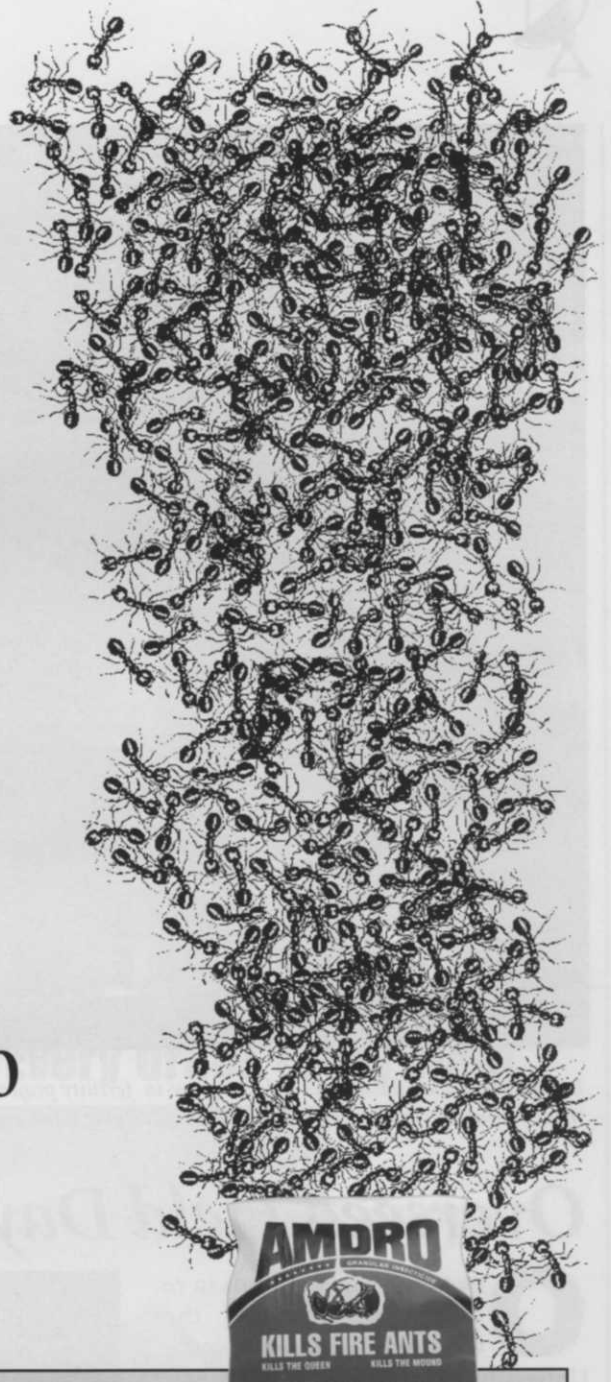
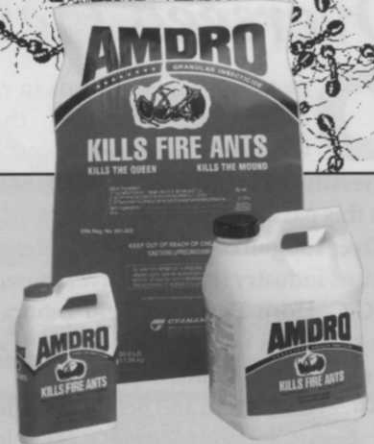
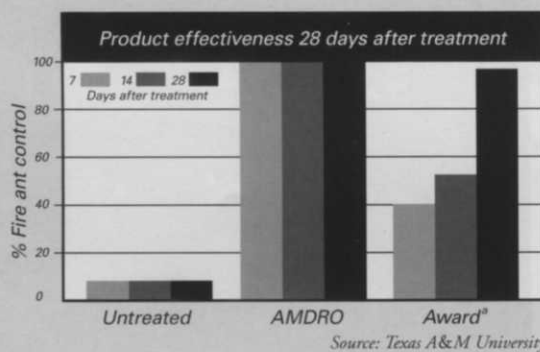




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*In the Envirotron Glasshouses soil and grow-in fertility projects, herbicide studies, cool season grasses identification and tissue testing correlation experiments were on display during the March Overseeding Field Day. Photo by Buddy Keene.*

## Overseed Field Day Attracts More Than 150

**O**ne of the largest crowds in recent years attended the Overseed Field Day held at the University of Florida campus in Gainesville this past March.

Over 150 golf course superintendents and turf industry representatives toured the G.C. Horn Turfgrass Field Laboratory turf plots and the Envirotron test plots and experiments.

