

GEORGIA BEEF COMMISSION REFERENDUM

June 30

Deadline to have completed ballots postmarked

Georgia beef producers have until June 30 to put their referendum ballot for the Georgia Agriculture Commodity Commission for Beef in the mail. Completed ballots must be postmarked by June 30 and signed to be valid. If you are a beef producer and haven't received your ballot, please email Fred Rayfield at fred.rayfield@agr.georgia.gov to request one. Funds from the assessments are used to fund research, education, and promotion projects that benefit Georgia cattle producers. The marketing order includes beef and dairy breeds sold for use of beef. In the nine years since the assessment began, over \$3 million has been committed to research projects with the University of Georgia and in-state education and promotions that benefit Georgia's beef sector. Georgia beef producers first voted in 2014 to approve a marketing order to establish a \$1 per head assessment on all cattle sold in Georgia for beef with a value over \$100. State law requires that the market order be voted on every three years to continue.

GFB CULTIVATE & EDUCATE: AG IN THE CLASSROOM GRANTS

July 1

application deadline

Georgia Farm Bureau will award 10 grants of \$500 each to certified teachers employed by a school district or private school who teach at the pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade level to fund projects that will educate their students about the importance of agriculture and expand agricultural literacy. Teachers will provide a one-page narrative that explains the purpose of the project, need for the project, and educational goals. They will also submit a project budget and a recommendation letter from the county Farm Bureau. Priority will be given to teachers who are Georgia Farm Bureau members. Projects are to be completed during the 2026-2027 school year. Grant money can be used for classroom materials and resources, including ag-accurate books. Grant money cannot be used for mileage, field trips nor one-time consumable products such as copying, paper or meals. GFB will issue grant funds to the recipient's county Farm Bureau, which will distribute the money to the grant recipient. Grant applications must be submitted online at <https://gfb.ag/AITCgrant>.

CROP INSURANCE SALES CLOSING DATES

Cabbage 2027 Crop

July 1

deadline to enroll/renew

Coverage is available in Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Mitchell, Tift and Toombs counties

Fresh Market Sweet Corn 2027 Crop

July 31

deadline to enroll/renew

Coverage is available in Colquitt, Decatur, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Tift and Worth counties.

Peppers 2027 crop

July 31

deadline to enroll/renew

Coverage is available in Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Echols, Grady, Lowndes, Thomas, Tift, Ware and Worth counties.

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, Sompco, 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.

SUNBELT EXPO AG INNOVATION AWARD

July 1

application deadline

The 2026 Sunbelt Ag Expo brings back its Innovation Award for a second year, continuing to highlight new ideas and innovations in agriculture. Discover how to participate and showcase your agricultural innovation at the 2026 Sunbelt Ag Expo. If your new product or service is innovative, time-saving, labor-saving, or will change the agricultural world, enter it in the Sunbelt Ag Expo's Top-10 New Products Competition. Entries are evaluated by a panel of farmers, ranchers, agricultural business professionals, and university representatives to ensure that each product is new for 2026 and is innovative in its field. **Key Dates:** Application Closes: July 1; judging the week of: July 13; winners will be contacted by Aug. 5. **Judging Criteria:** Originality; innovation; practicality; economy/affordability; overall quality. **Additional information:** There will be 10 winners. Only products released anywhere in the world between Oct. 17, 2025, and Oct. 16, 2026, are eligible for the competition. The company applying for an Innovation Award must be an exhibitor at the 2026 Sunbelt Ag Expo. For competition details or to apply, visit <https://sunbeltexpo.com/innovation-award/>. For questions, contact the Sunbelt Ag Expo team at 229.958.1968 or email mandy@sunbeltexpo.com.

2ND ANNUAL GEORGIA FARM BUREAU PB&J 5K

July 4

early bird registration of \$20 ends

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 after July 4 is \$30. 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.

FARM EQUIPMENT SECURITY WORKSHOP

July 9

registration deadline

July 16 Burke County Auditorium

5:30 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

Waynesboro

Learn how to secure the equipment on your farm through law enforcement and security agencies. Participating sheriff offices are: Burke County, Glascock County, Jefferson County, Jenkins County & Richmond County. Event sponsors are Blanchard Equipment, Burke County Farm

Bureau, Jenkins County Farm Bureau and Burke Truck & Tractor. Event is free but registration is required by July 9 by visiting <https://www.gacd.us/events/2026/7/16/brier-creek-swcd-farm-equipment-security-workshop> or emailing dana@gacd.us or calling 678-956-3015. Event address is 715 West 6th St., Waynesboro, Ga., 30830.

