

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
EMERGENCY ORDER
2024-015

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024, through Executive Order 24-208, the Governor of the State of Florida declared that Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine was expected to threaten the State with severe weather and declared a state of emergency in forty-one counties; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2024, through Executive Order 24-209, the Governor ratified and reaffirmed Executive Order 24-208, added twenty additional counties to those under a state of emergency, and declared that Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine was expected to strengthen into a major hurricane prior to making landfall; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene (formerly Potential Tropical Cyclone 9) made landfall on September 26, 2024, as a Category 4 hurricane, bringing heavy rainfall, record-breaking storm surge, and destructive winds; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene caused catastrophic damage to structures and infrastructure, creating widespread power outages, interfering with communications systems, and otherwise preventing the normal conduct of business; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, through Executive Order 24-214, the Governor declared that Tropical Storm Milton was expected to threaten the State with severe weather and declared a state of emergency in thirty-five counties; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2024, through Executive Order 24-215, the Governor ratified and reaffirmed Executive Order 24-214, added sixteen additional counties to those under a state of emergency, and declared that Tropical Storm Milton was expected to be at or near a major hurricane upon making landfall; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton (formerly Tropical Storm Milton) have prevented, and will continue to prevent, the distribution of an adequate fuel supply to consumers throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida, pursuant to Executive Order 24-208, Section 4, and Executive Order 24-214, Section 4, finds that the special duties and responsibilities resting upon some state agencies in responding to the emergency may require agencies to suspend the application of the statutes, rules, and orders that state agencies administer; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 24-208, Section 4, Subparagraph B, and Executive Order 24-214, Section 4, Subparagraph B, authorize state agencies to suspend the effect of any regulatory statutes prescribing the procedures for conducting state business or the orders or rules of the agency if strict compliance would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay

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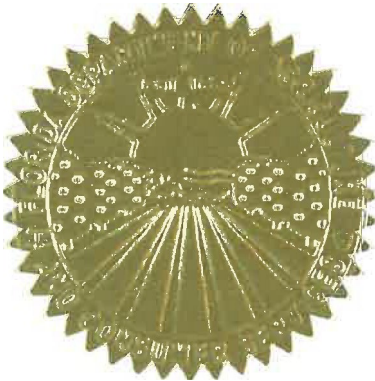
necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the powers and authorities conferred by Article IV, Section 4, Florida Constitution, and Executive Orders 24-208, 24-209, 24-214, and 24-215, I hereby declare the following:

- (1) The provisions of sections 526.02, 526.04, 526.05, and 526.07, Florida Statutes, relating to the sale, offer for sale, delivery, distribution, or storage of liquid fuels are hereby suspended.
- (2) All other provisions of chapter 526, Florida Statutes, shall remain in effect.

THIS ORDER shall expire sixty (60) days from the date of execution, unless extended or rescinded by the Commissioner of Agriculture or upon the expiration or rescission of Executive Orders 24-208, 24-209, 24-214, and 24-215, or any further extensions thereof, whichever occurs first.

EXECUTED OCTOBER 7, 2024.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wilton Simpson", is written over a horizontal line.

WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE