

July 3, 2006

Doug Coward, Chairman  
St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

RE: Rural Lands Stewardship Program

Dear Chairman Coward:

I am writing to express my support of the Adams Ranch Stewardship Program being proposed in St. Lucie County.

As a long time resident of St. Lucie County, I believe the Stewardship Program will provide long lasting benefits to St. Lucie County. I am in support of maintaining the agricultural character of St. Lucie County and keeping cattle farmers and citrus growers such as Bud Adams in business for the next 100 years. The Stewardship program will help to preserve agriculture in the county, let farmers keep farming, help the agricultural economy, protect land and open space, and keep the preserved land on the tax rolls in St. Lucie County.

Thank you for helping to preserve rural lands and providing a way for the Adams family to continue their cattle ranching operations and stewarding their land for future generations.

Sincerely,

  
JANE ROWLEY

cc: Commissioner Chris Craft  
Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson  
Commissioner Paula Lewis  
Commissioner Joseph Smith  
Doug Anderson, SLC Administrator  
Bob Nix, SLC Growth Management Director  
Alto "Bud" Adams, Jr.



SENATOR JD ALEXANDER  
17th District

July 20, 2006

Doug Coward, Chairman  
St. Lucie County Commission  
2300 Virginia Ave  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

RE: Rural Lands Stewardship Program

Dear Chairman Coward:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the Rural Lands Stewardship Program being proposed for Adams Ranch and Cloud Grove in St. Lucie County. I commend their past and present efforts in working to preserve 12,000 acres of ranch land in St. Lucie County, and their desire to preserve Florida's working ranches and wildlife.

Programs such as these that agriculture producers enter into voluntarily have always had my support, and it is my hopes that the St. Lucie County Commission take the necessary steps to establish and help to maintain the stewardship program for the future of not only St. Lucie County, but the entire State of Florida.

Again, I want to express my support of the Rural Lands Stewardship program offered by Adams Ranch and Cloud Grove, and would like to thank you in advance for your support as well.

Sincerely,

JD Alexander  
Senator, District 17

THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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COMMITTEES:  
Education Appropriations, Chair  
Banking and Insurance  
Communications and Public Utilities  
Environmental Preservation  
Ways and Means

JOINT COMMITTEES:  
Legislative Budget Commission  
Legislative Commission on Migrant  
and Seasonal Labor

CC: Bocc  
Doug A.  
Mike Brillhart  
Dan Mc  
Bob Nix

REPLY TO:  
□ 122 East Tilman Avenue, Suite 1, Lake Wales, Florida 33853 (888) 678-4411  
□ 405 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5044

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

TOM LEE  
President of the Senate

CHARLIE CLARY  
President Pro Tempore

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JUL 19 2006

**INDIAN RIVER  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 12, 2006

Mr. Doug Coward, Chairman  
St. Lucie County Commission  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

*cc: Booc  
Doug A  
W...  
Bob...*

Dear Chairman Coward:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Bud Adams and the Adams Ranch. Bud's commitment to the environment is a longstanding and strong conviction that he has instilled in the lives of his children and grandchildren. The Rural Lands Stewardship Program currently being proposed by Adam's Ranch is just one more example of environmental stewardship that Adams Ranch has chosen to pioneer.

Please pass along my full support of this program to the entire Board of County Commissioners.

Sincerely,



Edwin R. Massey, Ph.D.  
President



# HEATHCOTE BOTANICAL GARDENS, INC.

210 Savannah Road • Fort Pierce, Florida 34982 • Telephone (772) 464-4672 • Fax (772) 489-2748  
Website: [www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org) • E-Mail: [info@heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](mailto:info@heathcotebotanicalgardens.org)

July 10, 2006

Doug Coward, Chairman  
St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

RE: Rural Lands Stewardship Program

Dear Chairman Coward:

We are writing to express our support of the Adams Ranch Stewardship Program being proposed in St. Lucie County. In light of the rapid growth our area is experiencing, this stewardship program can provide protection of our rural lands and important green space while contributing to the local tax base.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens supports any endeavor that works toward the conservation of green space and protection of rural areas that are being managed in an environmentally sensitive way.

