



South Georgia

Ag Scene

November 2021

Another successful Sunbelt Expo

- Collaborative wants to supply hospitals with locally grown food
- Marine veteran receives use of a free tractor
- Mitchell County recognized for water conservation camp

A publication of: The Moultrie Observer • The Thomasville Times-Enterprise • The Tifton Gazette • The Valdosta Daily Times

Loans for Land & Farms

**Looking for a place in the country?
We specialize in financing rural real estate.**

- 20 year fixed rates for land. No balloons, no prepayment penalties. No worries.
- We are customer-owned and customer-focused—so you can expect the best.
- Share in our profits through our exclusive patronage dividend program!

Learn more at www.aggeorgia.com/land



**AGGEORGIA
FARM CREDIT**

Helping Georgia Grow for Generations®
AgGeorgia.com

Cordele – 229.273.3927
Moultrie – 229.985.3893

Nashville – 229.686.5081
Ocilla – 229.468.5900
Tifton – 229.382.4300

Quitman – 229.263.7551
Sylvester – 229.776.5599



NMLS#
627367

The Preserve at Cobblestone

“MOULTRIE’S PREMIER GATED COMMUNITY”

- 186 Home Sites with Security Access Gates
- Beautiful Clubhouse, Pool and Fitness Center along with Bike & Walking Trails
- Safe – Secure – Secluded!

NEW MODEL HOMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION



249 COBBLESTONE BLVD SE
 3 BEDROOM/2 BATH
 2207 SQ. FEET UNDER ROOF

**MOVE IN
 READY BY
 CHRISTMAS**



43 PACKER PRIDE DR
 3 BEDROOM/2 BATH
 2191 SQ. FEET UNDER ROOF

FOR MORE INFO CALL LARRY FRANKLIN AT 229-589-0442
WWW.LARRYFRANKLINPROPERTIESINC.COM

The Enclave

“A Premier Housing Development”

Consists of 12 -- 1/2 Acre Size Building Lots

- Development in the County
- EMC Power • Private Water System



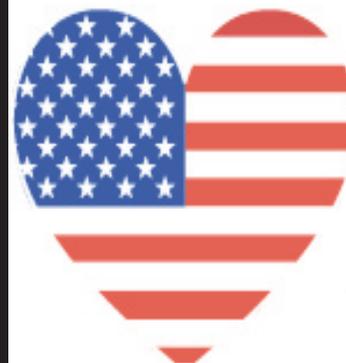
107 UTOPIA WAY
 3 BEDROOM/2 BATH
 2679 SQ. FEET UNDER ROOF



115 UTOPIA WAY
 3 BEDROOM/2 BATH
 2191 SQ. FEET UNDER ROOF



118 UTOPIA WAY
 2 BEDROOM/2 BATH
 1992 SQ. FEET UNDER ROOF



THANK YOU

To the Doctors, Nurses,
 Medical Staff, First
 Responders, Pastors,
 Teachers, School Staff and
 all other Front Line Workers
 for working hard to keep
 our Community Safe!!

Expo 'another ultra success,' Blalock says

By Jack R. Jordan

jack.jordan@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE, Ga. — Chip Blalock, executive director of the Sunbelt Ag Expo, sees the farm show's return as "another ultra success" and is already laying plans for next year.

"It's been a great week," Blalock said Oct. 21, the final morning of Expo. "The good Lord has blessed us with beautiful Chamber of Commerce weather all week. Our exhibitors have put their best foot forward with the supply chain issues they've faced and have had great displays throughout the grounds."

One of Blalock's favorite things to say is, "The greatest Expo is the one we're having right now." After being cancelled last year, this year is the 43rd rendition of the Sunbelt Ag Expo and it featured more than 1,200 exhibitors spread across 100 acres with field demonstrations, vendors, exhibitors, over 300 interactive educational displays and "over 4,000 different product lines," according to the Expo's program.

"We couldn't be more happy to be back in business and to have another ultra successful show. We're so happy to see the people again. Agriculture is a people's business," Blalock said.

One of the Expo's major events is the Swisher/Sunbelt Ag Expo Farmer of the Year. South Carolina farmer Robert "Bob" Martin Hall was crowned this year's winner on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

"Bush-N-Vine farm, Bob and his wife, Susan, are outstanding representatives of American and Southeastern agriculture," Blalock said. "I tell people all the time that the Swisher/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year is a true celebra-



Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer

The livestock displays at the Sunbelt Expo provide ranchers with advice as well as new technologies and processes that can improve their herds.

tion of agriculture. All ten families are deserving of being the winner. The thing they take away is that they now have nine new friends all over the Southeast. It's just cool to see them all come together and interact with each other."

All the state winners in the FotY competition meet for a banquet in Valdosta the Monday preceding the Expo where they participate in a roundtable discussion to get to know each other and discuss varying techniques in agriculture as well as receive their green jackets.

"Farmers are the original environmentalists, the original economists, the original mechanics,

accountant, you name it the list goes on and on," Blalock said. "We introduce them at the banquet and they get their green jacket because it signifies excellence like The Masters golf tournament. They have no clue we're doing all that. They think they're just coming to a farm show."

Blalock said that the new John Deere CP770 Cotton Picker, which made its first public appearance at the Expo, was one of the most popular exhibits during the show.

"Obviously one of the most prominent exhibits we had was the John Deere Cotton Picker and the entire cotton picker lineup for John Deere. It

was truly a sight to see. Farmers have flocked to it all week. I love the peanut harvest with Kelley Manufacturing Company, they do a fantastic job. I call myself a recovering cowboy from days gone by. I love anything to do with the livestock, the cattle, the horses, the dairy, the sheep and goats, the aquaculture, the hydroponics, the poultry demos, just anything to do with animals," Blalock laughed.

In 2019, an economic impact survey estimated that Expo has a \$16.72 million impact on Colquitt County and the surrounding counties. Blalock said this year was no different.

"I call the surrounding area of Colquitt

County, 'Metropolitan Moultrie. The largest city in Southern Georgia,'" Blalock said. "It's gratifying for the home team, Moultrie and Colquitt County, to roll out that red carpet for exhibitors and visitors but also the surrounding communities play a huge role in helping those folks. We fill up hotels in Tifton, Adel, Valdosta, Thomasville, Camilla, Cairo and Albany. Everybody does a great job. I think they all missed the show last year as much as we did."

Planning for next year starts almost as soon as this year's Expo ends. Some long time vendors secure their spots for next year before even pulling

More Expo news

- Robert "Bob" Hall of South Carolina is recognized as the Swisher/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year. **Page 5.**
 - Kubota helps a Marine veteran work his farm with a free lease on a tractor. **Page 6.**
 - Massey Ferguson celebrates its machine being named Tractor of the Year. **Page 7.**
 - Reinke Irrigation celebrates the 10th year of its "Finding a Cure is Pivotal" campaign against breast cancer. **Page 7.**
- And more on the following pages!

out on the last day. Blalock said there will be a short decompression period before next year's preparations really "kick back into gear" but things such as the 2022 FotY competition are already under way.

"We're already planning for next year. We had a meeting with our exhibitors this morning. They will be getting surveys next week to tell us the good, the bad and the ugly. That's how we can know what to improve. The city and the county play a big part in our success. I've already got notes for things to improve as we move forward.... By December various states will be announcing their winners for the 2022 competition and we're looking forward to that. We try to make [the Expo] a bit bigger and better every year."

