

## **64TH ANNUAL GEORGIA CATTLEMEN'S CONVENTION**

**April 23-25**      **Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter**      **Perry**  
"King of the Swamp" Troy Landry from the tv show Swamp People will be the keynote speaker for the Georgia Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention. Previously announced speaker Temple Grandin will be unable to attend the event as planned. The event features a 35,000-square-foot trade show, Cattlemen's College sessions on current industry topics, youth speaking contests, junior cattlemen's stockman's quiz, photography contest and Cattlemen's Ball. To register, visit <https://gfb.ag/26GCAConvregistration>.

## **2026 GFB SPRING SHOOTOUT**

**April 29**      **deadline to buy tickets**  
**May 15**      **Cherokee Rose Sporting Clays**      **9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**      **Griffin**  
The 4th Annual GFB Spring Shootout brings together friendly competition, supporting a good cause and enjoying the outdoors for an event you won't want to miss! It's perfect for colleagues looking to get out of the office, families making memories, friends catching up, and youth teams gaining real-world tournament experience. VIP team tickets are available for \$750, which include a larger tax-deductible amount, regular ticket perks PLUS t-shirts, preferred parking, priority access to the course, and complimentary post-event beverages. General admission team tickets for four are available for \$575, which includes the 100-disc event, golf cart rental, eye and ear protection for each shooter, light breakfast, and lunch. Individual entry tickets are \$155. Individual entrant will be grouped with other individual participants to form a team for the tournament. Includes the 100-disc event, golf cart rental, eye and ear protection for each shooter, light breakfast, and lunch. This is a great option for those who don't have a full team but still want to join the fun! All proceeds support the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture. To register, visit <https://gfb.ag/26SpringShootout>. The deadline to register is April 29. There are also opportunities for businesses interested in sponsoring the event to gain valuable brand exposure through the shootout. Sponsorships ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 include benefits such as team entries, branding on event materials, social media promotion, acknowledgement in post-event publicity and more. April 18 is the deadline to become an event sponsor.

## **GEORGIA PEACH & PECAN COMMISSION REFERENDUMS**

### **Through April 30**

Both the Georgia Peach Commission and the Georgia Pecan Commission are holding simultaneous mail referendums April 1-30 for producers to determine if they will continue their current assessment to fund programs of research, promotion, and education for each commodity. All ballots must be postmarked prior to midnight April 30 to be eligible to be counted. The 10 cent (\$0.10) per bushel and 5 cent (\$0.05) per half bushel assessment funds programs of research, promotion, and education on behalf of Georgia peaches. The one (\$0.01) cent per pound assessment of pecans funds programs of research, promotion, and education on behalf of Georgia Pecans.

## **GFB YF&R SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**July 15-18**      **Jekyll Island Convention Center**      **Jekyll Island**

**April 30**      **Early registration deadline**

**June 1**      **Final registration deadline**

Registration is open for the GFB Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Summer Leadership Conference and competitive events. Please share the following information with anyone who may be interested in attending or competing. This conference is open to any GFB member involved

with Young Farmers & Ranchers, ages 18-35. A children's program will be provided for kids 4th grade and younger as a convenience for attendees competing or participating in sessions. Visit <https://gfb.ag/yfrslc> for complete conference details, including tentative agenda, information about the children's program and lodging information, or to register by one of these deadlines: Early Registration - April 30 – Registration Fee: \$100 per attendee; Regular Registration – Deadline: June 1. Registration Fee: \$150 per attendee. Attendees are responsible for their own hotel reservations. Room blocks have been secured at the Courtyard/Residence Inn (912635-2416, reservation deadline is June 15); Hampton Inn and Suites (912-635-3733, reservation deadline is June 15), Holiday Inn Resort (912-319-0037, reservation deadline is June 15), Villas by the Sea (912-635-2521, reservation deadline is June 15) and the Westin (912-635-4545, reservation deadline is June 15) on Jekyll Island. Note: These room blocks tend to fill up quickly. For more information about the conference, contact Levi Davis at [ledavis@gfb.org](mailto:ledavis@gfb.org) or 478-230-6767.

