

Cultivator

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Leaders Appoint Ag Committee Members

Leaders have been appointed to oversee the Alabama Senate and House agriculture committees during the 2019-22 quadrennium.

Sen. Tom Whatley, R-Auburn, chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Rep. Danny Crawford, R-Athens, leads the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

"We look forward to working with Tom and Danny on policy discussions that affect agriculture, forestry and rural Alabama," said Alabama Farmers Federation State Affairs Director David Cole.

Sen. David Sessions, R-Grand Bay, is Senate Ag Committee vice chair. Other members are Sens. Billy Beasley, D-Clayton; Chris Elliott, R-Fairhope; Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman; Andrew Jones, R-Centre; Steve Livingston, R-Scottsboro; Tim Melson, R-Florence; Randy Price, R-Opelika; Clay Scofield, R-Red Hill; Bobby Singleton, D-Greensboro; Larry Stutts, R-Sheffield; and Jack Williams, R-Wilmer.

Rep. Steve Hurst, R-Munford, is House Agriculture Committee vice chair, while Rep. Thomas Jackson, D-Thomasville, is the ranking minority member. Other committee members include Reps. Will Dismukes, R-Prattville; Joe Faust, R-Fairhope; Bob Fincher, R-Woodland; Dexter Grimsley, D-Newville; Tommy Hanes, R-Bryant; Ralph Howard, D-Greensboro; Reed Ingram, R-Montgomery; A.J. McCampbell, D-Demopolis; Ed Oliver, R-Dadeville; Ginny Shaver, R-Leesburg; Jeff Sorrells, R-Hartford; and Rodney Sullivan, R-Northport.



Over 600 farmers met in Montgomery Feb. 5-7 for the Alabama Farmers Federation's Commodity Organization Meeting. During the annual conference, commodity divisions met to discuss technological advancements, check up on respective checkoffs and elect leaders.

Meeting Highlights Commodities

Discovering new ideas, visiting longtime friends and hearing the latest in agricultural industry updates were features of the Alabama Farmers Federation's Commodity Organization Meeting in Montgomery Feb. 5-7.

Over 600 farmers learned about industry advancements and research during breakout sessions.

"Farming practices are constantly evolving and advancing, and our farmers need up-to-date information to help increase their bottom line," said Brian Hardin, the Federation's Governmental and Agricultural Programs Department director. "At this meeting, farmers can talk and glean information to take home to the farm."

Commodity committee members and leaders were also elected, and outgoing committee members who served three full terms were honored.

Divisions represented included Bee

& Honey; Beef; Cotton; Dairy; Equine; Forestry; Hay & Forage; Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod; Meat Goat & Sheep; Pork; Poultry; Soybean; Wheat & Feed Grain; and Wildlife.

Additionally, the Horticulture Division held its final meeting Feb. 6. During the Federation's annual meeting in December, delegates voted to merge the Horticulture Division with the Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, a partner organization of the Federation.

The Alabama Peanut Producers Association met Feb. 7 in Dothan, while the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association board met Feb. 5 in Montgomery. The Alabama Catfish Producers met in December for its organizational session.

Agriculture & Industries Commissioner Rick Pate joined farmers for lunch all three days, outlining goals for the next four years and thanking the Federation for its support.

Nursery Group Honors Shelby County's Byrd



Robert Byrd of Green Valley Farms in Shelby County received the Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association's Lifetime Achievement Award Jan. 31 during the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in Mobile. From left are Alabama Farmers Federation Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod Division Director Hunter McBrayer; Byrd, who serves on the Shelby County Farmers Federation board; and Federation District 6 Director Phillip Hunter of Shelby County.

Sign Up For Trade Aid Program By Feb. 14

The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) sign-up deadline is Feb. 14 as part of the trade mitigation program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers have until May 1 to certify their 2018 crop production.

