



# Fast Facts

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Timely Communication For Farm Bureau Leaders

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## 10TH ANNUAL CARES DINNER HONORS 24

Florida Farm Bureau hosted the 10th Annual Suwannee River CARES recognition dinner earlier this week at the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center in Live Oak. During the past 10 years, the Suwannee River CARES program has grown to great heights. Ninety-nine percent of the poultry farmers, more than 90 percent of dairies and more than 70 percent of crop farmers have adopted best management practices for fertilization, irrigation and waste utilization practices. The 24 honorees include Cynthia H. Ellis, Alto Straughn, John Eubanks, Eddie Oden, Charlie Crawford, Edwin Douglas, Alvin B. Butler, Ron St. John, Chester Patterson, Dewy Gay, Damon Deas, Sidney Koon, Jimmy Witt, Matt Buchanan, Verdell Lewis, Simon Kinsey, Johnny Norris, Robert Johnson, Carlyle Ragan, Richard Iott, Gregg Watts, Larry Johns, Mark Randell and the UF/IFAS Suwannee Valley REC near Live Oak.

## FARM BUREAU APPLAUDS ROONEY'S APPOINTMENT

In mid-June Rep. Tom Rooney, R-16, was appointed to serve on the House Committee on Agriculture, becoming the only Florida member to serve on that body. "This is great news," said FFB President John L. Hoblick. "The Agriculture Committee impacts our industry in so many ways and I'm glad that Rep. Rooney will be a part of its deliberations. He has done a great job representing the diverse agriculture industry in his district, and I know he will make a positive impact on the committee." The House Committee on Agriculture oversees legislation involving farms and farming, forestry, nutrition, rural development, school nutrition and other issues that are of keen interest to Florida's agricultural industry. The committee plays a vital role in crafting the nation's farm policy, and has already begun work on the 2012 farm bill. "Our farmers deserve a strong voice in Washington," Rooney said. "I am honored to be the only member of the Florida delegation serving on the House Agriculture Committee because a safe and abundant food supply is essential to our country."

## FLORIDA AGRICULTURE HONORED BY FLORIDA FFA

*FloridAgriculture* magazine was one of four entities receiving Florida FFA's Distinguished Service Citation at its 82nd annual convention. The Distinguished Service Citation is given to an organization that has had a longstanding relationship with the Florida FFA. Organizations recognized have not only contributed financially but have contributed invaluable human resources. *FloridAgriculture* annually sponsors Florida FFA's Ag Communication competition. And for the past five consecutive years, the June issue of *FloridAgriculture* has featured a cover story on the Florida FFA president.

## SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE SET FOR JULY 31-AUG. 1

FFB Director of Ag Policy Frankie Hall reports that the Florida Small Farms Alternative Enterprises Conference is set for July 31-Aug. 1 at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. Florida Farm Bureau is a co-sponsor of this event, designed to help support small agricultural operations. UF/IFAS and Florida A&M are the hosts of the conference. The theme of this year's event is "Sustaining Small Farms; Strengthening Florida's Communities." Last year more than 800 visitors attended the conference. The schedule includes exhibits, seminars and general sessions. For information about registration, nearby hotels and other related matters, call (352) 392-5930 or go online to <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>.

## CAP GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 23

County Farm Bureaus may submit County Action Partnership (CAP) applications for grant support up to \$5,000 by July 23. Successful partnerships must have a broad impact on substantial numbers of Farm Bureau members and priority will be given to projects that do not recur annually. Priority will also be given to new projects and programs with meaningful cost share from the county Farm Bureau and other partners. Applications are available at <http://www.floridafarmbureau.org/programs/cap>.

## EPA EXTENDS NUMERIC NUTRIENT CRITERIA DEADLINE

FFB Assistant Director of Government and Community Affairs Charles Shinn reports that EPA and the plaintiffs in the numeric nutrient litigation filed a notice of extension of the Consent Decree deadlines, moving the date from Oct. 15, 2010 to Nov. 14, 2011 for south Florida waters, including canals. The purpose for the extension is to allow sufficient time for peer-review by EPA's Science Advisory Board of the underlying methodologies, analysis and data to confirm the best available science is being appropriately used to support development of the criteria. This confirms that EPA is having the

same difficulty that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was having in deriving limits for nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll that could be statistically significant in Florida's varied waters. The final promulgation of numeric nutrient criteria for lakes and flowing waters (streams) did not change and remains Oct. 15, 2010.