GACD FERAL HOG WORKSHOP

July 9 **Sumter County Ag Center** **5 p.m.** **Americus**
<https://www.gacd.us/events/2026/7/9/feral-hog-workshop-with-golden-triangle-rcampd>

A group of agricultural and natural resource organizations are partnering to bring Georgia's top experts on feral swine together at this workshop for farmers and landowners. Topics will include disease issues, swine biology, economics, water quality issues, effective control techniques, transport issues, and regulations to be followed by a question and answer panel of experts. There will also be a feral swine trapping demonstration. Partnering agencies for this effort include the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Wildlife Services, Georgia Association of Conservation Districts, Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources. There is no cost to attend the workshops, but space is limited. Pre-registration is required.

GFB COUNTY VOICES. CAPITOL CHOICES MEETINGS

July 13 **Cromley Farms** **10 a.m. - noon** **Brooklet**

Event location is 9714 Brooklet Denmark Rd., Brooklet, GA, 30415

July 29 **Glo-Crest Dairy** **1 p.m. – 3 p.m.** **Cleveland**

Event location is 5909 Bowen Bridge Rd., Clermont, GA, 30527

Aug. 6 **D.L. Johnson Farm** **10 a.m. – noon** **Alma**

Event location is 2747 Daniel Rd, Alma, GA, 31510

Aug. 7 **Arena Acres** **10 a.m. – noon** **Perry**

Event location is 2229 Kings Chapel Rd, Perry, GA, 31069

Georgia Farm Bureau is continuing its series of meetings statewide providing farmers a chance to hear from their state legislators regarding legislation passed during the 2026 Georgia Legislative Session. Farmers and members of Georgia's ag community can share their legislative concerns. Previous meetings were held in Quitman on April 21, Grovetown on May 11 and Rome on May 12.

IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

July 14 **Pickens County Extension Office** **Jasper**

68 D.B. Carroll St., Jasper GA 30143. Phone: 706-253-8840

Aug. 26 **Bacon County Extension Office** **Alma**

203 South Dixon Street Ag Complex, Suite 3 Alma, GA 31510.

Aug. 27 **Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center** **Lyons**

8163 Highway 178, Lyons, GA 30436.

Online registration can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/cpycec3s>. The workshops will explain the efficiencies of impact sprinklers, drip irrigation systems, how to develop an Irrigation Water Management Plan, and hands-on activities assembling basic irrigation systems. If you need an accommodation, please contact Gary Hawkins, at ghawkins@uga.edu or 706-542-7167. Please contact by 21 days prior to workshop date.

SOUTHEAST CATTLE CONFERENCE

July 18

RSVP deadline

Aug. 1 Georgia FFA Camp Old Dining Hall

Covington

The Southeast Cattle Conference, sponsored by the Georgia Hereford Association & formerly called Herefords in the Cove, will be held Saturday, Aug. 1, in Covington, Ga. at the FFA Camp in the old dining hall. Cost to attend is \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids under 10. Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. ET. Program starts at 2 p.m. ET. For more info call Wes Smith at 706-601-9527. Please RSVP to the Georgia Hereford Association Facebook page or call Smith by July 18. Program topics will include: Managing income tax in good & bad years presented by Kevin Burkett, Clemson University; Using Hereford genetics to increase profitability presented by Peyton Pruett of the American Hereford Assc. There will also be a panel discussion between the following cattle producers regarding how they decide to cull cows & the factors they use to choose a cow for their donor herd: Tommy Maples, Maples Stock Farm, Elkmont, Al; Steve Morgan, Oakhurst Farm, West Point, Ga.; & Breck Debnam, Innisfail Farm, Madison, Ga. Jenna Paulette of Texas will provide entertainment. There will also be a benefit auction and a dinner. **Hotels to choose from in the Covington/Conyers area:**

Hampton Inn	678-212-2500
Courtyard by Marriott	470-444-1470
Holiday Inn Express	866-245-4286
FFA Camp	770-786-6926

SOUTHERN PEANUT GROWERS CONFERENCE

July 21-23 Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort Panama City Beach, Florida

This year's conference offers farmers an opportunity to learn more about legislative issues, peanut promotions and production issues. The registration fee for growers is \$275 which includes all conference events and meals. The registration deadline is June 15. The registration fee increases by \$75 on June 16. The theme for this year's conference, "Farming is a Circus," plans to focus on the struggles farmers face with health, weather, mental health and a Washington update. The conference schedule and registration information is available at www.southernpeanutfarmers.org.

