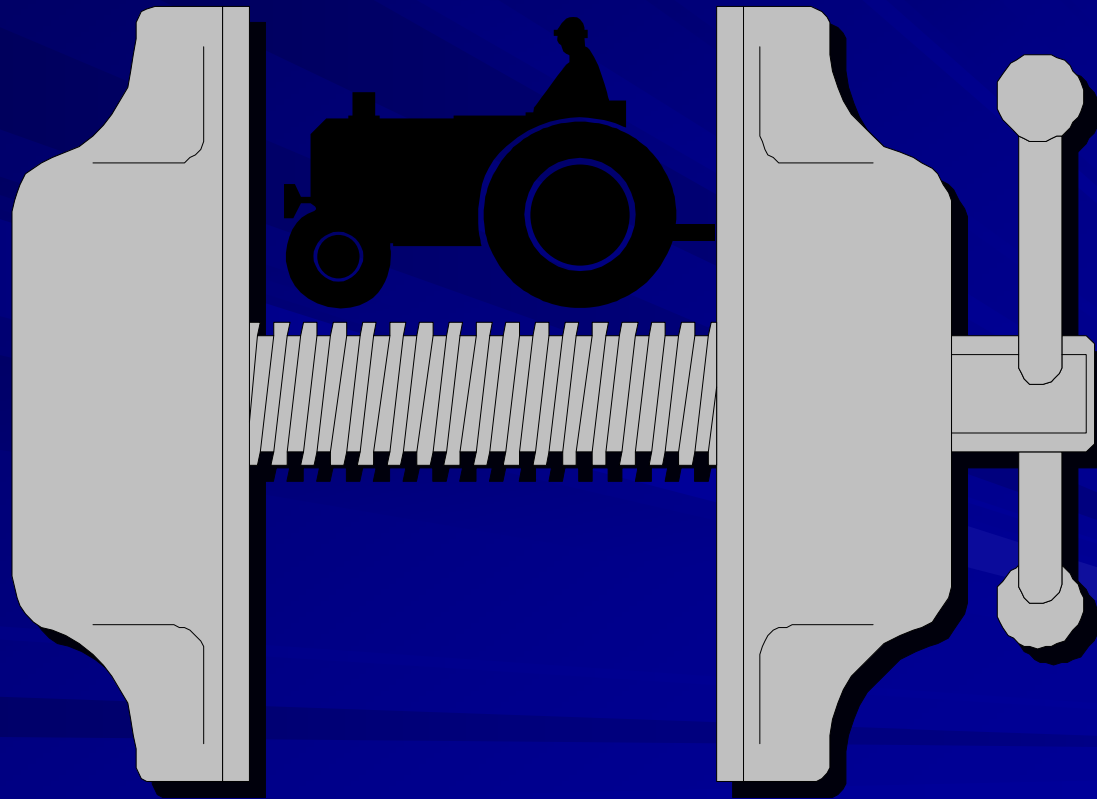


Florida Agriculture

“The Pressure to Stay in Business”





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Published: Friday, September 14, 2007

Polk Loses 5,400 Acres of Citrus in One Year

By [Kyle Kennedy](#)
The Ledger

LAKELAND — Citrus grove acreage continues to shrink in Polk and across the state, reflecting the effects of disease and development, according to a citrus tree census update issued today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The 2007 update shows Polk County lost nearly 5,400 acres since last year, a drop of 6.2 percent. That compares to a total decline of 4.1 percent for all seven counties in the report, compiled by the USDA's Florida Agricultural Statistics Service.

