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**WOMAN OF  
THE YEAR**

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**IN AGRICULTURE**

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*Reba Y. Mazak*

# **WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

## **IN AGRICULTURE LUNCHEON**

Monday, February 9, 2026

### **WELCOME**

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

### **PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Honor Guard

### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Hope Storter

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Susan Clemons  
Chair of Florida State Fair Authority

### **INVOCATION**

Ray Crawford

... **LUNCH** ...

### **INTRODUCTION OF HEAD TABLE**

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

### **SPONSOR REMARKS**

Victoria Hunter

Chair of Florida Farm Bureau  
Women's Leadership Program

### **RECOGNITION OF FORMER WOMEN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE**

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

### **RECOGNITION OF REBA Y. MAZAK**

2025 WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE  
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

THE WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN AGRICULTURE  
is an award designated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Since 1985, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida State Fair Authority have recognized the significant contributions of women in the agricultural industry with the “Woman of the Year in Agriculture” award. This year, I am proud to honor Reba Y. Mazak with this distinguished award in recognition of her outstanding work to advance Florida agriculture.

Reba, a fifth-generation Florida cattle producer, was born into the Yarborough pioneer ranching family in Sanford. Raised with a deep respect for land and livestock, she learned the ranching lifestyle through hard work alongside her parents. Her life has always reflected the traditions and values of Florida’s cattle industry.

She married her high school sweetheart, Paul Mazak, and together built their own livestock operation from a seven-acre ranch into a thriving family enterprise. They expanded their cattle operation to more than 2,400 acres in Sumter County and added a Texas ranch. When Paul passed away in 2009, Reba took the reins, and with her daughters, Rebecca and Audra, continued the vision they shared.

From attending meetings of the Florida CowBelles with her mother to serving as President of the American National CattleWomen, Reba has been a lifelong advocate for the cattle industry, and is widely recognized for her leadership, legislative work, and commitment to education. Today, she mentors young agriculturalists and shares her knowledge with the next generation — including her four grandsons — ensuring Florida’s ranching legacy endures.

Reba joins 41 other women who have earned the respect and admiration of their peers by making outstanding contributions to Florida agriculture. Therefore, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate her on being named the 2025 - “Woman of the Year in Agriculture.”

Sincerely,

A stylized signature of Wilton Simpson in black ink.

**Wilton Simpson**  
Commissioner of Agriculture



A fifth-generation cattle producer, Reba Mazak learned the value of hard work and stewardship growing up on her family’s Sanford, Florida ranch. Starting with just seven acres and a mobile home, Reba and her husband Paul transformed their modest beginnings into a thriving cattle operation spanning thousands of acres, all while raising their daughters in the ranching traditions she cherished. After weathering profound personal loss, she remains a passionate advocate for the industry, determined to preserve Florida’s ranching legacy for generations to come.





Reba married her high school sweetheart, Paul Mazak, in 1985. Starting with seven acres and a mobile home, the couple built a ranch and a family, raising daughters Rebecca and Audra in the family tradition.



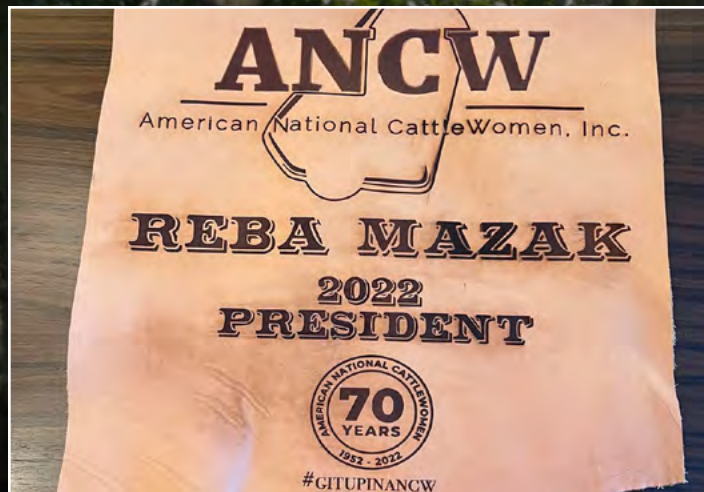
After discovering limestone deposits on their land, the Mazaks diversified into mining, with Reba managing operations alongside crews. The business was later sold, but the land was retained. Meanwhile, the cattle operation expanded to 2,400 acres in Sumter County and added a ranch in Texas.



