



# Fast Facts

Vol. 17 No. 6

Timely Communication For Farm Bureau Leaders

June 19, 2009

Published by Florida Farm Bureau • P.O. Box 147030 • Gainesville, FL 32614-7030 • (352) 378-8100 • <FloridaFarmBureau.org>

## CARES HONOREES IN THE SANTA FE AND SUWANEE RIVER BASINS

Twenty-six Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basin farmers and ranchers will be recognized for their superior natural resource stewardship during the 9th Annual CARES dinner that will be held at the Dwight Stansel farm in Suwannee County on June 25. These agricultural producers have implemented verifiable state-of-the-art management strategies known as best management practices (BMPs) on their properties. CARES - the County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship - was initiated by Florida Farm Bureau and the Suwannee River Partnership to highlight efforts by farm owners to improve natural resource management in the Suwannee River Basin. The partnership includes local, regional, state and federal agencies, research institutions, industry associations, businesses and conservation groups. Those honored include, Michael Dukes (Union County), David Echeverria (Levy County), Gary Jones (Dixie County), Jack Meeks (Levy County), John Parrish (Levy County), Roland Parrish (Union County), Kelly Philman (Gilchrist County), Don Spradley (Columbia County), James Tallman (Bradford County), Eric Smith (Alachua County), Bud O'Quinn (Columbia County), James, William and Ross Terry (Columbia County), Bryan and Wendi Jennings (Columbia County), John and Donna Risoli (Madison County), Corrence Fields (Madison County), Jerry and Vicki Fletcher (Madison County), Jesse and Beulah Cone (Madison County), Paul and Almera Blount (Madison County), Mike and Debra Knowles (Madison County), Henry and Tanya Terr, (Madison County), Irma and Fidenacio Torres (Madison County), Timmy and Mickey Tuten (Madison County), Coggins Farm (Hamilton County), Harold and Troy Platt (Madison County) Howard Mobley (Suwannee County) and W.H. and Emogene Fletcher (Madison County).

## MARTINEZ OPPOSES CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT

About one month after Florida Farm Bureau members visited him on the Field to the Hill trip, U.S. Senator Mel Martinez called for the defeat of Senate bill 787, the so-called "Clean Water Restoration Act." Martinez said the bill is too far reaching and intrudes on the rights of states to make decisions on how best to reduce, prevent, and eliminate pollution. "When Congress approved the original Clean Water Act, it agreed to 'recognize, preserve, and protect' the rights of states to address the potential impacts of pollutants. This bill seeks to reverse course and insert the federal government into the decision-making process at all levels of government," said Martinez. "This intrusive bill would negatively impact local planning and zoning, farming, economic development, water management and private property rights." Farm Bureau members had asked all members of the state's congressional delegation to oppose this legislation, especially the removal of the word "navigable" in the definition of water bodies the act regulates.

## ANN HOLT TO RECEIVE FOUNDER'S AWARD

Florida Agri-Women (FAW), the state affiliate of American Agri-Women, has selected Ann Holt of Western Palm Beach County to receive the Founder's Award for 2009. The award will be presented during the Founder's Dinner at FAW's Sixth Annual Meeting in Orlando on Aug. 15. A native Floridian, Holt has been a tireless advocate of the Florida sweet corn industry and Florida agriculture. For more than 40 years Holt has helped manage the family farm. She was the first woman ever elected to the board of directors of the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau and the first woman ever elected its president. In 2007 she was responsible for initiating the inaugural Farm City Week Luncheon in Palm Beach County. To learn more about Florida Agri-Women or register for the annual meeting, go online to [http:// www.floridaagriwomen.org](http://www.floridaagriwomen.org).

## LISTENING SESSION SCHEDULED IN JASPER

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will hold a listening session on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) on June 27 in Jasper. "We would like to hear from a wide variety of stakeholder audiences, so we are bringing the listening tour to six additional cities, including Jasper," said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. "These meetings offer additional opportunities

for the public to voice their concerns about the current NAIS system." USDA seeks to gather livestock producer comments and concerns. The listening session will include information about the current program, as well as an opportunity to give public testimony or ask a program-related question. The public meeting will be held at the Hamilton County Extension Office, 1143 US Highway 41 in Jasper from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with registration beginning one hour earlier. Additional information on the meeting can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/nais/feedback>.

#### FAWN RECEIVES FUNDING SUPPORT

Continuing its investment in Florida agriculture, Syngenta is donating funds to the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) after learning government and university funding is being cut. FAWN, a function of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), provides Florida growers with accurate weather data and weather-related tools 24 hours a day through its network of 35 measurement sites. The data gathered at these sites, along with tools related to cold protection, irrigation scheduling and disease control, can be accessed free-of-charge at the FAWN Web site, located at <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu>. The current conditions at any FAWN site are also accessible by calling the FAWN Data Hotline at (866)-754-5732 and entering the three-digit station ID number of the nearest FAWN tower.

#### PINE BEETLE COST SHARING PROGRAM OFFERED

FFB Executive Director Kevin Morgan reports that Kevin Morgan Reports that the Florida Division of Forestry will be re-offering the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Cost-Share Program for non-industrial private forest landowners in 2009. Applications will be accepted during a sign-up period that will extend from July 1 through Aug 12. Program information and application materials are available on the Florida at <http://www.fl-dof.com>. Click on the SPB link under "Hot Topics". Hardcopies of application materials are available at DOF County Forester offices.

#### TRAFTON NAMED CHAIR OF FLORIDA INSURANCE COUNCIL

James Trafton, director of government affairs for Florida Farm Bureau Insurance Company, was installed as 2009-2010 chairman of the Florida Insurance Council's executive committee and board during the Council's summer symposium held in Destin earlier this month. In accepting the chairmanship for the next year, Trafton thanked Florida Farm Bureau for allowing him to serve the insurance industry in this capacity. He said he is honored to be chairman for the coming year. Trafton has worked for the Florida Farm Bureau Insurance Company since 2004. "We're proud of the work James and FIC does for us in Tallahassee and we congratulate James on becoming this year's chairman," said Bill Courtney, CEO of the Florida Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

#### POLK COUNTY FARM BUREAU AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Reagan Lee, a 2009 Bartow Senior High graduate, Christian Spinosa, a 2009 Summerlin Academy graduate, and Lacey Waters, a 2009 Bartow Senior High graduate have been awarded the Polk County Farm Bureau/Young Farmer & Rancher scholarships for 2009. Lee, Spinosa and Waters received the \$500 scholarships for excelling academically, strong leadership abilities and involvement in agriculture-related activities. Lee will attend the University of Florida Honors College where he plans to pursue degrees in both Botany and Mathematics. Spinosa will attend Clemson University where he plans to obtain degrees in Agriculture and Mechanization. Waters will attend Polk Community College followed by the University of Florida to study beef production.

#### IRS CLOSES LOOPHOLE

FFB Director of Accounting Bob Richardson reports that the IRS has closed a loophole on Form 1099 reporting of lump-sum timber sales. The IRS says that, for sales of timber tracts after May 28, 2009, the proceeds must be reported on 1099s. Before, 1099s were required only when timber owners sold standing timber and received payments as the trees were being cut and removed.

#### CONFERENCE ON SMALL FARMS SLATED FOR AUG. 1-2

UF/IFAS will host a Conference on Small Farms on Aug. 1-2 at the Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. Florida Farm Bureau is a sponsor of this event. The theme of the conference is: "Sustaining Small Farms; Strengthening Florida's Communities." Regular registration for both days of the conference (by July 6) is \$120. Conference registration information