

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. Producers 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 signup. More information on ASCF is available online at fsa.usda.gov/ascf. Producers can also contact their local FSA county office.

GFB COUNTY VOICES. CAPITOL CHOICES MEETINGS

Aug. 7

Arena Acres

10 a.m. – noon

Perry

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

Aug. 25

Kairo's Farm

10 a.m-noon

Brooklet

Event location is 270 Rushing Rd., Brooklet Ga., 30415

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. Meetings are free to attend but for planning purposes, we do ask that you register at <https://gfb.ag/2026-CVCC>.

AFBF FALL WOMEN'S COMMUNICATIONS BOOT CAMP

Aug. 10

4 p.m.

Application Deadline

Oct. 26-29

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.

SE GEORGIA RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER FIELD DAY

Aug 12

SE GA Research & Education Center Field Day

8:30 a.m.

Midville

The program for this annual event includes an engaging, educational tour of the center, and concludes with a catered lunch at the farm. Pesticide and CCA credits are available. Pre-registration is requested. The center is located at 9638 Highway 56 South, Midville, Georgia 30441. For more information or to register, visit <https://segeorgia.caes.uga.edu/>.

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.

USDA FIELDS PROGRAM

Aug. 15

deadline to submit applications

On July 1, the USDA announced the launch of the \$500 million Fertilizer Investment & Expansion for Long-Term Domestic Supply (FIELDS) Program, a new initiative administered through USDA Rural Development to expand domestic fertilizer manufacturing, strengthen America's fertilizer supply chain, and improve long-term affordability for American farmers. Utilizing the authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), USDA will make \$500 million available through the FIELDS Program to support construction and expansion of domestic fertilizer production facilities. The program prioritizes shovel-ready, financially viable projects capable of increasing production of critical crop nutrients. Administered by USDA Rural Development's Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the FIELDS program will support projects that expand domestic production of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, sulfur, and other critical crop nutrients, strengthen competition, improve supply chain resilience, and increase fertilizer availability for American farmers. Individual awards will range from \$15 million to \$150 million, with funding focused on projects that strengthen domestic fertilizer manufacturing and deliver meaningful benefits to American agriculture. Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 15. Additional information, including eligibility requirements and application materials, is available through USDA Rural Development at www.rd.usda.gov and on <https://Grants.gov>.

GEORGIA PEANUT COMMISSION PEANUT INNOVATION AWARD

Aug. 20

deadline for entries

The Georgia Peanut Innovation Award will recognize and reward the most unique and viable new product concept inspired by Georgia Peanuts. The \$10,000 cash prize will be awarded at the Sunbelt Ag Expo on Oct. 22. The contest is open to any new and unique application of peanuts, whether the product idea is in the prototype phase or has been on the market for less than a year. While the product must be food-related, it can be intended for either human or animal consumption. Peanut product innovators can enter the contest by visiting www.gapeanuts.com and filling out an official entry form. Entries must be submitted by Aug. 20. After an internal evaluation, five finalist entries will be judged by a panel of business professionals from the fields of agriculture, finance, education, retail and product/recipe development.

GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS FORUM

August 25 & 26

UGA-Tifton Conference Center

Tifton

This two-day program, hosted by the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, is tailored for agricultural employers. The forum's format and design encourages active engagement, enabling ag employers, HR managers, and administrators to collaboratively tackle the ongoing and dynamic challenge of securing and sustaining a reliable workforce within a complex regulatory landscape. This event brings together regulators and renowned experts from the U.S. ag labor industry. Attendees should leave the forum with the ability to navigate ag labor issues, apply best practices and resources, and have the resources to find solutions for their operations and for their employees. Event runs from 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 25 and from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Aug. 26. Visit www.georgiaaglaborforum.com for more information and to register.

IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

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 GEORGA PECAN FIELD DAY

Aug. 26 8:30 a.m.

Wilbur Murray Farms

Odum

RSVP by Aug. 20

Private and commercial license credits will be provided with sign in upon arriving at event. Event is free, but please RSVP by Aug. 20 to Andrew Sawyer at 912-512-3030 or agsawyer@uga.edu to help with the meal count. Farm is located at 224 Wilbur Rd., Odum, Ga., 31555.

GEORGIA EPD FOR REGIONAL WATER COUNCILS

Aug. 29

deadline for nominations

Recent legislation signed by Gov. Kemp has revised the composition and term for the Regional Water Planning Councils. The updated designation of Water Planning Councils can be found in Section 14 (page 35) of the [State Water Plan](#), which calls for the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to work in coordination with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Department of Community Affairs, and Department of Economic Development to solicit qualified nominees. Submissions will be collected electronically through the [Georgia Water Planning website](#). **The nomination period ends Aug. 29.** Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis, with an initial target to present a list of qualified nominees for a mid-2026 appointment timeframe. Nominations may be submitted either by the individual (self-nomination) or by an organization or interest group. Click [here](#) for the nomination form.

