



Santa Rosa County

6263 Dogwood Dr.
Milton, FL 32370
850-623-3868
850-623-6151 Fax

Contact: Mike Donahoe, County Extension Director
UF/IFAS Extension, Santa Rosa County
Office (850) 623-3868

49th Annual Santa Rosa County Farm Tour

On Thursday, Oct. 29, around 200 local officials and area citizens participated in the 49th Annual Santa Rosa County Farm Tour. During the day-long bus tour they learned first-hand about agriculture and its importance to the local economy. This year's tour highlighted our county's cotton industry where participants saw how cotton is grown, harvested and processed at the gin. Stops on the tour included the UF/IFAS WFREC Jay Research Farm, Smith Farms, the Jay Community Center for lunch and presentations, Golden Gin and Warehouse, and Holland Farms.

An annual highlight of the tour was recognition of the "Outstanding Farm Family of the Year". Rick Hendricks and his wife Nina, along with sons Brant and Rush, and daughter Tessa, accepted the award from County Commissioner Don Salter. Tiffany Bates, District Representative for Congressman Jeff Miller, also presented the family with a Congressional Record proclamation honoring them for their accomplishments. The Hendricks are fourth generation farmers. Their farm has grown over the years and is now comprised of three operations totaling nearly 2,250 acres of farm land, which includes cotton, peanuts, hay, and a 200 brood cow herd.

A special "Friend of Agriculture" award was presented to the family of the late Tim Russell of Jay. After 12 years of service to his county in the Army, Tim returned home in 1979 and began a lifelong service to agriculture and his community. He worked 31 years managing the buying of peanuts for local farmers and for many years ran the only Golden Peanut buying point in Florida. Mr. Russell also provided services to many small farmers and landowners by buying local pecans and providing custom harvesting of wheat and soybeans.

The Farm Tour is organized each year by the Santa Rosa Farm Tour Committee, comprised of representatives from various agricultural support agencies in the county. The tour would not be possible without the help of numerous supporters and corporate sponsors.

The Farm Tour Committee would like to thank the following area businesses for helping sponsor the tour this year and making it a huge success: Birdsong Peanuts, Burkhead Gin Company, Coastal Machinery, Crop Production Services, Escambia County Bank, Escambia River Electric Coop, Farm Bureau

Insurance Services, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, Floyd Crop Insurance, Golden Gin & Warehouse, Griswold Peanut Company, Gulf Power Company, Jay Peanut Farmers Coop, John L. Burkhead Inc., Lowry Farms, Publix, Resource Management Services, Santa Rosa County Farm Bureau, Smith Tractor Company, Three Rivers RC&D Council, T.R. Miller Mill Company, and United Bank.

For more information, please contact Extension agent Mike Donahoe at (850) 623-3868 or miked@santarosa.fl.gov.

All programs and related activities sponsored for, or assisted by, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences are open to all persons with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliation-ns. For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the Santa Rosa County Extension Office at 850-623-3868 at least five (5) working days prior to the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request.

###