



## **The Florida Agricultural License and Bond Law**

Under the Florida Agricultural License and Bond Law (Chapter 604.15-601.34F.S.), any person who does business in the state by buying, receiving, soliciting, handling or negotiating agricultural products from producers or their agents must be licensed and bonded by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Law is intended to facilitate the marketing of Florida agricultural products by encouraging a better understanding between buyers and sellers and by providing a marketplace that is relatively free of unfair trading practices and defaults. It helps assure that transactions are recorded properly and that the buyer is financially responsible.

The Law is administered by the Department's Bureau of License and Bond, which has recovered millions of dollars for Florida producers since the bureau was established in 1941. Any producer or producer's agent who feels he has been damaged by a dealer's failure to make proper accounting or payment for agricultural products may file a complaint with the bureau. Complaints must be filed within six months of the sale or delivery of the agricultural product and must be for a claim of at least \$250.

## What Should Producers Do?

- Deal only with properly licensed dealers and check their business reputation.
- Become familiar with the marketing process and any unique characteristics of the product being sold.
- Make sure that a clear understanding is reached on the details of each transaction, including the responsibilities of all parties involved.
- Make a detailed written record of each transaction.
- Transactions handled by phone should be confirmed the same day by a wire or fax to the buyer or agent.
- Make sure terms of sale are on the invoice/delivery ticket and that the receiver signs on delivery.
- Make sure that buyers get the quantity and quality of products purchased.

To obtain more information on the Florida Agricultural License and Bond Law or a copy of the book listing licensed and bonded dealers doing business in Florida, call or write: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bureau of License and Bond, 541 E. Tennessee St., Tallahassee, FL 32308, (850) 488-4101. A list of bonded dealers and other information is available on the Internet at [www.ag-fl.com](http://www.ag-fl.com).