Assistance to soybean growers is \$1.65 per bushel; corn, 1 cent per bushel; pork, \$8 per head; wheat, 14 cents per bushel; sorghum, 86 cents per bushel; and dairy (milk), 12 cents per hundredweight.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 per person or legal entity for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans and wheat.

MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers.

Events & Deadlines

- **March 1-3** - Alabama Farmers Federation Young Farmers Conference in Montgomery
- **March 5** - Legislative session begins
- **March 5-8** - Federation Washington Legislative Conference
- **March 6-8** - National Pork Forum in Orlando, Florida
- **March 13** - Taste of Alabama Legislative Reception in Montgomery
- **March 14** - National Ag Day
- **March 14-16** - Junior Beef Expo in Montgomery
 - JrBeefExpo.com
- **March 14-16** - SLE Rodeo in Montgomery
 - SLERodeo.com
- **March 29** - Registration opens for Federation Beef Tour to Mississippi June 4-7
 - AlfaFarmers.org
- **April 3-5** - Federation Women's Leadership Conference in Birmingham
 - Register by March 1 at AlfaFarmers.org
- **April 4** - Alabama Farm-City Awards Luncheon in Birmingham
 - Order tickets by March 22 at AlabamaFarmCity.org

Commodity Corner

Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association

AFVGA's board met Jan. 23 at the Chilton County Research and Extension Center. The board discussed AFVGA membership updates, evaluated last year's conference and brainstormed topics for the 2019 conference and trade show. Sessions and grower tracks, along with hands-on demonstrations, will be featured at the conference.

-Hunter McBrayer, executive director

Beef

American Farm Bureau Federation economists shared a market outlook during the annual convention in January. They said many of the largest foreign markets for U.S. beef, like Japan, are not problematic. Beef exports to Canada slipped in 2018, but the South Korea free trade agreement provided additional opportunities. U.S. beef exports for 2018 were a record 3.1 billion pounds.

-Brian Hardin, Governmental & Ag Programs Department director

Cotton

The 2019 Wiregrass Cotton Expo is Feb. 14 at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds in Dothan. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Topics include cotton markets, production and disaster aid.

-Carla Hornady, division director

Dairy

At Dairy Goat U, youth and adults will get hands-on educational experience with dairy goats and milk production. The event is March 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. To learn more, visit facebook.com/groups/dairygoatu/.

-Guy Hall, division director

Wildlife

The Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources deployed self-service chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling stations in north Alabama as part of its increased CWD surveillance. Sample station freezers are in Fayette, Lamar, Marion, Marshall, Franklin, Lauderdale and Colbert counties and can receive samples 24/7. For more information and specific locations, visit outdooralabama.com.

-William Green, division director

Peanuts

Alabama peanut production meetings begin this month. Farmers will be updated on the latest research for diseases, weeds, insects and peanut varieties, along with a market update to help plan for the 2019 peanut season. Visit alpeanuts.com to learn more.

-Brian Hardin, Governmental & Ag Programs Department director

2019 Commodity Organization Meeting

Farmers were elected or re-elected to three-year terms on their respective state commodity committees during the Alabama Farmers Federation Commodity Organization Meeting Feb. 5-7 in Montgomery. Outgoing committee members who served the maximum three full terms also were honored during the three-day meeting.

New & Re-elected Committee Members With Counties

Bee & Honey

Jeff Monroe, Chambers
Ray Latham, Jackson
Norman McClure, Jefferson
Lionel Evans, Limestone
Terry Martin, Tallapoosa

Beef

Phil Slay, Chambers
Jim Yance, Henry
David Lee, Lowndes
Mike Carnes, Marshall

Cotton

Lance Miller, Blount
Thomas Kirkland, Dale
Lance Whitehead, Fayette
Andy Thornburg, Mobile

Dairy

Will Gilmer, Lamar
Richie Traylor, Randolph

Equine

Kelly Pritchett Mullins, Bullock
Amy Hegeman, Calhoun
Jenny Foster, Crenshaw
Chase Chapman, Elmore
Larry Laney, Russell

