
Legislative Priorities

Florida Farm Bureau is looking ahead to the 2005 session of the Florida Legislature.

In the legislative process, issues and priorities change rapidly as bills are introduced and advocates weigh in.

The subjects listed here are important to Florida agriculture. The Farm Bureau team will be working to pass legislation that supports our policies, while safeguarding important “Watchdog” issues against attack.



Join our Grassroots Network

Florida Farm Bureau fields a team of active members, committed to working to implement our policies. Members of the Grassroots Network are prepared to respond to Action Alerts, contacting their elected officials to support legislation favorable to agriculture.

To join the team, contact the
Public Relations Division
P.O. Box 147030
Gainesville, FL 32614
email rhemphill@sfbic.com

Phone (352) 374-1535



Florida Farm Bureau

PO 147030
Gainesville, FL 32614

Phone: (352) 378-8100
Fax: (352) 374-1530

Florida Farm Bureau

Looking Ahead: Legislative Priorities, 2005



<http://FloridaFarmBureau.org>

Tel: (352) 378-8100

Natural Resources



- **Reservation of water for agricultural use:**
The state’s water policy must reserve adequate water for agriculture as the state continues to experience urban growth.
- **20-year consumptive use permits:**
Producers who are renewing their permits should understand they have a right to apply for 20-year consumptive use permits. Twenty-year renewals should be automatic.
- **Transfer of permits:**
Farmers should be assured they can transfer consumptive use permits to other lands without penalty or loss of allocation.
- **Fair delineation of wetlands:**
We seek legislation that would ensure uniform, fair administration of the existing agricultural exemption for cultivation of wetlands.

Growth Management



- **Agricultural enclaves:** Agricultural land that is 75 percent surrounded by development becomes difficult to farm. Owners of such property should have the right to re-zone their land for uses that are similar to uses on adjoining parcels.
- **Fairness for agricultural land owners:** We want to clarify the Bert Harris Property Rights Act to preserve landowners’ rights to take legal action against local governments that make administrative changes to permitted use of agricultural lands.
- **Limitation of liability for agritourism:** We seek to limit liability to landowners from lawsuits resulting from welcoming the public onto their property to experience agriculture.



“Watchdog” Issues

Florida Farm Bureau will steadfastly oppose any legislative attacks on the following:

- Greenbelt property tax assessments
- Private property rights
- Farm building code exemption
- IFAS budget
- FDACS budget

Tax Issues

- **Tangible tax on obsolete farm equipment:**
Agricultural equipment that is functionally obsolete or worth less than 25 percent of its depreciated value should be exempt from the tangible property tax.
- **Sales tax on agricultural equipment should be eliminated.**
- **All generators used for agricultural purposes should be exempt from state sales tax.**
- **State agencies that purchase private lands should make payments in lieu of taxes to county governments for 20 years following the purchase.**
- **One-year greenbelt adjustment for hurricane damage:** We seek a uniform, statewide policy that would ensure agricultural operations that sustain hurricane damage to crops, trees or infrastructure receive a one-year adjustment on property taxes

Legislative Team

Legislative Affairs (Tallahassee)

Ben Parks.....(850) 222-2557

Mobile: (850) 566-5958

bgparks@hotmail.com

Lee Ann Fisch(850) 222-2557

Mobile: (850) 228-4088

lafisch@hotmail.com

Governmental Affairs (Gainesville)

Scottie Butler ... (352) 374-1599

sbutler@sfbcc.com

Agriculture Policy (Gainesville)

Kevin Morgan (352) 374-1537

kmorgan@sfbcc.com