

# CULTIVATOR

News from the Alabama Farmers Federation • [AlfaFarmers.org](http://AlfaFarmers.org)

July 15, 2019

## Programs To Honor State's Farm Heritage

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) is accepting applications for its Century and Heritage Farm and Bicentennial Farm programs through Aug. 30. The programs recognize family farms that played a significant role in Alabama's history.

A Century Farm has been in the same family continuously for at least 100 years and has current agricultural activities. It must include at least 40 acres of land and be owned by the applicant or nominee.

A Heritage Farm has been operated continuously as a family farm for at least 100 years. It must possess interesting and important historical and agricultural aspects, including one or more structures at least 40 years old. The farm must include at least 40 acres of land owned and operated by the applicant, an Alabama resident.

The ADAI also is accepting applications for the Bicentennial Farm program in honor of Alabama's 200th birthday observance Dec. 14. The Bicentennial Farm program honors family farms that have remained in the same family for 200 years.

A Bicentennial Farm must be owned by an Alabama resident, have some current agricultural activities and be at least 40 acres. Applicants are required to complete a registration form tracing family lineage of property ownership and a description of agricultural activities.

To date, eight operations have been recognized as Bicentennial Farms.

To access application forms, visit [agi.alabama.gov/u/forms-library](http://agi.alabama.gov/u/forms-library).

Questions? Contact Amy Belcher at (334) 240-7126 or [amy.belcher@agi.alabama.gov](mailto:amy.belcher@agi.alabama.gov).



Alabama Farmers Federation Cotton Division Director Carla Hornady checked on crops at State Cotton Committee Chair Ricky Wiggins' farm June 18. Some of his Covington County cotton plants suffered damage from deer, while others were able to soak up a much-needed rain during the visit.

## Farmers Battle Weather Conditions

A tropical storm developing off the Gulf Coast could bring much-needed relief to Alabama farmers battling a dry growing season. At press time, the storm was expected to make landfall in Louisiana Saturday, July 13.

But the rain could be too late for some crops, said the Alabama Farmers Federation's Carla Hornady.

"Weeks of high temperatures and hit-or-miss rain showers have damaged corn, cotton and soybeans across the state," said Hornady, the Federation's Cotton, Soybean and Wheat & Feed Grain divisions director. "Moisture is still appreciated, especially for cotton and soybeans, which aren't as far along in the growing season. If those crops don't receive rain during critical growth periods, yields will be reduced."

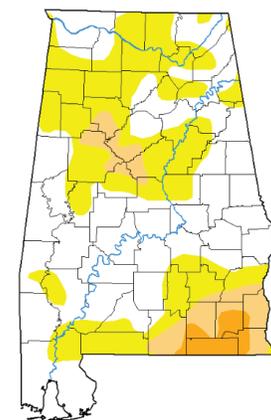
Alabama's corn crop could suffer the worst damage, Hornady said. Ninety-four percent of Alabama corn is silking, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) July 8 Crop Progress and Condition Report.

The report also stated 74% of cotton

is squaring, 69% of peanut plants are pegging and 54% of soybeans are blooming.

Dry conditions could also hamper hay quality and yields. Sixty-five percent of hay is on its second cutting, USDA says.

According to the July 11 U.S. Drought Monitor, just over 45% of Alabama was abnormally dry, while moderate drought



conditions covered about 10% of the state, concentrated around the Wiregrass and west-central Alabama. Deeper in the Wiregrass, about 3% of the area is dealing with severe drought.

Follow drought conditions at [droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu).



## Farmers Approve Peanut Board Referendum

**P**eanut producers voted overwhelmingly to continue the peanut checkoff in a referendum conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from April 15 through May 3.

Ninety-three percent who voted approved the measure to continue the National Peanut Board's research, marketing and promotion program.

Growers who paid assessments on peanuts produced from June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018, were eligible to vote.

USDA conducted the last referendum for peanuts in 2014. The vote is administered every five years, a requirement of the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996.

## Poultry Farmers Flock To Montgomery

The Alabama Farmers Federation State Poultry Committee met July 2 in Montgomery. They discussed policy related to the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) update and formed ideas regarding the 60-day comment period where farmers can submit observations. From left are Federation Poultry Division Director Russ Durrance, Committee Chair Joe Murphy of Pike County and Ken Northey of Covington County.