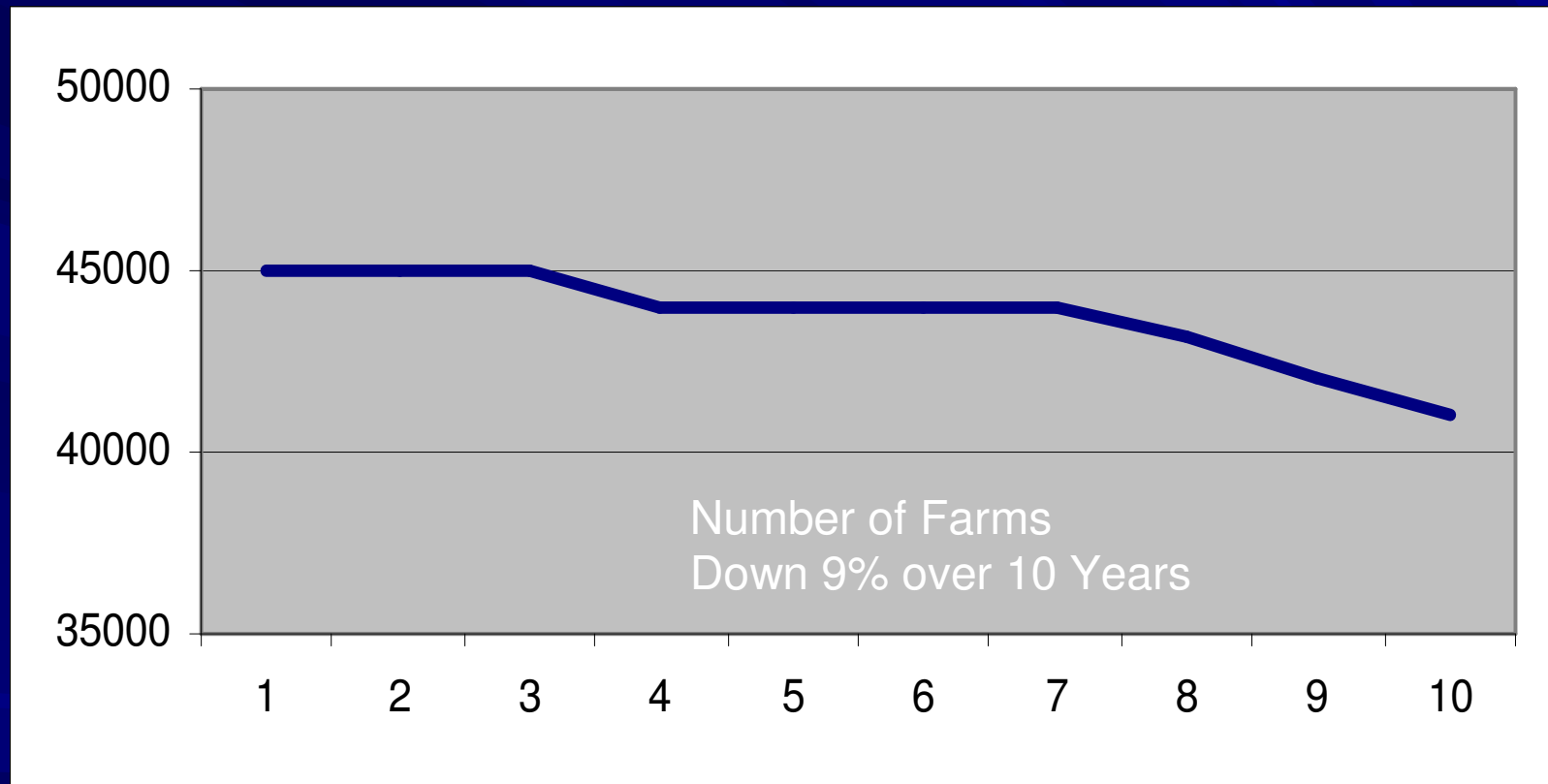
Polk's tree count dropped to about 9.6 million from roughly 10.2 million in 2006, a decrease of 5.7 percent. Only Martin County lost more trees, falling to 4.4 million from 5.0 million for a decrease of 11.8 percent.

Read more in Saturday's Ledger.



A Decade of Statistics

Total Farms 1997 - 2006



A Decade of Statistics

Total Farms 1997 - 2006

- Down from 45,000 to 41,000 Farms
- Small Farms Hit Hardest
 - Down 16% Over the 10-Year Period

