



2010
Woman of the Year
in Agriculture

Ann Holt



Dear Friends in Agriculture:

As a fifth generation cattle rancher and citrus grower, I know first-hand the vital role women play in agriculture. Now, as Commissioner of Agriculture, I am proud to honor the important work they do. Since 1985, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida State Fair Authority have recognized women who have made outstanding contributions to Florida's agricultural community.

Ann Holt, the 2010 Woman of the Year in Agriculture, has dedicated her life to educating her local community, as well as public officials, on the wealth of resources farming provides to our state. Through this outreach mission, Ann has carried the message of the interdependent relationship between farmers and consumers, while emphasizing agriculture's contributions to both the economy and the environment.

Ann's personal commitment to promoting Fresh from Florida produce has resulted in her facilitation of industry events, such as the Florida Sweet Corn Fiesta at the South Florida Fair Grounds and the Farm-City Week Luncheon and Farm Tour in Palm Beach County. These events serve as an invitation to business owners, community leaders and families to experience the products which have earned the Fresh from Florida name. She also serves on South Florida Fair's Scholarship Committee and has worked extensively with the FFA and 4-H programs.

Ann not only serves the agriculture community, but her local community as well. Her extraordinary efforts include organizing annual food and toy drives benefitting local farmers and their families, sponsoring an annual golf tournament benefitting area food banks and spear-heading fundraisers supporting the construction of a new hospital facility in Belle Glade, Florida.

Ann and her husband Tommy have been farmers for more than forty years. They grow sweet corn in Belle Glade, and cotton, peanuts, and sweet corn in South Georgia.

Ann joins 26 other women who have earned the respect and admiration of their peers by making outstanding contributions to Florida agriculture. It is my pleasure to congratulate Ann Holt on being named "Woman of the Year in Agriculture."

Sincerely,

Adam H. Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

FLORIDA
STATE FAIR
THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR

Fresh
from
Florida.

*Ann and Tom Holt on the shore
of Lake Okeechobee.*





Two of Ann's favorite events take place in Yesteryear Village at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Right, Ann, Tommy, Bettye Thompson and Co-Chair Eva Webb plan the layout of the Sweet Corn Fiesta. Above, Ann works with Ag-Operations Manager Bettye Thompson to ready the Sundy Feed Store that will house a farmers' market and educational exhibits. During the South Florida Fair, approximately 4,500 students will tour the facility with their schools and thousands more will visit with their families.





SWEET CORN FIESTA



Realizing the need for agricultural awareness in her community, Ann started the Sweet Corn Fiesta in 2001. The annual family event combines entertainment and education. Many visitors are surprised to learn that Palm Beach County produces more sweet corn than any other county in the nation.

As a partner in Twin H Farms,
Ann can be found managing the
books in Belle Glade as well as
at her home office in Wellington.





Tommy Holt Jr., Farm Manager for Twin H Farms, oversees the first corn planting of the year with parents Tommy Sr. and Ann.



A typical day in Ann's life includes volunteering her services from one edge of Palm Beach County to the other. Above, Darrell Bowen helps Ann select promotional items for the annual Sweet Corn Fiesta. Left, Ann and Cindy Griffin discuss plans for student outreach through the Agriculture in the Classroom program. Below, in her role as President of the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau, Ann conducts a meeting of the executive board of directors.





Ann and Tommy exam fields of dead corn and green beans. The crops were only two weeks away from harvest when the area was hit by the earliest freeze on record in December 2010.



The Holts with their children and grandchildren; back, from left, Tyler and Tommy Holt Jr., Ron, Karina and Kelby Rothenberg, Tommy Holt Sr.; front, from left, Ransey Rothenberg, Trey Holt, Ann Holt.



Previous Winners

2009

Marcia Lightsey of Lake Wales

2008

Patsy Nathe of Pasco County

2007

Colleen H. Boggs of Homestead

2006

Iris Pollock Wall of Indiantown

2005

Marlene Strickland of Sarasota

2004

Martina "Teena" Borek of Homestead

2003

Jennie Lee Zipperer of Fort Myers

2002

Annette Barnett Land of Branford

2001

Barbara Carlton of Sidell

2000

Helen Houck of Perry

1999

Vina Jean Banks of Balm

1998

Nancy Gurnett Hardy of Winter Haven

1997

Gertrude "Trudy" Carey of Hillsborough County

1996

Norma Stokes of Highlands County

1995

Louve "Vee" Frierson Platt of Clewiston,
and Patricia Robbins of Miami

1994

Anne Wardlaw Dickinson of Frostproof

1993

Sarah W. Bailey of St. Johns County

1992

Carol C. Murphy of Volusia County

1991

Ruth M. Tucker of Brevard County

1990

Jeanette Barthle of Pasco County

1989

Belle Jeffords of Alachua County

1988

Carolyn Reed Kempfer of Osceola County

1987

Dorothy Conner Shipes of Lake County

1986

Ruth Wedgworth of Belle Glade

1985

Jo Ann Smith of Marion County



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services