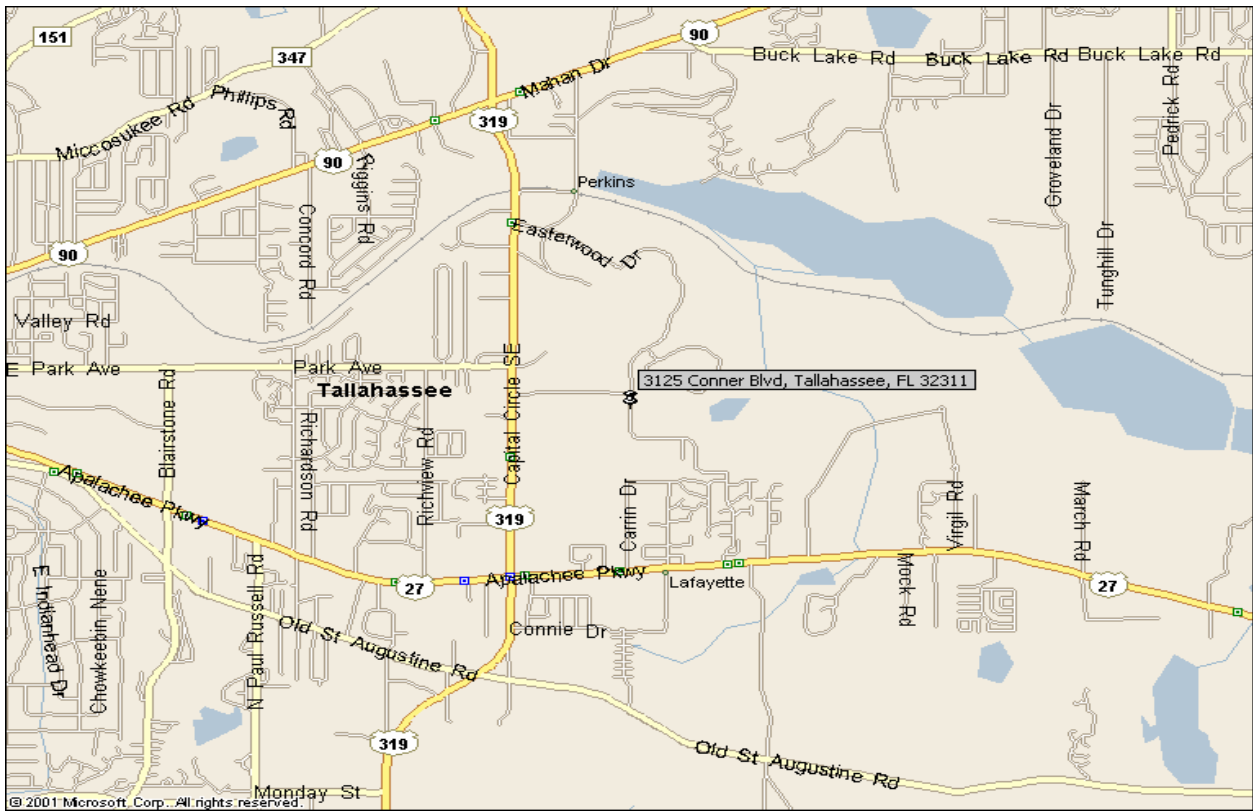
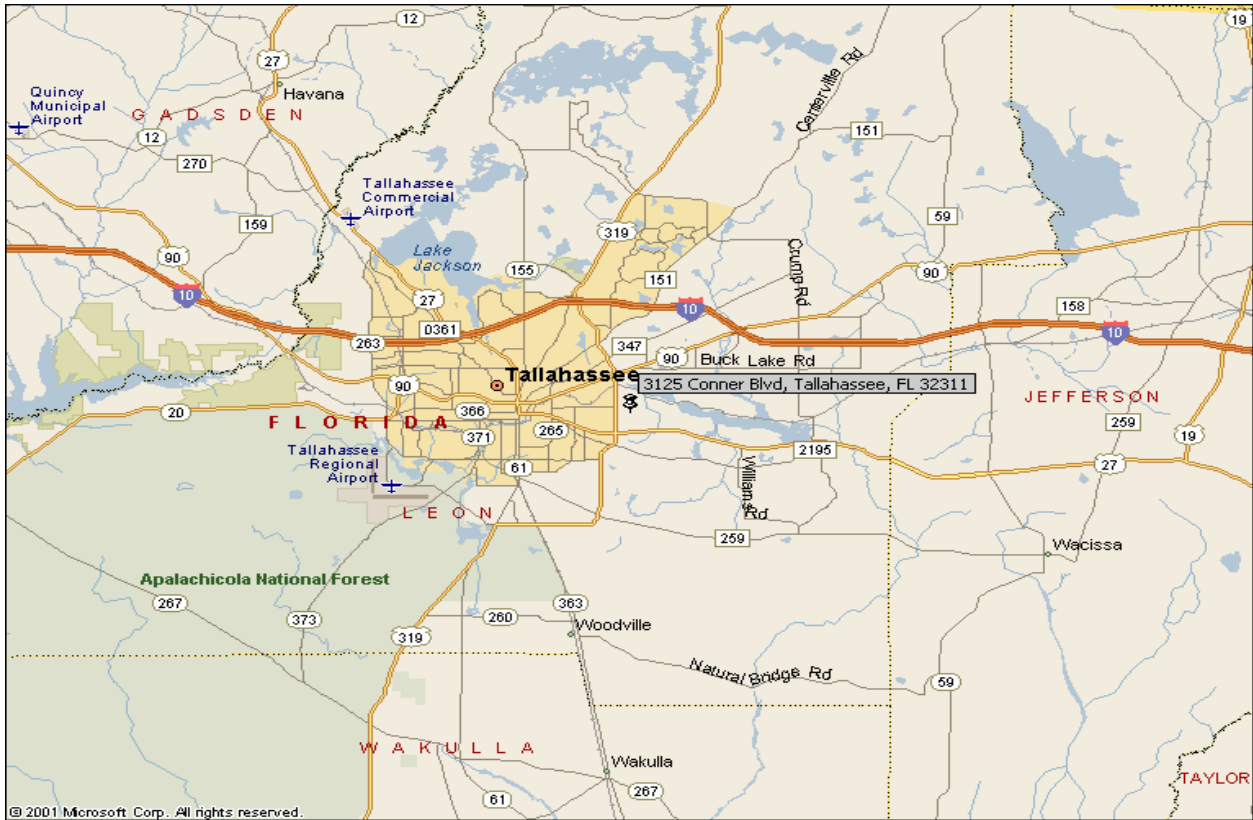


