

# **FLORIDA** **AGRICULTURAL** **HALL *of* FAME**

**HONORING FLORIDA'S  
GREAT AGRICULTURALISTS**



**36th ANNUAL  
CEREMONIES**

**February 10, 2015  
Special Events Center  
The Florida State Fair**

## • • • • • MASTER OF CEREMONIES • • • • •



**W. Kent Fuchs**  
**President, University of Florida**

Dr. W. Kent Fuchs became the University of Florida's 12th president in January 2015.

Most recently the provost of Cornell University, Dr. Fuchs' experience combines academic leadership as a provost, dean and department chair; a distinguished career as an engineering professor; and graduate education in both engineering and divinity. In accepting the presidency, Dr. Fuchs outlined his overarching goal for UF: To elevate its stature, as measured by quality and comparative excellence, to that of one of the nation's best public universities.

President Fuchs will pursue this objective by continuing to lead the university's preeminence plan, along with a campus-wide goal-setting effort to set objectives for the next five and ten years. He will seek to significantly increase UF's endowment; enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of university operations; and establish UF as a national leader and voice for higher education. UF is the fourth land-grant university where President Fuchs has served, and he looks forward to continuing UF's agricultural and land-grant missions both in Florida and nationally.

The UF presidency is a natural next step for Dr. Fuchs, who spent six years as Cornell's provost. He was appointed provost after serving as the university's Joseph Silbert Dean of Engineering from 2002 to 2008. He joined Cornell from Purdue University, where he headed the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering from 1996 to 2002. He was a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Coordinated Science Laboratory at the University of Illinois from 1985 to 1996. President Fuchs earned his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois; master of science from the University of Illinois; and bachelor of science in engineering from Duke University.

Born on an Oklahoma farm in 1954, President Fuchs spent much of his youth in Alaska before moving to Miami, where he graduated from Miami Killian Senior High School. His two younger brothers and stepmother live in South Florida.

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President..... Reggie Brown  
 Vice President ..... Wayne Harris  
 Treasurer ..... Kevin Metheny  
 Secretary ..... Myke Morris  
 Historian..... Jim Handley

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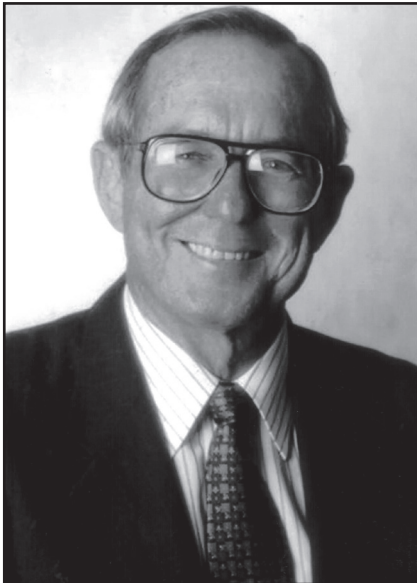
## 2015 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Reception – 5:30 p.m. .... Special Events Center  
 Dinner – 7:00 p.m. .... Special Events Center  
 Welcome ..... Reggie Brown, President  
    Florida Agricultural  
    Hall of Fame Foundation

Emcee ..... W. Kent Fuchs  
    President, University of Florida

Presentation of Inductees 2015..... Honorable Adam H. Putnam  
    Commissioner of Agriculture

## ..... 2015 INDUCTEES .....



### **Edward, Ferdinand S., and Joseph Duda**

Edward, Ferdinand, and Joseph Duda, together and individually, represent significant contributions to both state and national agriculture. All three men are members of the Duda family's third generation and have represented their family's collective ownership in the agriculture and real estate business known as A. Duda & Sons, Inc., by serving as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board.

