



## ***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 500 years of Florida agriculture and will draw attention to the Viva Florida 500 campaign through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; 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 14 – 22, 2013, 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 2013.

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

By:

  
Larry Bustle, Chairman

ATTEST:

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

By:

  
Deputy Clerk



Manatee County Government Administrative Center  
Commission Chambers, First Floor  
9:00 a.m. - November 5, 2013

November 5, 2013 - Regular Meeting  
Agenda Item #7

Subject  
Farm City Week

Approved in Open Session 11/5/13,  
Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County

Briefings  
None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Board of County Commissioners

Action Requested

Adoption of a Proclamation designating the period of November 14, 2013, through November 22, 2013, as Farm City Week.

Enabling/Regulating Authority  
Board policy on Proclamations.

Background Discussion  
Celebrating the rich agricultural history of Manatee County and the State of Florida.

County Attorney Review  
Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney  
N/A

Instructions to Board Records  
Please forward an approved copy of the agenda & Proclamation to Sharon McClellan, AES  
([sharon.mcclellan@mymanatee.org](mailto:sharon.mcclellan@mymanatee.org)).

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name  
N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs  
N/A

Attachment: [Farm City Week - 11.05.13.pdf](#)

In 1842, the Manatee River area was opened to settlers. The Armed Occupation Act offered 160 acres to those who would clear, farm, and live on at least five acres of their land for five years. By 1845, ten families had come to Manatee County.

In 1892, J.H. Preston formed the Manatee Lemon Company, which grew lemons, celery, potatoes, cabbage, and tomatoes. Today the company is called Manatee Floral, which grows plants and flowers that are shipped around the world.

Large and small farmers got together in 1918 and formed the Manatee County Growers Association with a membership of 250 farmers. United, they were better able to provide for their own marketing, packing facilities, financing, and purchasing.

Three large sugar plantations flourished on the Manatee River for almost 14 years. The largest was Robert Gamble's plantation of 3,500 acres (now a State historical site in Ellenton). The other two belonged to Henry Pinkston Craig and Hector and Joseph Braden.

Palmetto and the surrounding area of the North River was a major agricultural center and Palmetto's port and docks were the major hub.

Pioneer cattlemen had moved into Manatee County between 1847 and 1852 and grazed their stock throughout the upper reaches of the Little Manatee and Braden Rivers. Run on open ranges, the cattle were gathered by cowmen called "crackers" for the distinctive sound of their whips.

The Palmetto Lumber Company opened in 1922 after buying the lumber business of Lazenby and Mann who had started it in 1913 on the west side of Main Street between what is now 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. A profitable line of business was the construction of field crates for the fruit and vegetable industries.

Vegetables and citrus became viable industries in Manatee County in the 1870s. In 1870, growers shipped \$520 in citrus. By 1880, that number had grown to \$32,157.

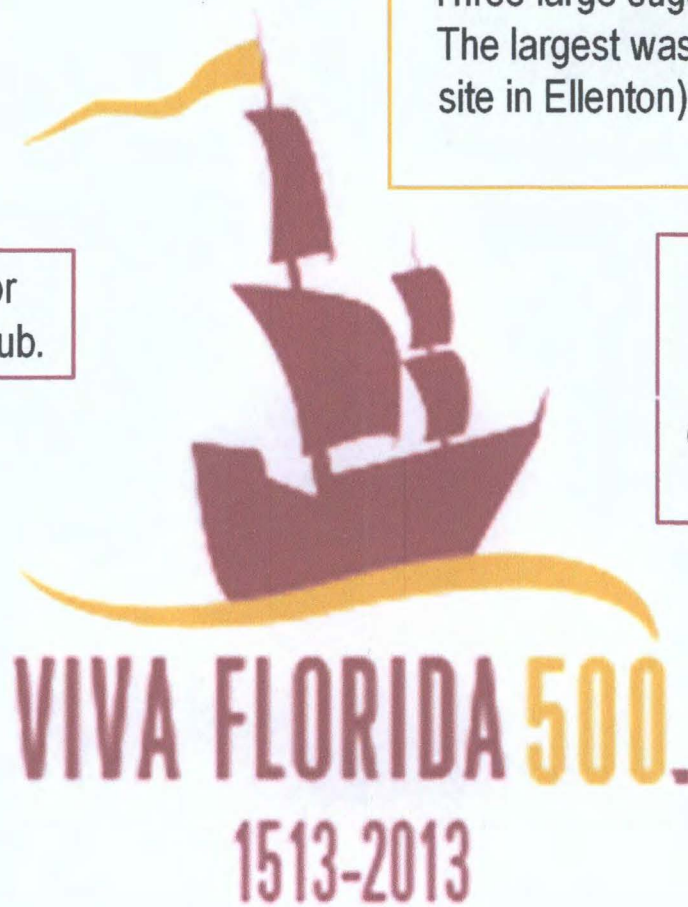
In 1881, Pliny and Egbert Reasoner established the Royal Palm Nursery in Oneco. In the century that followed, horticulture became a major industry in Manatee County.

In March 1925, the Tomato Disease Laboratory was established on a 20-acre tract of land north of Palmetto. It later became the University of Florida IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, which was located in Bradenton before moving to Balm in 2005.

Today, tomatoes are king. Manatee and Hillsborough counties account for over 40% of the tomatoes produced in Florida, which in turn produces over 70% of the tomatoes in the United States. The annual value of the vegetables produced in Manatee County is \$290 million.

Manatee County ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the state in number of beef cattle with annual market receipts of over \$21 million and an additional \$12.4 million in value added economic contributions.

Agriculture is the second largest industry in Manatee County today. It has a total economic impact of \$646 million and provides more than 30,000 jobs. Over 313,000 acres in Manatee County are currently being used for agriculture.



## 500 Years of Florida Agriculture