The 2022 Sunbelt Ag Expo is scheduled to take place October 18 through 20. You can find updates throughout the year on Expo's website, sunbeltexpo.com.

South Carolinian named Farmer of the Year

By Jack R. Jordan

jack.jordan@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE, Ga. — Robert “Bob” Martin Hall of South Carolina was named as the 2020-2021 Farmer of the Year at the Sunbelt Ag Expo Luncheon Oct. 19.

“This is a humbling experience. I can’t thank my family, the sponsors and God enough for this,” Hall said during his acceptance speech.

The Farmer of the Year competition was put on hold last year as the Sunbelt Expo had been cancelled for its first time in history. Due to this, last year’s nominees were carried over for this year’s competition.

“We realized very quickly that the Farmer of the Year competition could not and would not be held virtually,” Chip Blalock, executive director of the Sunbelt Ag Expo said before the award presentation began.

“We’ve joked that these winners were our first two-time champions,” he said.

Hall was originally nominated as the South Carolina Farmer of the Year by his friend and colleague, Philip “Andy” Rollins, the Upstate South Carolina commercial fruit and vegetable agent at Clemson University.

“I can’t thank him enough for nominating me,” Hall said. “He’s been my friend for many years and he has brought so much to my farm and now to my family.”

Hall had already received a \$2,500 cash prize from Swisher International when he was named as the SC FotY as well as a Columbia vest from Ivey’s Outdoor and Farm Supply and a \$500 donation from Syngenta to the charity of his choice.



Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer

Robert “Bob” Martin Hall of South Carolina was named the Swisher/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year Oct. 19 at the Expo’s Governor’s Luncheon. From left are Expo Director Chip Blalock, Hall, his wife Susan, and Ron Carroll, VP Smokeless Marketing, Swisher International Inc.

He will now receive a \$15,000 cash prize awarded from Swisher International, a Massey Ferguson tractor to use for one year, a Columbia jacket from Ivey’s Outdoor and Farm Supply, another \$500 donation to the charity of his choice, a Hays LTI Smoker/Grill and a Henry Repeating Arms American Farmer Tribute Edition rifle courtesy of Reinke Irrigation.

Van McCall, owner of VM, LLC and president of the Farmer of the Year event, shared the judges’ statements following the

announcement of Hall’s victory.

“His dedication to agriculture is prevalent in the effort he puts to maintain Bush-N-Vine Farm as one of the highest standards of commercially sold products in the Southeast United States,” McCall said.

Hall’s family owned farm, Bush-N-Vine Farm, was first started in the 1930s and currently cultivates more than 100 acres of fruits and vegetables, according to his biography published by the Sunbelt Ag Expo. His wife, Susan,

acts as the company’s secretary and treasurer.

They have five children: Sam, Benjamin, Elizabeth Martin, Ruth Anne Melchers and Mary McKay.

“Being a farmer is not an easy life. Everybody in this room knows that. My kids have been able to enjoy the life, or at least I hope they have,” Hall laughed.

“There’s been good times and bad but the Lord has blessed us and he’s provided for us and he’s toughened us,” he added.

10 state Farmers of the Year compete

Robert “Bob” Hall of South Carolina was among 10 state Farmers of the Year who faced off for the Southeastern Farmer of the Year award last month. Nominees included:

- Alabama, Thomas Ellis.
- Arkansas, Jamie Anderson.
- Florida, Raymond R. “Rick” Roth Jr.
- Georgia, Samuel L. “Lee” Nunn.
- Kentucky, Stephen J. Kelley.
- Mississippi, Joe Edmondson.
- North Carolina, James L. “Cookie” Lamb.
- South Carolina, Robert “Bob” Martin Hall.
- Tennessee, Jay Yeargin.
- Virginia, Charles Edwin “CJ” Isbell Jr.

GEARED TO GIVE

Kubota provides free lease of tractor to veteran

By Jack R. Jordan

jack.jordan@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE, Ga. — Master Gunnery Sgt. Tracy Robinson was given a one-year lease on a new Kubota's M8 Series tractor as part of the company's Geared to Give program.

While Robinson has already received his tractor from Kubota, a ceremony was held Oct. 20 at the Kubota booth at the Sunbelt Ag Expo to symbolize the "giving of the keys," John Sargeant, Kubota senior director and divisional manager of the Southeast Division, said in an interview before the event.

The GtG program is partnered with the Farmer Veteran Coalition. The FVC is a group based in California that aims to "cultivate a new generation of farmers and food leaders and develop viable employment and meaningful careers through the collaboration of the farming and military communities," according to its website.

Robinson was selected by the FVC and Kubota for his 24 years of service in the United States Marine Corps and his ability to successfully manage a 700-acre row crop farm without ever owning or leasing any farming equipment, according to Sargeant.

"Robinson dreamed of being a farmer. After his years in the Marines and deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, he came home and has managed his farm without equipment of his own," Sargeant said.

Robinson retired from the Marines in 2010 and



John Sargeant, left, hands Tracy Robinson ceremonial keys for his new Kubota M8 Series tractor during a ceremony at Sunbelt Expo Wednesday.

has since been working on his family farm in Blakely, Ga. He officially took over the business in 2013.

"When I joined the Marines, the recruiter

had asked if I wanted to do field artillery. I said, 'sign me up,' because all I heard was, 'field.' When I finished boot camp I asked, 'where's the tractor

at?'" Robinson said in an interview preceding the event.

Robinson continued to work in various field artillery divisions while doing

multiple deployments overseas, which included Iraq, Afghanistan and participation in Operation Desert Storm. He has been able to maintain his farm

through what he calls, "a barter system."

"I have good friends within my community," he said. "What I do is give them labor and in return they let me use their equipment."

Robinson said the biggest issue he's faced with this model is the inability care for his farm in a timely manner.

"Of course it comes with, 'We'll take care of my farm first and then we'll take of yours,'" Robinson said. "I've been successful with it and I've been able to do it for the last eight years."

Along with the keys to his Kubota tractor, Southern Tractor and Outdoors of Moultrie will be providing free maintenance throughout Robinson's lease. During the event he was also given a Challenge Coin "recognizing and honoring (Robinson) as a distinguished member of the Farmer Veteran Coalition and the newest member of Kubota's Geared to Give Program," Sargeant said.

During his acceptance speech at the event Robinson said, "I have been farming for several years. I've been able to do that without owning or leasing any equipment. People always ask, 'How have you been able to do that?' I've been able to do that because I have friends that took care of me... This is the first piece of equipment that I have had the pleasure of using whenever I need it."

Robinson finished his speech by confirming he will be purchasing his M8 Tractor from Kubota once his lease is up.

Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer

Massey Ferguson machine named Tractor of the Year

By Jack R. Jordan

jack.jordan@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE, Ga. — Massey Ferguson is showcasing its 2021 Tractor of the Year at this year's Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie.

The new MF 8S Series tractor was the main focus at the Massey Ferguson display at the center of the Expo. The Tractor of the Year award was presented by a European based group made up of 25 European countries.

"They look at not only performance but technology but stuff that's easier for operators," Adam Sills, marketing product specialist for tractors, who was the on site expert at the Expo.

Massey Ferguson's main focal point for the new MF 8S series was a focus on the operator, Sills said.

"They interviewed big farmers, small farmers, men, women, contractors who are doing custom type work. They really tried to put that at the forefront at creating this new tractor. What really helped win the award was the attention to detail and the comfort in the cab," Sills explained.

The MF 8S series' biggest innovation is fairly simple. There is an extra nine and a half inches of space between the engine cab and the operator cab. This not only reduces the noise operators experience but also cuts down on the heat drivers experience, Sills said.