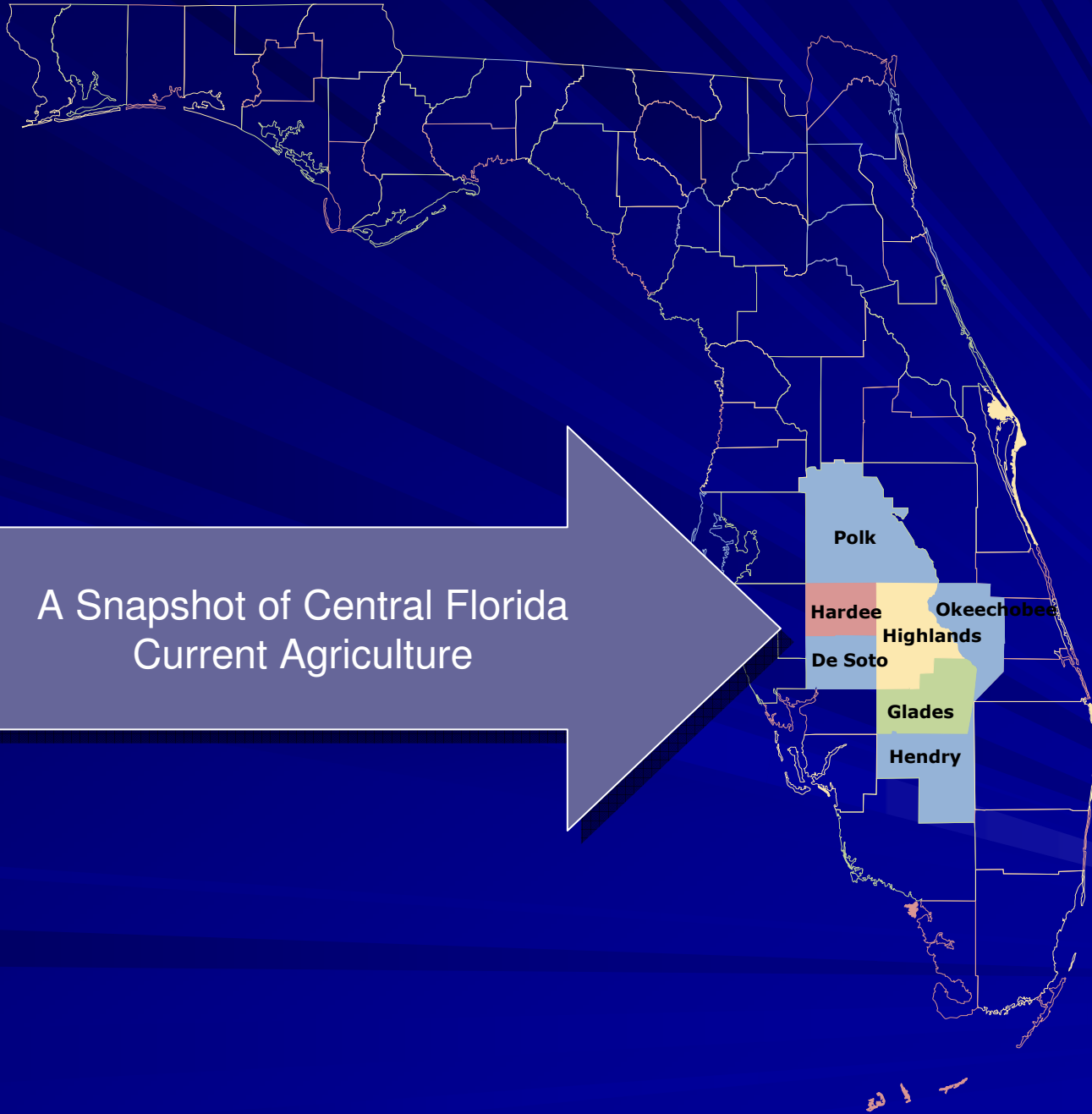
A Decade of Statistics

Total Farms 1997 - 2006

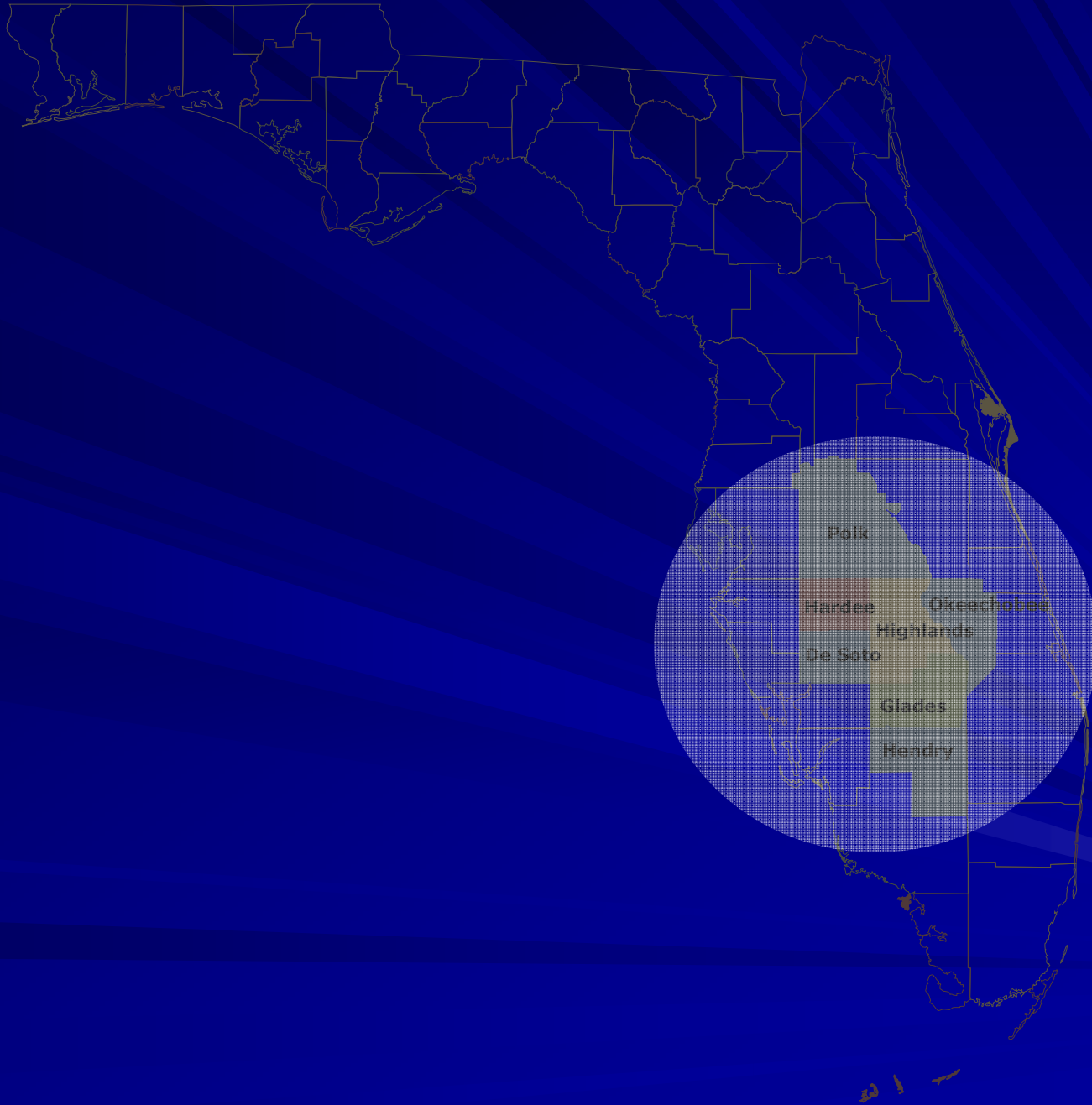
■ Do the Math...

An Average of 164 Acres of Farmland
