

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

FARMING NEWS

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Big Winner 20.19 Pounds

Students Grow Cabbages

By Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

Growing With Farmers Cooperative is the theme used for this year's Cabbage Plant Growing Contest. When you see a third grader wearing one of our Cooperative T Shirts with the logo, "Growing With Farmers Cooperative" you'll know they spent a lot of time caring for their cabbage for the weigh in on Saturday, May 15 in Live Oak, and on May 22 at our Madison Co-op store.

Farmers Cooperative and Bonnie Plant teamed up again for their second annual Cabbage Plant Growing Contest. This year the Cooperative expanded the program to include all third grade classes at Westwood Christian School, Branford Elementary School, Madison County Central School, Greenville Elementary School, Lee Elementary School and Pinetta Elementary School.

GENERAL MANAGER Todd Lawrence, Agronomy Division Manager, Barry Long, and Madison Manager Eddie Curl, delivered 800 plants to the various elementary schools in their area. Financial Secretary, Heather Kelley and all the managers provided pizza parties for the winners.

In order for third graders to be eligible for the Bonnie Plant Farms Cabbage Contest, they simply had to plant the cabbage plant, provide the nutrients and attention



Pinetta Elementary's Noah Blanton grew a 20.19 lb. cabbage as part of this year's Cabbage Plant Growing Contest. Noah, a student in Ms. Ross' class, was Madison County's 1st Place winner.

the cabbage needed, and just watch it grow. Farmers Cooperative provided a small bag of fertilizer and a garden trowel free. Farmers Cooperative's website provided complete instructions on how to grow their Bonnie Plant cabbage.

We had a total of 24 class winners in the Cabbage Plant Growing Contest this year. Additionally, class winners will be entered into the State Bonnie Plant Farms drawing for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship from Bonnie Plant Farms.

Our third grade gardeners learned responsibility along with a real sense of accomplishment to see how they can grow their own food. Children were encouraged to bring their cabbage to the weigh in regardless of the size or weight. In fact, they ranged from 20.19 pounds on down.

ONE THIRD GRADER forgot her cabbage on the bus on a Friday afternoon. Her mother said she worried all weekend if

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Cabbage Winners

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her cabbage would be okay. Fortunately, a very observant bus driver noticed the cabbage after all the children left the bus, and he put her cabbage in a shady spot. Monday morning the third grader was so happy to see that her cabbage was just fine, so she could compete after all.

We would like to recognize all our winners: First Place Winner at Suwannee Elementary School, Kinley Steichen, in Ms. Fury's class, Second Place Winner, Lexie Lanier in Ms. Mills' class, and Third Place Winner Courtney Sasso is Ms. Aikens' student. All class winners included: Cayden Sanders, Ms. Edwards' student, Kelsey Deas, Ms. Daniels' student, Dale Williams, Ms. Gross' student, Logan Sullivan, Ms. Ramsey's student, Luke Jernigan, Mr. Harris' student, Kindell Robinson, Ms. McIntosh's student, Ms. Henry's student, Alexander Rang, class winner and pizza party winner, Jakob McIntosh, Ms. Roberts' student, Walker Davis, Ms. Leavitt's student, Madison Tyre, Ms. Berry's student, and Chason Howle, Ms. Yanossy's student.

Ms. Nobles' student, Shayla Snith was the class winner at Westwood Christian School.

BRANFORD Elementary School's first year proved to be very successful with Ms. Conger's third grader, Bayley Jones taking First Place Winner as well as the winner of the pizza party. Ms. Conger's student, Colby Mickel took the Second Place Winner, Third Place Winner, Shelby Blankenship a class winner, and a student of Ms. Sapp's.

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Madison County Class Pizza Party winner Joshua Williams, a student in Ms. Jones' class at Greenville Elementary



SES 3rd Place winner Courtney Susso: 14.06 lbs.



SES 1st Place winner Kinley Steichen: 17.73 lbs.



BES 2nd Place winner Colby Mickel: 13.82 lbs.



Madison County 3rd Place winner Jayla Hall: 9.36 lbs.



