

# Cultivator

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## Perino To Headline Annual Meeting

Former White House Press Secretary and current Fox News correspondent Dana Perino will address over 1,000 Alabama Farmers Federation members at the group's annual meeting Dec. 4-6 in Montgomery.



Perino

Perino co-

hosts "The Five," a weekly, hour-long show featuring discussions on politics, culture and sports. She served in President George W. Bush's administration for seven years and was the first Republican woman to serve as press secretary.

Her keynote address will happen during the meeting's closing general session, which will also feature recognition of winners in the Federation's Young Farmers Outstanding Young Farm Family, Excellence in Agriculture and Discussion Meet contests.

For the second year, the Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation breakfast includes a live auction. A silent auction that runs throughout the annual meeting will also benefit the Foundation.

Other events include the voting delegate business session, county Federation and individual awards presentations and a Christmas concert by award-winning country artist Sara Evans.

Online registration is open through Oct. 17. To register or get more information, go to [tinyurl.com/AnnualMeeting16](http://tinyurl.com/AnnualMeeting16). For questions, email [cchapman@alfafarmers.org](mailto:cchapman@alfafarmers.org).



The Alabama Peanut Producers Association (APPA) helped deliver over 60,000 jars of peanut butter to people affected by flooding in south Louisiana last month. Above, Baldwin County farmers are pictured with flood victims. From left are APPA Vice President Mark Kaiser, Ray Bertolla, August Cassebaum and APPA board member Joel Sirmon.

## Donation Feeds The Flooded In Louisiana

It may be a rough year for commodity prices, but the value of peanut butter has rarely been higher than when the Alabama Peanut Producers Association (APPA) helped deliver pallets of the food to flood victims in Louisiana last month.

The donation of over 60,000 peanut butter jars from Peanut Proud Inc. was coordinated by APPA through various disaster relief, nonprofit agencies, including Operation Compassion.

"It wasn't just peanut butter; they delivered gold," said David Lorency, Operation Compassion president. "Peanut butter was the No. 1 request from those affected by the flood."

APPA Vice President Mark Kaiser and board member Joel Sirmon were joined by August Cassebaum and Ray Bertolla, all Baldwin County farmers, when they delivered the donations.

"We just felt fortunate we were able to help, and everyone was so thankful and

happy to see us," Kaiser said. "We drove through neighborhoods where both sides of the street were piled with debris as far as you could see. It was devastating, but the people affected were so optimistic."

The historic August flooding in south Louisiana killed 13 people. Early reports estimated 60,000 homes damaged across 20 parishes.

Louisiana State University's Ag Center estimated agricultural losses to be at least \$110 million, with soybeans the most affected. The state is expected to lose almost half its crop. Reduced pasture and forage losses are estimated at \$2 million.

To help Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation (LFBF) members and businesses affected by the flood, the Alfa Foundation recently approved a \$5,000 donation.

For more photos of the peanut butter donation, visit the APPA's Facebook page. To find other ways to help Louisiana farmers, contact LFBF at (225) 922-6200.

## New Member Benefit Provides Oil Change Savings

When Alabama Farmers Federation members pull into Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers for an oil change, they'll drive away with \$5 in savings.

The new member benefit is available at Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers locations statewide.

"If you follow most manufacturers' recommendations of an oil change every 3,000 miles, this new member benefit can bring substantial savings," said Paul Brown, Federation member benefits director.

Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers Executive Vice President of Marketing Josh Henderson said the company was proud to partner with the Federation and

Alfa Insurance.

"We are pleased to offer our friends at Alfa and the Farmers Federation a discount on one of the most-needed vehicle maintenance services," Henderson said. "While Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers is best known for our 10-minute oil change, we are your one-stop shop to keep your vehicle running like it should."

Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers also provides full-service automotive repair, including scheduled maintenance, brakes, tune-ups and all major tire brands.

To get the \$5 oil change discount, mention the discount code MGR5 and show your Federation membership card. Not valid with any other oil change offer.

Visit your county page at  
[www.AlfaFarmers.org](http://www.AlfaFarmers.org)  
to find your latest

Local Member Benefits

## AAES Reaches Out With Ag Discovery Day

Guest column from Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES) Outlying Units Director Dale Monks

The fifth Ag Discovery Adventure Day will be Saturday, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the E.V. Smith Research Center in Shorter.

Over 200 volunteers are dedicated to making this event happen. They include local community and industry leaders; research center staff; and Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension System faculty, staff and students.

This is a great opportunity for the general public to experience agriculture and leave with a better appreciation of the dedication and stewardship required in today's farming. Over 2,000 visitors from Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee are expected to attend.