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](#).

COTTON & PEANUT RESEARCH FIELD DAY

Sept. 2 **UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center** **Tifton**

Event is free, but please register for meal by calling Mallory at 229-386-7274.

GEORGIA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION FALL FIELD DAY

Sept. 3 **Southern Hills Orchards** **9 a.m.** **Leesburg**

Topics will include hedging, spacing, varieties, pecan scab, pest and disease management. Onsite registration begins at 8:15 a.m. with program starting at 9 a.m. Event is free for GPGA members but costs \$40 for nonmembers. Please register ahead of time for an accurate meal count at www.eventbrite.com/e/gpga-annual-fall-field-day-tickets-1990106651567?aff=oddtcreator. If you aren't a GPGA member, you may join when you register. Farm is located at 441 Laramore Rd., Leesburg, GA, 31763.

AFBF FARM 250 PHOTO CONTEST

Sept. 9 **Entry deadline**

American Farm Bureau is celebrating 250 years of agriculture by highlighting farms and ranches across the country through its FARM 250 Photo Contest. Farm Bureau members are encouraged to enter photos that highlight anything pertaining to American ranching or farming, from sunrises and sunsets, family portraits, hero images, landscapes and farmscapes. The top 10 photos will be chosen by voting across AFBF social media platforms and on the FARM250 website. The finalists' photos will be featured in the American Farm Bureau booth at the 2027 American Farm Bureau Convention, Jan. 8-13. The contest winner is eligible for a new iPhone 17, courtesy of T-Mobile, and an expense-paid trip to Charlotte, North Carolina, for the 2027 American Farm Bureau Convention. Visit www.fb.org/initiative/farm250 to enter the contest and for all official rules.

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](#).

2026 GEORGIA FORAGES CONFERENCE

Sept. 17 UGA Tifton Conference Center Small Auditorium 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tifton
UGA Forage team members and invited speakers will discuss managing forages to prevent invasive species and how to build more resilient and economical forage systems. Click [here](#) the to register.

GACD SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP

Sept. 17 registration deadline

Sept. 24 Johnson Angus Farm, 2738 Cedar Grove Rd. 10 a.m. – noon Jefferson

This workshop, presented by the Oconee River Soil and Water Conservation District, will feature presentations on soil health, hay production, nutrient management and common issues. Program includes demonstrations and partner updates from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, UGA Extension and the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission. A free lunch will be provided. To register, call 678-956-3015 or visit www.gacd.us/events.

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.

38TH ANNUAL GEORGIA PEANUT TOUR

Sept. 22-24

Savannah and surrounding area

This tour brings the latest information on peanuts while giving a firsthand view of industry infrastructure from production and handling to processing and utilization. Tour stops will be made in several peanut-producing counties in South Georgia. Attendees can expect to see first-hand nearly every aspect of peanut production in the state. This year's tour hosts many exciting stops including on-farm harvest demonstrations and clinics, research at the University of Georgia Southeast Research and Education Center, Georgia Ports Authority and MANA Nutrition. The tour kicks off this year with the Hot Topics Seminar on Sept. 22 at 2:30 p.m. at The Clyde Venue in Savannah, Georgia. The seminar topics include an update on the 2026 Georgia peanut crop and a special focus on production challenges, enhancing production and climate issues with emphasis on irrigation, fertilizer and other inputs. For specific tour information or details, contact David West at 229-386-3470. Click [here](#) to register. Visit www.georgiapeanuttour.com for more info.

MERCER MEDICAL SCHOOL SURVEY ON FARMER CANCER PREVENTION

Survey ends Sept. 30

Are you a farmer 18 years or older who owns or operates a farm in Georgia? If so, Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) researchers need your help! MUSM is conducting an Institutional Review Board-approved study to better understand cancer prevention practices among Georgia farmers, including topics such as sun (UV) exposure and pesticide safety.

Your experiences are important. By participating, you'll help researchers better understand the needs of Georgia's farming community and support the development of future educational programs and resources designed specifically for Georgia farmers. Survey takes 20–30 minutes. Three participants will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card through a random drawing after completing the survey. Visit <https://gfb.ag/mercemedcancersurvey> to take the survey.

LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Sept. 30

deadline to apply

Applications for the 2026 Lallemand 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 [Lallemand Animal Nutrition website](#). Lallemand Animal Nutrition is a global company that offers microbial solutions for animal health and performance.

[<https://www.lallemandanimalnutrition.com/en/united-states/lallemand-animal-nutrition-scholarship-program/>]

GEORGIA FARM BUREAU HAY CONTEST

Oct. 30

deadline to enter

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 give 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.

2ND ANNUAL GEORGIA FARM BUREAU PB&J 5K

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. 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.

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 gfb.ag/feralhoggadresources.

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.