

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

SUNBELT

North America's Premier Farm Show®

Ag Expo

Moultrie, GA
Oct. 16-18, 2018
sunbeltexpo.com

1200 Exhibitors
Harvesting & Tillage Demos
300+ Seminars & Demos

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Ag Expo**



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SUNBELT EXPO 2018: OUR 41ST SHOW

All in one place you can see more than 4,000 product lines and services to make life better on the farm



IF YOU ARE looking for the latest, most cutting edge agricultural technology, the Sunbelt Ag Expo is the place for you. We welcome our faithful visitors and exhibitors to the 41st annual edition of North America's Premier Farm Show®, the Sunbelt Ag Expo!



As we celebrate our 41 years of service to agriculture, we salute over 1,200 exhibitors that encompass 100 acres of exhibit space and represent over 4,000 different product lines. These exhibitors are showcasing the latest technology to help make life better on the farm.

The Expo's 600-acre Darrell Williams Research Farm is a world-renowned site for agricultural scientists from universities and corporate America to test innovations, and is a proving ground for many advances in ag technology. It's also the location of our daily harvesting and tillage demonstrations, where manufacturers will operate recently released equipment for cotton, peanuts, and hay. The fields are also the location for the John Deere Gator and compact tractor test tracks and other driving ranges.

In the static exhibit area there are over 300 interactive educational displays and demonstrations. These displays and activities showcase the many ways our exhibitors, agricultural researchers, and educators are helping farmers to continue to produce the safest, most economical, and abundant supply of food, fiber, and shelter in the world.

On Tuesday, we will cut the ribbon on the Spotlight State Exhibit. We are honored to have Kentucky as our 2018 Spotlight State. The Kentucky committee has put together a phenomenal exhibit, themed "Kentucky Start to Finish: Pioneering Innovation." The exhibit

will showcase all of the greatest that Kentucky has to offer, including demonstrations that will take place just outside the building. You'll find it all at the Spotlight State Building on the south end of Block B-6.

Also on Tuesday, we will announce the Swisher Sweets Sunbelt Expo/Southeastern Farmer of the Year. It is an honor to celebrate the 29th anniversary of this outstanding program, and to welcome 10 new farm families onto the Farmer of the Year honor roll. We are proud to give these salt-of-the-earth farm families the recognition they so richly deserve.

We do what we do for you — the farmers, consumers, agribusiness community, and everyone involved with agriculture. So, come and join the fun and fellowship, then leave with a renewed sense of community and confidence in America's future as the agricultural leader of the world.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Sunbelt Ag Expo and that you will take time to fully experience all that we have to offer. This show program and our mobile app, Sunbelt Ag Expo 2018, are great resources to help you plan your visit to the Expo.

If you need assistance at any time during your visit, please don't hesitate to let a staff member know. We are honored to have you attend, and we hope your experience here exceeds your expectations.

Chip Blalock
Executive Director
Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition

Welcome from Georgia's Commissioner of Agriculture

I AM HONORED to welcome you to North America's Premier Farm Show®, the 2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo. We are thrilled to be celebrating yet another incredible year at the Expo here in Moultrie. I am confident that this week will once again be a memorable one as attendees from across the Southeast fill the grounds to experience all the latest and greatest developments in agriculture products, services, and technology.

Probably more than any other industry, agriculture is known to have its challenges. Whether it's pest and disease pressures, price fluctuations, labor woes, or weather concerns, farmers are constantly seeking ways to stay out in front of our ever-evolving industry.

With all of that in mind, there is no doubt that southeastern farmers recognize Sunbelt Ag Expo as the trade show for discovering the smartest and most economical techniques to do business. The three days of Expo present some of the very best opportunities to get a glimpse of the latest technologies, get educated on the latest information about crops and practices, and visit with fellow members of the agricultural community.

I encourage farmers — and all those involved in the ag industry — to take the time to not only walk through the exhibit halls and outdoor displays, but also to put some real faces behind the huge economic engine that is our state's No. 1 industry.

While you are here, please be sure to visit us in the Georgia Agriculture Building, located near the main entrance of the Expo. Now in our eighth year, this partnership between the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation and the Georgia Department of Agriculture affords visitors the opportunity to enjoy cooking demonstrations, renew their subscription to the Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin, peruse a portion of the Faces of Georgia Agriculture photo exhibit, and much more.

In addition, we will have staff available to discuss the changes made to the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption program (GATE) during the 2018 Georgia General Assembly. The 2019 GATE renewal process will officially begin Nov. 1, 2018, and our friendly and knowledgeable staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Each year this event brings many new and exciting opportunities to our state, and I am confident that this edition of Sunbelt Ag Expo will not disappoint. I would like to wish all of our exhibitors and attendees a successful week, and I look forward to visiting with you over the next few days.



Gary W. Black
Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Gary W. Black, Commissioner

www.agr.georgia.gov

Kentucky start to finish: Pioneering innovation

BY LAURA LEE WILLIAMS

THE 2018 SUNBELT Ag Expo Spotlight State is the beautiful state of Kentucky! Along with the impressive title, Spotlight State status also comes with a building near the center of Expo grounds.

The great people of Kentucky plan to grace us with the theme "Kentucky start to finish: Pioneering innovation." This year the Spotlight State building will focus on:

- Issues from the pioneering work that Kentucky led in no-till crop production.
- The work Alltech is doing on animal feed and cropland supplements.
- Agriculture in the Classroom.
- The Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation's agricultural policy work.
- Farm safety demonstrations.
- Mobile meat processing technology.
- A surprise "green board."

And that's just to name a few! Make sure you bring your cameras to the Spotlight State building so you and your family can get fun pictures in front of the "green board" that will let visitors get a photo made at a surprise, iconic Kentucky location.

Joe Cain, director of the Commodity Division of Kentucky Farm Bureau, says, "In addition to Kentucky Farm Bureau, we have the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Farm Credit Mid-America, Kentucky State University, Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy, and Kentucky Agriculture Council partnering with us on the exhibit. So, there will be a diversity of information presented."

Why is Kentucky the 2018 Spotlight State? Well, agriculture helped to sustain the first Kentuckians in the 1770s, and raising livestock and growing crops continue to be the backbone of rural Kentucky today. The Bluegrass State is home to a wide variety of agriculture, from horses and cattle to tobacco, peanuts, and corn.

As times change, Kentucky farmers have diversified their operations to include new commodities, such as poultry, aquaculture, and horticulture. The National Agricultural Statistics Service notes that in 2014, Kentucky was home to 76,500 farms, making it the 6th ranking state in farm numbers. Average farm size is 170 acres, and 51 percent of the state's land is farmland.



Kentucky's agricultural industry is dominated by small family farms, and we hope some of those family farmers show up to support their state at this year's Expo!

While you're touring the Expo grounds, make sure you take a walk through the Spotlight State building to see all that Kentucky has to offer!





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- Kentucky Farm Bureau
- Mississippi Farm Bureau
- Mississippi State University
- NC State University
- North Carolina Farm Bureau
- Southern Regional Technical College
- South Carolina Farm Bureau
- Tennessee Farm Bureau
- Tuskegee University
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Kentucky
- University of Tennessee
- Virginia Farm Bureau
- Virginia Tech University

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Show Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: \$10 per day per person. \$20 for three-day pass. Children 10 and under admitted free with parent. Cash only accepted at ticket booths. Advance Discount Tickets can be purchased online at www.sunbeltexpo.com until midnight Oct. 12. No pets. No golf carts or ATVs. Wheelchairs and handicap scooters permitted. Disabled access at Gate 3.

Location: Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition's permanent home is on 1,680 acres located four miles southeast of U.S. Hwy. 319 on Hwy. 133 near Moultrie, Ga.

Airport: Private and charter planes can land on an FAA-controlled, hard-surface, 4,500-foot runway at Spence Field.

ATM: ATM machines are located in Agribusiness Buildings 1 and 2, Family Living Building, underneath the Flight Tower, and near the restrooms in the center of the exhibit grounds.

Wireless Internet Service: Wireless Internet is provided by CNS Internet and sponsored by Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation, Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District, Moultrie/Colquitt County Economic

Development Authority, and Sunbelt Expo. There are multiple wireless access points located on the show grounds — just choose your nearest access point that includes Sunbelt Expo, click and go.

Comfort Station is provided courtesy of Farm Credit, and is available for visitors to take a rest break. It is located at their building at B-9.

First-Aid Stations are available at the Farm Press Lounge, located in the center of the exhibit grounds, and at the International Business Center, located on the east side of the Expo Headquarters Building, and west of the John Deere exhibit in front of Spence Field Community Center.

Parking Shuttle: EZeventride will circle parking areas at Gate 1 and will provide courtesy transportation to the Ticket Booth for visitors needing assistance. Look for green-and-blue "Shuttle" flags sponsored by Trinity Trailer for pick-up and drop-off locations.

Convenience Carts: These golf carts inside the exhibit area, marked "How May I Help You," will run a U-shaped route through the exhibit area. Guests can board carts on the south end of Block B-9 (between the Farm Credit Building and Chandler Equipment)



or the north-east side of E-8 (between the Cattle Pavilion and the restroom). Guests can also board carts on the north side of D-2 (Case IH) and on the northwest side A-1-2 (between

John Deere and Kubota). There will be tall, red "Shuttle" flags at the stops.

GDA Farm Safety Sunbelt Shuttle: This tram, sponsored by the Georgia Department of Agriculture Farm Safety Division, will travel the grounds with multiple pick-up and drop-off locations. See the route listed above under "Convenience Carts" for specific locations. There will be tall, white "Shuttle" flags at the stops.

Lost Parties: If you become separated from your group, go to the orange flight tower near Main Gate. This is the location where the announcer will send any lost guests.

GRANT SUPPORTERS

Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
Anderson Manufacturing
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Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation
Central Life Sciences
Certified Ag Resources Inc.
City of Moultrie
Colquitt County Board of Commissioners
Columbia Sportswear/Ivey's Outdoor & Farm Supply
Country Financial
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Farmers Organic
Flint River Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Georgia Pork Producers
Georgia Young Farmers Association
Gravely
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Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Lauri Jo's Southern Style Canning
LMC
Maule Air
Miller Electric
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce
Moultrie-Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce
Moultrie-Colquitt County Development Authority
NACHURS

NexGen
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Southeast Farm Press/Farm Progress
Priefert Ranch Equipment
Philadelphia College of Medicine (PCOM)
PhytoGen Cottonseed
Sanderson Farms
South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Specialty Sales - Monosem
Stripling's General Store
Tac Auction Service
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Titan Tire/Goodyear
TriEst
Trinity Trailer
Tyson Steel Buildings
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Zimmatic by Lindsay

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Events subject to change)

SPECIAL EVENTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:20 a.m.	Opening Ceremony for the 41st Sunbelt Ag Expo	D-7	R.W. Griffin Stage
9:40 a.m.	Southeastern Hay Contest Awards Recognition	D-7	R.W. Griffin Stage
10:00 a.m.	Ribbon Cutting – Agri-Supply Company (Building Naming)	AB #3	North End
10:25 a.m.	Ribbon Cutting - Kentucky Spotlight State	B-6	South End
10:45 a.m.	Ribbon Cutting - Trinity Trailer (New Location)	WC-8-72D	North End
12 noon	Willie B. Withers Luncheon & Swisher Sweets Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year Announcement (Invitation only)		Maule Hangar
2:30 p.m.	Cow Milking Contest featuring the Deans of the Ag Schools from Auburn University, Fort Valley State University, University of Florida and University of Georgia	D-7	Dairy Pavilion

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

8:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Youth Educational Challenges sponsored by Country Financial	D-7	R.W. Griffin
10:00 a.m.	Georgia Department of Highway Safety Event – “Improve Georgia’s Yield Behind the Wheel”		GA Ag Building
11:00 a.m.	Youth Educational Opportunity - John Deere Opportunities	A-1	John Deere
11:00 a.m.	Georgia Department of Agriculture Dog and Cat Spay and Neuter Sterilization Grant Awards Presentation		GA Ag Building
1:00 p.m.	Titan/Goodyear and Georgia FFA Foundation Tire Auction Tires will range in application and include ATV, combine, small tractor and logging applications. All tires will be auctioned as single item; Option to buyer as either one or as a pair of tires. Terms include cash, check or credit card as approved. This is a real auction, with real auctioneer, bid paddles and real dollars. Once you purchase an item, it is yours to go home with. Please note: All items must wait until 5 p.m. to remove through exit gates. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the Georgia FFA (Future Farmers of America)	A-3	Titan/Goodyear Farm Tires
1:00 p.m.	Young Farmer Terrell Weeks Spirit of Q’fest Site Judging		Q’fest Site
1:30 p.m.	Youth Educational Opportunity - Precision Ag is Decision Ag	A-1	John Deere
2:00 p.m.	Advancing Georgia’s Leaders in Agriculture and Forestry Lemonade and Leadership Social; Agri-leaders and AGL alumni are encouraged to stop by and visit	B-5	UGA CAES
2:30 p.m.	Youth Educational Challenge Awards Ceremony sponsored by Country Financial	D-7	R.W. Griffin Stage
5:30 p.m.	Young Farmer Event (only open to members of Young Farmer Association and their families)		Maule Hangar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

2:30 p.m. Winner of Grand Prize and other major prize drawings will be announced from Farm Credit Roving Stage located at the Main Gate — Flight Tower.
 ■ Agri-Supply Prize Package ■ Carolina Cooker Prize Package ■ KDA Farm Safety Kits ■ Reinke Donation to 26.2 with Donna Cancer Foundation

EXHIBIT AREA SEMINARS

Safety Demonstrations — South end of B-6

Kentucky Department of Agriculture Ag Safety Team will be demonstrating grain safety, tractor rollover safety, and PTO safety. Visit to register for a KDA Farm Safety Kit to be given to a Fire Rescue Department of your choosing.

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Beef and Cattle Management and Forage Seminars – Beef Pavilion, E-8

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
9:40 a.m. SE Hay Contest Winner Announcement, D-7 R.W. Griffin Stage	9:30 a.m. Alfalfa in the Deep South: Yes it Can Happen!	9:30 a.m. Integrated Crop and Livestock Systems in the Southeast
10:30 a.m. Beef Market Outlook / USDA Update	10:30 a.m. Beef Market Outlook / USDA Update	10:30 a.m. Beef Market Outlook / USDA Update
11:30 a.m. Adding Value to Feeder Calves: Evaluation and Management	11:30 a.m. Adding Value to Feeder Calves: Evaluation and Management	11:30 a.m. Adding Value to Feeder Calves: Evaluation and Management
12:30 p.m. Putting Your Checkoff Dollars to Work: Research Update	12:30 p.m. Putting Your Checkoff Dollars to Work: Research Update	12:30 p.m. Putting Your Checkoff Dollars to Work: Research Update
1:30 p.m. Good Pasture Management Builds Healthy Soils	1:30 p.m. Latest Buzz on the Bermudagrass Stem Maggot	1:30 p.m. Alternate Forage Options for the Southeast
2:30 p.m. Utilizing Technology in Beef Cattle Production	2:30 p.m. Utilizing Technology in Beef Cattle Production	2:30 p.m. Utilizing Technology in Beef Cattle Production

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EXHIBIT AREA SEMINARS

Dairy Seminars — F-7

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
All Day	Dairy Specialists from UGA and UF available for questions	All Day	Dairy Specialists from UGA and UF available for questions	All Day	Dairy Specialists from UGA and UF available for questions
10:00 a.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom	10:00 a.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom	10:00 a.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom
10:30 a.m.	Mastitis Prevention and Control	10:30 a.m.	Mastitis Prevention and Control	10:30 a.m.	Mammary Immunity: Protecting the Udder from Infection
11:00 a.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom	11:00 a.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom
11:30 a.m.	Basic Steps for Reducing Heat Stress	11:30 a.m.	Dairy Genetics	11:30 a.m.	Basic Steps for Reducing Heat Stress
12:30 p.m.	Calf Management Under Heat Stress Condition	12:30 p.m.	How to Raise a Homegrown Calf	12:30 p.m.	How to Raise a Homegrown Calf
1:00 p.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom	1:00 p.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom	1:00 p.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom
1:30 p.m.	Heifer Reproductive Management and Economics	1:30 p.m.	Mammary Immunity: Protecting the Udder from Infection	1:30 p.m.	The Mammary Gland of a Dairy Cow
2:00 p.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom	2:00 p.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom	2:00 p.m.	Mobile Dairy Classroom
2:30 p.m.	Cow Milking Contest				

Equine Demonstrations and Seminars — Priefert Horse Arena, E-11

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Rodeo Royalty Introductions	9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Rodeo Royalty Introductions	9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Rodeo Royalty Introductions
10:00 a.m.	Hands & Hearts for Horses – Celebrating Unique Gifts of Individuals through Therapeutic Horsemanship and Human Relationships	10:00 a.m.	Hands & Hearts for Horses – Celebrating Unique Gifts of Individuals through Therapeutic Horsemanship and Human Relationships	10:00 a.m.	Hands & Hearts for Horses – Celebrating Unique Gifts of Individuals through Therapeutic Horsemanship and Human Relationships
11:00 a.m.	Horse Master with Julie Goodnight	11:00 a.m.	Julie Goodnight (Teaching Equine Skills to Winners of the 2018 4-H Essay Contest)	11:00 a.m.	Horse Master with Julie Goodnight
1:00 p.m.	Horse Master with Julie Goodnight	1:00 p.m.	Julie Goodnight (Teaching Equine Skills to Winners of the 2018 4-H Essay Contest)	1:00 p.m.	Horse Master with Julie Goodnight
2:00 p.m.	Horse Master with Julie Goodnight	2:00 p.m.	Julie Goodnight (Teaching Equine Skills to Winners of the 2018 4-H Essay Contest)	2:00 p.m.	Horse Master with Julie Goodnight

Fence Building Seminars — Bekaert - D-8

Bekaert Corporation will host daily seminars to demonstrate building braces, tying off your fence, proper tensioning techniques, and more during each session. Integral to the process, you will also learn how to start your build correctly and techniques for easier install.

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
10:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	

Pond Management and Aquaculture Seminars — F-8

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
All Day	"Ask the Expert" Booth Featuring Pond Weed ID	All Day	"Ask the Expert" Booth Featuring Live, Freshwater Invertebrates and Pond Weed ID	All Day	"Ask the Expert" Booth Featuring Pond Weed ID
9:00 a.m.	Managing Ponds for Great Fishing	9:00 a.m.	Managing Your Pond for Great Fishing	9:00 a.m.	Introduction to Aquaponics
10:00 a.m.	Weed Management in Lakes and Ponds	10:00 a.m.	Take Your Photo with Captain Catfish – Sponsored by U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish	10:00 a.m.	Adapting Aquaponics for Commercial Sales
10:45 a.m.	Fantastic U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish Recipes: A Cooking Demonstration	10:30 a.m.	Fantastic U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish Recipes: A Cooking Demonstration	11:00 a.m.	Fantastic U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish Recipes: A Cooking Demonstration
11:45 a.m.	How to Fillet Fish	11:30 a.m.	How to Fillet Fish	12:00 p.m.	Take Your Photo with Captain Catfish – Sponsored by U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish
12:15 p.m.	Take Your Photo with Captain Catfish – Sponsored by U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish	12:00 p.m.	Fantastic U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish Recipes: A Cooking Demonstration	12:30 p.m.	Fantastic U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish Recipes: A Cooking Demonstration
12:30 p.m.	Fantastic U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish Recipes: A Cooking Demonstration	1:00 p.m.	Common Water Creatures: Their Biology, Ecology, and Identification	1:30 p.m.	Controlling Nuisance Pond Wildlife: Otters, Beavers, and Birds
1:30 p.m.	Introduction to Aquaponics	2:00 p.m.	Aquatic Weed Control for Private Ponds		
2:30 p.m.	Adapting Aquaponics for Commercial Sales				

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Events subject to change)

EXHIBIT AREA SEMINARS

Poultry Seminars – E-6

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
10:00 a.m.	Behavior of Backyard Flocks	10:00 a.m.	Starting a Layer Flock	10:00 a.m.	Poultry Biosecurity
2:00 p.m.	Poultry Health Updates	2:00 p.m.	Medicating Small Poultry Flocks	2:00 p.m.	Nutrition and Feeding of Poultry

Sheep and Goat Seminars — North end of Block F-8

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Goat Milking Demonstration	9:00 a.m.	Goat Milking Demonstration	9:00 a.m.	Goat Milking Demonstration
10:00 a.m.	Economics of Small Ruminant Production	10:00 a.m.	Economics of Small Ruminant Production	10:00 a.m.	Economics of Small Ruminant Production
10:45 a.m.	Fencing for Small Ruminants.	10:45 a.m.	Fencing for Small Ruminants	10:45 a.m.	Fencing for Small Ruminants.
11:30 a.m.	Shearing Demonstration	11:30 a.m.	Shearing Demonstration	1:00 p.m.	Health and Diseases including Demonstration of Animal Handling, Body Condition Scoring, Hoof Care/Trimming, Vaccinations, Deworming, and Drenching
1:00 p.m.	Health and Diseases including Demonstration of Animal Handling, Body Condition Scoring, Hoof Care/Trimming, Vaccinations, Deworming, and Drenching	1:00 p.m.	Health and Diseases including Demonstration of Animal Handling, Body Condition Scoring, Hoof Care/Trimming, Vaccinations, Deworming, and Drenching	2:00 p.m.	Feeding and Pasture Management
2:00 p.m.	Nutrition / Forages	2:00 p.m.	Nutrition / Forages	3:00 p.m.	Goat Milking Demonstration
3:00 p.m.	Goat Milking Demonstration	3:00 p.m.	Goat Milking Demonstration		

COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

Georgia Grown and Georgia Department of Agriculture — GA Grown/GA Farm Bureau Bldg. at Main Gate

Cooking Demonstrations with Georgia Grown's Executive Chef, Holly Chute, and Farm to School Nutrition Coordinator, Misty Friedman

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
11:00 a.m.	School Lunch Favorites	11:00 a.m.	Apple Pecan Pancakes with Candied Bacon	11:00 a.m.	Sweet Potato and Sausage Hash Bowl
1:00 p.m.	School Lunch Favorites	1:00 p.m.	Springer Mountain Farms Chicken and Grits		
3:00 p.m.	School Lunch Favorites	3:00 p.m.	Springer Mountain Farms Wings Three Ways		

Lauri Jo's Southern Style Cooking Stage — Family Living

Cooking Demonstrations with Lauri Jo Bennett and Layne Varnedoe, joined by Paige Brown of Paige Brown Arts

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
11:00 a.m.	"Kiss the Cook" – Keep It Simple and Southern	11:00 a.m.	"Kiss the Cook" – Keep It Simple and Southern	11:00 a.m.	"Kiss the Cook" – Keep It Simple and Southern
1:00 p.m.	"Kiss the Cook" – Keep It Simple and Southern	1:00 p.m.	"Kiss the Cook" – Keep It Simple and Southern	1:00 p.m.	"Kiss the Cook" – Keep It Simple and Southern

U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish - South end of F-8

Cooking Demonstrations with Chef Chris Wilton of Wilton's Catering in Opelika, Alabama

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
10:45 a.m.	Buttermilk Biscuits with Catfish Breakfast Sausage	10:30 a.m.	Catfish Boudin	11:00 a.m.	"Catfish Johnny Cakes with Caribbean Salsa
12:30 p.m.	Catfish Egg Rolls with Hot Dipping Sauce	12:00 p.m.	Catfish Steam Buns	12:30 p.m.	Grilled Catfish Tikki Masala

OTHER EVENTS ON SHOWGROUNDS

American Grand Finals Stockdog Trials	8:30 a.m. – Stockdog Trials	Field at north end of exhibit
Antique Tractor Parade	2:00 p.m. — Watch machines from bygone era roll through the show grounds.	WC-7 (begins and ends)
CHEVY – Official Courtesy Truck of Sunbelt Expo – Truck Test Track	Test Drive the newest models from CHEVY	C-13
EMCs of Georgia		
9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m.	Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon (weather permitting) EMC High Voltage Demonstrations Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon (weather permitting) (Tues and Wed only)	Flyover A-6 Flyover

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENTS IN THE FIELD

Equipment Test Tracks and Demonstrations

Trams will depart 15 minutes prior to the posted Demo Time from the Tram Station (north of D-1)
At the conclusion of the demo, trams will return directly to the Tram Station. Trams do not travel to any other areas of fields.
For more information, see Field Demo Map in center of Show Program.

Blue River Technology See & Spray System Demonstration 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. Daily	See & Spray looks at every plant in the field to determine if the plant is a weed and turns on the appropriate nozzles to only spray the weeds.
John Deere Gator and Compact Tractor Test Track 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Daily	Test drive the newest Gator model — John Deere is Sunbelt Expo's Official Utility Vehicle
Yanmar 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Daily	Test drive ATVs, UTVs, and Compact Tractors

Harvesting and Tillage Demonstrations

Trams will depart 15 minutes prior to the posted Demo Time from the Tram Station (north of D-1)
At the conclusion of the demo, trams will return directly to the Tram Station. Trams do not travel to any other areas of fields.
For more information, see Field Demo Map in center of Show Program.

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
10:00 a.m.	Tillage	10:00 a.m.	Tillage	10:00 a.m.	Tillage
11:00 a.m.	Peanut Digging	11:00 a.m.	Peanut Digging	11:00 a.m.	Peanut Digging
12:30 p.m.	Cotton Harvest	12:30 p.m.	Cotton Harvest	12:30 p.m.	Cotton Harvest
12:45 p.m.	Peanut Harvest	12:45 p.m.	Peanut Harvest	12:45 p.m.	Peanut Harvest
1:30 p.m.	Peanut Digging	1:30 p.m.	Peanut Digging	1:30 p.m.	Cotton Harvest
2:00 p.m.	Tillage	2:00 p.m.	Tillage	2:00 p.m.	Tillage
2:30 p.m.	Cotton Harvest	2:00 p.m.	Cotton Harvest	2:45 p.m.	Peanut Harvest
2:45 p.m.	Peanut Harvest	2:45 p.m.	Peanut Harvest		

Hay Demonstrations

Trams will depart 15 minutes prior to the posted Demo Time from the Tram Station (north of D-1)
At the conclusion of the demo, trams will return directly to the Tram Station. Trams do not travel to any other areas of fields.
For more information, see Field Demo Map in center of Show Program.

TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
10:00 a.m.	Tedding	10:00 a.m.	Tedding	10:00 a.m.	Tedding
11:00 a.m.	Cutting	11:00 a.m.	Cutting	11:30 a.m.	Raking
11:30 p.m.	Raking	11:30 p.m.	Raking	12:30 p.m.	Baling
12:30 p.m.	Baling	12:30 p.m.	Baling	1:00 p.m.	Cutting
1:30 p.m.	Tedding	1:30 p.m.	Tedding	1:30 p.m.	Tedding
2:00 p.m.	Raking	2:00 p.m.	Raking	2:00 p.m.	Raking
2:30 p.m.	Baling	2:30 p.m.	Baling	2:30 p.m.	Baling
3:00 p.m.	Cutting	3:00 p.m.	Cutting		

DISABILITY ACCESS FOR SUNBELT EXPO

A special entrance at Expo has been designated for physically disabled visitors. Please go to Gate 3 and proceed to the orange ticket sales booth near the south end of WC-7 in the exhibit grounds. The hard-surface parking area at Gate 3 will provide the easiest access onto the grounds.



The Expo allows wheelchairs, both manual and electric. The use of golf carts, riding mowers, ATVs, or any other type of motorized vehicles is prohibited. Electric scooters, electric wheelchairs, and manual wheelchairs are available for rent at the Expo from Vista Mobility. They are located in section WC-7 (near Gate 3 — Handicap Parking). Representatives can be reached by phone at 1-262-677-2696.

Permanent restrooms on the grounds are also accessible to the disabled.

Anyone with a disability may contact the Expo office 24 hours in advance of their arrival to request assistance in meeting any special requirements.

Keeping Produce Safe for Consumption

Introducing the first ever science-based standards for safe produce



WHAT

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety rule is the first ever, science-based standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption. What this means is that produce farms covered under the rule will be held to standards designed to ensure safe food. This means keeping those nutritious fruit and vegetables safe for you and your family and as a grower.



WHO

The rule impacts both consumers and growers. While the rule creates standards for agricultural water quality, employee health and hygiene, animals, biological soil amendments of animal origin (such as compost and manure) and equipment, tools and buildings at its heart is the desire to grow, harvest, and sell safe wholesome food for public health. Produce growers can view the flow chart on the back to determine if you are covered under the rule.



WHERE

This is a nationwide endeavor to support the safe growing, harvesting, packing and holding of fruits and vegetables. This helps ensure no matter where or who you are, you have access to safe, wholesome and nutritious fruits and vegetables grown right here in the USA.



WHY

In a growing world of globalization, it has never been more important to have an understanding of agriculture and cherish the unique relationship between farmers and consumers. The point is simple, without farmers we would have no food. Eating fruits and vegetables is a part of a healthy diet, but eating contaminated produce can lead to foodborne illness, often called “food poisoning.” We all must do our part, whether it is in our home kitchens or on our farms, to ensure these foods are safe to enjoy and serve to our family, friends and loved ones.

COMPLIANCE DATES

Business Classification	Business Size	Sprouts Compliance Dates	Covered Produce Compliance Dates	Water Compliance Dates
All other businesses	>\$500k	January 2017	January 2018	January 26, 2022
Small businesses	>\$250k-\$500k	January 2018	January 2019	January 26, 2023
Very small businesses	>\$25k-\$250k	January 2019	January 2020	January 26, 2024

*dates are subject to change based on FDA decisions/guidance



Funding for this statement, publication, press release, etc., was made possible, in part, by the Food and Drug Administration through grant PAR-16-137. The views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the United States Government.

Are you rule ready?

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings:



Trainings will provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan.

These trainings are offered throughout the state of Georgia accommodating growers according to their location.



After attending the one-day course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course.

Interested?

