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GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA ANNOUNCES $23 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR CITRUS GREENING DISEASE

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S (USDA) NATIONAL Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced more than $23 million dollars in funding for research and education projects that seek to find solutions to Huanglongbing (HLB), commonly known as citrus greening disease. These projects are funded through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative Citrus Disease Research and Education (CDRE) program, which is made available through the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill).

University of California-Davis, *Davis, CA*
$4,579,067 | Focuses on utilizing new approaches with RNA interference to manage Diaphornia citri (the Asian citrus psyllid, the vector of CLas, casual agent of HLB); assess economic benefits of these approaches; and develop new, informative outreach/extension information.

University of California-Riverside, *Riverside, CA*
$1,683,429 | Aims to develop technologies for long-term, sustainable citrus cultivation in regions where the citrus industry is threatened by HLB, but where the disease has not yet fully established itself through expanding testing capabilities; developing easy-to-operate devices and methodologies for psyllid capture and Liberibacter detection; and provide technology to growers and nurseries to encourage wide-scale testing.

University of Florida, *Gainesville, FL*
$4,613,838 | Intends to develop an environmentally sage, systematic bactericide that can be applied with conventional spray or drench technology to reduce or eliminate pathogen populations in citrus trees, with the goal of recovering fruit production in HLB affected orchards.

University of Florida, *Gainesville, FL*
$3,495,832 | Aims to provide an enhanced, scalable, steam-generated thermotherapy treatments as an immediate short-term solution for sustaining productivity for HLB-affected citrus trees and to study and develop procedures for optimized heat treatment techniques that provide the maximum reduction of HLB-causing bacteria and prolong the effectiveness of treatment while reducing any possible adverse effects on crop yield and fruit quality.

University of Florida, *Gainesville, FL*
$3,338,248 | Seeks to develop an HLB-tolerate or resistant citrus cultivator, using genes from citrus or its sexually compatible close relatives, free of GMO signatures.

University of Florida, *Gainesville, FL*
$2,096,540 | Targets the use of field trials in Florida to develop an effective antimicrobial treatment for citrus plants affected by HLB.

Kansas State University, *Manhattan, KS*
$3,734,480 | Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) research aims to develop and provide a therapeutic delivery system to growers that will prevent Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (CLas) from infecting plants and/or prevent the development of Huanglongbing (HLB) in already infected citrus.

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