

FDOT District Two Freight Movement Forums

Office of Agricultural Law
Enforcement



**The Office of Agricultural
Law Enforcement
is dedicated to protecting
Florida's agriculture
and its consumers
through professional
law enforcement.**



- FDACS agricultural inspectors began inspecting citrus fruit shipments in 1935 as mandated by Florida statute.
- Inspections were conducted to ensure that all shipments of citrus complied with standards established by the Florida Citrus Commission and the US Department of Agriculture.
- Originally, most stations were staffed by local citizens, generally farmers, looking to supplement their income.
- Stations were often housed in tents and used kerosene lanterns for lighting. Inspectors used their own vehicles to chase down those failing to stop.
- In 1951 the inspection stations began operating 24 hours a day, year round and inspected fruits and vegetables.



Tick inspection station, Baker County, circa 1930.



1959 – Legislature created the Road Guard section within the Division of Inspection. It later became the Bureau of Road Guards.

1975 – Legislature created s. 570.15 FS, giving the personnel within the Road Guard Bureau the authority to inspect certain vehicles and making the inspectors “Special Road Guard Officers”. They attended a limited police standards training school which ultimately enabled them to carry firearms.

1981 – Required full Police Standards Training.

1992 – The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement was created.

2002 – Received full law enforcement authority.



The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement was awarded accredited status by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Association in June 2007 and re-accredited in June 2010, 2013 and 2016.



OALE employs 241 sworn personnel assigned to two bureaus:

- Investigative Services
- Uniform Services

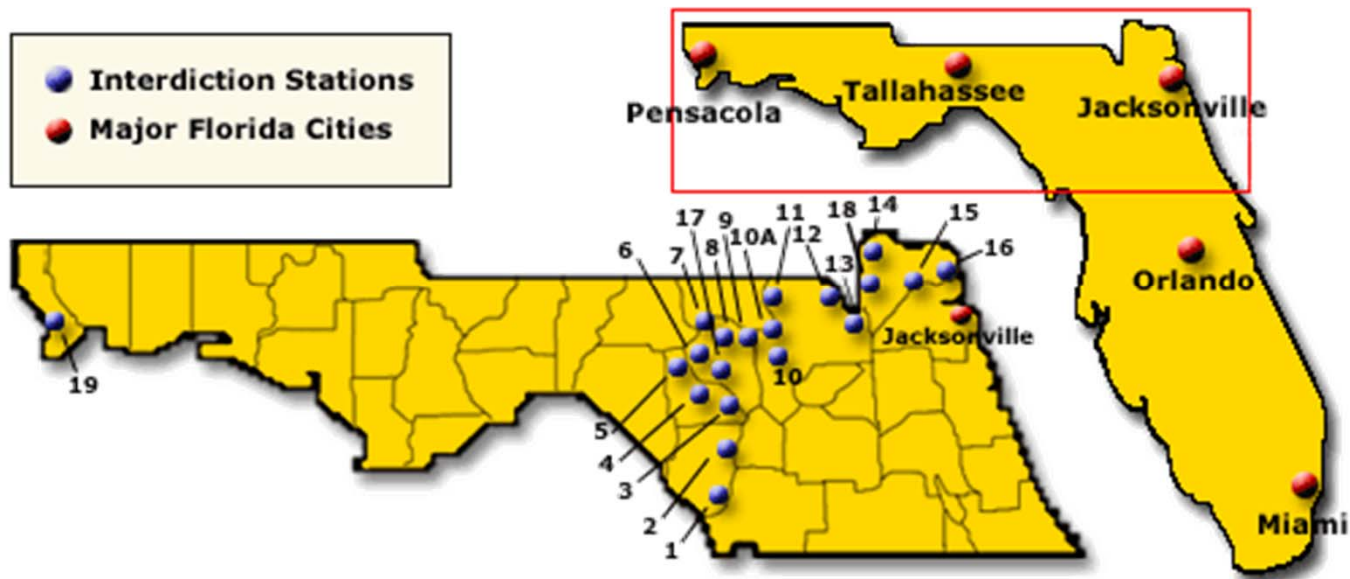


Florida's protected agricultural area consists of all counties south of the Suwannee and St. Mary's Rivers.



The Bureau of Uniform Services has four operational regions and 23 inspection stations located in North Florida and the Panhandle.

The stations are located on every paved highway crossing the natural boundary of the Suwannee and St. Mary's Rivers.





Inspections are conducted at each location around the clock, 365 days a year.



Core Mission

Officers conduct inspections of agricultural, horticultural, livestock and aquacultural products to ensure compliance with DACS regulations, Federal and State Marketing Agreements and Florida laws.



