



Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, the prosperity and the well-being of the citizens of Manatee County are highly dependent upon the cooperation, mutual understanding, and respect between our agriculture producers and the urban segment of our population; and

WHEREAS, this year's Farm-City Week celebration will feature "Farm City Week Salutes the Manatee County Fair...Where it All Began" and will draw attention to our agricultural heritage and recognizing the county fair as the original display of agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County's agricultural industry is one of our largest industries providing food, jobs, and an estimated 500 million dollars annually in economic impact in our county; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the land in Manatee County is used for agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the general public of Manatee County has a great stake in a healthy and productive agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, Farm-City Week provides an unusual opportunity for those in agriculture enterprises and their city neighbors to become acquainted, and to work together for a better understanding of our interdependence on each other; and

WHEREAS, this is an opportunity for greater understanding which leads to increased harmony.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that November 12-20, 2010, shall be known, designated and set aside as

Farm City Week

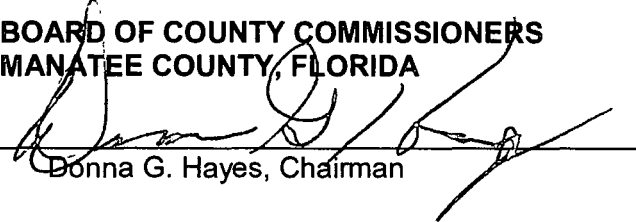
in Manatee County, Florida, and all citizens are urged to recognize the outstanding contributions agriculture has made to our economy and community.

ADOPTED, with a quorum present and voting this 9th day of November 2010.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By:


Donna G. Hayes, Chairman

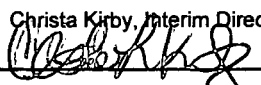
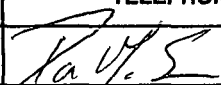
ATTEST:

R. B. "Chips" Shore
Clerk of Circuit Court

By:



MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT	Farm City Week	TYPE AGENDA ITEM	Proclamation
DATE REQUESTED	November 9, 2010	DATE SUBMITTED/REVISED	September 15, 2010
BRIEFINGS? Who?	N/A	CONSEQUENCES IF DEFERRED	N/A
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION	ARC/Cooperative Extension	AUTHORIZED BY TITLE	Christa Kirby, Interim Director 
CONTACT PERSON TELEPHONE/EXTENSION	Christa Kirby ext. 3230 x236	PRESENTER/TITLE TELEPHONE/EXTENSION	Christa Kirby, ext. 3230 x236
ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL			

ACTION DESIRED
INDICATE WHETHER 1) REPORT; 2) DISCUSSION; 3) FORM OF MOTION; OR 4) OTHER ACTION REQUIRED

Adoption of a Proclamation designating November 12 – 20, 2010 as Farm City Week in Manatee County, Florida.

ENABLING/REGULATING AUTHORITY

Federal/State law(s), administrative ruling(s), Manatee County Comp Plan/Land Development Code, ordinances, resolutions, policy

Board Policy on Proclamation.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

- Farm City Week is a national program sponsored by Kiwanis International and locally by the Bradenton Kiwanis Club and Manatee County Farm City Week Committee.
- Farm City Week is scheduled for November 12 – 20, 2010. The purpose of the program is to recognize the importance of Agriculture in Manatee County and to emphasize the inter-dependence of Agriculture and other segments of our County.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW APPROVED IN OPEN SESSION

Check appropriate box	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p style="text-align: right;">NOV 09 2010</p> <p>REVIEWED</p> <p>Written Comments: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Attached</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Available from Attorney (Attorney's initials:)</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT REVIEWED (No apparent legal issues.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT REVIEWED (Utilizes exact form or procedure previously approved by CAO.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER

ATTACHMENTS: (List in order as attached)		INSTRUCTIONS TO BOARD RECORDS:	
Proclamation		Please return approved copies of agenda to Millie Hernandez, Agriculture and Resource Conservation Department	
COST:	N/A	SOURCE (ACCT # & NAME):	N/A
COMMENTS:	Done on an annual basis	AMT./FREQ. OF RECURRING COSTS: (ATTACH FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT)	N/A

Ornamental Horticulture

Ornamental horticulture is a major component of the agriculture industry in Manatee County, ranking third behind vegetable crops and fruit production. The county places 13th in the state in market value of ornamentals with nursery stock and floriculture/foilage crops making up the bulk of ornamental commodities. In 1950, only 29 nurseries existed in Manatee County and now 140 nurseries of various sizes are registered with the state. Most nursery stock is grown out in the open (1500 acres) as opposed to greenhouses (25 acres) and is valued at over \$19 million. The sod industry accounts for 2,300 acres and \$3 million in market value. Floriculture crops such as bedding plants, cut flowers and greenery, and foliage plants are mainly produced in greenhouses or other covered structures with sales estimated at nearly \$13 million. Although Florida leads the nation in sales of potted foliage for indoor use and hanging baskets, foliage and flower production has declined since 2008.

