2026 GEORGIA FARM BUREAU CONVENTION

Dec. 6-8 Jekyll Island Convention Center Jekyll Island

The convention theme, "Strong Farms. Strong Georgia." highlights GFB's commitment to ensuring that the state's farms endure. This year will be the 62nd time GFB has held its convention on Jekyll Island, where members celebrate agriculture's historic and far-reaching impact on the state while charting the organization's course for the coming year. For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau office or visit https://gfb.ag/26GFBConventionadvance.

UPCOMING GEORGIA CROP INSURANCE DATES

Dec. 1

Sales closing date for apiculture and pasture, range and forageland

Jan. 15

Production reporting deadline for apples, blueberries and peaches;

Acreage reporting date for barley, oats, triticale and wheat

The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Georgia producers of these sale closing dates for the 2027 crop year. Current policyholders who wish to make changes to their existing coverage also have until the sales closing date to do so. Federal crop insurance is critical to the farm safety net. It helps producers and owners manage revenue risks and strengthens the rural economy. Please contact your insurance agent to see if your county is covered. Growers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2027 crop year. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available online using the RMA Agent Locator. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at https://rma.usda.gov. The Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance Company contracts with three companies - Rain & Hail, Sompo, and Crop Risk Services to offer crop insurance. GFB has more than 70 (and growing) experienced crop insurance agents across the state to help their members protect their investment. Find your local agent and learn more at www.GFBInsurance.com or email crops@gfbinsurance.com for more details. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR OUTSTANDING GA YOUNG PEANUT FARMER

Dec. 4 deadline for nominations

Nominations are now open for the Outstanding Georgia Young Peanut Farmer Award. The state winner will be announced at the Georgia Peanut Farm Show on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2027, in Tifton. The award is sponsored by the Georgia Peanut Commission and the Farm Credit Associations of Georgia. The Outstanding Georgia award is based on the applicant's farm operation; environmental and stewardship practices; and leadership, civic, church, and community service activities. The award is open to any active Georgia peanut farmer who is not over 45 years of age, as of Jan. 21, 2027. An individual may receive the award only once. There is no limit to the number of applicants from each county in Georgia. The award application is available online at www.gapeanuts.com or by contacting Joy Crosby at 229-386-3690 or joycrosby@gapeanuts.com. The 2026 winner was Will Anderson of Register, Ga. The award winner receives registration and hotel accommodations to attend the 2027 Southern Peanut Growers Conference and a sign to display at his or her farm.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Dec. 7 deadline to submit ballots

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently mailed Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee election ballots to all eligible agricultural producers and private landowners across the country. Producers and landowners must return their completed ballots in person to their local FSA county office by close of business, or by mail and have them postmarked, by Dec. 7, 2026. Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot in the mail can request one from their local FSA county office Elections are occurring in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for committee members. Producers can identify LAAs up for election through a geographic information system locator tool available at fsa.usda.gov/elections and can confirm their LAA by contacting their local FSA office. Committee members make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally, including delivery of FSA disaster recovery, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as county office employment and other agricultural issues. To be eligible to vote in the county committee election, producers must participate or cooperate in a USDA program and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Newly elected committee members will take office on Jan. 1, 2027.

TITLE I CROPS/ARC/PLC PROGRAMS FOR 2026

Dec. 11 **deadline to enroll**

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has completed the base acre allocation update for farms enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. The update was announced last fall, and signup ran from June 1 - Aug. 31. Now that the base allocation process has ended, producers can enroll their eligible 2026 Title I crops in the ARC or PLC crop protection programs through Dec. 11. ARC County and PLC both provide crop-by-crop protection. ARC-Individual protects the entire farm. Election changes for the 2026 crop year are optional, but producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Existing multi-year contracts ended in 2025. Producers do have the option to sign a new multi-year contract for 2026 through 2031. Producers who opt out of a multi-year contract can enroll for the 2027 crop year from Nov. 2, 2026 through March 15, 2027. If producers do not submit their 2026 crop election for ARC or PLC by Dec. 11, their election will remain the same as their 2025 election for crops on the farm, and the farm is ineligible for 2026 program year payments. Landowners cannot enroll in either program unless they have an interest in the farm. The Texas A&M Agricultural & Food Policy Center offers an online decision tool to help producers decide which ARC or PLC program to choose using crop data specific to their farm. UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences economists advise producers to use the tool, available at https://afpc.tamu.edu/tools/farmbill/2026. To access the Texas A&M online decision tool, you will have to create a free account by providing your email address and creating a password. If you have questions, please call 1(888)890-5663. Producers who have a USDA Login.gov account may make their program elections and enroll online at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc or they can make an appointment at their local FSA office, which can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/fsa-office-locator. Crop insurance information is available at www.rma.usda.gov/. The Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance Company contracts with three companies - Rain & Hail, Sompo, and Crop Risk Services - to offer crop insurance. GFB has experienced crop insurance agents statewide. Find your local agent and learn more at www.GFBInsurance.com or email crops@gfbinsurance.com.

