

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

FARMING NEWS

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Sapp's Presidency ends

Curl Eyes His Own FFA Future

By Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

Parents, Nancy and Eddie Curl, decided to go with their son, Eli Curl, to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky since Eli has become so involved with the FFA Chapter in Madison, Florida.

The Curls knew that Madison's own, Clay Sapp, would be giving his retiring speech as National FFA President, and felt it was a very good opportunity for them to go as a family and give Eli the opportunity to witness the joy of working hard and accomplishing one of the greatest honors as an FFA participant.

FFA STUDENT, Eli Curl, has been an active FFA participant since the 6th grade and really enjoys all the activities that his FFA Chapter provides for the Madison County students.

Eli's journey has been a very different one from Clay Sapp's. At the young age of six months he was diagnosed with retinoblastoma. Several rounds of chemo and laser treatments in Pennsylvania could not save Eli's eye so when he turned 18 months old his eye had to be removed.

Parents, Eddie and Nancy Curl can attest to the fact, that nothing has slowed

Eli down. He is a role model at Madison High School maintaining honor roll status consistently. He has been showing hogs with 4-H and FFA at the Madison Livestock Sale every year and putting his proceeds in savings. Eli was also Vice President of his 8th grade FFA class. There were many leadership training classes Eli attended throughout the state of Florida including the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center. He has gained a lot of knowledge on how to compete with his peers.

Eli is certainly no slacker on the farm either. He and his Grandfather, Jeff Harris have split 20 acres of soybeans where Eli ran the equipment by himself to get the job done.

He's worked the field and even paid all his bills with his income from farming. Also Eli helps grandparents, Connie Curl and Ramona Curl with their small cattle operation in Live Oak.

The Curls cherish the trip they made to the National FFA Convention with Eli, especially watching the fun Eli and his friends, Tyler Shadrick and Blake Webb had when they danced the night away at the convention center with the many other FFA young men and young women.

Yes, Eli is having a great journey!



Clay Sapp (left) & Eli Curl (right)

**If you missed Clay's comments,
you can go to
[www.ihigh.com/ffa/
broadcast_568899.html?silverlight=1](http://www.ihigh.com/ffa/broadcast_568899.html?silverlight=1)
and then skip over to 1:42:55**

Clay Sapp's Retiring Thoughts

Clay Sapp's year as National FFA President has come to a close at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Clay's retiring speech entitled "My Own Little World" gave a glimpse of Clay's background and how he was able to accomplish so many great awards and rewards in his lifetime.

Clay emphasized that sometimes you have to have everything taken away from you in order to appreciate the good things that follow. He would like the FFA students to focus on not living in their own little selfish world where everything is about me but rather to ask, what can I do for others? What can I do for my church? What can I do for my family?

Sapp said there are so many issues that we need to work on; for example, the water scarcity, poverty right in our own community and hundreds of people right in our area go to bed hungry. These are just a few examples of what we can work on to make life better for service to others.

Clay said, "Eighty years ago this blue corduroy jacket was created to symbolize service for others." Clay challenged his FFA brothers and sisters to strive to serve others in our community by our FFA motto, "Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve."



Florida FFA Foundation Board President Bill Hamm

Getting Dirty For The Cause

FFA Firetower Run-A-Muck

By Todd Lawrence

Farmers Cooperative was proud to participate and help sponsor the 1st Annual Firetower Run-A-Muck 5 K Run and Mud run in Haines City, Florida at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center on Saturday, November 23, 2013. A timed 5-K walk/run encompassed portions of scenic Firetower Road and through the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center property along the shores of Lake Pierce.

The challenging obstacles and lots of mud, hay bales and water made the

afternoon Mud Run a personal challenge. The event was well attended with about 250 participants during the day. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and are already looking forward to next year's event.

Thanks to all the individuals and teams who came out and participated in this first year event. This Firetower Run-A-Muck 5K Run-and Mud run is an annual fundraiser to help support the over 16,000 Florida FFA students from all over the state.

