



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

July 6, 2006

Please Respond to:

Mr. George Griffith
Hatchett Creek Farms
11713 NE State Rd. 26
Gainesville, Florida 32641

Dear Mr. Griffith,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to give this year's Agriscience Education Leadership class a tour of your facility. Before the tour takes place I wanted to provide you with a little history about this program and give a brief explanation why the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services join together to establish this important program.

The Department of Education and I developed the Agriscience Education Leadership Program with the vision of educating our agriscience teachers throughout the state via personal interaction in all aspects of agriculture from the Panhandle to the Florida Keys. During the course of a year selected teachers along with program staff travel the state visiting approximately 75 different agricultural sites. Unlike other states, we face unique challenges that educators need to be aware of while experiencing the diversity of Florida's agricultural industry. This hands-on interactive program has allowed our agriscience teachers to learn the vast scope of agriculture in our state and apply their personal experiences in their classrooms.

In order to keep agriculture alive we have to work together to stimulate an interest and passion for our industry within our children. What a better way to do this than in the classroom. There are many sects and opportunities within our industry that adults and children alike are not aware exist. Through this program we have begun to help familiarize our teachers with all facets of agriculture so that they can spread our vision and interest throughout our schools.

This worthwhile endeavor is evermore successful when community and industry leaders participate during the program by sharing their interests and roles in the agriculture industry with our teachers. Without your involvement this program would not exist. The information and experience you provide will be incorporated into the classrooms of our future industry leaders.

Again, thank you for taking the time out of your very important schedule to help facilitate this part of the program. If you have questions about the program or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact Darica Hewett, Program Coordinator, at 850-410-6712.

Sincerely,

CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Enclosure

