



# Fast Facts

Vol. 19, No. 9

Timely Communication For Farm Bureau Leaders

October 28, 2011

Published by Florida Farm Bureau • P.O. Box 147030 Gainesville, FL 32614-7030 • (352) 378-8100 • FloridaFarmBureau.org

## 70TH ANNUAL MEETING CONCLUDED EARLIER THIS MONTH

**A fine balance of well-deserved award announcements and policy development engaged more than 500 members at Florida Farm Bureau's 70th Annual Meeting, held Oct. 6 through Oct. 8, at The Peabody Hotel in Orlando.**

Voting delegates unanimously re-elected Florida Farm Bureau President **John Hoblick** to serve another term in office. A Volusia County fern producer, Hoblick has held the post since 2006. **Jerry Davis** of Santa Rosa County, **Henry McCrone** of Calhoun County, **Rod Land** of Lafayette County, **Dalton Dowdy** of Duval County, **Brad Etheridge** of Levy County, **Wilton Simpson** of Pasco County, **Mark Byrd** of Orange County, **Ron Wetherington** of Hillsborough County, **Mark Soddors** of Palm Beach County and **Mark Wilson** of Miami-Dade County were re-elected as members of the state board of directors.

**Roy M. Wilson Sr.**, president of the Gilchrist County Farm Bureau and former member of the Florida Farm Bureau board of directors, and the late **Myron Bryan**, former president of the Alachua County Farm Bureau and also a former state board member, received Florida Farm Bureau's highest honor. They were named recipients of the 2011 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. This award recognizes a lifetime of service on behalf of Farm Bureau and Florida agriculture.

**Sen. Gary Siplin**, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, **Rep. Leonard Bembry**, member of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, and **Rep. Steve Crisafulli**, chair, House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, each received the 2011 Florida Farm Bureau Legislator of the Year award.

**Jason and Olivia DeVane** earned top honors in the YF&R Achievement in Agriculture Award competition. The DeVanes manage their family's citrus operation in Polk County. **Clay and Erin Archey** of Seminole County captured the YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award. The couple received the award based upon their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations. At the YF&R Discussion Meet competition **Jacob Raburn** of Hillsborough County captured the top award for his ability to contribute toward problem solving and his cooperative attitude while exchanging ideas and information with his colleagues at the event.

**Kelvin Moreno** of Miami-Dade County was elected chair of the Florida Farm Bureau YF&R Leadership Group. **Ginny Paarlberg** of Madison County was elected as chair of the Florida Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee; **Sarah Carte** of Suwannee County was elected as vice-chair. All three will serve on the Florida Farm Bureau state board of directors. **Sue Dauphin** of Bay County and **Brenda Land** of Lafayette County have joined the Women's Leadership Committee as members representing Districts 1 and 2, respectively.

A new award, announced at the President's awards banquet on Oct. 7, has been established in memory of **Pat Cockrell**, who passed away earlier this year. He was a 35-year veteran of the Florida Farm Bureau staff and leader in this state's agricultural industry. His widow, Janice, accepted the inaugural award on his behalf at the meeting. In future years the award will recognize long-term, superior service to Florida Farm Bureau.

**George McAdams** of Bay County took home the FBACT Award for his work in grass roots advocacy. ●●● **Gary England**, a UF/IFAS Extension agent in Sumter County, received the Certified Crop Advisor Award. ●●● **Christina Veiga**, a reporter for The Miami Herald, was named the 2011 Newsperson of the Year. ●●● **Alexandra Morneau**, a Union County FFA member, won the Youth Speech Contest with a captivating address that showcases her graceful poise and solid research. ●●● **Hal Arve**, a Farm Bureau agent in Miami-Dade County, earned the Team Player of the Year award. ●●● The 2011 Commissioner of Agriculture's Environmental Leadership Award recipient was **Alto Straughn** of Alachua County. A watermelon and blueberry producer, Straughn has been a pioneer in developing innovative production strategies that conserve water resources and improve productivity.

## WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NEWS

**FFB Assistant Director of Government and Community Affairs Charles Shinn** reports that the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board voted to allow Federal cost-share funds to be utilized on District owned lands. The funds, known as EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) assist producers in implementing best management practices (BMPs) thus reducing land management costs.●●●

**FFB Assistant Director of Government and Community Affairs Curt Williams** reports that the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board unanimously voted **Hans Tanzler III** as its new executive director. Tanzler has served on the district's governing board since 2008, recently transitioning his focus as general counsel, and will now lead the district as top executive. His new role with the district is effective immediately, but must be confirmed by Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Senate.

## COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS SLATED FOR DECEMBER

**The Florida Farm Bureau Council of Presidents is scheduled for Dec. 7-8 at the UF Hilton in Gainesville.** Things will get underway at 11 a.m. on Wednesday and wrap up by lunch time on Thursday. For more information, contact **Debra Jones** at (352) 384-2630.

## FARM BUREAU'S NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

**FFB Communications Specialist Janeen Piotrowski** reports that the FFB Federation website has a fresh, new look. Among the improvements are a more prominent front page slideshow feature and less scrolling to navigate. See how it all looks at [FloridaFarmBureau.org](http://FloridaFarmBureau.org).

## 2012 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ABOUT AGRICULTURE AWARDS

**Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (FAITC)** each year sponsors an awards program for **Florida teachers who demonstrate that they use Agriculture in the Classroom concepts in their classroom lessons.** Teachers who are interested in nominating themselves or other teachers, or volunteers who are interested in nominating teachers, have until Friday, Dec. 16, to complete and return an application form. The overall Florida winner will receive a \$500 honorarium and the other three winners will receive \$250 each. All four teacher winners will receive all expenses paid trips to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference June 19-22, 2012 in Loveland, Colo. Application forms are available at [www.flagintheclassroom.com](http://www.flagintheclassroom.com). Contact **Lisa Gaskalla** at (352) 846-1391 for more information.

## AFBF ANNOUNCES SUMMER 2012 INTERNSHIPS

**The American Farm Bureau Federation offers several paid internships each summer in its Washington, D.C., office for college students.** The dates of summer internships are between mid-May and the end of August, depending on schedules. Interns are expected to work 37.5 hours per week for 8-10 weeks during the internship period and are responsible for their own housing. Details about available internships, how to apply and application deadlines may be found at [www.fb.org](http://www.fb.org). Click on Internships in the Programs dropdown menu.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Worden Farm will be hosting a free sustainable nutrient and pest management workshop in Punta Gorda on Oct. 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The workshop will provide practical information and advice about sustainable nutrient, pest, weed and disease management options. For more information contact **Eva Worden** at (941) 637-4874. ●●● **Broward County Farm Bureau Day and 4-H Fair on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pompano Beach Green Market.** There will be a 4-H competition, chicken barbecue contest, games, displays and vendors. For more information, contact **Fred Segal** at (954) 972-2525. ●●● **Craft Fair in the Woods on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Freedom Ranch in Okeechobee.** Relax in the beautiful surroundings as you enjoy a barbecue dinner and a bowl of swamp cabbage. There will be plenty to do, see and buy for the whole family. For more information contact **Pam Hales** at (863) 763-2678.