Growers can sign up for produce safety alliance grower trainings at



georgiafarmsafety.com

On Farm Readiness Reviews



OFRR consists of a voluntary, non-regulatory, pre-inspectional visit to farms growing produce inspected by the Produce Safety Rule.

This is not an inspection but about educating before regulating.



The goal is to provide farmers with a free educational opportunity intended to walk growers through what an actual inspection on their farm may look like before a real inspection is conducted.

Any notes taken on the farm will remain with the farmer.



GEORGIAFARMSAFETY.COM

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Hoss Tools garden shows how to grow your own foods

THE HOSS TOOLS Sustainable Living Center is a 15,000 square ft. area with a demonstration garden located inside the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo on Block WB-7. This ultra-popular area is a fan favorite with its 12,000 square foot demonstration garden, one of the most beautiful gardens in the Southeast. The demonstration garden is maintained and manicured by Greg Key, owner and operator of Hoss Tools. Greg uses his quality tools in every aspect of garden preparation and planting.

Greg has been involved in horticulture and agriculture for over 30 years. An expert in organic and small-scale production, he has been on the forefront of the local food movement. He enjoys studying the processes of food production and educating people about how to achieve the goal of growing healthy, local food. With vegetable gardening being one of his favorite hobbies, he founded Hoss Tools in 2009, with the goal of manufacturing and selling high-quality, American-made garden tools. Today, Hoss Tools provides gardening tools and supplies to people all over the world, allowing them to grow their own food.



The Hoss Tools Demonstration Garden contains a wide variety of crops provided by Johnny's Seeds, including new and upcoming crop varieties and old staple varieties that are beloved and familiar to everyone. Visitors can meander among a variety of raised and traditional beds, featuring new and heirloom okra varieties, lettuce varieties that grow well in warm southern climates, varieties of kale, radishes, and beautiful cut flowers. Gardeners can see and learn about cover crops that can help fight nematodes. You'll even have the opportunity to "test-drive" our Wheel Hoes, Garden Seeders, and other specialty tools to see how much time and energy they can save in your garden.

The Georgia Metals Exhibitor's Pavilion at the Hoss Tools Sustainable Living Center links visitors to exhibitors with a wide variety of products to help you "grow your own food." Items for sale include garden tools, vegetable seed, compost, and other sustainable products to help you maximize the potential of your garden. For at-home gardeners and small-scale farmers, the Hoss Tools Sustainable Living Center is a "must see." Visit the Sustainable Living Center to see Greg and his staff for one-on-one demonstrations about anything from market farming to hobby gardening.



NATURE'S FAVORITE STATE

visit
Georgia's
Commissioner
of Agriculture

GARY BLACK
in the Georgia
Agriculture Building
and enjoy cooking
demonstrations,
giveaways, and more!

GATE Information for GATE
also available at the
Georgia Agriculture
Building.
GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL TAX EXEMPTION
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Don't Just

WANDER

the Grounds!



Make the most of your **2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo** experience with the exclusive mobile app, which includes all the latest show happenings.

Sunbelt Mobile App Features:



Maps

Find your favorite exhibitor booth.



Sessions

See all seminars by day, time, and location.



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Need the details? Find them here.



Speakers

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Much to see and do at 2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo Here's how to make the most of your time

BY JOHN LEIDNER
Contributing Writer

IF IT'S FALL in south Georgia, it's time for Sunbelt Ag Expo. The annual celebration is much like a family reunion for all the businesses and industries that serve agriculture in the southeastern U.S.



It was established as a place where farmers and their families could take a well-deserved break from their daily chores to enjoy a unique opportunity to see firsthand what the agricultural industry has to offer, and to catch a glimpse of the future of farming.

The agriculture-based trade show is held each October at Spence Field near Moultrie, Ga. Known as "North America's Premier Farm Show®," Expo features more than 1,200 exhibits that showcase the latest in farming technology. It's the place farmers can come to obtain practical information on how to be better at what they do.

Whether you are a large acreage production farmer, or a weekend lifestyle farmer, home gardener, or just someone with an interest in rural living, Expo is an event you won't want to miss.

Expo has a unique site for its displays. For instance, you'll find a 100-acre exhibit area, plus an adjoining 600-acre working research farm. The exhibit area will have a good mix of outdoor displays, along with indoor exhibits in permanent buildings. These exhibits will carry virtually any, and every, product or service a farmer or someone who lives in the country would need.

This official program is your best resource for finding out everything there is to see and do at this big farm show. Use this program to plan your visit through the 100 acres of exhibits, and be sure to bring it with you when you come to Expo.

Harvesting and tillage demonstrations in the crop fields set the Expo apart and above most other agricultural trade shows. Visiting farmers can follow along as crops are harvested, and get a closeup look at combines and other farm machinery in operation. Tractor-



drawn shuttle wagons will carry visitors out to the fields where cotton, peanuts, and hay are being harvested, and will then return everyone to the exhibit grounds.

The harvesting and tillage demonstrations, as well as the equipment driving ranges and precision agriculture demonstrations, all provide opportunities to see and compare a wide range of equipment in an actual working farm setting. Expo is also one of the best venues for comparing different brands of irrigation equipment. Company representatives and specialists will be in the fields and at exhibits to answer questions.

Innovation, science, technology, and education are all a part of the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, the largest farm show in the Southeast, and the largest farm show in the U.S. to offer harvesting and tillage field demonstrations.

Animal agriculture provides a living for many Sunbelt farmers and ranchers, and Expo will have a good selection of animal-related exhibits. You'll find special exhibit sections focusing on horses, beef cattle, sheep and goats, poultry, alpacas, and fish and pond management.

In addition to static exhibits, visitors can also attend educational and entertaining seminars, and demonstrations for a variety of specialized agricultural industries. These presentations will be among the highlights of the beef, horse, sheep and goat, aquaculture, alpaca, dairy and poultry exhibits. Also check out the presentations on electrical safety, backyard gardening, and sustainable living.

If you're interested in fishing, pond management, or fish farming, be sure to visit the aquaculture exhibits on the northernmost part of the exhibit grounds. A master catfish chef will provide cooking demonstrations, while children can test their casting skills in fish ponds. Seminars by university fish experts will cover a wide variety of topics, including aquaponics, a production system that combines aspects of aquaculture with hydroponics.

Other special sections cover agribusiness, tractors and equipment, irrigation, precision agriculture, livestock, forestry, antique tractors, pickup and automotive exhibits, lawn and garden products, electricity, propane gas, hunting and fishing, family living, backyard gardening, all-terrain vehicles, and stock dogs.

Expo works closely with 22 land grant colleges and universities in the Southeast. Many of these schools will have their own excellent educational exhibits at the show, while others will share the expertise of their researchers and Extension specialists who help make Expo's educational demonstrations and seminars so informative.

You'll be able to see an antique tractor parade starting at 2 p.m. each day. And when these machines from bygone days are not rolling through the show grounds, you can find them in the outside static displays at location WC-7 in the western section of the exhibit grounds.

You'll also find test driving tracks for tractors, trucks, and all-terrain vehicles. Some of these will be found along the Farm Shop Road, the main field road leading from the exhibit area and past the Expo farm shop, before eventually reaching the crop fields in the Darrell Williams Research Farm. Driving tracks for all-terrain vehicles will be found in the easternmost part of the exhibit grounds, near the active aircraft runway and parked airplanes at locations B-13 and C-13.

Each year, the Sunbelt Expo highlights the agriculture of one of ten southeastern states, and this year the spotlight is on the Commonwealth of Kentucky, home to America's best-known horse race, the Kentucky Derby. But, there's much more to

Kentucky agriculture than horse racing. The state's top agricultural commodities include broilers, corn, horses and mules, soybeans, cattle and calves, tobacco, dairy products, wheat, hay, and eggs.

The agricultural organizations within the state are working together to come up with a topnotch exhibit that will give each Expo visitor a real appreciation for the farming expertise that can be found in the Bluegrass State. You can find the Kentucky exhibit at location B-6 on the exhibit grounds.

Expo also offers great family entertainment. Some exhibits will have musical performers, and the American Grand Finals stock dog competition offers great entertainment for visitors who can sit and watch the action from well-shaded bleacher seats. Stock dog trials will take place with continuous competition throughout all three days of the show.

This marks the 29th year for the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year awards. For almost three decades, these awards have grown to become one of the most prestigious honors available to Southeast agricultural producers.

The program recognizes ten outstanding farmers from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The overall Farmer of the Year winner will be announced Tuesday, Oct. 16. Each state winner



will receive \$2,500, along with other valuable prizes, and the overall winner will receive \$15,000 plus some other nice prizes.

Top agricultural scientists from the southeastern region, many from the University of Georgia, collaborate on dozens of research projects at the Expo's 600-acre Darrell Williams Research Farm. These studies cover everything from the latest and best crop varieties to row spacing, plant disease and insect control, soil fertilization practices, irrigation scheduling, and precision ag technology, to name but a few.

"Our studies with university and corporate researchers are focused on the major crops grown in the Southeast — cotton, peanuts, corn, soybeans, and forages — and are all aimed at improving the farmer's bottom line," says Chip Blalock, Sunbelt Expo executive director.

Cody Mitchell, Expo farm manager, and his crew of co-workers have been working throughout the year to make sure the farm is a showplace, with ripe crops in peak condition for harvesting during the three days of the farm show.

Weather forced some delays in planting Expo crops this year, and planting wasn't completed until June 18. As a result, Mitchell and the farm crew had to alter some of their normal production practices, for example, planting some different cotton varieties. And in order to plant a peanut variety that would be ready for harvest during mid-October, they switched to the Georgia-09B runner variety, which is considered to have a medium maturity. Mitchell has been hoping it would be ready for harvest about 125 days after planting.

The Hoss Tools Sustainable Living Center at Expo is designed specifically for families who produce, or want to produce, their own food from gardens and small farming plots. Folks who want to grow their own food will enjoy presentations on topics such as growing fresh fruits and vegetables, beekeeping, and honey production.

You'll find these exhibits in the western section of the show grounds, at location WB-7, near entrance gates 2 and 3. Sustainable Living exhibits are easily accessible from the handicapped parking area.

Expo extends a special welcome to young farmers and their families Wednesday, Oct. 17. During that day, Young Farmer chapters will compete in a barbecue pork cooking contest and a horseshoe pitching tournament, followed by an evening dinner with entertainment and valuable door prizes.

Also on Wednesday, a new series of competitive events will be offered to visiting middle school and high school youth. These events are patterned after those designed for competing FFA members, though students in 4-H or other organizations are invited to take part. Many of these events will be in the R.W. Griffin building at location D-7.

Since its beginning in 1978, Expo has offered exhibits catering to the entire family, and this year is no exception. The Expo Family Living Building is located to your left after you enter the main gates, and will again host some 175 different exhibits, with many unique products that can be used in the home, garden, and kitchen. The Family Living Building has become especially noted for hosting cooking demonstrations, along with exhibits featuring one-of-a-kind and locally-grown foods, spices, and cooking ingredients.

Renowned equine expert Julie Goodnight will be performing and educating Expo visitors about horsemanship during all three days of this year's show. She grew up on a Florida horse farm and currently works from her stables in Poncha Springs, Colo. She has hosted her own television program, "Horse Master with Julie Goodnight," and is an expert in training both riders and horses for dressage, jumping, racing, reining, and cutting. She emphasizes rider safety in her training sessions. Goodnight's sessions, along with other equine events, will take place at the Priefert Horse Arena at location E-11 in the northernmost part of the exhibit grounds. Her appearance is sponsored by the Georgia Equine Commission.

The 2018 Sunbelt Expo will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Oct. 16-18. Exhibit grounds are open to visitors starting at 8:30 a.m. each day, with closing at 5 p.m. Tuesday/Wednesday, and 4 p.m. Thursday.

Admission prices are \$10 per person, or \$20 for a three-day pass. Children age 10 and under are admitted free with accompanying adults. Expo offers discounted advance tickets that can be purchased from Aug. 1 until Oct. 12. For information on advance ticket sales, please check out the Expo website (www.sunbeltexpo.com) or contact the Expo by e-mail at info@sunbeltexpo.com

The Expo website's visitor information page will have a list of motels in the area. If you will require overnight lodging, it's suggested that you contact motels early for reservations, as those in and near Moultrie tend to be filled during the show. Also, overnight camping is available on the Expo grounds. If you are interested in RV parking or camping, phone 229-890-5425.

Sunbelt Expo is located on Georgia Hwy. 133 four miles southeast of U.S. Hwy. 319 and southeast of Moultrie, and is held on 1,680 acres of the former Spence Field, an old military airbase. Runways at Spence Field will be active during Expo. Private and charter airplanes can land on a 4,500-foot FAA-controlled hard-surface runway. From the airplane parking areas, it's just a short walk to the exhibits.



Agri Supply steps up with Expo sponsorship

BY JOHN LEIDNER
Contributing Writer

AGRI SUPPLY HAS been a long-time exhibitor at Sunbelt Ag Expo, displaying its items at the show since 1982. That was the year Agri Supply bought the MSI store at Tifton, Ga.

You perhaps have seen the Agri Supply exhibit in recent years in Agribusiness Building-2.

At this year's Sunbelt Ag Expo, Agri Supply has stepped up in a big way to become the major overall sponsor of Agribusiness Building-3. The company is also moving its exhibit from Agribusiness Building-2 to its new location in Agribusiness Building-3.

Chip Blalock, Sunbelt Ag Expo executive director, says, "We are excited to announce that Agri Supply is a proud sponsor of North America's Premier Farm Show®." He points to the new roof on Agribusiness Building-3 that has been painted with the Agri Supply logo.

Agri Supply is a family-owned group of farm stores that started in 1962 at Garner, N.C. Now, 56 years later, the company has eight retail locations in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. Its retail stores are located in the towns of Garner, Greenville, and Lumberton in North Carolina; in Florence, S.C.; Petersburg, Va.; and in the Georgia towns of Statesboro, Tifton, and Valdosta.

The stores are open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 7:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. The company's stores and online catalogs offer most everything you would need to equip your farm, shop, or home, with more than 26,000 different items offered for sale.

Agri Supply has succeeded over the years by offering top quality products at competitive prices, and by providing a high level of customer service. The company sees the Expo as a great opportunity to connect with



its customers, and to show its support for the agricultural industry.

Some of its major product categories include farm machinery and implements; agricultural parts and tractor accessories; disc and tillage supplies; products for livestock and pets; lawn and garden items; lawn mower blades and parts; truck accessories and toolboxes; trailers, tires and accessories; tools and other items for home and shop; outdoor power equipment; hunting and outdoor sporting goods; apparel and clothing; and cooking, cast iron skillet, and other kitchen accessories.

The company established its Carolina Cooker brand in 2007, which brought together under one brand the company's extensive collection of cooking products. Within this category you'll find burners, grills, cookers, fryers, regulators, and hoses — anything you'd need for cooking indoors or outdoors. The Agri Supply brand of Carolina Cooker products also includes vegetable choppers, French fry cutters, canning supplies, knife sharpeners, shellers and creamers for corn, food choppers, bread pans, iron skillets, stew pots, and Dutch ovens.

Agri Supply will be providing some nice prizes that will be given away to some lucky Expo visitors who register at the Agri Supply exhibits.

In the company's Carolina Cooker exhibit in the Family Living building, Agri Supply will be giving away a pig cooker, a deep fryer, and a seven-piece set of cast iron skillets and cooking pots. Carolina Cooker brand sauces, seasonings, and marinades will also be on display and for sale in the Expo Family Living building.

Expo visitors are also invited to register at the Agri Supply exhibit in Agribusiness Building-3 for additional prizes that will be given away, among them an Agmate brand

Tillovator rotary tiller. The company will also be giving away a toolbox, a 148-piece set of tools, and a \$100 gift card.

Some of the products in the Agri Supply exhibit in Agribusiness Building-3 will include three-point hitch implements, roller pumps, chemicals, truck accessories, shop and tool items, trailer accessories, Carhartt clothing, farm toys, Fimco sprayers, lawn mower parts, and safety equipment. The exhibit will also feature land management tools such as drip torches and chemicals.

For many years, Agri Supply has been the go-to place for farm supplies, and has worked to establish relationships with more than 1,000 vendors from throughout the world.

Agri Supply continues to be a family owned business, with a large selection of quality items, low pricing, and customer service. The company stands behind its products and welcomes phone calls and e-mails anytime you have a question or an issue with one of its products.

Agri Supply services what it sells. It provides a one-year warranty on all non-perishable items. If requested, the company will service all gasoline engine-powered equipment before you leave the store. The company will mount tires on both trailers and lawn mower rims. It also provides, by appointment, on-site installation of truck toolboxes and trailer hitches. The company also offers shipping directly from vendors, though certain restrictions may apply.

If a normally stocked product is sold out and that item can be located at another Agri Supply store, you may purchase that item and it will be sent to you with no shipping costs.

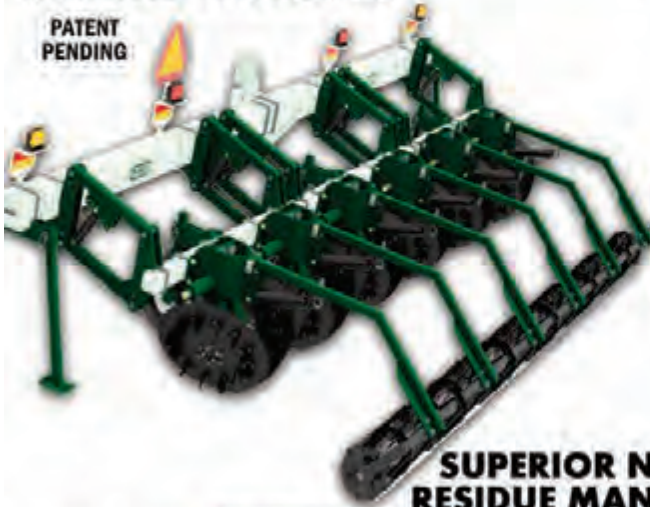
The company also invites Expo visitors to check out its website www.AgriSupply.com or to call their toll-free phone number: 800-345-0169.



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"Fighting nematodes and important diseases can be a tough battle for cotton growers and they need to be able to use a combination of strategies. Pulling stalks soon after harvest and hastening the breakdown of crop debris are important strategies to consider."

DR. BOB KEMERAIT
PROFESSOR PLANT PATHOLOGY
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2100 SERIES FIELD CULTIVATOR AVAILABLE IN 37, 39, AND 41 FT MODELS



**VISIT US AT EXPO
LOT B-6**

**2% FARMER REBATE
OFF LIST PRICE ON ALL TILLAGE EQUIPMENT**

(ON ORDERS THROUGH JAN. 1, 2019)

Georgia EMCs encouraging rural America to get out and vote!

THE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP Cooperatives (EMCs) in Georgia come together each year and create an exhibit at Sunbelt to offer Expo attendees information on current energy issues and electric safety.



Demonstrations on high voltage safety are conducted each day of the Expo.

This year, EMC volunteers will be encouraging visitors to go to the polls in November to make sure rural America's voice is heard.

In 2016, rural America played a big part in our national elections. That year, 500,000

more rural voters went to the polls than in 2012. We saw an increase in the rural voter turnout as thousands of citizens in small towns and communities across our country voted, ensuring their voices were heard — and elected officials took notice.

But, elections matter every year, including this year, when all members of the U.S. House of Representatives, one-third of the U.S. Senate, dozens of governors, thousands of state legislators, and numerous other state and local officials will be elected.

The Georgia EMCs exhibit will feature information on the Co-ops Vote program (www.vote.coop), a non-partisan program encouraging rural voters to go to the polls. We proved in 2016 that when millions of EMC members speak with one voice, we can have a major impact in making our top issues part of the national conversation. These issues include the reliability and price of electricity, rural infrastructure, and access to rural broadband, just to mention a few.

In addition to Co-ops Vote information, the Georgia's EMCs tent will offer a variety of exhibits, including the ever-popular high voltage demonstrations. Electric safety continues to be a primary focus of EMCs education, since agricultural accidents pose a serious danger across the country.

To explain, the EMCs will present four high voltage demonstrations each day at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m., where attendees can witness firsthand the consequences of coming into contact with power lines.

"Sunbelt gives us the ability to interact



Free popcorn and bottled water are offered at the EMCs exhibit.

with attendees, share safety tips, and remind them that electric co-ops are not-for-profit service organizations established by community members to supply power to their homes and farms," says Gale Cutler, senior public relations coordinator with Georgia EMCs.

For a great photo op, the EMCs welcome children to become "electric linemen." Kids can suit up with line worker equipment, then "climb" a mock electric pole, with



EMCs are urging residents of rural America to vote in November elections.

supervision, to see what it takes to get the lights back on. Each new "lineworker" will be given a child's plastic lineman helmet while supplies last.

Adding more entertainment, while delivering important information, Oscar the Robot is back again this year to interact with



Oscar the Robot is a perennial favorite at the EMCs exhibit.

attendees and share messages of electric safety. The life-size robot entertains guests and is a familiar sight to the public.

The exhibit also features complimentary bottled water for weary attendees. Bags of popcorn, shaded seating, and a place to relax on the Expo grounds have become a much-appreciated amenity for the public.

And remember to watch overhead each morning at 9:00 and again at 4 p.m. for the return of the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon, which is scheduled to fly over the Expo grounds.

Bulls Meeting The Demand Of Cattleman

NEW SALE DATE

Monday • 12:00 PM

OCTOBER 22, 2018

At Barnes Herefords Sale Facility
Cedartown, GA

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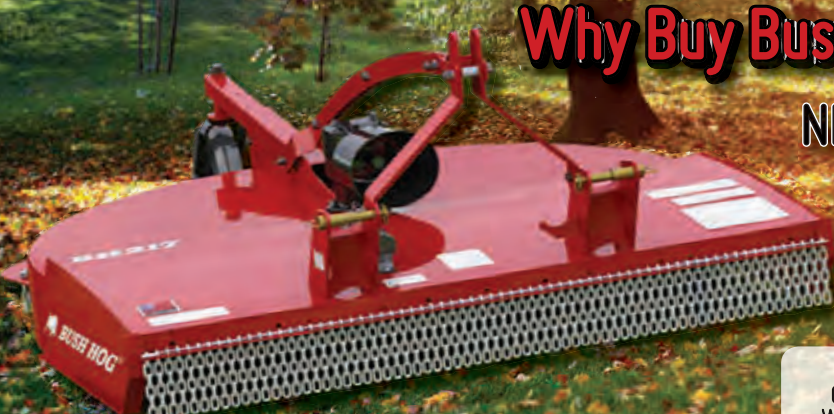
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Online tickets and Expo App help make your show visit easier

BY MCKENZIE LEWIS

SUNBELT AG EXPO 2018 is more user-friendly than ever, thanks to an updated mobile app that puts showground maps, exhibitor lists, and more all in the palm of your hands, plus a website with exciting new features, including online advance ticket purchases.

Before even coming to Expo, the show's website is the best place to visit. With its simple layout and easy-to-use design, you can plan your trip to Expo with information such as directions to the show, places to stay during your visit, and a map showing what's where on the over 100-acre exhibit. You'll also find answers to frequently asked questions about pets, outside food, and ATV vehicles.

New on the website this year is the ability to buy tickets online. You can purchase individual tickets, or in bulk for groups larger than 10. Individual tickets, originally \$10, can be purchased at a discounted price of \$8 if you provide a farm profile. This new feature is a major convenience for large groups, making the process of buying and distributing tickets much smoother.

After planning your trip online, the next step is to download the official Sunbelt Expo App. Powered by Southeast Farm Press, it allows you to access all the information you'll need while attending Expo. At your fingertips, you can access maps, find information about speakers, and even get the day's weather. Farm Press Publisher Greg Frey says, "The Sunbelt Expo App has several new enhancements for 2018 that will allow farmers and other attendees to enhance their Expo experience. Sunbelt Ag Expo, North America's Premier Farm Show®, and Southeast Farm Press have again teamed up to provide the best-in-class show app in the country. With its new technology and enhanced features, it's a must-have app for the week of October 15 — and throughout 2018 and 2019 to get breaking news about Southeast agriculture."

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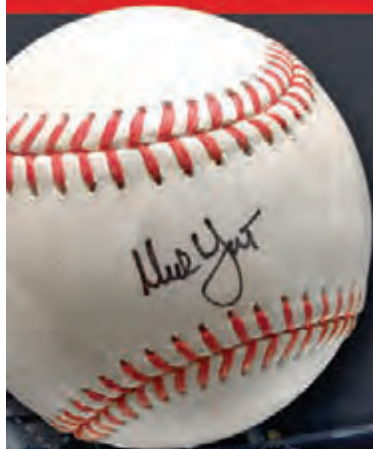
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WARREN TAYLOR

Retired Army officer traveled globe... and came back home to serve

BY BRAD HAIRE

Farm Press Editorial Staff
brad.haire@farmprogress.com

IT'S EASIER FOR Warren Taylor to tell you the major countries he hasn't visited than to list the ones he has.

Quick to smile and gracious, he's happy to chat about whatever you like, but to tell all he did before becoming the head of shipping and receiving at Sunbelt Ag Expo would require far more words than we can squeeze into this article.

For now, just know there are only two countries he wanted to visit but never did. But we'll get back to that.

Taylor, 74, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, was born and raised at Moultrie, Ga., but the town could only keep him grounded through high school. After that, he was off to see the world — and often off the ground.

Let's divide Taylor's life and career into thirds, with each third representing maybe 25 years or so. Hold on to your hat.

After high school in Colquitt County, he went to Georgia Military College, and following graduation there, he attended the University of Georgia where he earned a degree in chemistry and was in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. During this period, he also earned a private pilot's license through an Army program that trained pilots to go to Vietnam. Later, while serving in Germany, he earned a master's

flew missions in the Demilitarized Zone. He saw a lot in one year.

Taylor remained in the Army, transitioning his piloting skills to helicopters and gunships. Over the course of the next 20 years, he went through Army Airborne and Ranger school, was a company commander in an armored battalion in Germany, was chief of Army flight testing at the Plant Representative Office (ARPRO) at Bell Helicopters, most notably piloting the Cobra helicopter gunship, served on the Army staff in Washington as an action



Warren Taylor traveled the world in the Army and retired in 1991. A few years later, he was asked to head the shipping and receiving division of the Sunbelt Ag Expo.

degree in counselling from Boston University.

During his college years, he married his high school sweetheart, Gidge, and they've been married 53 years. They have two adult sons, who have good careers of their own, and one grandchild, Breanna.

In the late 1960s, Taylor received his Army commission and went to armory school and flight school for a year, after which he did a one year tour in Vietnam as a fixed-wing reconnaissance pilot. He arrived in country soon after the Tet Offensive and

officer working with the Pentagon and as an Army Congressional liaison escort officer for congressional delegations when they officially travelled overseas, handling planning, travel, and in-country logistics.

Those are just the broad strokes of his Army years. Taylor retired from the Army in 1991, and because of his mother's failing health, he moved back to Moultrie. The Taylors became active in the community, and in 1994 he got on the radar of then Expo Director Ed White. The two men clicked, and

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White asked Taylor to head up the show's shipping and receiving division.

So, what is shipping and receiving like at Expo? It's a lot. In September, things start revving up as shipments for the October show begin to arrive. Taylor and a small crew go to work receiving the incoming goods and warehousing them in an old hangar on the Expo grounds.

"It can be anything from promotional items, brochures and publications, to smaller equipment and complete booth displays," says Wendell Brown, exhibitor coordinator for Expo. "Some of the equipment may be things like high-tech spray prototypes for demonstrations that are very expensive. So, extra care and handling are required."

About 90,000 pounds of that stuff runs through Receiving annually at Expo. After the show, about 60,000 pounds of it is shipped back out.

Chip Blalock, Expo executive director, says, "I am often told by exhibitors and people who come here each year — those who work and go to many shows and farm shows throughout the year — that Expo is one of the best-run shows in the country. And I agree. It is a well-oiled machine, and I always will be proud to be a part of it.

"For more than 20 years, Warren Taylor has managed the Expo Shipping and Receiving hangar with the utmost integrity. He can always be counted on to report for work toward the end of September and stay until the last parcel is shipped out, usually the weekend after the show is over. Our exhibitors like dealing with Warren; he is a true professional, and he treats every exhibitor and their freight with care, no matter if it's a single letter or a truckload of equipment."

Since retiring from the military, Taylor has also served on the Colquitt County Foster Care Review Board, the county's zoning and planning board, the county's art center board, as president of the Moultrie Rotary Club, and as chairman of the board of deacons at Trinity Baptist Church.

Due to failing eyesight, he gave up flying many years ago, but says it wasn't that big a deal to stop. Today, he is comfortable hanging out in Moultrie and south Georgia. He says his wife would like to get him back on a plane for traveling, because she didn't get to see all that he did during his career in the Army. Maybe he'll go, he says. But, hey, most of his military career was spent piloting aircraft or riding in them across the globe. Over time, he says, the flying bug was gradually flushed from his system, along with the itch to travel.

This year's Expo may be Taylor's last as head of shipping and handling. He plans to hand over his duties, and is training someone now to take over, but he'll still be around, as needed — now and forever a part of the show's extended family.

Oh, and those two countries Taylor wanted to visit but never got to see during his military career: China and Israel. Fate, or duty, going there just never quite worked out. But he did once escort a congressional delegation to Jordan, including a meeting with King Hussein, the country's ruler at the time. From a vantage point in Jordan, Taylor looked across the border into Israel.

Warren Taylor has stories.

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FarmPress

Darrell Williams research farm a top site for Southeast forage research projects

BY DR. LISA BAXTER, UGA-TIFTON
AND DR. DENNIS HANCOCK,
UGA Extension Forage Specialist

THE SUNBELT AG EXPO'S Darrell Williams Research Farm provides an exceptional opportunity to showcase forage research in south Georgia. There are currently two demonstrations and three research trials in progress on the farm.

These demonstrations and research trials would not be possible without assistance from the crew at the farm and funding from the Georgia Beef Commission.