### ADVISORY COMMITTEES SCHEDULE MEETINGS

**Peanut/Cotton Advisory Committee:** July 28, 10:30 a.m. CDT at the Jackson County Extension Office in Marianna. • **Beef Advisory Committee:** Aug. 6, 10 a.m. at Florida Cattlemen's Association in Kissimmee. • **Tax Advisory Committee:** Aug. 6, 9:30 a.m. at Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville. • **Equine Advisory Committee:** Aug. 10, 10 a.m. at the home of Bryan Rice in Ft. McCoy. • **Aquaculture Advisory Committee:** Aug. 13, 10 a.m. at Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville. • **Apiculture Advisory Committee:** Aug. 17, 10 a.m. at Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville. • **Environmental Horticulture Advisory Committee:** Aug. 17, 10 a.m. at the Mid-Florida Research Center in Apopka. • **Forestry Advisory Committee:** Aug. 17, 10 a.m. at Suwannee County Farm Bureau in Live Oak. • **Citrus Advisory Committee:** Aug. 19, 10 a.m. at the Lee County Civic Center in Ft. Myers. • **Labor Advisory Committee:** Aug. 19, 10 a.m. at Hillsborough County Farm Bureau in Valrico. • **Sod Advisory Committee:** Aug. 26, 10 a.m. at Florida Cattlemen's Association in Kissimmee. • **Water and Natural Resources Advisory Committee:** Aug. 31, 10 a.m. at Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville. • **Oversight Advisory Committee:** Sept. 2, 10 a.m. at Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville. All meetings are scheduled to conclude by 2 p.m. For more information call the Ag Policy Division at (352) 374-1544. (Dairy and Vegetable Advisory Committee meetings TBA.)

### YF&R AND WOMEN'S AWARDS APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

**The 2010 YF&R Award applications have been released and deadlines have been set for their completion.** The deadline for both the Excellence in Agriculture award applications and the Discussion Meet applications is Aug. 27. The deadline for the new Young Farmer & Rancher Activity Award is Aug. 31. Application forms can be found by going online to: <http://www.floridafarmbureau.org/>. Select the Programs link and click on "Young Farmers & Ranchers." **The deadline for FFB Women's Activity Award applications is Aug. 31.** Application forms are available at <http://www.FloridaFarmBureau.org>. Select the Programs link and click on "Farm Bureau Women." For more information, contact either **Shaun Fulford** or **Nicole Kelton** at: (352) 384-2630.

### FLORIDA AGRICULTURE WINS AWARD AT AFBF PR CONFERENCE

*Florida Agriculture* magazine walked home with an Honorable Mention presented at the AFBF Public Relations Awards Banquet held on June 15 in Madison, Wisc. The award was presented for a series of commentaries written by *Florida Agriculture* Editor Ed Albanesi. Each month Albanesi pens an "Editor's Corner" column for the magazine and four of these columns were submitted for consideration.

### ALTERNATIVE FUELS NEWS

**The Third Annual Sunshine State Renewable Energy Expo and Symposium will be held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando on July 14-15.** The meeting's focus will be on policy and renewable energy project financing strategies. Registration is \$175. For more information contact Michael Dobson at (850) 443-3477. • • • **A Biofuels Permitting and Feedstock Workshop will be held at the Marco Island Marriott Resort on July 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.** The workshop will explore the opportunities and obstacles the state of Florida faces in the permitting of biofuels facilities. Registration is free. For more information contact Jeremy Susac at (850) 205-5283. • • • **The Farm to Fuel Summit will be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando on Aug. 11-13.** This summit has established itself as the major gathering place where stakeholders assemble each year to help advance the development of the state's bioenergy industry. Registration on or before July 10 is \$250. After July 10 the registration is \$350. For more information contact **Tom Steckler** at (850) 488-0646.

### SMITH APPOINTED IT MANAGER FOR FFB INSURANCE

**FFBI Vice President of Operations Matt Packham reports that Stan Smith has been appointed IT manager for the Florida Farm Bureau Insurance Companies.** Smith has spent the past 27 years with the IT department of South Carolina Farm Bureau.

### BMP RULE WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

**The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in cooperation with other agricultural industry stakeholders, has developed a best management practices (BMP) manual for specialty fruit and nut crops in Florida.** These crops include blueberries, tropical fruits, pecans, peaches and grapes. Three rule development workshops have been scheduled to gather input on the draft manual and associated issues. These workshops are: July 12 at 4 p.m. at the **Alachua County Extension Office** in Gainesville; July 13 at 2 p.m. at the **Gulf Coast Research and Education Center** in Wimauma; and July 14 at 2 p.m. at the **Miami-Dade County Extension Office** in Homestead.