



## Making Mini Hot Houses



Do you like tomatoes? They're great for making lots of foods kids like, such as pizza, salsa and tomato sauce. Tomato seeds need warmth and moisture to germinate. To get a head start, you can plant your tomato seeds in little mini hothouses in early spring and then transplant them into the garden when the weather is a bit warmer. Home grown tomatoes taste SO good!!

**You will need:** some 12cm pots, the same number of 2 liter soft drink bottles, potting mix, fertilizer, tomato seeds.

### What to Do:

1. Almost fill the pots with damp potting mix. (Use your gardening gloves when handling potting mix.)

2. Plant a couple of seeds in each pot. Plant them about half a centimeter deep. Water gently and well.

3. **Using a pair of kitchen scissors, cut the sloping parts off the plastic drink bottles.**

4. Turn the bottom pieces of the soft drink bottles upside down over the top of the pots. Your seeds and seedlings will now have their own little hothouses.

5. Place the mini-hothouses in a warm, brightly light area, but not in full sun. A brightly lit window sill is perfect. If the potting mix appears to be drying out, add water. You will need a saucer to catch the drips, but don't let the pots sit in water.

6. When the seedlings have developed two healthy leaves, remove the tops and place the pots outdoors, first in a brightly lit area and gradually move them to a sunny spot.

7. Add some fertilizer to the pot.

8. Choose the healthiest seedling and very gently pull the other ones out.

9. When the plants look sturdy enough, transplant them into the garden (or into bigger pots.)

10. You can use these mini-hothouses with lots of other seeds too.



## Hillsborough County Agriculture Heritage, Tradition, and Reputation

- Hillsborough County covers over 1000 square miles of land mass, 34% of that is agriculture land.
- Hillsborough County has 2,969 farms, the 2nd most of any county in the state, and ranks 3rd in the state in agriculture production.
- Of the 3,150 counties in the U.S., Hillsborough County ranks 45th in agriculture production.

- Hillsborough County farms produce over \$665 million in total annual sales.
- The County produces:
  - 90% of the strawberries in FL
  - 14% of the strawberries in US
  - 11% of the tomatoes in FL
  - 4% of the tomatoes in US
  - 85% of the tropical fish



# AG-VENTURE

**Beach Park Elementary** is confirmed for **Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

You have registered **10** students @ \$2 = **\$20.00**

Please have check made out to *Ag in the Classroom*. We will issue a receipt at the event.



Your school is assigned to TRACK **B- Special Events Center**  
Your students must be divided into **1 groups** *BEFORE* arriving to the fairgrounds.

We have a maximum of 5 groups per day and must allocate the students in equal groups for our instructors and facilities. *Thank you in advance for your cooperation!*

**This informational packet was sent to:**

Jeanine Irvin, VP

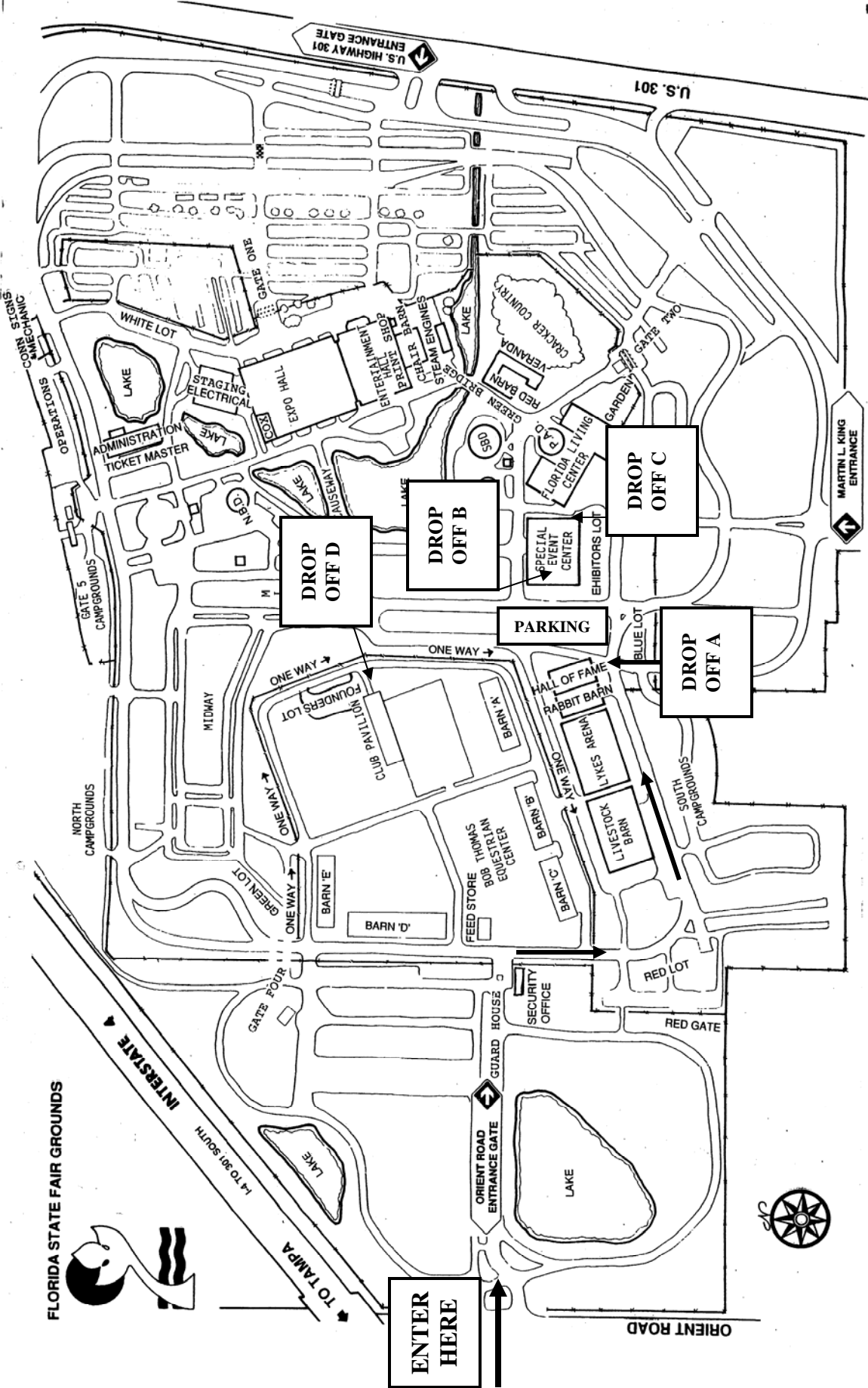
If you need to contact us, on the morning of the event check the website [www.ag-venture.com](http://www.ag-venture.com) for the number to call.

# AG-VENTURE

DROP OFF B  
*Ag Hall of Fame Building*

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**PLEASE POST THIS IN  
WINDOW OF BUS OR VEHICLE**



FLORIDA STATE FAIR GROUND



INTERSTATE

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