

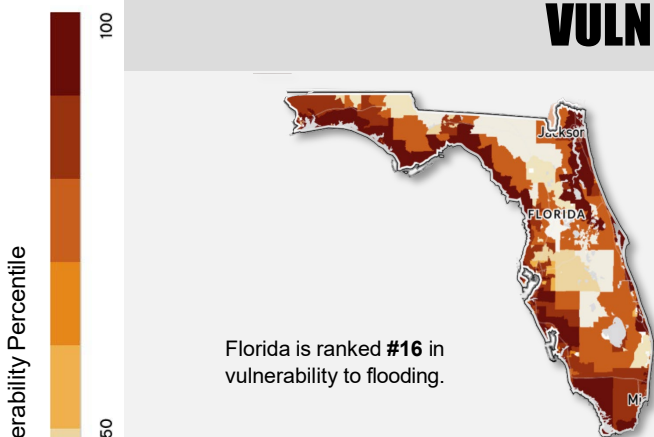
CLIMATE RISKS GROW FOR FLORIDA FARMS

Florida's fresh citrus fruits and vegetables feed people in the U.S. and around the world. But flooding and less predictable weather patterns caused by climate change are eroding fertile farmland and threatening the livelihood of farmers and ranchers. Congress must support hard-working Floridians – and the farm bill is the best opportunity for a more productive and resilient agricultural system.

WHY THE U.S. NEEDS FLORIDA

No state produces more Valencia oranges, tomatoes, watermelons and bell peppers than Florida, which ranks second in fresh market vegetable production. However, these important commodities face climate threats according to the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), a screening tool developed in partnership between EDF, Texas A&M University and community-based stakeholders. The CVI provides us with a better understanding of the growing climate risks facing farmers and ranchers by visualizing how drivers of cumulative vulnerability harm communities across the United States.

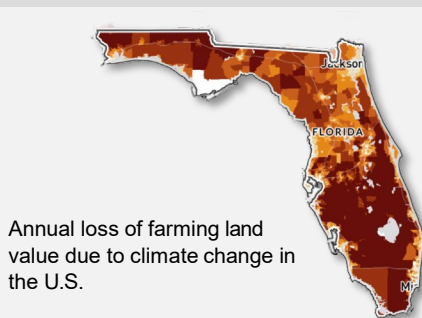
FLORIDA RANKS HIGHLY NATIONWIDE FOR VULNERABILITY TO FLOODING



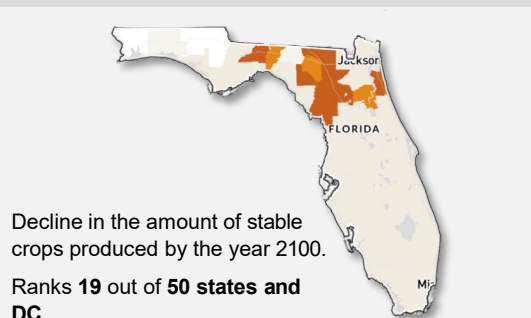
FLOODING

Data from the CVI indicates that census tracts along the state's coast are vulnerable to increases in flooding. As sea levels hit record highs, many crops will struggle to maintain their regular growing cycles, potentially increasing crop failures and soil erosion.

AG LAND VALUE



CROP YIELDS



These climate vulnerabilities will disrupt agricultural production systems across the state and will have a host of consequences to the state's economy and the national food supply.

FLORIDA FARMERS NEED CONGRESS TO HELP THEM STAY PRODUCTIVE

Florida's farmers and ranchers need more technical and financial support to best respond to a changing climate. Many are already implementing cover crops, no-till, split nutrient application and other conservation practices on their farms. Farmers and ranchers know their land better than anyone. They know what they need to do to stay competitive and productive.

Programs administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program, are available to help improve the resilience of farms and ranches. These programs are incredibly popular, but the funding previously allocated for them in the 2018 farm bill doesn't go far enough. That's why up to two-thirds of applications for these voluntary programs are rejected each year.

THE SOLUTION

For this farm bill, Florida farmers need Congress to help them stay productive in a changing climate while also reducing environmental impacts.

Otherwise, we risk the food on our tables.

