

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

FARMING NEWS

Vol. 28, No. 1

Live Oak • Madison • Florida

July 1, 2015

STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 130
LIVE OAK, FL

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

'Bonnie' Cabbage Program

John Kenda grows whopper

By Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

Farmers Cooperative and Bonnie Plant teamed up again for their Seventh Annual Cabbage Plant Growing Contest. The Cooperative Cabbage Program included all third grade classes at Suwannee Elementary School, Westwood Christian

School, Branford Elementary School, Madison County Central School, Madison Academy, Greenville Elementary School, Lee Elementary School, and Pinetta Elementary School.

Growing With Farmers Cooperative is the theme used again 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 2nd in Live Oak, and on May 16th at our Madison Co-op store.

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. Heather Bennett, and Darby Thompson, 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 free Bonnie cabbage plant, provide the nutrients and attention 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 18 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.



John Kenda, 1st Place Madison Winner 26.17 lbs. Lee Elementary

Continued on Page 2

Co-op's 7th Plant Contest

Continued from Page 1

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 26.17 pounds on down.

All the winners and their cabbages can be seen on our website at www.farmerscooperative.org and then click on photo gallery. Also, when you visit the Live Oak Cooperative store you will be able to see the cabbage plant winners on our new store monitors.

We would like to recognize all our winners: First Place Winner at Suwannee Elementary School, Jacob Ellison's cabbage weighed in at 12.89 lbs. Connor Thompson's cabbage weighed 11.13 lbs and he won second Place. Connor is a student in Ms. Furry's class. Third place winner, Brookelyn Gaylord's cabbage weighed in at 9.15 lbs. Brookelyn is in Mr. Phillips class. Suwannee Elementary School class winner and pizza party winner is Erica Hawthorne, a student in Ms. Roberts class. Westwood Christian School's class winner was Morgan Riggs, and she is a student in Ms. Moyer's class.

SUWANNEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL had several students participating. They are as follows: Clayton Senea in Ms. Fury's class; Garrett Boney, a student in Ms. Vaught's class; Trevor Jenkins in Mr. Branche's class; Landon Bates, a student in Mr. Phillips class; Arrington Lundy in Ms. Robertson's class and Kale Neely in Ms. Roberts class.

These students cabbage weights ranged from 1.28 lbs to 12.89 lbs. Class winners are: James Westberry, Ms. McIntosh's student; Connor Thompson, Ms. Fury's class; Haley Carter, Ms. Hurst's class; Tarra-Lyn McCormick, Ms. Vaught's class; Rafael Ovando, Mr. Branche's class; Brookelyn Gaylord, Mr. Phillips class; Madison McMillan, Mr. Roberts class; Erica Hawthorne, Mr. Roberts class and Jacob Ellison, Ms. Gray's class.

Mrs. Knighton's third grade Branford Elementary School participants included six students: Ainsley Irby's cabbage

weighed .52 lbs, Kristen Daniels, cabbage weighed 13.94; Ethan Eveland's cabbage came in at 6.03 lbs. Andy Carmona's cabbage weighed 7.04 lbs. Joseph Land's cabbage weighed 9.81 lbs,; and Kaylynn Dees, cabbage weighed 20.10 lbs. Mrs. Winette had one student participating in the cabbage program. Taylor Gay's cabbage weighed 7.99 lbs. Ms. Cannon's students included Delaney Deadwyler, Second Place Winner with her cabbage weighing 16.71 lbs. Also a student in Ms. Cannon's class is Richard Roberts, his cabbage weighed in at 4.8 lbs. Briahna Brooks, Ms. Conger's student's cabbage weighed in at 3.82 lbs.

Branford's First Place Winners are as follows: Kaylynn Dees with a 20.10 lb. cabbage. Second Place Winner, Delaney Deadwyler's cabbage weighed 16.71 lbs, and Third Place Winner went to Coe Coe Counts with a cabbage that weighed 14.45 lbs. Coe Coe Counts was also the lucky pizza party winner.