SES Class Pizza Party winner Alexander Rang with his teacher, Ms. Henry (L), and Barry Long, Agronomy Div. Manager (R)



SES 2nd Place winner Lexie Lanier: 14.73 lbs



BES 1st Place winner Bayley Jones: 16.98 lbs.



BES 3rd Place winner Shelby Blankenship: 8.87 lbs.



Madison County 2nd Place winner Journey Aust: 17.07 lbs.



BES Class Pizza Party winner Bayley Jones (L) with her teacher, Ms. Conger, and Colby Mickel (R)

Cabbage Winners

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Class winner, Willie Argueta-Marshall is a student of Ms. Winnett's.

GETTING OFF to a great start, Madison's First Place Winner, Noah Blanton of Pinetta Elementary, is Ms. Ross' student. Journey Aust, Ms. Joshua's student at Lee Elementary School. Third Place Winner,

Jayla Hall attends Madison County Central School and is Ms. Pennington's student. Class winners, Daniel Kinard, Ms. Salls' class at Lee Elementary School.

Joshua Williams, Ms. Jones' student at Greenville Elementary School was quite popular with his peers by winning the pizza party, not to mention how proud he made his grandmother, Matilda Thomas.

Use Level Pay

Control Winter Heating Bills

Are you tired of trying to figure out how to pay the high heating bills in the winter? Then you may want to look at Farmers Cooperative Level Pay Plan.

WHAT IS A Level Pay Plan you might ask? Well a Level Pay Plan is where Farmers Cooperative estimates your annual cost of your propane-heating bill and then equally divides it up so that you make the same payment each month. Since this amount is only an estimate, the month of May is a month that the program ends and the balance is to be settled. If your account has a credit balance, Farmers Cooperative will owe you money, which can either be

applied to next year's Level Pay Plan or Farmers Cooperative will issue you a check for the credit balance. If you owe Farmers Cooperative then the balance is to be paid in full before the end of May.

THE BENEFITS OF choosing the Level Pay Plan is that you avoid receiving and paying for a large heating bill in the middle of winter, usually near holidays, allowing you to better manage your household budget.

If you would like to enroll in the Level Pay Plan please give our L.P. Gas departments in Live Oak or Madison a call and we will be glad to explain the Level Pay Plan to you as well as get you enrolled.

Madison Co-op Remodels

By Todd Lawrence

It has been over 20 years, but recently the Madison branch of Farmers Cooperative underwent a major remodel project. The interior of the building was completely stripped out and replaced with new flooring, fixtures, lighting, and bathrooms. The project also contained a consolidation of the office and administration areas.

On Friday, April 23rd and Saturday, April 24th Madison store celebrated a Re-Grand Opening. During the event special prices were offered on many items at both the Madison and Live Oak locations.

The celebration began with an official ribbon cutting ceremony in which employees, board of directors, and customers joined in. The celebration included many door prizes including a Grand Prize of a Holland Grill. John Henry Williams won the Holland Grill.

I think that our Madison customers and staff would agree that the two months of inconvenience during construction was well worth it when you see the final results. You can go to our website at www.farmerscooperative.org and click on our photo gallery to see pictures of the newly re-modeled store.



First place winners won a \$25.00 gift certificate from Farmers Cooperative, a A Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Second place winners won a \$15.00 gift certificate from Farmers Cooperative, a Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

THIRD PLACE winners won a \$10.00 gift certificate from Farmers Cooperative, A Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Each class winner's name was put into a random drawing to win the pizza party.

Congratulations third graders for a great Second Annual Bonnie Plant Cabbage Growing Contest.

WHERE ARE THESE FOLKS?