After registration and before the field tours began, the Seven Rivers GCSA held an informal business meeting at the Field Laboratory. The chapter then joined the tour of the turf plots to hear presentations on Dr. Sartain's fertility studies; Dr. Miller's ryegrass response to herbicide residues and grassy weed control with pre-emergent herbicide; Dr



*Over 150 attendees gather at the G.C. Horn Turf Plots in Gainesville to view results of fertility and herbicide experiments on cool season grasses and to rate color, quality, and density of various seed applications. Photo by Buddy Keene.*



Dudeck's overseeding trial results on 43 seed varieties.

After a short hop back to the main campus, the attendees toured the Envirotron and Envirogreen for updates on projects like: *Poa trivialis* seeding rates; Rubigan pre-emergence program; nematode control products; tissue testing and soil analysis correlation. Following the

glasshouse and lab tours, lunch was served. An optional golf tournament sponsored by the UF Student Turfgrass Club was held at the University G. C.

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to Buddy Keene, external VP of the Seven Rivers Chapter for covering this event and taking pictures.*



On the Envirogreen located next to the Envirotron, Field Day attendees were able to evaluate *Poa trivialis* seeding rates, Rubigan pre-emergence programs, nematode control products and tissue and soil testing analysis. Photo by Buddy Keene.

TIDINGS FROM THE TC

## Turf, Ornamental Faculty Make Great Speakers

### IFAS Summer Field Day

**B**ig congratulations to the Milton Research and Education Center for hosting a great University of Florida Turfgrass Field Day in conjunction with their annual Gulf Coast Expo June 23.

A heartfelt thanks to Center Director Donn Shilling, Assistant Professor Bryan Unruh, and Professor Barry Brecke for leading the Milton effort and for extending yeoman-like effort to put on a fine program. The IFAS Field Day was held for the first time at this Northwest Florida location. The University of Florida turfgrass program gets bigger and bigger!

### Interim Center Director

Dr. Joan Dusky is Interim Center Director of the Ft. Lauderdale Research

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## Turf Advisory Work Group

George Agrios, Plant Pathology .....	352-392-3631
Jerry Bennett, Agronomy Department .....	352-392-1814
Randy Brown, Department of Soil Water Science .....	352-392-1803
John Capinera, Department of Entomology and Nematology .....	352-392-1901
Joan Dusky, Ft. Lauderdale REC .....	954-475-8990
John Gordon, Department of Food and Resource Economics .....	352-392-1826
Terril Nell, Environmental Horticulture .....	352-392-1831
Donn Shilling, West Florida REC – Jay .....	850-994-5215
Van Waddill, Everglades REC .....	561-996-3062
IFAS ADMINISTRATION	
Mike Martin, VP for Agriculture and Natural Resources .....	352-392-1971
Extension: Jim App and Chris Waddill .....	352-392-1761
Research: Everett Emino and Richard Jones .....	352-392-1784
Academic Programs: Jimmy Cheek .....	352-392-1961

and Education Center (FLREC). She replaces David Buchanan who retired June 30. Dr. Dusky comes our way with plenty of administrative and scientific experience. Moreover, she is quite familiar with

Florida agriculture. As you may know, she is a long time professor of weed science at the University of Florida. Until this appointment, Dr. Dusky was located at the Everglades Research and

Education Center (EREC) in Belle Glade, where she conducted important weed science programs for agricultural crops. Recently, she got involved in weed research for the sod production industry. Join with me in congratulating Joan and wishing her the best of luck in her new job.

### Meet the TAWG

The University of Florida Turfgrass Advisory Work Group is composed of department chairs and center directors who have turfgrass program responsibility. Led by Terril Nell, environmental horticulture dept., the TAWG closely advises the turf coordinator and seeks your input about our turf program.

Please invite the TAWG to your programs, meetings, and events. I know they would like to speak to you about the UF turfgrass program and about what is going on in their departments as well, so give them a call for your next

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meeting. Below is a list of the TAWG departments, and phone numbers. Upper IFAS administration is not a part of the TAWG, but I know that they would appreciate an invite as well.

These administrators, chairs, and center directors are very accomplished speakers and what they can share with you is impressive as well as very interesting. Give them a call.

#### More potential speakers

While we are on the subject, are you looking for turfgrass topics for your upcoming meetings? Look no further. The University of Florida has a great team of turfscientists who are ready, willing, and able to speak to your group.

