

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE    AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE    AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS    SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

REPLY TO: Orange County Agricultural Center  
2350 E. Michigan Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32806

February 11, 1966

Dear "Ag Friend":

In last month's "Ag Friend" information letter, I attempted to describe Orange County's overall water situation in 1 1/2 pages!

Now for the other side of the coin --- the land side. (This incidentally is the most difficult aspect of the land-water relationships).

To begin with here are some statistics you should bear in mind as we attempt to correlate the rainfall recharge cycle:

<u>PLANNING UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL ACREAGE</u>	<u>ACREAGE REPRESENTED IN CITRUS</u>
#58 (Windermere)	31,734 Acres	8,189 Acres
#61 (West Orange)	26,700 "	9,843 "
#76 (Southwest Orange)	43,671 "	10,432 "
#85 (Zellwood)	39,261 "	1,196 "
#89 (Tangerine)	5,578 "	1,632 "
Total	146,943 Acres	32,012 Acres

This West Orange Greenbelt area of 146,943 acres represents approximately 1/4 of the total land area in the county (total is 586,240 acres). The 32,012 acres of citrus in these five planning areas represents 50% of the total citrus acreage in Orange County.

Now when we look at the direction of ground water flow, we find the three planning areas -- #58, #61, and #76 are largely responsible for the ground water supplies for the Orlando Metropolitan area, parts of South Seminole County, East Orange County and the Cocoa-Cape Kennedy area of Brevard County.

By the 1990's over one million residents and hundreds of industries will be looking to this 102,205 acre Greenbelt to provide it with the majority of its water needs.

When we begin to study this Greenbelt acreage according to its greatest recharge ability, we find instead of 102,205 acres we are essentially referring to an area approximately 50,000 acres in size!

Of this amount, 28,465 acres is planted to citrus and the remainder is in undeveloped acreage.

It is this 28,465 acres of citrus that should be of greatest concern to those who must guide our county's resources to their maximum potential.

Not only do these grove areas serve as water recharge areas but they also generate a tremendous amount of wealth for the county. Well over 3/4 of a million dollars of taxes are paid by these 28,465 acres of citrus and in addition they produce some 8 1/2 million dollars of income for growers, plus generating many millions of additional dollars in the form of jobs, services, etc. (agri-business).

With depressed fruit prices, high taxes and related unfavorable conditions, growers who are also working under the profit motive, could well look to real estate speculation to solve their financial difficulties.

This brings us to the important question of --- "How do we have our cake and eat it too?"

Agriculture, even in an urbanizing area, is everybody's business.

Sincerely,

*Henry F. Swanson*  
HENRY F. SWANSON  
County Agent  
Orange County

HFS:aps