

**Florida Farm Bureau Collegiate Chapter**  
**At the University of Florida**

General Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2008

I. Call to Order

At 7:12 P.M. Kelvin Moreno, Collegiate Farm Bureau President called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in McCarty B room G086 at the University of Florida. Kelvin commenced with the introduction of our special guests.

The following special guests were present:

Rachel Kudelko – FFB YF&R, Women’s, and Collegiate Programs Manager

Ben Parks – FFB Director of State Legislative Affairs

Pat Cockeral – FFB Executive Director of Organizations and Programs

Kathy Richardson – FFB Public Relations Program Manager

Jason Corman – University of Florida CALS Senator

II. Roll Call

Lydia Masterson, Collegiate Farm Bureau Secretary, took roll call of the officers and committee chairs present.

The following persons were present:

Officers: 7

Members: 21

Special Guests: 5

III. Adoption of the Constitution

Jennifer Nobles, Constitution Revisions Committee Chair, presented the constitution to be approved by the membership. Tori Lyons moved to accept the constitution as presented and Jennifer Nobles seconded the motion.

IV. Guest Speaker

Mr. Ben Parks, FFB Director of State Legislative Affairs, began his presentation with stressing to the assembly the importance of voting and being knowledgeable of the elections. He continued on to tell the group about his work in which he discusses legislative ideas and policies every day. Next he told a great story about how the Republicans took control over politics back in the early nineties, which has really turned things around for the farmer. With that he led into the Ag Enclave Act, which is specifically designed to set standards across the state to protect the farmers who are targeted by their local governments. This is an Act that he has personally strained to see survive. He delivered a tremendous story of a day on the lobby floor of the Capitol building with this bill being passed back and forth between the House and the Senate and what his chocolate cake did to influence the decision of the Speaker of the House. He

finished this discussion with a promotion of Congressman Adam Putnam. Mr. Putnam is from rural Florida and is one of the youngest, most powerful men in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Parks last topic of discussion was informing our assembly of the upcoming Farm Bureau Day in Tallahassee which is set for March 18<sup>th</sup>. He invited each member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau to attend the Legislative Briefing Dinner the evening prior to on March 17<sup>th</sup>. He finished with an offer to purchase every collegiate members' dinner that contacts him prior to.

V. Officer Reports

- A. Kelvin Moreno began his report with a few items for members to think about. He told of a few special agriculture industry opportunities that are available through the Florida Farm Bureau, as well as the Collegiate Ambassador Programs, and finally presented the Washington D.C. internships available through various organizations.
- B. Tori Lyons announced that we would be holding committee sign-ups and that the officer team would be choosing a Finance committee chair from those who note that they are interested.
- C. Lydia Masterson asked that each person present fill out a membership form so that we may update our roster and add any new members. She also announced a few upcoming dates that CFB members should be looking forward to:
  - Food Check Out Week – Feb. 3-9
  - Women's Leadership Conference – Mar. 5-7
  - Farm Bureau Day / Legislative Briefing Dinner – Mar. 17-18
  - Ag Literacy Day – Apr. 10
  - Field to the Hill – May 12-15
  - YF&R Conference – July 19-20
- D. Hannah Rogers asked the assembly if they were interested in doing fundraisers and if so what ideas did they have in mind. She announced that every member needs to be sure and contact their home county (or county of choice) to pay their membership dues. Because of this the CFB will not be collecting any dues from our members. She also revealed the County Sponsorship Campaign that we will be hosting.
- E. Mike Rogalsky told the assembly of the articles that will be appearing on a rotational basis in the monthly issues of F.L.A.G. The spot in the publication will be shared with the Women's Committee and the Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. He also spoke of the Internship Corner on the website where members can find information regarding possible internships. The Internship Corner is his area of specialty and will be updated biweekly with new opportunities
- F. Sarah Burleson presented to the group the upcoming discussion meet that will be held during YF&R Conference at the Hilton Resort in Lake Buena

Vista. The winner from this meet gets the opportunity to go on to the national meet next year and every participant gets a prize.

G. Becca Hamilton announced that the Farm Tour Extravaganza will be moved to fall due to predicaments with dates. She also announced the Farm Bureau Day in Tallahassee on March 18<sup>th</sup>, as well as the Legislative Briefing Dinner on the evening prior. Mr. Ben Parks offered to purchase dinner for all Collegiate Farm Bureau members attending.

H. Joe Guevara asked that Mike Rogalsky stand in for him to present the website information. Mike introduced the website and showed everyone the different areas to explore within the website. . The website includes a link to our Facebook group. The address to the site is: [www.floridafarmbureau.org/cfb](http://www.floridafarmbureau.org/cfb).

VI. Old Business

A. Don't Tie Our Hands – Kelvin announced that the CFB took 500 slips to get signed and we have completed almost all of them. Anyone that has not signed one is welcome to fill it out.

B. Farm Tour Extravaganza – previously discussed by Becca Hamilton

VII. New Business

A. Officer County Visits – Kelvin announced that all of the officers will be visiting every county farm bureau in the state. Any members that are interested in going along are welcome.

B. Farm Bureau Day – March 18<sup>th</sup> is Farm Bureau Day in Tallahassee. The evening prior to that there will be a legislative briefing dinner. All members are welcome to attend.

C. Guest Speaker Ideas – Kelvin asked the assembly if they had any specific ideas of what kind of guest speakers they wanted to hear, there were none.

D. Chapter T-shirts – We announced that our chapter will be getting t-shirts and they will cost \$10 each. The shirts will have our emblem on them and will be available to all members.

E. Ag Policy Squad – This is a new group that will include 4 members. The intention of this group is to keep the membership informed of important agriculture related issues. Allison Meharg will head the group and anyone interested in joining may contact Tori Lyons.

VIII. Adjournment

Kelvin Moreno adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM.