



FLORIDA CITRUS MUTUAL

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Florida Citrus Research and Development Foundation Inc.

According to its bylaws, the Florida Citrus Research and Development Foundation Inc. exists as a Florida not-for-profit corporation, organized as a Direct Support Organization certified by the University of Florida's board of trustees, and operating for the benefit of the citrus industry, the state of Florida and in a manner consistent with the goals of the University.

The Foundation's immediate mission is to expeditiously advance research that will protect the Florida citrus industry from the threats of HLB and canker. The Foundation seeks to improve the overall research effort's efficiency as a single, focused corporation dedicated entirely to finding solutions, advancing promising leads and eliminating redundancies.

More specifically, the Foundation will:

- Assist the coordination of solicitation of funding from all sources
- Actively and aggressively manage research projects as an investment which includes recognizing gaps, setting priorities, conducting peer review, eliminating duplication and coordinating results between researchers
- Develop and commercialize research results into (action) products
- Retain, manage and license intellectual property rights for benefit of the Florida citrus industry
- Anticipate and navigate regulatory obstacles

Tom Jerkins, vice president and general manager of Blue Goose Growers, is the Foundation's president; Ricke Kress, president of Southern Gardens Citrus, is vice president; Jerry Newlin, of Orange Co. is Secretary; and Joe Joyce, executive VP of IFAS is treasurer. Its bylaws state that any funds not held for investment shall be electronically transferred to the Foundation's bank account which will be maintained by the University of Florida. The Foundation will have access to University legal resources as well.

Tom Turpen, president of Technology Innovation Group, is the Foundation's interim chief operating officer. The Foundation's Governance Committee is now charged with searching for the permanent COO.

The Florida Citrus Commission appointed five of the Foundation's 13 Board members: Kress, Wes Brumback, Newlin, Bob Stambaugh and Dan Gunter. Florida Citrus Mutual named five Board members with input from regional citrus organizations: Marty McKenna, Wayne Simmons, Bobby Barben, Jerkins and Joe Davis Jr. Craig Meyer from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as well as Joe Joyce and Larry Arrington from the University of Florida also serve on the Foundation's Board.