

# FARM BUREAU DAY

FLORIDA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

March 18, 2025



## 2025 Legislative Priorities

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation remains dedicated to supporting Florida farmers and ranchers through strategic legislative priorities. Below is an overview of current initiatives for the 2025 session:

### Health Benefit Plan (SB 480, HB 497)

- **Objective:** To provide cost-effective health coverage options to Florida Farm Bureau members, particularly those unable to access traditional insurance due to cost or other barriers.
- **FFBF Policy:**  
#171 - Health Insurance – “...we support the development and access to additional health care options for farmers and ranchers, such as health plans.”

### Protecting Property Rights

- **Objective:** Safeguard property owners’ rights to use their land for effective revenue generation.
- **FFBF Policy:**  
#229 - Private Property Rights – “We strongly believe in and uphold the sanctity of private property rights upon which this country was founded. Short of constituting a public health hazard, property owners should be allowed and encouraged to use their property for their own benefit.”

### Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- **Florida Farm Bill (SB 700 & HB 651)**
  - Continued funding for the Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program.
  - Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.
- **Housing for Legally Verified Agricultural Workers**
- **Objective:** Streamline the regulatory process for constructing workforce housing on agricultural land.
  - **Commissioner Wilton Simpson** has agreed to take the lead on this critical initiative, which can be found in the Florida Farm Bill.
- **Support for Tangible Personal Property (TPP) relief on agricultural equipment. (HJR 1215 & SJR 318)**
- **FFBF Policy:**  
#27 - State Tax Reform – “...We oppose tangible personal property taxes on farm equipment. We support increasing tangible personal property tax exemptions based on inflation.”

#266 - Growth Management – “Agricultural lands should be protected by incentives which ensure the

economic viability of agricultural activities. The Rural and Family Lands Protection Act and sector plans are good examples of incentive-based growth management programs...”

#180 - Labor Housing – “We support an employer’s ability to build farm worker housing. We support streamlining inspection and permitting for farm worker housing... We support changes in housing funding legislation to prevent discrimination against agricultural workers...”

## **Appropriations**

- **Priorities Include:**

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, including agricultural education, research, and marketing programs
- UF/IFAS
- Florida 4H and FFA Initiatives
- Agricultural Certification Programs
- Florida Agricultural Legacy Learning Center
- Farm to Market Road Infrastructure Improvements

- **FFBF Policy:**

#203 - Florida Agricultural Promotion Support

“We urge producers to join and participate in the "Fresh from Florida" promotion program. We support and encourage the expansion of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Farm to School program.”

#114 - Agricultural Education – “We support agricultural education and The National FFA Organization (FFA) programs in Florida’s schools... We support certification programs in agriculture, such as those facilitated by Agriculture Education Services and Technology, Inc.”

#120 – The University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences -

“...We urge the Board of Trustees and the Florida Legislature to give high priority to agricultural education, research and transfer of technology needed to keep agriculture viable in this state... We urge the Legislature to recognize that the UF/IFAS budget is a unique budget item of the state that provides for economic development and consumer benefits... this budget area should be strengthened in relation to other university budget areas...”

#112 - 4-H and FFA Youth Programs – “We support 4-H Extension and The National FFA Organization (FFA) youth programs... We support state and federal funding for these programs.”