



January 24, 2020

Week 2- It's been a fast and furious week here in Tallahassee.

The legislative budget process is on time and moving fast. Senate Appropriations Chair Rob Bradley laid out the schedule for this year's budget process as well as guidelines for amending the budget bills.

The Senate and House will file their proposed budgets next Friday, Jan 31st, which will be heard in the full Appropriations Committees the following week.

Based on that schedule, legislators are beginning the discussions and negotiations to create the budget proposals. We expect the Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs' proposed budgets to be released and heard in their respective committees next week.

The Senate and House budget bills are based on the combination of the subcommittee chairs' budgets for each funding silo. It is also the first chance to see where our budget items stand.

The Senate Appropriations committee also heard the Governor's Recommended Budget. (The House heard these recommendations last week.) There were many questions related to the proposed funding for education, the increase for teachers' salaries, environment, water quality and criminal justice in the governor's recommended budget.

Heartfelt thanks for grassroots support goes out to a number of stakeholder groups who were in town this week. Members of the Florida Cattlemen's Associations took their boots to the hill and included support for IFAS funding in their legislative priorities. The Florida Forestry Association and the Florida Mosquito Control Association were also in town and served as true advocates on UF/IFAS behalf.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Ann Hooks'.

Mary Ann Hooks, Director of UF/IFAS Governmental Affairs