**NORTH FLORIDA**

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Conner Administration Building, George Eyster Auditorium  
3125 Conner Blvd.,  
Tallahassee, FL. (850) 414-9499





## CENTRAL FLORIDA

Osceola County Extension Services,  
Osceola Heritage Park  
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane  
(1901 East Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway)  
Kissimmee, FL. (321) 697-3000

The first cattle to enter the North American continent traveled through the Kissimmee Valley in what is now Osceola County. Descendants of the Spanish breed survived for centuries in the Florida swamps and ultimately spawned the cattle industry in Kissimmee-St. Cloud and throughout the United States. Throughout time, the ranching way of life has contributed tremendously to the county's colorful history and traditions.

To honor this heritage, community leaders committed the necessary resources to design and construct the 120-acre, multipurpose complex known as Osceola Heritage Park. This complex is host to the county's own annual activities and provides a venue that can accommodate a wide variety of events for attendees from all over.

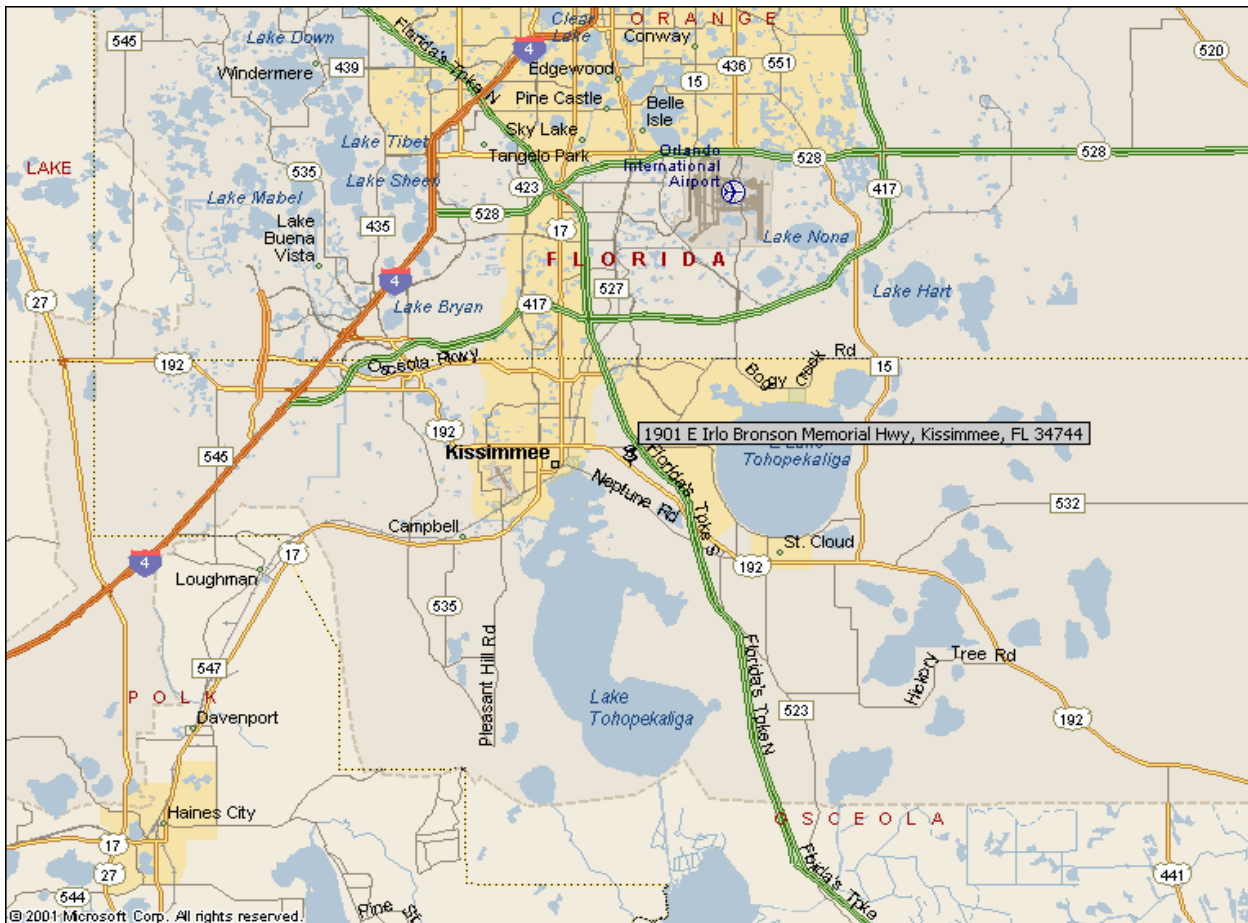
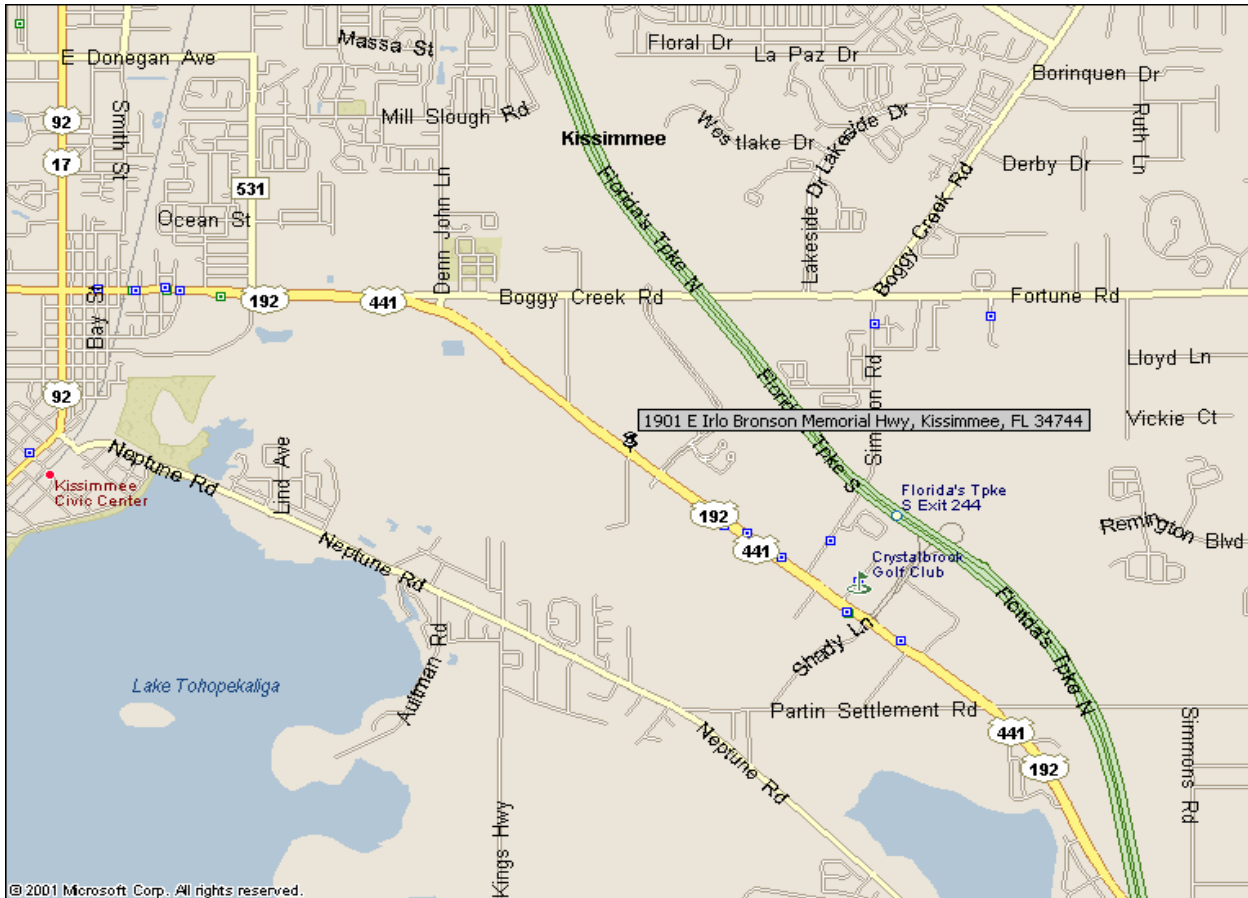
### HEADQUARTERS TO:

