



Fast Facts

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Timely Communication For Farm Bureau Leaders

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NEW EPA HEARINGS SCHEDULED

FFB Director of Government and Community Affairs Staci Braswell reports that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has scheduled another round of public hearings relative to its proposed numeric nutrient criteria for flowing waters in the state of Florida. In February 2010, EPA held public hearings in Tallahassee, Orlando and West Palm Beach and heard from more than 235 citizens. More than 76 percent of citizens speaking opposed EPA's proposed rule. Agriculture was well represented at the public hearings with a large number of Florida Farm Bureau members participating on behalf of the industry. EPA will be holding additional public hearings on April 13, 14 and 15. Florida Farm Bureau is asking that members attend and participate in the public hearings because it is imperative that EPA understands the negative impacts the proposed water quality standards could have on agriculture. The dates and locations of the public hearings are as follows: • **April 13 at the Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers** from 12 noon-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. • **April 14 at the Hilton Tampa Airport** from 12 noon-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. • **April 15 at the Clarion Hotel Airport Conference Center in Jacksonville** from 1-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Pre-registration has not opened for these hearings but Farm Bureau will let its members know when it does. **Those planning to attend one or more of the hearings are urged to contact Braswell with the details.** If you have questions call Braswell at (352) 374-1522.

DISTRICT LISTENING SESSIONS COMPLETED

FFB President John Hoblick is pleased to report that the recent lineup of listening sessions has been completed in all eight field districts. This is the second time the president has conducted listening sessions across the state, the first ones occurring shortly after he was elected president in October 2006. These sessions provided county Farm Bureau members with an opportunity to openly discuss ideas, issues and concerns directly with the president and Federation managers. Meetings were held in Okaloosa, Madison, Duval, Marion, Hillsborough, Desoto, Indian River and Palm Beach counties. Hoblick will prepare a report compiling common themes, issues and concerns from these meetings and then report back to County Farm Bureaus. FFB Executive Director **Kevin Morgan** said, "The majority of members attending were appreciative of these meetings and the chance to talk directly to the president about their county organization. Participants indicated that Florida Farm Bureau is serving them well and should continue promoting agriculture and strengthening the family farms."

PLEASE RETURN CENSUS FORMS

Florida Farm Bureau is partnering with the 2010 Sunshine Census Public Awareness Campaign to help achieve an accurate count of agricultural producers and farm employees living in Florida in 2010. With a complete count, Florida's rural residents stand to enjoy more opportunities for an improved quality of life. "Florida Farm Bureau recognizes the importance of an accurate census to farmers and their employees," said FFB President John L. Hoblick. "We are asking all of our members to complete the census and to encourage their employees to do the same." Participating in the census is easy. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Census responses are safe and confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. To ensure that your communities are eligible for funding for important services, it is essential to obtain a complete and accurate count of the number of people residing in your area. Florida Farm Bureau is committed to helping farmers and employees understand that participation in the census is easy, important and safe. To learn more about the census, visit sunshinecensus2010.com or 2010census.gov

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS WILL MEET IN OCALA

The Florida Farm Bureau Administrative Assistants Conference will be held on May 13-14 at the Ocala Hilton. Room rates are \$89 plus tax, single or double occupancy. Deadline for registering is April 21. For more information contact **Terry Mason** at (352) 378-8100, ext. 1073.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME FOR VISION CHECKUP

FFB Coordinator of Member Benefits Judy Plock reports that Healthy Vision Month provides a good opportunity for Florida Farm Bureau members to take advantage of QualSight LASIK savings. Plock suggest that members schedule a free LASIK exam to find out if they are candidates for this life-changing procedure. For more information call (866) 979-1562 or visit <http://www.QualSight.com/-FLFB>.