GEORGIA PEANUT COMMISSION NOMINATION MEETINGS

Dec. 16 **10 a.m.** **Colquitt and Statesboro**

Georgia Farm Bureau will conduct the meetings to fill terms on the Georgia Peanut Commission Board of Directors in the commission's first and third districts. The terms for those seats expire Dec. 31. The Georgia peanut production area is divided into five districts based on acreage distribution and geographical location with one board member representing each district. Each nominee must produce peanuts and live within the district for which he or she is nominated. **The District One nomination meeting will** be held at the Miller County Farm Bureau Office located at 314 Bremond Street, Colquitt. The incumbent in that district is Tim Burch of Baker County. Counties in District One include Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell and Seminole. **The District Three nomination meeting** will be held at the Emanuel County Farm Bureau Office located at 320 Lambs Bridge Rd., Swainsboro. The incumbent in that district is Joe Boddiford of Screven County. Counties in District Three include Appling, Bacon, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Candler, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Glascock, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Montgomery, Pierce, Richmond, Screen, Tattnall, Toombs, Treutlen, Washington and Wayne counties. Any producer living in the district may be nominated or make nominations at the meeting. Incumbents are eligible for re-nomination. If more than one person is nominated, an election will be conducted by mail ballot. Commission by-laws state that a person must receive a majority of the votes cast for a position in order to be elected to the Board. If only one person qualifies for the position, no election is required, and the nominated person automatically becomes a member of the GPC Board. Commission members have terms of three years each.

2027 GFB WOMEN IN AG SUMMIT

Feb. 25-26, 2027 **Marriott Savannah Riverfront**
Dec. 20 **$75 Early registration deadline**
Jan. 20 **$100 Regular registration deadline**

Great speakers, great conversations and a room full of women who love Georgia agriculture. If you are a female farmer or a woman who works in agriculture: Don't miss this event! Attendees can choose between two pre-conference tours to be held the morning of Feb. 25: a private Savannah Port tour by boat or a tour of the Savannah Bee Company. The opening session and a service project will be held afternoon of Feb. 25. Breakout sessions will be held Feb. 26 to sharpen your advocacy and ag literacy skills. Dr. Kristen Strom will deliver the keynote speech during the Feb. 26 closing session. Register at https://gfb.ag/WomeninAgSummit.

2026/27 GACD SCHOLARSHIPS

Dec. 31 **application deadline**

To encourage study and careers in soil and water conservation related fields, the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts administers one $1,000 scholarship each year and the GACD Auxiliary will award a scholarship of $500. Both scholarships will be given to high school students or undergraduate/graduate students majoring in, or intending to major in, a soil and water conservation related area. Acceptable areas of study include, but are not limited to, agricultural education, agronomy, horticulture, plant pathology, and agricultural communications. Applicants must be from Georgia but may be attending or planning to attend any accredited college, school, or university in the United States. For more information or to apply, visit https://www.gacd.us/scholarships.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FRUIT & VEGETABLE CONFERENCE

Jan. 7-9 Savannah Convention Center Savannah

The Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference is the largest educational conference and trade show in the southeastern United States that unites growers, vendors, and suppliers. Anyone with an interest in specialty crop agriculture is invited to be a part of this event. Through more than 80 hours of educational sessions, we will address food safety concerns, specific commodity issues on production practices and increased yields, and marketing strategies. Participate in our growing and dynamic trade show, where you'll browse through more than 85,000 square feet of space filled with key suppliers and growers. There has never been a more vital time for the fruit and vegetable industry to come together for a brighter and more profitable future! For more information or to register, visit https://seregionalconference.org/.

2027 GEORGIA DAIRY CONFERENCE

Jan. 18-20 Marriott Savannah Riverfront Savannah

Hosted by Georgia Milk Producers Inc., the Georgia Dairy Conference is an opportunity for Georgia dairy producers to gather and discuss recent trends in the dairy industry. Registration is free for GMP members. Event seminar topics include trends in constructing dairy facilities, feed management economics, farm cybersecurity, a Southeast dairy outlook, tips for dairy cattle breeding, tips for bridging the language & cultural gap on the farm, Dairy Alliance update, precision fly control and much more. The conference will also include a trade show. For more information or to register, visit www.gadairyconference.com.

2027 GEORGIA PEANUT FARM SHOW

Jan. 21, 2027 UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Tifton

Don't miss out on the 50th annual Georgia Peanut Farm Show & Conference! The show is free and open to all farmers and industry representatives to attend. The show is sponsored by the Georgia Peanut Commission. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit with more than 100 agribusinesses and organizations in the peanut and agricultural industry. Farmers will be able to earn private and commercial pesticide applicator certification, as well as learn about cutting-edge research and developments during the University of Georgia Peanut Production Seminar and industry-wide sponsored Peanut Seed Seminar. Registration for exhibit space is open. For more information, visit https://gapeanuts.com/farm-show/.

GA FFA STUDENT FARMER MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY

Landon Hembree, a junior at Colquitt County High School and the son of a third-generation farmer, is conducting a survey for a research project on farm stress. We appreciate our farm youth in Georgia who care about our farmers and their mental health! Way to go Landon! If you would like to help Landon out by completing his survey, visit The Psychosocial Factors Affecting Agricultural Producers.

GFB HAY DIRECTORY

GFB is accepting listings for its online hay directory. Farm Bureau members with hay for sale or who offer custom harvesting or custom sprigging services are invited to list their hay and/or services in the GFB Quality Hay Directory published on the GFB website. Hay for sale or services can be listed or removed from the directory throughout the year. To be included in GFB's online

hay directory, complete a submission form by visiting your county Farm Bureau office or online at www.gfb.ag/hay. Please include a $10 check made payable to Georgia Farm Bureau for each listing of hay, custom harvesting or custom sprigging. Multiple listings are allowed. Listings can be updated in the directory throughout the year as hay inventories change. Hay producers who entered the GFB Quality Hay Contest receive a free listing in the online GFB Hay Directory.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OFFER FERAL HOG CONTROL SERVICES

For a list of feral hog control services available in each GACD Conservation District, visit https://gfb.ag/feralhoggacdresources**.**

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE OFFERS SUPPORT

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline can be reached by calling or texting 988 or chatting on 988lifeline.org. 988 is a universal entry point so that no matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support. You don't have to be suicidal to reach out. 988 trained crisis counselors can help you through whatever mental health challenges you are experiencing.