### **GFB EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD**

**April 30**

**deadline to apply**

The Georgia Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award honors Young Farmers & Ranchers members who earn most of their income off the farm but are active in Farm Bureau and are ag advocates in their community. Contact your GFB district federation manager or your county Farm Bureau office manager for information to apply for this award. GFB district winners and three state finalists will be selected from the written applications. The three state finalists will be contacted by June 5 so they may prepare a presentation to be given the afternoon of July 15 at the GFB YF&R Summer Leadership Conference to be held July 15-18. The state winner will be announced at the summer conference. The state winner will receive an expense-paid trip to the 2027 American Farm Bureau Convention next January in Charlotte, N.C., to represent Georgia. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 35 and should not turn 36 before Jan. 12, 2027. Visit [www.gfb.org/connect/excellence-in-ag](http://www.gfb.org/connect/excellence-in-ag) for more information.

### **SDRP SECOND STAGE, MILK AND ON-FARM STORAGE PAYMENTS**

**April 30**

**deadline to apply for SDRP Stage One and Stage Two assistance**

Stage Two of SDRP covers eligible crop, tree, bush and vine losses that were not covered under Stage One program provisions, including non-indemnified (shallow loss), uncovered and quality losses. For Stage Two program details, including fact sheets, please visit <https://fsa.usda.gov/sdrp>. The first stage, announced in July, 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. FSA county offices will begin accepting SDRP Stage Two applications on Nov. 24. **Producers have until April 30 to apply for both Stage One and Stage Two assistance.** Information and a fact sheet are available online at <https://fsa.usda.gov/ofscplp>.

### **2026 GEORGIA FARM DOG OF THE YEAR**

**May 1**

**entry deadline**

Do you have a special farm dog that herds or guards your livestock? Maybe it keeps you company as you do your daily chores and provides stress relief. Maybe it has done something heroic. Georgia Farm Bureau is accepting entries for its 2026 Georgia Farm Dog Contest until 10:59 p.m. on May 1 or until 200 entries are accepted. Contest is open to GFB members ages 18 and over. The grand

prize winner will receive a \$500 gift card and be recognized at the 2025 Sunbelt Ag Expo. For contest rules and the criteria dogs will be judged by, visit [www.gfb.ag/26farmdogcontest](http://www.gfb.ag/26farmdogcontest).

## **NURSERY VALUE SELECT INSURANCE**

**May 1**

**deadline to enroll/renew**

The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Georgia nursery producers that the final date to apply for or renew crop insurance coverage for the 2027 crop year is May 1. Federal crop insurance is critical to the farm safety net. It helps producers and owners manage revenue risks and strengthens the rural economy. Coverage is available in all Georgia counties for nursery operators who receive at least 40% of their gross income from wholesale marketing of nursery plants. Growers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2026 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 four companies – American Farm Bureau Insurance Services Inc., Rain & Hail, Sompco, and Great American Insurance to offer crop insurance. GFB has more than 70 experienced crop insurance agents (and growing) across the state to help their members protect their investment. Find your local agent and learn more at [www.GFBInsurance.com](http://www.GFBInsurance.com) or email [crops@gfbinsurance.com](mailto:crops@gfbinsurance.com) for more details. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

## **GEORGIA CENTENNIAL FARM APPLICATIONS**

**May 1**

**deadline to apply**

Centennial Farm applications are open to all qualifying candidates. Farms play a pivotal role in shaping the legacy of our state, serving as the bedrock for economic, cultural, and family traditions for generations of Georgians. Georgia recognizes farms with a legacy spanning more than a century for their historical significance through the Georgia Centennial Farm program. Nominees must be a working farm with a minimum of 10 acres of the original purchase, actively involved in agricultural production, and must generate at least \$1,000 in annual farm-generated income. In addition, farms must have been continuously farmed by members of the same family for at least 100 years or be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Qualifying Georgia Centennial Farms are honored each October at an awards ceremony at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry. The Georgia Centennial Farm program is administered by the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; Georgia Farm Bureau Federation; Georgia Department of Agriculture; Georgia EMC; Georgia National Fair and Agricenter; and University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. For more information, please contact Rose Mayo, Historic Preservation Division Outreach Coordinator, at 770-855-2586 or [rose.mayo@dca.ga.gov](mailto:rose.mayo@dca.ga.gov). **The postmark deadline for applications is May 1, 2026.** Applications are available online at <https://gfb.ag/centuryfarmsapply>. (<https://www.dca.ga.gov/georgia-historic-preservation-division/historicresources/centennial-farms>)

## **GFB DAY AT THE BRAVES 2026**

**Deadline to purchase tickets is May 1**

**June 7            Truist Park    1:35 p.m.    Atlanta**

GFB is bringing the heart of Georgia agriculture to Truist Park for an afternoon of baseball, fellowship, and a celebration of the farmers who make it all possible. From the fields to the stands, this afternoon is all about showing support for the people and industry that keep our state growing strong. Join us for a special pre-game parade around the field, giving attendees the chance to step onto the field and be part of the experience before the game begins. Tickets are \$42 for Home Run Porch seating in Sections 147–151. GFB recommends arriving early to secure seats together. Comfort Colors GFB Braves t-shirts (\$30) and Ag is #1 foam fingers (\$6) are available for purchase to enhance the gameday experience. A portion of t-shirt sales, foam finger sales, and \$8–\$10 from each ticket sold will support the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture. Have fun while raising funds for a great cause. We are all Farm Bureau. For more information or to purchase tickets and merchandise, click [HERE](https://www.gafoundationag.org/braves). (<https://www.gafoundationag.org/braves>)

## **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION WORKSHOP**

**June 7-12    Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**

**Tifton**

**May 1**

**registration deadline**

The Natural Resources Conservation Workshop (NRCW) is available to Georgia's Rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. This workshop focuses on the value, protection, and conservation of Georgia's wildlife, forestry, soil, and water resources, including conservation in Georgia's mining industry. The workshop gives students a taste of college life while delivering valuable insight into careers through their counselors and instructors. The workshop features field trips, classroom instruction, and recreational activities. Students scoring well on the workshop exam may be awarded a college scholarship. A limited number of scholarships are awarded based on exam scores and specific scholarship guidelines and criteria. Sponsorships are available through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts for students to attend at no cost. Transportation options are also available. **Registration is available through May 1** at <https://gfb.ag/26NRCWapp>.

## **GA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DAVID SKINNER SCHOLARSHIP**

**May 4**

**Application deadline**

High school seniors or college freshmen who are Georgia residents, live in a rural county and are pursuing a degree directly related to agriculture are encouraged to apply. Six scholarships in the amount of \$2,400 will be awarded. Visit <https://www.gdaonline.com/scholarships/> to apply.

## **SOUTHEASTERN SPECIALTY CROP TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

**May 5 & 6        UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center**

**Tifton**

This conference and show aims to serve as a platform to accelerate knowledge and adoption of emerging technologies in specialty crop production in the Southeast U.S. Researchers and company representatives will discuss and demonstrate robotics, artificial intelligence and digital agriculture. Open to fruit, vegetable and nut growers, industry professionals, students and Extension professionals. Event runs from 8 a.m. to 5p.m. both days. For more information and to register, visit <https://specialtycroptech.uga.edu/>.

## **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER ACE SUMMIT**

**June 1-3**

**Washington, D.C.**

**May 6**

**registration deadline**

In celebration of the International Year of the Woman Farmer, the American Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Leadership program, together with a strong coalition of U.S. agrifood system stakeholders, is proud to host a landmark national gathering honoring the vital role women play in agriculture and the supply chain. The International Year of the Woman Farmer ACE (Advocate, Cultivate, Empower) Summit will take place in Washington, D.C., June 1–3, 2026. This signature event — held in recognition of IYWF — will empower, equip, and connect women farmers, ranchers and agribusiness professionals. Through skill-building sessions, high-impact networking and advocacy-focused programming, attendees will strengthen their voices and leadership within the agricultural community. Visit <https://gfb.ag/IYWFACereg> to learn more or to register.

