



December 26, 2000

USDA - APHIS
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD / APHIS
Suite 3Co3
4700 River Road, Unit #118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

To Whom It May Concern:

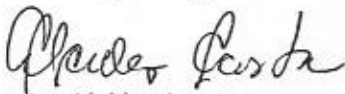
I have read Brooks Tropicals December 18, 2000 letter to you regarding the proposed Citrus Canker Compensation Rule and agree with their concerns regarding the compensation model.

As a long-time commercial lime grower, I have many concerns about the future of lime farming in Florida. In January of 2000, I had approximately eight hundred acres of producing lime groves. This year would have been the first full production year since the devastation of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. As of today's date, I have approximately four hundred acres of producing limes left. The loss of my groves and the income they produced has been devastating. Just last week, I lost a healthy producing lime grove because another grove next to mine had twelve trees infected with canker. My grove was unfortunately located 1341 feet away from the infected trees and we have a 1900-foot policy being enforced.

Another concern of mine is the 100 + employees I currently employ. Without the groves I have no jobs for them. With proper compensation, I could replant and have work for the people. Some of my employees have been with me over two decades and do not know any other skills other than that of working in a grove. Their future and that of their children is at stake.

I urge you to look at the information provided by Brooks Tropicals. If the models do not include their production and prices, you are unfortunately not including my production and prices, as I am one of their largest independent growers.

Respectfully,


Alcides Acosta
Owner

RECEIVED
JAN 05 2001