Farmers Cooperative is trying to locate the following people whose patronage refund checks have been returned from the U.S. Postal Service as "undeliverable":

Walter Rausch, Lee, FL
James E. Register, Madison, FL
Merle F Renfroe, Mayo, FL
James Reynolds, Madison, FL
Edward Shaughnessy, Lake City
Eddie J. Barnhill, Riverview, FL
Otis D Beach, Newberry
Sophie Santovin, O'Brien, FL

Farming News

www.farmerscooperative.org

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Todd Lawrence, Publisher & Editor

Co-op Directors

Kenneth Dasher, McAlpin (Suwannee County)
Ted Henderson, Live Oak (Suwannee County)
Eddy Roberts, O'Brien (Suwannee County)
E. Richard Terry, Madison (Madison County)
Archie Davis, Lee (Madison County)
Tim Steichen, Wellborn (Suwannee County)
John C. Webb, Lee (Madison County)
Walter K. Brown (Suwannee County)
Kevin Morgan (Hamilton County)
Kenneth McLeod (Madison County)
Jeff Lee (Suwannee County)

Smell Gas? Be Propane Smart!

By Todd Lawrence

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has determined that over 1/3 of all propane-related accidents in Florida occur when appliances are worked on by unlicensed and untrained technicians. When gas appliances are removed from the premises and gas lines previously connected to these appliances are left open, fires and explosions may result when the gas is turned on. Florida law requires consumers and property owners to notify the gas dealer who next fills or services their propane equipment of any changes made to the propane system, especially when an appliance is removed. Safety is your responsibility.

If you smell gas you should follow these steps:

NO FLAMES OR SPARKS! Do not operate lights, appliances, telephones, or cell phones.

LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY! Get out of the building or area where you suspect gas is leaking.

SHUT OFF THE GAS. Turn off the main gas supply on your propane tank if it is safe to do so.

REPORT THE LEAK. From an area away from the leak, contact Farmers Cooperative by calling the local store number. Be sure that you leave a number where you can be reached at other than where the leak is suspected.

DO NOT RETURN TO THE AREA. Make sure that Farmers Cooperative or your local fire department has determined that it is safe to re-enter the area.

GET YOUR SYSTEM CHECKED. Do not use any propane appliances until Farmers Cooperative has done an entire system check to ensure that it is leak-free.

Since there is a possibility of odor fade or problems with your sense of smell, you should respond immediately to even a faint odor of gas. If you have any further questions about the safety of propane, Farmers Cooperative will be glad to answer them and provide safety brochures that you and your family can review.

For the Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

Ralph & Connie Lambert, McAlpin
Michael Brecheen, Lake City
Jim & Sherral McKinley, O'Brien
Bill Brandon, Pinetta
Charles Jackson Ivester, Live Oak
Donald M. Robinson, Steinhatchee
Rod C. O'Steen, Mayo
Allan J. Morgan, Lee
James A. Hiller, Live Oak
Ashley Head, Live Oak
Christopher & Susan Burger, Lakeland
Shawn Mayo, Lake City
Paul Campbell, Lake City
Laura Bellrose, Wellborn
Sidney S. Putnel, Jr., Lake City
Melanie J. Smith, Mayo
August Schomburg, III, Live Oak
Robert Phillips, White Springs
John Ricks, Live Oak
Michael Berounsky, O'Brien
Deane F. Harris, Jasper
Kristian Bennett, Wellborn
Judy Strickland, Live Oak
April Glover, Live Oak
Robert Sansouci, Sr., Live Oak
Mary Margaret Mees, Live Oak
Rick & Carol Johnson, Lake City
Harold Lamphear, Lake City
Donald Coleman, Live Oak
Paul Shaffer, Live Oak
William Anderson, Lake City
Brian & Arline Vanbever, Live Oak
Rian Rytner, Live Oak
Thomas P. Browning, Lake City
Lee & Merry Tompkins, Jasper
Dani R. Truckenmiller, Jasper
Shawna Hayes, McAlpin
James Creamer, Live Oak
Sarah A. Jolley, Live Oak