Want a change of pace? Consider inviting one of our great ornamental and landscape faculty to talk about the latest in plant materials and culture. Give me or any of our faculty a call for speaking engagements. We look forward to your invites.

#### Visit with us

Don't wait for field days or conferences to stop by. There is plenty of work going on all the time. Come and enjoy. We would love to have you come and visit and get your input. Drop in any time.

Welcome aboard to Gary Pederson as the new research green technician at the FLREC. Gary replaces Marcus Prevatte. Marcus moved on to Indian Creek as an assistant superintendent in February.

#### New Positions Update

The Turfgrass Disease research/teaching faculty position in Gainesville recently closed for applications. A big list of applications were received. We look forward to filling this key position in the near future.

The FLREC Center Director position attracted 20 candidates. Interviews are being set up. Those interested in attending interviews should contact Dr. Nan Yao-Su, the Center Director Search Com-

mittee Chair for schedules. Dr. Su's phone number is 954-475-8990.

The FLREC extension/teaching entomology faculty position brought in five applications. The Center is attempting to extend the search period to attract more applicants. Please encourage qualified applicants to apply.

The EREC is currently conducting a candidate search to fill a soil teaching faculty position. Again encourage qualified applicants to apply for this important position.

#### Research Grants/Awards Update

The recent FTGA call for research proposals attracted 18 grant proposals at a cost of more than \$500,000! I have not seen the proposals (except mine) but I am sure that these are significant projects that will help our turf industry and help advance turfgrass science. The sheer cost of the projects shows that more than ever we need your support.

At the June 5 Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendent's

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# Turfgrass Base Paper Executive Summary

## SITUATION

The turfgrass industry in Florida encompasses 4.4 million acres of managed turf that provides over \$7.3 billion to Florida's economy. Homeowners make up the largest segment with 75% of the total Florida turf acreage maintained at a cost of 3.9 billion dollars annually.

Florida has the most golf courses of any state in the Union with over 1,400 in use. Only two countries (the USA and Japan) have more golf courses than Florida. Over 60 million rounds of golf were played in the state, making golf a major recreational and economic activity in Florida.

More than 53,000 acres of sod were produced annually in Florida in the 1990s making Florida the largest sod production state in the USA, double that of Texas the next largest sod producer. Turfgrasses produced on sod farms are found on golf courses, athletic fields, cemeteries, roadsides, and in the landscape. The turfgrass industry essentially includes and/or impacts all people living in or visiting Florida because nearly all people use it on a daily basis.

## CURRENT TRENDS

Many trends are having great impact on the turfgrass industry and will continue to do so in the next decade.

- 1) increased government regulation including the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act and the resultant loss of chemicals available for pest management;
- 2) the increase in popularity of golf and athletics, the increased requirement for better performance turf venues, the increased use of outside consultants, and the increased competition for players among golf and sport facilities;
- 3) Florida population increases leading to greater use of turfgrass sod;
- (4) aging of the baby-boom generation with migration to Florida for retirement and use of green areas for and recreational activities;
- 5) increased wealth and expendable income for recreational tourist activities;
- 6) sod quality issues including off-type contamination and the proliferation of troublesome perennial hard-to-control weeds, diseases, insects, and other pests as impacted by the changes in global weather which influence both turf management and pest pressure in Florida;
- 7) Environmental issues including water quality and water conservation efforts and impacts of other turfgrass management practices such as agrichemical use on environmental quality and human health; and (8) Labor competition due to low unemployment, and associated communication challenges of a migrant and foreign-based work force concentrated in the large yet low paying job sector in the turf industry.

## DETERMINANTS OF CHANGE

Relevant determinants of change which will likely shape the Florida turfgrass industry include politically-heightened environmental regulations, US and state economies, water quality and quantity issues, labor pool issues, global warming, and the unpredictable nature of change itself. Overall as long as the economy is strong and population demographic projections remain on target, there should be an increased demand for turfgrass venues, and for professional turfgrass management.

Association "Future of Golf" tournament, Steve Pearson, superintendent at the Falls CC and a director of the PBGCSA, presented the FLREC with a check for \$7,500 to support new research on ultradwarf bermudagrasses.

At the April Envirotron Classic, the Seven Rivers Chapter announced that it would be providing financial support of a shade-tolerance research study in the Envirotron to be conducted by Drs. Russell Nagata, EREC and Grady Miller, Gainesville. This is a great precedent for Envirotron funds to support interdisciplinary research. Seven Rivers also announced support of Dr. Jerry Sartain's soil and tissue analysis research. All the scientists extend their deep appreciation.

