

2025 Sunbelt Shorts

For a full schedule of all seminars and demonstrations, please see the show program pages 10-14. <https://sunbeltexpo.com/schedule-of-events/>

For a complete map of all of the Expo Exhibitors, see the following link: <https://sunbeltexpo.com/about/expo-map/>

# FARMER OF THE YEAR

Since its inception in 1990, the **Sunbelt Expo’s Southeastern Farmer of the Year** award program has evolved into the most prestigious honor in the southeast and nation with 311 outstanding agribusiness leaders being honored for excellence in agriculture. The award recognizes excellence in agriculture by honoring efficiency in farming, strong financial and management practices, environmental stewardship, effective marketing, and thoughtful plans for future growth. It also highlights leadership and service at the community, state, and national levels.

States that participate in the program include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. These farmers will be honored at a dinner on Monday evening and the winner will be announced at an awards luncheon on Tuesday. To learn more about the 2025 Farmers of the Year and other details, check out the website: <https://sunbeltexpo.com/foty/>

[Farmer of the Year Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/y2dy9wu2ayuwj0swvc4q5/AG0bosPrz9beo_pnu3Otr_4?rlkey=qs2xl4eqsh9wgrw5cyq2anirc&st=jlyi4w36&dl=0)

# SEED TO SHIRT: 2024 SUNBELT AG EXPO COTTON TURNED T-SHIRT

Through a special partnership with **Magnolia Loom**, based in Sandersville, Georgia, attendees at the 47th Sunbelt Ag Expo can purchase 100% cotton t-shirts made from cotton grown on the Darrell Williams Research Farm in 2024. There will be different designs to choose from when you purchase your 2025 Sunbelt Ag Expo cotton t-shirt, and it will be screen-printed on-site. Shirts can be purchased in the Family Living Building at the Magnolia Loom booth (FL-85). To learn more about the story, visit [magnolialoom.com](http://magnolialoom.com).

[2025 Sunbelt Ag Expo Shirt Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/avph2jqt6dyiodkm83nwv/AMypM7bGliqxSRmCkfS3rz8?rlkey=5g9plbo5fgyhpvzmksl88hbmm&st=gqjznc53&dl=0)

# SPOTLIGHT STATE – GEORGIA

Agriculture is Georgia’s largest industry and drives the state’s economy with a wide variety of crops, livestock, and forestry products. Georgia farmers produce over 40 commodities that support both local communities and global markets and lead the nation in peanuts, broilers, blueberries, and pecans.

**Georgia is the featured state in the Spotlight Building**, where the Georgia Department of Agriculture invites you to explore this vibrant industry, where the theme **“All Roads Lead to Georgia Grown”** comes to life. Visitors receive a map highlighting Georgia-grown products, leading them through “farmstands” inside the building to meet the producers and explore the crops and goods they grow.

The map doesn’t stop at the Expo, it also points the way to real farmstands across Georgia, connecting visitors with local agriculture beyond the building. Inside and outside the building, guests can relax, take photos, and enjoy Georgia commodities like peach or satsuma ice cream. Be sure to stop by and meet **Agricultural Commissioner Tyler Harper**, as well as the many sponsors and exhibitors. By the end of your visit, you’ll understand where your food comes from and the vital role Georgia agriculture plays in everyday life. Through partnerships with Georgia Farm Bureau, UGA CAES, FVSU, ABAC, and the Georgia Commodity Commissions, you’ll experience firsthand the impact of Georgia agriculture.

[Georgia Spotlight State Pictures (Click Here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/jaq8lmal61kzx65dz3uc1/AKnNHU4samOwz4TslgzzZo0?rlkey=giip476g8desido5xb6ct6tyv&st=q46q9gp1&dl=0)

# ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULLS AT THE EXPO

The **Antique Tractor Pull** is back by popular demand! Following last year’s exciting debut, this crowd favorite will once again put the toughest tractors to the test. Don’t miss the action every day at 10 a.m. The Tractor Pull is open to tractors manufactured in 1965 or earlier, and mini tractor pullers weighing between 950 and 1,400 pounds, including lawnmowers and outlaw modifieds. We can’t wait to have you join us each day to watch the tractors show their strength and earn bragging rights.

[Tractor Pull Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/pko1vwqy7bpjouvfgyq7u/ANkbBS0zaQVLvFlgpDuqVfE?rlkey=qls5pptjr6e2hjjvghht48qtn&st=d6x8z08y&dl=0)

# COOKING UP GEORGIA-GROWN GOODIES

No matter where you are on the grounds during the 2025 Sunbelt Ag Expo, you’ll be able to smell the aroma of delicious food cooking during interactive demonstrations. In the **Georgia Grown Marketplace** housed in the Family Living Building, attendees are sure to get a taste of the many wonderful products the state has to offer. On Wednesday, there will be exciting demonstrations from **Cooking with GA Young Farmer Wives and GA Grown**. In the **Backyard Garden**, you won’t want to miss straight-from-the-garden cooking demonstrations at 1 p.m. each day. Finally, a fan favorite every year, stop by the aquaculture area at the back of the grounds and taste test some **Georgia-grown catfish**.