Madison's First Place Winner, John Kenda's cabbage weighed in at 26.17 lbs. and he is a student in Ms. Gurley's class at Lee Elementary School. Makayla Blanton was the Second Place Winner with her cabbage weighing in at 17.23 lbs., and she is a student in Ms. Aultman's class at Madison Central School. Third Place Winner, Scott Williams' cabbage weighed 15.79 lbs, and he is a student of Ms. Pickles at Madison Academy. Scott was also the pizza party winner. Several other participants of Madison Academy in Mrs. Pickles class enjoyed watching their cabbages grow, and they included: Melana Webb, with a weigh in of 10.43 lbs. Blaine Smith's cabbage weighed 9.91 lbs. Reagan Jones was proud of her 9.37 cabbage. Gunnar Webb's cabbage weighed 5.25 lbs and Trinity Williams' cabbage weighed in at 5.20 lbs.

VARIANTERRY, a student in Mrs. Smith's class at Greenville Elementary School stayed with his project, caring for his cabbage that weighed 9.09 lb.

Teachers Mrs. Salls and Mrs. Gurley of Lee Elementary School are very proud

Continued on Page 3



SES 1st Place Winner Jacob Ellison 12.89 lbs



SES 2nd Place Winner Connor Thompson 11.13 lbs



SES 3rd Place Winner Brookelyn Gaylord 9.15 lbs.



SES Pizza Party Winner Erica Hawthorne



Madison 2nd Place Winner 17.23 lbs. Makayla Blanton



Madison 3rd Place Winner 15.79 lbs. Scott Williams

For the Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

Ricky & Lisa Hand, Lake City
Kyle M. Duncan, Live Oak
Aaron B. Letsinger, Alachua
Janet DaSilva, Live Oak
Emily Caldwell, Mayo
Jason Kimball, Live Oak
Quintin Carter, Lake City
Holly Goodwin, Jennings
Susan Klein, Live Oak
Joseph M. Smith, Lake City
Juan A. Martinez, Live Oak
Dayan Findora, Live Oak
Lee Haas, McAlpin
Maderlean Williams, Lake City
Jeff Nowlen, Lake City
Leonard Bistrick, Live Oak
Harry W. Culp, Live Oak
Donald McClure, Live Oak
Darrell Spencer, Pompano Beach
Gary Bolyard, Live Oak
Joy Bonvie, McAlpin
Alfred & Barbara Revels, Mayo
Ryan Cannon, Live Oak
Sheryl Thompson, Live Oak
Frances T. Vogt, McAlpin
Martin E. Land, Jr., McAlpin
J G Stuckey Ranch, Live Oak
Billy Lopezri, Lake City
Debra Lopresto, Live Oak
Jan D. Tiffany, Live Oak
Lynda Matthews, McAlpin
Patricia D. Nettles, O'Brien
Phyllis A. Bailey, Live Oak
Jerry Fillyaw, Live Oak
R & R Pinestraw, Inc., Lake City
Geraldo Rosario, Lake City
Concepcion Wimpey, McAlpin
Sherry & Brian Stewart, Live Oak

Dawn Wagner-Shearer, Live Oak
Gwendolyn B. Cannon, Live Oak
Matt Dicks, Wellborn
James Clint Watters, Jasper
Matthew Fountain, Mayo
Juan Velasquez, Live Oak
Hoyt Koon, Crystal River
Richard Barnett, Lee
Shelia Lira, Live Oak
Roger Munday, Live Oak
Robert Locker, Lake City
Dwight Lord, White Springs
Victoria Horvath, Live Oak
Susan A. Tucker, Live Oak
Stephen Pellicer, Lake City
Jacqueline Duke, Live Oak
Gloria Hancock, Live Oak
Ralph R. Deas, Jasper
Joyce Jiminez, Live Oak
Mayetta Alexander, Lake City
Calvin Deas, Jasper
Gloria Young, Live Oak
Stan Pickels, Madison
Eric Rubin, McAlpin
Garwood Phifer, O'Brien
Roger Brown, McAlpin
Danny L. Kolwyck, McAlpin
Teresa Arntzen, Live Oak
Valdes Poultry, O'Brien
George G. Felton, Live Oak
Janice Giannoble, Live Oak
David & Beverly Collins, Live Oak
Jason Sewell, Lake City
John M. Howe, Live Oak
Debra A. Gratla, Live Oak
Charlene Trosper, Lake City
Larry K. Riggs, Live Oak
Tito J. Portillo, Pinetta
Danny Clauser, Davie
James D. Elliott, McAlpin
Michael Newman, Live Oak

