

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 09-20 (Emergency Management – Freezing Temperatures)

I am issuing this Executive Order to extend for an additional 14 days a state of emergency to ensure timely precautions are taken to protect Florida's agricultural crops from freezing temperatures.

Beginning on January 14, 2009, portions of the state have experienced continuous nights of freezing temperatures. Because this time of year is particularly critical for Florida's commercial farmers, who produce nearly all of our Nation's domestically produced fresh fruits and vegetables during the winter months, it is vital to harvest and transport these vulnerable crops to processing sites. This will ensure consumers, who all across the United States count on Florida's citrus and vegetables, will receive fresh produce in the dead of winter.

As Governor, I am responsible to meet the dangers presented to this state and its people by this emergency. Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1 (a) of the Florida Constitution and by the State Emergency Management Act (Chapter 252, Florida Statutes), and all other applicable laws, I promulgate the following Executive Order:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, I find that the continuation of the activities needed to harvest crops and transport them to processing plants without delay is of critical importance to the state's farming community and economy.

Section 2. I also request the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services assess the impact that freezing temperatures have had on commercial farmers and advise me whether or not a U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretarial Declaration is warranted.

Section 3. I extend Executive Order 09-19, extending Executive Order 09-04, for an additional 14 days commencing on February 11, 2009 through February 25, 2009.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 4th day of February 2009.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE



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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA