

A portrait of Dr. Ann Blount, a woman with short, light brown hair, smiling. She is wearing an orange button-down shirt with a Florida State University logo on the left chest and a Columbia logo on the right chest. She is also wearing a necklace with a circular pendant. The background is a solid green color.

# 2018 WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE

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*DR. ANN BLOUNT*



Since 1985, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida State Fair Authority have recognized the significant contributions of women in the agriculture industry with the "Woman of the Year in Agriculture" award. I am proud to honor Dr. Ann Blount with this distinguished award in recognition of her outstanding work to advance Florida agriculture.

Dr. Blount was raised on a family farm in Frederiksted, St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She attended Good Hope High School and moved to Florida.

Dr. Blount earned a Bachelor of Science in Crop Science from Texas A&M University. She continued her education at the University of Florida, where she earned her master's degree in Crop Ecology (Forages) and Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Genetics. She was married to Clyde Blount, who passed away in 2005. Clyde was a farmer and owner of the Mecca Restaurant (a student eatery near FSU) in Tallahassee. They have one daughter, Evie Blount. Dr. Blount lives on Florida Century Pioneer Family Farm in Gadsden County, now in its fourth generation.

Dr. Blount joined the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in 1988. She currently serves as Professor of Forage Breeding and Genetics for the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy.

Dr. Blount's research focuses on breeding efforts on physiological aspects of fall season forage production. The major forage crop effort is in developing improved bahiagrass, evaluation of new introductions of perennial peanut, and limpograss with a goal of producing adapted new forages for the southern coastal areas and peninsula of Florida.

The impact of Dr. Blount's forage breeding program and extension activities for the animal livestock industry in Florida has been immense. She has produced 76 cultivars and germ plasm releases and a variety of forages. She has also produced six plant patents and/or plant variety protections. Dr. Blount's contributions to Florida agriculture effect many thousands of acres of improved forage varieties that are more productive, efficient in use of inputs and enhance the environment.

Throughout her career, Dr. Blount's research is impressive as evidenced by her numerous publications. Her record includes two book chapters, 198 refereed articles, 385 non-refereed articles, 22 national and international proceedings, 124 abstracts and 28 refereed extension articles.

Dr. Blount was recognized as the 2014 Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents Specialist of the Year.

Dr. Ann Blount joins 34 other women who have earned the respect and admiration of their peers by making outstanding contributions to Florida agriculture. Therefore, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Dr. Blount on being named the 2018 "Woman of the Year in Agriculture."

Sincerely,

Nicole "Nikki" Fried  
Commissioner of Agriculture





Dr. Ann Blount currently serves as an Extension Specialist and Professor of Forage Breeding and Genetics for the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, Florida.

Throughout her career, Dr. Blount's extensive research and plant breeding techniques have incorporated Florida's unique natural resources to bolster the agriculture industry.









Livestock and forage producers across the state of Florida depend on Dr. Ann Blount for cutting-edge science to keep them competitive in today's global market.

The economic impact of Dr. Blount's contributions to Florida agriculture are immense, resulting in many thousands of acres planted in perennial peanut, improved bahiagrass varieties and many other forages resulting in improved efficiency and productivity of the livestock industry.







Dr. Ann Blount is a mentor to many students and new extension agents. She assists them with seed for county field demonstrations of both livestock forages and wildlife blends so that landowners can assess the potential for use on their property.

She uses a hands-on approach to train agents to implement innovative foraging and help landowners test new livestock forages and wildlife blends to assess potential use on their properties.





# WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE LUNCHEON

February 11, 2019

## WELCOME

Commissioner Nikki Fried

## COLORS PRESENTATION

Riverview HS NJROTC

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

UF Graduate Students

and

UF County Extension Faculty

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Millie Carlton Bolin

## INVOCATION

Jim Handley

Executive Vice President,  
Florida Cattlemen's Association

— LUNCH —



## INTRODUCTION OF HEAD TABLE

Commissioner Nikki Fried

## SPONSOR REMARKS

Shannon Shepp, Executive Director

Florida Department of Citrus

## RECOGNITION OF FORMER OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE

Commissioner Nikki Fried

## RECOGNITION OF DR. ANN BLOUNT 2018 WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE

Commissioner Nikki Fried

## CLOSING REMARKS

Commissioner Nikki Fried

The Woman of the Year in Agriculture is an award  
designated by the Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services



# Previous Winners

## Woman of the Year in Agriculture

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**2017**

Dr. Martha Roberts

**2016**

Judi Whitson

**2015**

Lisa Hinton

**2014**

Belinda Chason

**2013**

Lynetta Usher Griner

**2012**

Imogene Yarborough

**2011**

Sarah K. Childs

**2010**

Ann Holt

**2009**

Marcia Lightsey

**2008**

Patsy Nathe

**2007**

Colleen H. Boggs

**2006**

Iris Pollock Wall

**2005**

Marlene Strickland

**2004**

Martina "Teena" Borek

**2003**

Jennie Lee Zipperer

**2002**

Annette Barnett

**2001**

Barbara Carlton

**2000**

Helen Houck

**1999**

Vina Jean Banks

**1998**

Nancy Gurnett Hardy

**1997**

Gertrude "Trudy" Carey

**1996**

Norma Stokes

**1995**

Louve "Vee" Frierson Platt  
and Patricia Robbins

**1994**

Anne Wardlaw Dickinson

**1993**

Sarah W. Bailey

**1992**

Carol C. Murphy

**1991**

Ruth M. Tucker

**1990**

Jeanette Barthle

**1989**

Belle Jeffords

**1988**

Carolyn Reed Kempfer

**1987**

Dorothy Conner Shipes

**1986**

Ruth Wedgworth

**1985**

Jo Ann Smit



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