



MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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August 10th 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Todd Dailey, Scholarship Chairman, 352-816-1892

Marion County Farm Bureau Donate \$130,000 to Scholarship Endowments

(Ocala, FL) –The Marion County Farm Bureau (MCFB) board of directors voted Thursday night at their regular board meeting to support two scholarship endowments for a total of \$130,000. The board will give Central Florida Community College in Ocala \$30,000 and the University of Florida in Gainesville \$100,000.

Todd Dailey, Secretary of the Marion County Farm Bureau board, and also scholarship chairman, was thrilled to see the unanimous support of this contribution.

"We are very fortunate here in Marion County to have had the great leadership and stewardship provided by previous Farm Bureau Board Members. Past and present Board Members have the resources and desire to give back to our local agricultural community. Through these endowed scholarships we will be able to meet our long-term objective of supporting Florida agriculture by cultivating new generations of high quality Young Farmers & Ranchers. Both the University of Florida and Central Florida Community College offer degrees in Agriculture. Our hope is to build relationships with young agricultural producers and leaders that will hopefully return to Marion County after completing their education and ultimately enhance the future of agriculture in our community," said Dailey.

Each scholarship endowment will receive matching funds. The Central Florida Community College gift will be matched 100 percent and the University of Florida gift will be matched 50 percent.

In addition, Marion County Farm Bureau will continue with its long-standing scholarship program in which it has given over \$70,500 to date. Scholarship applications can be found on their Web site at www.marioncountymcfb.org. Last year they awarded five \$1,000 scholarships.

Criteria for the endowments, similar to the ongoing scholarship program will be students from Marion County who are pursuing agriculturally-related careers. Marion County Farm Bureau membership is required. Marion County is one of the largest Farm Bureau counties in the state with over 5,000 members. Farm Bureau membership is just \$40/year.

Local peanut farmer and board member, Richard Barber also announced his retirement from the board at the Thursday night board meeting. Barber has served on the board for over 28 years.

“I’ve wanted to do something to create a legacy for Marion County Farm Bureau. I am so proud to be part of this board for this accomplishment,” said Barber.

A formal presentation will be made to each school at the Marion County Farm Bureau annual dinner at the agricultural center on September 18th. A chicken and rib dinner will be served and all county farm bureau members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by calling 237-2134.

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Endowment Coordinators for each school

Mrs. Lisa Lombardo
Major Gift Officer
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