Lost EACH DAY since 1997.

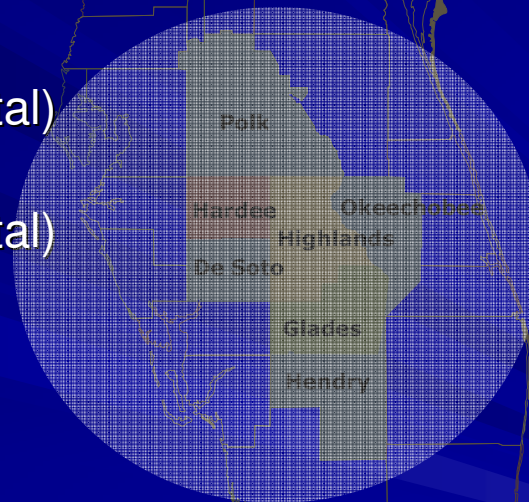




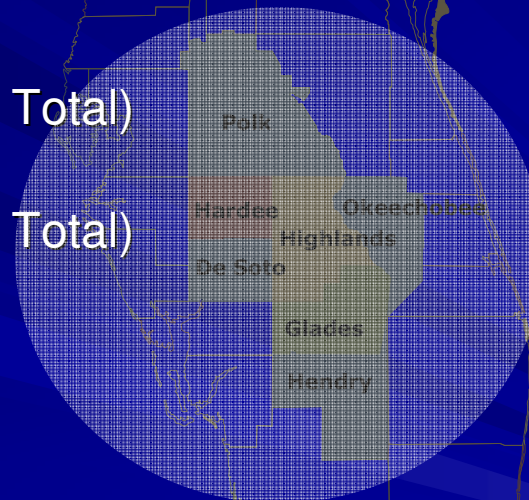
A Snapshot of Central Florida
Current Agriculture

