haul. We've been here through canker, freezes, spreading decline, and a decade of HLB.

Many in the industry may know the people of CREC much better than they know the center itself. Indeed, Jackie Burns, Harold Browning, Walt Kender, Bob Koo and Ivan Stewart were industry leaders as well as respected scientists.

They've passed the baton to Michael Rogers, Jude Grosser, Fred Gmitter and others working today's greenhouses and experimental groves. And I've told you in this space about some of the names we think you'll be hearing for decades to come: Nian Wang, Yu Wang (no relation) and Christopher Vincent, to name a few.

100  
Years

*Citrus Research  
and Education Center*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

So please save the date of Nov. 29 on your calendars and plan to be in Lake Alfred. We'll hold the event in the Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall at CREC.

We expect we'll see old friends, longtime supporters, VIPs and collaborators. But we also hope we'll see people who aren't as familiar with

what goes on in Lake Alfred and maybe had no idea that it's been going on since 1917.

It's important to mark this milestone in the history of CREC, a history filled with instances of growers, processors and other industry players working together to overcome challenges. Coming together, whether it's in a grove or a conference center, gives us hope for the future of the industry.

If for some reason you can't make it in November, tell your grandsons and granddaughters who go into the citrus business that we hope we'll see them at our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration! 🍊

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