The 2-acre bermudagrass garden provides a field-scale comparison of the six most popular varieties in the Southeast. Here producers can interact with and evaluate the different varieties before selecting the best option for their own farm.

Adjacent to the bermudagrass garden is one of the oldest bermudagrass/alfalfa hay fields in Georgia. These areas serve as an outdoor classroom for training for county Extension agents and field days for producers.

Forage research at the farm is focused on improving chemical control recommendations for the bermudagrass stem maggot (BSM; *Atherigona reversura Villeneuve*). Since it was first discovered in 2010, BSM has damaged bermudagrass pastures and hay fields

throughout the Southeast.

Although the degree of damage depends on the bermudagrass variety, latitude of the farm, and time of year, producers have reported up to 80 percent yield loss in late summer. The economic impact of BSM damage depends on several factors, but if a conservative yield loss of 25 percent is generally applied to just the bermudagrass acreage in Georgia, the potential economic loss totals \$40 million annually! Strategically-timed insecticide applications can significantly reduce the adult BSM fly population



Dr. Dennis Hancock, University of Georgia Extension forage specialist, discusses forage research at the Sunbelt Ag Expo's Darrell Williams Research Farm during the Expo's annual field day in July.

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and protect bermudagrass during the most sensitive regrowth phase. Although several different active ingredients are being evaluated, at this time pyrethroids are the only effective mode of action.

Overuse of a single mode of action to combat a pest may eventually result in a buildup of resistance. Preventing overuse and uneconomical use of insecticides is a crucial educational objective to combat the potential for resistance.

The first research trial at Expo farm is evaluating the use of trap strips, a targeted insecticide application on an unmown strip after mowing, with the goal of reducing adult BSM populations in the next regrowth cycle. Ideally this will improve the efficacy of the insecticide application.

The second trial is digitally measuring BSM damage in real-time. Ultimately, we plan to develop an integrated mobile phone app that would combine instantaneous estimates of BSM damage in a field with real-time reports of the BSM population to generate a pest management recommendation for the user.

Finally, we are evaluating the potential of alfalfa to deter the BSM in bermudagrass-alfalfa stands.

These research trials will be on-going throughout the 2018 summer growing season.

Southeastern Hay Contest shines Expo spotlight on region's top producers

HAY AND BALEAGE producers can earn major prizes at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in this year's Southeastern Hay Contest, presented by Massey Ferguson.

Thanks to Massey Ferguson's sponsorship, along with major support from sponsors for each of the seven categories in the competition, winners can take home cash prizes, including a grand prize of \$1,000 and free use of Massey Ferguson hay equipment. Winners will be announced at a special ceremony on opening day of Sunbelt Ag Expo Oct. 16.

Since 2004, the Southeastern Hay Contest has been spotlighting high quality hay and baleage production in the region. Cooperative Extension programs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina have organized the competition since its inception.

"We hope every high quality hay producer from Texas to Virginia will enter for a chance to win," says Dr. Dennis Hancock, University of Georgia Extension forage specialist and this year's director of the competition. "Our goal is to demonstrate the potential to produce high quality hay and baleage in the Southeast. Just as importantly, we want to highlight the technology that makes it all possible."

Forage growers in the Southeast have increased the quality of their forage as they've recognized a need for efficiency due to high input costs. "The key to success has always been timely management," says Hancock, who also points out that good management has been made more efficient with the use of improved forage varieties, advanced harvest equipment, and other technologies that have come to the market during the last decade. "It is hard to recall a more exciting time in the hay and forage industry," he says.

As grand prize, Massey Ferguson will provide the winner a new RK Series Professional Rotary Rake or DM Series Professional Disc Mower for the 2019 hay production season, and a \$1,000 cash prize.

Each of the seven categories is sponsored by additional industry partners — America's Alfalfa, Georgia Twine, Perennial Peanut Producers Association, Athens Seed Co., Inland Tarp & Liner, and RW Griffin — who will provide cash awards to the top three places in each category, including \$125 for 1st prize, \$75 for 2nd prize, and \$50 for 3rd prize.

Hay and baleage producers from all 13 southeastern states are encouraged to participate. More information about the



Dr. Dennis Hancock, University of Georgia forage researcher, and Ash Alt, AGCO/Massey Ferguson representative, present winners with awards at last year's Southeast Hay Contest recognition ceremony. The 2018 awards will be presented in the RW Griffin Building Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 9:40 a.m.

contest, including rules and entry forms, is available at sehaycontest.com

Follow the Southeastern Hay Contest on Twitter (@SEHayContest) and Facebook

(www.facebook.com/SEHayContest) for periodic articles, updates, and timely information on producing high quality hay and baleage.

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BEEF

Beefing it up: Opportunities to increase your knowledge

BY SHANNON KEHOE

TO REMAIN RELEVANT in the ever-changing world of agriculture, livestock producers must take advantage of every educational opportunity available. The 41st annual Sunbelt Ag Expo will provide excellent ways for producers to enhance their knowledge of the beef industry, preparing today for a better tomorrow.

A key way to remain a successful cattle producer is to never stop learning, staying abreast of the latest research and new technology in this ever-changing industry. Each year, Expo offers numerous seminars for beef producers to learn more about how to be better and more efficient. This year promises to be one of the best yet, with session themes ranging from forages to animal husbandry.

Steve Blackburn, Sunbelt Ag Expo executive board member and beef cattle exhibit chair, has worked diligently with the committee to schedule some of the most knowledgeable industry professionals to provide information to producers at this year's show. "The latest research and trial data, in areas like fertilization, pest and weed management, reproduction research, animal husbandry, and current market analysis will be

presented," he says.

Dr. Kim Mullenix, from Alabama, and Dr. Deidre Harmon, from North Carolina, will be at the Beef Pavilion to discuss "Your checkoff dollar\$ at work," along with regional progress reports and research findings from state-funded commodity programs.

Other seminars include, Good Pasture Management Builds Healthy Soils; Alfalfa in the Deep South: Yes, it can happen!; The Latest on Bermudagrass Stem Maggot; Integrated Crop Livestock Systems in the Southeast; and more.

Seminars in animal science will include researchers and Extension specialists from Forages and Animal Science departments of southeastern universities.

"Each year we try to bring information to the attendees about the latest hot topics from researchers," Blackburn says. "Our mission is to share information so producers can take it home and apply it to their operations to help them reach their operational goals."



Sunbelt Ag Expo offers numerous seminars and demonstrations for beef producers to learn more about how to be better and more successful.

Additionally there will be an "Ask the Expert" area, where university staff will be available for one-on-one discussions throughout the day, and to answer beef production-related questions.

"Providing ideas, opportunities, and solutions to make livestock producers' jobs easier and more rewarding is the goal of everyone at the Beef Pavilion and at the Sunbelt Ag Expo," says Blackburn.

See the schedule of events at the front of the Show Program for a complete listing of Beef Cattle Seminars.

GOATS & SHEEP

Goats and sheep: Expo offers a slate of information seminars

BY SHELBY MUMMA

WHETHER YOU'RE interested in learning more about sheep and goats, or are looking for better farming practices for your small ruminant animals, this year's Sunbelt Ag Expo has a wide variety of seminars and educated researchers/professors from many different schools and organizations that can be of help.

Currently, there is strong demand for goat products, reflecting the growth in popularity of goats in Georgia. For those interested in learning more about goat milking, Fort Valley State University's Carlton Green will hold goat milking demonstrations daily at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. He is the facilities and live animal unit manager at FVSU, which plays a big role in controlling their sheep and goat research.

Dr. Niki Whitley, also from FVSU, will be helping with educational seminars. At

FVSU for three years now, her main work is in Extension, where she teaches producers about sheep and goat production.



She has been working with sheep and goats for over 20 years and is very experienced with managing flocks of

Katahdin hair sheep, crossbreeding different breed males (Suffolk, Texel, Dorper), and herds of Boer, Savanna, Spanish, and crossbred goats. She has also conducted research on reproduction/breeding, nutrition, feeding, and parasite management in both goats and sheep.

"The sheep industry, especially hair sheep, is growing in Georgia, based on the number of inquiries I get about buying breeding stock and the growing numbers of animals I see on farms," she says.

Dr. Whitley would love to answer your questions about sheep breeding and stock, and will conduct a seminar, along with two other professors, about the economics of small ruminant production. It will be held every day at 10 a.m., with Paula Burke, Extension agent at the University of Georgia, and Angela McKenzie-Jakes, Florida A&M University.

DAIRY

Cows are legenDAIRY at the Expo!

BY SHELBY MUMMA

GEORGIA IS HOME to over 77,300 dairy cows, according to the Georgia Milk Producers Association, with each farm averaging around 433 cows.

Unless you're lactose intolerant or don't like to drink milk, you helped contribute to the state of Georgia drinking 1.9 billion pounds of milk in 2017. That is a lot of good, tasty milk. Since milk is such a big commodity, Sunbelt Ag Expo has a lot of fun and exciting seminars this year that will be educational to children, as well as the producers.

All seminars will be held in building F-7 next to the Mobile Dairy Classroom. Make sure to stop by the classroom before or after you visit the dairy building, especially if you have children with you. This will be a great opportunity to show them how to properly milk a cow, and there will be a feeding dem-

Another daily seminar will focus on health and diseases, including a demonstration of animal handling, body condition scoring, hoof care/trimming, how to give vaccinations (shots), and how to deworm/drench. It will be led by Dr. Mike Purvis, Extension veterinarian at FAMU, and/or Dr. Whitley from FVSU, at 1:00 pm.

Other seminars and demonstrations include fencing for small ruminants at 10:45 a.m. daily, with Mike Taylor from Stay Tuff Fencing; a shearing demonstration at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 16 and 17, and a nutrition/forage seminar at 2 p.m. each day, with Jeremy Kichler from UGA on the 16th and 17th, and Dr. Nar Gurung from Tuskegee University on the 18th.

All sheep and goat exhibits will be held at the north end of block F-8, called the Will R. Getz Small Ruminant Section. It is named in his honor for coordinating this portion of the Sunbelt Ag Expo as an Extension animal scientist at FVSU for many years.



There'll be a lot of fun and good information at this year's Expo dairy events. — Photo: Hannah Goodnight

onstration. The program will be presented by Nicole Karstedt from the Agricultural Commodity Commission for Milk. She is passionate about educating people on the healthy benefits of dairy products, and will hold 25- to 30-minute presentations at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. each day of the Expo.

And be sure to be on hand for an udderly awesome event, the annual cow milking contest that is held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday only. Competitors will be representatives from the colleges of agriculture or commissioners of agriculture from southeastern states. Make sure you're there to see who will take home the prize.

Another popular seminar will be How to Raise a Homegrown Calf, Wednesday, the 17th and Thursday the 18th at 12:30 p.m., with Dr. Jillian Bohlen from the University of Georgia. This will be helpful if you are a new dairy farmer still learning the ropes.

Other educational seminars include:

- Mastitis Prevention and Control, Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. presented by Dr.

Valerie Ryman from the University of Georgia.

- Mammary Immunity: Protecting the Udder from Infection, on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and Thursday at 10:30 a.m., with Dr. Corwin Nelson from the University of Florida.

- Dairy Genetics, Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.,

conducted by Dr. Francisco Peñaricano from the University of Florida.

- Basic Steps for Reducing Heat Stress, Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m., with Thiago Marins and Dr. Sha Tao from UGA.

- Calf Management Under Heat Stress Conditions, Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., with Ruth M. Orellana Rivas and Dr. Sha Tao from UGA.

- Heifer Reproductive Management and Econom-

ics, Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Jose Santos from UF.

- The Mammary Gland of a Dairy Cow, Thursday at 1:30 p.m., with Thiago Marins and Dr. Sha Tao from UGA.

Dairy specialists from the universities of Georgia and Florida will be available to answer questions at any time in building F-7.



EQUINE EVENTS

For equine fans: Expert horsemanship...and rodeo queens

BY DEBI MCLENDON

GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL Commodity Commission for Equine is partnering with Sunbelt Ag Expo to bring top horsemanship clinician Julie Goodnight for the entire three-day show. And the Miss Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Queen and princesses will be there, too.

Henry and Cindy Wynn of 5 Wynn Horse Company at Pavo, Ga., will showcase their horses, along with members of the Georgia Ranch Horse Association. GRHA is an affiliate of the American Ranch Horse Association, which strives to promote the balance and versatility of the ranch horse.

ARHA world championships were held in July at Cloverdale, Ind. Cindy and her 10-year-old AQHA gelding, CD in the Endzone, won the world championship in Select Ranch



Miss Sunbelt Rodeo queen and princesses are, front row — Chanlynn McPhail, Kayma Jenkin, and Ava Lynn Cravey; back row — Cindy Wynn, Tarabeth Looney, Allie Ann Wheeler, Jolye Durrett, and Sarah Larson. With them is Wendell Brown.



JULIE GOODNIGHT

Trail. The pair also won two reserve championships, numerous Top 10s, and were named the High Point All-Around in Select.

Joining the Wynn family at Sunbelt Ag Expo will be their oldest son, J.T., owner of Wynn Custom Leather, who will display his custom leather goods. The Wynn family use their own products on a daily basis, and understand the importance of show-ready tack, as well as leather products that are high quality and durable. Their diverse product line ranges from saddles and chaps to wallets and handbags. They also have a complete line of awards, and do custom embroidery as well.

For nearly four decades, she's been at home in the Colorado Rockies, pursuing wilderness sports and riding cow horses. Founding her training business in 1985, Julie's reputation as a horse trainer grew far and wide. In 2008, she began producing Horse Master with Julie Goodnight, a popular how-to horse training series that has aired weekly on RFD-TV for more than a decade, with 260 episodes. She now travels the world to produce compelling horse TV and educates horse owners everywhere through her online training programs at JulieGoodnight.com

This year, six Georgia 4-H members will

Visit their website at www.wynnleather.com

Julie Goodnight established a connection with horses at a young age and after a successful run as a youth rider on jumping horses, she galloped her way through college riding race horses.

have a chance to win a clinic with Julie Goodnight. The Commodity Commission for Equine is creating this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students. Members will write essay on why they should be chosen for the instructive clinic with one of the top horsewomen in the country. The six lucky winners will participate in the clinic Oct. 17 during the Sunbelt Expo.

Winners of this year's Miss Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Queen Contest are:

- Miss Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Queen: Jolye Durrett, Alpine, Ala.
- Miss Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Princess: Allie Ann Wheeler, Coolidge, Ga.
- Miss Spirit of Sunbelt Rodeo: Sarah Larson, Newberry, Fla.
- Junior Miss Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Princess: Tarabeth Looney, Chickamauga, Ga.
- Little Miss Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Princess: Ava Lynn Cravey, Eastman, Ga.
- Tiny Miss Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Princess: Kayma Jenkins, Leesburg, Ga.
- Teeny Miss Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Princess: Chanlynn McPhail, Norman Park, Ga.

POULTRY

Chickens from A to Z at this year's Expo

BY LAURA LEE WILLIAMS

WITH GEORGIA LEADING the country in boiler production, it's no surprise that University of Georgia Extension will be back in the poultry building this year. Team members will have demonstrations and seminars based on the latest in poultry news, genetics, feed, housing, equipment, and information on how you can manage your own backyard flock.

If you are thinking about starting a small-scale poultry operation, begin your research and planning at the Sunbelt Ag Expo.

Poultry professionals will offer you and your family information about what kind of housing or confinement unit your birds will need, the type of environment in which chickens do best, how to raise chicks, what their feed should be comprised of, what type of breed would work best for your operation, what the difference is between a layer and a broiler, and which diseases your birds could come in contact with and how best to treat them.

"I'm excited to visit the poultry building at Expo this year," says Griffin Walker of Walker Farms, a grower for Pilgrim's. "I hope to see new equipment, learn about research that's going on in the industry, and about how they can improve my family's operation."

Even if you're not a current or future poultry farmer, the poultry building should still be a stop on your Expo tour. Poultry production accounts for over half of Georgia's total agricultural output and it is a vital component of the state's humming economy.

If you're a commercial grower, a backyard farmer, or just wanting to learn more about the topic, a visit to the poultry building should be on your list! Leaders in the industry will be on hand to answer questions and provide information.

The poultry barn is located in the back of the Expo grounds near the livestock buildings.



Poultry production accounts for over half of Georgia's total agricultural output and is a vital component of the state's humming economy.

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WHERE TO EAT

Organization Name:	Menu Items	Location
41 and Main	<i>Pulled Pork Sandwich, Smoked Chicken Quarter, Chicken Salad, Sausage Dogs, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken Wrap, Pork Wrap, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Tea, Lemonade</i>	Front of FL
Berrien County Young Farmers	<i>Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Pork Skewers, Sausage Dogs, Fried Steak Sandwich, Chips, Honey Buns, Coke Products, Tea, Coffee</i>	North End B-5
My-T-Fine BBQ	Exhibitors Only <i>Award Winning Pulled Pork, Smoked Chicken, Pork Loin Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Green Beans, Tossed Green Salad, Corn on the Cob, Bread, Cookies, Cake, Tea, Water</i>	Farm Press Lounge
Colquitt County FFA	<i>Grilled 1/2 Chicken Plate (Green Beans, Baked Potato, Bread), Smoked Pork Chop Plate (Green Beans, Baked Potato, Bread), Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich, Hot Dog, Chips, Coke Products, Sweet Tea</i>	F6
Dady's Roasted Sweet Corn	<i>Roasted Sweet Corn with Choice of Butter and Spices, Bottled Water, Coke Products</i>	Front of FL
Deep Creek Cookers	<i>Bacon or Sausage & Egg Toaster, Pork Loin Sandwich, Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs, French Fries, Tea, Lemonade, Coke Products</i>	Front of FL
Florida Peanut Festival	<i>Peanuts (roasted, Boiled, Fried, or Raw), Pork Skins, Coke Products</i>	Front of IBC & Field Tram Station
GACAA	<i>Pork BBQ Sandwich, Honey Bun, Chips, Hot Dogs, Sausage Dogs, Coke Products, Water, Coffee</i>	South End D-6
Gospel Light Mennonite Church	<i>Cakes, Bars, Peach Cobbler & Ice Cream, Sub Sandwiches and Wraps, Chips, Coke Products, Tea, Lemonade, Coffee</i>	Flight Tower
Gravitt Concessions	<i>Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, Sausage Dogs, Nachos Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs, Turkey Legs, Funnel Cakes, Ice Cream, Tea, Lemonade, Coke Products</i>	Front of IBC
Log Cabin Concessions	<i>Breakfast Biscuits: Bacon, Egg, Cheese, Sausage, Chicken Chicken Fingers, Ribeye Steak Sandwich, Pork BBQ Sandwich, ¼ lb or ½ lb Hamburger/Cheeseburger, French Fries, Pink Lemonade, Iced Tea, Coffee, Coke Products</i>	Front of FL
Market BBQ	Exhibitors Only <i>Fried/Smoked Chicken, Pulled Pork, Fried/Smoked Pork Chops, Green Beans, Squash Casserole, Hash Brown Casserole, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Corn on the Cob, Turnips, Rolls</i>	Spencefield Comm. Ctr
Old Fashioned Ice Cream	<i>Ice Cream in Bowls or Waffle Cones: Vanilla, Chocolate, Strawberry, Butter Pecan, Blueberry</i>	Front of FL, WC-12 & Horse Arena
Pa's Place	<i>Polish Sausage, Chili Dogs, Hot Dogs, Drinks, Tea</i>	Front of FL
Price Concessions	<i>Fresh Squeezed Lemonade</i>	East side of Farm AB 1 & East Side of Farm Press Lounge
R & T Concessions	<i>Pork Skins, Funnel Cakes, Sausage Dogs, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Corn Dogs, Chicken Tenders, Curly Fries, Fried Dill Pickles, Tea, Lemonade, Coke Products, Water</i>	Front of FL
Sparrow's Concessions - BBQ	<i>Breakfast Biscuits, BBQ Sandwiches, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken Fingers, Fries, Tea, Lemonade, Coke Products</i>	Front of IBC
Tropical Fruit Delight	<i>Fresh Fruit Smoothies</i>	Front of FL
Veterans Bus	<i>Coke Products</i>	Horse Pavilion & C13
Wheeler County 4-H Club	<i>Grilled Chicken Fajitas, Loaded Nachos, Nachos and Cheese, Chicken Quesadillas, Cheese Quesadillas, Breakfast Sandwiches, Kids Menu, Tea, Lemonade, Coke Products, Water, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, and Pickles</i>	WC-12

It's never a bad day to go fishing at Sunbelt Ag Expo

BY JARRETT MOBLEY

ONE OF THE newest and most talked-about sections of the Sunbelt Ag Expo is Aquaponics — and it is also becoming more relevant in today's aquaculture.

Aquaponics brings the science of fisheries to life, while providing a wholesome and nutritional protein source along the way.

Expo will also feature introduction to aquaponics seminars led by Dr. David Cline, Auburn University, as well as seminars on how to adapt aquaponics for commercial sales by Dr. Gary Burtle, University of Georgia, so you can turn your love for fish into a cutting edge career.

There will also be seminars to help reconstruct your once magic fishing hole back the way it used to be. Plan your day around being able to attend the pond management and aquaculture seminars led by Dr. Chuck Cichra, University of Florida. His expertise and advice can help bring your pond back to legendary status, and show you a few interesting tips and tricks for managing your favorite fishing spot.

Bence Carter, Auburn University, will offer useful tips for controlling weeds in your pond. We've all been there: You cast into the perfect spot, and think you've caught the biggest fish on the face of the earth. But when you reel and reel and get your catch to the bank, you find you've caught a nice big pile of weeds. To prevent this from happening, stop by for the weed control seminar so the next time you cast into the perfect spot, maybe you'll come out with the monster fish of your dreams because you applied what you learned at the Expo weed control seminar.

Specialists will be on-hand each day to provide digital weed ID — bring a photo of your pond weed and the expert will identify and tell you how to eliminate it.

Weeds may not be the only pest making it hard to fish; there are also otters, beavers, and birds, which can take over your pond and make it impossible to fish. But, don't worry. Sit back and relax because Mr. Carter is ready to help you get rid of all these nuisance pond life animals. His seminar will allow you to manage the wildlife, and hopefully you will no longer have to worry about nuisance animals stealing your fish and messing up your favorite fishing spot.

After attending the seminars on pond management, and to have more successful fishing trips, there will be an opportunity to learn more about everyone's favorite part of fishing: cleaning the day's catch. Swing on by to see Dr. John Jensen and Claude Reeves from Auburn University offer tips on how to filet fish.

After you learn how best to clean fish, Expo



also will be hosting cooking demonstrations, using recipes that showcase U.S. farm-raised catfish being served by chef Chris Wilton and Dr. David Cline, along with Dr. John Jensen and Mr. Claude Reeves. Some of the recipes that will be demonstrated will be catfish boudin made with catfish nuggets. A catfish steam bun will also be featured, and you'll have an opportunity to have your photo made with Captain Catfish himself, sponsored

by U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish.

Finally, Alabama catfish farmers will be handing out samples of U.S. farm-raised catfish late morning and late afternoon.

If you have a question about aquaculture and pond management, there will be an "Ask The Experts" booth each day to help provide answers about aquaculture and pond management and to identify weeds in digital photos that visitors bring to the booth.

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YOU CAN HELP!

Reinke: Finding a cure is PIVOTal

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Please join the fight to conquer this disease!



BY LOREN LINDLER

ACCORDING TO THE National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. In fact, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women.

As of January 2018, more than three million women in the U.S. have been affected by breast cancer. With numbers as high as these, Reinke Irrigation knew they had to join the fight to battle the disease and support research.

The result was Reinke's "Finding a Cure is PIVOTal" campaign. Since its inception in 2011, the campaign has raised nearly \$20,000. With the 41st anniversary Sunbelt Ag Expo and Breast Cancer Awareness Month both in October, Reinke has high hopes that this year's campaign will set new records.

Expo-goers can find the Reinke exhibit under the pink irrigation



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system tires. Mike Mills, Southeast territory manager, says, "For us to be able to support an issue that's near and dear to the hearts of families that are our customers, this campaign is our way to show that we're more than just an equipment manufacturer."

Partnering with the Reinke effort, Colquitt Regional Medical Center staff will be on site at Expo to inform attendees how to check for signs of breast cancer.

For \$10, you can join the campaign to help with breast cancer research. You will receive a t-shirt to show that you have joined the "Finding a Cure is PIVOTal" campaign. All funds will be donated to 26.2 with Donna, the National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer.

26.2 with Donna works to raise funds for groundbreaking breast cancer research and to help empower women living with the disease.

While at the Sunbelt Ag Expo, you too can join the campaign to help find a cure by visiting the Reinke exhibit.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

Turtle Tube grain bin rescue tube by Turtle Plastics

BY LOREN LINDLER

TURTLE PLASTICS believes that even one single grain entrapment accident is too many, and that the effort required to pull someone from grain is a major hindrance to quick rescue.

Turtle Plastics believes that The Turtle Tube is the best tool available today for rapid response horizontal grain bin entrapment accidents. Designed, developed, tested, and built by farmers and firefighters, the Turtle Tube is priced well below competitors, and was developed specifically for use in grain handling at food processing plants, breweries, elevators, and grain transport vehicles.

The one-piece construction weighs only 18 pounds, allowing for rapid deployment. It has a 15" storage diameter and comes with a convenient carrying bag. Turtle Plastics was established in 1980, and is a global leader in providing innovative environmental, health, and safety products, including the new Turtle Tube grain bin rescue sleeve, along with the Turtle Tile brands of anti-fatigue matting, dura

crib and dura stat cribbing and blocking stabilization systems, and Hose Jumper hose bridge systems.

At this year's Sunbelt Ag Expo, the KDA Farm Safety booth will feature a drawing for two prize packages. The first-place package that will include one Great Wall tube (red tuff coating), one Great Wall auger, and one Turtle Tube. The second-place package will include one Turtle Tube.

The tubes will be sent to the fire rescue department of the winner's choice. To enter the drawing, attendees will need to come to the KDA Farm Safety booth and sign up and fill



out an entry ticket. All entry tickets will have a space to include the name of the Fire Rescue Department for which the prizes will be designated. The drawing will be at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday. The drawing is free and all attendees are encouraged to apply.

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STOCK DOGS

Stock dogs show skills, entertain crowds

BY JOHN LEIDNER
Contributing Writer

JIM SHEPARD, trials director for stock dog competition at Sunbelt Ag Expo is himself a shepherd who comes from a long line of Shepards. He first became interested in stock dogs about 20 years ago.

He has been coming to the Expo and competing with his dogs ever since. He credits Expo with generating interest in stock dogs and competitive herding. "Each year after Expo, we get calls from people who want to buy stock dogs and have them trained," he says. "The Expo trials are unique among stock dog trials. For one thing, there are more people watching — even our national finals don't have crowds as big as the ones we get at Expo."

For many of the past 20 years at Expo, Shepard, from Dawson, Ga., has worked closely with Expo's previous long-time trials director, Tom Friddell, also from Dawson. "Tom trained me in handling stock dogs, and he is one of the reasons we still have stock dog trials at Expo," says Shepard.

Stock dog trials at Expo are based on a tradition that started in the United Kingdom in the 1870s, and over the years the trials have become a way of identifying which animals and handlers have the best skills at moving livestock. While the trials are designed to parallel the everyday work of the dogs and their handlers, they also encourage high standards of performance, and in the selection and training of working dogs.

"In an era when new technology is being used throughout agriculture, it is good to see there's still a place in farming for this old technology — the bond that exists between a dog and its handler," says Shepard. "You see that in our stock dog trials. This old technology would have been commonly used on farms 120 years ago, and yet it still fits in with today's farming."

Stock dog herding is an inclusive sport that is open to all, he notes. There are no age or gender restrictions, and it's not unusual for 70- and 80-year-old handlers to compete in the trials. You don't even need to be a good athlete to be a successful stock dog handler, he says.

While stock dog trials are open to all breeds, Border Collies have come to dominate the trials at Expo and elsewhere in the U.S. The Border Collie breed is known for its eagerness and watchful eye — innate

skills that let sheep being moved know which animal is in charge.

From the first trials at Expo in 1988, the stock dog competition at the yearly farm show has been known as the American Stock Dog Grand Finals.

During Expo 2017, stock dog trials welcomed 32 handlers and 52 dogs in the open sheep trial, and 19 handlers and 22



dogs in the pro-novice sheep trial. There is a record number of entries in this year's Expo stock dog trials, Shepard says, which in turn boosts the purse or prize winnings that come from entry fees paid by handlers.

The pro-novice part of the trials is for dogs or handlers who have never competed in the more competitive open trials. The course is smaller for pro-novice trials. For instance, the outrun, or the long distance a dog must cover in the initial phase of the competition, may be 250 yards to 300 yards for the open class, but only 100 yards to 120 yards for the pro-novice class. The pro-novice competition is especially important for younger dogs that do not have a lot of experience in competition.

Last year, Barry Zimmerman of Homer, Ga., and his dog Flip won the overall open sheep competition. Brian Cash of Gay, Ga., and his dog Neal were reserve champions in the open sheep trial. Stuart Ballantyne of Malabar, Fla., and his dog Cap were winners in the overall pro-novice competition.

Zimmerman says Flip competed in the open competition for the first time in 2017, following a successful outing at the 2016 Sunbelt Expo, when the dog placed second in the overall pro-novice competition. Dana Mardell of Palm Bay, Fla., won the most

improved handler award with her dog Asher Del Culzean.

A committee of experienced stock dog handlers helps determine the most improved winner at Expo, according to Shepard. This award is not generally based on points or scores, but rather on how the handlers deal with difficult situations.

Last year's daily open trial winners were Tommy Connell of Statesboro, Ga., and his dog Moss on Tuesday; Allen Hickenbottom and Bodie on Wednesday; and Brian Cash and Neal on Thursday. Pro-novice daily winners were Stuart Ballantyne and Cap on Tuesday; Cindy Good of Land O' Lakes, Fla., and her dog Meg on Wednesday; and Billy Bishop of Inverness, Fla., and his dog Kiwi on Thursday.

