



Fast Facts

Vol. 19 No. 7

Timely Communication For Farm Bureau Leaders

August 26, 2011

Published by Florida Farm Bureau • P.O. Box 147030 Gainesville, FL 32614-703 • (352) 378-8100 • FloridaFarmBureau.org

FARM BUREAU STAFF TO SPEAK AT COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

Florida Farm Bureau staff have spoken or will speak at just about every county Farm Bureau annual meeting this year. They are requesting two-to-three minutes on the agenda to bring members up to speed on Farm Bureau's "Strengthening Communities" campaign, which kicked off earlier this summer. County presidents and all county offices should have received a 22-page Campaign Resource Guide that suggests strategies county Farm Bureaus can implement to make members of their communities more aware of the contributions agriculture makes to the overall community. State staffers will urge members of the local Farm Bureaus to respond to the call for participation in this far-reaching campaign. For more information, contact **Ronda Evan** at (352) 374-1516.

TAILGATOR SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER 17

Alumni and friends of IFAS and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are invited to attend the 15th annual TailGATOR, "The Beginning of a New Era," on Sept. 17. The celebration begins in the O'Connell Center at 12:30 p.m., three hours prior to kickoff of the UF vs. Tennessee game. TailGATOR tickets are \$12 and a registration form can be downloaded at www.cals.ufl.edu/tailgator. **Cindy Sanders, Jim Spratt, Charles Allison and Don Quincey** will be recognized for their service to UF/IFAS and the ag industry during the event.

PUTNAM TO TOUR M&B DAIRY

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam will be conducting a tour of M&B Dairy in Lecanto on Friday, Sept. 9, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Following the tour, Putnam will be the keynote speaker at the Citrus County Economic Development Council's awards luncheon scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on the campus of the College of Central Florida at 3800 S. Lecanto Highway. Those who would like to participate in the tour are asked to contact **Dr. Joan P. Bradshaw** at (352) 527-5714.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FFB Assistant Director of Government and Community Affairs Charles Shinn reports that USDA said it will use \$100 million to acquire permanent easements from farmers and ranchers in Hendry, Glades, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties to restore wetlands on nearly 24,000 acres. These easements are not a panacea for ranchers, but provide an alternative source of income by raising water levels on lands that were drained in the past. Florida Farm Bureau Federation supports these cost-effective measures of water storage on private lands when willing growers and ranchers are able to use this concept as part of their business plan to continue farming and ranching on the land. • • • For the past 16 years, farmers in the Everglades Agricultural Area have been surpassing the goal of reducing phosphorus runoff by at least 25 percent. This past year was a banner year with a reduction of 79 percent bringing the average reduction to 55 percent. Essential components of a successful agricultural source control program include a comprehensive best management plan (BMP) that includes fertilizer management, water management and sediment control. These BMPs are well accepted by farmers as they lower costs while helping the surrounding environment.

DEADLINE FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS CLOSE

Farm Bureau is currently soliciting nominations for appointments to its statewide Advisory Committees. These committees are an important part of our policy development and implementation process. Advisory committees provide guidance to our state board of directors on policy-related issues and create excellent opportunities for leadership development. State Advisory Committee appointees must be active members. They serve for a one-year term and must be re-appointed annually. To submit a nomination, complete all information listed on the nomination form(s), make sure the County Farm Bureau President's signature appears on the form(s) submitted and **return via FAX**

no later than Sept. 2 to (352) 374-1592. Nomination forms can be downloaded at <http://floridafarmbureau.org/>. Click on Issues and Policy and scroll to the link on the bottom of the page. For more information, contact the Agricultural Policy Division at (352) 374-1544. FFB field staff representatives can also provide assistance.

FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING FAST APPROACHING

The 70th Annual Meeting of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation will be held October 6-8 at The Peabody Orlando and will center around the theme “Strengthening Family Farms and Communities since 1941,” as Florida Farm Bureau’s newest initiative. The registration deadline is Sept. 9 and the cost is \$125 for adults and \$60 for children, ages 4 - 11. There is no charge for children, ages three or younger. Online registration is available at FloridaFarmBureau.org. For more information, contact **Shaun Fulford** at (352) 384-2630.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM MINI-GRANT AVAILABLE

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom will offer a new grant program to help educate Florida’s students about the importance of agriculture. The program will provide 222 \$500 mini-grants that must go toward creating or improving a school garden that grows Florida fruits and vegetables. Certified, general education Florida teachers and agriscience teachers engaged in classroom instruction at the pre-kindergarten through 12th grade level are eligible. The grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Proposals can be submitted through the Florida Agriculture in the Classroom website (www.flaagintheclassroom.com) beginning Sept. 1 until the grant funds are depleted. Teachers who receive the grant will receive a copy of Florida Agriculture in the Classroom’s new resource, *Gardening for Grades*. The full-color, 142-page book was written for educators and shows teachers the entire process of starting and maintaining a classroom or schoolyard garden. For more information, contact **Lisa Gaskalla** at (352) 846-1391 or via e-mail at Gaskalla@ufl.edu.

DAVE BARRY TO KEYNOTE AFBF ANNUAL MEETING

Pulitzer Prize-winning humor columnist Dave Barry will deliver the keynote address at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 93rd annual meeting, January 9, 2012, in Honolulu. More than 10,000 Farm Bureau members from across the nation are expected to gather in Hawaii Jan. 8-10 to hear from distinguished leaders and participate in a grassroots policy setting process that will guide the American Farm Bureau Federation through 2012. Barry, a 25-year journalism veteran, is best known for his syndicated work that appeared in more than 500 newspapers in the U.S. and abroad. In 1988 he won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary. “We are excited to have Dave Barry as our keynote speaker,” said **AFBF President Bob Stallman**. “We will be working through some very important policy issues during our time in Hawaii, so it will be nice to take a break from our business at hand and share a lighter moment with Dave Barry.” Barry is the author of 30 books, two of which were used as the basis for the CBS TV sitcom *Dave’s World*, which aired 1993-1997. For more information about the AFBF Annual Meeting, contact **Jill Garcia** at 352-384-2632.