

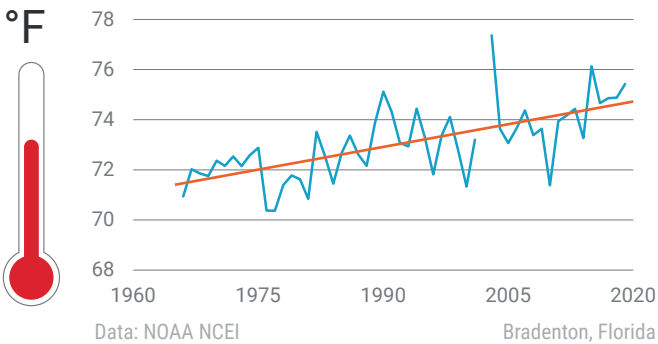
# CLIMATE CHALLENGES

## Agriculture

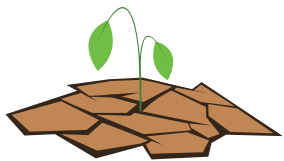
### Sarasota & Manatee Counties, Florida

Local agriculture is threatened by changing land uses, with 53% fewer acres in crop production from 1982–2017. Today, 1,040 farms and ranches produce over \$380 million worth of products. Climate factors may further threaten agricultural productivity and local food security.

**Rising Temperatures** will stress heat-sensitive crops and livestock. Average annual air temperatures are 3.2°F warmer since 1966. Scientists project that future greenhouse gas emissions will continue to drive temperatures higher.



**Prolonged Periods of Drought** will stress crops, increase irrigation costs, and increase demands on water supplies.



**Intensifying Rainfall and Storms** will stress and damage crops sensitive to flooding and high winds. Hurricane intensity is increasing globally.



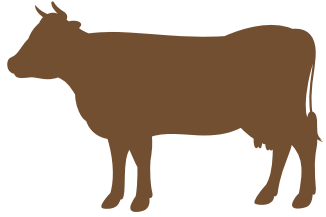
# CLIMATE SOLUTIONS Agriculture

## Sarasota & Manatee Counties, Florida

Conserving energy and transitioning to renewable energy sources will slow climate change, but we still need to adapt to climate change already underway.



**Local farmers** will need to shift to growing more heat tolerant varieties of produce.



**Local ranchers** will need to shift to more heat-tolerant forage crops and livestock.



**Consumers** can source more of their diets locally to reduce carbon emissions from transportation and support sustainable local agricultural practices.

## Watch Now!

### CLIMATE STORIES VIDEO SERIES

[ScienceAndEnvironment.org/Climate](https://ScienceAndEnvironment.org/Climate)

*Featuring local agriculture experts:*

**EVA WORDEN, PHD**  
Worden Farm

**JIM STRICKLAND**  
Strickland Farm & Blackbeard's Ranch

**SARAH BOSTICK**  
UF/IFAS Extension



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