Hickenbottom, from Dunnellon, Fla., has been competing in stock dog trials for nearly 30 years, and also uses his dogs daily for work on his farm. He also raises St. Croix sheep and has been competing at Expo for the past 15 years. This year, he will be competing with his dogs Craig and Bodie.

Expo offers a great opportunity for visitors to get acquainted with the competitive side of raising and using stock dogs, says Chip Blalock, Sunbelt Ag Expo executive director. "This is one of only a few trials that draw hundreds of spectators. Our trials help to educate visitors on the wonderful sport of stock dog trialing, and we're glad to be able to promote this great competition."

After competing successfully last year, Brian Cash will be serving as the judge for the 2018 American Grand Finals. Shepard says Cash is an example of a young man who has grown as a handler, and now as a judge, by participating at Expo over the years. "Ten years ago, he was participating in the pro-novice competition, and this past year, he placed tenth in the national open competition."

Dee Penatzer Bailes of Sanford, N.C., was the judge last year, and this year she will be course director for the Expo trials. Alan Aulson of Bronson, Fla., provided Katahdin sheep for the competition last year, and is doing so again for the 2018 competition.

In this year's Expo trials, Pam Hunt of Williston, Fla., will be competing with her dogs Styx and May. Hunt says she bought Styx five years ago, and, "Styx has been training me, bringing me from a novice to an open handler. May was on the Welsh National Team before being imported to the U.S."

Mary Louise Cattaneo of Satellite Beach,

Fla., will be competing with her dog Gwyn. Cattaneo says Gwyn is almost two years old and is rambunctious, but willing to give up anything for a chance to work sheep. On one occasion while training Gwyn, Cattaneo recalls that her dog rescued a ewe that decided to take a swim in a large pond.

Patricia Bacskay of Lucama, N.C., will be competing with her dog Ryll. Bacskay says Ryll arrived on a flight from Idaho at Kennedy Airport in New York City on a rainy, windy evening. The young dog fell asleep on her lap on the way home, and still sleeps

on Bacskay's bed. She describes her dog as quiet and sweet — until she gets out in a field of sheep.

Billy Bishop of Inverness, Fla., will be competing with his dogs Libby and Peg. He says Libby is competing for the second year in the open competition. "She is a gift from God, and she knows more about herding than I do. My grandmother gave her to me as a gift." Peg is three years old. "A good friend insisted I try her, and she has been with me since October," says Bishop. "She is a great addition to my team."

The American Grand Finals are sanctioned by the U.S. Border Collie Handlers Association, and participants can earn points in Georgia Stock Dog Association-sanctioned trials. Expo also extends thanks to the Agri-Life Council at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for their assistance during the trials. Shepard says ABAC students help by sorting and penning sheep at the far end of the field from where visitors sit.

As in past years, the American Grand Finals are sponsored by Tyson Steel Building Products and Sunbelt Ag Expo.

COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

At Expo: Savory tastes all over the showgrounds

IN AN ONGOING effort to offer something for every visitor, Sunbelt Ag Expo has added a variety of cooking demonstrations in recent years that are conducted daily by some of the South's best chefs.

These are held in the Family Living Building, Georgia Department of Agriculture Georgia Grown Building, and in the Fish Ponds exhibit tent.

The Family Living Building is where you'll find Lauri Jo's popular Southern Style Cooking Stage. Daily cooking demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. will highlight dishes from this year's theme, "Kiss the Cook — Keep It Simple and Southern." The dynamic duo of Lauri Jo Bennett and Layne Varnedoe will delight audiences with southern favorites made with Georgia Grown products and highlighted with comedic relief. They will be joined by Paige Brown of Paige Brown Arts from Alabama.

The Family Living Building is a favorite stop for Expo visitors, offering over 175 different



exhibitors, with unique products for home, garden, and kitchen. You'll find the Taste of GEORGIA Marketplace, a specialty shopping area, located adjacent to the Cooking stage. Marketplace exhibits feature Georgia Made and Georgia Grown products.

Join Executive Chef Holly Chute in the Georgia Department of Agriculture and Farm Bureau Building to experience Georgia's No. 1 industry as you've never seen it before. You'll have an opportunity to learn about the Seasons and Faces of Georgia Agriculture, view informative videos from agribusinesses across the state, and get great recipes and cooking tips.

Chef Holly, as she is affectionately known, will demonstrate preparation of school lunch favorites, apple pecan pancakes, candied bacon, chicken and grits,

and chicken wings. Sit and watch her serve up her food magic Tuesday and Wednesday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and Thursday at 11 a.m.

When most people think about preparing catfish, they think of one way — the southern way, and that's fried! Although that's delicious, Chef Chris Wilton wants visitors to expand their recipe collections with other ways to prepare U.S. Farm-Raised catfish.

Chef Chris grew up on the Gulf Coast near Dog River, and since he was 13 years old has been cooking and catering with his dad's catering business at Mobile, Ala. In 2006, he started his own family catering business at Auburn.

It's a treat to have him cook for Expo visitors, and you'll find him in the aquacul-



ture area, F-8. Taste his scrumptious recipes on Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon, and Thursday at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Selections — all made with catfish — include breakfast sausage, egg rolls, boudin, steam buns, Johnny cakes, and tikki masala.

Expanded opportunities for youth at 2018 Expo

BY JOHN LEIDNER
Contributing Writer

STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 through 12 are invited to take part in six competitive events during this year's Sunbelt Ag Expo. These are new events, and are aimed at challenging and educating young people in middle school and high school grades. These youngsters of today will become customers of Expo exhibitors in the years ahead.

The competitive challenge categories at this year's show will include Floral Design, and identification contests for Agricultural Mechanics/Tools, Horticulture, Forestry, Wildlife, and Animal Science.

These activities will take place Wednesday,



Oct. 17, starting at 8:45 a.m., and lasting until 1:45 p.m. Most of these events will be in the R.W. Griffin building at location D-7. R.W. Griffin is the Expo's official fertilizer company, and is a sponsor of the annual Sunbelt Expo field day held during July.

Students from all states are invited to participate. Awards, sponsored by Country Financial, will be given in each challenge to the top three finishers in the junior and senior divisions. Awards will also be given to the club or chapter with the best overall finish, and to the state with the best overall finish.

"We invite students to join us as we salute healthy competition, while they learn about the latest agricultural technology, research, and equipment at North America's Premier Farm Show®, the Sunbelt Ag Expo," says Becca Turner, Expo vice president of marketing.

Chris Corzine, agriculture education director for the central region of Georgia, has been among those planning these additional competitive events. He notes that school districts are more likely to approve of students attending Expo if the students are also going to be participating in educational contests during their trip.

Students in grades 6 through 9 will compete in the Junior Division and those in grades 10 through 12 will compete in the Senior Division. They will be allowed to compete as individuals or as part of a chapter or club. Also, each student can participate in as many competitive challenges as they choose.

Students are invited to check the Sunbelt Expo website, www.sunbeltexpo.com, to obtain additional information and to sign up for the contests. Expo is working to allow students and their sponsors to register to participate in the contests when they buy their Expo tickets online from the Expo website.

While the competitive events are based on contests from the FFA Career Development Events (CDEs), it isn't necessary to be an FFA member to participate. Students who are members of 4-H or other organizations, or who are members of no organizations, are invited to take part. Home-schooled students may also enjoy taking part in these competitive events.

For the floral design competition, students are first given a scenario, and then have a set time to design and put together a flower arrangement that meets the scenario requirements. For instance, they might be given a range of cut flowers and plants to use, from which they are told to make a wrist corsage for use in a wedding.

The identification contests for Ag Mechanics/Tools, Horticulture, Forestry, Wildlife, and Animal Science are all similar in that students are asked to correctly identify plant or animal photos, tools, supplies and equipment, and perhaps diseases or pests that are important to these agricultural industries.

In the Animal Science contest, for example, students may be asked to identify breeds represented in photos of beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, and even rabbits.



In the Wildlife contest, they may be asked to identify not only photos of wild animals, but also photos of plants and shrubs that comprise important wildlife habitat. The Wildlife Identification competition also is aimed at helping students to gain an understanding of the principles of sound deer management and pond management.

While these contests are not limited to FFA members, the Expo does extend a cordial welcome to FFA members who traditionally attend the farm show's second day, Wednesday, each year. Expo has welcomed FFA members since the first farm show was held at Moultrie in 1978. Members of 4-H clubs and home school groups are invited to attend as well.

FFA began in 1928, and girls first became

members in 1969. In 1988, to reflect the growing diversity of agriculture, the organization changed its name from Future Farmers of America to the National FFA Organization. Earlier this year, Georgia FFA held its 90th annual state convention. A new pilot program in Georgia will help determine the potential of agricultural education for students in the state's elementary schools. Nationally, the FFA has more than 8,500 local chapters and counts more than 600,000 young people as members.



Additional opportunities will be hosted by John Deere Wednesday, Oct. 17. Students are invited to attend youth seminars at the John Deere exhibit at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., focusing on career opportunities and precision ag. Attending students will leave with a special gift provided by John Deere.

Last year, Expo hosted a Georgia FFA Ag Mechanics Project contest that was sponsored by Farm Credit. Students brought to Expo their creations of wood and metal projects that they had made in their school shops. These items were displayed in the Farm Credit exhibit (location B-9). Farm Credit will be sponsoring a similar exhibition and contest this year.

The expanded activities and contests planned for youth attending Expo this year are built on the success of the Ag Mechanics Project contest last year.

One Expo FFA tradition that goes back a number of years is the annual tire auction held at the Titan/Goodyear exhibit (location A-3) to benefit the Georgia FFA Foundation. Last year, the auction raised some \$28,000, and over the years funds have totaled more than \$300,000.

The foundation uses these funds to help cover travel expenses and provide recognition for FFA members taking part in career development and leadership development events. The funds are especially helpful in covering the expenses for Georgia FFA members taking part in national competitive events.

This year, the tire auction will take place Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m. at the Titan/Goodyear exhibit. Members of the Georgia FFA Foundation will be present at the Titan/Goodyear exhibit Tuesday to answer any questions regarding the auction, the foundation, and the FFA organization.

Farm Press, Sunbelt Expo enjoy symbiotic relationship

BY RON SMITH

Farm Press Editorial Staff
ron.smith@farmprogress.com

FOR SOME 20 YEARS, Farm Press Publications and Sunbelt Ag Expo have enjoyed a relationship that capitalizes on the strengths of two highly-respected southern institutions to inform, educate, and demonstrate the importance of agriculture.

Expo's sprawling complex — featuring exhibits representing the latest innovations from industry, university research and Extension, and commodity organizations, in addition to ongoing agricultural research plots and demonstrations — offers visitors unique opportunities to learn where their food and fiber originates.

Farm Press Publications' decades of respected ag journalism, now spanning 75 years, push this educational effort to thousands of readers in both print and online editions.

It's a mutually beneficial relationship, says Farm Press Publisher Greg Frey. "North America's Premier Farm Show® is a first-class organization. We are proud to be a part of this outstanding event."

Chip Blalock, Sunbelt Ag Expo executive director, says, "As Sunbelt Ag Expo marks its 41st year, we applaud the continuation of a long-time working relationship with Farm Press."

That relationship capitalizes on each organization's strengths. "Our partnership with Sunbelt Expo

offers the privilege of being part of this outstanding agricultural exposition," Frey says, "and allows us to extend our mission of providing information to the agriculture community. Farm Press staff participate at a very high level in the three-day event."

Farm Press adds value to the Sunbelt Expo as well, he says. "Our world-class editorial — including publishing the official show guide for Expo, and providing exposure for the show in our print

(now Informa Global Expositions) and the Farm Press group have provided an information-filled, professionally produced Sunbelt Ag Expo show guide, available in the traditional paper copy and several digital formats. We are also excited about the state-of-the-art, user-friendly, and informative mobile app.

"Having Farm Press publish our official program has helped us expand our relationship with this outstanding Sunbelt media organization. This partnership continues to be a win-win, both for Farm Press and Sunbelt Ag Expo, as well as for Expo exhibitors and visitors," Blalock says. "The show guide and mobile app have been important tools in promoting our event."

The partnership includes much more. "Technological advancements in our media platforms allow us to work together to provide ag industry readers and Expo attendees with the most up-to-date and critical information available at our farm show and research farm," Blalock says.

"Farm Press has deep roots in Sunbelt agriculture," Frey says. "Our talented, experienced editorial staff knows the region and its crops, and understands its people."

Over the years, Farm Press participation in Expo has evolved from reporting to exhibiting, and more recently developing a strong partnership. "We created the Farm Press Exhibitor Lounge, and in 2012 developed the Sunbelt Expo Mobile App — the first exhibition app in the ag industry," Frey says. "It's been a great fit."



and digital media — increases the Expo's reach far beyond Moultrie, Ga. Farm Press mobile apps and many other digital products provide our trademark 'timely, reliable information' during and after Expo."

A relatively new offering, the Farm Press Mobile Expo App, continues to provide Farm Press content year-round. "No other agriculture publication offers that option," Frey says.

"For 13 years," Blalock says, "Penton Agriculture

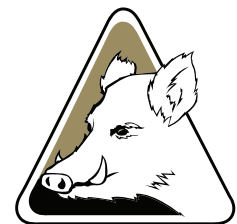
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Drones collect valuable Expo crop data and create on-farm interest

BY BRAD HAIRE

Farm Press Editorial Staff
brad.haire@farmprogress.com

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS technology is getting more affordable and appealing for use on farms, as well as in agronomic research to collect useful crop data and as a means to turn that information into an actionable plan to improve crop production.

David W. Daughtry, University of Georgia graduate research assistant who works with Dr. Wesley Porter, UGA Extension irrigation specialist, and Dr. Glen Harris, UGA Extension crop fertility specialist, is a licensed drone pilot. He uses the technology to collect research data from UGA crop trials at the Sunbelt Ag Expo Darrel Williams Research Farm.

In question-and-answer session, Daughtry talks about the technology and how it is used at Expo and on Georgia farms.

But first, let's define a couple of terms: Unmanned Aerial Systems, also called UAS, consist of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV, or drone), a control system, the sensors on the UAV, the software used to post-process the data, and the information that can be gained from

the system.

For what purposes do you use drone technology at Expo?

We have been using unmanned aerial systems in our cotton fertility research here. My research project is focused on correlating various nutrient levels in both cotton and corn with data collected by the UAS. We are currently looking at nitrogen rates and N, P, K, S, and micronutrient deficiency/sufficiency detection methods.

What can this tool offer agronomic crop researchers?

UAS provide a method for collecting large amounts of data rapidly in our research trials. We are continually learning about the information that can be obtained out of UAS data. Additionally, it allows us to have data that have high temporal and spatial resolution that can be stored indefinitely. These data can include multitudes of information, such as fertility, estimations of crop stands, potential for disease detection, and irrigation scheduling.



Data from drones can include a multitude of information, such as fertility, estimations of crop stands, potential for disease detection, irrigation scheduling, etc.—Artwork: Ekkasit919/iStock/Getty Images

Is drone technology making its way to farms in the Southeast and in Georgia?

We have seen a significant increase in the number of growers and county agents who are interested in using UAS technology in Georgia. This is partly due to the rapid growth of UAS production, and advancements in technology.

This year, we hosted two separate UAS trainings for UGA Extension agents — one at Tifton in south Georgia, and another at Watkinsville in northeast Georgia. Our research team is focused on providing scientific results to support the use and verification of actionable information obtained by UAS, specifically as it relates to practices in Georgia. At this point, we are seeing UAS mainly being used on the farm as a scouting tool, using mainly the RGB camera to take photos and videos.

What tips or recommendations can you give a farmer or consultant who might be thinking about investing in the technology?

This depends on what the end user wants to achieve. There are a multitude of UAS available, ranging in price from \$300 to just over \$1,000, that will do a very good job using an RGB camera. This would mainly be used for scouting purposes.

There is UAS available that collect multi-spectral data, which can be used to develop vegetative index maps such as NDVI. The usage of these is up to the individual user.

Basically, the type of system an end user wants to purchase depends on what they would like to use it for. If it is general scouting, then a cheaper system is sufficient, but if they are wanting to do more advanced work, a more advanced system may be desired.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

R.W. Griffin partnership fosters Expo Success

BY LAURA LEE WILLIAMS

LAST YEAR Sunbelt Ag Expo cut the ribbon to dedicate the new R.W. Griffin building, located in the center of the Expo grounds.

The facility's stage was used to announce the 2017 Southeastern Hay Contest awards recognition, and hosted the unveiling of the new Georgia equine tag. It was also where Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black announced the "Georgia Grown, Georgia Sewn" program, and it was in the spotlight during the farm bill listening session with Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga.

The R.W. Griffin building has blessed the Expo with a prominent stage that will continue to host impressive speakers, important news

events, and exciting vendors for years to come. This year's highlights will include the kickoff of the 2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo, the retirement of the 41-year-old Expo logo, and the release of the new Expo image, along with many special guest appearances, the announcement of the 2018 Hay Contest awards, the presentation of the first ever Youth Educational Challenge event awards, and much more.

As you visit with vendors in the building, you might get to watch this year's special event: Youth Educational Challenges. Five of the six challenges will take place in the building.

Besides being gracious hosts for special Expo happenings, R.W. Griffin is also the Official Fertilizer Partner of Sunbelt Ag Expo. The R.W. Griffin website notes that the business



has grown from one location in Douglas to 18 retail locations today, plus two cotton gins, several major liquid terminals, a major liquid manufacturing operation, bulk storage warehouses, and several peanut facilities and grain buying points.

"We are humbled by all the support industry leaders and businesses provide to the Expo," says Becca Turner, vice president of marketing and public relations for Sunbelt Ag Expo. "We are especially grateful for the continued commitment that R.W. Griffin has made to the Expo organization and its mission."

New system sprays only weeds, not crop

BLUE RIVER TECHNOLOGY, a John Deere company, brings a whole new dimension to precision farming, and a new tool to fight herbicide-resistant weeds.

Utilizing the latest technology in computer vision, artificial intelligence, and robotics, the Blue River See & Spray system analyzes every plant in the field and then decides and reacts in real time. For See & Spray, the decision is between crop or weed. If it's a weed, it gets sprayed.

By spraying only where weeds are, and not wasting valuable chemical on the ground or on the crop, growers can use up to 95 percent less chemical than a typical broadcast application. Savings vary according to weed pressure, but where broadcast sprays are often used to kill the weeds that escape through pre-emerge and residual applications, See & Spray can target those weeds and eliminate a costly broadcast application.

Think of the savings in chemical, and the reduced environmental impact of up to 95 percent less chemical for weed control. By being so precise, and only spraying weeds, See & Spray brings new options for weed control. Even using non-selective material could be a possibility, giving more options for controlling the ever-increasing list of resistant weeds.

Blue River will be demonstrating the technology at this year's Sunbelt Ag Expo. By planting cotton and soybeans in September, there will be young cotton available to spray and show how See & Spray could work in a spring weed control program. The main goal of the demonstration is to get grower feedback and to better understand how growers believe they could use this technology in



By spraying only where the weeds are, and not wasting valuable chemical on the ground or on the crop, growers can use up to 95 percent less chemical than in a typical broadcast application.

the future.

See & Spray is still a few years away from being commercially available, so the company believes it is very important to see and hear what growers have to say, and make sure they are building the right machine for the right job.

Blue River will be in the field with See & Spray and will be running the demonstration during Expo hours at 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, and at 10:30, 1:00, and 2:30 Thursday.



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A

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 Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College B-7-476B
 ACI Distributors WC-11-M; Field
 Acme Cattle Management Equipment, LLC F-7-438
 Acme Engineering/Ellison & Ellison Co. Inc. AB2-82
 ADM Animal Nutrition BP-3
 Advance Auto Parts AB2-53
 Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. AB1-77
 Advantage Feeders/Farm Goods MS E-9-769
 Adventist Community Services/South Georgia F-8-655
 AerWay by Salford E-4-137
 Ag Spray Equipment C-9-690
 AgAmerica Lending BP-17
 AGCO Corporation D-4-143; Field
 Aggero F-5-310
 AgrAbility Farm and Garden Learning Station A-9-712
 Agri Buckle/The Leather Box FL-102
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 AmeriAg, LLC E-9-673
 American Angus Association BP-6
 American Blue Breeders Inc. BP-10
 American Buffalo Knife and Tool AB4-25
 American Farm Mortgage & Financial Services AB2-36
 American Forest Management AB1-39
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 American Sweeping A-8-605
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American Welding Society A-12-1009
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 Americot, Inc. AB-2-44
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 AMS-Merlo F-6-318
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 ANGRY IRON METALWORKS C-11-896
 Anping Qinghe Metal Mesh Co. LTD AB3-64
 ANTONIO CARRARO SPA WB-8-47
 Anubis Tactical Supply AB4-30
 Apache/Palco/Henke/Buffalo WA-7-107
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 AuctionDeals AB1-54

B

B K Cypress Log Homes FL-74
 B n D Flagpole Sales AB4-41
 Bad Boy Mowers WC-7-119
 Bad Cattle Panels D-10-789
 Bad Dog Tools AB4-42
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 Bonnie Plants GMP-3
 Boot Barn FL-90
 Branson Tractor Company A-6-366
 Brazzer Rural Products D-11-958
 Brown Manufacturing Corporation B-7-470; A-7-477

Bruce's Concessions FL-169; AB4-1
 Brute Cattle Equipment D-10-856
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 Cajun Kooling AB2-92
 Callicrate Banders BP-26
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 Cardinal Paint and Powder AB3-73
 Case IH D-2-67J; Field
 Cattle Guard Forms BP-1A
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 Certified Labs DRM/Brymer AB1-20
 Chandler Equipment Company B-8-620
 Chef Kenny AB4-82
 Cherokee Feed and Seed, J&J Hay HP 4
 Chevrolet Display & Test Track C-12-5
 Circle F Farms BP-52
 CITGO Petroleum AB1-59
 Citizens for Tobacco Rights B-10-838
 CLAAS Dealers South East C-3-68
 Clean Cutter Flail & Tiller Blades AB3-65
 Cleanfix North America Inc. AB2-79
 Clemson University B-5-267
 CNI (Chem Nut, Inc.) D-7-452
 Colombo North America, Inc. C-4-153; Field
 Common Ground WC-9-34
 Complete Signs AB2-2
 Conkey's Hound and Hunting Supply AB4-15
 Conklin AgroVantage & FASTRACK Probiotics AB3-5
 Conklin Company AB4-19
 Cornelius Farms AB1-34
 CORRECT-A-STEP AB3-4; FL-25
 Country Clipper Mowers B-10-811
 COUNTRY Financial B-8-587
 Covington Co. A-7-477
 Cowboy Shop E-10-782
 Cowco, Inc. D-7-450
 Crosby Equipment Company WA-8-56
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E-4-219
E-4-218
E-4-139
E-4-217

Dirt Dog Manufacturing
CASE IH
Southeastern Pneumatic, Inc.
AGCO
MARBY FERROUS
D-3-127C

Field 1	Field 2	Field 3
Field 4	Field 5	Field 6
McCormick North America		
AG Distributors		
Southern Equipment		
WC-10-6A		
WC-9-110		
WC-9-80		
WC-9-118		
WC-9-90		
WC-9-114		
WC-9-36		
WC-9-12		
Georgia Peanut Commission		
WC-8-70		
WC-8-72		
WC-8-97A		
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WC-7-2		
WC-7-1		

C-1A	C-2-28	C-3-127	C-4-204
New Holland	C-2-31	C-3-126	C-4-153
		C-3-122	C-4-202
	Bush Hog, Inc.	C-3-75	C-4-199
		C-3-77	C-4-158
			Kuhn North America

AMADAS	Krone N.A., Inc.	B-3-78	
B-1-16		B-3-81	B-4-163A
B-1-12		B-3-82	Don Allison Equipment, Inc.
B-1-10Aa	RhinoAG, Inc.	B-3-113	B-4-167
Yanmar America Cooperation/ Solis Tractor			B-4-190

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GATE 3
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ENTRANCE

GATE 2

SERVICE GATE
SPENCE FIELD COMM CTR

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CCFFA

F-6-06A F-6-10C F-6-412 F-6-432 F-6-539

F-7-430 F-7-542 F-7-544

DAIRY PAVILION

SHEEP & GOATS F-8-658

FOND SEMINARS F-8-655

E-5-230A E-5-309A

E-5-231 E-5-308

E-5-232 E-5-307

E-5-234 E-5-307

E-5-235

Pasture Management Systems, Inc.

Georgia Quality

E-6-322

E-6-324 E-6-415

E-6-325 E-6-414

E-6-328

SWISSBIRN EQUIPMENT

AB #4

E-7-440

Priefert Ranch Equipment

BILL PATTEN CATTLE PAVILION

E-9-670B

E-9-670 E-9-769

E-9-671 E-9-767

E-9-673 E-9-766

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E-10-761 E-10-763 E-10-764

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D-5-240

D-5-243 D-5-296

D-5-246

D-5-248

D-6-330

D-6-333 D-6-406

D-6-334 D-6-404

D-6-336

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D-7-450

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C-8-580 C-8-741

C-8-581 C-8-742

C-8-582 C-8-740

C-9-699A

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A-8-597 A-8-607

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A-8-601

A-9-710

A-9-712

A-9-715 A-9-724

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A-11-028

A-12-1000

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A-12-1003

A-12-1006

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TICKET BOOTH B

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- All demos are subject to change due to weather.
- Trams depart from the Tram Station 15 minutes prior to the posted Demonstration Time.
- At the conclusion of the demo the trams will return to shuttle station.
- Returning trams will stop at the Test Track Area for guests wanting to participate in the test track options.
- These trams do not travel to any other areas of the fields.



DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE

	Cotton Harvesting Tues & Wed - 12:30 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. Thursday - 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.		Hay Tedding Tues, Wed, and Thurs - 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
	Peanut Digging Tues & Wed - 11:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Thurs - 11:00 a.m.		Hay Cutting Tues & Wed - 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Thurs - 1:00 p.m.
	Peanut Harvesting Tues, Wed, and Thurs - 12:45 p.m. & 2:45 p.m.		Hay Raking Tues, Wed, and Thurs - 11:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
	Tillage Demo Tues, Wed, and Thurs - 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.		Hay Baling Tues, Wed, and Thurs - 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.
	Application Demo - See & Spray Technology Tues & Wed - 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Thurs - 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.		Gator & Compact Tractor Driving Range Show Open - Show Close
	Stock Dog Trials Show Open - Show Close		ATV, UTV and Compact Tractor Driving Range Show Open - Show Close

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*Terms and conditions apply. See dealer for details.

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D

D.O.T Tiedown & Lifting Equipment...AB4-16
 dac Vitamins and Minerals..... HP 8
 Dalton Bearing & Hydraulics, LLC.... AB2-87
 DALYA IRRIGATION LLC..... AB2-18
 Dasilveira SouthwestDP-6
 David Perry Agency AB2-30
 Davis Instruments AB1-22
 Deep South Fire Trucks, Inc.....WC-9-36A
 Deep South Livestock Equipment... D-10-793
 DEMCO A-7-477
 Denis Cimaf, Inc..... AB2-38
 Denitz-Fahr AmericaWB-8-60
 DewEze Mfg.E-4-219
 DG COMMUNICATIONS AB3-88
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 Diesel Laptops AB2-1



DIGI-VIEW VIDEO SUNGLASSES..... AB4-27
 Dirt Dog ManufacturingD-1-31B
 DiscountHydraulicHose.com AB3-74
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 Dixie Chopper..... B-11-911
 Don Allison Equipment Inc.....B-4-194D
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 Dura-Cast Products, Inc..... D-10-864

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 USDA AMS..... AB1-31
 U.S.-Nigeria Trade Council USA..... AB-3-52
 Utility Trailer Sales of
 Alabama LLC..... E-5-309A

V

Vail Products..... WC-11-1
 Valley Irrigation / AgSense A-4-169
 Valley Vet Supply AB4-85
 Vantage Southeast/Trimble
 Navigation AB1-26
 Vapple Products..... AB4-56
 Venieri (Applied Machinery Sales)..... F-5-312
 Vermeer Corporation C-8-628; Field
 Visit Jackson County FLA FL-45
 Vista Mobility, Inc WC-7
 Vivid Life Sciences AB2-9

W

Warren, Inc. C-4-199
 Watkins Quality Products FL-12
 Weeks Auction Group..... AB1-24
 Weigh Tec Inc. AB3-85
 WESROC Monitoring Solutions..... AB1-53
 Western Trailer Sales Co C-10-849
 Westway Feed Products BP-43
 Whitetail Properties
 Real Estate, LLC AB4-9
 Williams Electric Service &
 Sign Inc..... C-10-804 West
 Windstream/Kinetic..... A-8-607
 Wingfield Flexible Harrows..... C-8-573
 WinnTuck Waterfowl AB4-74
 Wood-Mizer, LLC WC-8-70
 Woods Equipment..... D-5-243
 Woody Folsom Trailers..... F6A-12C
 Worksaver, Inc..... A-8-601; A-7-477
 Worlds Thinnest Wallets FL-101B
 W-W Livestock Systems D-8-563
 Wynn Custom Leather..... HP 1; FL-21A

X

Xilin USA Corp. AB3-21

▶ EXHIBITOR LIST ◀

Xylem, Ltd.....Service Provider - Xylem

Y

Yamaha Motor Corporation..... B-13-1054
 Yancey Bros.Co. WA-7-104
 Yanmar America Corporation/
 Solis TractorB-1-10Aa; Field

Yara D-7-452

Yon Family FarmsBP-20

Z

Z Tags / Temple Tags.....BP-21
 Zarifa USA..... AB4-39
 Zeeland Farm Services, Inc.....BP-44

Zerk Zapper Tool/Horizon

Products AB4-24

ZoetisBP-14

Zoetis - Equine..... HP 3

Antique Tractor Participants — Section WC-7 & WC-8

Dwane Anderson	Ford, IH David Brown	
Jesse Arnett	6' Trailer w/ John Deere Engine	1931
Robert Barry	Farmall Model A	1940
Jesse Burdette	Farmall	1950
Robert & Donna Burgess	2 Farmall Cubs	1948 & 1960
John Class	Economy Tractor Power King Model	1975
James Class	Farmall Super C & McCormick L.A. Motor	1951 & 1933
Daniel Cowart	Ford 801 Powermaster	1950
Josh Crocker	Ford Jubilee & Ford 4610	1953 & 1983
Craig Croft	John Deere B Model & 730 Diesel	1942 & 1957
Harry Drigger	Ford N & Sheep Herder Wagon	1950 & 1912
Jim Eckle	John Deere & Ford 8N	1951
Jerry Edwards	John Deere Model 60	1954
Milton & Reese Foster	Farmall 230	1957
David Gattis	Case 446	1983
Jim Gladden	Farmall Cub & Farmall Super A	1955 & 1953
Gerald Green	John Deere 40	1955
Jim Hawkins	Massey Harris Tractor	1950
James Hester	Tractor	1974
Don Lawrence	Massey Ferguson 135	1965
Wesley Lawrence	Ford 600	1957
Frank & Betty Loveland	Ford Tractor & ZTS Model	1953 & 1941
Frank Lynch	Antique Engines	1900-1940
Glyn McCrary	John Deere "M" & Farmall "H"	1950 & 1942
Frank McCrary	Farmall H Tractor	1942
Ashley McLeod	John Deere M	1951
Milton New	JD 720	1957
Don Nicholson	AJD	1952
Frank Paulhamus	John Deere Tractor	1957
Greg Peterson	Farmall Super A	1954
Mel Powell	Super C Farmall & John Deere	1959
Dwight E Purvis	Fordson Super Dexta & Fordson Dexta	1962 & 1960
Don Purvis	V8 AN Ford, 601 Ford	1952 & 1958
Lloyd Rogers	John Deere Orchard	1940
Jackie Rome	Brockway-Loader	1954 & 1948
John Scudder		
Danny Sparks	Model 40 John Deere	1953
Ronald Strickland	Case 446	1979
Jim Strivender, Jr	Case 730 Grove	
Raymond Swanson	Ford 8N-V8 Powered	1952
Wanda Swanson	Farmall Cub	1950
Wayne Swanson	Farmall Cub	1949
Randall Terhark	Massey Ferguson Tractor & Super C	1960
Blake Thompson	John Deere 110 Tractor	1969
John Tibbetts	Ford 8N	1954
Jack Tichenor	John Deere G High Crop Tractor	1951
Bruce Tucker	John Deere Tractor	1938
Jerry W. Volk	Antique Ice Cream Freezer	1880-1970
Mike Wade	3020 John Deere	
Lee & Helen Wagner	Ford 8N Tractor (Antique Exhibit)	1951
Wesley Ward	Case 930 Tractor	1969
Ryne Williams	John Deere B	1950
Russ Williams	John Deere	

Expo has long relationship with land grant colleges

BY LOREN LINDLER

SUNBELT AG EXPO prides itself in working with land grant colleges and universities across the Southeast, a partnership that will allow visitors to learn about the many opportunities each school has to offer.

