

October 2008

“Know Farmers, Know Food”

Dear Friends,

We held our 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting this year at HCC in Plant City and it was a great night. We continue to try to show the benefits of the Hillsborough County Farm Bureau Federation and promote the advantages of being a member. It was my first time as your President to serve as MC and it was a bit nerve wracking for me at times.

We had a Hillsborough County Agriculture Icon in attendance. Although now retired from agriculture, Riley Hogan was PRESENT. He was the CEO of Tampa Independent Dairy Farmers, then later Southeast Milk Co-Op. He is a mentor of mine and it was great to see him and his wife, Judy.

I had the pleasure of introducing Fred Solemn, he is a shining star. He was a NFL Star, two-time Super Bowl winner with San Francisco 49'rs, quarter back with the University of Tampa and has been involved on occasion with 4H. Currently he is working with the Hillsborough County youth in other capacities.

The “Friend of Agriculture” Award went to: Stephen Gran. Stephen is the Agriculture Industry Development Manager in Hillsborough County. We would like to thank Mr. Gran for all his hard work and dedication to Hillsborough County Agriculture.

We initiated a new sponsor membership program this year with the Hillsborough County Farm Bureau Federation and I would like to tell you a little bit about our first sponsor members.

**Platinum Sponsor Member – James Rivard Buick Pontiac GMC**

Roger Rivard was present at our annual meeting with some vehicles and literature. He also spoke a moment about his Brandon dealership. Their Yukon Hybrid was the star of the display. It gives 21 MPG city and 21 MPG highway. It has the ability to tow large boats and trailers with 6200 lb towing capacity. My favorite is the Pontiac G8, which is very sharp and also give good gas mileage.

**Gold Sponsor Member – Gulf Coast Thermo King**

Gulf Coast introduced their new portable refrigerated trailer rentals at our annual meeting. They are bumper hookup, up to 10,000 lb in their rental fleet. It runs off of 110 volts. They can be seen and rented at Gulf Coast facility north of I-4 on US Hwy 301.

**Sponsor Member – Langston's New & Used Auto Parts**

They have the nicest used auto parts yard I have ever seen, with a good inventory. They also received the high esteemed honor of a “green yard” which means earth friendly. They are a 4<sup>th</sup> generation company that has been in existence since the 1920s. It is located on US Hwy 301 a little north of I-4.

Please help me, let our sponsors know that we appreciate their support and give them an opportunity to prove their companies and products to you.

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing board members for their 6 years of service to the Hillsborough County Farm Bureau Federation. Those leaving the board this year are: Michelle Williamson, Ron Wetherington, Dennis Carlton and Shawn Crocker. We would also like to welcome four new board members: Jake Raburn, John Stickles, Lance Ham and Patrick Thomas.

Dale McClellan, Federation President

