

Cultivator

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Ivey Address To Close Annual Meeting

An address from former Service to Agriculture award recipient Gov. Kay Ivey will anchor the Alabama Farmers Federation's 96th annual meeting in Montgomery Dec. 3-4.

Ivey received the Federation's highest honor in 2015 for her support of agriculture and rural Alabama.



The 2017 Service to Agriculture winner, U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, will be recognized during the opening session Sunday afternoon. Country music artist Travis Tritt, best known for hits like "It's A Great Day To Be Alive," will entertain the crowd Sunday evening. Purchase tickets at ticketmaster.com.

Federation, Young Farmers and Women's Leadership Committee business and caucus meetings are peppered throughout the conference. Delegates will vote on policy changes and elect members to the state board of directors.

During Monday morning's general session, four young farmers compete in the final round of Discussion Meet. County and communication awards will also be presented. An ag issues briefing follows.

Live and silent auctions will benefit the Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation to fund scholarships and teacher education.

The deadline to register for hotel rooms is Oct. 18. Meal ticket orders are due Nov. 20. Visit alfafarmers.org to register.

Record Corn Yields Likely For Alabama Farmers



Combines are rolling and grain bins are filling across Alabama as farmers like Steve Tanner in Butler County wrap up corn harvest. According to the Oct. 2 U.S. Department of Agriculture Crop Progress and Condition Report, 94 percent of corn was harvested in Alabama. Above-average summer rainfall is resulting in record yields for some farmers. Peanut and soybean harvests have begun, while cotton defoliation and harvest is gearing up.

Tax Reform Could Benefit Farmers

Alabama farmers were encouraged by initial details of the much-anticipated tax reform plan President Donald J. Trump and Congressional Republicans unveiled Sept. 27.

Alabama Farmers Federation National Legislative Programs Director Mitt Walker said the organization's farmer members welcome the proposed repeal of estate tax and other provisions.

"The plan provides a road map for fixing our outdated tax code," he said. "There are many specifics to be worked out, and we will need to watch the process closely to make sure farmers end up in a better position than they are today."

Notable provisions include reducing the number of individual tax brackets, lowering corporate income tax and capping small business tax rates.

Trump said the plan will make a "big difference" for farmers and called the estate tax an overdue reform.

"We are finally ending the crushing, the horrible, the unfair estate tax, or as it is often referred to, the death tax," he said.

Walker said capping the small business tax could benefit family farmers. The plan sets the maximum rate for partnerships, sole proprietorships and S corporations at 25 percent. Those businesses are currently taxed at individual rates, ranging from 10 to 39.6 percent. More than 94 percent of farmers are currently taxed at these "pass-through" individual rates.

Many details won't be available until after the fiscal year 2018 budget resolution passes. Read about more potentially positive, unknown or negative provisions at tinyurl.com/taxreform17.

Events & Deadlines

- **October-December** - Quickbooks Classes for Farmers
 - Visit aces.edu/go/734 for locations and dates
- **Oct. 17-19** - Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Georgia
 - sunbeltexpo.com
- **Oct. 18** - Hotel room registration closes for Federation annual meeting Dec. 3-4 in Montgomery
 - alfafarmers.org
- **Oct. 26-28** - Alabama TREASURE Forest annual meeting in Florence
- **Oct. 27-Nov. 5** - Alabama National Fair in Montgomery
 - alnationalfair.org
- **Nov. 3-12** - National Peanut Festival in Dothan
 - nationalpeanutfestival.com
- **Nov. 20** - Meal ticket registration closes for Federation annual meeting Dec. 3-4 in Montgomery
 - alfafarmers.org
- **Nov. 29** - Alabama Forage Conference in Eufaula
 - bamabeef.org/forage
- **Dec. 3** - Travis Tritt concert at the Federation's 96th annual meeting
 - ticketmaster.com
- **Dec. 12-13** - Alabama Row Crops Short Course in Auburn
 - alabamacrops.com

Commodity Corner

Horticulture

Legislation authorizing a new H-2C agriculture guestworker program has been released by U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Virginia), House Judiciary Committee chair. Goodlatte's bill would replace the H-2A visa ag workers' program, which he called "flawed and time-consuming." Learn more at tinyurl.com/H2Cprogram.

-Mac Higginbotham, division director

Meat Goat & Sheep

Adapted from the Small Ruminant Pocket Guide (SRPG): October is time for sheep and goat farmers to make breeding management decisions. Cull and sell nonproductive ewes and does. Observe for females returning to heat as breeding season continues. This could indicate the ram or buck isn't settling them. Consider removing the ram or buck to shorten the breeding season. Want to learn more? Contact me for a free copy of the SRPG.