Visit [tinyurl.com/AgDiscovery16](http://tinyurl.com/AgDiscovery16) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 20** - Policy Development Committee Meeting at the Alabama Farmers Federation home office in Montgomery.
- **Sept. 29** - Federation Campaign School at the home office in Montgomery. For details, visit [tinyurl.com/CandidateSchool](http://tinyurl.com/CandidateSchool).
- **Oct. 1** - Ag Roundup at Auburn University. Find event details at [tinyurl.com/AgRoundup16](http://tinyurl.com/AgRoundup16).
- **Oct. 8** - Ag Discovery Adventure at E.V. Smith Research Center in Shorter.
- **Oct. 13-15** - Alabama TREASURE Forest Association Annual Meeting in Atmore. For more information, visit [TREASUREForest.org](http://TREASUREForest.org).
- **Oct. 18-20** - Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Georgia. For more details, go to [SunbeltExpo.com](http://SunbeltExpo.com).



Winners in the 41st Alabama Farmers Federation Heritage Cooking Contest are, from left, first place, Cherokee County's Shirley Lumsden; second place, Montgomery County's Amy Belcher; and third place, Russell County's Bonnie Martin. The contest, held Sept. 1 at the Federation home office in Montgomery, featured sweet bread recipes from more than 30 county winners.

## County Cooks Excel In Sweet Bread Recipe Contest

A Strawberry Cream Cheese Bread recipe earned Shirley Lumsden of Cherokee County first place in the 41st Heritage Cooking Contest. The annual event is sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation's Women's Leadership Committee and was held at the Federation home office in Montgomery Sept. 1.

"I couldn't believe it when they called out my name as the winner," said Lumsden, who admits she's best known around home for her Red Velvet Cake. "This was a recipe I got online, but I tweaked it a little to make it my own by adding toasted pecans as a topping and using fresh

strawberries as garnish."

As the winner, Lumsden received \$150. Second place and \$100 went to Montgomery County's Amy Belcher for her Cranberry Pecan Bread, and Russell County's Bonnie Martin won third place and \$50 with her Lemon Poppy Seed Bread with Lemon Topping.

More than 30 county winners advanced to the state finals. Blogger Stacey Little was the guest speaker.

Find event on the Federation's Facebook page, and pin links to all 30 contest entries on the Federation's Pinterest page at [Pinterest.com/AlfaFarmers](http://Pinterest.com/AlfaFarmers).

## Congressman Rogers Meets District Farmers



U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, center, met with farmers from Alabama's 3rd District Aug. 23 at Lazenby Farms in Beauregard. From left are Lee County Farmers Federation President Mahlon Richburg, Macon County Farmers Federation President Shep Morris, Rogers, Russell County Farmers Federation President Eddie Reid and Calhoun County Farmers Federation President Wendell Wilson.

## Commodity Corner

### Peanuts

The final national average price for peanuts for the 2015-2016 marketing year is \$386 per ton. That's roughly \$54 less than the previous marketing year. Therefore, the 2015/2016 Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payment rate will be \$149 per ton. For more information, visit [alpeanuts.com](http://alpeanuts.com) or call the Alabama Peanut Producers office at (334) 792-6482.

-Caleb Bristow, division director

### Horticulture

A recent law change makes it easier for taxpayers to claim charitable deductions for food products donated to charity. Taxpayers may deduct 50 percent of the fair market value of produce donated, up to 15 percent of the taxpayer's aggregate net income for tax years beginning after 2015. Any excess charitable donation above 15 percent can be carried over to the succeeding five years. Read more at [tinyurl.com/FoodDonation16](http://tinyurl.com/FoodDonation16).

-Mac Higginbotham, division director

### Dairy

Doug Ackerman joined the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association (SUDIA) Sept. 1 and will become its general manager on Jan. 1. He will work with retiring general manager Cheryl Hayn through the end of this year.

-Guy Hall, division director

### Hay & Forage

Reports from north and northeast Alabama show hay crops could be as low as 30 percent of normal. Some cattlemen in extreme drought areas have fed hay most of the summer. Overall, 17 Alabama counties qualify for federal assistance through the Farm Service Agency's Livestock Forage Disaster Program, a farm bill program that helps offset feed costs due to drought. Contact your local FSA office for details. Find contact information at [tinyurl.com/AlabamaFSA](http://tinyurl.com/AlabamaFSA).

