



Fast Facts

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Timely Communication For Farm Bureau Leaders

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YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS HAVE SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

More than 150 of Florida Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers gathered July 19-20 at the Hilton in Lake Buena Vista. This year's conference offered programs on financial management, handling interpersonal conflict, and the often-complex and emotion ridden process of generational succession – that is, the process of transferring ownership of family farming operations to the next generation. "The Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher programs at both the state and national levels are aimed at building future leaders for the industry and Farm Bureau," said FFB President John L. Hoblick. "As an alumnus of both programs, I can attest to their effectiveness." Hosted by the state YF&R Leadership Group, this annual conference welcomes Farm Bureau leaders between the ages of 18 and 35 from across Florida. The leadership group is currently made up of 13 couples and individuals who are appointed to participate in a two-year program aimed at preparing them for leadership positions in Farm Bureau and the agricultural industry. The group honored the three Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher finalists for 2008. They are St. Johns County grower **Jeb Smith**, Lafayette County dairyman **Keith Shiver** and Polk County citrus producers and processors **Larry and Jenny Black**. The winner of the competition will be announced at the FFB annual meeting Oct. 8-10 at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando and will receive a new Dodge Ram Quad Cab pickup courtesy of **Southern Farm Bureau Insurance Companies** and will represent Florida in the national competition next January in San Antonio. The national winner will receive a new Dodge Ram 3500 SLT Quad Cab 4x4 pickup courtesy of **Dodge** and a \$2,500 project voucher from **Syngenta Crop Protection**.

A PHOTOGRAPH WORTH MENTIONING

Walton County Farm Bureau member **Jenny Gomillion** and *FloridAgriculture* Art Director **Steve Tillman** were the recipients of an **Honorable Mention** award for best photograph at the recent **AFBF Public Relations Conference** held in Point Clear, Ala. Gomillion shot the photograph, which was the best of show winner in the 2007 *FloridAgriculture* Member Photo Contest. Tillman utilized the photograph as a cover shot in the September 2007 issue of the magazine. The photo was also a part of Florida Farm Bureau's 2008 calendar. The winning entries in the 2008 photo contest will be featured in the September issue of *FloridAgriculture*.

CARA MARTIN ASSIGNED TO ST. JOHNS RIVER WMD

Cara Martin, Florida Farm Bureau's assistant director of government and community affairs, has been assigned to work with the **St. John's River Water Management District**. Martin will continue to serve as the liaison between the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Farm Bureau members. She also serves as a representative for the agriculture industry within the counties that comprise both the Southwest and the St. John's River water management districts, focusing on local government, water and natural resource issues. Martin can be reached at (352) 316-2382 or cara.martin@ffbf.org.

YF&R GROUP SUPPORTS AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST

Farm Bureau has teamed up with **America's Second Harvest**, the largest charitable hunger-relief organization, to help feed America. This partnership began in June 2002 and the Young Farmers and Ranchers across the nation have been doing their part to keep feeding the hungry. There are three ways you can help. **1) Donate food and other items** – These items can be taken to the local food bank; just visit <http://www.secondharvest.org> for the nearest location. You may want to have a local food drive at a school or other event. **2) Donate money** – America's Second Harvest will also accept monetary donations at any of their locations. **3) Donate time** – Each food bank depends heavily on individuals and groups to help in the fight against hunger. The time that you donate at the food bank will go a long way towards helping men, women and children get the food they desperately need. Please submit all receipts to **Leslie Laroque Turgeau** (e-mail: yfr@hcfarmbureau.org) by Oct. 8, 2008. The totals will be calculated on Oct. 8th during registration of the Florida Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Orlando. Prizes will be awarded for the county that collects the most food, donates the most money and donates the most volunteer hours.

PAYMENT SIGNUP UNDERWAY IN NEW FARM BILL

FFB National Affairs Director **Dana Brooks** reports that producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any **USDA Service Center**. Producers can also sign-up online. They can choose payment options,

assign crop shares and sign and submit their contracts from any computer with Internet access. They can also view and print submitted contract options. USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. The electronic service is available by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account. To get a Level 2 account, producers must complete an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> and then visit the local USDA Service Center to verify their identity.

ANOTHER REASON TO SIGN UP MEMBERS

FFB Director of Field Services Danny Raulerson reports that August is Farm Bureau's "Get-a-member" month. For each 10 new members signed up by membership committees, administrative assistants and agents, the county Farm Bureau's name will be entered into a drawing for \$1,000. Two names will be drawn so it's conceivable that the same county could win both times.

PERMITS NOT NEEDED FOR WATER TRANSFER

FFB Assistant Director of Government and Community Affairs Charles Shinn reports that EPA has announced that permits are not required for transfers of water from one body of water to another. Such transfers include routing water through channels (canals) or natural stream courses for public water supplies, irrigation, power generation, flood control and environmental restoration. The ruling allows Florida to manage and protect its waters without federal oversight. This ruling is also critical for agriculture in south Florida. If the ruling had gone the other way, Clean Water permits might have been required for movement of water between all water bodies, including farm ditches and local reservoirs.

STILL TIME TO ENTER COUNTY FARM BUREAU COMPETITIONS

Information on the American Farm Bureau 2009 County Activities of Excellence program and the 2009 Farmer Idea Exchange program is now available. The deadline to enter these contests is Sept. 5. County Farm Bureaus wishing to enter can access program information and applications online at <http://www.fb.org/programs/county>. Information concerning the Farmer Idea Exchange is available at <http://www.fb.org/programs/farmerx>. For more information, please contact **Kathy Richardson** at 352-374-1533 or kathy.richardson@ffbf.org.

CONGRESSMAN BOYD TO HOLD CONFERENCE CALL TOWN MEETING

Farm Bureau believes that action must be taken to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of fuel. Development of domestic oil and gas reserves, a continued commitment to biofuels and development of renewable resources must be part of the solution. A conference call town meeting to address the issue has been scheduled for July 30 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. To participate in this town hall meeting, call (877) 229-8493 (CODE: 13901). For more information, contact AFBF's **Cody Lyon** at (202)-406-3736.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations for the FDACS Woman of the Year in Agriculture award are due by Nov. 1. For information and nomination forms contact **Richard Gunnels** at (850) 488-3022 or go online to <http://www.florida-agriculture.com/agwoman/index.htm>.

MANY CAST PUBLICATIONS ARE NOW FREE

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology says it is now offering a large sector of its publications without charge. All CAST issue papers, formerly \$5.00 each, are now available online and free to anyone. The issue papers may be downloaded from the CAST Web site at <http://www.cast-science.org>. The publications are also available in hard copy from CAST by telephoning (515) 292-2125 or by mail at 4420 West Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014-3447. Shipping and handling fees are applied to hard copy orders and further details are available from CAST.

STILL UNDECIDED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SWEEPSTAKES?

Barack Obama and John McCain addressed some issues of importance in a conference call to a recent AFBF Council of Presidents meeting. Here's a sampling: **Estate Tax – John McCain:** "I believe that one of the most onerous or unfair taxes is the estate tax or the death tax. We should have the first \$10 million exempt, anything above that taxed at a 15 percent rate. It's outrageous that you should not be able to pass on to your children and grandchildren the hard-earned fruits of your labor." **Barack Obama:** "I will keep the estate tax at the rate that it is going to be in 2009. It will affect those of individual estates of more than \$3.5 million or \$7 million for married couples. That's going to eliminate the estate tax for 99.7 percent of all taxpayers."