-Nate Jaeger, division director

Wheat & Feed Grains

In a continuing effort to discover new uses for corn, the National Corn Growers Association has announced an investment with QMaxx Products Group. The group will develop a biorenewable gun oil for civilian markets. The oil will also have potential military applications.

-Carla Hornady, division director

Dairy, Pork and Poultry

Stakeholders recently sent a letter asking Congress to confirm it never intended to regulate manure under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. Stakeholders believe the amendment was meant for sudden release of hazardous substances posing environmental and public health risks.

-Guy Hall, divisions director

Forestry

There's more good news for forest landowners as mill construction and renovations are announced. Along with the new Two Rivers Lumber Co. facility in Demopolis, Georgia-Pacific announced it will invest \$100 million in a new lumber production facility in Talladega. International Paper also announced a \$300-million investment into its Riverdale Mill in Selma.

-William Green, division director

Peanuts

The National Peanut Board played a key role in guiding development of "milked peanuts," which debuted at the Natural Products Expo in September. The new Elmhurst Milked drinks will be available nationally in retail stores in January 2018.

-Caleb Bristow, division director

Farm-City Programs Bridge The Gap Between Life In Rural, Urban Alabama

Thanks to hard work from Cherokee County farm organizations including the Farmers Federation and Farm-City Committee, 300 third-graders are more familiar with food and fiber production.

The Cherokee County Farm Field Day, founded in the mid-2000s, was Sept. 27 in Sand Rock.

Dewandee Neyman is the Farm-City Committee co-chair and said she's always excited to teach kids about ag in easy-to-understand terms.

"We've been using the word 'commodity' with them," Neyman said. "We try to cover the basics with them because that's what they need."

The third-graders learned about soybeans, cotton, corn, chickens, the difference in dairy and beef cattle and more. Local FFA and FCCLA chapters manned the stations.



The Cherokee County Farm Field Day was Sept. 27 in Sand Rock, where students learned about major commodities produced in the county and across the state. Cherokee County Farmers Federation board member and former dairy farmer Phyllis Jones, center, taught 300 third-graders the difference between dairy and beef cattle. Other stations taught students about corn, soybeans, chickens, cotton and other commodities.

Grow Your Fruit & Vegetable Knowledge At The Annual



Clanton Conference & Performing Arts Center
Clanton, AL

For Growers:

Registration

Closes Oct. 23 at afvga.org and tinyurl.com/afvga17.

Includes:

- A one-year membership to the AFVGA
- All conference sessions
- Lunch Nov. 16

Optional Tour

Get an up-close look at Boozer Farms, a diversified fruit and vegetable farm in Thorsby.

- Tours are \$15 per person.

Can't attend every session?

We've got you covered.

For just \$25, a flash drive with conference recordings will be mailed to you after Nov. 20.

For Vendors:

Grow your product, organization or nonprofit's reach through our trade show.

Cost:

- Industry: \$400 per booth
- Nonprofit, university or agency: \$300 per booth

Includes:

- Trade show exhibit space
- Listings on printed materials
- Promotion on conference signs
- Conference registration for two
- One-year AFVGA membership

Questions?

Contact Mac Higginbotham at mhigginbotham@alfafarmers.org.

2017 Conference Agenda

Thursday, Nov. 16

8:00 a.m.Registration opens

8:30 a.m.Tour departs for Boozer Farms

9:00 a.m.Producer networking sessions

- Vegetable production
- Food safety
- Marketing & agribusiness

10:30 a.m.....Trade show opens

11:15 a.m.....Welcome luncheon

12:45 p.m.....Producer networking sessions

- Fruit & berry production
- High tunnel & greenhouse
- Beginning farmer network
- Dormancy management workshop for peaches

1:45 p.m.Trade show

2:45 p.m.Educational sessions

- Strawberry production in high tunnels: challenges and successes
- Overview of alternative insect management options
- Treating irrigation water
- Managing pollinators

4:00 p.m.Educational sessions

- What can the AU Soil Testing Lab do for fruit and vegetable growers?
- Organic pest control: a producer perspective
- Mini-MUD water treatment system demonstration
- Weed management in cucurbits

Friday, Nov. 17

7:30 a.m.....Registration opens

8:00 a.m.Trade show opens

8:00 a.m.Educational sessions

- Understanding greenhouse environmental controls
- A grower's experience with H-2A labor program
- Best management practices for managing cucurbits
- Effects of hydrogen cyanamide on peach production in a low chill year

9:00 a.m.Vendor and exhibitor brunch

10:00 a.m.....Educational sessions

- Economics of greenhouse vegetable production
- Farm transition planning
- Diseases in cucurbits
- Observations of Dormex/BudPro effects in Georgia peach production

11:00 a.m.....Keynote address

- Dr. Amnon Erez, Agricultural Research Organization Bet Dagan, Israel

12:00 p.m.....Conference concludes

Federation, Auburn Leaders Plan For The Future



Alabama Farmers Federation, Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) leaders discussed research, education and outreach Sept. 28 at Beck's Turf in Tuskegee. From left are Federation President Jimmy Parnell, Federation Executive Director Paul Pinyan, farmer Wayne Bassett, Auburn School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences Dean Janaki Alavalapati, ACES Director Gary Lemme and Auburn College of Agriculture Dean Paul Patterson.