"There isn't really a need for more horsepower or more hydraulics. Everybody (on the market) is maxed out on that. But it's the operator experience that sets tractors apart," he said. "This separation



Photo courtesy Massey Ferguson

The Massey Ferguson MF 8S, shown in this file photo from the tractor company, was recently named Tractor of the Year by a European group. It is a centerpiece of the company's display at the Sunbelt Ag Expo going on through Thursday at Spence Field in Moultrie.

maxes our decibel output to 68 compared to the industry average of 71."

The suspension within the cab also allows a smoother ride for higher speed tilling. Known as the "opti-ride suspension," this automatically adjusts the stability of the seat.

The tractor's AGCO power engine is a 6 cylinder, 7.4 liter that can reach between 190 and 305 hp depending on which of the four series is purchased. All four in the series feature a dual clutch system designed to keep the trans-

mission from gear to gear "as smooth as possible," Sills said.

"You can hear that real subtle transmission," he said. "There isn't really a jolt in the seat anymore; you can really only tell the difference with engine RPM. It's a smooth transition and it puts power to the ground more sufficiently."

Just like most modern tractors, all the tractors within the MF 8S series can be outfitted with amenities such as air conditioning and GPS. They also

have an optional Bluetooth RDS/MP3 radio for hands-free calls and two USB ports to charge electronic devices.

"This is a new era for Massey Ferguson. We've really focused on the customer. Massey Ferguson has a really proud heritage. We've really been trying to transform what agriculture can be with this redesign and styling... We've really tried to play with our history. People who have been in a Ferguson before will recognize what we were trying



Photo courtesy Reinke Irrigation Systems

Pink irrigation equipment is not the norm, but for Reinke Irrigation Systems there's a reason: Their pink display at each year's Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition brings attention to efforts to fight breast cancer. The company sells T-shirts with proceeds going to a breast cancer fund.

'Finding a Cure is Pivotal' celebrates its 10th year

Staff Reports

MOULTRIE, Ga. — At the recent Sunbelt Ag Expo, Reinke Manufacturing continued its "Finding a Cure is Pivotal" campaign to fight breast cancer. 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the campaign that supports 26.2 with Donna: The Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer.

"I'm very proud that Reinke does this" said Bill Mercer of Coney Irrigation, a Reinke dealer in Cordele, Ga. "This effort brings awareness to a big issue that reaches people beyond just the brand."

The campaign started a decade ago with the first set of pink wheels mounted on the display pivot at the show. Each year Reinke creates a different shirt and donates them so that every dollar donated goes straight to support the charity. While there was no in-person show in 2020, Reinke still made a direct donation to 26.2 with Donna as a demonstration of their support.

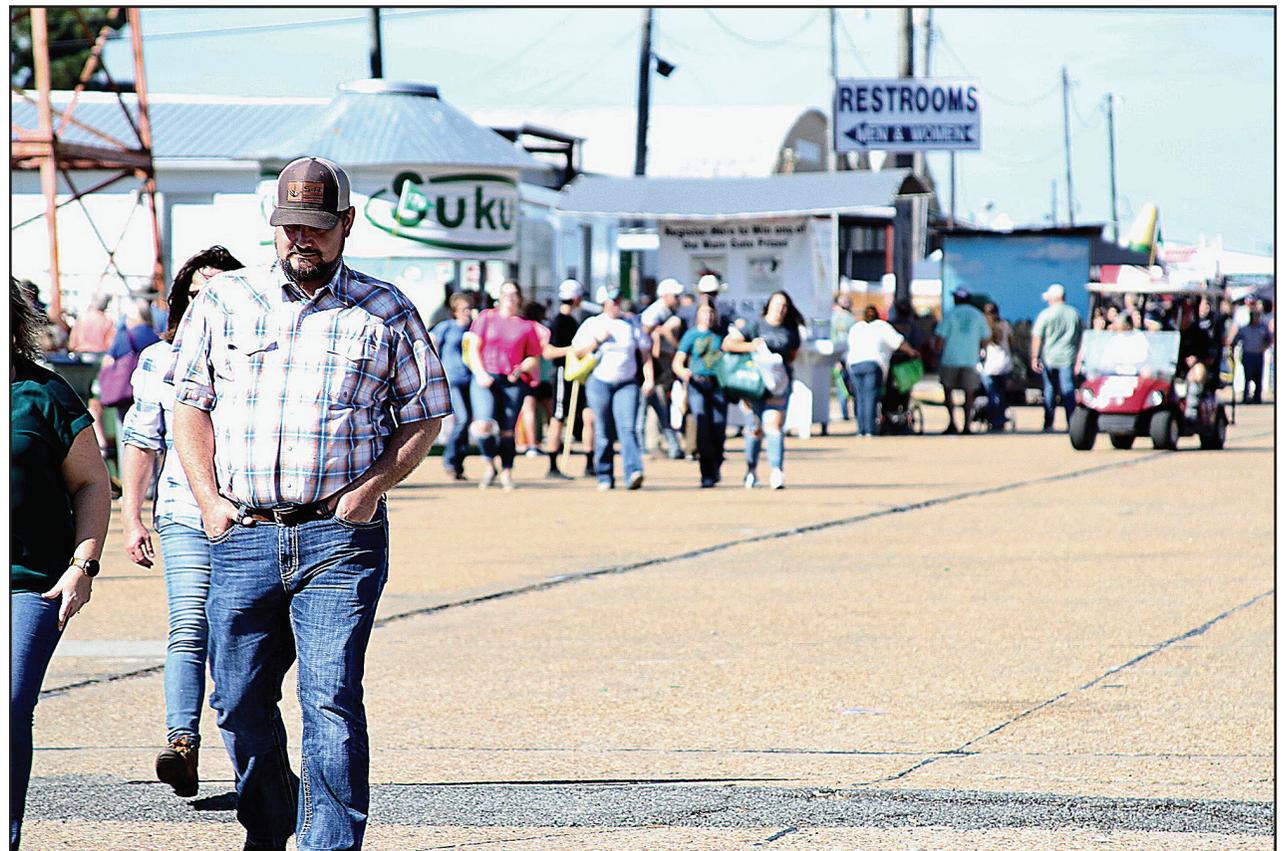
Mike Mills, territory manager for Reinke, says "We strongly believe in connecting with our growers beyond just selling them equipment."

The efforts this year raised over \$4,000 bringing the 10-year total to over \$35,000.

In addition to the breast cancer campaign, Reinke exhibited irrigation products and technology to help growers improve yields and profitability.

Growers saw a range of precision irrigation solutions to help them put the right amount of water in right location. One of the highlights was the integration of the products and technologies from Reinke and CropX that company officials said give growers the ability to grow stronger crops with more uniform water application. Growers with pivots using Reinke's enhanced, web-based application ReinCloud® are now seeing additional benefits by being able to operate their irrigation remotely, the company said. At the same time, they can manage CropX data through the integrated platform.

