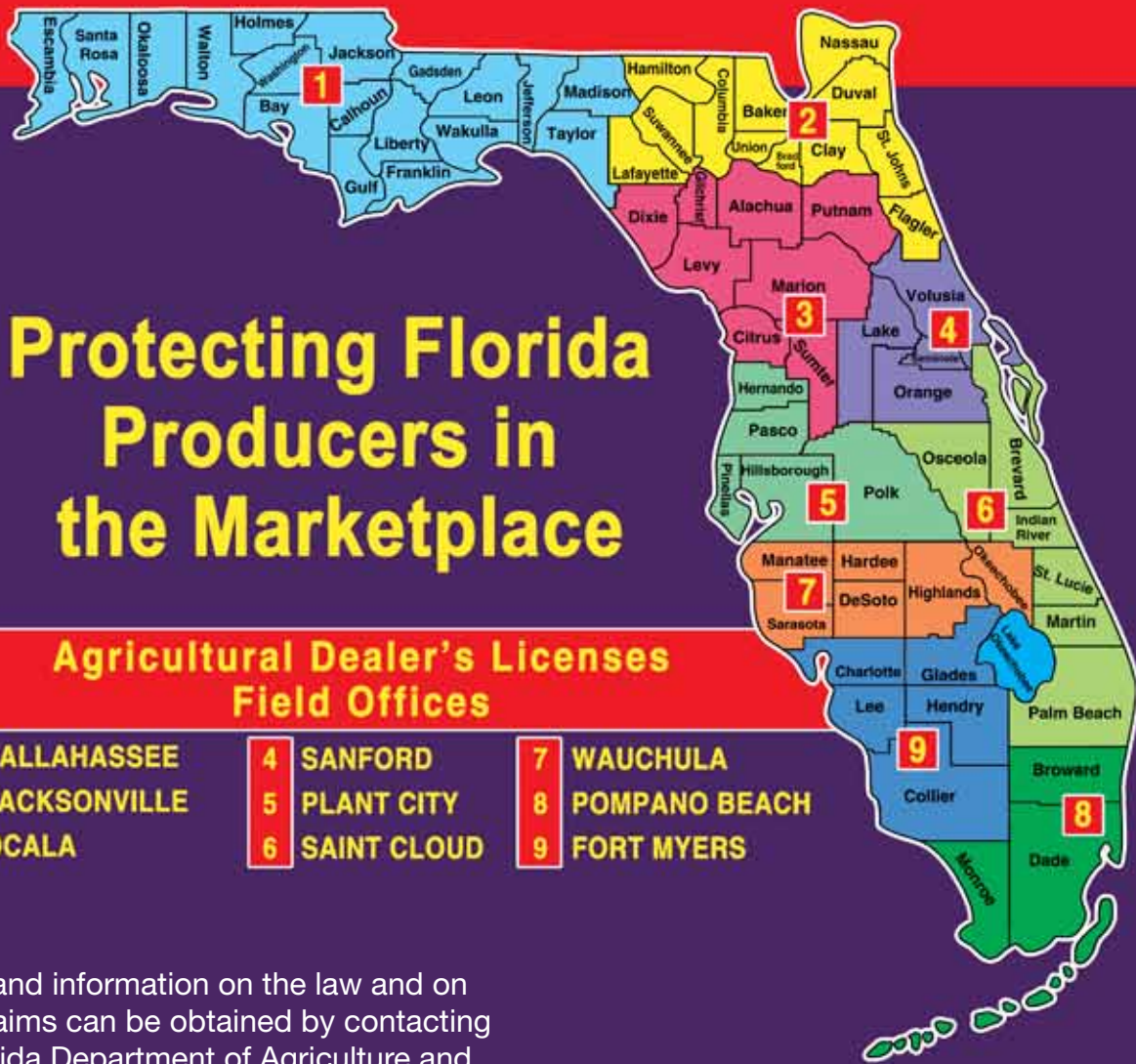


# Are You Purchasing Agricultural Products Directly From Florida Producers?

You may be subject to the Florida Agricultural Dealer's License Law Section 604.15-604.34, Florida Statutes

## Protecting Florida Producers in the Marketplace



### Agricultural Dealer's Licenses Field Offices

1	TALLAHASSEE	4	SANFORD	7	WAUCHULA
2	JACKSONVILLE	5	PLANT CITY	8	POMPANO BEACH
3	OCALA	6	SAINT CLOUD	9	FORT MYERS

Forms and information on the law and on filing claims can be obtained by contacting the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Visit our website at [Florida-Agriculture.com](http://Florida-Agriculture.com) to:

- Find out more about Florida's Agricultural Dealer's License law
- Search for licensed dealers
- View open claims filed against dealers

For more information, contact  
Bureau of Agricultural Dealer's Licenses  
The Mayo Building, M38  
407 South Calhoun Street, Suite 208  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0800  
(850) 617-7150



Florida Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner



## **YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR AN AGRICULTURAL DEALER'S LICENSE IF:**

You are doing business in Florida by buying, receiving, soliciting, handling, or negotiating agricultural products directly from producers or their agents for the purpose of resale or processing for sale.

## **WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY FOR A LICENSE?**

You must be licensed by the Florida Department Of Agriculture and Consumer Services before you begin purchasing agricultural products subject to the law.

## **WHAT PRODUCTS ARE COVERED BY THE LAW?**

Every agricultural product grown in Florida — except tobacco, sugar cane, tropical foliage, timber and timber byproducts, and citrus other than limes — is covered under the Florida Agricultural Dealer's License Law.



## **ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS?**

The limited exemptions to the law are as follows:

- 1.** Farmers or groups of farmers in sale of agricultural products they have grown.
- 2.** An agricultural dealer who pays at the time of purchase with United States cash currency or a cash equivalent, such as a money order, cashier's check, wire transfer, electronic funds transfer, or debit card. Personal or company checks and drafts are not considered to be "cash or cash equivalents."
- 3.** An agricultural dealer who operates as a bonded dealer under the Federal Packers and Stockyards Act.
- 4.** An agricultural dealer who purchases less than \$1,000 worth of agricultural products during the peak month of such purchases within the calendar year.

## **HOW DOES IT PROTECT PRODUCERS?**

Any producer or producer's agent who has been damaged by a dealer's failure to make proper accounting or payment for agricultural products may file a claim within six months of the date of sale or delivery of the agricultural products. Each claim must be for at least \$500 and must be accompanied by a \$50 filing fee.



## **WHAT SHOULD PRODUCERS DO?**

- Deal only with properly licensed dealers and check their business reputation.
- Make a detailed, written record of each transaction including the legal name of the dealer.
- Make sure that terms of sale are on the invoice/delivery ticket and that the receiver signs on delivery.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A DEALER DOES NOT OBTAIN A LICENSE?**

An agricultural dealer is violating state law if that dealer purchases products subject to the law and has failed to obtain a license from the department. Dealers in violation of the law will be subject to a fine of \$2,500 for each violation.