

KEL-MAC SADDLE CLUB HORSE SHOW

Oct. 24

Morgan Co. Ag Center

Madison

This show is open to equestrians of all ages and experience levels. Classes include hunter/jumper, western, gaited, trail obstacles, ranch riding, ranch reining, dressage on the rail, halter/showmanship, “small fry” and more. All shows begin at 9 a.m. - rain or shine. Trail classes are from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Western Classes not to start before lunch. Riders must be members of Kel-Mac to accrue points towards year-end awards. Age divisions for competition are as follows: Small Fry: 10 and under; Junior: under 14 years of age; Senior: 14 years and over. Novice: Rider is in 1st or 2nd year of showing. Green Horse: Horse is in 1st or 2nd year of showing. Entry fee per class is \$10. Stall fees are \$15 for club members & \$20 nonmembers. All overnight stalls are \$25. Each horse show is an “an all-breed show” which means there are a wide variety of disciplines offered in the more than 50 classes. The focus of the Kel-Mac shows is to include everyone and help participants become more comfortable with showing. For more information about the shows, visit the KelMac Saddle Club Facebook or Instagram pages or www.kel-mac.com or call Arlene Williams at 706-431-8600. Signup for shows on the website. General admission is free and concession food and drinks will be available. The Morgan County Ag Center is located at 2380 Athens Hwy. (441), north of Madison. These volunteer-run shows generate funds to benefit Kel-Mac’s equestrian related charities. The Kel-Mac Saddle Club has donated more than \$170,250 back to Georgia’s Piedmont region during its 50 years including: the Georgia Equine Rescue League, ReDux Equine Rescue, Sweet Olive Rescue, and the Morgan County Sheriff’s Empty Stocking Fund, and the equestrian facilities of state & county parks such as A. H. Stephens, Hard Labor Creek, and Heritage Park.

STUDY COMMITTEE ON GENERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY OF FAMILY FARMS

Oct. 28

Engram Hall Room 220E, South Georgia State College 7:30 a.m. Douglas

Sen. Russ Goodman (R–Cogdell), chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, and Rep. Robert Dickey (R–Musella), chairman of the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, will host this third hearing of the Joint Study Committee on Generational Sustainability of Family Farms at South Georgia State College in Douglas. The committee is examining the conditions and challenges facing Georgia’s family farms and seeking recommendations for legislative solutions to strengthen existing markets, prepare the next generation of farmers and address the long-term sustainability of the state’s agricultural economy. For more information visit <https://gfb.ag/JointCmteRome>. **A future meeting is tentatively scheduled Nov. 20 in Athens.** Once finalized, meetings are being listed at www.legis.ga.gov/schedule/house and www.legis.ga.gov/schedule/senate.

GEORGIA FARM BUREAU HAY CONTEST

Oct. 30

deadline to enter

GFB Field Notes page 2 of 19

Enter the 35th Annual Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) Quality Bermudagrass Hay Contest by Oct. 30. The first-place winner will receive the free use of a Vermeer wheel rake for one year, courtesy of the Vermeer Corporation. The winner will have the option to buy the rake at a reduced price at the end of the year. Hay entered in the contest will be tested at a University of Georgia lab using the Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) Test, which provides analysis of a hay sample's nutritional value and expected digestibility for livestock. The RFQ score gives sellers and buyers an idea of the quality of the hay they are producing or buying for their livestock. Contest winners will be determined by the RFQ analysis. Winners will be announced at the GFB convention in December. Prizes will also be presented to the second through fifth-place winners. Entry forms and complete contest rules may be picked up at your county Farm Bureau office or downloaded at www.gfb.ag/HayContest. You may also contact the GFB Public Policy Department at 1-800-342-1192 if you have any questions about the contest. There is a \$25 fee for each entry to cover the cost of the lab test. Producers may enter more than one sample. Any producer submitting more than one sample can only place in the Top 5 with one sample – their highest scored sample – but will receive analysis for all submitted samples. Checks should be made payable to Georgia Farm Bureau. Entry fees, forms and samples should be sent to the GFB Public Policy Department 1620 Bass Road Macon, Ga., 31210.

AFBF BROADBAND SURVEY

Oct. 30

submission deadline

American Farm Bureau is exploring a potential national member benefit with a high-speed satellite internet provider. Reliable connectivity remains one of the biggest barriers in rural America, for households and for operations that depend on precision ag equipment, monitoring systems, and day-to-day business tools. To negotiate the strongest possible benefit, Farm Bureau needs to show a potential partner exactly what farmers and ranchers need: connectivity for their homes, barns, remote fields and additional properties. Our negotiating power is only as strong as the number of Farm Bureau members who take the survey. Please take this short survey by Oct. 30 at <https://gfb.ag/afbfbroadbandsurvey>.