Samantha Prater, Live Oak
Sandra McDuffee, Wellborn
Howard Eisen, McAlpin
William Iannone, Lake City
Ronald M. Lynd, Live Oak
Robert Treverrow, Live Oak
Linda C. Walther, Live Oak
Don Johnson, Live Oak
Gary Shook, Mayo
Patricia A. Bragg, Live Oak
Debra A. Kinney, Live Oak
Horace W. Weaver, Live Oak
Colt Hartt, Lake City
Robert W. Schnaudigel, Live Oak
Tony Lee Cook, McAlpin
Chris Kerr, Gainesville
William O. McCrea, Lake City
Sam Reed, Live Oak
Clarene Rebecca Curtiss, Jasper
Gina Gomez, Freeport
Nathan Herbert, White Springs
Sarah F. Wynn, Lake City
Celeste Daniels, Live Oak
Larry Wisdom, Live Oak
Don Clark, Tallahassee
Brenda Herrin, O'Brien
Angie Newman, O'Brien
Wade Cato, Live Oak
Ruben Fundora, Live Oak
David Snoddy, Live Oak
Patsy Shirey, Live Oak
Michael Lee Penuel, O'Brien
Freddie Pitts, Jasper
Cindy T. Valois, Wellborn
Harleston B. Pournelle, Jr., Live Oak
Wayne Couture, Live Oak

MADISON STORE

Scotty Henderson, Madison
Michael Dorsey, Madison
Jared Kinard, Greenville
Mary K. Rentz, Lee
Jeff Gore, Pinetta

Louie Barr, Jasper
Charles Glenn Bishop, Madison
J & S Chuckwagon LLC.,
Madison
Shania Smith, Mayo
Douglas A. Beck, Cordele Ga
Wilmer Dukes, Madison
Bart & Jennifer Moore, Lee
Wendy Branch, Madison
Travis Townsend, Morven Ga
Alan Sowell, Madison
AW Tedder, Perry
Dina Martin, Monticello
Ellen Quinlivan, Madison
Bruce Miller, East Hampton Ct
Sheila Snipes, Mayo
Dalton Tyre, Jasper
Jimmy Sheffield, Madison
Annett Osteen, Greenville
Joseph Tompkins, Pinetta
Glynn T. Oneal, Valdosta Ga
P W Willis Farms, Valdosta Ga
Will J. Koontz, Lee
Joe Martelli, Monticello
Lee Anderson, Lee
Angelica Marquez, Lee
Madison Corr. Inst. Employee
Benefit Trust Fund, Madison
Albert Hodge, Madison
Christine Smith, Lamont
Carl Wahida Wallace, Madison
Marvin J. Faulk, Valdosta Ga
Fred & Viki Pitts, Jasper
Dave Rothaner, Madison
Tad Bridier, Day
Kenneth Bolin, Greenville
Margaret McMurray, Lee
Don F. Joiner, Monticello
Scott E. Friedlander, Greenville
Margaret Miller, Greenville
Jean R. Dewitt, Madison
Tom Caldwell, Mayo
Johnnie M. Thomas, Madison
Barbara C. Stokley, Lamont

Bonnie Plants And Co-op Promote Cabbage Project

Continued from Page 2

of their students: Jacob Kimball, Brianna Price, Stetson Wirick, Kaitlyn Hutchinson, Amber McLeod, and Ashton Sapp for their diligence in completing their project with their cabbages. Their cabbages weighed up to 9.16 lbs.

Madison Class Winners included: John Kenda, Ms. Gurley's class. Stetson-Wirick, a student in Ms. Salls class. Scott Williams represented Madison Academy. Makayla Blanton, a student at MCCS, and Varian Terry, Ms. Smith's student at Greenville Elementary School.

First place winners won a \$30.00 gift card from Farmers Cooperative, A Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Second place winners won a \$20.00 gift card from Farmers Cooperative, a Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Third place winners won a \$10.00 gift card 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 along with a \$10.00 gift card from Farmers Cooperative, A Growing With Farmers Cooperative T-shirt and a Co-op hat.