Forestry

Ricky Jones, Covington
Charles Whatley, Lee
Elliott Poole, Sumter
Wayne Ford, Tuscaloosa

Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod

Jon Hegeman, Calhoun
Hank Richardson, Cherokee
Bill Cook, Montgomery
Lance Byrd, Shelby

Hay & Forage

Phyllis Jones, Cherokee
Joe Williams, Dale
Chet Matthews, Elmore
Steve Stroud, Pike
Neal Kelly, Tallapoosa

Meat Goat & Sheep

Sam Abney, Autauga
Eugene Blair, Chambers
Clay Shane Mims, Chilton
Claire Flowers, Pike

Pork

Johnny Miller, Cherokee
Daniel Tubbs, Walker

Poultry

Kenneth Northey, Covington
Charles Jernigan, Geneva
Chase Bradley, Monroe
Ben Johnson, Randolph

Soybean

Eric Street, Baldwin
Daniel Trantham, Calhoun
Colt Clemmons, Lauderdale
Charles Butler, Madison

Wheat & Feed Grain

Ben Looney, Limestone
Scott Saucer, Monroe
Stanley Walters, Perry
Richard Parrish, Randolph

Wildlife

Monty Gordon, Montgomery
John Fetner, Randolph
Gary Bryant, Russell
Mark Finley, Winston

Outgoing Members

Bee & Honey

Jimmy Carmack, Jefferson

Cotton

Donald Hodge, Madison

Dairy

Will Gilmer, Lamar
Richie Traylor, Randolph

Equine

Wendell Harmon, Chambers
Jo Ann B. Laney, Russell

Forestry

John Dorrill, Pike

Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod

Phillip Hunter, Shelby

Horticulture

Allie Corcoran, Barbour

Pork

Tim Gates, Pickens

Poultry

Tom Duncan, Butler
Jeremy Brown, Montgomery

Soybean

Mike Neal, Jackson

Wheat & Feed Grain

Dan Rhyne, Lowndes
Shep Morris, Macon

Wildlife

Lamar Dewberry, Clay
Dell Hill, Talladega



2019 Women's Leadership Conference

April 3-5, 2019 | Hyatt Regency – Wynfrey Hotel – Birmingham, Ala.



Registration Deadline: March 1
AlfaFarmers.org

2019 BEEF TOUR

Mississippi

JUNE 4-7

REGISTRATION OPENS:

MARCH 29, 2019

VISIT: ALFAFARMERS.ORG

Ag In Action

- **The 4th Southeastern Livestock Exposition** Youth and Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest is March 7 at the Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. Youth, 4-H and FFA members, in addition to agriculture college students, may compete. Deadline to enter is March 1. Contact Jason P'Pool at jrp0039@auburn.edu to learn more.
- **The 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest** is open and accepting nominations. Winter wheat entries are due May 15, and spring wheat entries are due Aug. 1. There are dryland and irrigated subcategories. To learn more, visit yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org.
- **U.S. soybean production** conservation practices officially meet European Union (EU) sustainability standards, and biodiesel produced from documented soybeans can now be used in the EU.

Industrial Hemp Q&As Available Online

Alabama farmers can find answers to common questions about industrial hemp online by visiting aaes.auburn.edu/research-topics. The 2018 farm bill removed industrial hemp from the list of controlled substances.

"These FAQs have been fully vetted with the department to make sure they are accurately answered," said Alabama Extension's Dale Monks. "The questions and answers are current as of Jan. 31, but interested growers need to continually check because this is a fluid situation."

OBITUARY

Dwight England of Florence died Feb. 3. He was 56.

England served 24 years on the Lauderdale County Farmers Federation board of directors. He was a farmer and salesman at Helena Chemical Co.

He is survived by his wife, Melinda England; his son, Chris Faulkner (Courtney); a granddaughter, Annistin Faulkner; and his parents, Ralph and Frances England.

