



**AGRICULTURAL AND GREEN INDUSTRY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FARMS TOUR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022 – 9:00 AM**

Council Growers Sod Farm – 2675 CR 579, Wimauma, FL 33598

UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center – 14625 CR 672 Wimauma, FL 33598

MINUTES

Board Members

None

Staff Members

Mandi Rice, Assistant Executive Director

Jennette Seachrist, Division Director

Brian Starford, Division Director

Robyn Felix, Com & Bd Services Bureau Chief

Jay Hoecker, Water Resources Bureau Chief

Carole Estes, FARMS Program Manager

David Brumbaugh, Engineer

Patricia Robertshaw, Environmental Scientist

Committee Attendees

Curt Williams, Chair, FL Farm Bureau

Simon Bollin, Hills. Co. Extension Service

Alan Jones, FL Fruit and Vegetable Assoc.

Andy Neiswender, FL Gulf Coast Superintendent's Assoc.

Travis Council, Turfgrass Producers of FL

Ellen Cruz, FL Farm Bureau

Jeb Smith, FFBF State President

Andrew Jorgensen, On Top of the World

Kenneth Parker, FL Strawberry Growers Assoc.

Gail Huff, FL Irrigation Society

Mary Lusk, UF/IFAS

Minutes Administrator

Barbara Matrone, Senior Admin Coordinator

Virginia Singer, Bd & Exec Services Manager

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) led a Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) tour for the Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee (AGIAC) members and District staff. The tour began at the Council Growers Sod Farm and ended at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, Florida. On this half-day tour participants learned how the District's agricultural cost-share reimbursement program has helped growers improve water quality and natural systems while reducing groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer through conservation and alternative water supply best management practices.