## Turf Faculty Notes

Congratulations to Dr. Lawrence Datnoff, EREC pathologist, on his promotion to professor, beginning this summer 1999.

Our three Florida turf faculty on sabbatical leave are set to return in mid to late summer. I recently heard from Dr. Robin Giblin-Davis, FLREC, so I guess the great white sharks and the crocs from down under haven't gotten him yet.

The Florida First Conference May 20-21 was VP Mike Martin's exciting new approach to focusing on the University of Florida's future role in Florida agriculture. Turfgrass was one of the key groups included as industry sector. Many thanks to Joel Jackson, Ray Carruthers, Mark Jarrell, and Don Benham for representing the turfgrass industry.

JOHN CISAR  
Turf Coordinator

## FLORIDA FIRST

### Focusing IFAS Resources on Solutions for Tomorrow

**O**n May 20th and 21st the University of Florida held a conference in Safety Harbor, Fla to bring together representatives of all the state's agricultural commodities.

The purpose was to discuss the future course that the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) should take to meet the needs of producers, managers and consumers in Florida.

For the golf industry there were some

# Pyramid Bermudagrass

very early positive outcomes before the opening gavel was even struck. First and foremost was the naming of turfgrass as one of the eight commodity groups of concern. Turfgrass joined such groups as Animals, Field Crops, Fruit Crops, Vegetable Crops, Environmental Horticulture, Forestry, and the group of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Wildlife.

There were 18 breakout groups from these eight major commodity groups. The turfgrass group included: Drs. John Cisar, Barry Brecke, John Haydu, Jerry Sartain, George Snyder, Everett Emimo, Terril Nell and Bryan Unruh from IFAS. Industry representatives included Ray Carruthers, Sod Growers Association; Greg Tolle, Lawn Maintenance Association; Don Benham, Florida Turfgrass Association; Mark Jarrell, FTGA/FGCSA; and Joel Jackson, FGCSA.

The turf group discussed issues ranging from public awareness and education to timely technology transfer from researcher to end user. We talked about

grass varieties and the need for breeding to pursue more drought- and pest-resistant strains to meet the growing restrictions on chemical use and water availability.

We also talked about facilities and infrastructure of IFAS including the continual process of training new students and hiring faculty that can meet the needs of the turfgrass industry.

It was an eye-opening experience to see and hear the concerns and needs of the various commodities. It gave one a clearer sense of perspective of the mission of IFAS at Florida's land grant University serving a population that is 80 percent urban while 80 percent of the land is in under cultivation or in its natural state. I had a chance to chat with Dr. Mike Martin, the new vice president of IFAS and he is no stranger to the golf industry. His son works on a golf course and he was very aware of the Minnesota GCSA when he was at the University of Minnesota.

In the accompanying sidebar, I have

provided the executive summary of the Turfgrass Base Paper which the turfgrass used to kick-start our discussions. There are some familiar themes and some new thoughts to challenge you as you think about the future of the turfgrass industry in Florida.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

FGCSA Director of Communications

## GCSAA PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

### National Committee Service Broadens One's Perspective

Spring is the time for GCSAA committee Meetings. As soon as staff gets back from the International Conference and Show they have just enough time to clear their desks, return calls, follow up on contacts from the conference and show and then prepare agendas and working papers for nearly two months of continuous committee meetings.

I was asked to serve on the publications committee for the second year in a row and



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went to Lawrence this past May to participate. It is always a pleasure to go to our national headquarters for several reasons. Lawrence is a nice college town to visit. Staff is eager to visit with us and hear our input on procedures and problem solving. The various committee members get to hear an update on what's going on and act as additional communication links back to our state and local members.

Steve Mona gave us a "State of the Association" presentation outlining and highlighting progress on current board of directors mandates and the general health of the operation. Mona predicted we may hit 20,000 members by this July if the current membership trends continue. He talked about the "image" campaign going on currently. Ads and inserts in leading golf publications aimed at the general golfing public have garnered good reviews from rank-and-file golfers and other industry leaders. While the content may seem a bit whimsical for practical-minded superintendents, keep in mind that the message is meant for those folks who play golf in flowered shirts and striped pants!

Joe O'Brien did double duty. He gave us a look at the Professional Development Initiative (PDI) also known as Membership Standards. O'Brien took us through the time line from 1996 to the present to show how the program has been researched and discussed and hammered out along the way, with critical inspections at the last two chapter delegates meetings.