What Is Your Soil PH ?

With the rising cost of fertilizer it will be beneficial to correct the PH on your farm. Using the table below you can see the dollar benefit of making sure your soil has the correct PH. The example used is a blended fertilizer costing \$400.00 per ton. Applied at a rate of 300 Lbs. per acre or a cost of \$59.97 per acre. With a PH of 4.5 you would be losing \$42.78 per acre. To help you with your PH needs Farmers Cooperative is offering the following Specials on dolomite.

Kilibrew 20 ton load and spread @ \$25.00 per ton Tail dumped 44 tons and spread @ \$23.00 per ton

Prices good through February 8, 2014. Call us today for your dolomite needs or to schedule a soil sample for your farm at (386) 362-1459. Soil samples on five acres or more: \$20.00. Due to freight rates, prices could vary at Madison location 850-973-2269

Now is the "time to lime" to get your crop or pasture started off right in the spring.

Limestone Makes Fertilizer Work

Fertilizer Efficiency Goes Up As Soil Acids Go Down

DOES THE LIMING OF ACID SOILS PAY?

SOIL	FERTILIZER			DOLLARS	
ACIDITY	NITROGEN	PHOSPHATE	POTASH	WASTED	LOSS PER ACRE
Extremely acid 4.5 pH	30%	23%	33%	71.34%	\$42.78
Very Strong Acid 5.0 pH	53%	34%	52%	53.67%	\$32.18
Strong Acid 5.5 pH	77%	48%	77%	32.69%	\$19.60
Medium Acid 6.0 pH	89%	52%	100%	19.67%	\$8.84
Neutral 7.0 pH	100%	100%	100%	0%	\$0.00

Source: Phosphate and Potash Institute

Correcting soil acidity by the use of lime is the foundation of a good soil fertility program. Lime does more than just correct the soil acidity. It also (1) supplies Ca and Mg if dolomitic lime is used, which are essential plant nutrients. (2) it makes other essential nutrients more available; and (3) it prevents elements such as Mn and Al from being toxic to plant growth.

Rachel Morgan Earns American FFA Degree

The American FFA Degree is the highest degree a FFA member can achieve. The American FFA Degree is a sign of great accomplishment among FFA members.

In 2013 only one in 156 of the 557,318 members advanced through chapter and state FFA degrees to earn this national degree. Achieving this goal required years of hard work and commitment.

We are very proud to recognize the following 2013 American FFA Degree Recipients:

Bell, Florida - Danielle Holstein
Columbia County – Shawn Gene Mayo, Jr. and Shelby Harden
Ft. White - Sarah Chambers, Megan

Danielle English, Kathy Hess and Kendall Lee
Lafayette County - Mary-Thomas Shelley Hart, Cecelia Koon and Kali Sharpe.
Madison County - Terra L. Reddit, Blake Webb and Elaine Terry.

Suwannee County – Laura-Kaitlyn Boatright, Benjamin Glass, Drew Land, Dustin Lane, and Rachel D. Morgan.

Taylor County – Taylor Flanagan and Shelby St. Clair.

We would like to congratulate our own Farmers Cooperative, Inc. Chairman of the Board, Kevin Morgan in receiving an FFA Honorary American Degree at FFA's National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The following day, his daughter, Rachel D. Morgan received an FFA American Degree.



