

January 14, 2010

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (a part of the USDA), which administers the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), has announced that it is now accepting proposals for funding opportunities. FRPP funds may be used to match state or local government funds in order to help purchase development rights. The goal of the program is to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses and to protect historic or archeological resources.

To be eligible for FRPP funding, land must meet one of three eligibility criteria: (1) have prime, unique or other productive soil; (2) contain historic or archeological resources; or (3) furthers State or local policy consistent with the purposes of the program.

Application for USDA funding (which could be up to fifty percent of the fair market easement value of the conservation easement) must be submitted on or before March 11, 2010 to receive consideration for funding in fiscal year 2010.

If you would like more information about this program, please contact Dennis Corrick in Dean Mead's Fort Pierce office (772-464-7700), Christine Weingart in Dean Mead's Orlando office (407-841-1200) or Laura Young in Dean Mead's Viera office (321-259-8900).

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Dean Mead's **Agribusiness Team** has a long history of representing agribusiness throughout the State of Florida. We represent clients in all aspects of their operations, including: formation and administration of business entities, negotiation and preparation of leases and contracts, environmental permitting and enforcement, insurance coverage analysis and litigation, tax planning, estate planning for principals of agribusiness entities, real estate transactions, land use and zoning representation, pesticide litigation, worker protection and safety, eminent domain, wetlands and wetlands banking and secured lending negotiation and documentation. Our Team has extensive experience with real estate development of former agricultural lands.

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