



Collier County Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Agriculture at the Heart of Collier County

The 2010 Ag Tour by Collier County Extension Services

Perhaps you have heard about the numerous farms located in Southwest Florida, and maybe you would like to see one up close and personal? Join Collier County Extension Services for its annual **Ag Tour on Wednesday, March 10.**

Don't worry about driving yourself, we will drive for you! Just purchase a ride-along ticket from Extension Services and hop on our air conditioned tour bus from the department's offices located at 14700 Immokalee Rd. by the fairgrounds. Tickets cost just \$55 per person and include lunch.

Ag Tour highlights include the American Farms Wholesale Nursery and the Silver Strand Orange Grove. Experts on the sites will be available to answer questions about farm operations, will provide a tour of the farm and explain how the food you eat arrives on the table.

Extension Services Director Robert Halman said, "County farmers have struggled through the last couple of weeks with the freezing temperatures. They are however continuing to rebound, and the Ag Tour will be an excellent opportunity to see and talk with producers about the damage and the way farmers are coping."

**NEW this year, the Ag Tour will include a visit to Pepper Ranch, the county's newest Conservation Collier property - a 2,500 acre bird and game preserve with cattle and active oil wells. Pepper Ranch will be a highlight since most of the public has not yet had the opportunity of experiencing this wonderful, outdoors preserve. Make sure you wear closed toe shoes and comfortable clothes. The tour will also take riders to a small organic farm owned by a local family to learn about the differences between organic and traditional farming.

To purchase Ag Tour tickets, you must call (239) 353-4244 for an order form. There are two tour times. One begins at 8 a.m. and the other tour will begin at 9 a.m. both on Wednesday, March 10. The tours run through the early afternoon. Tickets cost \$55 per person and checks made payable to the "BCC" may be mailed to 14700 Immokalee Rd., Naples, FL 34120.

For more information, interested parties should call University Extension at (239) 353-4244.