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA CITRUS WORKSHOP

July 28 Vidalia Onion & Vegetable Research Center 9 a.m. Lyons

This meeting will consist of traditional research presentations and outdoor hands-on learning, where producers can interact with specialists in small group settings. Topics covered in this workshop include integrated pest management, irrigation, key insect pests and diseases and industry research. Pesticide credits will be available, and lunch will be served. For more information call the Tattnall County Extension office at 912-557-6724 or the Evans County Extension office at 912-739-1292.

GA COTTON COMMISSION MID-YEAR MEETING/PREHARVEST WORKSHOP

July 29 Nesmith-Lane Conference Center Statesboro

The Georgia Cotton Commission is pleased to announce the guest speakers at the Commission's 2026 Mid-Year Meeting scheduled for July 29 at the Nesmith-Lane Conference Center in Statesboro. The inaugural Mid-Year Meeting is held in conjunction with a UGA Cotton PreHarvest Workshop conducted by members of the UGA Research & Extension Cotton Team. The UGA Cotton Pre-Harvest Workshop will feature sessions where attendees will receive a 2026 crop

update and defoliation considerations along with discussions regarding late season irrigation and pest management strategies. The program speakers are Rusty Rumley, senior staff attorney at the National Agricultural Law Center, and Bev Sylvester, chief marketing officer at Cotton Incorporated. During the lunch program the Georgia Quality Cotton Awards for the 2025 crop will be presented. There is no charge to attend. Pre-registration is requested to help with meal plans. Register online at www.georgiacottoncommission.org.

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS OPEN

Aug. 3

deadline to submit nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for farmers and ranchers to serve on local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees. These committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2026 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 3, 2026. Producers interested in serving on their FSA county committee can locate their Local Administrative Areas (LAA) at www.fsa.usda.gov/coc to determine if their LAA is up for election and contacting their local FSA office. Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they participate or cooperate in a USDA program or reside in an 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. Individuals can nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations can also nominate candidates. Local FSA committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Committee members play a key role in how FSA delivers disaster recovery, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as making decisions on county office employment and other agricultural issues. Producers should contact their local FSA office today to learn more about their county's election. To be considered, a producer must [sign an FSA-669A nomination form](#). This form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at <https://fsa.usda.gov/coc>.

ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROP FARMERS

Aug. 7

enrollment deadline

On May 29, the USDA announced payment rates and the enrollment period for the Assistance for Specialty Crops Farmers (ASCF) program. The USDA will issue \$1.625 billion in payments to eligible specialty crop producers in response to elevated input costs and market disruptions resulting from foreign competitors engaging in unfair trade practices that impeded specialty crop exports. These payments are authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Specialty crop payments are intended to provide financial support to allow producers to pay for production and marketing inputs in the face of significant market disruptions during the 2025 growing season. Pre-filled applications are available online to producers with a Login.gov account who timely filed their 2025 crop acreage report for eligible specialty crops. Producer can request their pre-filled ASCF application from their FSA county office. Producers can complete their applications online or submit them to their FSA county office. Payments will be issued as applications are submitted and approved, beginning as early as the first week of sign-up. More information on ASCF is available online at fsa.usda.gov/ascf. Producers can also contact their local FSA county office.

AFBF FALL WOMEN'S COMMUNICATIONS BOOT CAMP

Aug. 10 4 p.m.
Oct. 26-29

Application Deadline
Washington, D.C.

The American Farm Bureau Federation will host the fall session of its Women's Communications Boot Camp Oct. 26-29 in Washington, D.C. To date, 353 women, many from Georgia, have graduated from this intensive training that is open to all female Farm Bureau members interested in sharpening their communication skills to promote agriculture and Farm Bureau. Participants will receive training on advocacy, public speaking, communicating with elected officials, social media strategy, targeted messaging and working with the media. The application period closes at **4 p.m. ET on Monday, August 10**. Applications will only be accepted electronically using the online application. Handwritten, PDF and/or scanned entries will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified of their application status by email on or around Aug. 18. Selected applicants must remit a \$350 registration fee to offset materials, equipment and group meal costs. For more information and to apply, visit the <https://www.fb.org/program/womens-leadership>. Please direct questions to GFB Women's Leadership Coordinator Heather King at hcking@gfb.org.