This is not something that is coming out of the blue. Nothing is in concrete and the details are still being studied and discussed by committees and the Board of

Directors. The purpose is to formulate a meaningful Class A "brand" that will be a highly respected and marketable designation of professional accomplishment. Certified status will be an additional embellishment on top of the new Class A requirements.

O'Brien then acted as facilitator for the rest of our publication committee business. He does such a masterful job. It is always such a positive learning experience to participate in one of his sessions.

The committee addressed a variety of issues including the mission and role of *Golf Course Management* magazine, *Newsline*, and *Leaderboard*. We expressed our concerns over the size and readability of the magazine with emphasis on the length of the articles and the placement of advertising to help the story flow.

We agreed that the magazine is of excellent quality and content and the issues we were focusing on rated a 2 on a scale of 1-10.

The biggest discussion came on how the *Leaderboard* publication might be better utilized as a tool to reach influential golfers and we even suggested that the name might be changed to reflect that audience. By reducing the amount of the complimentary copies of GCM, which is already underutilized by the members, the committee suggested those resources be put into upgrading the *Leaderboard/Influential Golfer* newsletter into a classier publication.

The recent debut of *Golfdom* and *Superintendent News* as competition for GCM was discussed, but the committee felt that the design and content still offered readers

a variety of choices. The challenge for all of the publications is to convince advertisers that their publication is the one they should choose.

With consideration of advertising, the committee felt that GCSAA should do a better job of explaining that the magazine is the second-leading revenue producer behind the conference and show and that money goes to pay for many of the services and research being conducted to enhance the superintendents' profession. Like I said before, we're a practical lot and we like to be shown the nuts and bolts sometimes.

One other comment: Time after time, as we debated issues or ideas, we would stop and check ourselves and look at the whole spectrum of members from small public courses to the mega complexes. We tried to make sure we were representing the needs and concerns of everyone from coast to coast and border to border. I would encourage every member to fill out a committee interest form and send it in. The experience is worth the investment of your time. It gives you a chance to give a little of yourself and not just your money to a worthy cause, your life's work.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS  
GCSAA Publications Committee

**Editor's note:** For those of you that don't have a retirement plan with your club, look for the ad for "Golf Retirement Plus" located elsewhere in this issue. GCSAA has joined with the PGA of America and the Club Managers Association of America to provide this opportunity for GCSAA members. Check it out.

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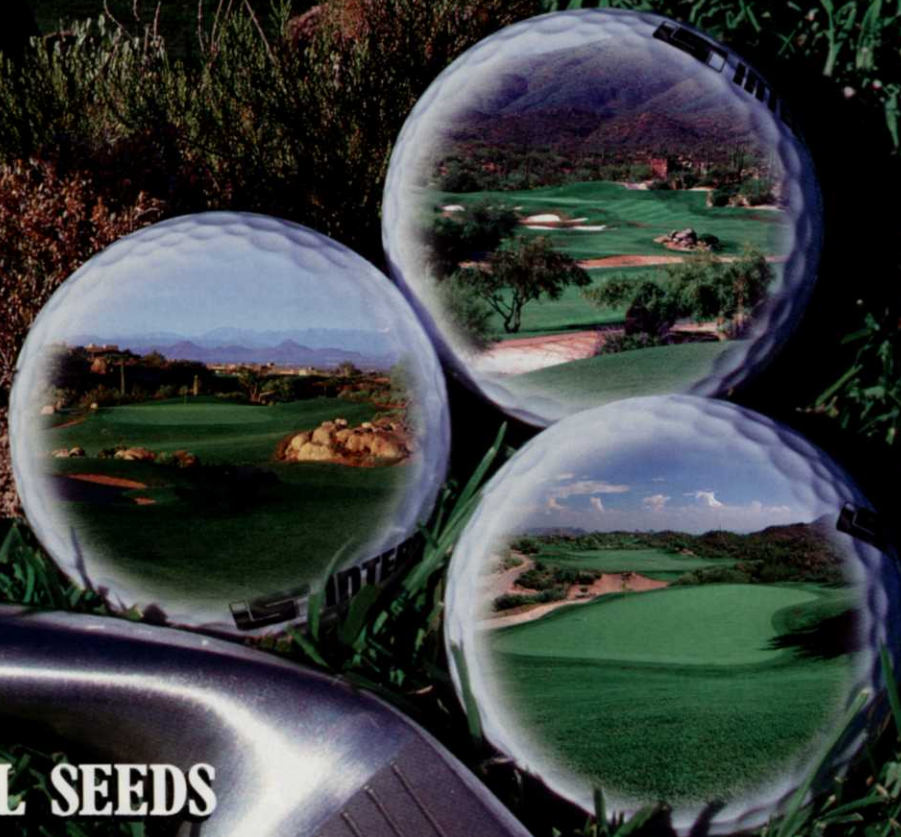
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# Bill Would Put Burden of Proof on EPA

## Rep. Allen Boyd wants to require a scientific basis to justify any pesticide bans

Just after a slew of environmental groups chastised the EPA for going easy on farmers and pesticide manufacturers, U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd, D-Monticello, began pushing a bill that would force the environmental agency to use "sound science" to justify any pesticide bans.