Andy Lawrence, Live Oak
Tamos Hoyt Sapp, Live Oak
Chris Montante, Lancaster, NY
Nelson W. Udell, White Springs
James M. Driggers, Jr., Live Oak
Scott A. Reeves, St. Petersburg
Stacy Young, Branford
Ronda Herring, Live Oak
Lisa Love, Wellborn
Bob Garbett, Lake City
Bill Byrd, White Springs
Robert Spencer, White Springs
Ruth Ford, Live Oak
Jabiel Sanchez, Jennings
Nicholas Davis, Ft. White
John D. Cassel, Wellborn
Ben Alexander Jackson, Mayo
Jack Fulmer, Live Oak
Lisa Deland, Ft. White
C L Clyatt, Lake Butler
Donald Ray Britt, Ft. White
Jordan Brobston, Live Oak
Charles P. Lucas, Jasper
Gloria M. Quinones, Live Oak
Pablo Caneja, Miramar
James Turner, Jasper
Edwin Bailey, Live Oak
Gerald Smith, Live Oak
Brenda Welch, O'Brien
Tom Cushman, Lake Butler
Brian Crews, Lake City
Katie Wimberley, Live Oak
Gloria Nobles Davis, Live Oak
Jose J. Rodriguez, Live Oak
Charles W. Donahoe, Branford
Terence Allen, Lake City
Jennifer Newham, Live Oak
JoAnna Lemmon or Jeremiah King, Mayo
Richard C. Welch, O'Brien
Kimberly Calaway, Live Oak
Mark H. Rodgers, Live Oak

James R. Neveils, Live Oak
Stephen G Davidson, Steinhatchee
Mary Touchton, Live Oak
Pine Straw Solutions, Cross City
D. Wesley Anderson, Live Oak
M R Burhans, Live Oak
Dennis Price, White Springs
Wayne & Sandra Smith, McAlpin
Carol & George Moore, Live Oak
James W. Devane, Jennings
Omar Salazar Villa, Live Oak
Larry W Harper, Live Oak
James Butts, Live Oak
Carl Trail, Bell
William Dixon, Jennings
John Underwood, Lake City
Richard M Steele, Lake City
Ivy Denise Bose, Lake City
Cerse M Cason, Wellborn
Joseph Paxton, Live Oak
Richard W Bell, Lee
Gregg Barrington, Live Oak
Cindy Dunlap, O'Brien
Michael E Lucas, Lee
Robin Miller, White Springs
David Shields, O'Brien
Jewel D Barrington, Mayo
Gary Rolfe, Live Oak
Joseph Ferzola, Jennings
Jordan Hunt, Mayo
Charlotte Kyzer, White Springs
Sherrie Owens, Wellborn
Garry L Wigington, Old Town
Charletta Morrison, Wellborn
Larry Huffstutler, Live Oak
Katherine Bishop, Wellborn

MADISON STORE

Daniel Ryals, Day
Peggy Jordan, Monticello

Jarin Brill, Tallahassee
Betty Barber, Madison
Heather M. Beggs, Madison
Lori Finley, Pinetta
Thomas, Wilson, Greenville
Ronald A. Sutton, Valdosta, GA
Billy Blue, Perry
Arlean & Ronald Cox, Madison
Debi Tuten, Madison
Melvin Adams, Madison
Ernestine H. Thomas, Pinetta
Jody Devane, Perry
Drew Orton, Lee
Bud Atkinson, Madison
Kenneth Vickery, Jr., Jasper
Larry Pettis, Madison
Gary Benavides, Valdosta, GA
Moniece Wesley, Madison
Joel S. Niblack, Fort White
Joseph A. Whitehead, Perry
Gerald Terrill, Lee
Ralph Chisholm, Quitman, GA
Justin Hamrick, Madison
Chris Bacot, Madison
Rachel Penny, Lee
Lindsey Olson, Madison
Curtis Williams, Madison
Raymond A. Jackson, Jr., Wellborn
Ronald Hamm, Lee
Melvin Ragans, Quitman, GA
Bob Auston, Key Largo
Tony Taibl, Madison
Cheryl Wyly, Lee
Wayne Walker, Madison
Tammy Graves, Madison
Marie & Paul Kirkland, Madison
Denise Watts, Madison
Mark Rusinko, Lee
Norman w. Reams, Sr., Greenville
Casey Sullivan, Pinetta
Melissa Bass, Madison
Riverbend Saw Mill LLC, Perry
James L. McKenna, Lakeland
Sarah C. Day, Greenville
Don Lewis, Lakeland
Brian H. Jacobson, Tallahassee