IMAGES OF EXPO

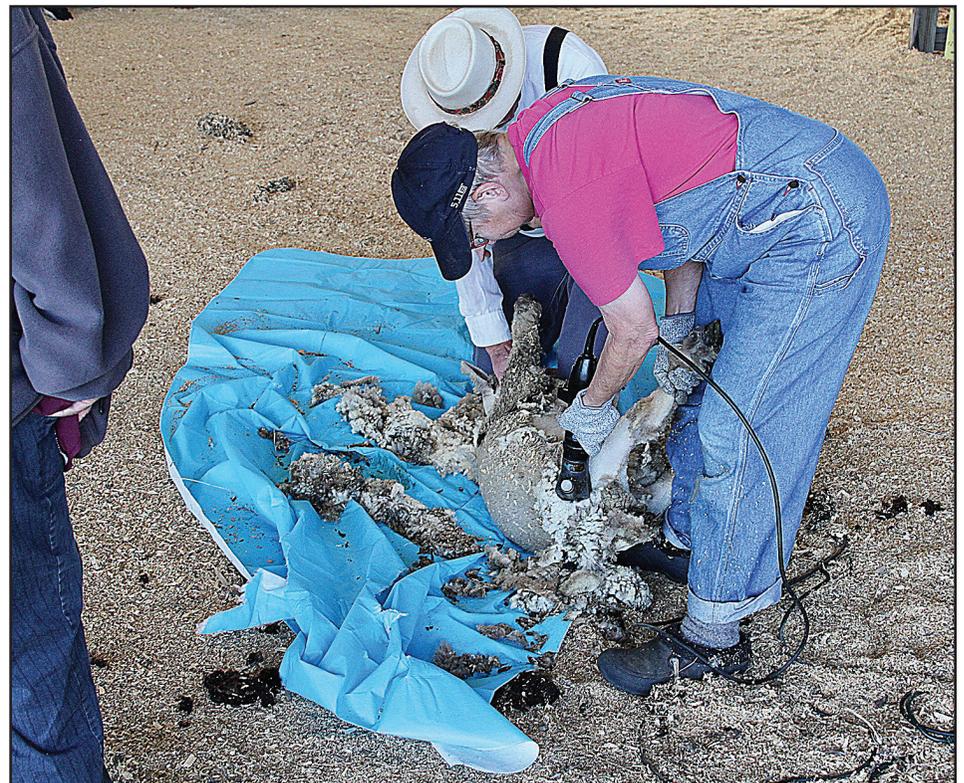


Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer
Food is a key part of the Expo experience.

Thousands of people from across South Georgia and elsewhere converged on Spence Field in Moultrie Oct. 19-21 for the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition.



Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer
Expo offers educational exhibits, not only for farmers but for everyone, including this booth with a turtle display.



Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer
A shearing demonstration was part of a sheep seminar at the Expo.



MASSEY FERGUSON



THE DEFINITION OF HEAVY DUTY.

Meet the utility tractor that doesn't back away from anything. The Massey Ferguson 4700 Series handles your toughest jobs with power, maneuverability, stability and comfort. With its best-in-class base weight of 7,125 pounds, and 80-100 HP engine, this tractor is purpose built for more pulling power and lift capacity using larger, heavier implements. Got some really tough tasks and tall orders? This is the one to tackle them.

masseyferguson.us

WANT TO SCHEDULE A TEST DRIVE? CALL WESLEY AT 229-322-5588.

**ATLANTIC &
SOUTHERN**
EQUIPMENT, LLC

Tifton, GA • 229-339-8010
www.AtlanticAndSouthern.com

0% FINANCING **for** **84** MONTHS*
+
\$800 CASH DISCOUNT



*Rates as low as 0% for 84 months in the U.S. Offer valid on select models and subject to credit review and approval through AGCO Finance LLC. Dealer participation may vary. Contact your participating dealer for more details. Offer subject to change without notice.
©2020 AGCO Corporation. Massey Ferguson is a worldwide brand of AGCO Corporation. AGCO and Massey Ferguson are trademarks of AGCO. All rights reserved

Collaborative working to provide food to rural hospitals



Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer

Robin Rau, right, owner and operator of the Georgia Rural Hospital Food Collaborative, poses with her aunt, Shirley Brooks, in the Dairy Pavilion at the Sunbelt Ag Expo.

By Jack R. Jordan
jack.jordan@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE, Ga. — An organization with links to the hospital industry was at the Sunbelt Ag Expo, recruiting farmers to help build a food pipeline from the farm to rural hospitals.

The Georgia Rural Hospital Food Collaborative is a not-for-profit organization based out of Colquitt, Ga. Its founder, Robin Rau saw an opportunity eight years ago when she realized that there were only two main groups distributing to healthcare organizations: Sysco Foods and U.S. Foods, according to Rau.

Rau, the CEO of Miller County Hospital, operates Shelby Acres, where she produces beef, pork, lamb and goat meat.

“For several years I had been selling beef and pork directly to hospitals and long-term care facilities,” Rau said in an interview Oct. 20.

In 2019 a blueberry farmer contacted Rau through Clinch Memorial Hospital CEO Angela Ammons.

“(Ammons) reached out to me and asked, ‘Is this something that you can help with?’” Rau said. “The issue was they couldn’t sell them in supermarkets or things of that nature so the Georgia farmer was cut out. So I ended up buying thousands of pints of blueberries and gave them to my employees.”

That was the first of many conversations that would later become the GRHFC.

“A conversation started

on what I was doing to help the Georgia farmer in beef and pork and then blueberries,” Rau said.

In 2020 Rau, like many other Americans, saw a shortage in many things including food.

“We saw food shortages, we saw material shortages and people were aware of the shortages for antibiotics, personal protective equipment and medical supplies. Nobody was talking about the shortage of food. Then beef and pork became unavailable. So, how do you feed long term care facilities and hospitals if you can’t get beef and pork?” Rau said.

Rau envisioned direct food supplies to medical facilities and she began to get other leaders from

Please see **HOSPITALS**, Page 11

**DOERUN
GIN CO.**
INCORPORATED

6522 Highway 133 North
P.O. Box 550
Doerun, GA 31744

229-782-5278

Phone:

229-782-7402

Fax:

www.doerungin.com

“YOUR COTTON’S FIRST PICK”



*Give us a call
or stop by to
discuss your
2021 cotton
crop needs.*

Tom Sumner
General Manager

Continued from Page 10

Hospitals

around Georgia involved, including Georgia Ag Commissioner Gary Black, state Rep. Terry England, ABAC President David Bridges, who's also director of the Center for Rural Innovation and Prosperity, Matt Kirk of the Healthcare Service Group and Jimmy Lewis of Hometown Health.

"It was just a natural escalation of what I was doing on my own," Rau said.

By May of 2021, the GRHFC was born. Since its inception, the program has been partnering with Georgia farmers to sell their product with rural hospitals.

"We pay top dollar for the producers' animals. But they have to meet our standards," Rau said.

All farmers who wish to participate have to pass through certain certifications but Rau said they are fairly simple.

"We want USDA certified beef. Grass fed at first then finished with grain... All our producers are A Greener World certified in both Non-GMOs and Grass fed," Rau said.

Producers must also be Animal Welfare Approved which maintains the integrity of the treatment of the animals. The AWA is the only farm certification program in the U.S. that is recognized by the International Organization of Standardization for quality and integrity, according to A Greener World, an organization dedicated

to the treatment of livestock.

Rau will soon open her own processing facility in Colquitt, complete with a connected shopping store to sell the collaborative's products. Once it opens, she will be paying her employees \$20 an hour with benefits.

"We are dedicated to producing a top dollar product for the best value for the consumer. We will be making money off our operations but that is going directly back into the employees and the facility," Rau said.

Rau hopes to continue expanding the program across Georgia. She met with potential distributors throughout the Expo at the Dairy Pavilion.