The Clemson Building will be loaded with cutting-edge information, demonstrations, and simulators representing agriculture, South Carolina's largest industry. Clemson University, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, and South Carolina Farm Bureau will be working together to make sure everyone who visits the exhibits walks away with a better understanding of the state's agriculture. In addition, hosts want their visitors to gain a better understanding of what a land grant institution offers to both existing and potential students.

Back by popular demand, the Clemson Extension Food Safety and Technology demonstration trailer will showcase numerous presentations and educational seminars. In the Clemson Building, Hunter Massey (CAFLS) and several students will be serving as the centerpiece for South Carolina agriculture.

Clemson Extension and the Clemson Department of Pesticide Regulation will be providing critical updates with regard to the issues affecting today's farming community.

And not to worry, there will be plenty of orange tiger paws!

In 1964, the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition started off at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College as "Dealer Days," a small farm show sponsored by faculty and staff. Today, ABAC takes great pride in supporting the Expo, and has been an Expo exhibitor from the beginning.



ABAC social media interns model Georgia Grown, Georgia Sewn t-shirts, released for the first time at the 2017 Sunbelt Ag Expo. This college partnership is one of many that allows the Expo to continue to thrive.

In the past few years, ABAC has added a building on the Expo grounds in hopes that students, both past and present, will stop by to learn about life at ABAC. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators will be on hand to greet visitors at the exhibit and share details about the many majors, clubs, and opportunities ABAC has to offer.

The ABAC building also welcomes alumni to talk about the "good ol' days," and learn how they can become involved with the Alumni Association. Along with learning about life at ABAC, they can learn about the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. In 2010, the GMA became part of the ABAC campus, and now occupies a special part of the ABAC Building at the Expo. Museum interpreters will showcase educational opportunities that will allow Expo goers, both young and old, to learn more about agriculture and natural resources.

Florida A&M University will focus on the four areas of their Cooperative Extension Program: Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, Community Resource Development, and Family Consumer Sciences. While at the FAMU exhibit, attendees can learn about efforts being made to promote sustainable practices for small farms and community and economic growth.

Expo goers can also learn more about nutrition and wellness, food resource management, and home and community gar-

dening. 4-H Youth Development will focus on science-based educational activities and social skill-building activities for adolescents and teenagers.

The University of Georgia building will feature groundbreaking research topics, with an interactive game for visitors to see which type of Ag Dawg research best suits them. UGA Extension faculty will have information about protecting pollinators, precision irrigation, and much more. The famous College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences game wheel will again make an appearance,

along with an Ag Dawg tailgate and photo booth.

The Auburn University showcase will include exhibits that highlight research and Extension programs that impact producers, communities, and economies throughout the Southeast. The topics will include beef, poultry, water resources, and more. Auburn will have Extension personnel available to discuss a variety

of agricultural questions or topics. Stop by the Auburn exhibit for fun activities and giveaways for students, potential students, alumni, etc.

Fort Valley State University's College of Agriculture, Family Sciences, and Technology will feature food, fun, and exhibitions at four locations. A participant at the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo for more than 40 years, FVSU is a staple at the event.

FVSU's Mobile Information Technology Center, a state-of-the-art computer facility on wheels, can be toured by visitors at the main site. Displays featuring drones, aquaculture, and goat research are just some of the exhibits featured in its main complex, where guests will have the opportunity to sample a variety of goat products, and take a chance on winning prizes by playing games and answering agricultural trivia questions.

In the Morton building, an outreach coordinator will be on hand to answer questions about the majors FVSU has to offer in agriculture, which include veterinary science, electronic engineering technology, and family and consumer sciences. The Will R. Getz Small Ruminant Section, named after the late FVSU professor, will have lectures and seminars focusing on the care and production of sheep and goats.

Other colleges and universities that will be showcasing at the Sunbelt Expo are the University of Florida and Albany State University.

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John Deere Gator UV is Expo official off-road vehicle

A WORKHORSE on the farm or ranch, the John Deere Gator UV is the official utility vehicle of the 2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo.

Various Gator models will handle the demands of the show, hauling booth materials and transporting attendees to ensure that the 2018 Expo runs as smoothly as the Gator UV's drive.

Show workers aren't the only ones who get to drive a Gator UV. Customers can get behind the wheel of the Gator XUV835 at the John Deere ride-and-drive area, and experience the power and performance of the newest Gator UV in the lineup.

"The newest models in our lineup, the XUV835 and XUV865, combine versatility, durability, and comfort into a machine that can increase productivity in all types of conditions," says Mark Davey, John Deere marketing manager. "It's a workhorse that can tackle any job, with features designed to save farmers time and energy."

The 54 hp XUV835 and 23 hp XUV865 offer tight turning and optimal weight distribution for superior off-road performance. The XUV835 reaches speeds of over 45 mph and the XUV865 offers a top speed of over 30 mph.

Versatility of these vehicles is furthered by compatibility with a full range of over 90 attachments, from snow blades to winches. They also feature a large 11 gallon fuel tank to keep the vehicle running longer between fillups.

As the first units in the Gator family to have three-wide seating, the XUV835 and XUV865 include an adjustable driver's seat, ample legroom, and tilt steering to reduce operator fatigue during long work days in the field.

Available HVAC systems and pressurized cabs offer year-round weather protection, providing cooler operating conditions in the summer, and heating capabilities during harsh winters and snowy conditions. The heating feature also defrosts the windshield, to keep you operating efficiently. In addition, noise isolation and sound dampening features in the cab provide a quieter experience.

The XUV835 and XUV865 also deliver sleek styling and 1,500-pound payload capacity, with a versatile, durable cargo box. Combined with a towing capacity up to 2,000 lbs., and 16 gallons of storage, producers can haul more in less time.

Many other Gator UV models will be supporting the Expo, including the XUV825 and XUV855. These models offer two-person seating, 1,000-pound cargo capacity, and plenty of power to knock out tough jobs. In mid-size crossover models, the Gator XUV590i and XUV590i S4 offer more affordable power, ideal for completing work around the farm or ranch.

The XUV590i offers operators 10.5-inch ground clearance, 800-pound payload capacity, and 1,100-pound towing capacity. The larger XUV590i S4 has four-person seating, 9.3-inch ground clearance, 1,200-pound payload capacity, and is also capable of towing up to 1,100 pounds.

For customers looking for the most affordable 4WD vehicles, the John Deere Gator XUV560 and XUV560 S4 provide a great ride. Outfitted with an ergonomic operator station, quiet V-twin engine, independent 4-wheel suspension, 4-wheel drive, and availability of more than 75 attachments, these Gator UV models will tackle all of the tough jobs around the farm.



An Ag Management Solutions system (AMS) integration kit is also available for most Gator UVs. The kit allows an operator to mount a StarFire receiver and GreenStar display (both sold separately) to the Gator UV to assist with boundary mapping, flagging field obstacles, soil sampling, and more.

Most Gator XUV models are available in Realtree Hardwoods HD Camo, olive and black, or John Deere green and yellow color schemes. Each Gator also offers more than 75 factory and dealer-installed attachments available for customization.



PIONEER

PIONEER SENDS CONGRATULATIONS

TO THESE CUSTOMERS FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS FARMER OF THE YEAR FROM THEIR STATE.

John DeLoach – Alabama
Lonnie Fortner – Mississippi
John Verell – Tennessee
Kevin Yon – South Carolina



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FARMER OF THE YEAR

SWISHER SWEETS SALUTES



State Farmer of the Year Award winners for 2017, shown at the Sunbelt Ag Expo luncheon held in their honor, are: Front row, from left, Chip Blalock, Sunbelt Ag Expo; Mike Robin International; back row, from left, Van Hemric, North Carolina; Everett Williams, Georgia; Chris Langley, Alabama; Robert Mills, Jr., Virginia; Mark Wilson, Florida; and Kemp McLuncheon Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the 41st Anniversary Sunbelt Expo at Moultrie, Ga.

Farmer of Year Awards highlight excellen

BY JOHN LEIDNER
Contributing Writer

WHILE FARMER OF THE YEAR awards are presented to individuals, the awards are really a recognition of the many contributions that their entire families and their key employees make toward insuring the success of the honorees.

And though the awards are presented during a single year, they actually recognize the farmers for their long and impressive careers in agricultural production, marketing, business management, community service, and contributions to agricultural organizations.

Swisher International, through its Swisher Sweets cigar brand, and Sunbelt Ag Expo are sponsoring the Southeastern Farmer of the Year awards for the 29th consecutive year. At the conclusion of this year's Expo, a total of 29 outstanding farmers will have been recognized as overall winners of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award, and 256 farmers from ten states will have been recognized as state winners.

Farmers from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia are eligible for the award. State winners are selected by representatives of sponsoring organizations in each state, typically either a state Farm Bureau or Cooperative Extension Service.

Nominees for state awards are usually nominated by local county Extension agents and Farm Bureau area organization directors or field representatives, although the rules allow anyone to

nominate a potential Farmer of the Year. Some state winners have been nominated by fellow farmers, and even by family members.

Nominators play a key role in the overall success of the awards, especially in providing ground transportation for the judging team, and in helping state winners plan what to show the judges when they visit the farm.

To insure fairness of the selection process, judges are limited to three hours for each farm visit, and it is up to the state winners and the nominators to help decide what to show the judges during their limited time on the farms.

Since the awards began, three state winners have been women, including one this year. A few years ago, the Expo recognized the first fulltime beekeeper as a Farmer of the Year state winner, and this year the first rainbow trout farmer is being recognized as a state winner.

Beef cattle are grown on more farms in the Southeast than any other commodity, and it's no surprise that beef cattle producers have been prominent among state winners of the Farmer of the Year award. A number of dairy producers and poultry growers have also been recognized as state winners, and several have been selected as overall winners of the Farmer of the Year award.

Growers of field crops and horticultural crops have been well-represented among state winners. Farmers who grow timber, citrus, greenhouse plants, nursery plants, and landscaping plants are also represented in the lineup of state winners.

This year's judging tour took place during the week of Aug. 6-10. Judges include Charles

Snipes, retired Mississippi Extension weed specialist, Greenville; beef cattle rancher Cary Lightsey, Lake Wales, Fla., who was the overall winner of the award in 2009; and John McKissick, longtime University of Georgia agricultural economist at Athens, Ga.

Judges typically serve for three years before rotating off the team. Lightsey is completing his second year of judging, and Snipes and McKissick are taking part in their second three-year terms as judges.

Each state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo award receives a \$2,500 cash award and an expense-paid trip to Sunbelt Expo from Swisher International of Jacksonville, Fla. Other prizes awarded to state winners include a \$500 gift certificate from Southern States cooperative and a Columbia vest from Ivey's Outdoor and Farm Supply.

This year's overall winner will receive a \$15,000 cash award from Swisher International. Other prizes for the overall winner include the use of a Massey Ferguson tractor for a year from Massey Ferguson North America, another \$500 gift certificate from Southern States, a Columbia jacket from Ivey's Outdoor and Farm Supply, and a smoker-grill from Hays LTI.

AGCO's Massey Ferguson tractor brand has a 160-year history of providing innovation for its extensive line of tractors. This is the 21st year for Massey Ferguson to provide the overall Farmer of the Year winner with the use of a tractor for a year.

Southern States cooperative has also been a 21-year prize sponsor for the Farmer of the year awards, and before that, its predecessor coopera-



Robinson, Tennessee; Mark Morgan, Arkansas; Mike Sturdivant, Mississippi; Mike Bach, Kentucky; Ron Carroll, Swisher International, South Carolina. The 2017 overall winner was Robert Mills, Jr. This year's overall winner will be announced at a

Success in agriculture

tive in the Southeast, Gold Kist, was a prize sponsor.

Reinke Manufacturing Co., Inc., the irrigation company, is the newest prize sponsor for the Farmer of the Year award. Through its partnership with Henry Repeating Arms, Reinke will award this year's overall Farmer of the Year winner with a Henry rifle. Reinke will also award a Henry rifle as a door prize to an Expo visitor as part of its 2018 Sunbelt Expo.

Swisher International has contributed some \$1,120,000 in cash awards and other honors to southeastern farmers since the award was initiated in 1990. Swisher International also pays for related expenses for the Farmer of the Year program, such as the costs of flying a corporate jet that carries the judges to the farms of the state winners. When these related expenses are tallied up, the company has contributed a total of more than \$7 million over the years of their awards sponsorship.

Ron Carroll, Swisher marketing vice president and a member of the Sunbelt Expo board of directors, is a strong supporter of the Farmer of the Year awards, having been associated with the program since they began in 1990. Back then, Carroll was a territory manager for the tobacco company based in Albany, Ga., and remembers when the company's Expo exhibit was little more than a small tent.

He recalls that the late Bobby Batson, then a marketing director with the company, came up with the idea of expanding the Swisher exhibit as a salute to the American farmer. A few years later, Batson expanded on that theme again when he helped start the Swisher/Expo Farmer of the Year award. Batson died prior to the 2008 Sunbelt Expo and his widow, Janie Batson of Concord, N.C., has

helped Swisher International to continue the tradition. This year, she is completing her 11th year of helping Swisher and Expo to coordinate logistics for state award winners.

In recent years, Carroll has often accompanied the judges during their early August visits to the farms of state winners. The judges are also accompanied by Sunbelt Expo executive director Chip Blalock and photographer and videographer Brett Reece of Dallas, Ga.

The farming industry is in solid hands, and is poised for a bright future, says Blalock. His belief is in the great potential for Southeast agriculture is based on his firsthand visits with state winners of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year awards.

"The Farmer of the Year selection is not just about who wins," he says. "Rather, it is mainly about recognizing excellence in American agriculture. These winners are the best of the best, and they are true heroes — American farmers who touch our lives each day. It is our honor to salute them through these awards."

After reading the articles that follow, perhaps you'll come to the same conclusion and be similarly inspired. The stories of the ten state winners of the 2018 awards include a look at how they got their start in farming, how they have improved and expanded their farms over the years, and how they've become leaders in their communities and industry organizations.

IN MEMORIAM

OVER THE PAST 29 years, the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award program has honored excellence across Southern agriculture's diverse landscape, and those who have participated in the program are part of a special group.

Sadly, some members of this unique group of farmers are no longer with us. To remember them and their contributions to Sunbelt agriculture, we list here the Farmers of the Year who have passed away.

- AUSTIN ANDERSON, Tennessee State Winner 2004
- HUGH ARANT, SR., Mississippi State Winner 1990
- LEROY BALDWIN, Florida State Winner and Overall Winner 1993
- BRUCE BUSH, Alabama State winner 2003
- ROBERT CONNELLY, SR., South Carolina State Winner 1992
- JERRY EDGE, South Carolina State Winner 1998
- GLENN W. FORRESTER, Alabama State Winner 2006
- NELSON GARDENER, Virginia State and Overall Winner 1990
- JAMES GRAHAM, Tennessee State Winner 1990
- ED HESTER, Mississippi State and Overall Winner 1995
- RUSSELL INSKEEP, Virginia State Winner 1991
- ORELAN JOHNSON, Arkansas State Winner 2009
- GEORGE KAISER, Alabama State Winner 1991
- BILLY LONG, Florida State Winner 1994
- SYKES MARTIN, Alabama State Winner 1993
- BUCK McCANN, Virginia State Winner 1994
- ERNIE NUNEZ, Florida State and Overall Winner 1991
- RICK PARSONS, Mississippi State Winner 1994 and 2003
- WILL PUTNAM, Florida State Winner 2002
- WILLIAM TACKETT, Mississippi State Winner 2000
- TALBERT THOMAS, Mississippi State Winner 1993
- BOBBY VANNATTA, Tennessee State Winner 1995
- EDWARD WILSON, Tennessee State Winner 1993
- JAMES WISE, Alabama State Winner 2005

ALABAMA

FARMER OF THE YEAR



JOHN DELOACH, III named 2018 Alabama Farmer of the Year



JOHN DELOACH, III of Vincent, Ala., is successfully growing corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, and hay on a farm that has been in his family since 1820. The farm includes 1,325-acres; he owns 710 acres and rents 615.

Yields have been good. Last year, he harvested 1,150 pounds of lint per acre from 375 acres of cotton and 65 bushels of soybeans per acre from 250 acres. He notes that 200 of the soybean acres were double-cropped after wheat, which yielded 60 bushels per acre. He hopes to boost wheat yields to by using plant growth regulators and fungicides.

His corn produced 180 bushels per acre from 240 acres, and he harvested 2.5 tons of hay per acre from 150 acres. He maintains 50 acres of improved pastures, 20 acres of wetlands, and 340 acres of managed timberland.

In recognition of his farming success, DeLoach has been selected the Alabama state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award. He joins nine other individuals as finalists for the overall award that will be announced

Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the Sunbelt Expo at Moultrie, Ga.

Farming is all he has ever done. He remembers, as a child, driving a Massey Ferguson tractor. "I had to stand on the clutch to stop it." As a young teen, he sold vegetables from the bed of a pickup.

When he was 13, his grandfather died. He persuaded his grandmother not to sell the family farm, and helped her keep it by working there after school.

"Before he died, my grandfather gave me a deep appreciation for the land," DeLoach recalls. After graduating from high school at age 16, DeLoach started working on the farm and has farmed full time ever since.

He married in 1997, and recalls, "We were broke, and didn't have much equipment." He started farming with an old tractor, planted his first crops with a two-row planter, and



KATE AND JOHN DELOACH

hired a friend to combine his crops. "We have grown from there," he says.

A 300-acre parcel that he rents has produced grass sod since the 1960s. "When we started farming that land, the topsoil was gone, and it was as hard as asphalt," he says. He used a chisel plow for land preparation, and planted wheat and soybeans to build organic matter. "We harvested 40 bushels of soybeans per acre from that land," he says.

DeLoach's cotton crops have been successful, but he says cotton doesn't leave much organic matter in the soil, so he has added poultry litter as a soil amendment to build fertility and organic matter. He says he has cut back on his cotton production for the 2018 growing season.

His row crop marketing is aided by a generally strong basis (the difference between local cash prices and futures prices). He sells corn for about a 20-cents per bushel premium due to strong demand from Alabama's poultry industry. His soybeans are sold to a Cargill facility at Guntersville, Ala. He has about 15,000 bushels of on-farm grain storage that helps a bit in his marketing program.

Earlier in his farming career, he says, marketing was a hurdle he had to overcome. Now he uses forward contracting on at least 50 percent of his anticipated production. "I don't plant a crop unless I've got some sold. I want my costs covered when I plant."

DeLoach says he markets his crops through individuals and firms he can trust. For example, he has stayed with a buyer who has been faithful in providing reliable trucking to haul his crops to market. He also sells small amounts of grain to local buyers who feed chickens on a small scale, and to hunters who need deer corn.

His appreciation for the land continues to the present. If land needs to be cleared, he does it himself to make sure topsoil stays in place. He also maintains a 20-acre wetland on the farm as habitat for migratory birds. "It's not unusual to see 200 ducks on the farm," he says. He also maintains a weir system of low dams to manage water flow through the wetland.

DeLoach keeps rescued horses in his pastures, and currently has three donkeys and four horses in his pastures. Other livestock includes a small commercial beef cattle herd.

The farm is located near Birmingham in Shelby County, Ala., one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. It will be a challenge, he says, to continue farming traditional row crops in that environment, so he is looking at new farming enterprises that he hopes will allow the farm to be maintained in his family for generations to come.



Nominator David Farnsworth and John DeLoach

One of the ventures is grapes for wine production. He's also considering establishing a venue for weddings and other social events. With these new enterprises, he hopes to achieve other goals, among them teaching city people about farming, and helping to sustain agriculture in Shelby County.

His wife, Kate, grew up in town, and works off the farm as a sales executive with AT&T, but loves living on the farm. "It's like being at a summer camp," she says, "and it's an honor for me to live here." She is active in the Women of AT&T, a non-profit employee resource organization, and has been recognized by presidents Obama and Trump for her community volunteer work.

"Early in our marriage, we worked round the clock on the farm," Kate recalls. "But we also believe it is important to invest in our community."

John has taught farm mechanics to Boy Scouts, and has hosted their campouts on the farm. He is taking part in a statewide agricultural leadership development program, and has mentored Young Farmers in the Alabama Farmers Federation. He also serves as vice president of the Shelby County Farmers Federation.


An expert self-taught welder, he occasionally completes high-end welding and metalworking projects. Welding is a word-of-mouth business, he says. "I could keep busy with welding

projects full-time — but then I wouldn't have time to farm."


John and Kate's son, Jess, attends high school at Coosa Valley Academy at Harpersville, Ala. Two years ago, he received a beehive as a birthday gift, and hopes to expand his production of tupelo honey. He expects honey production of 60 pounds to 80 pounds per hive, and hopes that beekeeping can become a profitable enterprise for the farm. He helps manage the farm's cattle and is building his own beef herd. He is also working to earn the rank of Eagle Scout,

Jeff Helms, director of the Department of Public Relations and Communications with the Alabama Farmers Federation, is the state coordinator of the Farmer of the Year award. DeLoach was nominated for the award by David Farnsworth, recently retired area organization director with the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Farnsworth says he admires DeLoach's passion for farming. "His love for farming motivates him to keep learning and growing, and also attracts others to get involved in agriculture. John is truly an advocate for the American farmer."



Congrats to the DeLoach Family



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ARKANSAS

FARMER OF THE YEAR



LUKE ALSTON named 2018 Arkansas Farmer of the Year

LUKE ALSTON gave up a stable career as a Farm Bureau insurance claims adjuster to pursue his dream of farming, returning to his family's farm that his great-great-grandfather homesteaded in 1897.

At his Holly Springs Homestead farm at Mena, Ark., he built eight broiler chicken houses and established a successful agritourism enterprise featuring an on-farm market, a corn maze, pumpkin patch, pick-your-own crops, and other attractions.

In recognition of his success as a diversified farmer, Alston has been named Arkansas state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award.

He currently farms about 80 acres of rented land and 362 acres of owned land. His large acreage crops include round bale silage and pasture.

For six weeks every autumn, Alston hosts "Fall Fun on the Farm," featuring a corn maze, pick-your-own pumpkins, hayrides, and live music. Later in the fall, he offers Fraser fir Christmas trees for sale.

On a smaller scale, he grows pick-your-own specialty crops that include strawberries, black-

berries, blueberries, raspberries, pumpkins, and muscadines, as well as a variety of produce crops, such as tomatoes, sweet corn, watermelons, peas, lettuce, greens, herbs, asparagus, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, okra, bell peppers, squash, cucumbers, turnips, and beets. Stalks of field corn are harvested for fall decorations, along with square hay bales.

Orchard crops of peaches, figs, apples, persimmons, and plums will be in full production in 2020, and muscadine vines will be in production in 2019. He also grows cut flowers, including sunflowers. He's increasing the number of beehives to meet demand for locally-grown honey.

Alston strengthened his marketing program by joining the Arkansas Grown, Arkansas Made, Farm to School and Farm to Institution programs, and by completing produce safety

training. To meet the needs of additional buyers, he increased plantings of greens, tomatoes, watermelons, and pumpkins. He also grows plots of rice, wheat, soybeans, grain sorghum, peanuts, and other crops to



DEEDEE AND LUKE ALSTON

teach visitors about the diversity of agriculture in Arkansas.

In his 50x500-foot chicken houses, he grows broilers for Tyson Foods. Each house has a capacity of 37,500 birds, and he produces six to seven batches of chickens each year. Litter from the broilers fertilizes his land and generates income through sales to other farmers. "There is a strong demand for poultry litter," he says.

At one time, the Alston family had a registered Angus herd, but they sold most of the cattle when his father's health declined. He later sold most of the commercial cows, but kept a select group of heifers to produce beef to sell at the farm's market. He also raises Hereford cross pigs for pork that is sold at Holly Springs Homestead Market.

He established a commercial kitchen to process fruits and vegetables. The kitchen also provides breakfast and lunch to customers who visit the farm. He hopes to expand sales of homemade breads and pastries at the market, and to add a small dairy to produce fresh milk and cheese for sale at the market.

His newest enterprise is a "farmstay" vacation rental. Up to eight guests can experience farm life in a renovated farmhouse available through Airbnb.com.

Prior to planting the corn maze, Alston grows spring oats, planted in March and harvested as round bale silage about 60 days later. He also has cooperated with Arkansas Extension in testing spring oats.

Though he has farmed most of his life, he didn't become a full-time farmer until he decided to raise chickens. He was going to build four houses, but ended up building eight after seeing that chickens would allow his wife, Deedee, to work full-time on the farm.

The houses were approved in 2014, but there were construction delays. "Our faith was forged while building the chicken houses," says Alston. The delay meant that he had no income, so he improvised by developing the agritourism and commercial vegetable enterprises.

The delay also prompted him to offer custom farming services, and he still brings in extra income by providing cutting, raking, and baling of hay and round bale silage, as well as mowing and litter and lime spreading services. Occasionally, he provides artificial insemination services for other cattle producers.

"Deedee and I left good corporate jobs that most folks would have kept," says Alston. "Deedee is a forward thinker like no other." She left a long term position as chief operating officer for a community health center to work on the farm. The daughter of a logger and fur trapper, she is the farm's chief financial officer and handles marketing and accounting, as well as working with the crops, cattle, and poultry. "We are a team, and treat the farm as a business," Luke says.



Nominator Carla Vaught and Luke Alston

The Alstons enjoy hosting visitors. Luke recalls a 93-year-old woman who enjoyed her first ever hayride on their farm. As active members of Faith Missionary Baptist Church, they give God credit for their success.

Luke is president of Polk County Cattlemens Association and chairs the Polk County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers organization. He's on the board of the Polk County Farm Bureau and serves on an Extension advisory committee, is a member of the Arkansas Cattlemens Association, a 4-H parent volunteer, a public speaker for Extension, and a graduate of the Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class. He's also a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and was a member of the American Angus Association.

Deedee chairs the Polk County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, is a Master Gardener and a member of the Polk County Beekeepers, and has served on advisory committees for Mena Middle School and Acorn public schools. She helped start a home economics club for young women interested in canning and fresh foods, serves as an election poll worker, is a public speaker at service clubs, and is superintendent of the crops division at the Polk County Fair.

She has been active in Arkansas Women in Agriculture, is a member of the Arkansas Beekeepers Association, on the board of the Arkansas Agritourism Association, has served as a 4-H parent volunteer, is in the Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class, and has been a member of

the National Cattlemen's Beef Association since 2013.

Luke and Deedee have two teenage sons, Ryan and Drey. Ryan is pursuing a medical degree and is a sophomore at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. At home on weekends, he helps manage the chickens. He also owns cattle, runs the cash register at the farm's market, and occasionally produces a signature dish of homemade crêpes in the Holly Springs Homestead kitchen.

Drey has completed eighth grade and was a top student in his school's agriculture classes. He developed mechanical skills during the seventh grade of home schooling. In a blacksmithing club, he

forged hardware used in the farm's attractions for children and in a new greenhouse. He looks forward to playing football and being in FFA as a ninth grader. He also owns cattle, helps in the poultry houses, is raising a show calf, and aspires to be a John Deere diesel mechanic.

