

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The acreage, production, and value statistics in this publication are the official State and USDA estimates prepared by the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service (FASS) in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. They are effective as of April 1, 2006. The estimates can be revised later in the year, or in the following year, when additional data become available. Any revisions made to the estimates, as well as estimates made after that date, are included in reports posted to the website shown below and available from FASS.

Growers, shippers, and processors voluntarily provided most of the data used in developing these statistics. The public spirited cooperation of these individuals and groups is appreciated. The Florida Tomato Committee, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, sales agencies, and transportation firms have provided valuable assistance and data throughout the season. The Bureau of State Farmer's Markets, Florida Department of Agriculture, and the County Extension Agents were also very helpful in supplying area and county information.

Reliable and consistent production data are needed to make informed and knowledgeable decisions. With increasing unpredictability of commodity prices and competition from a growing global marketplace, data users must have accurate and unbiased data. Farmers and agribusinesses need information for their production planning and marketing decisions. The media, legislators, and educators also need this data to develop sound policies and to promote Florida's agricultural products.

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