

## **GFB ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR YF&R ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Feb. 28**

**deadline to apply**

The application is now available for the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award. The application should be submitted online at <https://gfb.ag/yfrcompete> by Feb. 28. It is highly recommended that applicants work with the District Federation Manager on the application well in advance of the deadline. The Achievement Award recognizes an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of his/her/their net income subject to normal production risks. Following the deadline, district winners and three (3) state finalists will be determined. The state finalists will be contacted by April 30 to allow them to prepare for the interview component of the award. Interviews will be in person on July 15 as a part of the YF&R Summer Leadership Conference on Jekyll Island, where the state winner will be announced. Please contact your District Federation Manager with questions.

## **GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS**

**March 1**

**deadline to apply**

The Georgia Foundation for Agriculture (GFA) is offering \$66,000 worth of scholarships in 2026 in support of students planning to or already engaged in studies to prepare them for careers in agriculture and ag-related fields. There are five scholarship classifications: The Scholarship for Agriculture for graduating high school seniors who plan to enter college for Fall 2026 semester and pursue a career focusing on agriculture; the Rising Junior/Senior Scholarship for agriculture for current college students who are at least two semesters away from completing their undergraduate degree; the Back to Farm Scholarship for rising junior/senior college students who have shown a clear commitment to returning to the farm to build a career in production agriculture; the Technical College Scholarship for Agriculture for students enrolled at a school in the Technical College System of Georgia and majoring in an ag or ag-related field of study; and the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine Scholarship is for current veterinary medicine students specializing in large animal/food animal practice. The deadline to apply for all of these scholarships is March 1, 2026. For more information or to apply, visit [www.gafoundationag.org/scholarships](http://www.gafoundationag.org/scholarships).

## **UGA BEEF CATTLE SHORT COURSE**

**March 3**

**UGA Tifton Bull Center**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Irwinville**

Topics will include managing cow dystocia in beef herds; New World Screw Worm, drought planning for cattle operations, beef cattle market outlook. Participants will receive 3 continuing education hours for Beef Quality Assurance. Cost of \$35 includes lunch, hat and a notebook. Register online at [www.ugabeef.com/tifton](http://www.ugabeef.com/tifton). Call your county UGA Extension office for more information at 1-800-ASK-UGA1. Lunch is provided. Event runs from 8:30-4 p.m.

## **68TH ANNUAL TIFTON PERFORMANCE TESTED BULL SALE**

**March 4**

**UGA Tifton Bull Center**

**12:30 p.m.**

**Irwinville**

The sale will include 70 performance-tested, genomic enhanced and parentage-verified Angus, Charolais, Hereford, SimAngus, Simmental, Black Hereford, and LimFlex bulls from consigners. The sale will be broadcast online live through LiveAuctions.tv. The sale catalog, videos of bulls

and more information is available online at [www.ugabeef.com/bulltest](http://www.ugabeef.com/bulltest). Contact Jason Duggin at [jduggin@uga.edu](mailto:jduggin@uga.edu) or 706-728-4354 or Grace Nyhuis at [gracen@uga.edu](mailto:gracen@uga.edu) or 229-386-3683 for more information. Sale address is 2347 Ga. HWY 32 W. Chula, Ga. 31733

## **GFB 2026 MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL ART CONTESTS**

**March 6**

**deadline for county Farm Bureaus to submit entries**

Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) is now accepting entries for the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Middle School Bookmark and High School Art contests. Students who submit their artwork have the chance to win some great cash prizes! The GFB Middle School Bookmark Contest is open to all public, private and home-schooled sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students statewide. The 10 GFB district winners of the bookmark contest will receive \$100 each and compete for the state prize of \$150. County Farm Bureaus may also offer prizes to their local winners. The GFB High School Art Contest is open to all public, private and home-schooled students in ninth through 12th grades. The 10 GFB district art contest winners will receive a cash prize of \$100. The 10 GFB district art contest winners will compete for the state prize of \$250 cash. County Farm Bureaus may also offer prizes to their local winners. Students may enter either contest in the county in which they live or attend school but not both counties. To enter either contest, students or teachers should contact their county Farm Bureau for an official entry form and complete contest rules and to learn the county's February deadline for entering the contests. County Farm Bureaus must submit their entries to Georgia Farm Bureau for the state contests **by March 6**. For more information about the contests contact your county Farm Bureau office. Students and teachers may visit <https://gfb.ag/video> to view a video about Georgia agriculture, <https://www.gfb.org/connect/farm-markets> to find a farm near you or <https://gfb.ag/25caesagimpactreport> to access info about Georgia agriculture.