Maddison Stewart, social media specialist with Arkansas Farm Bureau, is the state coordinator for the Farmer of the Year award in Arkansas. Alston was nominated for the Farmer of the Year honor by Carla Vaught, Extension agent in Polk County, Ark. Vaught says she admires Alston's devotion to agriculture and how he and Deedee left successful careers to become dedicated, innovative farmers. "They do nothing without researching it first," she says.

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FLORIDA

FARMER OF THE YEAR



LYNETTA USHER GRINER

named
2018 Florida
Farmer of the Year



LYNETTA USHER GRINER'S life and career plans changed dramatically in 1989 when her brother, Tommy Usher, died in a boating accident on the Suwannee River. A seventh generation Floridian, she lives in Levy County, Fla., where she had been practicing law, but with her brother's unexpected passing, she found herself essentially in charge of Usher Land & Timber.

Based in Chiefland, Fla., Usher Land & Timber is a logging and farming business that was started by her grandfather. Her parents, Etter and Helen Usher, operated pulpwood harvesting crews, ran cattle, and bought land when it was inexpensive.

Lynetta still practices law, but that is secondary to running her established and thriving timber and beef cattle enterprises. It is her success as a beef cattle farmer, logging executive, and timber producer, that has earned her the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for the state of Florida.

Usher Land & Timber has 9,500 acres of family-owned land, 6,800 acres of which is in timber that produces an average of six

tons per acre per year. The family also owns grazing land in Kansas and Nebraska. Crops that support the cattle include irrigated forage sorghum on 135 acres, non-irrigated hay on 120 acres, and irrigated hay on 430 acres.

Lynetta's parents ran the beef herd as a hobby. As her brother took over, and then when she and her husband assumed the reins, they converted the beef operation into a more profitable business. The cow-calf operation has 827 cows. The cattle grow yards have a capacity of up to 2,500 calves. She explains that a grow yard is like a feedlot except that cattle also have access to pasture.

Her husband, Ken, also had his life changed as a result of Lynetta's brother's death. He owned an automobile dealership, but now runs the beef cattle and related farming

operations at Usher Land & Timber. He raises about 40 beef bulls for sale each year. "He aims to build the perfect cow for our envi-



LYNETTA AND KEN GRINER

ronment, one that is half Charolais and half Ultrablack," says Lynetta. "Ultrablack is a Brangus-Angus cross."

Calves are marketed through Florida Cattle Ranchers, a branded beef partnership. "We take cattle from ranches where they are born, and add weight to them before they go to feedlots," she says. These cattle gain weight by grazing and by eating some non-traditional feeds, such as dried distillers grains and bakery byproducts.

The farm's silvopasture program allows forage grazing under pine trees. "This works great when forage is short during the winter," Lynetta says.

They also raise Wagyu Japanese beef cattle. They have contracted with Imperial Beef of Nebraska to use Wagyu bulls on their female cattle to produce 200 to 300 head of F1 Wagyu calves each year.

"We buy timber from private landowners and we cut timber from our own land," she says. She operates four logging crews and a trucking business to haul the logs. The company has 36 employees and delivers about 200 loads each week to wood mills in north Florida.

Early in the Trump administration, Lynetta was invited to the White House for a Farmers Roundtable discussion. She was the only rep-



Lynetta Usher and nominator Jared Lanier

representative of the timber industry and one of two representatives from the cattle industry.

She served on the board and as president of Friends of Fanning, Inc., to support Fanning Springs State Park. She is a member of Suwannee Valley Rotary Club, a director of Drummond Community Bank, was the first woman to serve as president of the Florida Forestry Association, and was named by Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam as the 2013 Florida Woman of the Year in Agriculture.

She served on the board and as chair of the Suwannee River Water Management District, advises on potential state land purchases for the Florida Forever program, serves on the board of Florida's Nature Conservancy, and advises the Florida Forestry Council state forester.

Usher Land & Timber has received Logger

of the Year recognition at state, regional, and national levels. The farm was recognized by the County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) program for its practices to protect the environment. The business also was recognized by the Audubon Society for its sustainable forestry practices.

To honor her late brother, Lynette helps run the Tommy Usher Log a Load for Kids charity, which raises money for the Children's Miracle Network and the University of Florida Health Shands Children's Hospital. "This is heavily supported by our friends and industries we work with," she says, "and last year we raised more than \$1 million."

Ken, a cancer survivor, recently finished serving a term as president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, has served on the board of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and was recognized by Farm Credit of Florida and the Florida Cattlemen's Association as an Outstanding Rancher & Leader.

Ken and Lynetta's son, Korey, is a major contributor in developing heifers and managing the cattle. He says the cattle grow yards allow the farm to act as a stocker operation by raising cattle from 400 pounds up to 750

See GRINER, Page 80

Congratulations

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GEORGIA

FARMER OF THE YEAR



JAMES VAUGHN named 2018 Georgia Farmer of the Year



AN ATTORNEY WHO practices law from offices on his farm, James Vaughn of Forsyth, Ga., is especially proud of converting a 650-acre pine tree plantation over a ten-year period into productive pastures on which he raises forages for his beef cattle.

His success in cattle and timber production has resulted in his selection as state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for Georgia.

A farmer for 35 years, Vaughn operates 5,590 acres of land. He owns the farm with his sister and partner, Dr. Brenda Vaughn Caldwell, and is assisted in daily farm management by his wife, Beth, and two sons, Matthew and Jordan.

He grows timber on 4,000 acres. Recently-planted stands are thinned for pulpwood and are increasingly used as energy crops. "Our timber sales are handled by our contract forester," he says. "Our goal is to convert natural stands into plantations and to use shorter rotations."

In 2006, a root rot fungus infected the 650-acre pine plantation he converted to grass-

lands, so he harvested the timber and began to convert the land to grass, doubling the size of his cattle herd and establishing a commercial hay enterprise. "We took a bad situation and turned it into something better through hard work and assistance from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service," says Vaughn.

District Conservationist Carmen Westerfield helped Vaughn with the transition that included cost-sharing from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Vaughn has identified another timber

tract that he may convert to grassland.

He grows non-irrigated bermudagrass hay on 245 acres that yielded 6.9 tons of forage per acre in 2017. The farm markets hay in



BETH AND JAMES VAUGHN

50-pound square bales and 1,000-pound round bales; in 2017, more than 18,000 square bales were sold to wholesale markets.

Beth is a partner in a local feed store, and a portion of his hay is marketed through the store, Country Oaks Farm and Pet Supply. The store is also a source of farm inputs Vaughn uses, including feed, seed, vaccines, herbicides, twine, and net wrapping. His beef operation includes 407 purebred Angus cows, of which 42 are registered.

His father started the herd in the 1950's. Vaughn and his sons have worked to continue his father's legacy. "We raise our own replacements and we rarely buy breeding animals," says Vaughn. Since the mid-1990s, he has been marketing to feedlot operator Bill Pellett in Atlantic, Iowa. After the cattle are finished in the feedlot, the meat is sold to export markets.

Vaughn stays with the same feedlot buyer because he receives carcass quality information that he uses to improve herd genetics. "That data drives our breeding decisions," he says. Many of his cattle qualify as Certified Angus Beef and reach Prime grade. The cattle are not treated with growth hormones, an important consideration for export buyers. He sells some grass-finished cattle through White Oak Pastures at Bluffton, Ga. Bred heifers are sold by private treaty, and he sells about 10 to 15 registered bulls each year.

The family is also involved in buying, training, and marketing cutting horses, and 15 to 18 horses are kept on the farm. Some are show horses; the rest are used to manage the beef herd.

"I moved my law firm to the farm because I could practice law in the country better than I could farm in town," Vaughn says. He specializes in tax and commercial law, and his Vaughn, Wright & Boyer, LLP firm also handles property taxes, timber contracts, partnership records, and other farm-related legal matters.

He has been a leader in the Development Authority of Monroe County, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority, and the Monroe County Hospital Authority. He has chaired the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, the Middle Georgia Regional Roundtable, the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center, and the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce.

He served on the boards of the Macon State College Foundation, Monroe County Bank, and Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Association, is a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Macon, has been a member of the Georgia Agri-Leaders Forum, the Georgia Cattlemen's Association, and the Georgia Forestry Association, and is a member of the National Cutting Horse Association and the American Quarter



Nominator Caitlin Jackson and James Vaughn

Horse Association.

Beth is an accomplished leader. In addition to her ownership interests in the feed store, she chairs the Bank of Dudley and Hogan Timberlands, her family's forestry investments located primarily in Laurens County, Ga. She is an Auburn University finance graduate and earned an MBA from the University of Georgia. She learned banking from her grandmother, who also ran the Bank of Dudley. In her spare time, Beth helps exercise and care for the horses. She also handles some of the record keeping for the farm and helps with hay harvest and cattle work.

James and Beth are proud of their four happily married adult children and six grandchildren. Son Matthew graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College at Tifton, Ga., in agricultural engineering technology. He works full time on the family farm, maintaining equipment, producing hay and forage, and caring for livestock.

Son Jordan graduated from Auburn University in equine science and works full time on the farm while also training cutting horses. He helps manage the animal health program and produces and markets hay.

Son Benjamin graduated from Auburn University in forestry and is a cum laude graduate of the Walter F. Georgia School of Law at Mercer University. He has his own law practice in Forsyth and helps his dad manage the farm's timber.

Daughter Jennifer Vaughn Hickson graduated from the University of Georgia in animal science/dairy science, and lives in South Carolina, where she works as an assistant for an equine veterinarian. She and her husband also own a farm, and are involved in the cutting horse business.

"I've been here on this farm for my entire life," says Vaughn. "This farm is special to me. I have achieved an important goal of maintaining a farm business in which my family can work and we can maintain the lifestyle we enjoy."

He is producing high quality beef, hay, and horses, along with commodity timber products. "More importantly, we are producing these commodities in an efficient and sustainable manner in the hope and expectation that future generations of our family can live and work on the farm."

The state coordinator for the Farmer of the Year award in Georgia is Mark McCann, assistant dean of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. Vaughn was nominated for the honor by Caitlin Jackson, Extension agent in Monroe County, Ga. Jackson says she admires Vaughn for his farming skills, community leadership, and his dedicated volunteer work as an advocate for agriculture and land-grant university research and Extension programs.

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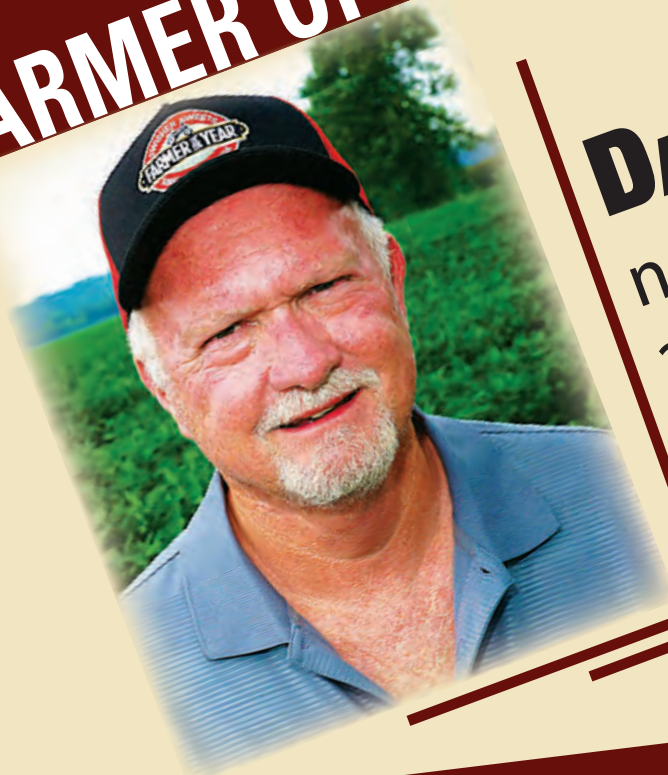
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KENTUCKY

FARMER OF THE YEAR



DARREN LUTTRELL named 2018 Kentucky Farmer of the Year

AN OCCASIONAL LOCAL talk radio personality, Darren Luttrell is also a third-generation farmer, a successful poultry producer, and a high-yield corn and soybean grower. He lives in Beaver Dam, Ky., and farms in Ohio County near the Olaton community.

Luttrell's farm encompasses 3,700 acres of row crop land on which he grows corn and soybeans. He owns about 30 acres of timber and 60 acres of pasture, and raises broiler chickens on contract for Perdue Farms, Inc., in eight poultry houses. He and wife Debbie own 750 acres and other family members own land totaling nearly 1,500 acres.

Luttrell's success as a row crop and poultry farmer has resulted in his selection as state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for Kentucky.

This year, he is growing about 1,900 acres of corn and 1,800 acres of soybeans. His impressive per acre yields last year were 228.8 bushels for corn and 65.6 bushels for soybeans. In planting, he uses minimum tillage to save soil, and also by planting grass on ditchbanks throughout his farm.

He has 350,000 bushels of grain storage capacity, which helps to get better prices. For the past 14 years, Luttrell has used a marketing consultant for advice on cash sales, hedging, and basis contracts.

About 10 miles from his main farming headquarters, he grows broilers for Perdue. At one point, he, his brother, and his dad were partners in their farm and in a construction company, but after the poultry houses were built, they split up the businesses. Luttrell and his dad acquired the farm and the brother received the construction company.

A longtime employee watches

over the chickens for Luttrell. Each of the eight houses holds 25,000 birds and he normally produces six flocks per year, totaling 1.2 million broilers per year. Based on a per-bird



DEBBIE AND DARREN LUTTRELL

weight of seven pounds, that's a whopping 8.4 million pounds of chicken per year.

While some broiler growers have issues with their contracting companies, Luttrell is generally pleased with his partnership with Perdue. "They treat us like we want to be treated," he says. During the 22 years he has grown chickens, he has seen many improvements in broiler housing and equipment. "Our houses cost \$100,000 each when we built them," he says. "If we built them today, we'd pay \$250,000 to build each one."

Broiler growers should be able to pay for their houses over a seven-year period, he says. As he sees the overall farm economy today, he believes a farmer would be better off investing in broiler production than in grain production.

Poultry litter has become a valuable resource for his farm. "Every year, we do a partial cleanout of each chicken house, and we apply the litter to either cropland or pasture. At times, we have also sold poultry litter, especially when fertilizer prices were high. We compost the litter, and then in either late summer or early fall, we spread it on the fields."

He sees a quicker response to litter applied to pasture land than to crop fields, but says, "Over time, litter will help build up the fertility level of rough farmland." When spreading litter, he follows soil test recommendations and matches those recommendations with analysis of the litter's nutrient content.

Once or twice a month, he is a guest on a local talk radio program, Lunch at the Z, talking with the host and callers about farming and a variety of other topics from the studios of station WXMZ in Hartford, Ky.

This is the 22nd year for Luttrell to host Youth Ag Day, with local fourth grade students coming to his farm to learn about farming. "It has been very rewarding to host these students," he says. "One of the teachers now came to the farm when she was a fourth grader."

FFA students and others in the community come together to help make Youth Ag Day a success. The fourth graders stop at eight to nine stations, experiencing a hayride, a petting zoo, and watching farm safety and electrical safety demonstrations. "They see and learn about where their food comes from," says Luttrell.

He recalls that as a child one of his first jobs on the farm was taking care of pigs. "When I was 10 to 12 years old, my grandfather had 20 to 30 sows. We also bought feeder pigs and fed them out." He started farming full



Nominator Jerry Black and Darren Luttrell

time in 1982, graduating from high school at mid-term so he could take part in planting the crops that year.

Luttrell is an active leader in his community, and is a member of the Beaver Dam Tourism Commission. "We have a four-year-old amphitheater where we bring big name musical acts to entertain people in our community," he says. He served for nine years on the Kentucky Soybean Association board, is on the board of the Ohio County Economic Development Alliance, has been a board member of the Ohio County Farm Bureau for at least 15 years, and serves as a supervisor on the Ohio County Conservation District, serving as its chairman for about 14 years.

Debbie helps on the farm, keeping books and running occasional errands. She is on a local Habitat for Humanity board, and worked in an attorney's office for five years until she decided to stay home to spend more time with their grandchildren. They have three grandchildren (another was expected in July).

Debbie and Darren have been active in Cedar Grove Baptist Church, where she

served as church treasurer for 20 years, was a Sunday school teacher and nursery supervisor, and worked in women's ministry. She was also a Girl Scout leader for 20 years, and a volunteer at the elementary schools her children attended.

The Luttrells have two sons, Josh and Jeffery, and a daughter, Kristy. Jeffery farms with Darren, and specializes in growing the grain crops. Josh farms on his own and he and his wife have a 600-head cattle operation. Josh's pastures are often the recipient of the fertilizer nutrients from the litter pro-

duced by Darren's chickens. Kristy is moving to Seattle, Wash., and was expecting a new baby this summer.

Darren's father, Bobby Luttrell, is still active on the farm and helps out from time to time. Bobby recently took an old liquid applicator frame and used it to build a tile plow that will dig trenches four feet deep and lay down plastic drainage pipe.

Joe Cain, director of the Commodity Division of Kentucky Farm Bureau, coordinates the Farmer of the Year award in Kentucky. Luttrell was nominated for the award by Jerry Black of Hartford, Ky., a farmer who serves as president of Ohio County Farm Bureau.

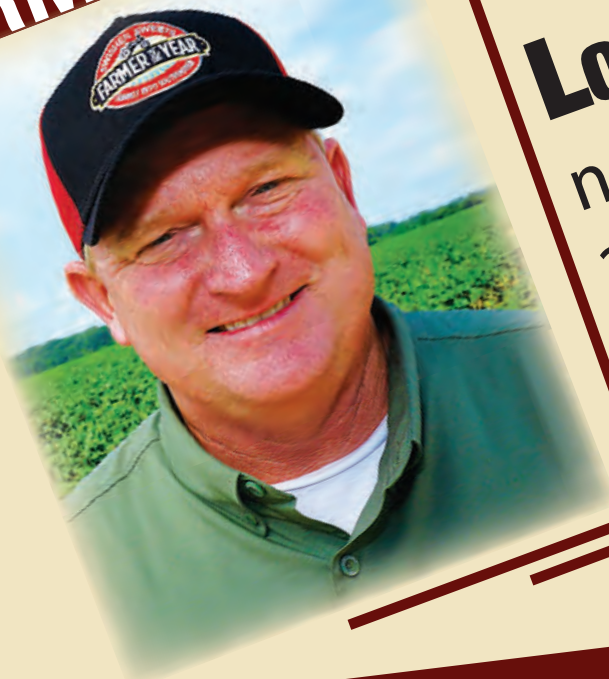
Black says he admires Luttrell for welcoming young people to the farm and helping to educate them about agriculture. "Darren began with what his grandfather and his dad started; then he expanded and made it better," says Black. "He is innovative and is always trying new ideas on his farm." Black says he also enjoys Luttrell's talk radio appearances: "He's our Paul Harvey."



Darren Luttrell has 1,900 acres of high yielding corn, along with 1,800 acres of soybeans.

MISSISSIPPI

FARMER OF THE YEAR



Lonnie Fortner named 2018 Mississippi Farmer of the Year

LONNIE FORTNER left his career as a county executive director with the USDA Farm Service Agency to become a farmer. He started as a farm manager and later was made a partner in Rock Lake Planting Company. Recently he branched out on his own as owner and operator of Bayou Pierre Farms, growing cotton, peanuts, corn, and soybeans.

His success as a crop farmer has earned him the state winner title for Mississippi in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year awards for 2018.

Fortner farms about 3,600 acres of rented land. His per acre yields last year were 1,078 pounds of cotton lint from 1,400 acres, 4,798 pounds of peanuts from 400 acres, 187 bushels of corn from 600 acres, and 45 bushels of soybeans from 1,200 acres.

He markets cotton using the split pool of the Staple Cotton Cooperative Association. "I price half of my expected production," he says, "and the remainder is priced by Staple." Feed mills and a local ethanol plant buy his corn; he prices a third of his expected production prior to planting. After planting, he prices another third, then prices the remainder as a clear

picture of final production comes into focus.

Corn is stored on the farm and delivered on January-February-March (JFM) contracts. Fortner says he hopes to upgrade his grain storage facilities and expand the overall grain storage capacity. He sells soybeans through Bunge, with a third of expected production priced at or before planting. "Soybeans are generally delivered at harvest," he says, "but if there is an advantage, I'll store them and deliver them in January." Peanuts are sold on contract to Golden Peanut and Tree Nuts Company.

He grows cotton in 38-inch single rows, but plants peanuts, corn, and soybeans on twin rows. "That allows us to

farm with one set of planting equipment," he says. "Cotton does better in wide rows,



KAREN AND LONNIE FORTNER

but peanuts and grain crops tend to do better in narrow rows." Fortner estimates that twin rows increase corn yields by 10 bushels to 15 bushels per acre, and help soybeans reduce weed competition by shading row middles. He believes twin row peanuts produce 500 to 600 more pounds per acre.

Among farmers in his part of west central Mississippi, he is considered to be a longtime peanut grower. "We were one of the first peanut growers in this area," he says. At times in the past, he has grown sesame, wheat, and grain sorghum.

He has used strip tillage and cover crops for many years, and says his crop rotation improves soil health while conserving moisture. He also makes variable rate fertilizer applications. His cover crop of choice is cereal rye. Burrowing bugs are a chief risk when using strip tillage and cover crops prior to planting peanuts, but he hasn't yet had to contend with those pests.

Fortner has been using precision satellite navigation or RTK since the 2006 growing season. "It really pays off in planting and digging peanuts," he says. "We learned after Hurricane Katrina that it could be hard to find peanut rows after the wind blew the plants down. RTK helps us to find the rows when we're digging peanuts."

He has been using strip tillage since 2005. His primary strip tillage implement is a 12-row Orthman 1tRIPr (pronounced one-tripper) that subsoils under each row and, he says, creates an ideal seedbed in a single pass. "We are better off using strip tillage on our silt loam soils that can get sticky when wet," he says.

Recently, he has tweaked his strip-till planting system to cope with pigweeds. "We still plant a rye cover crop, but we sometimes till it up to allow us to incorporate a yellow residual herbicide to help control the pigweeds."

One of his big challenges has been crop damage from wild hogs and deer, and he has invested in electric fencing to help protect some of his crops from the four-legged pests.

Soil conservation and environmental protection are important for Fortner. "Soil erosion is a constant threat," he says, "so we're working on our conservation practices and moving to install grassed waterways. For instance, we've developed our own system of using drop pipes and plastic culverts to help manage water on the land we farm."

Fortner grew up on a family farm in Webster County, Miss. His father, Wallace Fortner, is now semi-retired, but still does construction work on the side and helps on the farm. "He likes to plant cotton and help



Nominator Sherry Surrette and Lonnie Fortner

with harvesting by running the combine," says Lonnie.

Fortner credits his partners in Rock Lake Planting Company — James "Joc" Carpenter and Emile Guedon — for getting his start. He started farming for them in 1996, and in 2006 they made him a partner. In 2009, he was named managing partner. "I was blessed to have them as mentors," he says, "and I've been blessed to produce good crops during some tough years."

The partnership dissolved a year ago, so Lonnie and wife Karen formed their own partnership, Bayou Pierre Farms. Karen also works off the farm. She has been a kindergarten and first grade teacher, and became certified in special education, now teaching special needs children at Warren Central Junior High School at Vicksburg, Miss. Since 2016, she has been a board member of Claiborne County Farm Bureau and has served as vice chair of its Women's Committee.

committees.

"Karen is my biggest supporter," says Lonnie. "She took care of our kids while I took care of the farm, and now she is growing into her role as partner on our farm." The Fortners have two teenage children, daughter Beth and son Lee. Both have been active on mission trips, in a children's ministry, at Vacation Bible School, and at a Farm Bureau-sponsored safety camp.

Steve Martin, associate director with Mississippi State University Extension, coordinates the Farmer of the Year award in the state. Fortner was nominated for the honor by Sherry Surrette with the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center. Surrette says she admires how Fortner entered farming by first working for a large farming company, and then operating his own farm. "He has a diverse operation, uses new technology, and works well with Extension," she says.



Judges John McKissick, Cary Lightsey, and Charles Ed Snipes visit with Lonnie Fortner as he talks about using precision satellite navigation.

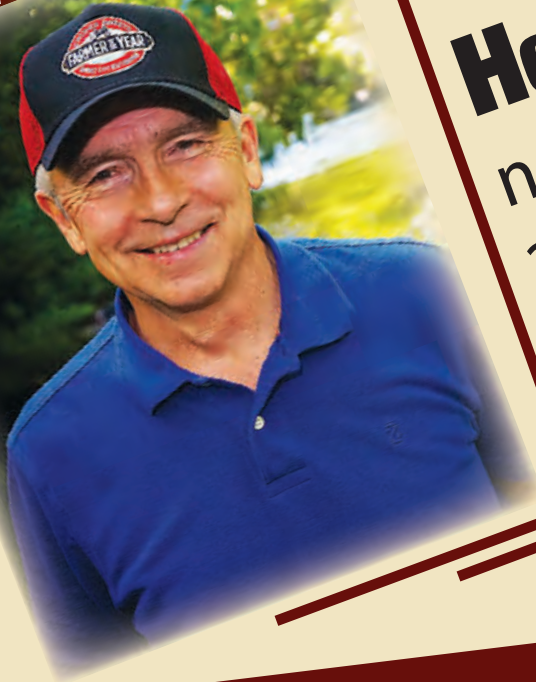
NORTH CAROLINA

FARMER OF THE YEAR



HOWARD BROWN

named
2018 North Carolina
Farmer of the Year



IF YOU'VE EVER enjoyed rainbow trout in upscale restaurants in the eastern U.S., you might thank Howard Brown of Andrews, N.C. He and his business, C.R. Brown Enterprises, have played a large part in developing the trout farming industry in western North Carolina.

A farmer for 30 years, he produces up to 70,000 pounds per acre of fish that's sold under the Carolina Mountain Trout brand name.

Brown's success as a trout farmer has resulted in his selection as state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for North Carolina. He is the first trout farmer to be named a state winner of the award.

Measured by acreage, his farming system isn't large — only about 30 acres, with 20 acres rented and 10 acres owned — but on that limited amount of land, he produces an impressive amount of fish, about 1,000 tons of rainbow trout per year.

He is also a feed distributor. He buys about 1,700 tons of trout feed per year and uses most of it on his own farms, but sells about a

third to other trout farms. Organic fertilizer is manufactured from the waste byproducts of the processed fish and is sold as Brown's Fish Fertilizer. It's made by a cold process, using natural enzymes to transform the product from a solid state to a liquid.

Brown used to have to pay to get this byproduct hauled away. Now, it's a major profit center. Last year, he shipped more than 300,000 gallons of the liquid natural product throughout the eastern two thirds of the U.S. "This minimized our waste, and helped our bottom line," he says. The fertilizer products are marketed through a website. His son, Brandon, generates

the sales by calling clients and meeting them at organic food conferences.

"Our Carolina Mountain Trout is marketed via telephone and word of mouth," Brown



DEBBIE AND HOWARD BROWN

says. "Demand is almost always higher than our production. Most of our product is sold through distributors in Atlanta, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston and other eastern cities."

Trucking of feed and fish is another important farm-related enterprise. "We haul freshly processed fish to a number of cities two to three times per week," he says. "We also do some backhauling for other companies, and that helps the profit margins."

During the mid-1980s, the need for a fish-processing plant became evident, so he helped organize investors and secured financing to build a processing plant and his company's first trout farm. The plant can process about three million pounds of fish per year. Brown supplies two thirds of the trout the plant processes and the other third comes from other growers.

As demand for trout increased, Brown added more company farms. To address disease problems, he worked with researchers to develop new vaccines. "We are the only trout operation in the U.S. that vaccinates each fish, one at a time, with a needle," he says.

Drought can be a recurring problem, so he designed low pressure and high pressure oxygen systems to keep the farms productive when water levels are low. He currently is testing a large tank he designed that uses limited amounts of water to grow trout during drought conditions.

He also designed trucks with integrated loaders that eliminate hand loading from the concrete raceways where the rainbow trout live and grow. These trucks speed the process of moving fish from the farms to the processing plant. Vacuum systems designed by Brown help to remove fish waste from the water in the raceways. Those nutrients are then either composted or dried and spread as fertilizer on fields.

The company is named after his father, C.R. Brown, who raised chickens, cattle, and crops. Howard's first job after military service and college was to design and build a drying system for the chicken manure on his dad's farm. Much of that product was fed to cattle, and that opened the door to establishing a feed mill on the farm. He closed the feed mill in 2000 because it needed an expensive updating, but it did lead to the production of some trout feed, and his overall trout operation emerged from that beginning.

Brown has been a deacon and bus driver for Marble Springs Baptist Church, has served as a youth baseball coach, is on the board of Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters, a Christian



Nominator Duane Wilkey and Howard Brown

faith-based ministry that offers camping and other recreational activities, and is on the board of Industrial Opportunities, Inc., a non-profit organization serving adults with disabilities.

He's active in the North Carolina Aquaculture Association, works with state fisheries on projects related to vaccines and fish health, works with other agencies to address waste management issues, and designs equipment and methods for handling waste and complying with state and federal waste management guidelines.

Brown works with the National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture, North Carolina State University, and the Extension Service on issues related to vaccine and disease management, is working as a consultant with the Cherokee Nation on trout production and disease management, and works with NSF International (formerly the National Sanitation Foundation) on raising trout without using antibiotics.

He is especially proud of the work his wife, Debbie, did for 25 years in handling trout

sales, human resources, accounts payable, and other duties. She recently retired as office manager at the processing plant. "She was at the heart of our success," he says, "and she's a wonderful grandma to our five grandchildren."

Howard and Debbie have two adult children, daughter Christy Helton, and son Brandon, who heads up the fertilizer business, coaches basketball and baseball at times, and will eventually take on overall management of the business. Christy is

a stay-at-home mom for her four children, and her husband, Andy, drives trucks for the business and is learning to take over management of the farms. Howard's brother, Terry, also works in the business as a truck driver and equipment operator.

