

Greenbelt is Florida's best hedge against runaway development

Florida Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations have supported Florida's Greenbelt provision since it was put in place almost 50 years ago.

Greenbelt is not a tax exemption. It is a classification that helps farmers stay in business, producing food and fiber for us all. Agriculture also provides green space, water recharge and wildlife habitat at no public cost.

Greenbelt is good for everybody!



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Greenbelt:
Florida's hedge against runaway development

Don't tinker with Greenbelt!
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What is "Greenbelt?"

"Greenbelt" is a classification for agricultural lands. The Greenbelt classification provides a lower assessment to farmers so they can continue to commercially farm their land.

Greenbelt is not an exemption. Greenbelt assessments are based on the value of the use, rather than the market value of the property. Different types of uses (like citrus, pasture, croplands and nurseries) are given different classifications and taxed accordingly.

An application for agricultural classification of land must be made on or before March 1 of the year the owner applies for Greenbelt. Property is inspected before the classification is granted. Once granted, the application will automatically renew unless the property changes ownership or changes to a non-agricultural use.

Greenbelt benefits us all

"Florida's best hedge against runaway development"

- Florida continues to develop rapidly, with about 1,000 people relocating here every day. That has caused land values to skyrocket.
- Markets establish the value of agricultural crops. Farmers do not. If it were not for the Greenbelt classification, producers would be taxed on the value of their land rather than the value of the products produced on it.
- Greenbelt allows farmers to continue farming.

Greenbelt helps keep Florida's farmers in business and contributing to our economy and quality of life!



Florida needs farmers

Why keep agriculture in Florida?

- Agriculture provides green space, a relief from non-stop development.
- Agricultural areas recharge our aquifers.
- Agricultural lands provide pleasing rural viewscapes and habitat for wildlife – at no public cost!

Agriculture requires fewer public resources than most other land uses

- Cows and groves don't require sidewalks and schools!
- Landowners who hold Greenbelt classifications pay far more to local governments than they consume. Recent studies in Hillsborough County, for example, show farmers get only 25 cents in benefits from every dollar they contribute through property taxes.

How Greenbelt is enforced

As constitutional officers, property appraisers are vested with adequate authority to police suspected abuses.

- Florida's Greenbelt provision has been in place since 1959.
- Since its inception, Greenbelt has performed the way its framers intended. Greenbelt helps ensure agricultural producers are treated equitably, and helps sustain agricultural operations. It benefits us all!
- As constitutional officers, property appraisers are vested with adequate authority to police and curb abuse.

Florida Farm Bureau Legislative Office

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