## **USDA GENERAL CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGNUP**

**March 9 – April 17**

On Feb. 10 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the enrollment period for the General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP **Signup 66**). Enrollment for General CRP will run from March 9 through April 17. FSA will announce dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future. [General CRP](#) offers are submitted through a competitive bid process. After the enrollment period closes, General CRP offers are ranked and scored by FSA, using nationally established environmental benefits criteria. USDA will announce accepted offers once ranking and scoring for all offers is completed. In addition to annual rental payments, approved General CRP participants may also be eligible for cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving

vegetative cover. Producers and landowners interested in participating in CRP should contact their [local FSA county office](#).

### **2026 GEORGIA FARM STRESS SUMMIT**

**March 12** Pettigrew Center, Fort Valley State University **9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Fort Valley  
The 2026 Georgia Farm Stress Summit will bring together farmers, farm families, health care providers, government leaders, agricultural advocates, agribusinesses, nonprofits and others committed to addressing farm stress in their rural communities. The summit will focus on connecting communities with resources and building strong cross-sector partnerships. For more information, visit <https://gafarmstress.org/stress-summit2026/>.

### **SCHOOL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GEORGIA AG FAMILIES**

**March 15** **deadline to apply**  
Learning to Serve (LTS), a Georgia Student Scholarship Organization (SSO), is offering scholarships to increase school choice opportunities for children of Georgia farmers and Georgia families whose income depends on agricultural businesses. These families can apply for K-12 private school scholarships through LTS if their students are serving in the community and meet the state's SSO eligibility requirements. The application for the 2026-27 school year is open through March 15. For more information about LTS and how to donate your tax credits to help farming families, visit [www.learningtoserve.org](http://www.learningtoserve.org) or email [mandy@learningtoserve.org](mailto:mandy@learningtoserve.org). To apply for a scholarship visit <https://www.learningtoserve.org/scholarships/>. Learning to Serve is a Georgia Student Scholarship Organization that leverages Georgia income tax credits to help students earn a scholarship to attend an accredited K-12 private school. Founded in 2009, Learning to Serve has awarded nearly \$10 million in scholarships to 4,000 Georgia students who have served more than 30,000 hours in their communities.

### **UGA NEW WORLD SCREWWORM PREPAREDNESS WEBINAR**

**March 19** **7 p.m.** Register at [www.tinyurl.com/screwwormUGA](http://www.tinyurl.com/screwwormUGA)

The UGA Extension Beef Team is hosting this free, educational webinar that will cover how to recognize signs your herd is infested with NWSW, practical prevention and response strategies to implement with your herd, and an update from the Ga. Department of Agriculture's Veterinary office. For more information or questions, please email Jason Duggin at [jduggin@uga.edu](mailto:jduggin@uga.edu).

### **USDA CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGNUP**

**March 20** **enrollment deadline**

On Feb. 10 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the enrollment periods for agricultural producers and landowners to submit offers for the Continuous and General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for Continuous CRP starting Feb. 12, through March 20. FSA will announce dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future. CRP is USDA's flagship conservation program, providing financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or

marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. The *Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026*, extends FSA's authority to administer CRP through Sept. 30, 2026.

### **Continuous CRP (Signup 65)**

FSA will batch [Continuous CRP](#) offers submitted by interested agricultural producers and landowners. Offers to re-enroll expiring CRP continuous acreage will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. New acreage offered in continuous CRP practices will be considered for acceptance on a first-come, first-serve basis if they support USDA conservation priorities including but not limited to practices that address water quality, such as filter strips and grass waterways, and practices that restore native ecosystems or target specific resource concerns.

The first Continuous CRP batching period ends on March 20, 2026. Offers submitted after this date will be considered for acceptance in subsequent batching periods if acreage remains available. Continuous CRP participants voluntarily offer environmentally sensitive lands, typically smaller parcels than offered through General CRP including wetlands, riparian buffers, and varying wildlife habitats. In return, they receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP enrollment options include:

- ***Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative***: Prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The vegetative covers also contribute to increased wildlife populations.
- ***CLEAR30 (a component of the CLEAR Initiative)***: Offers additional incentives for water quality practice adoption and can be accessed in 30-year contracts.
- ***Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI)***: Producers and landowners can enroll in CRP to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland that has a weighted erodibility index greater than or equal to 20.
- ***Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)***: Addresses high priority conservation objectives of states and Tribal governments on agricultural lands in specific geographic areas.
- ***State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative (SAFE)***: Restores vital habitat in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals.

Producers and landowners interested in participating in CRP should contact their [local FSA county office](#).

