

President's Page:

November 2008

"Education: Job Number One"

Dear Farm Bureau friends,

This month I would like to tell you about Ag Venture. It was held at the Florida State Fair grounds the weeks of October 20<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Ag Venture is a field trip to educate third graders, in the Hillsborough County School System, about the different areas of agriculture in Hillsborough County. This event is taught by a large number of volunteers. I talked to several individuals that had been volunteering since it began.

The objective is to make sure that kids have an opportunity to see different parts of agriculture so they have a better understanding of where food comes from, how plants are grown, what clothes are made of, where meat comes from, ect. It also educates children about horses, beet cattle, dairy products and aquaculture, among others.

I think that the one that was educated the most was possibly me. I was amazed at the large amount of volunteers that work this event. I knew many of them. I wish more of our school board would take the time to see what is happening. This interaction of kids was wonderful to see. Their questions proved their interest. It proves to me that agriculture has a place in the school system. The school system needs things of this nature. These kids were genuinely interested in what was going on. I did not see one student that was a problem. The classes lasted about 15 minutes. Each group went to four or five classes.

Please look for this event in the future and become involved if you like. The pleasure will be yours. Talk to your politicians and school board member and encourage them to go. We might gage their interest by their attendance.

I hope you enjoyed the county fair. Thanks to all who worked so hard to not only pull it off this year but all the years leading up to this.

I hope you have a good month.

Dale McClellan, Federation President