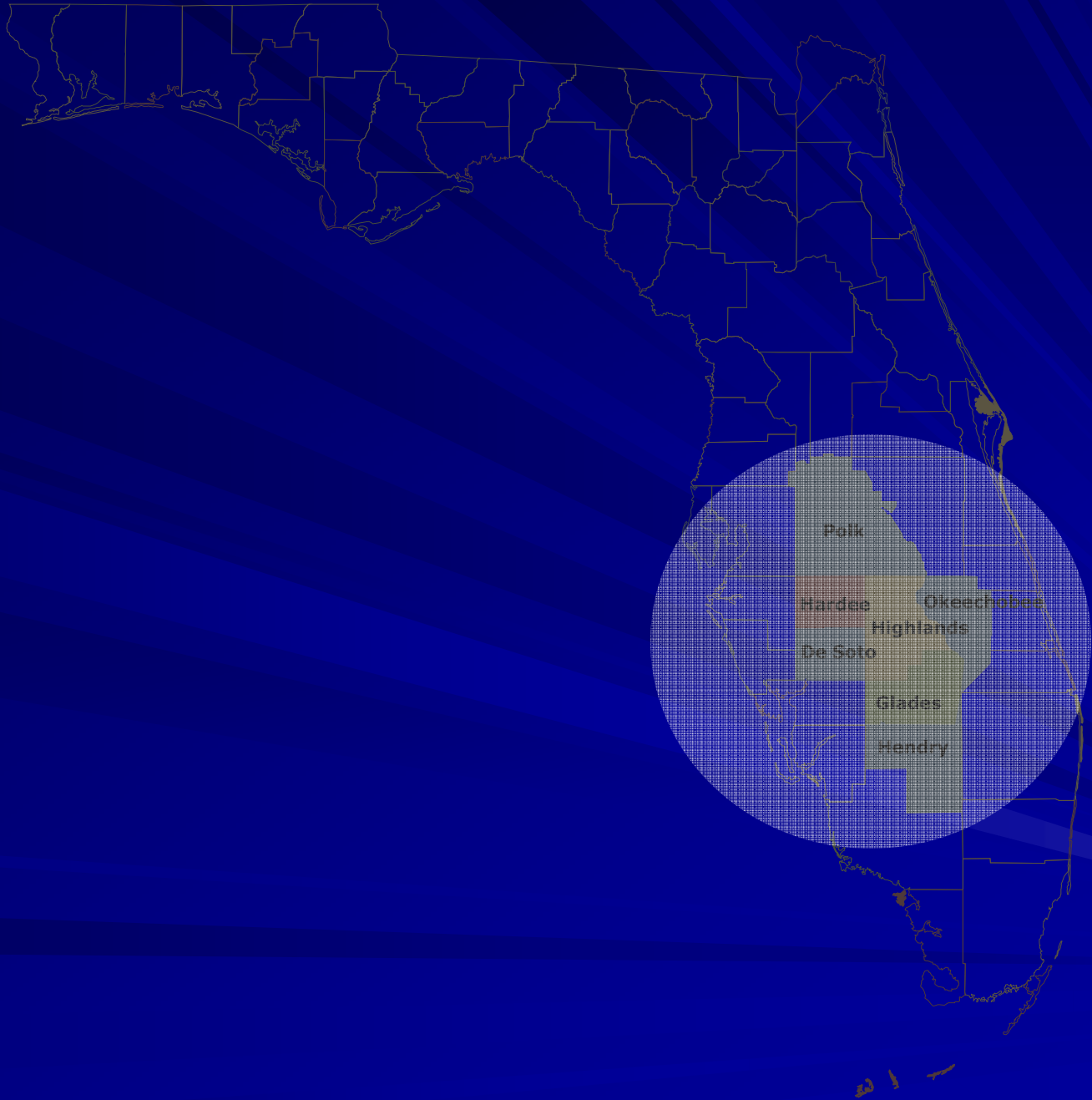


- **8,922 Farms** (20% of State Total)
- **3.3M Acres** (32% of State Total)



- **665,000 Cattle** (39% of State Total)
- **352,739 Citrus** (57% of State Total)



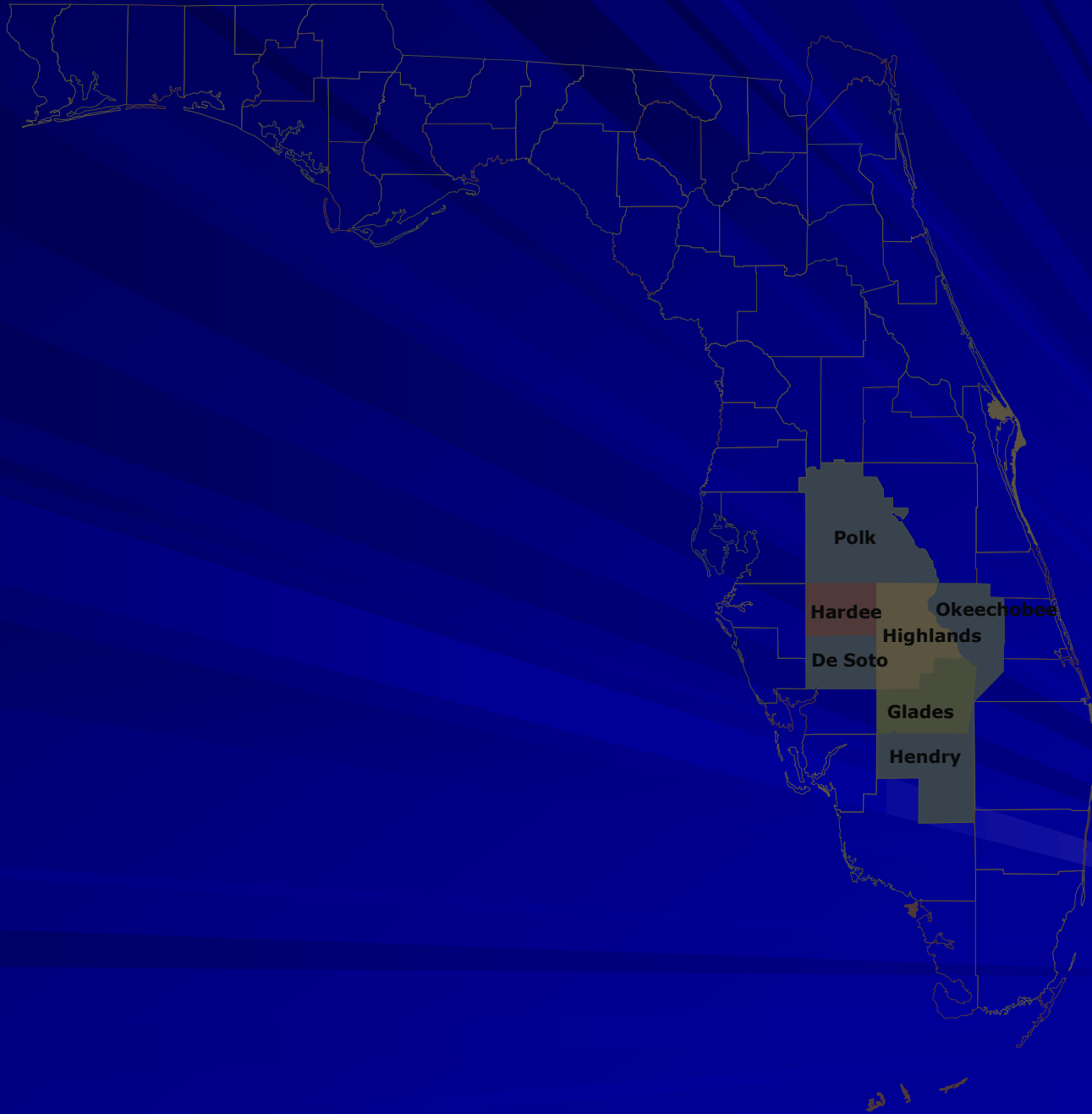


What's It Worth ?

- \$ 3.7 Billion (Direct & Indirect)
- \$ 1.4 Billion* Cash Receipts
- \$167 Million in Tax Revenue
- 45,000+ Jobs

