

Hello everyone,

Another month has passed and there is lots to talk about. I will do my best to hit the important things and keep it brief. It is time for our Federation to hold its annual meeting and banquet. I hope all that can, will attend. It is good opportunity to get to know your board, what we do and enjoy a steak dinner. We have four (4) board members who will be rotating off this year due to term limits. They are: Dennis Carlton, Shawn Crocker, Ron Wetherington and Michelle Williamson. I want to personally thank all of them, for the outstanding job they have done serving your Hillsborough County Farm Bureau as members of the board of directors. All of these positions are strictly volunteer and these members have logged numerous hours to the agriculture and Farm Bureau cause. Take a minute or two to thank them when you see them. It is an honor and privilege to serve as the president of such a worthwhile organization.

Blue Ribbon Education Committee is doing all that it can to accomplish our goals. Communications with the School Board and Superintendent are on track time wise. This will be a slow and ongoing process. If we are to reach our goals, it will be a work in progress. The report is: everyone seems to be doing their part at this time. Let's give our Superintendent and school board an opportunity to understand us and give us a chance to help them. We are approaching this as a systemic issue and the system needs to change. That includes all sides.

Perception of who we are is an ongoing issue. Our organization still struggles with our identity. Many continue to think we are just insurance, that you must be a member to be eligible to buy our insurance but it is a member benefit. If you are only a member for insurance I have failed at my job. My job is to make sure you know we are a bargain even if you aren't an insurance customer. **I will also tell you that my personnel auto insurance with Farm Bureau, on my wife's car, saved us \$400 per year! Everyone that doesn't have our insurance should at least call one of our agency offices and see if you can save a few bucks.** Check out all of our benefits. Check out our goals and how we contribute to all of society not just agriculture. Be our best sales force. Bring a new member to our organization. Check out our website at hcfarmbureau.org, it has a lot of information about us and is very well done.

Make sure to vote in the upcoming elections in November. Vote for those that support our goals. Be a part of the solution. Our strength in America is at the polls and many people don't even show up to be counted.

Hope to see you at our annual meeting and banquet.

Dale McClellan Federation President