



Fast Facts

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Timely Communication For Farm Bureau Leaders

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FARM BUREAU DAY

The voice of agriculture was heard in Florida's capital city last week as hundreds of Farm Bureau members arrived in Tallahassee for Farm Bureau Day activities. On Monday night, more than 200 Farm Bureau members gathered for a legislative briefing dinner at the Tallahassee Automobile Museum. Guest speakers at the dinner were Rep. Trudi Williams and Sen. Carey Baker, who received a birthday cake and a chorus of "Happy Birthday" from those attending. FFB Director of Legislative Affairs Ben Parks spoke about Farm Bureau's priority issues for the session. Armed with this information, Farm Bureau members ascended to Capitol Hill Tuesday to discuss agricultural issues with their legislators. The annual Farm Bureau Day legislative reception was held Tuesday evening at the Leon County Civic Center. Total attendance was estimated at 1,200, which is a record for this annual event. Thirty-six state legislators (one more than last year), as well as Commissioner of Agriculture Charlie Bronson, Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp, Secretary of State Kurt Browning and Congressman Adam Putnam were in attendance. The silent auction for 4-H was also a rousing success. Farm Bureau extends a huge thank you to its generous sponsors and to everyone who set up exhibits and helped decorate.

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR FIELD TO THE HILL TRIP

FFB National Affairs Coordinator Adam Basford reports that the deadline for registering for the Field to the Hill trip has been extended to Friday, April 2. After that date Farm Bureau will have to release any unsold rooms from its block at the Holiday Inn Capitol. Reservations made after this date will carry a higher rate. This year's trip is scheduled for May 5-7. Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions: • How do I book my hotel and how much will it cost? Hotel reservations must be made through the Ag Policy Division. Hotel rates for the Holiday Inn Capitol are \$209 a night for single occupancy and \$219 for double occupancy. • How do I book my flight? You may make your own travel arrangements or contact Maxine Lennon of Bruce Travel at (800) 771-7407. • What time should I arrive in Washington, D.C.? Flights should arrive into Reagan National Airport (DCA) no later than 2 p.m. on May 5 in order to register at the hotel and participate in the first event by 3 p.m. • When do I book my flight home? Flights should depart no earlier than noon on the May 7 to be able to participate in all events. For more information contact Patti Brothers, (352) 374-1544 or Holly Reed, (352) 378-8100 ext. 1450.

UF/IFAS HAS NEW CHIEF

Jack Payne has been selected as the University of Florida's next senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources. He currently serves as the vice president for extension and outreach at Iowa State University, a post he has held since 2006. He worked in a similar position at Utah State University prior to joining ISU. He begins his new role at UF on June 1. Payne, 63, has spent much of his career helping solve agronomic problems for the benefit of farmers and wildlife while at several large land-grant institutions and with Ducks Unlimited, the world's largest private wetlands conservation organization. "It is an honor to become a part of UF, one of the country's great land-grant universities," Payne said. "UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is the heart of that land-grant ideal and it will be important to build upon its strengths and existing strong foundation." Payne succeeds Larry Arrington, who was appointed interim senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources last year when Jimmy Cheek left to become chancellor of the University of Tennessee. FFB President John Hoblick served on the review committee that helped narrow the field of candidates.

FARM BUREAU MEMBERS HEAD NORTH FOR AG TOUR

FFB Director of Public Relations Rod Hemphill joined Senior Fieldman Dan Buchanan and 43 Farm Bureau members from Field District II on a farm tour March 17-19. The group visited a granite monument plant and the granite museum in Elberton, Ga., Tom Tratham's Happy Cow Creamery and Dairy in Pelzer, S.C., the James Cooley Farm north of Spartanburg, S.C. and Jaemore Farms north of Gainesville, Ga. The group enjoyed dinner and breakfast at the Dillard House in Dillard, Ga. Hemphill congratulated Buchanan and Madison County Farm Bureau Executive Assistant Lindsey Lawson on a well-planned, enjoyable tour.