Audrey Brown (no relation to Howard), director of field services for North Carolina Farm Bureau, coordinates the Farmer of the Year award in the state. Howard was nominated for the honor by another trout farmer, Duane Wilkey of Robbinsville, N.C.

Wilkey, who moved from Texas to North Carolina, gives Brown credit for building western North Carolina's rainbow trout industry. "We're isolated from other trout producers," he says. "Howard developed the markets for our fish, the tools we use in growing fish, and our processing facilities. The supply of fish needs to be reliable, and that word describes Howard: He's reliable, and a one-of-a-kind individual who faced adversity while spending his own money to help this industry."



John McKissick (judge), Ron Carroll (Swisher Sweets), and Cary Lightsey (judge) listen as Howard Brown explains operations in his trout processing facility.

SOUTH CAROLINA

FARMER OF THE YEAR



KEVIN YON

named
2018 South Carolina
Farmer of the Year

THE SON AND GRANDSON of sharecroppers, first generation Angus breeder Kevin Yon and his family have established Yon Family Farms at Ridge Spring, S.C., as one of the best Angus seedstock herds in the nation.

As a result of his success as a beef producer, and his leadership in the beef industry and in Angus organizations, Yon has been selected as state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for South Carolina.

The Yon farm encompasses 4,258 acres, with 2,515 acres of rented land and 1,743 acres owned.

Each year, they sell about 375 bulls and 150 females in two on-farm sales, as well as cattle in private treaty sales. Their herd includes about 1,200 registered breeding age females, 590 commercial breeding age females, and 90 steers and heifers that are fed out.

The Yons retain ownership of calves not sold for breeding, and feed most of them in a Kansas feedlot. They also feed out calves on their farm that are marketed through an Augusta, Ga., processing facility.

In the future, they may embark upon a cattle buy-back program for customers who buy their bulls. "Our success depends on their success, and we may see what we can do to help market their calves," he says.

As a group, forages are Kevin's most important crops. He plants small grains, and last year those crops (on 695 acres) yielded 4 tons of round bale silage per acre. Bermudagrass hay on 642 acres yielded 6 tons per acre. He has successfully grown Bulldog 805 and Alfagraze 600 alfalfa varieties. Alfalfa on 20 acres yielded 6 tons of hay per acre last year. He also grows corn on about 600 acres for both grain and silage. This year, he's growing his first soybeans, "mainly for crop rotation."

He started growing pecans in 2016 for diversifi-

cation, and looks forward to a new national promotion program for the pecan industry. "Pecans have the potential to become much more than just a holiday food," he says.

Kevin and his family also own a retail store



LYDIA AND KEVIN YON

in Ridge Spring, where they sell their pecan products and other South Carolina-grown products. He hopes the store can help expand the sales of his own beef products.

He bought his first commercial herd of cattle while in high school. He and wife Lydia both grew up in Anderson County, S.C., and met when they were animal science students at Clemson University. "On our dates, we would go check my cattle," he recalls.

After graduation, Kevin worked for seven years managing the beef herd at Congaree Farms near Columbia, S.C. To start his own herd, he was able to buy half of the Congaree Farms Angus herd. "We earned an equity in 20 of the 100 head we bought by taking a reduced salary," he says.

The Yons then moved to Ridge Spring, where they improved and expanded their Angus herd. Prior to moving, one of their big breaks came when one of their bull customers offered to sell them 100 acres and a small house. "He and his brother agreed to lease additional land to us," Kevin says. "We traded our labor in managing his cattle for the use of his equipment. That was a tremendous



Kevin Yon and nominator Travis Mitchell

benefit in helping us get started here."

They were also recruited to the area by Extension Agent Phil Perry. "This area had a good infrastructure," Kevin says. "For instance, a viable poultry industry gave us access to poultry litter. We could also rent land in close proximity to our small farm." When it was difficult to obtain loans from commercial lenders, he was able to obtain financing from the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers loan program of the USDA-Farm Service Agency.

The Yons have hosted many high school student workers and college student interns on their farm. "We feel we are living out a dream," says Kevin. "So many people have

given us opportunities, we feel we should give back to agriculture, by hosting tours and meetings, and by providing work for college student interns and school age helpers." The Yons also have 10 permanent employees.

Kevin is currently serving as president of the 25,000-member American Angus Association. He served on its board for six years, served as the organization's treasurer and vice president, and has

chaired boards of three Angus Association subsidiaries: Certified Angus Beef; Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI); and Angus Productions, Inc., which handles communications and media for the breed. He also helped to lead the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium, aimed at helping universities conduct beef cattle evaluations.

In 2009, the Yon farm received the National Environmental Stewardship Award from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

On the state level, Kevin has served as president of South Carolina's Cattlemen's

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Merck Animal Health

*would like to
congratulate*

Kevin Yon

on winning the

South Carolina Farmer

Of The Year.

Well Deserved!



MERCK
Animal Health

AgSouth would
like to congratulate

Kevin Yon

on winning the

**South Carolina
Farmer of the Year.**

What an accomplishment!



AgSouth
Farm Credit, ACA

Loans for land, farms and homes

TENNESSEE

FARMER OF THE YEAR



JOHN VERELL, III named 2018 Tennessee Farmer of the Year



JOHN VERELL, III takes a scientific approach to producing high yields on his successful 5,050-acre crop farm at Jackson, Tenn. A full-time farmer for 16 years, he grows corn, soybeans, and wheat on 3,000 rented acres and 2,050 acres of owned land.

His success as a crop farmer has resulted in his being selected as state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for Tennessee.

Verell irrigates about 30 percent of his crops. Last year, his per acre yields were 175 bushels of dryland corn from 1,300 acres, 250 bushels of irrigated corn from 750 acres, 65 bushels of full season soybeans from 800 acres, 95 bushels of wheat from 2,200 acres, 60 bushels of irrigated double-cropped soybeans from 750 acres, and 45 bushels of dryland double-cropped soybeans from 1,450 acres. He makes efficient use of his time; as an example, he planted 1,900 acres of corn in three days. Cotton was a major crop on the farm until 2006.

He has faced challenges — low yields when he started farming, then transitioning from cotton to grains, and recovering from a

tornado in 2008 that destroyed a number of farm buildings.

As he made the farm profitable, he believed should pay off, among them Volunteer Ag Services, a firm licensed to sell Pioneer corn and soybean seed. He also invested in North Delta Soil Solutions, a soil sampling company that provides variable rate fertilizer recommendations. He also offers consulting services relating to soil fertility. Verell learned about prescription applications as an agronomy student at Murray State University in Kentucky, and has used variable rate seeding and fertilizer since 2002.

He makes the most

of marketing opportunities, profiting by selling large volumes of high quality crops, even when prices are low. He credits his broker for helping him obtain 10 percent



CRISSY AND JOHN VERELL

higher prices. He also gets higher prices by storing 400,000 bushels, about 60 percent of the grain he produces. Holding wheat in the bins for two to three weeks can result in price improvement of 30 cents per bushel, he says. He uses forward contracts on about half of his anticipated production and sells less than 5 percent of his crops for cash at harvest.

Verell harvests corn at 25 percent moisture and compares it to harvesting at 15 percent moisture to see if there are yield differences. He plans to conduct a similar test with soybeans. He generally favors harvesting grain at high moisture. He has noticed that high-yield soybean growers use herbicides to desiccate or dry plants prior to harvesting, and plans on testing this as well.

His long-term relationships with landowners have paid off. He works with landlords to improve their land while he farms it, and these relationships have led to irrigation investments on the land he rents. He also uses soil moisture sensors to help schedule irrigation.

Verell has been a state winner in National Corn Growers Association yield contests, and works with Pioneer agronomists to host August field days to show off the company's corn hybrids and showcase agronomic practices. He sets aside 50 acres to test new varieties and production practices.

This year's field day will compare corn that received 230 pounds of nitrogen per acre at planting with corn that received 40 pounds of nitrogen at planting followed by spoon-fed nitrogen during the growing season. One test last year used Y-drops for applying late season nitrogen to corn from high clearance sprayers. While Y-drops have worked well in the Midwest, Verell says they didn't pay off last year on his corn.

Soil conservation is important, and he uses no-till planting on almost all of his crops. "We've also planted buffer strips, wildlife food plots, pollinator plants, and cover crops," he says. "We have something growing on most of our land throughout the year." Cover crops include a blend of wheat, rye, and clover. By increasing cover crops, he hopes to further reduce fertilizer costs.

He has also saved money on fertilization by buying and using a bulk spreader truck, which has allowed him to cut the cost of lime application by \$11 to \$15 per ton. He recently bought seed treatment equipment and anticipates savings of 25 percent over what a retail dealer charges.

Verell is active in a number of organizations, including the board of Madison County Farm Bureau. He has been a member of Madison County Young Farmers and Ranch-



John Verell and nominator Danny Morris

ers, and was selected an American Soybean Association/DuPont Young Leader. For the Leadership Jackson group, he talks to young professional workers about the importance of agriculture in the community. He serves as treasurer of the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board and secretary of the Tennessee Soybean Association. He was a regional winner of the American Soybean Association's Conservation Legacy Award.

He is especially pleased that his father, Allen Verell, and grandfather, John Verell, Sr., remain active on the farm. His grandfather, who started the farm in the 1960s, is turning 94 years old this year. His father and grandfather have established trusts and have estate plans in place to make sure that the farming business will continue into future generations.

As the farm operates today, John basically runs the business side of the operation. He buys seed and is responsible for selling commodities. Allen is essentially responsible for all of the equipment, and typically works in

the shop, while John often works in the farm office. One of the farm's key employees is Matt Chapman, a recent hire with experience as an electrician, plumber, and carpenter, with a knack for fixing broken equipment.

"We have room to expand," says John. "If we buy land, we will do it without incurring tremendous debt. We can also expand without having to buy new equipment."

His wife, Crissy, works as an occupational therapist with special needs children at West Tennessee Healthcare. John and Crissy

support fundraisers for special needs children, including one that helps pay for their medical devices. They've supported St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, enjoy teaching students about farming through Ag in the Classroom presentations, are active in North Jackson Church of Christ.

John and Crissy have a five-year-old daughter, Emmi. Her pets — a donkey, rabbit, cow and goats — are the farm's only livestock.

Michael Buschermohle, interim assistant dean with University of Tennessee Extension, is state coordinator of the Farmer of the Year award. Verell was nominated for the honor by Danny Morris, University of Tennessee Extension area farm management specialist. Morris encouraged Verell to apply for the award.

"John is a hard-working, innovative farmer," Morris says. "He's taking this farm to the next level. He looks at the bottom line, and knows as much about agronomy as any consultant. He is from a fantastic family, and he is a great pick for Farmer of the Year."



John Verell has 400,000 bushels of storage capacity in his on-farm grain bins.

VIRGINIA

FARMER OF THE YEAR



PAUL ROGERS, JR.

named
2018 Virginia
Farmer of the Year



PAUL ROGERS, JR., has had a long and successful farming career, and an equally extensive and rewarding avocation as a youth league and high school baseball coach.

His Wakefield, Va., farm encompasses 1,680 acres of open land. He rents 1,122 acres, owns 558 acres of open land, and also owns 499 acres of timber. Last year, his per acre yields were 183 bushels of corn from 468 acres, 1,322 pounds of cotton lint from 549 acres, and 5,136 pounds of peanuts from 159 acres. His soybeans yielded 53 bushels per acre for both full season beans on 91 acres and double-cropped soybeans on 374 acres. His double-cropped beans following wheat yielded 76 bushels per acre. Only 5 percent of his cotton, 10 percent of his corn, and 25 percent of his peanuts were irrigated.

As a result of his success as a crop farmer, Rogers has been selected as Virginia state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award. "I'm just a humble man who tills the soil," he says modestly.

In marketing, he works with his son, Paul

"Little Paul" Rogers III, using basis contracts, forward pricing, cash contracts, options, and other contracts. They rely on a marketing firm for pricing advice, and have used a consultant for managing and selling timber.

Rogers also does custom cotton harvesting on 250 acres for a neighbor. This year, he's growing double-cropped cotton after wheat. He increased 2018 cotton acreage due to stronger prices. While he adopts new seed and equipment technology, he says his yields are due to crop rotation and conservation tillage planting.

He grew up on a farm, but his father died when he was 15, and the farm was rented

out until he returned after graduating from a two-year agriculture program at North Carolina State University. After his father died, his mother sold most of the farm equipment, so



PAM AND PAUL ROGERS

he had to rebuild the equipment inventory. Relying on the advice of other farmers, he bought a farm from one of his father's lifelong friends.

Rogers has sold timber three times during his career, the first to help settle his father's estate with his sister who also inherited the farm, and the other two sales were timed to invest in capital, such as purchasing additional farmland. Much of the lumber from his most recent pine timber sale was shipped to Italy and made into burial coffins.

He grows Virginia-type 'ballpark' peanuts, and receives premiums for jumbo and fancy peanut kernels. The loss of the peanut quota program was a blessing, Rogers says, because it allowed him to use longer rotations to increase yields. "I'm making more peanuts on less land." Some peanuts are on six-year rotations, and most are planted after four or five years out of peanuts.

Having coached baseball for more than 50 years, it's appropriate that he grows ballpark peanuts. A baseball coach at Tidewater Academy since 2005, his team won a state championship in 2013. He has long been active as a coach and director of youth baseball at Wakefield.



Paul Rogers and nominator Michael Parrish

Recently, the town named its youth league baseball fields after Rogers, and in 2004, his former players placed a plaque in his honor at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. "If you have a passion for something like coaching baseball, and if you have family support, you find time to do it," he says. "I've been fortunate to have good help on the farm, which has allowed me to spend time away from the farm in coaching."

He also spends time serving the agricultural community. He has chaired an advisory board for the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center, is on an advisory board for Virginia Agricultural Leaders Obtaining

Results (VALOR), and served on an advisory board for groundwater management in eastern Virginia, and served on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors while president of the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Rogers has been a director of the Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Association, Virginia Crop Improvement Association, Virginia Cotton Board, Virginia Corn Board, Virginia Corn Growers Association, Colonial Agricultural Education Foundation, and Virginia Agribusiness Council. He also took part in leadership programs offered by the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute. He is a member of the USDA Peanut Standards Board, a board member and past chairman of Colonial Farm Credit, and for ten years chaired the AgFirst Farm Credit District Advisory Committee.

Rogers says he has matured as a farmer and business owner by serving on the many boards and organization, and appreciates his family for keeping the farm running during his absences. "My professional goals are more than the bottom line," he says. He keeps the farm profitable, but says, "I am guided by my

See ROGERS, Page 80

Congratulations
Paul Rogers Jr.
 on Winning the
 Virginia Farmer of the Year!

From Surry County Farm
 Bureau and Agent,
 Jason Seward

Would like to congratulate...
PAUL ROGERS, JR.
For being named the
2018 Virginia Farmer of the Year!

*We are thankful for your hard work,
 long hours, and all that you provide
 for our community!*

GRINER—

Continued from Page 65

pounds. Animal stress is reduced in handling facilities that were designed based on concepts developed by noted animal scientist Temple Grandin of Colorado State University.

Eric Handley works as forester for Usher Land & Timber, buys timber, oversees logging and trucking, and is like a son, say Ken and Lynetta. S. J. Fisher, a friend of Tommy Usher, runs the shop and keeps the timber and logging equipment running. Handling repairs in-house is a major contributor to the firm's financial success, says Lynetta. Safety director Kelly Hansen also plays a key role in the company's success.

Six of her employees are certified as Master Loggers. "Many of our landowners are repeat customers, because they know our work and want our crews to harvest their timber," she says. "The people who work for and with us are responsible for our company's success. We didn't anticipate becoming farmers, but as our time in agriculture progressed, so has our love of all things connected to agriculture. We have become passionate advocates for our way of life."

Jason Davison, director of the Field Services Division of Florida Farm Bureau, is state coordinator of the Farmer of the Year awards. Griner was nominated for the honor by Jared Lanier, district field representative with Florida Farm Bureau. Lanier admires how Griner redefined the role of farmer. "Almost everyone thinks of farmers as men, but she is a woman of integrity who represents the industry well," says Lanier. "It is a blessing to work with her."

YON—

Continued from Page 75

Association and Angus Association, was a vice chairman of the South Carolina Forage and Grassland Council, has served on advisory councils for Clemson University's Animal Science Department and Extension Service, and served on several state Farm Bureau committees.

Kevin and Lydia work as a team. They're active in Ridge Spring Baptist Church, and have supported Ridge Spring-Monetta public schools. Kevin has served as president and board member of Saluda County Cattlemen's Association, is vice chairman of the Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District, and is a long-time board member of Saluda County Farm Bureau.

Lydia has been a 4-H volunteer and an FFA livestock judging coach, and served on the

board of the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association and as secretary of the South Carolina Angus Association. She has been on Clemson University's Board of Visitors, and has been active in the American Angus Auxiliary, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the American Angus Association.

The Yons are especially proud that their three children — daughter Sally and sons Drake and Corbin — and two of their children's spouses have come back to work on the home farm. Kevin, Drake, and Corbin are all active in the Ridge Spring Volunteer Fire Department. Sally works on the farm in marketing and in taking daily care of the cattle. Her husband, Reid Harrison, contributes with his knowledge of genetics and performance data.

Corbin and Drake manage the pecans and the row crops. Drake is a director of the Saluda County and South Carolina Cattlemen's Associations. Drake chairs the Saluda Farm Bureau Young Farmers organization. Drake's wife, Nicole, is a registered dietician and helps manage the pecan grove and the retail store.

Brian Callahan, associate director of Clemson Extension, is state coordinator of the Farmer of the Year awards. Yon was nominated for the honor by Travis Mitchell, area livestock and forages Extension agent. "Kevin and Lydia have built their farm on honesty, integrity, hard work, and never cutting corners," he says.

ROGERS—

Continued from Page 79

passion to be a role model as a father, coach, and mentor, and to give back to the field of agriculture. My wife, Pam, and I have incorporated this passion into our lifestyles."

Pam grew up in a military family. She and Paul are active in Rocky Hock United Methodist Church. She was a teacher when she met Paul, but left teaching for several years and worked beside him driving tractors, trucks, and picking peanuts. In 1987, she returned to teaching and taught for 25 years before retiring. She also served as Tidewater Academy's business manager and cheerleading coach. Today, she works as the farm's chief financial officer, having kept books for the farm since 1980.

Paul and Pam have two adult children. Son Paul "Little Paul" Rogers III returned to the farm in 1997 after graduating from Old Dominion University, and in 2005 became a partner in Rogers Farms. He handles crop marketing, serves on a number of agricultural organizations, and has also been a baseball and basketball coach. His wife, Dawn, is a stay-at-home mom for their daughter and two sons.

Making the transition to include his son in management of the farm was not easy, says Paul, Jr. Because he experienced no transition period after his father died, it became more of a trial-and-error process with his son.

Paul and Pam's daughter, Sharon, is an athletic training expert, who has patented a weight monitoring system for athletes and works as an associate professor in sports medicine and athletic training at East Carolina University. Her husband, Brian, is a special agent with the Virginia State Police, and they have one daughter.

Bobby Grisso, associate director of Virginia Cooperative Extension, coordinates the Farmer of the Year awards in Virginia. Rogers was nominated for the honor by Michael Parrish, senior Extension agent in Dinwiddie, Va. Parrish says he admires Rogers for being a great role model for other farmers, and he appreciates how Rogers has included his son as a partner in running the farm.

OFFICIAL 2018 EXPO SOUVENIRS MAY BE PURCHASED

At Sunbelt Expo Souvenir Booths
located at Flight Tower & Center of Grounds



\$15



\$15



\$15



\$20



\$20

T-shirts, Expo caps & 2018 Expo
Coke Bottles are also available for
purchase at our online store —
www.sunbeltexpo.com



**Sunbelt
Ag Expo**



Virtual reality welding machines in the American Welding Society exhibit give students firsthand experience with the latest equipment.

Welding: A skill that never goes out of style

BY LOREN LINDLER

A TRADE THAT was introduced in the early 1900s, welding still is proving a valuable skill. Though it has changed over the years, the concept and means of welding generally remain the same a century later.

Over the past years, the American Welding Society has been an exhibitor at Sunbelt Ag Expo, but what makes their exhibit so special is that it benefits students much more than it benefits AWS. Colquitt County, Ga., high school students are proud to volunteer to educate Expo-goers about welding and how the industry plays a large role in our lives.

The exhibit features virtual reality welding machines by Lincoln Electric, which says, "These simulators help students learn how to weld, using a variety of processes, including stick welding, MIG welding, and flux-cored arc welding. The VRTEX 360 enhances welding skill training with multiple processes, positions, and joint configurations, plus realistic sounds and welding puddle appearance."

Students are trained on the virtual welders so they may, in turn, be able to teach Expo attendees how to use the machines. While it proves an excellent opportunity for Expo-goers, it serves as a much larger opportunity for Colquitt County students and their future careers.

While here, students are able to network with individuals and companies within the industry to learn more about welding opportunities. Whether they are learning about job openings after graduation, or careers in welding that they didn't know about before, students are grateful to have time to learn more about an industry for which they are

so passionate.

Jeff Cooper, welding instructor with Colquitt County High School, says, "I was a paid fireman for ten years, plus running my welding business for about 15 years. I take my students to the AWS exhibit not only to see the different welding machines, but to interact with people there. I believe it builds social skills needed at their age. The students do a great job, and it is a lot of fun for them."

Cooper explains why welding is such a valuable trade. "For the past several years, the welding industry has continued to plummet due to the lack of people trained for the work. People don't realize the need for welders — there are more than 345,000 jobs available in the welding industry today."

As a welding instructor, he is able to show students the basics of welding, and many

have gained a passion for the industry and hope to pursue a career as a welder.

Tim Hobbs, career, technical, and agricultural education director for the high school, previously served as a welding teacher at Colquitt County High School. Seven years ago, he was the first welding teacher at Colquitt County to take his students to experience the AWS exhibit at Sunbelt Ag Expo.

Today, the tradition continues, and students throughout Colquitt County are able to share their love for welding with others at Expo. With such a high demand for welders, Colquitt County strives to instill the skills of welding in their students.

Welding is a trade like no other — a skill that never goes out of style.

OFFICIAL 2018 EXPO SOUVENIRS MAY BE PURCHASED

At Sunbelt Expo Souvenir Booths
located at Flight Tower & Center of Grounds

\$15



Sunbelt
Ag Expo

\$20



T-shirts, Expo caps & 2018 Expo Coke Bottles are also available for purchase at our online store — www.sunbeltexpo.com

INNOVATIVE PRODUCT ROUNDUP

The Sunbelt Ag Expo's annual three-day show pulls products, services, and personalities from across the Southeast to one convenient location. Here is a snapshot of some of the things Expo guests can expect to see this year.

AGRISOMA

Agrisoma USA is a seed company specializing in Carinata, a renewable and sustainable oilseed crop ideally suited for advanced biofuel production. Over the past decade, Agrisoma has developed partnerships with universities and the USDA to develop Carinata for commercial production in the Southeast. Carinata is a mustard seed, grown during the winter in the Southeast, providing an additional income source, along with cover crop benefits. This year, Agrisoma USA's Farm to Flight Tour has been celebrating agricultural communities across the Southeast. The celebration reaches its peak at Sunbelt Ag Expo. Get information about this crop and enjoy good country music at the Horse Pavilion sponsored by Agrisoma USA.



ALLFLEX

The Allflex SenseTime Beef monitoring solution brings a new management approach to the beef cattle sector. A smart, modular cow monitoring solution, SenseTime Beef delivers actionable information on the reproduction, health, and well-being status of individual cows and groups. SenseTime Beef identifies the precise stage of heat and provides guidance for insemination timing to optimize conception rates. Health and well-being issues can be detected before they become major. Accurate health reports, and real-time distress alerts provide you with actionable insight for proactive, individualized health management.



ANTONIO CARRARO

Antonio Carraro presents its new model TGF 9900 tractor at the Sunbelt Expo. The new TGF has a powerful 90-horsepower, 4-cylinder, 16-valve 3.8 liter Kubota engine with a PTO power of 72 horsepower. Features that guarantee any kind of working under orchard branches, on steep slopes, and in super-difficult terrain. Antonio Carraro will start again his presence in the Southeast USA at the Sunbelt Ag Expo show.



BCE

BCE Cleaning Systems, LLC is a Georgia company with over 30 years of experience in manufacturing hot/cold water pressure washers, gas, diesel and electric, as well as parts and accessories for most other makes and brands of pressure washer. If you are in the market for any kind of pressure washer, from just a machine to a complete trailer



unit, the company has a model that will fit your needs. Please stop by our booth to discuss your pressure washer needs.

BEEFCAKE

BeefCake by DewEze is pleased to now offer producers a method to feed whole cotton seed from the comfort of the cab. This two-auger, agitated system eliminates bridging, allowing WCS to flow freely from the chute into bunks down a line. The corded hand control and revolution counter takes the guessing game out of ration management. Featuring electric or hydraulic models, the BeefCake cottonseed feeder is available in a 2,000 lbs. unit. Forget the front loaders and ditch the buckets this winter with the BeefCake by DewEze — backed by decades of durability.



BUSH HOG

Bush Hog is excited to announce the introduction of the new line of BH200 Series Rotary Cutters. Building on the success of the BH10 Series line of Single Spindle Rotary Cutters, the new BH200 Series modernizes the line with several new aesthetic and performance-enhancing features. "Bush Hog continually strives to create new and innovative products that keep us at the forefront of the cutter industry, while maintaining the toughness and durability that invented the term 'Bush Hogging,'" says Rob Jarman, product manager at Bush Hog. "Our new line of BH200 Series Single Spindle Rotary Cutters cut through the toughest grasses, weeds, and light brush while providing an even distribution of clippings."



COUNTRY FINANCIAL

As one of the nation's leading farm insurers, COUNTRY Financial has the expertise to help you protect your livelihood. After all, we've been doing it for over 90 years. We're thrilled to be a part of the 2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo and sponsors of the Youth Educational Challenges! Stop by our booth for a chance to win great swag, relax with free lemonade, and get off your feet for a bit.



EZTPost

EZTPost is a new, family-owned business located in Huntsville, Ala. The EZTP52 is a stationary holding device that allows easier insertion of t-posts to meet all types of fencing needs. Its simple design protects the t-post from twisting, bending, and breakage as it is pushed into the ground by the tractor bucket, skid steer, or backhoe, and it is PROUDLY MADE IN THE USA!



FLUIDALL

FluidAll is proud to offer the Heavy Duty DEF Truck Tank: 32-gallon. This rugged 32-gallon capacity

DEF Truck Tank delivers diesel exhaust fluid safely to nearly any service area ■ Fits in the back of a pickup to travel on-road and off-road ■ Forklift-ready, powder-coated steel cage ■ 12V electrical pump package ■ Leakproof, containment-free bulkhead draw kit ■ 25' DEF delivery hose ■ 22"L x 51"W x 23"H ■ System arrives fully-assembled, ready for use ■ Fluidall Lot #100.



THE HANDLER

The Handler is a proprietary line of chemical handling systems that enables quick, easy, and safe mixing and loading of agricultural chemicals into sprayers, airplanes, and hauling tank systems. Originally developed by a Canadian farmer, The Handler has evolved into a total crop protection management system. Available in 20 different models, and loaded with innovative features, The Handler has been proven on tens of thousands of farms across the world to reduce the time that it takes to properly mix and load a sprayer.



INFORMEDAG

InformedAg is an agriculture consulting company serving the Southeast. In addition to providing confidential research to agricultural chemical and equipment manufacturers, InformedAg provides agronomy, precision technology, and engineering services to large and small farming operations. The company is conducting research for Ag Leader Technology on their latest generation of row crop planter controls. SureDrive electric meter drives and SureForce hydraulic down force enable producers to upgrade new or existing planters to the latest in today's planter technology. SureDrive provides improved seed singulation, spacing quality, row by row section control, rate control, and turn compensation.



JOHN DEERE

Experience the 6Revolution at your local John Deere dealer. With CommandPRO, you'll have implement and tractor controls right at your fingertips, all configurable through the new Generation 4 4200 Command Center. You'll maneuver with inching control to help line up and hook up your implements, and with the control, go from zero to top speed with one simple push forward. Perfect for road transport. Other 6R updates include Variable Ratio Steering for turning with less effort, a service door for easy access to oil checks, and JD-Link in base for remote dealer support — all for an elevated experience that keeps you in maximum comfort and total control. The future of tractor operation starts with the 6R.



KENZIE OPTICS

Kenzie Optics — The FLIR ThermoSight Pro Series sets a new standard in thermal image quality. With

INNOVATIVE PRODUCT ROUNDUP

multiple features packed into a compact housing, the ThermoSight Pro Series delivers brilliant, clean thermal imagery in low-contrast daylight scenes, as well as in total darkness. Equipped with shot-activated video recording and FLIR's patent pending High Visibility Technology (HVT) reticle, the FLIR ThermoSight Pro Series is the perfect addition to any hunting or security weapon platform.



KUBOTA

The new gas-powered Sidekick is Kubota's fastest, strongest, and most agile utility vehicle. The Sidekick's high transport speed — up to 40 mph — comes from a 48-hp gasoline engine. Equipped with continuously variable transmission with centrifugal clutch, the Sidekick's rugged, water-cooled engine provides plenty of torque.

The idle speed control and highland correction ensure stable power. It can carry up to 15.2 cubic feet, or half a ton, in a steel cargo box with optional electric hydraulic lift. It provides 2,000 pounds of towing capacity on level terrain and 1,550 pounds on inclines. Also, the M6H-101 High Clearance tractor leads the way in vegetable and fruit markets, with more standard ground clearance (25.8") than the competitors in its horsepower class. The M6H-101 boasts some of the slowest ground speeds in the market at 0.11 mph.