2027 VET LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Nov. 2 deadline to apply

On Sept. 18, the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) announced it has begun accepting applications for the 2027 cycle of the Georgia Veterinary Education Loan Repayment Program (GVELRP). **Eligible veterinarians have until Nov. 2 to submit their applications.** The GVELRP provides student loan repayment assistance to licensed veterinarians who commit to practicing in designated rural areas of Georgia and delivering veterinary care for food animals in communities with critical shortages. To qualify for the GVELRP, applicants must be a U.S. citizen or have lawful presence in the United States, live in Georgia, be either a licensed practicing veterinarian or a veterinary student in their final year of study and commit to working in an approved rural county (population of 50,000 or less). Detailed GVELRP information is available at <https://agr.georgia.gov/vet-education-loan-repayment-program>. Completed applications and inquiries about the program can be made via email to: statevetedboard@agr.georgia.gov. The State

GFB Field Notes page 3 of 19

Veterinary Education Board will review, determine, and announce award recipients later in the year.

CITRUS COOPERATIVE WORKSHOP: NEXT STEPS

Nov. 5 **Tattnall County Extension Office, 114 North Main St. 3 p.m. Reidsville**
Those interested in helping shape the future of a regional citrus cooperative are encouraged to attend and take part in the discussion. This meeting will be facilitated by UGA Small Business Development Center Area Director Jonisa McBride and Tattnall County Extension Agent Aubrey Shirley. The workshop will focus on the next steps toward organizing a cooperative, including the formation of a steering committee to help guide planning, identify grower priorities, and explore what a citrus cooperative could look like for Southeast Georgia. The meeting will also be available for streaming via Zoom. To attend by Zoom, visit <https://gfb.ag/SEGaCitrusZoom>. The meeting ID is 961 2151 6829 and the pass code is 316481.

2ND ANNUAL GEORGIA FARM BUREAU PB&J 5K

Nov. 13 **Registration deadline**
Nov. 14 **Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter Perry**
Come for the run. Stay for the fried PB&J! Sign up today for the 5K on Nov. 14 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds. The course is flat, fast, and completely paved — perfect for all skill levels. **Registration is \$30. Runners must register by 8 p.m. Nov. 13. No registrations morning of race.** Enjoy a post-run grilled PB&J sandwich, compliments of the Georgia Peanut Commission! The race will include a themed costume contest and in honor of America's 250th Anniversary, there will be a Freedom Finish Line celebration. If you're bringing the family, after the race be sure to check out the Georgia National Antique Agriculture Show for FREE — a perfect way to step back in time and enjoy a look at the history of agriculture. Visit <https://www.gfb.org/pb-and-j-5k> to register and for more information.

ABAC PCA PRO RODEO EVENT

Nov. 13 & 14 ABAC Rodeo Arena Tifton
Get ready for two nights of high-flying action, western entertainment and rodeo excitement as 3R Rodeo Company returns to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The rodeo is part of Stage Lights and Rodeo Nights, a weekend of entertainment at ABAC that kicks off with country music star Tracy Lawrence at the John Hunt Auditorium on Nov. 12. For more information on the weekend-long event, visit link.abac.edu/events. Rodeo tickets are available at [here](#). Tickets start at \$20 for general admission, with children under 6 admitted free. An enhanced VIP experience ticket is \$30 each for adults and \$10 for children under 6. VIP tickets are limited, so secure your seats early. From bull riding and calf roping to other classic rodeo events, fans can expect plenty of thrills under the lights at ABAC. Gates open at 5 p.m., Mutton Bustin' begins at 6 p.m., and the rodeo action kicks off at 7:30 p.m. each night. Mutton Bustin' participation is available for an additional fee. The evening will also feature Western Way Entertainment, a Sevierville, Tenn.-based performance company founded by married couple Shelby LeAnne Danison and Chance Danison. The duo combines professional rodeo skills with music and western performance,

GFB Field Notes page 4 of 19

bringing audiences an exciting specialty act featuring trick riding, mounted shooting, trick roping and more.

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

Nov. 15 Newton County Ag Center 2 -5 p.m. Covington

Join the Newton County Farm Bureau for an afternoon of fun, learning and community spirit! See farm animals, enjoy a hayride and a tractor show. Meet Santa and shop for Christmas gifts with local vendors. For more information call the NCFB at 770-786-7201. The Newton County Ag Center is located at 120 FFA/FHA Camp Road, Covington, Ga. 30014.

UPCOMING GEORGIA CROP INSURANCE DATES

Nov. 16

Production reporting deadline 2026 crops for barley, canola, oats, triticale and wheat

Acreage report date for 2027 onion

Nov. 20

Sales closing date for apples, blueberries and peaches

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](https://rma.usda.gov). 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.

TAX CREDIT APPS FOR SCHOOL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AG FAMILIES

Dec. 1

application deadline

Visit <https://gfb.ag/AgSchoolChoiceschols> for details.

TITLE I CROPS/ARC/PLC PROGRAMS FOR 2026

Dec. 11 deadline to enroll

GFB Field Notes page 5 of 19

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, Sompco, 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.

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 PEANUT FARM SHOW

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

GFB Field Notes page 6 of 19

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.