SHINN SPEAKS TO CHAMBER GROUP

FFB Assistant Director of Government and Community Affairs Charles Shinn reports that on March 19 he gave a presentation to the Southwest Florida Chamber of Commerce in Ft. Myers on the

impacts of EPA's numeric nutrient criteria on agriculture. In the audience and also speaking that morning was **DEP Secretary Mike Sole**. Shinn spoke of the extensive effort that the agricultural community has been making to address numeric nutrient runoff through best management practices (BMPs). He noted that it is critical that these continue and that any additional practices be cost effective and attainable. Secretary Sole acknowledged the leadership role that Florida Farm Bureau has been taking to promote and support the numerous BMP programs around Florida.

AWARD APPLICATIONS POSTED ON FFB WEB SITE

FFB Women's and YF&R Coordinator Shaun Fulford reports that the 2010 award applications have been released and deadlines have been set for their completion. These applications can be found online by going to <http://www.FloridaFarmBureau.org>, selecting the "Programs" link from the menu on the left hand side of the screen and then selecting the "Young Farmer & Rancher" or "Youth Speech Contest" link (depending on which applications you are interested in). The following applications and additional materials are available via the Web site: YF&R Achievement in Agriculture (due May 14, 2010); YF&R Excellence in Agriculture (due August 27, 2010); YF&R Discussion Meet (due August 27, 2010); and the Youth Speech Contest, one entry per field district (due September 13, 2010). If you would like to request a hard copy, please contact either **Shaun Fulford**, (352) 378-8100, ext. 1030 or **Nicole Kelton**, (352) 384-2630.

UPCOMING FFB ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Many of the FFB Advisory Committee meetings in the winter/spring cycle have already been conducted but a few remain on the schedule:

- **Environmental Horticulture** Advisory Committee on March 30 at the Mid-Florida Research Center in Apopka.
- **Labor** Advisory Committee on March 31 at the Hardee County Farm Bureau in Wauchula.
- **Equine** Advisory Committee on April 7 at the Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association in Ocala.
- **Sod** Advisory Committee on April 13 at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra.
- **Vegetable** Advisory Committee on April 13 at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra.
- **Apiculture** Advisory Committee on April 15 at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra.
- **Forestry** Advisory Committee on April 22 at Taylor County Farm Bureau in Perry.

All of the meetings are scheduled for 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information contact **Patti Brothers**, (352) 374-1544.

FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM OFFERED

If you plan to develop a Food Safety Program for your vegetable farming operations, field and/or packing house, this two day workshop is for you. Most intermediate or large chain store buyers now require some level of food safety program from each farm before they buy. Even smaller operations selling directly to consumers may be well advised to develop a manual for their farm. UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service in the Suwannee Valley area is offering three workshops to help growers develop their own food safety manuals. When you complete the two day workshop you will have a printed copy of your own farm's manual. Three classes (two days each) are offered, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on • April 20-21 – watermelon growers; • April 27-28 – mixed vegetable growers; • May 4-5, – packing house plans, for all watermelon and mixed vegetable growers. The classes will be done on a computer (one laptop provided to work on per farm), using a Web-based food safety manual development program. The classes will be limited to 15 farms. The classes will all be held at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Live Oak. Registration is \$25 per person which includes refreshments and lunch for both days. For more information call **Lydia Von Borstel**, (386) 362-1725, ext 109.

FMPP GRANTS AVAILABLE

Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) grants are targeted to help improve and expand domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Approximately \$5 million is allocated for FY 2010 and \$10 million for FY 2011 and FY 2012. The maximum amount awarded for any one proposal cannot exceed \$100,000. Entities eligible to apply include agricultural cooperatives, producer networks, producer associations, local governments, nonprofit corporations, public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers market authorities and tribal governments. To apply for a grant follow these steps: **1.** Visit the FMPP Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/FMPP> and download the FMPP guidelines and all necessary forms; **2.** Review FMPP guidelines to understand timelines and the review process; **3.** Complete the FMPP application package; **4.** Submit application via mail or Grants.gov Web site. The deadline for grant applications is April 15, 2010.

PRIMER ON NUMERIC NUTRIENT CRITERIA

To increase understanding of proposed federal limits on nutrients in surface waters, "A Guide to EPA's Proposed Numeric Nutrient Water Quality Criteria for Florida" was developed by researchers with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. It summarizes a 196-page federal document in nine pages. It is available at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss528>.