* 23% of all the State's Direct Agricultural Cash Receipts

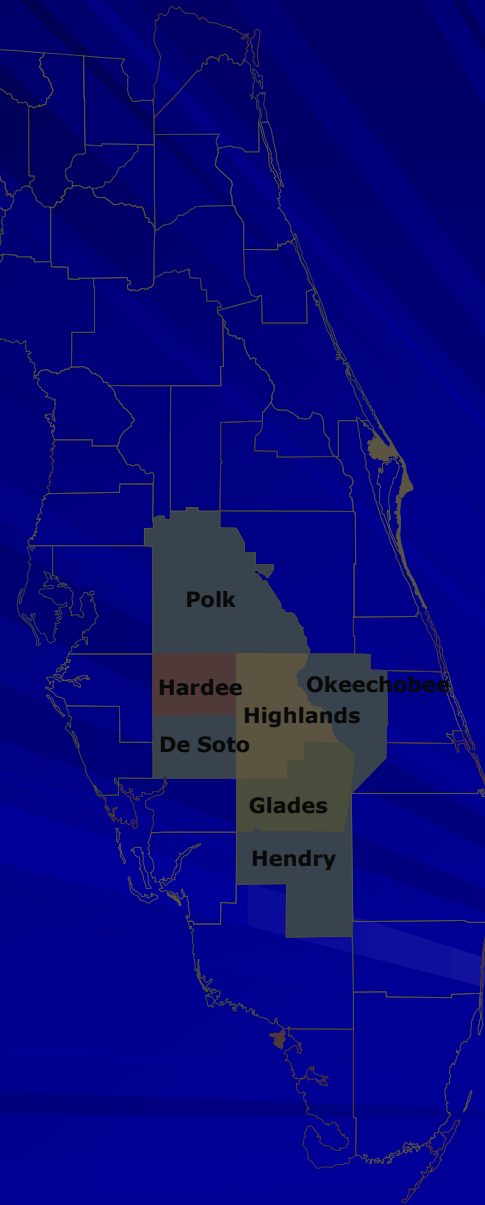




“The Threats”

(A Short List)

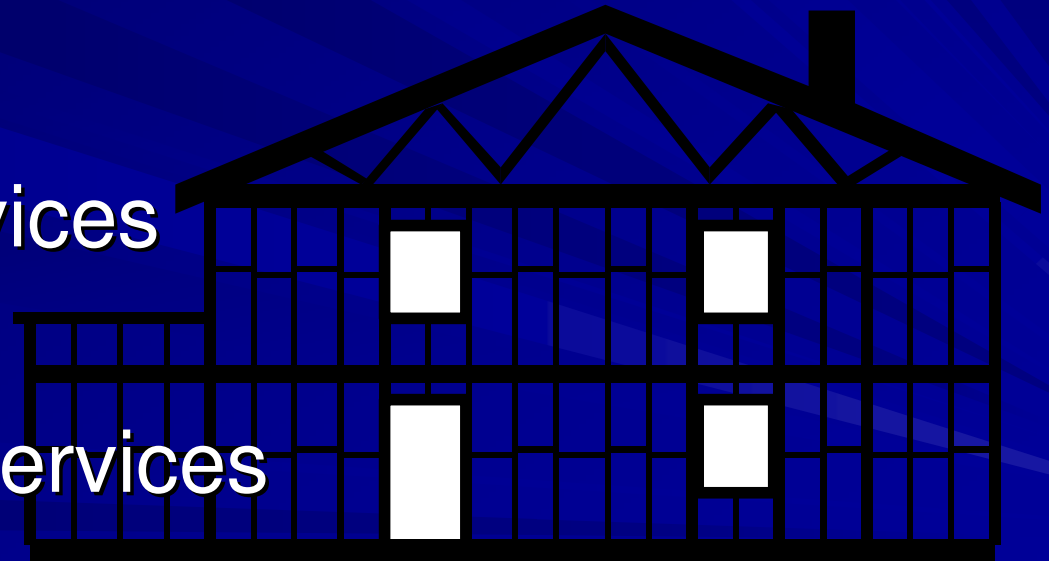
- Land Values
- Water
- Regulations
- Pests & Disease
- Property Taxes
- Labor
- Cost of Inputs
- Natural Disasters





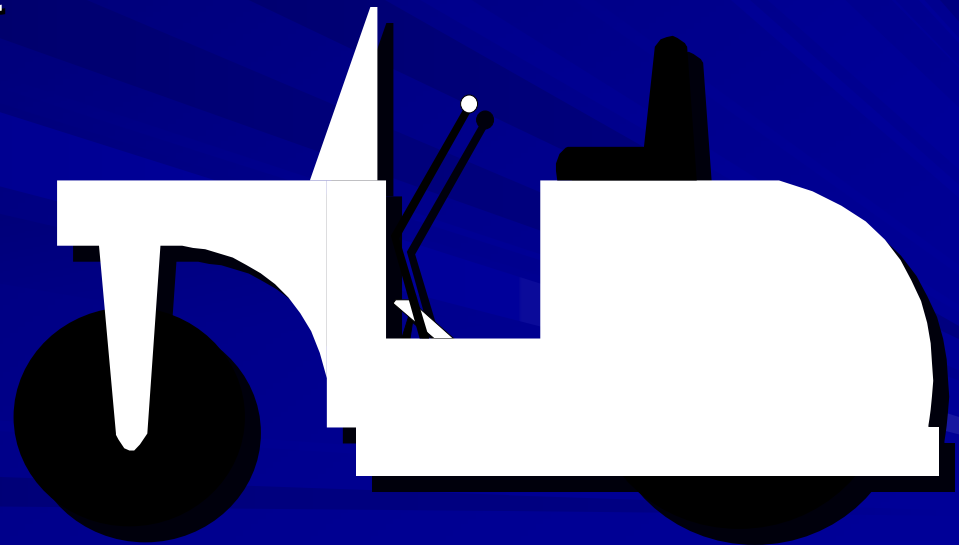
When Neighborhoods Go In...

- Roads
- Waste Treatment
- Water
- Schools
- Emergency Services
- Energy
- Retail Support Services

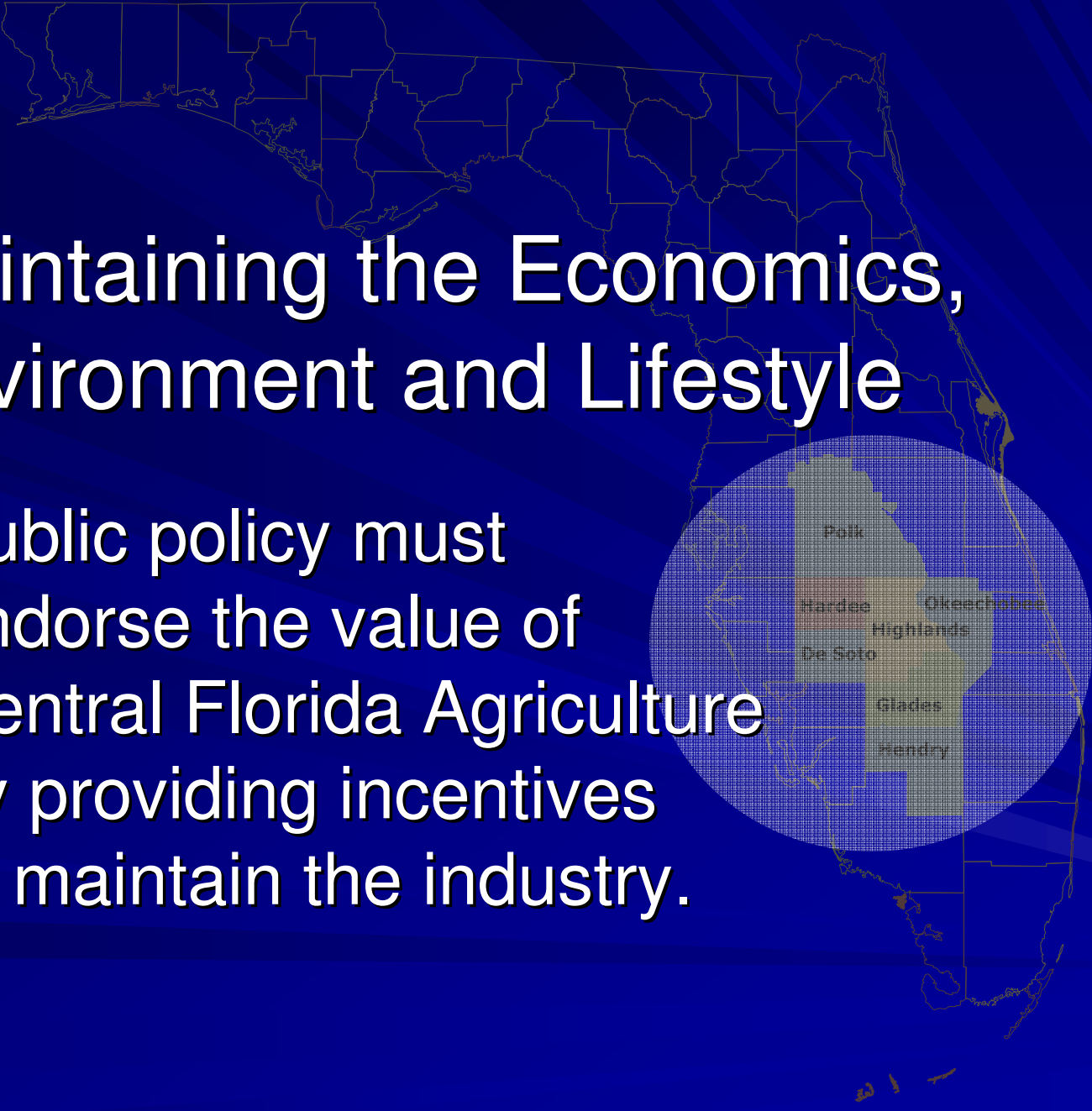


Modern Agriculture Needs Infrastructure Too...

- Energy
- Roads and Maintenance
- Waste Treatment
- Water







Maintaining the Economics, Environment and Lifestyle

- Public policy must endorse the value of Central Florida Agriculture by providing incentives to maintain the industry.



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