Rachel and Dad, Kevin Morgan

For the Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

Cecil Smith, Bell
Rolando Rosado, Live Oak
Pablo Uribe Mendoza, Live Oak
James C. Agner, Jr., Lee
Tom & Beverly Brazil, White Springs
Raymond Simmons, Live Oak
Ernestine Naylor, Lake City
Hazel Fineran, Clearwater
Morris Morgan, Jasper
Joyce A. Crandall, Wellborn
Dennis Pitts, Lee
William Bryant, Live Oak
Michael Bishop, Monticello
Charle E. Curtin, Live Oak
Clay Stratton, McAlpin
Michael T. Jordan, Live Oak
Van Garbett, Wellborn
Aaron Letsinger, Gainesville
Michael Kelley, O'Brien
Charles Burnette, Lake City
Thomas A. Fletcher, Branford
Tammy Bunting, Live Oak
Elsie Hart Parrish, Live Oak
Tony Merritt, Lee
Nancy Spearman, Jennings
Tim & Linda Smith, Weirsdale
Robert Luke, Live Oak
William Barnwell, Live Oak
Kenneth Disbrow, Live Oak
Carol Tolbert, Live Oak
Lisa Perez Reyes, Live Oak
Kelvin Lee, Live Oak
Veronica Perez Canjay, Live Oak
Edward K. Carver, Live Oak

Shawn Crocker, Live Oak
Fred Strickland, Loxahatchee
Anthony C Leverette, Live Oak
John A. Ivy, McAlpin
Jerry Kight, Live Oak
Robert H. Smith, Seminole
Betty Lawrence, Live Oak
Verna Swaby, Loxahatchee
Tim Davis, Live Oak
Randall H. Beauchamp, Jasper
Lynn Moran, Live Oak
Carol J. Robinson, Lake City
James Garry, Live Oak
Jessica Johns, Live Oak
Dan Dyals, Old Town
Naomi P. Everett, O'Brien
Osceola Tree Farm, LLC,
St. Petersburg
William Owen, Jasper
Michael Townsend, Lake City
Earl Staley, Live Oak
Donald Courtot, Lake City
Lydia Woloszyn, O'Brien
Burton Boone, Starke
Rhoda Fragd, Live Oak
Van D. Kline, Live Oak
Christina Gomez, Jasper
David Bond, Lake City
Eric Haderle, St. Cloud
Johnnie Philman, Jasper
Richard D. Batchelor, Live Oak
Craig C. Jacobson, Live Oak
Steven J. Kaurich, O'Brien
John M. Harper, Live Oak
April Denslow, Live Oak
Clif J. Hunt, Jasper

Tiffany Smith, Madison
Jeremy Golden, Live Oak
Jose A. Lopez, McAlpin
Sonny S. Rodriguez, O'Brien
Carol L. Nichols, Live Oak
Edward J. Mackowicz, Tanhope, NJ
Bonny B. Willis, Live Oak

MADISON STORE

Neva Baltzell, Madison
Jordon Turner, Pinetta
Robert Bushong, Madison
Gail Daniels, Madison
George & Emma Willis, Monticello
Mike Niquette, Lee
Elizabeth Beck, Greenville
Mirtha Guerra Aguirre, Greenville
Richard S. Williams, Madison
William R Dorman, Perry
Lloyd S. Clark, Ft White
Josh Churchwell, Lee
Greg A Edmonds, Jacksonville
Mark Crum, Day
Ashley Adams, Madison
Chris Baker, St Cloud
Silas G Glee, Madison
Richard L. Mckinnon, Lee
Maurice J. Thomas, Lee
Rick Dukes, Lee
JoAnne Ames, Madison
George B Alred, Land O Lakes
David Stephens, Madison
Tommy Rigsby, Jennings
Robert T Luke, Live Oak
Bradley W Cook, Lee

A Main Street Realty Co, LLC,
Madison
Jeri C Bradley, Monticello
Diane Kilpatrick, Madison
Jason Fletcher, Madison
Robert & Brenda Clarke,
Monticello
Adam Tate, Live Oak
Sammy Hicks, Madison
Kenneth R Padgett, Perry
Brian Shepherd, Lakeland
Jose L Soto, Princeton
H & L Farm, Lee
Evelyn G. Davis, Jasper
James Jim Adams, Madison
Josia Greathouse, Lee
Thomas C. Mobley, Madison
Panther Creek Sod Farms,
Tallahassee
Ken Arnold, Perry
Gina Mcculley, Pinetta
Kenneth L. King, LaMont
Cathy Kutsick, Lee
Rodolfo Contreras, Madison
Thomas Sadler, Perry
Lee Community Volunteer Fire Dept.,
Lee
Fraleigh Blues, LLC Madison
Diane Siplin, Lee
Carissa Blanton, Madison
Jesse N. Johnson, Greenville
J J Brown, Lee
Yvonne K. Fox, Madison
Brian Cummings, Greenville
Roger Hughs, LaMont