[Cooking Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/l7m3os490zg8mgemf8onc/AHVo0xIGlKIBdN-CdiM2zm4?rlkey=bkt5hbv9jumgsa1x34lrgw66c&st=hw4u7u1v&dl=0)

# GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD IN A BUZZING BACKYARD

Lettuce and tomatoes are easier to grow than you think, and the **Flint River Fresh Backyard Garden** (Georgia Metals Pavilion, WB-7) is here to show you how. Based out of Albany, Ga., this nonprofit specializes in experiential learning at local schools through backyard garden models. Fredando Jackson, executive director at Flint River Fresh, combines his skills of growing produce with his heart for the youth and his community. Better known as ‘Farmer Fredo,’ community members across the tristate area learn from him and his team through interactive agriculture and conservation lessons. Flint River Fresh partners with Sunbelt Expo each year to provide quality insight into what it takes to grow fresh produce. You can find the large demonstration garden, with interactive seminars happening daily. Some areas you can expect to learn about are irrigation, tool identification, and how to care for raised bed gardens. Additionally, don’t miss learning about the important role honey bees play in our food system. Get your photo with Buzzy the SOWEGA Bee.

[Backyard Garden Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/h23apoybj2ntsqyolz3p0/ANIxjipW1rbevfEBbjfODSg?rlkey=ugv0g7dvqrmaw5mqkqxpzh5be&st=dulufbyq&dl=0)

# EQUINE HAPPENINGS

The Sunbelt Ag Expo is proud to host professionals in the equine industry including **Abby Kampmann Performance Horses** and **Garrett Shanks**. The Sunbelt Ag Expo is not horsing around this year. When it comes to putting on a show, the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Equine and the Sunbelt Ag Expo know how to reign in the celebrities. Be sure to visit the demonstrations and the Sunbelt Expo Rodeo Queens and Princesses.

[Equine Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/3bgpa7w6u23d31nsytomw/AEe5QvX9NIDGnx7dBkqqgB4?rlkey=qh2tehw3apj1mffjp3e90orlo&st=e4ycy3cx&dl=0)

# YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

With a continuously evolving agricultural industry, we like to incorporate a little something for everyone, including our future ag enthusiasts. On Wednesday, October 15, Hays LTI will sponsor the **Youth Educational Challenges** for students in 6th – 12th grade. In addition, Advocacy in Action hosted by Georgia Farm Bureau, will hold its final round of competition. Farm Credit will feature an **Ag Mechanics contest**. Awards will be given to winners in all contests. The Expo is also hosting the **Georgia FFA State tractor competition** again this year. The **Georgia Milk Producers** are holding final rounds for their media contest as well during the 2025 Sunbelt Ag Expo.

There will be hands-on demonstrations from the UGA Beef team to give you a snapshot into the **Top Hand Stockmanship and Stewardship Contest**. Furthermore, we will have Weaver Livestock onsite and they are sponsoring **youth fitting demonstrations** each day. There will also be juniors on site with their **junior show cattle projects** to tell their story of being involved in the cattle industry in Georgia.

Finally, don’t miss the opportunity to network and explore higher education possibilities. There are so many exhibitors looking for future talent and colleges wanting the top students to attend their university. Visit exhibitors and schools around the Southeast all in one place.

[Youth Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/p0pb9e8xyuyxkqj311372/AFFDjBpyOp5EI03EXFy5W08?rlkey=65rrdo01wq5ptxa8o9oz28qqr&st=m0ewhtrk&dl=0)

# FOLLOW THE DIRT ROAD TO NEW VEGETABLE DEMOS

At the Sunbelt Ag Expo, the path through the grounds isn’t paved in yellow bricks, it’s made of Georgia dirt, and it leads to some of the most exciting hands-on learning in agriculture. The Expo fields serve as an outdoor classroom where visitors can see the latest technology at work, from hay and cotton to peanuts and beyond. Our hay and field demonstrations are always a highlight, giving you a front-row seat to the innovations shaping today’s farms. This year, we are excited to **bring new vegetable production demonstrations** to the field. These demonstrations will showcase sweet corn, bean, and pea harvesting, along with transplanting for plastic and the use of an all-in-one tiller, bed former, plastic mulch layer, and drip tape layer.

Getting there is half the fun—hop on the tram and enjoy a ride that’s a favorite of both kids and adults. You might come back with a little dust on your boots, but you’ll leave with a deeper appreciation for the magic of agriculture in action.

[Field Demos Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cr1oygyn3xbxai7z4cydb/AMGZ7rl8GS-1PUUCqtaXuTE?rlkey=lck8q5sd9eke17b9j5is519d2&st=neh1apeg&dl=0)

# HAY IS FOR HORSES (AND FOR JUDGING)

Some farmers raise corn, others grow cotton, and many take pride in producing top-quality hay. To recognize that dedication, the **Southeastern Hay Contest** puts their hard work to the test, highlighting who produces the very best. This contest not only gives farmers the chance to showcase their hay but also to earn prizes and well-deserved recognition. Winners will be announced on Tuesday at the Sunbelt Ag Expo. The grand prize winner will receive the choice of a new Massey Ferguson RK Series rotary rake or a new Massey Ferguson DM Series Professional disc mower for the 2025 hay production session and $2000 cash! For more information on the contest, check out page 63 of the show program and the website: <https://site.caes.uga.edu/sehaycontest/>.