UGA DEAN WINS MILKING CONTEST



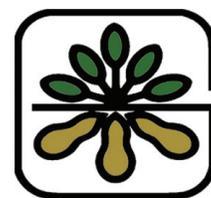
Submitted photo

Dr. Nick Place, dean of the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, won first place at the Sunbelt Expo's Cow Milking Competition held on Oct. 19.

Taste the
POWER
of
GEORGIA
PEANUTS



GET SOCIAL WITH US!
#PEANUTPOWER #GAPEANUTS



Georgia
Peanut
Commission

GaPeanuts.com

VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP AT

445 FULWOOD BLVD. TIFTON, GEORGIA 331793

Peanut Farm Show set for Jan. 19-20 in Tifton

Staff Reports

TIFTON, Ga. — Make plans to attend the 45th annual Georgia Peanut Farm Show and Conference scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 19-20, 2022, at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center in Tifton.

Wednesday's hours will be 1-5 p.m. and Thursday's hours will be 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The two-day show is free and open to all farmers and industry representatives to attend.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit with

nearly 100 agribusinesses and organizations in the peanut and agricultural industry.

Farmers will be able to earn private and commercial pesticide applicator certification, as well as learn about cutting-edge research and developments during the University of Georgia Peanut Production Seminar and industry-wide sponsored Peanut Seed Seminar.

Farm Show chairman Rodney Dawson is looking forward to the 2022 show.

"I encourage farmers to attend this two-day show in Tifton," Dawson said. "The knowledge they

will gain from industry representatives and seminars is an investment in the future of their farm."

The Georgia Peanut Commission, in cooperation with OneBlood, will host a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20. At the close of Thursday, there will be nearly \$10,000 in door prizes presented to farmers, as well as a grand door prize, vendor products, certificates and equipment.

For more information on the show, contact the Georgia Peanut Commission office at 229-386-3470 or visit www.gapeanuts.com.



Photo courtesy of Massey-Ferguson

Bill Conrad, winner of the 2021 Southeastern Hay Contest is joined by Darren Parker and Matt LeCroy from Massey Ferguson to accept the grand prize.

Florida grower wins 2021 Southeastern Hay Contest

Staff Reports

DULUTH, Ga. — Bill Conrad of Malone, Florida, was named the overall winner of the 2021 Southeastern Hay Contest (SEHC) as part of the 2021 Sunbelt Ag Expo.

Conrad took the top prize with a relative forage quality (RFQ) of 297 in the mixed, annual grass and other hay category. He won a choice of a Massey Ferguson DM Series disc mower or RK Series rotary rake for the 2022 hay production season, plus \$1,000 cash.

Matt LeCroy, director, marketing hay and forage for Massey Ferguson North America, recognized Conrad in conjunction with the opening of the Sunbelt Ag Expo Oct. 19 in Moultrie, Georgia.

"A successful livestock operation requires good-quality hay to reduce operating costs and ensure reliable animal performance," LeCroy said. "Massey Ferguson takes

pride in our lineup of hay tools and the efforts our employees and dealers go to help ensure efficient, quality hay production for farmers across the country. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the SEHC to recognize the efforts of Southeastern farmers to maximize their hay and baleage quality."

Since 2004, the SEHC, a partnership between Auburn University, Clemson University, the University of Florida and the University of Georgia, has been a key tool for promoting hay quality in the Southeastern United States, Massey Ferguson said in a press release. This year, county extension agents from across the region worked with producers from several Southeastern states to find the highest quality forage in seven categories of hay and baleage: warm season perennial grass hay (bermudagrass, bahiagrass), alfalfa hay, perennial peanut hay, perennial cool

season grass (tall fescue, orchardgrass, etc.), hay, mixed and annual grass hay, grass baleage, and legume baleage. The top three producers from each category are recognized with cash prizes from industry sponsors. Massey Ferguson partnered with the SEHC as the grand prize sponsor.

"The SEHC is more than a contest – it's an opportunity for innovative farmers to learn and improve their operations and their industry," LeCroy said. "Each sample demonstrates a commitment to the betterment of American ag and continued efforts to feed and sustain our country. We're excited to recognize Conrad and want to encourage all of this year's producers to continue striving for the best hay in America."

For more information on the Southeastern Hay Contest, visit <https://site.caes.uga.edu/sehaycontest/>.

COLQUITT COUNTY PLACES SECOND



Submitted photo

From left, Coach Greta Collins with team members Ashley Strange, Bo Demott and Carolyne Turner pose before the Advocacy in Action competition. The Colquitt County High School/Colquitt County Ga. Farm Bureau team made it to the finals and placed second in the competition.

WHERE THE LOCALS AND OTHERS GO FOR
THE BEST DEALS
ON A NEW OR PRE-OWNED VEHICLE!

THOMASVILLE
TOYOTA  .com

14724 U.S. 19 S. • Thomasville, GA 31757
Sales: 229-228-0555 • Service: 229-584-0865



THOMASVILLE FORD

1515 East Jackson St. • Thomasville, GA 31792
Sales & Service: 229-206-9670



Bayer Fund directs donation to Colquitt County FFA

Staff Reports

MOULTRIE, Ga. — Colquitt County farmers Craig and Debbie Cannon recently directed a \$2,500 America's Farmers Grow Communities donation, sponsored by Bayer Fund, to the Colquitt County FFA chapter.

The FFA chapter will use the funds to help sponsor FFA students in local, state and national competitions as well as to promote ag awareness within the Colquitt County School System.

"The Colquitt County FFA Chapter and advisors would like to sincerely thank the Cannons for taking the time to apply for this fund and for choosing the Colquitt County FFA Chapter to be the recipient," said Gene Hart, one of the FFA advisors for the Colquitt County chapter.

"It is truly a blessing for our FFA Chapter to have the support and community backing that we have as shown by this donation."

Gene Hart
a Colquitt County FFA advisor

"It is truly a blessing for our FFA Chapter to have the support and community backing that we have as shown by this donation. It is through this generosity and support that we as advisors are able to give our FFA members opportunities to travel and compete at the state and national level and to become advocates for agriculture."

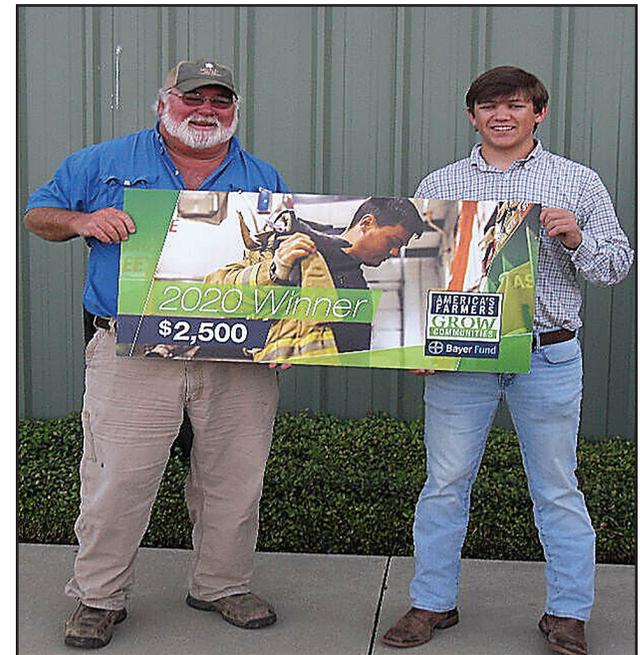
Since 2010, the America's Farmers programs have awarded more than \$57 million to nonprofits, aspiring ag students and public schools

across rural America, the organization said in a press release. Farmers know the needs of their communities best, so the America's Farmers programs rely on them to help identify the most worthy causes.