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

For over 67 years Farmers Cooperative has been a part of our community. Through the years, Farmers Cooperative has been supportive of many local groups from FFA and 4-H groups to local charities and community projects. October was Breast Cancer Awareness month and Farmers Cooperative helped to support a local Breast Cancer support group by donating \$5 each time a customer bought a \$10 Co-op pink T-shirt during the month of October. In addition, Farmers Cooperative donated another \$5 when an individual went to Facebook Page and posted a picture of themselves in their Co-op Pink T-Shirt during October. Shenandoah Dairy and other customers responded to the promotion and helped Farmers Cooperative be able to present a check to Bosom Buddies for a \$250 check. Thanks for all of your support to raise awareness.

Save Money, Use Advance Deposit

Our 5% advance deposit program will be available through January 31, 2014. For our patrons who are not familiar with the Co-op's 5% advance deposit program, we will automatically credit your account for 5% of the amount that you prepay during the month of January 2014. The 5% discount does not apply, however, to equipment construction contracts.

When you have decided just how

much money you will need to spend at the Cooperative for the calendar year 2014, please visit your Co-op at Live Oak or Madison and we will be happy to assist you with your farming needs.

So, if you are really interested in getting the most out of your money, our advance deposit program will give you an even greater savings than the 5% discount.

Annual Meeting

Farmers Cooperative's 67th Annual Membership Meeting was held at First Baptist Church in Live Oak on October 12, 2013. Following registration, the meeting started at 10:00 a.m.

General Manager Todd Lawrence reported annual sales volume of \$11,679,170 with a net loss of \$136,590. Lawrence reported that, indeed, we had another challenging year. As you all know, agriculture is very weather dependent and the warm weather limited our LPGas sales. Despite our loss this year, our auditor pointed out that we have a strong Balance Sheet with a current ratio of 2.69 to 1 and over 4 million in assets.

General Manager Lawrence then discussed Farmers Cooperative's participation in the Bonnie 3rd Grade Cabbage Program. Lawrence displayed several photos of the students and their cabbages. "It's a good way to get the entire family involved in this educational project, and as you can see the students look forward to winning the pizza party for their class." General Manager Lawrence also talked about ways that Farmers Cooperative helps sponsor activities for FFA and 4-H activities as well as the Big Buck Contest that's so popular with our hunters.

After the business meeting, several door prizes valued at over \$2,500 were awarded to the members attending the Annual Membership Meeting.

How Big Are Your Antlers?

Florida Wildlife Commission will be at Farmers Cooperative in Live Oak February 8th, 2014 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm to score your antlers.

This is free to anyone who would like to know the Boone and Crocket score of their antlers.

Any antlers scoring 100 B & C points for a typical rack and 125 B & C points for non-typical rack will make its place in the Florida Buck Registry.

This will also be the Official scoring used to decide the winners of the Farmers Cooperative Big Buck Contest.

Get Your Invoices Emailed To You

Farmers Cooperative now has the ability to email your invoices to you daily.

Please contact us at either the Live Oak or Madison store with your email address if you want this service provided for you.



Farmers Cooperative won best Commercial Entry in Live Oak Christmas on the Square Parade December 7, 2013

Farming News

www.farmerscooperative.org

P.O. Box 610	P.O. Box 390
Live Oak, FL	Madison, FL
32064	32341
Phone	Phone
386-362-1459	850-973-2269

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Todd Lawrence, Publisher & Editor

Co-op Directors

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