

*The*  
**STORY**  
COMPANIES  
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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250-0506

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a fourth-generation citrus farmer based in Lake Wales, FL. that farms in five Florida Counties. The Florida citrus industry suffered catastrophic losses at the hands of Hurricane Irma in September 2017 from which we are still recovering. The U.S. Department of Agriculture responded to our industry's urgent request for relief in the wake of Irma with the creation of the Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP) to assist dozens of commodities across the country, including Florida citrus. Since WHIP was unveiled earlier this year there has been overwhelming interest in the program in Florida. WHIP is critically important to getting citrus farmers back on their feet so they can continue growing world class oranges, grapefruit and tangerines. We strongly urge the Office of Management and Budget to extend the WHIP program. Not doing so would be a big blow to Florida citrus growers.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Regards,



Kyle R. Story