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FLORIDA CRYSTALS WRAPS 2008-09 SUGAR CANE HARVEST

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. – April 7, 2009 - Florida Crystals Corporation completed its sugar cane harvest at its two sugar mills in Western Palm Beach County after a year marked by significant weather challenges.

Florida Crystals produced 5,600,000 tons of cane. The company produced 622,441 short tons raw value (STRV), making Florida Crystals the largest cane sugar producer in the U.S. for the second year in a row.

The Okeelanta sugar mill, located south of South Bay, ground out March 11 after 152 crop days. The Osceola sugar mill in Pahokee completed its 139-crop-day season on March 8.

Operating since 1960, Osceola continues to be one of the region's most consistent mills with a record-breaking raw sugar yield of 11.75 percent, the highest yield reported this year in Florida's sugar industry.

The unfortunate confluence of events beginning with last year's drought followed by unseasonal heavy rains resulted in poor growing conditions for this year's crop. Additionally, four below freezing events from late November to early March, including one major freeze in January caused significant damage to the cane.

Notwithstanding this year's climate challenges, the harvest is still above numbers from past years when the company was recovering from a series of hurricanes from 2004 to 2005.

The agriculture industry as a whole continues to be one of the cornerstones of Florida's economy, with an annual economic impact of \$100 billion and supporting more than 766,000 jobs, according to recent reports by the USDA and the University of Florida.

Florida Crystals is a leading domestic sugar producer and North America's first fully integrated cane sugar company, guiding its sugar from the field to the table. Florida Crystals® is the first sugar certified CarbonFree® by Carbonfund.org. Florida Crystals' renewable energy facility is the largest of its kind in North America and provides clean energy for its sugar operations and 60,000 homes, reducing America's dependence on fossil fuels by one million barrels of oil each year.

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