[Hay Contest Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/m0nrbb4xsjanpj5soolus/ACZuSShUDirlB6qKAugdU_8?rlkey=gix2mdi6rmcaq2h0f1grso3tk&st=mugw4rsh&dl=0)

# LIVESTOCK HAPPENINGS

No matter what kind of livestock you have at home or would like to start raising, the Sunbelt Ag Expo has a seminar or demonstration for you to learn all about beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, equine, aquatics, sheep, or goats. All day long you can visit with educational partners and exhibitors about the latest research findings to practical tools and equipment to use on your operation. Don’t miss the opportunity to learn more about livestock at the 2025 Sunbelt Ag Expo.

[Livestock Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/gwjj6et1fqf9us5dez4ad/AJbOC9zPg5Vf10HwMx-bjZ8?rlkey=mw9f2h72eswjgpdnz7htxonb8&st=hn6fcsop&dl=0)

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# MILKED

Each year the Expo brings a crowd of people to the dairy barn for various events but one, in particular, is the Cow Milking Contest. Over the years, the Expo has had women in ag, commissioners of agriculture, Farm Bureau presidents, and even pageant queens participate. However, this year, the Expo is putting a spin on the Cow Milking Contest with past milking contest winners competing on Tuesday, youth milkers on Wednesday, and livestock exhibitors on Thursday. Contestants get to show off their skills at hand milking a cow. If you are looking for an “udderly” good time, be sure to stop by the dairy barn for some friendly competition.

[Milking Photos (click here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/fhmkikm3lunow47az8rnv/AFyTUWY2V8gxROK5Dllsrzg?rlkey=ns85cwapf37vxz68kvbvbztd6&st=8lzvxrmw&dl=0)

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# BEYOND THE CROPS: FOCUSING ON FARMERS THROUGH HEALTHCARE EXHIBIT

The **Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia (PCOM)** in Moultrie is a launching pad for aspiring healthcare professionals. Offering various degrees and programs in medicine, the goal of the school is to help students learn to approach healthcare from an osteopathic or “whole person” perspective. For the second year, the college will host a healthcare exhibit at the Expo. With the topic of **mental health and stress management** remaining an unpopular conversation for many generational agriculturists, supporters feel this taboo subject must be addressed. Expo attendees can learn about topics like hypertension, managing Type 2 diabetes, stress management, the basic tenets of Osteopathic Medicine, and more. The PCOM Simbulance, a working ambulance that utilizes training mannequins as teaching tools, will be available for tours. In addition to PCOM, visitors will find a wide range of organizations focused on wellness, including Veterans Affairs, stress and financial management counseling and many other community health partners. The Sunbelt Expo is excited for this continued partnership and the insight attendees can gain from the premier healthcare exhibit.

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# [PCOM Photos (Click Here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/md1pdzkcctzrv1rwir08d/AMxmNdEyDkBCaradT2Fjif8?rlkey=bn8dqrrd9vzm1pcmmcuhld9r7&st=l62c7ukc&dl=0)

# CURT PATE BRINGS EXPERT STOCKMANSHIP TO THE SUNBELT AG EXPO

**Curt Pate,** **nationally recognized livestock handling and stockmanship expert**,will be featured at this year’s Sunbelt Ag Expo. Known for his practical, real-world demonstrations, Pate blends his lifelong ranching experience with innovative techniques that emphasize low-stress cattle handling, animal welfare, and safety for both livestock and handlers. His presentations not only showcase effective stockmanship skills but also highlight the direct connection between good cattle handling, better performance, and improved profitability on the farm. In addition, producers attending his presentations will be eligible to receive Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) credits, making this an excellent opportunity to gain practical skills while also advancing certification. Farmers, ranchers, and students alike will have the opportunity to learn from one of the most respected voices in the cattle industry right here at the Expo.

[Curt Pate Photos (Click Here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/w4yxyjltg66c9znt9dgm8/AE9dVb0wss7khsO_4SYNO0U?rlkey=955wqo4mu64ngbpkzym6ezphh&st=83eatl8b&dl=0)

**INNOVATION AWARDS**

This year marks the inaugural **Sunbelt Ag Expo Innovation Awards**, a brand-new tradition designed to spotlight the fresh ideas shaping the future of agriculture. For the first time, farmers, ranchers, and university experts have come together to evaluate and celebrate products that save time, reduce labor, and make a real impact in the field. Kicking off this new chapter, the awards set the stage for years of recognizing the ingenuity that keeps agriculture moving forward. These winners will be recognized on Tuesday morning. Make sure to check out the stop by the booths of the winners. For more information see the website:

<https://sunbeltexpo.com/innovation-award/>

[Innovation Awards Photo (Click Here)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/x8v9tjfhpgzcfyv37z1ah/AIlARpgZ67nO2NpSQSX6dz0?rlkey=dk817k81s001e6dm7lhomf7el&st=qsgb231m&dl=0)