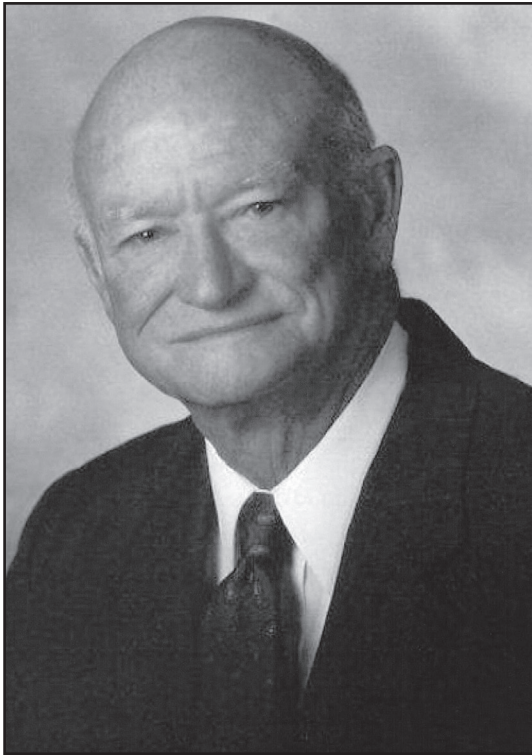
Under their 33 years of leadership at DUDA's agricultural operation, Ed, F.S., and Joseph, have witnessed major expansion and diversification. Sod was added to the company's vegetable, citrus, sugarcane and cattle production. A world-class celery breeding program was established and continues to develop quality-consistent varieties for their production locations, including Florida, California, Arizona and Michigan. A commercially viable celery straw and red celery are among the innovative results of this breeding program, which currently boasts 19 patents. Fresh-cut celery is among the value-added innovations that have helped create new markets for their products. As the company's customer base for its fresh vegetables and citrus products grew to include national supermarket retail and foodservice clients, partnerships with other Florida growers were formed to ensure a steady supply of quality products.

The men are steadfast in their commitment to the quality of the Florida environment. DUDA was one of the first to utilize integrated pest management (IPM) to minimize use of pesticides. Crop rotation and field flooding continues to be used to further control weeds and insects and the oxidation of muck soil. A variety of best management practices have been employed to reduce water use and runoff such as micro-jet irrigation and water retention systems that conserve and re-use water. In 1994, the company earned the Florida Agriculture Commissioner's Ag-Environmental Leadership Award for its pesticide/nutrient management.

Ed, F.S., and Joseph contribute their time, experience, and knowledge to the agriculture industry by taking on leadership roles. Ed served for 16 years as a director of the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, and as a board member and chairman of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association from 1981 to 1997. For 23 years, F.S. served as a board member of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and as chairman in 1993. F.S. also gave testimony to the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture regarding the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Joe was a founding member of the Florida Land Council and served as its first chairman from 1985 to 1990. He was a member of the National and Florida Cattlemen's Associations from 1973 to 2011.

Ed, F.S., and Joseph Duda's accomplishments in agriculture tell only part of their story. They have used their talents and gifts to demonstrate true generosity and service to their church, community, and state.





## **Robert Blake Whisenant**

Blake Whisenant's primary goal in agriculture is always to be a good steward of the land. Whether mentoring students, working with university research/extension, or sharing knowledge to foster a better understanding of agriculture, Mr. Whisenant spreads the message of protecting our valuable soil and water resources.

Many consider Mr. Whisenant a pioneer. He began using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in its infancy. Through field trials on his crops, scientist developed thresholds for insects and diseases that would be the standard for IPM scouts on farms throughout Florida. He has also performed his own research on techniques such as plant density, multiple-row planting on beds, fertilizer placement, and the use of the Earthbox® which he invented. Some of the first university research using plastic mulch, revolutionizing the vegetable industry, was conducted on Mr. Whisenant's farm. In the 1990s, when citrus groves were suffering damage from what was believed to be an airborne toxin from a nearby power plant, Mr. Whisenant was the first to call for a study and offer his

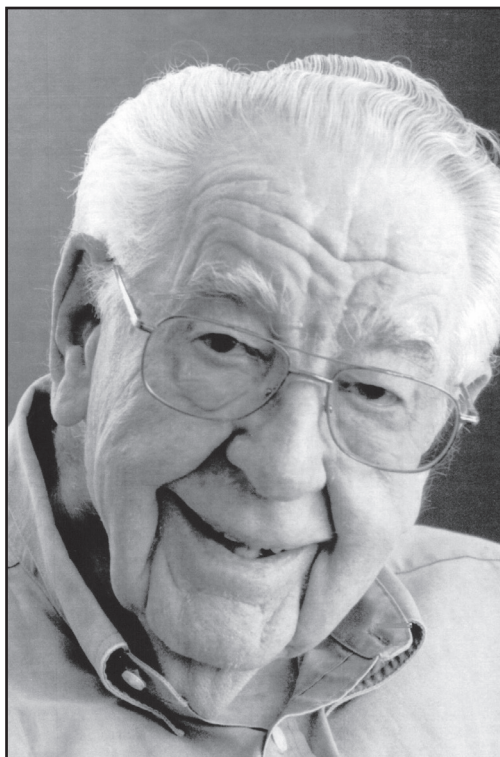
grove as a test site. He allowed environmental experts to install equipment to monitor his grove and investigate the problem.

