



## Members:

Our Directors had a meeting on June 11th. The primary initial focus was the Freeze impact (Feb 1, 2), which not only severely impacted the farms but also caused Mancini Foods to be unable to commit to processing our crop as they transitioned with new partners. The harvest cancellation was a disappointment to all but many agreed it might be best for the bamboo plants' recovery.

This year is defined by:

- the Freeze and what we can learn from its impact on production,
- our efforts to leverage our economic model's success into industry expansion,
- what to expect from next season's harvest

These questions will likely focus our Annual Meeting and we have begun planning the event. We are aiming for December 16th at the Lake Alfred Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC). We plan to send out a Save the Date announcement once we confirm dates with our speakers. As part of this we will have a Director election so feel free to contact our director Drew Morson with suggestions for potential nominees.

As part of our efforts to expand the industry, we are reworking our website to serve as a resource for new farmers and investors. In addition we have two events where we hope to attract attention:

- IFAS Field Day - July 14th - located at Phil Rucks Nursery - this will be an opportunity for people to learn about bamboo farming and get questions answered.
- Citrus Expo - August 13th - like last year we will have speakers (including myself) explaining our industry progress.

Research: We have several ongoing projects:

- Key Project: This method counts farm production (doesn't require harvest) and will establish the 2026 crop impact from the freeze.
- Mechanical Harvesting - The UF engineers are working to raise additional funding while solving the challenge of autonomous culm selection for harvest.
- Big Asper (and other varieties) - Kingdom Bamboo is receiving its larger cultivar of Asper and developing tissue culture to make this significantly larger plant available for new farm plantings.



Let us know if you have any questions.