The Grow Communities program partners with farmers across the country to provide nonprofit organizations with resources to strengthen their local communities. Each August, farmers can enter for the chance to direct a \$2,500 Grow Communities donation to a local eligible

nonprofit of their choice. Farmers have directed donations to food banks, emergency response organizations, schools, youth agriculture programs and many others that reflect the spirit and support the vibrancy of rural America.

"Farmers truly understand the needs of their communities and where the opportunities to strengthen them exist. We partner with them to identify the nonprofit organizations that benefit from Grow Communities donations," said Al Mitchell, Bayer Fund president. "Each donation shines a light on the organizations that are making a positive difference in rural communities across the country. Bayer Fund is proud to partner with farmers to give back in rural America."



Submitted photo
Pictured are Craig Cannon, C & D Farms, and Bobby Mitchell, Colquitt County FFA president for 2020-2021, celebrating a Bayer Fund donation to the Colquitt County FFA.

B.C.T. GIN CO., INC.

"The Farmers Gin"

800-352-0573

"Supporting Our Farmers and the Future Agricultural Leaders of America."



PEANUTS



COTTON



GRAIN

QUITMAN 229-263-8936 • BERLIN 229-324-2350
PAVO 229-859-2616 • ADEL 229-896-7386
ADEL 229-896-7607



GUNS & GEAR

Largest Gun & Ammo Selection in Town

Find great prices on quality sporting arms, ammo, gear and accessories

Always a great selection on:

- Electronics • Guitars • Power & Hand Tools
- Game Stations • Games • DVD's • TV's

American Pawn Shop

1235 1st Avenue SE • Moultrie • 985-7296
OPEN: Mon.-Sat. 9-6
 Other Locations: Thomasville, Cairo, Bainbridge, Americus

Lawmakers want ag dept. involved in cannabis oil

By Dave Williams

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia Department of Agriculture should play a role in the state's fledgling medical marijuana program, a member of a legislative oversight committee said Sept. 13.

"This is an agricultural product. We're an agricultural state," Georgia Rep. Micah Gravley, R-Douglasville, said during the inaugural meeting of the Medical Cannabis Commission Oversight Committee. "Having them involved going forward is a good thing."

Gravley was chief sponsor of legislation the General Assembly passed two years ago creating a state commission to award licenses to companies to grow marijuana and convert the leaf crop into low-

THC cannabis oil.

The oil is intended to treat patients with a variety of diseases including cancer, seizure disorders, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, mitochondrial disease and sickle-cell anemia.

The 2019 law also established a legislative oversight committee to monitor the program. But the oversight panel didn't meet for the first time until Sept. 13 due to delays the seven-member state commission has encountered getting the program off the ground.

The commission took until this summer to award cannabis oil production licenses to six companies.

Two "Class 1" licensees will be authorized to grow marijuana under close supervision in up to 100,000

square feet of space. Four other companies received "Class 2" licenses limiting them to no more than 50,000 square feet of growing space.

While Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black has been a strong supporter of the state's hemp farming program, he has been cool toward the Peach State getting into the cannabis oil business.

However, with Black now seeking next year's Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate, Georgia likely will have a new agriculture chief after the 2022 elections.

Rep. Sam Watson, R-Moultrie, said Utah's agriculture department is playing an active role in that state's cannabis oil program, which Georgia is looking to as a model.

Both states permit only

low-THC in cannabis oil, far below a level that would make a user "high," and neither permit recreational use of marijuana.

Watson said getting the agriculture department involved in Georgia's program is "definitely a conversation to be had."

The commission, mean-

while, has been working on responses to seven protests filed by companies whose bids for Class 1 licenses were rejected and 14 protests filed by bidders rejected for Class 2 licenses.

While that process continues, Gravley said the oversight committee should move as quickly as

possible to identify labs that can test the licensees' cannabis oil for quality and compliance with the low-THC requirement.

"Having a variety of labs available to cultivators would be a good thing," he said. "There are those who are in need of this oil."



Office: 229-226-0431

Helping You Is What We Do Best.

Call today for a quote on all your insurance needs.

EDDIE SIMMONS, LUTCF, FSS
AGENCY MANAGER

KELLI GRINER, LUTCF

GEORGIA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE SERVICES
SOUTHERN FARM BUREAU
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

2376 GEORGIA HIGHWAY 122 • THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31757

551072-1

Turning Point

Despair turns to hope. Failure turns to success.

1-800-342-1075



Chemical Dependency and Behavioral Health Services for Adults including detoxification, rehabilitation, mental health care and women's trauma.

3015 Veterans Parkway S. | Moultrie, GA 31788
(229) 985-4815 or (800) 342-1075

www.turningpointcare.com

547455-1

Georgia - Florida

Seamless Gutters

Family Owned & Operated Since 1999.

and
MORE!

We Install All Gutters

We Serve Moultrie/Thomasville & Surrounding Counties



Call Us For All Your Gutter Needs!

229-616-7772



22
Years

Ask For Elton
Moultrie, GA



VISA



gafseamlessgutters@windstream.net

547467-1

Ag commissioner candidate a 7th-generation farmer

By Jack R. Jordan

jack.jordan@gafnews.com

OCILLA, Ga. — Tyler Harper, District 7 Georgia State Senator, is currently the only official candidate for the soon to be open Georgia Agriculture Commissioner position.

While that seat is currently being filled by long time occupant Gary Black, Black is currently running for U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock's seat. Harper hopes to take over the duties in 2022.

Harper spoke with The Moultrie Observer during a visit to the Sunbelt Expo Oct. 19, then followed up with a phone interview the following week.

Harper grew up on his family farm in Ocilla where farming has been in his family's genes for generations. A lifelong resident of South Georgia, he graduated



TYLER HARPER

ed from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College with an associate's degree before graduating from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's in agricultural engineering.

"I am a seventh generation farmer. My family has been tilling this soil for over 100 years," Harper said. "My grandfather

never learned to read or write because he had to drop out of school to work the farm... Through him and my parents I learned what we call 'farm values.' That's qualities such as hard work and integrity. These are the types of qualities that will help be successful as Georgia's next ag commissioner."

Harper has been serving in the state senate since 2013 and has won five reelections since; all but one were unopposed. He serves or has served in leadership roles on the Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Agriculture committees, and he serves as the Agriculture & Rural Development Vice-Chair of the Southern Legislative Conference.

The 35-year-old said that his interest in politics started at a young age.

"My first foray into poli-

tics was when I volunteered on Gary Black's 2006 Ag Commissioner campaign. In 2007 I had the opportunity to do a Congressional Fellowship with then Senator Saxby Chambliss. After that I returned to the family farm but I had already got bit by the political bug," Harper laughed.

He stayed in close contact with former Ga. Rep. Jay Roberts.

"(Roberts) actually used to umpire when I played Little League," Harper said. "He helped give me some pointers on how to go about everything... We've always stayed in pretty close contact. He's the one who encouraged me to run originally."

Harper said his passion for agriculture has pushed him in his time with the state senate.

"I have a passion for agriculture. It's been the

support for me and my family... There really isn't an agricultural issue that I haven't sponsored, co-sponsored or been in the conversation for. I aim to keep Georgia supporting its number one industry."

Harper said that his efforts with Georgia's livestock industry and the meat labeling, ag educational opportunities and rural broadband are some of the things he's been proud to work on and will continue to support after the election.

