



Richard Gaskalla

Richard Gaskalla spent more than four decades defending Florida agriculture from invasive pests and diseases.



Gaskalla began his career at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Plant Industry and was promoted to director in 1988.



Gaskalla was on the forefront of researching and implementing techniques to protect and preserve Florida's citrus industry by directing the Citrus Canker Eradication Program and partnering with the USDA and the University of Florida's Institute of Food

and Agricultural Sciences to establish and implement the Citrus Health Response Program.

Gaskalla has earned numerous industry accolades over the years, including the USDA's Administrator's Award; Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association's Friend of the Industry Award; and the Commissioner of Agriculture's Distinguished Achievement Award.