Vegetable Crop Production

In Manatee County, vegetable production is still the number one agricultural enterprise. There are approximately 32,600 acres grown each year at an annual farm-gate value of over \$290 million and an economic impact of over \$400 million. Tomatoes are "king", with about 16,500 acres grown annually at an estimated impact of \$248 million. In 1950, 191 farms grew 2,234 acres of tomatoes. In 2007, 22 farms grew 16,576 acres of tomatoes. Manatee County produces approximately 40% of the tomatoes grown in Florida, which in turn produces over 70% of all fresh market tomatoes grown in the U.S. Potatoes, cabbage, watermelon, peppers, cucumbers, snap beans and squash and others add another 16,100 acres.

Historically, vegetable packinghouses were built along the rail lines as this was the primary method of transporting fresh tomatoes out of the county. Packinghouses in Manatee County pack and ship everything from tomatoes (round, roma, cherry and grape), to peppers, cucumbers and cantaloupe.

Manatee County Department of Agriculture & Resource
Conservation, University of Florida/IFAS, 2010
Christa Kirby, Livestock Extension Agent
Crystal Snodgrass, Vegetable Extension Agent

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension



"Manatee County Farm City Week Salutes the Manatee County Fair...Where it all began"



As we commemorate the 53rd year of Farm City Week in Manatee County, we look at how far we've come and how things have changed. We have expanded into a diverse agricultural community including everything from successful small family farms to large corporate operations recognized nationally. This year we salute the Manatee County Fair which has strong agricultural roots. On October 21, 1915 the Board of Trade, later to become the Chamber of Commerce, approved a project to hold a Manatee County Fair. The first fair was held February 28, 1916. Buildings were erected on the present McKechnie Field site and the Fair was held there February 13-16, 1917. In the early 1930s, during the Great Depression, the fair stopped. World War II was declared in 1941. Exhibits were held in January 1942 and did not resume again until 1951. Followed by a property exchange between the City of Palmetto and Manatee County, the site of the Manatee County Fair moved to 17th Street. The first building was erected in 1951, named for the late J.P. Harllee. The second exhibit hall was named for E.L. Ayers, County agent from 1924 to 1952.

Agriculture History Facts

Agriculture has always been a stable force and a major contributor to the economy of both Florida and Manatee County. Its importance continues as growers produce food virtually year round to feed Florida residents and people around the world. Less than 50% of the land in Manatee County is now in agriculture, including crops, pasture land and reforestation, or in public ownership. We are losing agricultural land every year as it is being converted to development and residential use. Manatee County's population has increased from 4,463 residents in 1900 to 34,704 in 1950 to approximately 318,361 today.

Commercial Fishing

Manatee County commercial fishermen annually harvest over 3 million pounds of fish valued at over \$5 million. The net ban amendment that went into effect in 1995 eliminated the inshore fisheries that primarily targeted mullet, reducing landings by 70%. The mullet fishery had been a mainstay of the Cortez community for over 100 years. Mullet is now caught with hand-thrown cast nets. Cortez is struggling to maintain its heritage as a working waterfront.

Grouper and snapper remain important offshore fishing species. Most grouper are harvested from deeper waters (greater than 100 feet) off the west Florida continental shelf. Bait shrimping also remains an important fishery. Additionally, small quantities of food shrimp, stone crab and blue crab are harvested.

Citrus Production

In 2009, Manatee County ranked 10th in the state in citrus acreage with 18,609 acres - over 2.4 million trees. Since the 1980s, growers have faced many threats such as unfavorable weather, the Med fly, citrus diseases (including citrus canker and greening), highly variable fruit prices and conversion of land from agriculture to urban use. As a result, the total citrus acreage has decreased by approximately 3,374 acres since 2002 and by over 5,700 since 1996.

Manatee County fruit is produced primarily for processing into juice or concentrate. Early and mid-season oranges comprise about 59% of the crop. Late season Valencia oranges total 37%, with the remaining 4% made up of grapefruit, tangerine and tangelo varieties. Citrus by-products, including citrus peel, are made into cattle feed, oils, flavors and essences. Manatee County is home to Tropicana, which is one of the state's largest processors. Tropicana juice is sold around the world.

Forest Products

Forest land in Manatee County is decreasing at an ever increasing rate. At the turn of the century (1900), with a large portion of Manatee County owned by various timber companies, the turpentine industries boomed. In the late 1920s, several state-of-the-art sawmills were in operation. Today, there are only two very small sawmills in Manatee County. Although the economic impact is hard to estimate, the last comprehensive survey was completed in 1990 and showed an overall impact of over \$5 million.

Livestock and Forage Production

Manatee County utilizes over 191,130 acres in the livestock production business. Livestock enterprises consist of beef (cow-calf production), dairy, horses and other animals. Estimates currently include over 53,000 head of beef cattle, 5,000 head of dairy cattle and 2,000 horses. Sheep, goats and llamas are considered hobby livestock, primarily raised on ranchettes. We rank 10th in the state in number of beef cattle with market receipts of over \$21 million annually. The county ranks 11th in the state in dairy production with annual receipts of over \$16 million. The estimated value of hobby livestock is over \$3.5 million, bringing the total value of the livestock industry to over \$40 million. Compare this to a value of just over \$1 million in 1950.

Feed production consists of semi- to well-improved pastures. Over 7,000 acres of hay and 2,500 acres of silage and haylage are produced each year. There are over 460 beef producers and 3 dairies which average over 1,400 head per dairy.