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STATE LEGISLATORS STEVE CRISAFULLI AND DURELL PEADEN RECEIVE FFVA HONORS

MAITLAND, Fla. (Sept. 21, 2010) – The Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association presented its Legislator of the Year awards today to state lawmakers Rep. Steve Crisafulli and Sen. Durell Peaden Jr.

Rep. Crisafulli sponsored the tomato safety bill passed by the Legislature earlier this year and signed into law by Gov. Charlie Crist. “Rep. Crisafulli understands the importance of agriculture to the state,” said Butch Calhoun, FFVA director of government relations. “He comes from a farm family and has a solid background of supporting our industry.” Crisafulli also served as vice chairman of the House Natural Resources Appropriations Committee.

Peaden, who also is a physician, sponsored and passed the agriculture industry bill that would have prohibited counties from enforcing certain duplicative regulations on bona-fide farming operations, among other provisions. Crist vetoed that bill.

“Dr. Peaden is a go-to guy when it comes to supporting agriculture,” said Calhoun. “He has served on the Senate Agriculture Committee since 2005 and has sponsored numerous amendments to make good bills better.”

The awards were announced at FFVA’s 67th Annual Convention held at The Ritz-Carlton in Naples.

Past recipients of the Legislator of the Year Award include Sens. Charlie Dean, Cary Baker, Mike Bennett, Jeff Atwater, Nancy Argenziano and Bill Posey, and Reps. Trudi Williams, Denise Grimsley, Baxter Troutman, Dean Cannon, Dudley J. Goodlette and Marty Bowen.

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association is an agricultural trade organization representing Florida’s producers of fruits, vegetables and other specialty crops.

Digital photos are available by e-mailing barbara.wunder@ffva.com.