-Nate Jaeger, division director

### TREASURE Forest

Don't delay — the registration deadline for the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association Annual Meeting is Sept. 13. The event is Oct. 13-15 in Atmore and includes a farm tour. Find more information and register at [TREASUREForest.org](http://TREASUREForest.org).

-William Green, division director

### Cotton

U.S. Cotton's goal of contamination-free cotton can only be achieved with a comprehensive effort from now through harvest, and even post-harvest.

Farmers and ginners are asked to take steps to eliminate all forms of plastics and other contaminants from cotton bales.

-Carla Hornady, division director

## Forestry Field Days

Three regional forestry events will be offered next month thanks to the Alabama Natural Resources Council and the Alabama State Tree Farm Committee. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and lunch will be provided. Visit [Forestry.Alabama.gov](http://Forestry.Alabama.gov) for more information.

- **Oct. 13** - South Region - Cedar Creek Plantation in Butler County. RSVP to Daria Scott or Rose Mary Smith at (334) 382-3151.
- **Oct. 20** - Central Region - Rolling Mountain Plantation in Coosa County. To RSVP, call Lori at (256) 377-4750 or Jennifer at (256) 377-4713.
- **Oct. 27** - North Region - Jimmerson TREASURE Forest in Cleburne County. RSVP to Cindy Bream at (256) 463-2620.

## 85 Students Studying Agriculture Receive Scholarships To Auburn

The Alabama Farmers Federation and county Federations are helping 85 Auburn University students pursue agriculture- or forestry-related degrees.

Almost \$150,000 in scholarships were presented during the 2016 Scholarship Recipients Luncheon Aug. 27 at the Ham Wilson Arena in Auburn.

For photos of scholarship recipients, visit [Facebook.com/AlabamaFarmers](http://Facebook.com/AlabamaFarmers) or [Flickr.com/AlabamaFarmers](http://Flickr.com/AlabamaFarmers).

## Inaugural Skeet Shoot Will Benefit Alabama Farmers Ag Foundation

The inaugural Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation Skeet Shoot will be Nov. 4 at Selwood Farms in Alpine. Cost is \$1,500 for a team of four, which includes an omelette breakfast and catfish lunch.

Spots are limited. Email David Cole at [dcole@alfafarmers.org](mailto:dcole@alfafarmers.org) to reserve a spot for a team.

## ATFA Offers New Speciality License Tag At No Cost To Members

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) board has decided to cover the \$50 cost of its new license tag for members. The tag helps fund Classroom in the Forest, field days and educational seminars.

Before production starts, 1,000 orders must be made. To order a tag, email William Green at [wmgreen@alfafarmers.org](mailto:wmgreen@alfafarmers.org).

## Promoting Shop Safety With FFAs



As part of a campaign to promote farm safety, the Alabama Farmers Federation donated shop safety posters to more than 200 FFA programs across the state. The posters remind students that common tools and machinery in FFA shops can be dangerous if used incorrectly. Pictured are Eufaula High School FFA students.



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**THE CULTIVATOR** is published monthly by the Alabama Farmers Federation, a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Correspondence may be addressed to **THE CULTIVATOR**, Mary Johnson - Editor, P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, AL 36191-0001.

## Comment On Atrazine Proposal Before Oct. 4

The comment period on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) assessment on atrazine ends Oct. 4.

If allowed to take effect, the assessment would effectively ban the use of atrazine, an herbicide commonly used on corn, sugar cane and sorghum.

"It's important the EPA hears from Alabama farmers about this issue," said Carla Hornady, Alabama Farmers Federation Wheat & Feed Grains Division director. "Atrazine has been used since 1958 and thousands of studies prove its safety, along with its environmental benefits."

According to the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), atrazine has helped improve wildlife habitats and reduce soil erosion by reducing the need for soil tillage.

Atrazine also helps improve yields. Without it, NCGA estimates farmers could lose more than seven bushels per acre of yield, which would result in more than \$2.5 billion in crop losses annually.

To submit comments to the EPA, visit [ncga.com/atz](http://ncga.com/atz).

## Gibbs Family Honored At Annual Meeting



The 2016 Farm of Distinction winners, Wendell and Nan Gibbs, were recognized during the Cleburne County Farmers Federation Annual Meeting Aug. 9. State Sen. Gerald Dial, R-Lineville, and State Rep. Bob Fincher, R-Rocky Branch, presented the couple with resolution plaques for earning the Farm of Distinction title. Secretary of State John Merrill was the event's guest speaker. The Gibbs Family will represent Alabama in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest next month. From left are county President Jimmy Jimmerson, Dial, Wendell and Nan, Fincher and Merrill.