Houston Astro's Spring Training  
Kissimmee-St. Cloud Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show and Fair  
Osceola County Extension Services  
Silver Spurs Rodeo

### FACILITIES INCLUDE:

Exhibition Building  
Extension Services  
KVLS Show Pavilion  
Multipurpose Pavilion  
Osceola County Stadium  
Silver Spurs Arena







## **SOUTH FLORIDA**

University of Florida  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
Everglades Research and Education Center  
3200 E. Palm Beach Rd.  
Belle Glade, FL. (561) 993-1500

In 1921, the Florida Legislature authorized the creation of the Everglades Experiment Station on lands near Belle Glade. Studies during the 1930s included cross-breeding cattle, nitrogen investigations, insect control and introduction of the new fiber crop, ramie. By 1940, crops such as bush snap beans, cabbage, celery, lettuce, onions and lima beans were being developed and bred specifically for the Everglades region. Research was also devoted to helping the country's war effort.

Work with turf grass began officially in 1946, and a fiber laboratory was completed in 1947. By 1952, a virus research unit dedicated to plant diseases was established, and further research was devoted to cattle. Sugarcane production increased in the 1960s and the Center responded with an expanded sugarcane research program.

In 1968, construction began on the station's library, which was completed in 1969. Two years later, the facility's name was changed to the Agricultural Research and Education Center. The 1970s saw many new research discoveries. Virus diseases stimulated research efforts. Rice emerged as a commercial crop rotated with sugarcane and vegetables. Vegetable research continued to grow as well, with new sweet corn, lettuce, celery, and pepper varieties released.

In 1984, the facility's name was changed again to the Everglades Research and Education Center (EREC). The name is perhaps most fitting because throughout its 75 year history, the Center has served as a viable partner within the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) community.



