Agriculture Diversity & Profitability Initiatives at UF-IFAS Partnership at Hastings that have Potential for Small Farm Enterprises
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Blueberries: Freeze-protected with overhead sprinklers. **Potential Profitability:** 2010 season (3rd year of growth) ‘Jewel’ =$12,334 and ‘Emerald’ =$10,702 net returns/acre for standard bark treatment. **Blueberry Management Treatments:** Three inches vs. six inches of pine bark, pine bark incorporated pre-plant vs. not, plastic groundcover, drip irrigation, overhead irrigation, micro-jet irrigation, and fruit thinning vs. not thinning.

Muscadine Grapes: Commercial single-cordon trellis. **Potential Profitability:** Gross revenue per acre (North Carolina yield data) @ 25 cents/pound year two = $500, year three = $1500, year four = $4,000. Year four net return per acre of $1360 (-$2640 production & harvest cost per acre). **Cultivars:** Noble and Carlos.

Stone Fruit: Grown on three-foot high raised beds on Flatwoods soil with overhead freeze protection and drip irrigation. **Potential Profitability:** Estimated net returns/acre @ $2/lb wholesale; for year two (Hastings preliminary data) = $750, year three = $3,200 (Mississippi data), year four until orchard declines on or before year 12 = $16,325. **Cultivars:** (ranging from 100 to 350 chill hours) Gulfking, UF Sharp, UF Blaze, Floradbeest, UFO, Earlgrande, UF Beauty, UF Glo, Tropic Beauty, UF One, Floradaprince, and UF Sun.

Strawberries: Raised bed production with Maxijet® overhead irrigation for freeze protection. **Potential Profitability:** Gross returns per acre ranged from $12,200 - $37,800; depending on the cultivar (2010 yields and prices). Direct local retail sales would highly increase returns possible, with $3 –$1 per pound being reasonable for local clientele. **Cultivars:** Camino Real, Strawberry Festival, and Florida Radiance.

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