## **KEL-MAC SADDLE CLUB HORSE SHOWS**

**May 9, 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](http://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.

## **GFB COUNTY VOICES. CAPITOL CHOICES MEETINGS**

**May 11**

**Steed Dairy**

**10 a.m. - noon**

**Grovetown**

Event location is 4634 Wrightsboro Rd Grovetown 30813

**May 12**

**LCCL Strawberry Farm**

**10 a.m. - noon**

**Rome**

Event location is 3743 Old Dalton Rd NE Rome 30165

Georgia Farm Bureau is holding a series of meetings statewide to give 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. Both meetings start at 10 a.m. and are expected to end by noon.

## **GEORGIA CORN COMMISSION REFERENDUM**

### **Through May 15**

The 1 cent (\$0.01) per bushel assessment funds programs of research, promotion, and education on behalf of Georgia corn. **The balloting period for the continuation of the Georgia Marketing Order for Corn for an additional three-year period has been set from April 15 - May 15.** All ballots must be postmarked prior to midnight May 15, to be eligible to be counted. For more information, or to receive a ballot, contact Fred Rayfield at 404-586-1405 or [fred.rayfield@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:fred.rayfield@agr.georgia.gov).

## **GFB YF&R DISCUSSION MEET**

### **June 1 deadline for entries**

Registration is open for the YF&R Discussion Meet. **The entry form should be completed and submitted online at <https://gfb.ag/yfrcompete> by June 1.** Please share this information with anyone who may be interested in competing. Also attached to this email are the questions that will be used in the 2026 Discussion Meet and a scoring rubric that can be used in preparation for the competition. Any Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers member is eligible to compete. Discussion Meet Orientation (for all competitors) will be on Wednesday afternoon, July 16 and the competition will be in person at the conference. The Discussion Meet consists of two (2) preliminary rounds, a Sweet Sixteen round, and a Final Four round, which will determine the state winner. A collegiate winner will also be recognized. Competitors can visit <https://www.gfb.org/education-and-outreach/discussion-meet.cms> for additional resources that may be helpful when preparing for the Discussion Meet. For questions regarding the Summer Leadership Conference or the competitive events, contact your district federation manager.

## **AFBF AG INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

### **June 5 application deadline**

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, is accepting online applications from entrepreneurs for the 2027 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge through June 5. Now in its 13th year, this national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies developing innovative solutions to challenges faced by America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities. The overall winner of the competition will receive \$100,000 in startup funds, the runner-up will be awarded \$25,000 and two additional business owners who advance to the final four round will receive \$10,000. Farm Bureau is offering a total of \$145,000 in startup funds throughout the course of the competition. After the application period closes on June 5, 10 semi-finalist teams will be selected and announced on Sept. 2. Next, the 10 semi-finalist teams will pitch virtually to compete for a spot in the final four round of the contest. Examples of successful Ag Innovation Challenge participants, as well as detailed eligibility guidelines and the competition timeline, can be found at [fb.org/challenge](http://fb.org/challenge). Entrepreneurs must be members of a county or parish Farm Bureau within their state of residence to qualify as top 10 semi-finalists. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit [www.fb.org/about/get-involved](http://www.fb.org/about/get-involved) to learn about becoming a member. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on June 5.

## **AFBF WHITE-REINHARDT FUND FOR EDUCATION GRANTS**

**June 12**

**application deadline**

The White-Reinhardt Fund for Education is a special funding opportunity from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) in cooperation with the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee. It was established to honor two former chairs of that committee (Berta White and Linda Reinhardt, leaders in the national effort to improve agricultural literacy) by enlarging agricultural literacy efforts across the United States. The project grant is one of two components of the fund. Visit <https://www.agfoundation.org/grants-awards/white-reinhardt-grants> to apply.

## **SOUTHEAST CATTLE CONFERENCE**

**Aug. 1 Georgia FFA Camp Old Dining Hall**

**Covington**

**July 18**

**RSVP deadline**

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

## **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](http://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](https://988lifeline.org). 988 serves as 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.