Seeking Violations



Seeking Violations

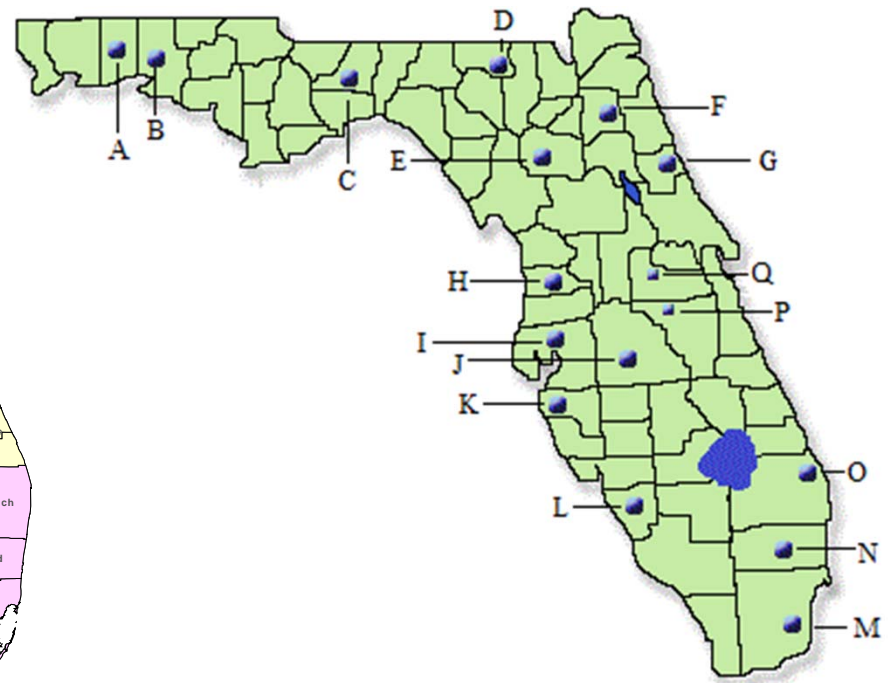
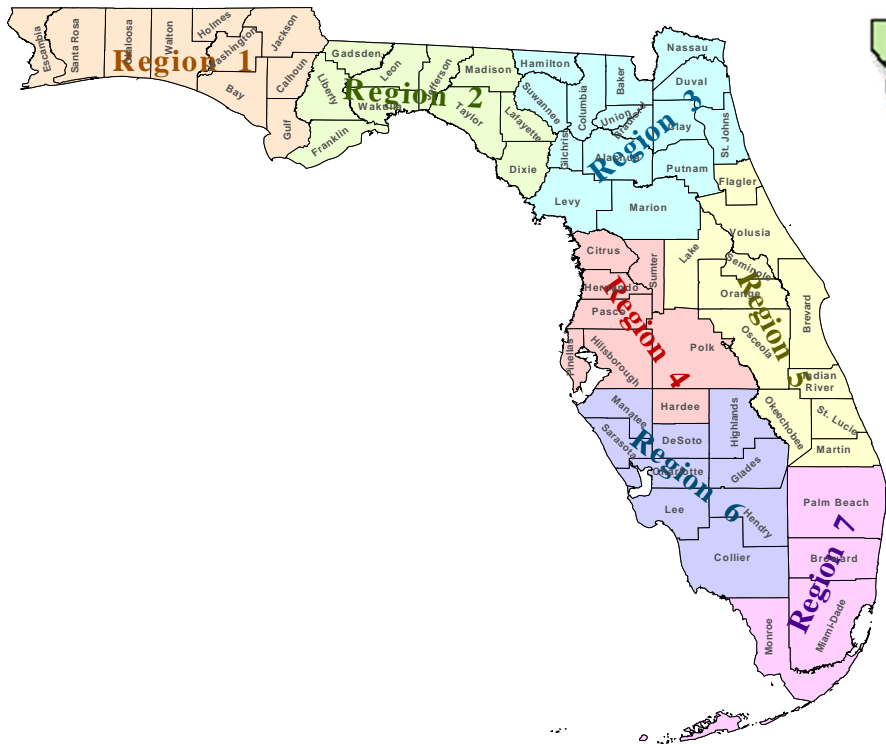




OALE works with the Department of Revenue to identify untaxed products entering the state.

Since program inception in March 1993, more than \$244,000,000.00 in revenue has been collected and paid to the General Revenue Fund.





The Bureau of Investigative Services operates with seven regions and has 17 field offices.



Bureau of Investigative Services

Types of Consumer Complaints and Cases Investigated

- Price Gouging
- Motor Vehicle Repair Fraud
- Charitable Solicitations
- Telemarketing
- Wildland Fires
- Aquaculture
- Timber Theft
- Sales of Business Opportunities
- White Collar Crime



Emergency Response Teams

The Bureau works closely with local, state, and federal agencies, providing investigative assistance and support as needed.

- Domestic Security Task Force
- Emergency Response Team (along with DOH, DEP, MCC, and FHP)
- Security Services for events such as FTAA and Super Bowl



Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME)



DME is a federally funded project that provides financial support to law enforcement efforts in detection and dismantling of illegal marijuana grow sites.



Captain Stefan Blue, Bureau of Uniform Services, Region-1