"I want to continue Georgia's tradition as the backbone of the state. There are so many things within the world of agriculture that need to be addressed. Getting the true labeling was something I'm proud of to help support the livestock industry and increase Georgia's agricultural education oppor-

tunities. We have to be working towards the next generation and improving this industry. Rural broadband is another key thing. Agriculture is just like everything else, a connected industry... Our farmers need to be able to stay connected to take part in a growing global economy."

While Harper is the only announced candidate for the ag commissioner's position, March is the official end of qualifying and primaries will commence in May with a general election in November. But Harper says that whatever comes next, he hopes to continue to serve the people of Georgia.

"I don't know if anybody else is going to run. That's not really my issue. I just want the people of Georgia to know that I am here now and I'm ready to serve them."



Lauri lost a total of **110 pounds!**

Healthier tomorrows

Starting today

The next step to a new you begins with Sterling Center Bariatrics

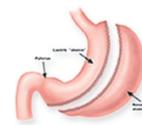
ENDOSCOPIC SLEEVE



ORBERA BALLOON



GASTRIC SLEEVE



GASTRIC BYPASS



Financing Available

Surgical and Non-Surgical options

STERLING CENTER
BARIATRICS



229-890-3414

4 Live Oak Court · Moultrie, Georgia
sterlingbariatrics.com



THANK YOU!
To all those farming America
for your hard work and
dedication to your craft.



Colquitt Co. Junior Livestock Assn. holds Lamb & Goat Show

By Jack R. Jordan
jack.jordan@gafnews.com

MOULTRIE, Ga. — The Colquitt County Junior Livestock Association held its Lamb and Goat show where exhibitors from around the area showed off their livestock projects.

The event was held Oct. 23 at the Colquitt County agricultural complex. The show was divided into three categories: lamb, goats-does and goats-wether.

First place winners in the lamb classes included Lily Bass, Laurie Jo Burt, Cooper Lewis, Laine Weeks, Jax Fowler and Allison Taylor in their respective classes. Lewis came first in both class three and seven.

Doe winners were: Laurie Jo Burt, Libba Dykes, Mason Bass and Rylee Wiard. Bass came

first in both classes 10 and 11.

Wether winners were Lily Bass, Roxanne Herndon, Mason Bass, Rylee Wiard and Brock Weaver. Herndon came first in both class 14 and 15.

Lewis's lambs were named as the Grand and Reserve Champions for the lamb category. He won a total of \$1,750 in prize money courtesy of Ag Georgia Farm Credit and the Farm Bureau. Bass was named the Grand Champion in the Doe category and won \$1,250 courtesy of Sutton System, and Herndon was named the Grand Champion in the Wether category and also received a \$1,250 prize courtesy of IFCO.

Burt and Weaver were named the Reserve Champions for the Doe and Wether categories, respec-

tively. Each won a \$1,000 prize courtesy of Helena Chemical and Atlantic & Southern.

Judge Bryson Williams stated after the show that some of his biggest takeaways from the event were the adult leaders in Colquitt County and the students' dedication for their projects.

"When you're looking at an animal you want to see that nice balance," Williams said. "The feet, legs, ribs, body and much more. What really sets one animal apart from another is the shape and balance of muscle and fat that these kids are able to work into the animals... I like to see the kids' control of the animal. How do they move around the ring? The best ones are able to control their animals without too much effort. That shows the work the kids put in."



Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer
Cooper Lewis shakes hands with Judge Bryson Williams after being crowned both the reserve and grand champion in the Lamb category at the Colquitt County Junior Livestock Association Lamb and Goat Show Oct. 23.

**your farm is special.
your coverage should
be too.**

simple human sense

**INSURANCE
SERVICES
of the
SOUTH**

Owner/Agent:

Ed Statom

Agents:

Mary Thomas,
Jason Overstreet,
Josh Smith &
Caitlyn Hatcher

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE HEALTH
• FARM • GROUP WORKER'S COMP

125 1st Ave SE • 229-985-0048 • Moultrie

www.insuranceserviceofthesouth.com

Auto-Owners

INSURANCE

LIFE. HOME. CAR. BUSINESS



Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer

2021 CCJLA Market Lamb and Goat Show Goat Showmanship winners included, front row, 1st Grade Annie Walden, 2nd Grade Grayson Ford, 3rd Grade Rawlins Herndon, 4th Grade Libba Dykes, 6th Grade Lily Bass; and back row, 7th Grade Lucy Watson, 8th Grade Roxanne Herndon, 9th Grade Gage Emory, 10th Grade Rylee Wiard, 11th Grade Laurie Jo Burt, 12th Grade Brock Weaver.



Jack R. Jordan/The Moultrie Observer

Roxanne Herndon, Grand Champion Market Wether, won \$1,250 courtesy of IFCO.

ROOTED IN AGRICULTURE

You specialize in farming - we specialize in Ag Banking.

We honor the tremendous contributions of farmers. Thank you for your fierce work ethic and devotion!



AMERIS BANK

Member FDIC Equal Housing LENDER

All loans subject to credit approval.

547448-1

TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER




National Beef

189 W. Bypass Moultrie, GA • 229-985-1599

547430-1

Farm Bureau gives lesson on small animal care

Staff Reports

MOULTRIE, Ga. - The Colquitt County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program worked with students at Colquitt Christian Academy to bring small scale animal care to the classroom.

Greta Collins, Ag in the Classroom coordinator, spent the morning at Colquitt Christian Academy Oct. 19. During the visit students in the agriculture classes received a lesson on small animal health care.

Most households have

either a dog or cat and learning how to properly care for them is a big life lesson, Collins said.

The students entered the room and acted like veterinary interns, Collins said. They had equipment like scales, measuring tapes, thermometers, and stethoscopes to document information about the kittens that were presented to them.

Each of the kittens had a chart that had to be filled out completely. Collins said it's not your typical agriculture lesson but one that is needed both in the farm and city settings.



Submitted photo

Colquitt Christian Academy students Graham Hampton, Trent Waldon, Lucy Watson and Kara Beth Saturday examine a kitten during the Colquitt County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program Oct. 19.

Celebrating Our Legacy

85 Years

COLQUITT EMC

Headquarters Office
16 Rowland Dr N.E.
Moultrie, GA 31768

www.colquittemc.com
Office: 229-985-3620
Outages: 1-855-293-1804

Mitchell Co. Extension honored for 4-H2O Camp

By Sue W. Chapman
University of Georgia

CAMILLA, Ga. — The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension 4-H program in Mitchell County was recognized as a Clean Water Hero by the Georgia Water Coalition's 2021 Clean 13 Report. The annual Clean 13 Report highlights exceptional efforts to protect Georgia's water resources.

Mitchell County 4-H is the only youth-serving organization to receive the honor in the five years since the report was established.

Mitchell County Extension created a 4-H2O Camp in 2008 as a collaboration between UGA's C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park and Mitchell County 4-H. The camp provides an innova-



University of Georgia photo

4-H educators teach meteorology during the 4-H2O Camp, which recently earned Mitchell County Extension the Clean Water Hero award. Learning about water conservation is particularly important in southwest Georgia, where the essential resource has a significant impact on the extensive farming community.

tive way to educate children and adults about the importance of Georgia's water resources and water conservation.

Learning about water

conservation education is particularly important in southwest Georgia, where the essential resource has a significant impact on the extensive farming com-

munity. In recent years, this region has also experienced extended droughts, ongoing political battles with neighboring states over water use, and a dev-

astating hurricane.