LENOX FARM

Lenox Farm Equipment offers the Stalk Eliminator to chop, uproot, and re-chop stalks and roots, leaving the field ready for a cover crop or to be replanted. The Stalk Eliminator, with its special blade design, is self-cleaning. A special design foot rides under the first row of choppers. The foot is in the subsoiler furrow that was made during planting, making the Stalk Eliminator easier to pull, and reduces wear on the foot. The foot runs directly under the root of the stalk. For easy maintenance, the Eliminator has only four bearings on the 2-, 4-, and 6-row, which are on the outside for easy access.



MAIZE KRAIZE

Maize Kraize offers the first and only NTEP-certified and legal self-service system of its kind. Maize Kraize was founded on over 40 years of agricultural and industrial experience, with the purpose of creating a system that narrows the gap between farmers and consumers. The Maize Kraize patent pending system includes an NTEP-Certified scale, which makes it unique to the market. This system enables you to sell a number of bulk products directly to the consumer, giving you control of the sell price and eliminating the hassle and cost of packaging or bagging. Learn more about our unique system at www.maizekraize.com



MASCHIO GASPARDO

Maschio Gaspardo introduces the new VELOCE 700, a 23-foot lightweight disc assembly ideal for managing crop residues and refining the land to prepare the seed bed and bury fertilizer or chemicals. Commonly referred to as vertical tillage, minimum tillage, or speed discs, maximum working depth is about 4 inches. The discs are arranged in two opposing orientated rows; the wide spacing (2 feet) minimizes any possible soil clogging and crop residues. Each disc has its own hub with sealed bearing in an oil bath; this guarantees maximum resistance and a very low maintenance requirement. The discs are connected to the frame with a silent block cushioning system consisting of four rubber gaskets, which absorb all vertical stresses and are free from routine maintenance.



MASSEY FERGUSON

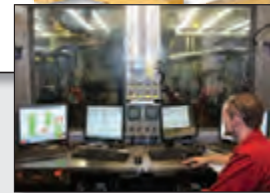
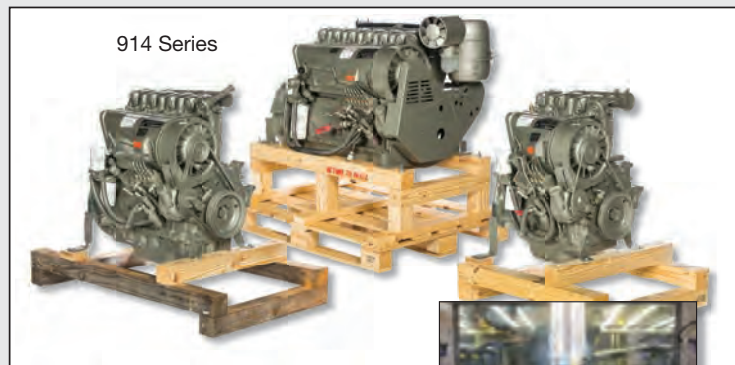
The Massey Ferguson 1700M Series is the company's premium compact tractor. The 1700M Series ranges from 36 hp to 60 hp, with two models equipped with Shibaura 3-cylinder diesel engines and three models with Shibaura 4-cylinder diesel engines. All meet Tier 4 Final emissions without the diesel particulate filter. A new Deluxe Cab option features an air-ride seat. The RB Series Silage Baler is the company's first silage baler. Available are the RB1460V, for a 4-foot-by-5-foot



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bale, from 35.5 inches to 63 inches in diameter, and the RB4180V, for a 4-foot-by-6-foot bale, with a diameter ranging from 35.5 inches to 71 inches. The balers ensure uniform, well-shaped bales. The exclusive HydroFlex Control, two-stage anti-plugging system reduces the potential for plugging the baler and makes it easier to clear out as needed. To learn more, contact your local Massey Ferguson dealer or visit masseyferguson.us

NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S

Stop by the NCBA booth to enter to win a Cabela's cooler! While you are at the booth, let's talk about what NCBA can do for you. Working with cattlemen across the country provides each of us a great deal of strength, support, and expertise in overcoming regulatory, environmental, and economic challenges. Every day in Washington, decisions are made that affect our freedom to operate. NCBA staff is on Capitol Hill standing up for you and your rights as an American cattle producer. Raising cattle is your priority — keeping you in business is ours.

NATIONAL GRAZING LANDS COALITION

The rainfall simulator simulates a 3-5" rainfall on a variety of different cover types. From bare ground, to well-managed pastures, you will be able to witness how rain behaves on these different cover types and see firsthand what this can mean for your operation. The simulator has been a great success in South Carolina. We have performed demonstrations across the state, showing the importance of maintaining a healthy soil cover and the benefits. If you have never seen a demonstration of the rainfall simulator, stop by while you are at the Sunbelt Ag Expo.



OLIVER FARM

Oliver Farm is recognized as the premier nut and seed oil producer in the South. Their award-winning sunflower, pecan, benne, and green peanut oils can be found at select locations and online. At Sunbelt Ag Expo, you can purchase these, along with the newest oil: Okra Seed Oil. For the first time in this century, okra seed oil is available to the public. Initially available only to select chefs from around the country, now you can taste it for yourself. Come visit the Oliver Farm booth in the Family Living Building. Cold Pressed-Non-GMO-Unrefined. www.oliverfarm.com



THE RED ANGUS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Red Angus Association of America is proud to be a part of the 2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo for the very first time! Based in Commerce City, Colo., the Red Angus breed is now the second largest breed registry in the U.S. According to Superior Livestock Video Auction

data, Red Angus-sired calves bring more money per hundredweight than any other breed sire group.

Ranch Tested. Rancher Trusted.

Red Angus

The RAAA is one of the few breed associations that has total herd reporting, and this adds to reliability of the data. Our motto is "Ranch Tested, Rancher Trusted." The RAAA has a specific team of people to help the commercial rancher or farmer to market their cattle. Find out more by visiting redangus.org

SOLAR FEEDERS

Solar Feeders are solar-powered, automatic livestock feeders that can be used for multiple types of livestock including cattle, goats, sheep etc. You can adjust the amount of feed you want to disperse at one time, and the feeder can be set for up to 6 times per day. The feeders have stainless steel troughs that the feed is dispersed into, which is part of the unit. Feeder models hold 1,000 lbs., 2,500 lbs., or 6,000 lbs. All three of these are trailer mounted and can be pulled on the road. There is a 3,000 lb. unit that is on skids. You can pull the feeder to get bulk feed and take it from pasture to pasture. You can make sure your animals are fed on time, in all weather, with your feed, your way, AUTOMATIC!



SOUTHERN CATTLE COMPANY

Southern Cattle Company's mission is to produce genetically exceptional cattle to increase commercial cattlemen's profitability and improve genetics within the cattle industry. Our gates opened in 1992, and while we carry some of our original breeds and genetics, our chief breeds are Angus, Brangus, SimAngus, and Charolais. A high percentage of bulls used in this region of the U.S. are imported from other areas of the country. Consequently, many bulls are not bred for, or adapted to, the climate and forage quality issues in this region. Because it cannot adapt to the harsh climate, the average useful life of a bull is often cut short. SCC bulls change that for our commercial cattlemen. Visit Booth BP-1 to learn how our cattle are "Built for the Heat. Prized for the Meat."



TITAN

Titan International introduces the new Goodyear R14T tire for compact tractors. It has the versatility to be used in the field or around the farm — meaning you no longer need to choose between tread styles or change out tires for different applications. The R14T combines the traction and cleaning features of an R-1 agriculture tire with the wear and ride features of an R-4 industrial tire, giving the new tire its name. This tire is available in Low Sidewall Technology (LSW) and brings the benefits of LSW to compact tractors for the first time. The versatility can save growers time and money over the life of the tire and is ideal for farm and industrial applications.



TRACTOR TOOLS DIRECT

Are you a small-farm operator ready to make the jump to doing your own hay baling? Then the Ibx TX31 is the baler for you! Finally, you can control the quality of your hay by baling when the hay is at peak nutritional value. This is the most affordable mechanical baler on the market and is recommended for customers baling up to 90 bales per hour. The Ibx 31 is the simplest, easiest to use baler on the market today, and is as close as you can get to a "plug and play" baler. It connects to the tractor's 3-point hitch, and its hydraulics are completely self-contained, meaning no messy hydraulic connections.



TRINITY TRAILERS

When you're hauling a load that requires protection from road grime, Trinity's new enclosed flap system is exactly what you need. Using an innovative new design, the enclosed system covers the trailer's chain and flap assembly to prevent contamination of the load that could be introduced by exposed flaps. As an added benefit, the cover prevents residue being left on the road during transport. The rear belt cover is held in place in the same manner as a grain funnel and is easily removed before unloading the trailer. The system can also be retrofitted to an existing trailer.



VAIL

The all new Vail Products X Series Forestry Disc Mulcher annihilates trees and stubborn brush in moments. We've paired the industry-best motor and bearing to deliver dominating field performance. Our exclusive hose management system properly conceals hoses, limiting exposure and accidental damage. The X Mulcher's optimized tooth pattern design provides maximum cutting force, ease of maintenance, and overall cost efficiency. Features include industry-best motor and bearing combination; superior hose management system; optimized tooth pattern design for cutting force; and fastest recovery time of any disc mulcher on the market. Available Models: 79 inch.



VALLEY

Valley Scheduling is advanced management software that helps you make informed irrigation decisions using complete data about your soil, crop type, development stage, and weather conditions. Valley Scheduling is one part of our complete toolbox of smart irrigation solutions, allowing you to manage the entire picture. It's total irrigation management, to maximize irrigated acres and make better, more accurate, and timely decisions.



YAMAHA

Yamaha's all-new Yamaha Wolverine X2 combines proven off-road capability and confidence-inspir-

ing performance with comfort in a compact, nimble chassis, making it the ultimate trail-exploring vehicle in tight, technical terrain. It's a two-person



cab configuration, with a newly designed 600 pound-rated dump bed, with an automotive-style one hand-operated tailgate, and 2,000-pound towing capacity. The

smooth, vibration-free power of the vehicle's new 847-cc twin-0cylinder engine allows for conversation at any RPM. View additional details on the all-new Wolverine X2, starting at a \$12,699 MSRP, along with the complete lineup of Yamaha's Proven Off-Road vehicles, online at YamahaOutdoors.com

Dissecting the 'ifs' of 2019 outlook for corn and soybean markets

BY DR. TODD D. DAVIS
Extension Grain Marketing Specialist
University of Kentucky

THE AUGUST World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) published by USDA projected large corn, soybean, and wheat crops. Large crops usually imply increasing ending stocks, which reduces the potential for higher prices.

However, each of these markets has a story that could create a bullish market "if" the right thing happens.

The 2018 corn crop is projected to be slightly smaller than last year's, assuming a harvested area of 81.8 million acres and a national yield of 178.4 bushels per acre. The U.S. has been gradually drawing down stocks, and strong domestic demand is projected to continue reducing corn stocks for another year.

The USDA projects 2018-19 marketing year corn stocks at 1.68 billion bushels, which would be a reduction of 343 million bushels from the previous year. Reduced corn stocks would support higher prices, and the USDA projects the U.S. farm price at \$3.60 per bushel (Table 1).

Global demand for corn is increasing. "If" global demand continues to increase, the U.S. might export more corn than currently projected, and obtain even higher prices.

Similarly, the wheat market has been reducing stocks due to record low seeded area and average yields. The USDA projects wheat exports to increase from last year, which would help lower wheat stocks and support higher prices. It currently projects a U.S. wheat farm price of \$5.10 per bushel. Europe, Australia, and the Black Sea regions are experiencing production problems. "If" global production losses are significant enough, the U.S. is positioned to increase

wheat exports further and receive even higher prices.

The soybean market has received national attention for its role in U.S. trade policy. China is the world's soybean customer, providing the fuel propelling soybean market prices to be competitive against corn or wheat. Trade uncertainty has dramatically affected the soybean market.

The USDA projects soybean production at 4.6 billion bushels due to record harvested area and the second largest yield on record. It projects soybean use to be slightly lower than the previous year. This triple-whammy of a large crop, larger carry-in, and stagnant use creates a scenario for soybean stocks to build to the largest quantity on record.

The soybean stocks-to-use ratio is projected to be the largest since 2006, which will weigh heavily on soybean prices. The USDA projects a U.S. farm price of \$8.90 per bushel, which is \$0.45 per bushel less than the previous year.

The "if" for the soybean market involves resolving the trade dispute with China. China's appetite for soybeans suggests that they will buy from the U.S. before the South American harvest next March. The questions are when will China return to our market and the quantity of soybeans they will buy.

The "ifs" for corn and wheat markets involve strong world demand that should benefit both markets and create the potential for higher prices. The "if" for the soybean market is in the hands of politicians negotiating the trade agreements. Assuming that the trade issues are resolved amicably, the U.S. will be better positioned to be a consistent supplier to help satisfy China's growing demand for soybeans. A quick resolution to these trade disputes will be most helpful to soybean farmers.



CHEVROLET

Proud sponsor of the Sunbelt Ag Expo

GET SOCIAL
Social Media Tools for your time at 41st Annual Sunbelt Agricultural Expo

TWITTER

- Use Twitter to build connections with a relevant audience. These connections can lead to actions across a network of loyal customers for your business.
- Twitter is a great atmosphere to promote what your business, company, or organization is doing during their time at the expo in a short, quick update news.

FACEBOOK

- It's a great opportunity for a company to make online sales, get a following, build the brand, create a platform where members can discuss the products.
- Go live on Facebook to announce giveaways and contest followers about the events your group is having while working at the Expo!

INSTAGRAM

- Instagram's highly visual content is key! All transparency, authentic and relevant, and subsequently, more people are likely to take action.
- Show short videos for your business's story, post fun photos as people visit your booth at the 41st Sunbelt Ag Expo!

SNAPCHAT

- Post to your business' Snapchat using the Sunbelt Ag Expo's brilliant Snapchat as a great way to document in video and photos from your day to day activities while at the 41st Sunbelt Ag Expo.

HASHTAGS

Hashtags can be used to alert conversations, share breaking news, promote an event, or be on top of the latest trends or news and can be used across all social media platforms.

Remember to use #SunbeltAgExpo on all posts!

Table 1. Consolidated Corn, Soybean and Wheat Balance Sheets for the 2018-19 Marketing-Year.

	Change from		Change from		Change from	
	Corn	2017-18	Soybeans	2017-18	Wheat	2017-18
----- Million Bushels -----						
Beginning Stocks	2,027	-266	430	+128	1,100	-81
Production	14,586	-18	4,586	+194	1,877	+136
Imports	50	+10	25	+3	135	-22
Total Supply	16,664	-273	5,040	+325	3,112	+33
Domestic Use	12,630	+120	2,196	+20	1,152	+76
Exports	2,350	-50	2,060	-50	1,025	+124
Total Use	14,980	+70	4,256	-30	2,177	+72
Ending Stocks	1,684	-343	784	+355	935	-165
Days of Stocks	41	-9	67	+31	157	-46
U.S. Average Farm Price	\$3.60	+\$0.20	\$8.90	-\$0.45	\$5.10	+\$0.37

Source: August 2018 WASDE - USDA; WABE



At Expo: Follow, Post, Hashtag, Tweet, Like

BY SHANNON KEHOE

AFTER OVERWHELMING success, the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College/Sunbelt Ag Expo social media team, sponsored in part by BeKaert, will be combing the grounds for exciting footage and Expo action to share with our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter followers.

Be sure to post your own experiences while at Expo. Team members are:

■ **Gabi Ius** is a sophomore at ABAC, studying agricultural communications. She calls Orlando, Fla., home, becoming involved in agriculture through local FFA and 4-H programs. She decided to pursue a career in agriculture to help create a voice for agriculturalists all over the country. Once she graduates, she plans to attend law school and continue her education.

■ **Jarrett Mobley** is a junior agricultural communication major at ABAC. On campus, he serves as an ABAC Ambassador and is an active member of the Beekeeper's Association. Outside of school, he has worked with Tractor Supply and Holder Ag to gain more hands-on experience. He looks forward to using the get-it-done attitude and quick-thinking skills he's developed as a Sunbelt Expo social media intern.

■ **Loren Lindler** is a junior at ABAC, studying agricultural communications. From Gilbert, S.C., through her family's beef cattle operation in the small, rural community, her roots in agriculture began growing at a young age. Through FFA, she discovered that she wanted to pursue a degree in agricultural communications so she could one day "advocate for those who work in acres, not hours."

In her third year serving as a social media intern, she says, "Expo is an amazing experience that only comes around once a year. During my freshman year, I was introduced to Expo and immediately fell in love; it keeps me coming back for more."

■ **Laura Lee Williams** grew up on a farm at Blackshear, Ga., and has been attending Expo her entire life. It's a dream come true, she says, to work with Expo as a social media intern for the third year in a row. An agricul-

tural communications major at ABAC, she spent her summer as an agricultural product marketing intern for Kubota Tractor Corporation at Grapevine, Texas. After graduation this December, she hopes to obtain a full-time position in marketing with an agricultural organization so she can continue to support American farmers.

■ **McKenzie Lewis** is a junior agriculture education major at ABAC, currently working as a student instructor at Destination Ag, where she teaches pre-K through third graders about the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives. She recently finished serving as the agriculture editor for ABAC's newspaper, *The Stallion*, keeping students informed about agriculture happenings both on and off campus. Her passion lies in education and she believes one of the best ways to accomplish this is through communication opportunities such as the Expo internship. She looks forward to expanding her agriculture knowledge and passing that knowledge on to others at Expo this year.

■ **Shannon Kehoe** is a senior agricultural communications major at ABAC, and has been involved with Sigma Alpha sorority through her four years at the college, as well as the ACT club, the National Agri-Marketing Association team, and the ABAC Ambassadors. Her time at ABAC has channeled her true passion for agriculture and has instructed her in proper communication methods through writing, photography, and video. Her love for the equine industry is unmatched and she hopes to direct her skills in communications toward the industry after graduation. You'll find this Florida girl soaking in everything Expo has to offer this year as she works as a social media intern!

■ **Shelby Mumma** came all the way from Mechanicsburg, Pa., to ABAC, where she is a junior agricultural communications major. She heard about ABAC from the Pennsylvania Farm Show at Harrisburg, and ABAC has become her new home. She is working at UGA Tifton as a student worker in the Crop and Soil Science Department, and is an active member in ABAC's Stallion Society, Ag Communicators of Tomorrow Club, and Baptist Collegiate Ministries. She says, "Sunbelt Ag Expo



Gabi Ius



Loren Lindler



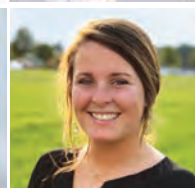
Jarrett Mobley



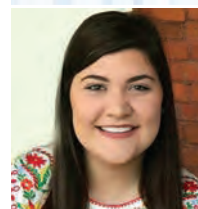
McKenzie Lewis



Katibeth Mims



Shannon Kehoe



Laura Lee Williams



Shelby Mumma

has been one of my favorite events every year, and I am so excited to see all the fun and new products exhibitors we have to show off!"

■ **Katibeth Mims**, from Donalsonville, Ga., is currently a sophomore at ABAC pursuing a degree in agricultural communications. She spent 2017 supporting agriculture as a Georgia State FFA vice president. She hopes to continue support of the agricultural industry in college through involvement with ABAC's Agriculture Communicators of Tomorrow Club and time spent as an Alumni FFA member.

Farm Press congratulates
Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo
Southeastern Farmer of the Year
State Award Winners for 2018



JOHN DELOACH III
Alabama



LUKE ALSTON
Arkansas



**LYNETTA USHER
GRINER**
Florida



JAMES VAUGHN
Georgia



DARREN LUTTRELL
Kentucky



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HOWARD BROWN
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FIELDS/EQUIPMENT

See up-close demonstrations of equipment

BY BRAD HAIRE

Farm Press Editorial Staff
brad.haire@farmprogress.com

CODY MITCHELL manages the Sunbelt Ag Expo Darrell Williams Research Farm, and offers some guidance on action that Expo guests can expect to see in the farm fields this year, plus how to get there each day of the show.

What can visitors expect to see at the field demonstrations?

We'll have eight to 10 different brands of hay cutters running side by side, and we'll also have 8 to 10 tedders, balers, and rakes running side by side.

Over the three days of the Expo, we'll harvest roughly 80 acres of hay, and seeing that many pieces of hay equipment running at once is quite a sight.

John Deere will again have its popular roller picker working, and during the Expo

roughly 80 to 100 acres of cotton will be harvested. Demonstrations of cotton harvesting will take place two to three times each day.

We'll harvest about 30 to 40 acres of peanuts, and those demonstrations will be two to three times each day, too.

New this year — and we're excited about this — Blue River Technologies will be running its See&Spray system three times each day. This is the system that uses precision technology, artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics to identify every plant in a field, spraying only the weeds as it runs over a field. They'll be running the system over cotton and soybeans.

And we'll have brand new equipment, such as Kelley Manufacturing's Cotton Stalk Shredder, as well as Salford demonstrating its tillage equipment in our cotton, corn, and peanut fields.

Who should go to the field demos?

Anyone who wants to see up close and firsthand how harvest and tillage



equipment and machinery work in a real-farm scenario. Whether you are farmer or not, it's a good chance to see these crops and how they are harvested and handled.

How can visitors get to field demonstrations?

Expo runs a continuous tram system to and from field demonstrations all three days of the show. Look in this program guide for exact times of the demonstrations you want to see.

Trams to a particular demonstration depart 10 minutes to 15 minutes before the scheduled in-field demonstration starts. While at a location, visitors are given time to talk directly with company representatives.

The tram station location is at the north end of the Expo grounds. Look for it behind the Case IH exhibit area.



RESEARCH

Expo farm provides fertile ground for crop research

BY BRAD HAIRE

Farm Press Editorial Staff
brad.haire@farmprogress.com

SUNBELT AG EXPO'S big show takes place each October, but Expo's research farm is a year-round operation where crop scientists conduct practical research aimed at bolstering farmers' bottom lines, especially for the region's top two row crops.

Over the decades, the Sunbelt Ag Expo Darrell Williams Research Farm has become an essential location for University of Georgia on-farm cotton and peanut research, and that work is put on display at the annual Expo field day, which took place July 24 this year.

The UGA Peanut Team generally has trials to determine the yield response and economic return for select tillage treatments, biological inoculant products, foliar fertilizers, and plant growth stimulants, says Dr. Scott Monfort, Extension peanut specialist who leads the peanut team.

He has conducted trials at the Expo farm to compare reduced tillage treatments, using single and twin-shank rippers, to the more common conventional tillage treatments, such as deep turning and harrowing. He used no cover crop in the trials.

"Yields in conventional tillage tended to be higher in most of the tillage trials conducted in 2017," he says. "However, yields at the Expo tillage trial were found to be similar across all tillage treatments."

Additional research by Monfort at the Expo farm "will assess the impact of cover crops in a reduced tillage system, compared to conventional tillage. Treatments being assessed are intensive broadcast tillage (bottom plow), and two reduced tillage programs, consisting of a single ripper shank, with and without a cover crop.

"Peanut farmers also often ask, 'Do foliar fertilizers, plant growth stimulants, and nutrient enhancement products help improve crop productivity?'" The UGA Peanut Team and Jeremy Kichler, Extension coordinator in Colquitt County where the Expo farm is located, will evaluate several foliar fertilizer and plant growth stimulant trials in 2018.

"These products will be assessed for their impact on crop growth, yield, and quality in large-scale trials," Monfort says. "The peanut team is also trying to confirm potential additive effects of several growth enhancement products mixed with peanut inoculants. This research project is trying to determine if these

nutrient enhancement products increase productivity above and beyond the *Rhizobium* inoculants."

Products being evaluated in the 2018 peanut trial are Optimize Lift (inoculant), TagTeam LCO (inoculant + nutrient enhancement), and Myco Apply EndoPrime (nutrient enhancement) + Optimize Lift (inoculant), and Primo Power CL (inoculant). "Products will be evaluated on emergence rate, root growth, vine growth, yield and grade," Monfort says.

"The Sunbelt Expo Darrell Williams Research Farm and the Expo research field day provide a great platform to showcase the research efforts of the UGA Peanut Team in answering grower concerns and questions

in a 2x1 skip-row configuration," Kichler says. "This skip-row pattern was the only one that produced similar yields in any of the trials that were conducted in 2017. We hope our research in 2018 will confirm the results we observed in 2017, and allow us to more adequately respond to grower questions about revisiting skip-row plantings."

Georgia cotton producers use plant growth regulators as much, or more, than producers in other parts of the country. Research at Expo farm is used to help make recommendations on proper PGR decisions based on which varieties a producer grows.

"We've seen that not all varieties are created equal with regard to PGR needs,"



Dr. Jared Whitaker, left, University of Georgia Extension cotton specialist, discusses cotton research with UGA Extension Colquitt County Coordinator Jeremy Kichler during the 2018 Sunbelt Ag Field Day in July.

related to new products and changes in Extension recommendations," he says.

Jeremy Kichler and members of the UGA Cotton Team annually conduct several research trials at Expo farm. "Of course, variety selection is a big part of what we are doing," he says, "and with continued commercialization of new varieties each year, we plan to make sure producers in Georgia and throughout the Southeast have unbiased, research-based information to make the most informed decisions possible."

One project at Expo farm in 2017 revisited skip-row cotton planting. Kichler and Dr. Jared Whitaker, UGA Extension cotton agronomist, evaluated two varieties in several skip-row patterns. The research indicates the most-profitable and highest-yielding row configurations in that trial were the 'traditionally' planted cotton, and not the skip-row patterns.

"This year, we plan to examine additional varieties in a traditional solid planting and

Kichler says. "Specifically, we see that some varieties need much more intensive PGR management than others that may need no PGR applications at all. Our research here with PGR requirements for cotton varieties will be extremely beneficial to producers when making PGR decisions on new varieties with which they have little experience."

Cotton defoliation and harvest timing can significantly impact overall yields and cotton fiber quality, Kichler notes, and each year different weather patterns in the fall can impact those decisions. At Expo 2018, the UGA Cotton Team plans trials to test decision-making tools used with regard to defoliation and harvest timing.

"Sunbelt Ag Expo is a tremendous asset to us at UGA, as well as to producers across the state," he says. "The research conducted here directly impacts producers' decisions, and helps make Georgia cotton what it is."

YOUNG FARMERS

Food and fun are Expo highlights for young farmers



The 2017 Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo Farmer of the Year visits with Houston County Young Farmer members about how they prepare their BBQ for judging at the annual 'Que Fest at Sunbelt Ag Expo.

BY JOHN LEIDNER
Contributing Writer

EACH YEAR SINCE 1988, Sunbelt Ag Expo has sponsored special activities for young farmers and their families. The tradition continues this year when the farm show hosts a barbecue cooking contest, a horseshoe-pitching tournament, and a dinner with entertainment and valuable door prizes.

All of these activities will take place on the second day of the 2018 show, Wednesday, Oct. 17.

In addition, the Georgia Young Farmers Association will be sending a delegation of officers to attend Tuesday's Willie B. Withers Luncheon, where the overall winner of this year's Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award will be announced. The Georgia YFA state officers will also hold their board meeting at Expo Tuesday afternoon.

The barbecue cooking starts early in the day Wednesday, and continues throughout most of the morning in an area west of the exhibits and between the Expo farm shop and the equipment staging area. This area is just to the rear of blocks WC-10 and WC-11 in the northwestern section of the exhibit grounds.

During the cooking, officers from the Georgia YFA will be staffing a hospitality tent where they will be serving snacks of fruit pies and sausage to Expo visitors.

It's expected that about 25 teams from Young Farmer chapters will be competing in this, the 27th annual 'Que Fest. The teams

will be cooking five or six boneless pork Boston butts.

Young Farmer chapters competing in the 'Que Fest are also eligible to enter a two-person team in the 24th annual horseshoe pitching tournament that begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Judging of the cooking sites will begin at 1 p.m. Wednesday, and judging of the barbecue pork will start at 1:30 p.m. that day. The barbecue is judged based on its appearance, flavor, tenderness, and overall impression. Judges this year will again include airmen from Moody Air Force Base, along with the overall winner of this year's Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award.

As in previous years, cash prizes for the 'Que Fest and horseshoe tournament winners will be provided by Swisher International. Top prizes are \$1,200 for the first place 'Que Fest team and \$500 for the top horseshoe team.

The annual Terrell Weeks Spirit of 'Que Fest award will be presented for the 16th time to the Young Farmer chapter with the best decorations at their cooking site. This award is named for the late Terrell Weeks, longtime executive secretary of the Georgia Young Farmers Association.

After a long day at Expo, the Farm Credit staff invites all Young Farmers and their families to relax and enjoy a great meal and great entertainment during the Young Farmer Event.

As in previous years, the annual Young Farmer Event will be held at the Maule Aircraft facility, starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Highlights will include announcement of the

winners for this year's 'Que Fest and the horseshoe pitching tournament.

Pork served during the dinner comes from the meat cooked during the 'Que Fest competition. The dinner for the young farmers and their families will again be sponsored by Stripling's General Store, Farm Credit, Reinke, Georgia Young Farmers Association, and Sunbelt Ag Expo.

Talented Georgia 4-H Club members will provide entertainment during the Young Farmer Event; their performance is sponsored by Farm Credit.

During the 2017 Sunbelt Expo, a Young Farmer cooking team from Union County, Ga., won the top place in the 'Que Fest, and a two-man team from Thomas County, Ga., won the horseshoe tournament. Young Farmers from Houston County, Ga., won the Terrell Weeks Spirit of 'Que Fest award for having the best cooking site decorations and food presentations.

Houston County Young Farmers also won a drawing for a new barbecue grill and smoker built by employees of Hays Liquid Transport, Inc., Camilla, Ga. The top door prize of \$1,500 in cash was again sponsored by Kelley Manufacturing Company, and was won by Jeff Braswell, Donalsonville, Ga. Other major door prizes during the Young Farmer Event are sponsored by Titan/Goodyear and Kubota Tractor Company.

The annual 'Que Fest pork cook-off for Young Farmer chapters is sponsored by Swisher International, Farm Credit, and Sunbelt Ag Expo.

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