On The Move In Ag

- **David Cole** was named the Alabama Farmers Federation's State Affairs Director. Cole, who joined the Federation in 2006 as a field man before transferring to the home office, will lead the organization's efforts in the Alabama Senate and House of Representatives.
- **Melissa Martin**, a 14-year company veteran, was promoted to Corporate Media Director for Creative Consultants Inc., the Federation's in-house advertising agency. The new position combines messaging responsibilities of her previous job with additional advertising duties.
- **Katrenia Kier and Robert Turner** were named Alabama Forestry Commission chair and vice chair, respectively. Kier is from Huntsville, while Turner lives in Sulligent. The seven-member board is appointed by the governor and approved by the State Senate.

Alabama Delegates Attend Farm Bureau Convention

Over 100 Alabama Farmers Federation members helped the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) celebrate a century of service Jan. 11-16.

AFBF's 100th annual convention was held in New Orleans, where U.S. President Donald Trump addressed attendees for the second consecutive year. He assured the crowd of nearly 6,000 farmers from all 50 states and Puerto Rico that agriculture is a priority for his administration.

"The American farmer feeds and fuels and sustains our nation," Trump said. "On every front we are fighting for our great farmers, great ranchers, great growers."

AFBF President Zippy Duvall echoed Trump's remarks, thanking the president for his support.

"With this administration giving us a seat at the table, we (worked) with them through tax reform, which lowered the tax rate for almost every farmer," he said.

At the convention, farmer-delegates voted on policy recommendations to chart AFBF's course for the next year.

Alabama farmers also attended



Alabama Young Farmers competed during the American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention in New Orleans. From left are Sid Phelps of Tallapoosa County, who made Discussion Meet Sweet 16; Samantha Carpenter of Limestone County, Excellence in Agriculture competitor; and Jordyn and Chris Upchurch of Clay County, who made the Top 10 in Achievement Award.

Flapjacks with the Foundation, which supports education through the American Farm Bureau Foundation for

Agriculture. They received copies of "Right This Very Minute," the foundation's accurate agriculture Book of the Year.

Grants Fund Ag In The Classroom



The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) in Talladega County received an Alabama Ag in the Classroom mini-grant Jan. 31. Rep. Steve Hurst, R-Munford, presented the grant to AIDB educator Rachel Chastain to fund supplies for the school's Joe Tom Armbruster Agricultural Center.



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Ag Leaders Celebrated At Hall Of Honor Banquet

Auburn University's College of Agriculture and Agricultural Alumni Association celebrated five Alabamians for significant contributions during the 2019 Alabama Agriculture Hall of Honor banquet Feb. 7 in Opelika.

Ben Gore of Albertville, John Jensen of Auburn and Dan Smalley of Arab were inducted into the Hall of Honor. The late William Ethridge Jr. of Bessemer and the late Roy Hereford Jr. of Faunsdale were Pioneer Award recipients.

Gore, the agribusiness inductee, is the retired CEO of Alabama Farm Credit. Education/government honoree Jensen was a longtime College of Agriculture faculty member, administrator and extension fisheries and aquaculture specialist. Smalley, a retired poultry farmer who was a leader in and advocate for the poultry industry, is the production awardee.

Ethridge was a successful dairy farmer and enthusiastic promoter of dairy and agriculture. Hereford was an auctioneer committed to improving public perception of the auction business.

Wheat, Feed Grain Farmers Donate Rescue Gear



Alabama Wheat & Feed Grain (WFG) Producers helped sponsor the 2019 Grain Expo in Decatur Jan. 17. The Alabama Farmers Cooperative (AFC) Grain Division coordinated the event, where farmers learned grain bin safety. WFG Producers also donated farm safety equipment to fire and rescue squads. From left are Alabama Farmers Federation WFG Division Director Carla Hornady, Decatur Fire & Rescue's Stacy Rose and AFC Grain Division Vice President John Gamble.