

# THE Herald-Advocate

HARDEE COUNTY'S HOMETOWN COVERAGE

119th Year • No. 2 • 2 Sections

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Thursday, December 6, 2018

## Mosaic Planning Major Mine Expansion

By **MICHAEL KELLY**  
Of The Herald-Advocate

Mosaic Fertilizer LLC has begun the process for a several-thousand-acre expansion of its South Fort Meade Hardee County Extension Mine east of Bowling Green.

The company is requesting approval of a large-scale amendment to the mining overlay map to include an additional 8,392 acres adjacent to

the current 10,862-acre mine.

The application, which will be heard by the Hardee County Planning & Zoning Board at 6 tonight (Thursday), is the first step in the process before the company seeks a Major Mining Special Exception permit from the county.

In the application, Mosaic said it has obtained permission from certain landowners to prospect and permit their prop-

erties for mining.

"Initial prospecting data have confirmed that portions of the sections contain mineable reserves of phosphate rock," the application states.

The proposed expansion would extend the present South Fort Meade Hardee County Mine to the east another 5.5 miles and across portions of Maude Road and to the south from County Line

Road nearly to State Road 64 to the east of Seven-Mile Point.

Parcels included in the proposed overlay are located on Rhynn Road, Maude Road, Locklar Road, Simtrobar Road, Purdue Road, Boyd Cowart Road, Hollandtown Road, Peebles Lane, Ed Wells Road, Van Simmons Road and Bumby Lane.

In certain sections, the pro-

posed mining overlay amendment will not be applied to specific parcels at the request of current property owners, Mosaic stated in the application.

The company is also requesting Lake Branch Road, County Road 664A and Locklar Road be added to the mining overlay as Mosaic is developing plans to mine some roadway segments.

The mining overlay district is designed to identify areas of Hardee County where mining has, is or is planned to occur.

County staff has reviewed the request and recommend approval from the Planning & Zoning Board.

If approved, the application will move forward to the Hardee County Commission for a first reading at its Jan. 3 meeting at 8:30 a.m.