

## House Ag. Committee Chair Collin Peterson Joins Rep. Mahoney at Briefing on Florida Agriculture

Discuss Citrus Greening, Alternative Energy, and the 2007 Farm Bill

(March 7th, 2007)

(Ft. Pierce, FL) - Rep. Collin Peterson (MN-7), Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee joined Rep. Tim Mahoney (FL-16) at the IFAS and USDA facilities in Ft. Pierce on Sunday to discuss citrus greening, alternative energy, and the upcoming 2007 Farm Bill. Rep. Mahoney is the only Florida representative serving on the House Agriculture Committee.

"Congressman Mahoney is a strong advocate for Florida agriculture on the House Agriculture Committee, and I appreciated the opportunity to visit his district to discuss the issues facing Florida agriculture. As we begin to write a new Farm Bill this year, Congressman Mahoney will bring real world experience and common sense to the process," said House Agriculture Committee Chairman, Rep. Collin Peterson (MN-7).

"I was proud to have Chairman Peterson join me here to see what Florida' agriculture has to offer. Agriculture is an economic engine for Florida's economy. We have enormous potential to build on our success and make Florida a leader in the alternative energy industry. IFAS and the USDA are doing critical research to help protect our crops and allow Florida agriculture to continue to thrive. With a seat on the House Agriculture Committee, Florida is in a good position as the 2007 Farm Bill approaches," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

Reps. Peterson and Mahoney toured the Indian River Research and Education Center and Quarantine Facility and met with officials at the USDA's Horticulture Research Laboratory. The USDA briefed the Congressmen on the major research they are conducting in conjunction with IFAS to prevent citrus greening and citrus canker.

Citrus Energy, LLC, a Clewiston company that recently received a \$2.5 million grant from the Florida Department of Agriculture also gave a presentation separately on the company's cutting-edge ability to turn citrus waste into ethanol. The company will use the grant to build a four-million-gallon-per-year ethanol biorefinery.

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