2018 Commodity Org. Schedule Announced

The 2018 Commodity Organization Meeting is Feb. 6-8 in Montgomery.

Tuesday, Feb. 6 - Bee & Honey, Beef, Pork, Soybeans and Wheat & Feed Grains divisions.

Wednesday, Feb. 7 - Cotton, Equine, Horticulture, Meat Goat & Sheep, Poultry and Wildlife divisions.

Thursday, Feb. 8 - Catfish; Dairy; Forestry; Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod; and Hay & Forage divisions.

OBITUARY

Joe Brown of Southside died Sept. 5. He was 84.

Brown was active in the Etowah County Farmers Federation.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara. He is survived by five children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Milborn Chesser of Fyffe died Sept. 13. He was 84.

Chesser served 21 years as Alabama Farmers Federation secretary-treasurer.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Anne. He is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Federation To Manage Junior Beef Expo

The Alabama Farmers Federation will manage the [Alabama Junior Beef Expo \(JBE\)](#) March 15-17 after coordinating showmanship contests for five years.

JBE is held in conjunction with the Southeastern Livestock Exposition and Rodeo in Montgomery. Learn more and register by Nov. 1 at jrbeefexpo.com.

Dig Deeper



- The Alfa Foundation presented a [\\$10,000 donation](#) to the Pilots for Christ ministry during a recent visit to Monroe County.
- **Extension administrators and ag leaders** from four African countries visited the Federation home office Sept. 21 to learn about checkoff programs and the connection between the Federation and Extension.
- **Jim and Jessica Yance** of Henry County won the prestigious Grid Master Award at the Red Angus Convention Sept. 15.
- Savings on select [John Deere](#) and [Case IH](#) products are now available to Federation members. Learn more at alfafarmers.org/perks.
- The Alabama Peanut Producers Association and other organizations shipped more than [150,000 jars of peanut butter](#) to victims of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Farmers Federations in Baldwin, Covington, Houston and Pike counties made donations. Dale County farm groups also fed hurricane evacuees Sept. 12.

Taylor Committed To Combatting Rural Crime



Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) Secretary Hal Taylor, right, visited with the Alabama Farmers Federation board of directors Sept. 25 after its monthly board meeting. He reiterated ALEA's commitment to fighting rural crime and outlined a plan to cross-train investigators to better serve Alabama residents. Taylor is pictured with Federation District 9 Director Garry Henry of Montgomery County.

Policy Recommendations Formed



Alabama Farmers Federation protocol was on the program during the Policy Development Meeting in Montgomery Sept. 26. Delegates will vote on proposals at the December annual meeting. From left are Morgan County's Mark Byrd, Lee County's Mahlon Richburg, Elmore County's Richard Edgar and Blount County's Nell Miller.



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Conference Encourages Young Leaders To Trust Others, Influence By Example

Forty-two students soaked up lessons on servant leadership and trusting others during the Alabama Farmers Federation's 2017 [Youth Leadership Conference](#) in Columbiana Oct. 2-3.

The ninth- and 10th-graders represented 25 counties and were sponsored by county Farmers Federations.

Day 1 activities taught students about social media, teamwork and servant leadership.

Barrett Keene, a former National FFA officer, encouraged students to focus on those they're leading as opposed to personal accomplishments.

"Leadership is not merely a position through which you tell other people what do to," Keene said. "Our lives are of substantially more value when we freely give and love those around us."

A lesson on political leadership from Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall kicked off Day 2. Later that day, attendees learned about the Federation and debunked ag misconceptions.

For more photos, visit the Federation's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.



Forty-two students representing 25 counties learned to trust, lead by example and support others by completing the challenge course at the Alabama 4-H Center during the Alabama Farmers Federation Youth Leadership Conference. The ninth- and 10th-graders soaked up leadership in Columbiana Oct. 2-3, thanks to sponsorships from county Farmers Federations. From left are Brody Miller of Blount County, Brooke Perry of St. Clair County and Ella Keller of Limestone County.