Mr. Whisenant also worked with the Soil Conservation Service and their Mobile Irrigation Lab, allowing the monitoring of water use on his tomato and citrus crops. This study resulted in better knowledge and led to improved irrigation management on other farms. Mr. Whisenant was also one of the first to adopt the micro-irrigation practice. With his commitment to conservation, Mr. Whisenant's farm is now a regular tour stop for the general public, politicians, environmentalists and regulators to observe on-site application of soil and water conservation practices and research. He has used his experience and insight to take a common sense approach when testifying before legislative committees regarding conservation practices. This has led to legislators making more informed decisions regarding water regulations to the benefit of all growers.

Mr. Whisenant has been an active member of agricultural boards and committees including Florida Citrus Mutual, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida and Manatee County Farm Bureaus, Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation Service, Director of Bank of Palmetto, Production Credit Association, South Atlantic Production Credit Board, Ridge and Lower Gulf Coast Water Management District Board, Florida Council of Cooperatives, Florida Agricultural Conservation District (Area VII), Manasota Basin Board, State Soil Stewardship Committee and Hope Seeds Advisory Board. He has also received numerous awards including induction into Manatee Agricultural Hall of Fame, Manatee Distinguished Citizen, T.J. Carter Outstanding Conservationist Award and the G.B. Gunlogson Award from the American Horticultural Society for his invention of the Earthbox®.

Mr. Whisenant has also been a leader in providing safe and quality housing for migrant workers. He has fought for better migrant housing standards and has been praised for the migrant housing on his own farm. Although Mr. Whisenant often shuns the limelight and prefers to work behind the scenes to impact Florida agriculture, he uses his eagerness and passion for farming and share it for the good of all.





## Dr. Alvin C. Warnick

Today's Animal Science Department of the University of Florida traces its modern origin to the early 1950s when Dr. Alvin C. Warnick was amongst newly hired faculty that provided leadership to the cattle industry of Florida. Dr. Warnick joined the Animal Sciences Department at a time when the cattle industry of Florida was emerging from open range, eradication of fever tick and screw worms. It is this environment that Dr. Warnick achieved his most significant contribution to improving the Florida cattle industry. He trained the next generation of industry leaders and produced a prodigious outpouring of scientific research in improving beef cattle in the state of Florida.

Dr. Warnick taught an estimated 1,300 students in his courses in reproductive physiology at the University of Florida as well as beef cattle reproduction clinics throughout the state. He made an indelible mark on upgrading the performance of the state's cattle through educating students in changing the industry from one of simply harvesting animals to one of management of the cow herd to higher levels of productivity, taking advantage of the latest research applicable to Florida. Over the years, Dr. Warnick and

his students have worked on improving the reproduction, genetics, and nutrition of the Florida cow herd.

When Dr. Warnick arrived in Florida, the average weaning rate for the Florida cow herd was approximately 50 percent and weight of the marketed calf was approximately 250 pounds at two years of age. This resulted in tough beef with minimal marbling. Today, the Florida cattle industry is weaning calves at 85 to 90 percent, with a weaning weight greater than 500 pounds. The production of a calf now has so much growth potential it is harvested at approximately one year of age. Dr. Warnick's contributions to this improvement included pioneering the techniques of palpation for pregnancy and subsequent removal of non-pregnant cows and developing management techniques for replacing each generation with cattle of superior performance. He was the reproductive physiologist instrumental in showing there is a Gene X Environmental Interaction in which Florida cattle adapted to the Florida environment, perform much better than cattle with outstanding genetics. Another important contribution from Dr. Warnick showed that crossbreeding produced heterosis in reproductive traits ultimately improving fertility of the Florida cow herd.

Dr. Warnick co-authored three seminal books and published over 300 scientific publications. He trained 70 doctoral and master's students at Florida and these people have gone on to play leading roles in academia and industry. Dr. Warnick was recognized for his work as a Fellow in the American Society of Animal Science. He received the University of Florida Chapter Gamma Sigma Delta Junior Faculty Research Award and was recognized by the College of Agriculture as Student Advisor of the Year. More recently, Dr. Warnick was recognized by the Utah State Agricultural Alumni with the Citation of Merit for a Distinguished Livestock Career. After a distinguished career as a reproductive physiologist, Dr. Warnick was named Professor Emeritus in 1990.

At 91 years of age, Dr. Warnick is still active and continues to educate the next generation of cattlemen and cattlegirls by showing them how to make simple, but fundamental, changes in their beef cow management.



## Pat Wilson

As President of Latt Maxcy Corporation for over 36 years and owner of Crooked Lake Ranch, Pat Wilson was a well-known cattle rancher and citrus grower who gave his leadership, dedication, and support to benefit Florida agriculture.

Mr. Wilson donated numerous hours to the promotion and betterment of the beef industry and served on many committees and association boards as well as high offices in these affiliations. He was a two-term president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, President of the Polk County Cattlemen's Association, 2nd Vice President of Region II and member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the National Cattlemen's Association, first President of the Florida Simmental Association, and Director of the Florida Polled Hereford Association. He was also considered a legendary Polled Hereford breeder and pioneer for Hereford cattle in the southeast region and the largest Polled Hereford breeder in Florida.

Mr. Wilson was a pioneer in the citrus industry as well. He implemented many techniques that catapulted the company in production, harvesting, and environmental application. He was involved in several citrus associations including the Florida Citrus Production Managers' Association, Florida Citrus Mutual and served as Vice-President of Citrus Marketing Services for twenty years.

In addition to his contributions to the agricultural industry, Mr. Wilson also assisted young farmers and youth. He held the position of Chairman of the Board of Citizen's Bank and Trust for 37 years, which provided him the opportunity to assist countless agricultural business owners throughout southeast Polk County. During his tenure, the bank processed a high concentration of agricultural loans. Many students have also benefitted from his generosity and commitment to the promotion of agriculture in Florida. He gave countless opportunities to further education and knowledge by providing many scholarships to students in Polk County. In addition, he gave his time and efforts to FFA and 4-H, hosting events at Crooked Lake Ranch and helping the younger generation prepare for challenges facing future farmers.

Pat Wilson's professional contributions to Florida agriculture made a positive and lasting effect on past and future generations. He was a well-respected agricultural leader and a role model for others who are passionate about the agricultural industry.



# FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

- 1980** - Edwin Hall Finlayson  
Thomas Gilbert Lee  
Nathan Mayo  
Henry Oscar Partin  
Hoyle Pounds  
Egbert Norman Reasoner
- 1981** - Irlo Overstreet Bronson  
Gilbert Andrew Tucker  
J. Francis Cooper  
Louis E. Larson  
Pliny Ward Reasoner  
Don A. Storms Sr.
- 1982** - Willard M. Fifield  
Robert G. Pitman Jr.  
Dr. Herman J. Reitz  
James N. Watson
- 1983** - Dr. Raymond B. Becker  
John M. Fox
- 1984** - Alan James Norden
- 1985** - John Duda,  
Andrew Duda Jr.  
Ferdinand Duda  
Clinton Huxley Coulter Sr.  
Doyle E. Conner
- 1986** - Louis G. MacDowell  
Edwin L. Moore  
Cedric D. Atkins  
Lena Smithers Hughes  
B. Edward David Jr.
- 1987** - Ben Hill Griffin Jr.  
Anthony T. Rossi  
J.O. Pearce Jr.  
James S. Wershow
- 1988** - Paul Beary Dickman  
John Buckner Boy Sr.  
Ruth Springer Wedgworth
- 1989** - Peter S. Harlee  
Charles P. Lykes  
Donald L. Wakeman
- 1990** - Dr. Robert Henry Harms  
Raymond P. Oglesby  
Carl G. Rose  
Dr. E.T. York Jr.
- 1991** - Doyle E. Carlton Jr.  
Dr. Tony J. Cunha  
Julian B. Lane  
Joseph M. O'Farrell Sr.
- 1992** - Edward J. Campbell  
N. Curtis Peterson  
Edgar H. Price  
Vance V. Vogel
- 1993** - Karl Albritton  
Wm. Travis Lofton  
Dr. John Mortensen  
Dr. Julia Morton  
Dr. Marshall O. Watkins
- 1994** - Elton L. Hinton  
Dr. J. Wayne Reitz  
Latimer H. Turner  
George H. Wedgworth
- 1995** - Leroy Baldwin  
Dr. Clarence L. Campbell Jr.  
Latimer "Latt" Maxey  
William H. Stuart Sr.
- 1996** - Neal Palmer "Pal" Brooks  
Snead Young Mathews Davis  
Henry Gatrell  
Barnette E. Greene Jr.  
Gov. Wayne Mixson
- 1997** - William "Bill" H. Krome  
J.R. "Jack" Spratt  
Raymon F. Tucker  
Robert Billingsley Whisenant  
Stephen Monroe Yoder
- 1998** - Miles Edward Groover  
Edna Pearce Lockett  
Maxey D. Love Jr.  
Elliott L. Maguire  
Mabel M. Simmons
- 1999** - Alto Lee Adams  
Bert J. Harris Jr.  
Kenneth F. Jorgansen  
Copeland D. Newbern  
John Powell Wallace
- 2000** - Tom B. Adams  
Jack Monteith Berry  
William A. "Bill" Graham  
Henry F. Swanson
- 2001** - Al Bellotto  
Copeland Griswold  
Fountain H. May Sr.  
Bert Edward Roper
- 2002** - Bernard A. Egan  
Carl B. Loop Jr.  
J.R. "Rip" Graves  
George F. Sorn
- 2003** - Arlen Neil Jumper  
Oma Richard Minton Sr.  
Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts  
Dr. Kenneth Ray Tefertiller
- 2004** - Thomas Richard Barber Jr.  
Vick and Faye Blackstone  
Donald Fariss May  
Fred Y. Montsdeoca  
Robert Nelson "Bob" Morris
- 2005** - Dr. James M. Davidson  
Paul J. DiMare  
William D. "Billy" Long  
Jo Ann Doke Smith  
Frank "Sonny" Williamson Jr.
- 2006** - Charles R. "Chuck" Smith  
Dudley Adelbert Putnam  
James Neville McAuthur  
Lillie "Belle" Jeffords  
Roy Gene Davis
- 2007** - William R. Boardman  
Albert Greenberg  
Carroll Wayne Hawkins  
Berryman "Buster" Longino Jr.  
Ed and Imogene Yarborough
- 2008** - Otis Odell "Pete" Clemons  
Hugh Malakowsky English  
Fritz Stein Jr.  
Alto Alfred Straughn
- 2009** - Dr. James Griffiths  
Richard Kelly  
Kay Richardson  
Mason Smoak
- 2010** - Ben Hill Griffin, III  
Rudy Hamrick  
Dan McClure  
Richard Alger
- 2011** - Bill and Trudy Carey  
Pat Cockrell  
Paul Lyrene  
Joseph Orsenigo
- 2012** - Laurence Paul Cutts  
Robert Fuchs  
Gerald M. Mixon, Sr.  
Sidney L. Sumner
- 2013** - Daniel A. Botts  
Charles H. Bronson  
Paul L. Nicoletti  
Eugene E. Trotter
- 2014** - Scottie James Butler  
Dr. Robert Bruce Christmas  
Dr. Elver Myron Hodges  
Dallas Barton Townsend



## ..... 2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS .....

Bronson Bass  
Caroline Dailey  
Adrian Dyer  
Brevyn Foreman  
Jarrett Gillman

Nathan Jameson  
Erin Jones  
Abby Marion  
Shelbi McCall  
Caytlyn Smith

## ..... THANK YOU .....

*... to the following for their contribution to the scholarship program.*

Mr. Doyle Carlton, III  
Ms. Joan A. Dusky  
Mr. Martin C. Griswold  
Mr. & Mrs. Chip & Jemy Hinton  
Mr. & Mrs. Arlen & Celeste Jumper  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl J. Lennard  
Mr. W. Bernard Lester  
Mr. John Scott Long  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Marie Mixon  
Mr. & Mrs. Dallas & Doris Townsend

Gale & Dottie Trotter  
John T. Woeste  
Florida Department of Agriculture &  
Consumer Services  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Hinton Farms Produce, Inc.  
Rocking S. Farms  
Ms. JoAnn "Doke" Smith  
Stallings Crop Insurance  
United States Sugar Corporation

## ..... THANK YOU .....

*... to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences for  
producing the video presentation on the 2015 inductees and to the  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for their  
contributions in helping to make this event a success.*