## **KEL-MAC SADDLE CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**March 22    2 p.m.-4 p.m.                      Farmington Community Center                      Watkinsville**

The Kel-Mac Saddle Club cordially invites current and past members to attend its 50th anniversary party to celebrate the club's legacy of horses, horsemanship & community. Anyone with old photos of Kel-Mac events or Kel-Mac show memorabilia who is willing to display it at the celebration, is encouraged to contact Valerie at [vpuryear@gmail.com](mailto:vpuryear@gmail.com).

In 1976, the late Norm and Faye Grayson were inspired to create a local horse show for the Athens/Watkinsville/Madison area. Initially, the horse shows were held on land in north Oconee County loaned by Dr. Paul Keller and Dr. James MacDonald. The shows were so successful that

a group of horse enthusiasts established a riding club, named the Kel-Mac Saddle Club for the two doctors.

Today, Kel-Mac Saddle Club is the longest-running saddle club in Georgia that annually features four family and beginner-friendly horse shows, monthly trail rides, camping trips, equine educational meetings, workshops and scholarships.

Over the past 50 years, the club, which now has nearly 100 individual and family memberships, has raised more than \$170,000 for local charitable causes and scholarships. All contributions are raised from the club's horse show proceeds and generous donations.

Recipients have included equine and animal rescue groups, the Morgan County Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund and the equestrian facilities of state and county parks such as A.H. Stephens, Hard Labor Creek, Watson Mill Bridge and Heritage Park.

Members, sponsors, family and friends all contribute to the success of the club as it takes teamwork to host all of the events.

## **NATIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE SURVEY**

**March 31**

**deadline to submit**

AFBF's Women's Leadership program has partnered with a team of researchers, CoBank and JBS to launch this **study that will be live through March 31**. This nationwide initiative will explore women's leadership and involvement in agriculture, identify barriers and opportunities, and provide actionable insights to strengthen engagement and support systems across the U.S. agricultural sector—from production and agribusiness to advocacy, education and entrepreneurship. This survey is open to individuals age 18 and older in the U.S. and Puerto Rico who have an interest or involvement in agriculture, including those who work in production agriculture, agribusiness, education, advocacy or related fields. This includes perspectives of both men and women. The survey takes 12-18 minutes to complete. After completing the survey, participants may choose to sign up for a follow-up focus group or key informant interview. The survey and focus groups will be available in English and Spanish. Results from the study will be shared at the International Year of the Woman Farmer ACE Summit, to be held June 1-3 in Washington, D.C, and a public summary of results will be shared. For more information or to take the survey, visit [www.gfb.ag/women-in-ag-study](http://www.gfb.ag/women-in-ag-study).

## **FERAL SWINE WORKSHOP AND TRAPPING DEMONSTRATION**

**April 2 Warren Co. Extension Office, 48 Warren St. 5 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Warrenton**

This free workshop includes dinner and is sponsored by the Warren County Conservation District, Central Savannah River RC&D Council, AgGeorgia Farm Credit, Warren County Farm Bureau, and Smith Farm Supply, and will be hosted by the Warren County Extension. 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. Each workshop will also include 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. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. More details and registration information are available at [www.GACD.us/events](http://www.GACD.us/events).

### **UGA COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE OPEN HOUSE**

**April 3 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. UGA College of Veterinary Medicine Athens**

This free, family friendly event allows guests to learn more about veterinary medicine and the services the college's teaching hospital offers through interactive exhibits and animal displays. Attendees from 6th grade and older may tour the college's teaching hospital. There will be an option for kids to participate in the Teddy Bear Surgery where kids will step into the roles of surgeons and anesthesiologists for a hands-on experience of treating their stuffed animals. Some events are ticketed. Visit <https://vet.uga.edu/event/open-house-2026/> to sign up for these events and to learn more.

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

**April 18, 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.

### **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>.

### **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/ofscfp>.

### **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>)

### **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.

### **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/feralhoggadresources>.

### **UGA CITRUS ORCHARD NUTRITIONAL SURVEY**

For the past three growing seasons, the UGA Agricultural and Environmental Services Labs (AESL) has been conducting a foliar nutrient survey of Georgia's citrus industry with funding from the USDA and Georgia Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. One of the conditions of the project's grant funding is that researchers seek stakeholder feedback on the effectiveness of the program, and how this work may influence future grower decisions. The project researchers ask that you please complete this short (7 questions, 3-5 minutes) Citrus Nutrition Questionnaire [here](#). These results will help UGA researchers demonstrate the importance of this work to their sponsors, which increases the likelihood of future funding in this area. If you would like to learn more about this project and the results of the study, visit the [project website](#).

### **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.