Thank you for helping to preserve our rural lands and providing a way for the Adams family to continue their cattle ranching operations and the stewardship of their land for future generations.

Sincerely,

Allie Comer  
Director

Cris Adams  
President, Board of Trustees

- Cc:
- Commissioner Chris Craft
  - Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson
  - Commissioner Paula Lewis
  - Commissioner Joseph Smith
  - Doug Anderson, SLC Administrator
  - Bob Nix, SLC Growth Management Director
  - Alto "Bud" Adams, Jr.

# LINC

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JUN 22 2006

St. Lucie County Commission  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982  
Attn: Doug Coward, chairman  
cc: St. Lucie County Commissioners

CC: BOCC  
Co. Admin  
Dan Mc  
Bob Tietz  
Michael B.

Dear Mr. Coward,

As an eighth-generation Floridian from a ranching family, I appreciate the value of our state's rural heritage. The pace and poorly planned nature of current development is eroding the original character of Florida, as well as the ecological fabric that sustains us. For this reason I commend St. Lucie County for considering the environmental and cultural value of rural lands as you make your development plans.

I believe the Rural Land Stewardship program, as proposed by the Adams Ranch, is an exemplary solution for balancing heritage and environment with planned growth. This approach allows us to get out ahead of the curve of development and purposefully select the most environmentally valuable lands for conservation at the same time as we define appropriate sites for new communities.

As an environmental photojournalist, I have worked throughout the world to bring profile to issues that deserve the attention of the public and our leaders. Florida's rural lands, ranches in particular, are possibly the most misunderstood, underappreciated landscape in the state. They are also the most pivotal, where a single landowner can decide the fate of tens of thousands of acres. These observations led me to discontinue my job with the Smithsonian in Washington, DC and return home to get involved.

In 2004 I founded The Legacy Institute for Nature & Culture (LINC), a non-profit working to promote conservation and sustainability through communications and educational programs. You can read more at [www.LINC.us](http://www.LINC.us). On the home page you will find a link to *Preserving Florida's Ranchlands*. This audio program, produced by the Florida Humanities Council for NPR, captures what I believe to be the best course of action for the future of Florida - to keep our ranches as ranches. Please consider these ideas as you chart the course for your county.

Best regards,



Carlton Ward Jr.



RECEIVED  
JUL 14 2006

SYFRETT FEED CO., INC  
P.O. Box 128  
Okeechobee, Florida 3347  
Phone: (863) 763-558  
Fax: (863) 763-616

July 12, 2006

Doug Coward, Chairman  
St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

RE: Rural Lands Stewardship Program

Dear Chairman Coward:

On behalf of Syfrett Feed Company, Inc. I am writing to express our support of the Adams Ranch Stewardship Program being proposed in St. Lucie County.

Our family owned business is Syfrett Feed Company, Inc. which is located in Okeechobee County. We have been in existence since 1956. We sell bulk custom cattle feed to many other small businesses, including dairies and ranches in the surrounding south Florida area. It has been and is currently our main source of income. We have been striving to keep it a small family owned business by expanding into exporting feeds and meeting the smaller beef cattle producers' needs. By doing this we have continued to keep up our production. What is hurting our production are the dairies and beef cattle ranches that are selling their land to developers for housing communities.

I think that the Rural Lands Stewardship program is a great idea. It will promote agriculture for St. Lucie County and impact the surrounding area. The cattle industry is shrinking in Florida, and we as a small agricultural business need it to stay at the current level. I understand that growing agriculture in Florida may be a lost cause, but keeping the rural character and preserving the past is a good asset. The current farmers and land owners need help to keep the agricultural economy strong. By doing this we will be helping to protect the land and open space while keeping it on the tax rolls and preventing more environmental issues from occurring.

Thank you for helping to preserve rural lands and providing a way for the Adams family to continue their cattle ranching operations and stewarding their land for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles B. Syfrett".

Charles B. Syfrett

Syfrett Feed Company, Inc.

Cc: Commissioner Chris Craft  
Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson  
Commissioner Paula Lewis  
Commissioner Joseph Smith