"There are some situations where the EPA, to meet deadlines, is making assumptions that don't have a basis in science," Boyd said. "This clarifies the process."

The bill would amend the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act, which requires the Environmental Protection Agency to set limits on the amount of pesticide residue in food. Under the act, the EPA must begin assessing pesticide residues by August and may ban or limit the use of some pest-control chemicals.

Pesticide bans and limits could hurt Florida farmers, particularly tomato growers, if no other pest-control methods are available or effective, Boyd said. Without the pesticides, Florida farmers would be unable to compete with produce imports from Mexico, where environmental controls are lax.

"The agency doesn't believe that the FQPA needs amendments at this time," EPA spokeswoman Ellen Kramer said Wednesday. "We believe we are making

our decisions based on sound science."

Kramer stressed that EPA has not had a chance to review the legislation and declined further comment.

With the introduction of Boyd's bill, the EPA came under attack from both sides. On Tuesday, environmentalists and consumer advocates serving on the federal government's food quality advisory committee quit after accusing the EPA of delaying action and kowtowing to agribusiness and chemical companies.

In a letter to the executive director of the National Campaign for Pesticide Policy Reform, EPA acting deputy administrator Peter D. Robertson defended the agency.

"Making sure that EPA's risk-reduction actions are based on sound science is the most important step we can all take to guarantee that the FQPA's promise of protection for our children and the American public is actually fulfilled," Robertson wrote. "We, too, wish that this process could be faster."

The new bill would not change the standards set out in the Food Quality Protection Act, Boyd said. But it would force EPA to prove cause and effect. If the bill passes, the EPA would not be allowed to ban or limit the use of a pesticide if it made any non-scientific "assumptions" in concluding that the chemical leaves toxic residue in food.

The bill would prohibit the EPA from basing a pesticide ban on computations or modeling results that use "worst-case" sce-

narios or on any information about an alleged adverse effect if it is "anecdotal, unverified or scientifically implausible."

The legislation also would delay any bans if alternative pest control methods are unavailable, and would allow farmers to use the pesticide during emergency outbreaks of pests.

CREDIT: DONNA LEINWAND

THE TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT, 4/30/99

## Florida Pesticide Review Council Meets in March

Doug Abbuhl, president of the Coastal Plains GCSEA attended the March 5 Pesticide Review Council meeting in Tallahassee to represent the FGCSA. The following excerpts are taken from the minutes of that meeting and may be of interest to our members.

### Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

Dr. Marion Fuller, Director of Food Safety for FDACS reported on the recently released Consumer Union Report, "Do You Know What Food You're Eating?" While the report tried to identify foods with higher pesticide residues, the Toxicity Index is based on USDA residue data and factoring in subjective parameters. It is inappropriate to take a single serving and compare that to a chronic index or reference dose. The index had no peer review and most toxicologists frown on using this venue for proposing a methodology for risk assessment. The FQPA has had a profound effect on our product registration system. There are more emergency exemption registrations and a slowdown in new products coming in as the agency shifts to cover FQPA responsibilities.

### Ground Water Issues

Dr. Dennis Howard, newly appointed chief of the Bureau of Pesticides, discussed a large field study that is in the resulting measuring stage. A number of the field studies were done to determine the potential for various products to leach under reasonable worst-case scenarios. A Florida-

## FQPA Participation Critical

Allen James, executive director of Responsible Industry for a Safe Environment, says now is the time to keep up the pressure on Congress. Grassroots response has slowed down the process, but EPA has not been swayed from their course of faulty risk assessment.

Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications will prepare a letter to your representative and senators for your signature on your club's letterhead stationery. Just send three sheets of your club's letterhead stationery and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Joel Jackson, FQPA, 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando FL, 32819. The letters will be returned to you for your signature and mailing to your legislators to keep the pressure on EPA to use good science and common sense in enacting the law.