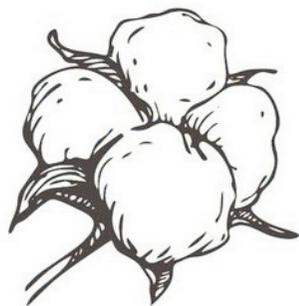
Since its founding, hundreds of youth from Mitchell County, as well as surrounding counties in south Georgia and Alabama, have attended the annual, three-day 4-H2O Camp, where students learn from experts including irrigation specialists, solar energy specialists, meteorologists and wildlife biologists. Mitchell County 4-H agent Debra Cox coordinates the camp alongside Agriculture and Natural Resources agent Brian Hayes.

Cox emphasized that students learn while having fun as they use food, interactive models and other hands-on activities as educational tools, noting that several graduates of the 4-H2O Camp are now working in water conservation and related fields.

"Mitchell County 4-H has hosted the 4-H2O Camp for 14 years and this is the second award we have received. In 2019, Mitchell County 4-H and C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park received the Georgia Project WET Organization of the Year. 4-H2O Camp is a program that will continue to teach our youth to be good stewards of water in and around southwest Georgia," Cox said.

Hayes added, "It is a great honor to be the first youth organization to win the Clean 13 award and to be recognized among some great honorees."

The 4-H2O Camp is a partner with the Stripling Irrigation Research Park, a UGA research and education center in Camilla, Georgia, and 2018 Clean 13 awardee.



MOBLEY GIN CO.

DOERUN, GEORGIA

(229) 782-5291

Contact: John Mark Mobley or Matt Mobley

531540-1



Bobby D. Brown

Forester

brown@ftrealty.com

229-221-3016

Bobby has been a Georgia Licensed REALTOR® for 25+ years. He is a Registered Forester with 45+ years experience in the timber industry. He specializes in Land Sales and all types of Land Management; including timber appraisals, timber inventory & sales as well as controlled burning, land clearing, road building and repair, food plots, site preparation, tree planting, GIS mapping, etc.

He is a former member of the Thomas County Board of Commissioners, the Thomasville/Thomas Co. Humane Society Board, and the Thomasville/Thomas Co. Recreation Board. He is a member of the Thomasville Area Board of REALTORS®, Georgia Association of REALTORS®, National Association of REALTORS®, Georgia Forestry Association, Thomasville/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Tall Timbers, Quality Deer Management Association and the Forest Landowners Association.



FIRST THOMASVILLE REALTY LTD

422 Remington Ave. • Thomasville www.FTRealty.com

(229) 226-6515



We've Been Bringing Families Home for Over 50 Years!

551086-1

UGA crop specialist combats postharvest food waste

By Maria M. Lameiras
University of Georgia

Agricultural producers around the world are constantly faced with risks to their crops from disease, weather and pests, but even more losses occur after crops are harvested. In fact, nearly a third of all the food produced worldwide — approximately 1.3 billion tons — is lost to food wastage each year.

Angelos Deltsidis, assistant professor in postharvest physiology in the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), investigates how preharvest factors and postharvest treatments affect the quality of fresh produce. He hopes to use this information to develop methods of preserving produce quality as it travels from the field to the kitchen.

“The quality of produce deteriorates from the moment of harvest all the way to the time you eat it in your home,” said Deltsidis, pointing out that consumers in developed countries waste almost as much food per year — 222 million tons — as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tons).

“There’s only so much this Earth can produce. That’s where we come in. We can help alleviate the food insecurity issues on the other end without putting more pressure on our environmental systems,” said Deltsidis, who presented the seminar “Postharvest Losses and Food Waste: A Global Perspective” on Oct. 7.

There are many factors that contribute to food waste and loss, including grade standards, producer

economics, deterioration during storage, transportation losses and retail losses.

PERFECT PRODUCE

“There are a lot of reasons why we’re losing a lot of food here in the U.S., and some of it is because consumers expect everything to look perfect. In the U.S. and in the Western world, the customer is always right and we’re paying for that. Apples have to be perfectly round and large with no specks,” Deltsidis said.

“If a consumer doesn’t like this apple, they aren’t going to buy it, so the supermarket chain is not going to buy it from the supplier and the supplier won’t buy it from the farmer. In the end, if it is not perfect, the farmer will not harvest it. They will let it rot in the field or they will

sort it and throw it away before it even gets packed. Because it does not meet that unrealistic standard, it would cost more to harvest and process than the farmer would realize in profit.”

The rise in popularity of direct-to-consumer distributors that specialize in produce “seconds” — such as Misfits Market, Imperfect Foods and Hungry Harvest — can offset this somewhat, he said, but a broader change in perception and expectation would go further to prevent food waste.

“If a product is unsafe to eat, that is one thing, but to reject something because it doesn’t meet expectations of what it should look like is just unrealistic. People need to understand that these are products that come from trees and plants — this is

not a product that comes from a factory,” Deltsidis said.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Advances in food packaging, handling, and tracking technologies — such as special plastic films that slow down produce respiration rates, affordable cooling technologies and quality control technologies — show promise in reducing food loss.

“There are natural reasons that the quality deteriorates, and you have decline in the amount of product that is edible. The quality of every fruit and vegetable is best right at harvest and then it goes down. You cannot make a bad apple a good apple, but we can at least do things to slow down the decline of quality over time,” he said.

The most important factor in maintaining the

quality of harvested produce is temperature.

“We have technologies such as controlled and modified atmosphere, where you take out the oxygen and increase the CO₂ of the storage environment, and by doing this you slow down the metabolic processes of the plant so that produce can last longer. When you combine this with low temperature storage and appropriate packaging, you have a lower percentage of losses,” he said.

While cooling technologies are used widely in the U.S. and Europe for shipping produce, such technologies can be cost prohibitive for small producers or those in developing countries, increasing demand for cost-effective, smaller scale solutions to improve food storage and prevent waste.

Since 1946

James
CONSTRUCTION CO.

DESIGN - BUILD
COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
Buildings Of All Types

110 E 9th St. • Tifton, GA • 229-382-6300

45th Annual
Georgia
PEANUT
Farm Show
& Conference

**Georgia's
Largest
Commodity
Show**

Jan. 19-20, 2022

Wednesday - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday - 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center
Tifton, Georgia

- Free farmer lunch
- Production & Seed Seminars
- Pesticide certification
- Nearly 100 Exhibits
- Blood Drive
- Door prizes



Georgia
Peanut
Commission

For more information contact:
Georgia Peanut Commission
P.O. Box 967, Tifton GA 31793
Phone: 229-386-3470
www.gapeanuts.com

NEW
RTV-XG850
SIDEKICK

Cross over to MORE.
 A side-by-side should do more than take you places. That's why the all-new RTV-XG850 Sidekick is designed for both hard work and long weekends. Do it all with 40 mph travel speeds, major versatility and all the comfort you need. Experience what it feels like to cross over to MORE with a Kubota Sidekick.

\$0 Down, 0%_{A.P.R.} Financing for 24 Months*

SGT

**South
 Georgia
 Tractor,
 Inc.**

1920 US Hwy 84 E • Cairo, GA 39828
(229) 377-1585

*\$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 24 months on purchases of select new Kubota RTV-XG850 Sidekick equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Example: 24 monthly payments of \$41.67 per \$1,000 financed. Offer expires 8/31/18. See us or go to KubotaUSA.com for more information. Optional equipment may be shown.



© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2018