## ..... THANK YOU .....

*... to the following organizations for sponsoring the reception in 2015.*

Adams Ranch, Inc.  
Chemical Dynamics, Inc.  
Dean Mead  
Farm Credit of Central Florida  
Farm Credit of Florida  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Florida Citrus Mutual  
Florida Citrus Packers  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

Florida Nursery, Growers &  
Landscape Association  
Florida Sugar Cane League, Inc.  
Florida Tomato Committee  
Florida Tomato Exchange  
Hilliard Groves, Inc.  
Indian River Exchange Packers, Inc.  
Martin Law Office  
Rabo Agri Finance, Inc.  
Southeast Milk, Inc.  
Stallings Crop Insurance  
United States Sugar Corporation

..... **THANK YOU** .....

*... to Riverview Flower Farm-Florida Friendly Plants for providing the centerpieces for the 2015 Hall of Fame Banquet. A sticker will be on one of the programs at each table to indicate the winner of the 2015 centerpiece to take home.*

*... to NGM Productions for providing gift plants for presentation to the inductee's guest.*

..... **THANK YOU** .....

*... to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Youth Mentor Program - 2015 Mentor Sponsors*

Mr. Doyle Carlton, III  
Mr. Robert Bruce Christmas  
Ms. Joan A. Dusky  
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Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Strawberry Festival  
Long Farms, Inc.  
Rocking S. Farms  
Stallings Crop Insurance  
Story Grove Service, Inc.  
Straughn Farms  
United States Sugar Corporation

..... **YOUTH MENTEES** .....

Hailey Baldwin  
Lauren Butts  
Russel Dame  
Maria Diaz  
Taeler Dupre  
Kaitlin French  
Keri Greenwood  
Ty Hamilton  
Erica Laboissonier  
Courtney Litchfield  
Catharin MacFarlane  
Natalie Miaoulis

Rachel Morgan  
Patrick Noriega  
Dana Patterson  
Taylor Pearce  
David Pequeen  
Taylor Proctor  
Julie Sharpe  
Jared Smith  
Matthew Staples  
Emily Taylor  
Ethan Vaughn  
Mike Whatley

# • • • • • 2015 AG HALL OF FAME MEMBERSHIP • • • • •

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Alger Farms, Inc.	Hillsborough County Farm Bureau	Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Adele Graham
Artesian Farms, Inc.	Hillsborough County FFA Federation	Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Sandra Gray
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Blue Sky Farms, LLC	Larson Dairy, Inc.	Mr. Martin C. Griswold
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Carey Cattle Company	Lykes Bros., Inc.	Mr. Robert Harms
Chemical Dynamics, Inc.	Marion County Farm Bureau	Mr. & Mrs. Bert & Elna Harris, Jr.
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Cutrale Citrus Juices USA	Oglesby Plants International	Mr. & Mrs. Chip & Jemy Hinton
DiMare Tampa, Inc.	Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Assoc.	Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Lisa Hinton
Fancy Farms	Polk County Farm Bureau	Mr. & Mrs. Arlen & Celeste Jumper
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Farm Credit of Florida	R.C. Hatton, Inc.	Mr. & Mrs. Danny & Cally Kushmer
Florida Association of Food Banks	Rabo Agri Finance, Inc.	Mr. & Mrs. Earl J. & Annabel Lennard
Florida Cattlemen Foundation	Rocking S. Farms	Mr. W. Bernard Lester
Florida Cattlemen's Association	Sarasota County Farm Bureau	Mr. & Mrs. Cary & Marcia Lightsey
Florida Cattlewomen, Inc.	Smoak Groves Inc.	Mr. Maxey Love, Jr.
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Florida Citrus Mutual	Story Grove Service, Inc.	Mr. Myke Morris
Florida Citrus Packers	Straughn Farms	Mr. & Mrs. John C. & Kay Norris
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association	Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative	Mrs. JoAnn Doke Smith
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association	Sunny Ridge Farm	Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Anne Smoak
Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Assoc.	Tropicana Products, Inc.	Ms. Tracee Smoak
Florida Peanut Producers Assoc.	University of Florida	Mr. Greg Steube
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Florida State Fair Authority	Mr. Sidney M. Banack, Jr.	Mr. Lane Wetherington
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Florida Strawberry Growers Association	Mr. & Mrs. Reginald & Lanita Brown	
Florida Tomato Committee	Mr. Doyle Carlton, III	
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# FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL HALL *of* FAME



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