In 1995, 14 family members joined the Great Florida Cattle Drive, celebrating the state's ranching heritage. Reba drove a covered wagon while her daughters rode alongside, honoring agriculture's importance.



In 2009, tragedy struck when Paul died in a plane crash at age 44. Despite immense challenges, Reba persevered.



Reba's leadership began early, attending Florida CowBelles meetings with her mother. After Paul's passing, she became active in American National CattleWomen, later serving as President of Florida CattleWomen (2004) and American National CattleWomen (2022). Today, she continues to champion Florida's cattle heritage nationwide.

Reba opens her ranch for agricultural education and mentors youth through 4-H, FFA, Gator Collegiate CattleWomen, and the WIRED Program. She also supports young women in ranching through national initiatives, fostering leadership and opportunity in agriculture.



Reba advocates for ranchers in Tallahassee and Washington, emphasizing the real-world impact of policy decisions. She values her heritage, credits previous generations for their knowledge, and proudly continues the tradition of influential women in agriculture. Today, her greatest fulfillment comes from mentoring her four grandsons in ranching traditions—ensuring the family legacy lives on. (Below, left to right, Mayland, Waylon, Reba, Myles, and Warren.)



# PREVIOUS WINNERS

## Woman of the Year in Agriculture

**1985**

Jo Ann Smith

**1986**

Ruth Wedgworth

**1987**

Dorothy Conner Shipes

**1988**

Carolyn Reed Kempfer

**1989**

Belle Jeffords

**1990**

Jeanette Barthle

**1991**

Ruth M. Tucker

**1992**

Carol C. Murphy

**1993**

Sarah W. Bailey

**1994**

Anne Wardlaw  
Dickinson

**1995**

Louve "Vee" Frierson  
Platt  
and Patricia Robbins

**1996**

Norma Stokes

**1997**

Gertrude "Trudy" Carey

**1998**

Nancy Gurnett Hardy

**1999**

Vina Jean Banks

**2000**

Helen Houck

**2001**

Barbara Carlton

**2002**

Annette Barnett

**2003**

Jennie Lee Zipperer

**2004**

Martina "Teena" Borek

**2005**

Marlene Strickland

**2006**

Iris Pollock Wall

**2007**

Colleen H. Boggs

**2008**

Patsy Nathe

**2009**

Marcia Lightsey

**2010**

Ann Holt

**2011**

Sarah K. Childs

**2012**

Imogene Yarborough

**2013**

Lynetta Usher Griner

**2014**

Belinda Chason

**2015**

Lisa Hinton

**2016**

Judi Whitson

**2017**

Dr. Martha Roberts

**2018**

Dr. Ann Blount

**2019**

Dr. Jennifer Taylor

**2020**

Veronique Sallin

**2021**

Angela TenBroeck

**2022**

Madeline Mellinger

**2023**

Dr. Saundra TenBroeck

**2024**

Sandy L. Moore

# FLORIDA STATE FAIR AUTHORITY

HONORABLE WILTON SIMPSON

SUSANNE CLEMONS

LINDA SYFRETT

EVE COUNCIL GLOEDE

RICHARD BOWMAN

CHARLES "CHUCK" BRUNO

DOYLE E. CARLTON, III

THADDEUS BULLARD

MARCIA LIGHTSEY

A.D. "SANDY" MACKINNON

HONORABLE GWEN MYERS

JOHN "JACK" T. VOGEL

AMANDA TAYLOR HOUSTON

REGGIE HOLT

ROBERT THOMAS

ARCHIE COLLINS

CHARLIE LYKES

TED SCHRADER

CHAD LYONS

DR. CYNTHIA B. SANDERS

HOPE STORTER



MAZAK  
RANCH



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