Congratulations third graders for your great participation in the Farmers Cooperative/Bonnie Plant Cabbage Growing Contest. And a special thank you to the teachers that made this another very successful Bonnie Plant Cabbage Growing Contest.

Using New Technology

Precision Agriculture

By Todd Lawrence

Farmers Cooperative has over the past decades, helped local farmers manage their crops. In the past, many farmers have treated large fields as uniform across the field. Precision Agriculture or “site-specific” methods, involve studying and managing variations within fields that can affect crop yield. It revolves around the idea that treating a field as a uniform area is essentially wasteful and does not utilize costly resources in the form of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

MOST FIELDS can contain variations in soil types, nutrient availability, and other important factors. When farmers do not take into account these variations, crop yield can suffer a loss of productivity. While farm input costs continue to rise, individual farmers cannot do anything to raise the price of their crops due to the nature of the commodities market. Precision Agriculture is a method of farm management that allows the farmer to produce more efficiently, thereby realizing gains through economical use of resources.

Site-specific is a term that refers to treating the smallest possible area as a single element. For instance, rather than treating

a whole field with herbicide because of a few isolated weed infestations, site-specific management calls for treatment of only those areas.

The treatment of each site is specific to the needs of each site, as determined by soil test data and crop scouting reports. The implementation of GPS has enabled Farmers Cooperative to accurately map fields into 2.5 acre grids.

Farmers Cooperative can help its farmer customers thru the steps in the Precision Ag process. Generally, farmers need to perform annual planning, data collection, and analyzing steps to complete the precision ag cycle. The first step starts before planting with Farmers Cooperative coming out and taking soil samples in 2.5 acre grids, using GPS data. Once the samples are back, our team does an analysis of the data to determine variations in soil conditions throughout the field. The data is then mapped so our team can discuss with the farmer the variety of treatments or planting methods.

Second step is to begin planting with variable seeding rates across the field, and use variable rate application of fertilizer as determined by soil test data. Crop scouting is done to search for problems such as weeds, pests or diseases. This can be done by a person walking the field in the future using UAV'S (unmanned aerial vehicle). Findings determine whether further variable rate application of chemical treatments or other actions are warranted.

During the harvest as the crop is harvested, a yield monitor in the combine logs geo-referenced yield data to be analyzed and mapped across the field. Variable yield results across the field can help our team and the farmer discover if our management methods have been successful, and better plan on how to proceed next season.

All of this data from the beginning soil samples, to what was applied to the crop, to yield data across the field helps to make better informed crop decisions and plans.

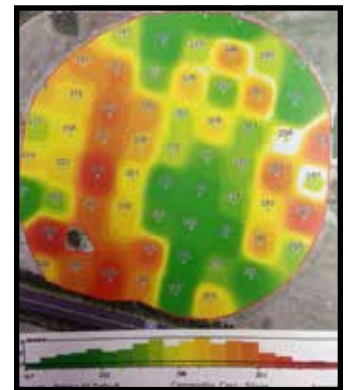
Farmers Cooperative is committed to serving our farmers with all that precision agriculture has to offer. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of our precision ag teammates.



Precision Soil Sampling ATV



RoGator Variable rate applicator



Data Management and prescription mapping



Winner

Patricia Warren of Live Oak was the lucky winner of two free admission weekend passes to the Suwannee River Jam that was held on April 29 thru May 2.

To be eligible to win the Suwannee River Jam tickets all the customer had to do was buy Bonnie Plant vegetable and they were entered into the drawing.

Farming News

www.farmerscooperative.org

P.O. Box 610

Live Oak, FL

32064

Phone

386-362-1459

P.O. Box 390

Madison, FL

32341

Phone

850-973-2269

Is published quarterly, or as the need arises, by Farmers Cooperative in Live Oak and Madison.

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)

William T. Carte (Suwannee County)

Tim Steichen, Wellborn (Suwannee County)

Walter K. Brown (Suwannee County)

Kevin Morgan (Hamilton County)

Kenneth McLeod (Madison County)

Jeff Lee (Suwannee County)