

October 4, 2006

Salter Tree and Herb Farm

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Members
Madison County Commission
Madison FL 32340

Joanna S. Booth
Business Manager

Dear Members of the County Commission,


Since I last appeared before you in August regarding support for planting wildflower around public areas in Madison, I have received word that the Salter Tree and Herb Farm has been awarded two grants for wildflower production. The planting grant was accepted for beautifying Madison's public places. Also a research grant was awarded for developing another wildflower for introduction to the market place. It became evident that there was financial support for developing Madison as a location for wildflower production. At this time I am making a request for letters of support for an economic development project involving wildflower seed production in the area. The support of the County Commission will favorably affect the request for further funding.

Wildflower seed crops are a budding industry in Florida and north central Florida is particularly well-suited to growing native wild flowers. The Salter Tree and Herb Farm (STHF) has been a grower of wildflower seed and is a licensed seed dealer and producer of small packets of wildflower seed for sale. STHF plans to acquire a commercial grade seed cleaner and a climate controlled storage facility and expand the production of wild flower seeds in Madison. The equipment will provide necessary service to support new producers. STHF will seek partnership in providing training and employment in seed harvesting and cleaning and will act as a contact for directing potential growers to resources available to them. Joanna Booth will offer consulting services to help establish native wildflower gardens and production acreage in Madison.

I feel this project will benefit growers with many acres and homeowners who want to "hobby farm wild flowers." Growing wild flowers has diverse applications and there is wide spread support and appreciation in the community already for wild flowers due to the efforts of several individuals and past projects.

I would appreciate your support and look forward to any suggestions or resources that you feel may benefit this plan. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joanna S. Booth