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Ken Griner named as Florida Cattlemen's Assoc. president



Florida Cattlemen's Association President Ken Griner was among the people at the Friday (June 30) presentation of certificates for the first six men to be Timber Harvesting Graduates from the College of Central Florida Levy Campus. His wife Lynetta Griner, a former president of the Florida Forestry Association, was also present at this event. The Griners were among the many people who helped bring that program to fruition at CF.

Story and Photo

By Jeff M. Hardison © June 30, 2017 at 9:37 p.m.

LEVY COUNTY – Ken Griner of Levy County was recently elected as the Florida Cattlemen's Association president.

The annual FCA convention was June 19-22 in the city of Marco Island (Collier County).

Like all FCA presidents, the Florida cattleman served in other capacities in the organization for six years leading to this point.

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As noted on the website for the association, Florida's cattle industry is one of the 15 largest in the United States.

Centered around birthing and raising calves without much of the concerns that come with the beef processing part of the system, Florida's cattlemen are dedicated to the preservation of Florida's green ranch land, the website notes.

As a large industry within the state, cattle ranchers significantly support Florida's interstate economy and provide jobs as well as beef. The cattle industry supports a vast network of associated businesses, the website notes.

These allies include (but are not limited to) feed companies, heavy machinery corporations and fertilizer manufacturers. This integrated web of economic organizations helps create jobs and business opportunities in Florida, the website notes.

Additionally, Florida's cattlemen have been strong supporters of Florida's youth and culture. From county fair displays to scholarship contests, Florida's cattlemen have worked diligently to give back to the communities they serve, the website notes.

For his non-volunteer job, Griner is also the president for Usher Land & Timber Inc.

The other officers of the FCA this year are President-elect Alex Johns; First Vice President Matt Pearce; Second Vice President Gene Lollis; Treasurer Cliff Coddington; and Secretary Wes Carlton, according to the FCA website.

The FCA Executive Committee is comprised of Pat Durden, District 1; Rick Moyer, District 2; Dale Carlton, District 3; Wes Carlton, District 4; Joel Beverly, District 5; Mack Glass, At-Large; Mike Tomkow, FALM; and Erik Jacobsen, Immediate Past-President, according to the website.

On Friday morning, President Griner said the Florida Cattlemen's Association is a grassroots family-oriented organization. He said he looks forward to serving the association as president this year.

Griner said he is "very honored and humbled" to have been selected to serve in this office.

In regard to a statewide cattle issue, Griner said he sees the need for cattlemen, and even the whole agricultural community, to reconnect with the other members of the general public.

Griner hopes to help more people understand the whole value of agriculture to society. Farmers and ranchers do more than simply provide food.

On a more local level, the successful lobbying by cattleman Brad Etheridge last year to have a livestock-oriented leader become the director of Levy County Extension, after the retirement of Albert Fuller, was a benefit to Levy County, Griner said.

Levy County Extension Director Ed Jennings, a cattleman and livestock specialist, is a great balance to Extension Agent Anthony Drew, who specializes in commercial row crops, Griner said. The skills of these gentlemen, Griner added, are great assets for Levy County.

Levy County 4-H Agent Genevieve Mendoza, who replaced Fuller in his former duty in that regard, is yet another step in a positive direction for Levy County Extension.