OCONEE RIVER RC&D FARM EQUIPMENT SECURITY WORKSHOP

Aug. 11

registration deadline

Aug. 18 Madison County Ag Center 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Danielsville

Farm equipment theft is a concern for all Georgia farms. This workshop will discuss general practices and options for securing your buildings, equipment and animals. Representatives of UGA Extension, Georgia Department of Agriculture - Law Enforcement Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Law Enforcement Division, AgPro, area sheriff's offices and Fort Knox Home Security will speak. The event is sponsored by Oconee River Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) and Madison County Young Farmers. Event is free & includes dinner, but registration is required by August 11 at www.gacd.us/events. Event address is 175 Hope-Thompson Lane, Danielsville, GA 30633.

USDA SDRP PAYMENTS

Aug. 12

application deadline

The USDA is issuing a second Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) payment to eligible producers who have approved program applications for losses due to natural disasters in calendar years 2023 and 2024. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has already provided \$6.7 billion in SDRP payments to eligible producers. The original April 30 deadline has been extended to Aug. 12 for SDRP Stage 1 and Stage 2. The first stage, announced in July 2025, remains available to producers who received an indemnity under crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for eligible crop losses due to qualifying 2023 and 2024 natural disaster events. Stage 2 of SDRP covers eligible crop, tree, bush and vine losses that were not covered under Stage 1 program provisions, including non-indemnified (shallow loss), uncovered and quality losses. Eligible losses must be the result of natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and/or 2024. These disasters include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions. To qualify for drought-related losses, the loss must have occurred in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks, D3 (extreme drought), or greater intensity level during the applicable calendar year. For more information on SDRP, please visit fsa.usda.gov/sdrp.

ARC/PLC BASE ACRES

Aug. 31

deadline to update

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced eligible landowners have until Aug. 31 to review and consider base acre increases on farms enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. FSA began notifying eligible landowners by direct mail that base allocation summaries outlining potential base acre updates were made available for review beginning June 1. These summaries can be accessed online at <https://fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc> using a Login.gov account. Landowners who do not currently have a Login.gov account are encouraged to contact their local FSA county office to obtain their Base Allocation Summary. The base allocation summary should be reviewed and any necessary actions completed by Aug. 31. To be eligible for new base acres, a current covered commodity must have been planted or prevented from being planted on the farm during the 2019 through 2023 crop years. The farm's average planted and prevented planted acres during that period must exceed the total existing base acres for all covered commodities in effect on Sept. 30, 2024, excluding unassigned base acres. FSA farm total base acres cannot exceed the farm's total cropland acres. If eligible requests exceed the nationwide cap of 30 million acres, USDA will apply an across-the-board, prorated reduction to all approved new base acres.

AFBF TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR VETERAN FARMER AWARD

Sept. 1

11:59 p.m. ET

application deadline

The American Farm Bureau Federation, with support from Farm Credit, is seeking applicants for the Veteran Farmer Award of Excellence. The award recognizes U.S. military veterans or service members for excellence in farming or agriculture and positively impacting local communities. The honoree will receive a \$10,000 cash prize plus reimbursement in travel and other expenses incurred for him/her and one guest to attend the American Farm Bureau Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, Jan. 8-12, 2027. Applicants are not required to be Farm Bureau members. The national award recipient will be recognized by AFBF through various outlets and should be willing to share their story and represent the veteran farmer community. The recipient will be notified in mid-September, with the winner announced publicly on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Learn more and apply [here](#).

KEL-MAC SADDLE CLUB HORSE SHOWS

Sept. 19 & Oct. 24 Morgan Co. Ag Center

Madison

These shows are 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.

LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Sept. 30

deadline to apply

Applications for the 2026 Lallemend Scholarship are open through Sept. 30. Interested students must be full-time students enrolled in agriculture-related programs at accredited institutions in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. Applications will be evaluated based on academic achievement, leadership qualities, commitment to the agricultural industry and an essay submission that highlights creativity, originality, and forward-thinking perspectives. There are five scholarship categories: Two \$2,500 scholarships for undergraduate students; one \$3,000 scholarship for a master's student; one \$3,000 scholarship for a doctoral candidate; and one \$3,000 scholarship for a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) student. Learn more about eligibility and to apply by visiting the [Lallemend Animal Nutrition website](https://www.lallemend.com/scholarships). Lallemend Animal Nutrition is a global company that offers microbial solutions for animal health and performance.

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 2024 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.