## Events & Deadlines

**July 16-17** - Southern Cover Crop Conference in Auburn

- [cses.auburn.edu/sccc](http://cses.auburn.edu/sccc)

**July 18-20** - Southern Peanut Growers Conference in Panama City Beach, Florida

**July 30** - Alabama Precision Ag Workshop in Birmingham

- [tinyurl.com/PrecisionAg19](http://tinyurl.com/PrecisionAg19)

**August** - Extension Beef Systems Short Course in Clanton

- Search "Beef Systems Short Course" at [aces.edu](http://aces.edu) for more information and dates

**Aug. 1-3** - Alabama Farmers Federation Commodity Producers Conference in Chattanooga

**Aug. 13** - Registration closes for Alfa Youth Leadership Conference Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Columbiana

- [AlfaFarmers.org](http://AlfaFarmers.org)

**Sept. 5** - Federation Heritage Cooking Contest in Montgomery

**Sept. 23** - Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation scholarship program in Auburn

**Sept. 24** - Federation Policy Development Meeting and FarmPAC Meeting in Montgomery

## COMMODITY CORNER

### GREENHOUSE, NURSERY & SOD

The State Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod Committee met in Mobile June 27-28. Committee members toured the Ornamental Horticulture Research Station; Flowerwood Nursery and Plant Development Services Inc.; and Waters Nursery. Farmers discussed immigration and work visa reform, pesticide regulations and policy. They also spoke with American Farm Bureau Federation's Allison Crittenden.

-Hunter McBrayer, division director

### DAIRY

Sign-ups are open for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. This replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) and is set in place by the 2018 farm bill. The farm bill also states farmers who paid into the MPP-Dairy from 2014-2017 will receive a partial credit for their DMC premiums.

-Russ Durrance, division director

### COTTON

Cotton leaf roll dwarf virus has been observed in Alabama the past couple years. Find reference information by searching for "cotton leaf roll dwarf virus" at [aces.edu](http://aces.edu). Efforts are ongoing to characterize symptomology, determine distribution, identify resistant germplasm and develop management strategies.

-Carla Hornady, division director

### FORESTRY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service is working to increase white oak timber stands for future use in north Alabama. In addition to benefiting wildlife, white oak is important due to its high value for veneer, cooperage, flooring, cabinet-making, furniture and exports. Contact your USDA service center to learn more.

-William Green, division director

### HAY & FORAGE

The Southeastern Hay Contest gives forage and baleage producers a chance to show off their hay quality. Each category winner will receive a cash prize, and the grand prize winner receives free use of Massey Ferguson hay equipment for a production season. Apply by Sept. 19 at [sehaycontest.com](http://sehaycontest.com), or contact Regional Extension Agent Josh Elmore at (205) 646-3610 for more information.

-Brady Ragland, division director

### PEANUTS

A significant portion of the state's peanut-growing region has been declared at drought-watch or drought-advisory levels. Without adequate moisture through the growing season, the crop's ability to efficiently bloom and set fruit will be impacted.

-Jacob Davis, executive director



## Ragland Meets With North Alabama Farmers

Alabama Farmers Federation Beef and Meat Goat & Sheep divisions Director Brady Ragland met with producers in north Alabama July 2. Beef farmer and State Young Farmers Committee member Mitchell Henry, left, showed Ragland the digital scale reader on his Lawrence County farm. Ragland also visited State Meat Goat & Sheep Committee member J.C. Holt of Colbert County.

## Ag In Action

- **U.S. beef farmers** will be allowed a bigger share of the European beef market, according to Reuters. The deal with the European Union (EU) gives America a guaranteed share of a 45,000-ton EU quota for hormone-free beef. The U.S. gains an initial 18,500 tons of the quota, which rises to 35,000 tons after seven years.
- **The haying and grazing date** for

farmers who planted cover crops on prevented plant acres is Sept. 1. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) adjusted the date from Nov. 1 to help farmers who couldn't plant because of flooding and excess rainfall. Producers can also hay, graze or cut cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage on prevented plant acres starting Sept. 1.

## Durrance Named Dairy, Poultry, Pork Director

The Alabama Farmers Federation welcomed Russell Durrance as its Dairy, Poultry and Pork divisions director July 1. He's also responsible for policy in those areas.

Durrance said he's eager to advocate for producers on behalf of the state's largest farm organization.

"After working with a poultry integrator for two years, I'm excited to help Alabama's farmers through the Federation," said Durrance, 24, a native of Newnan, Georgia. "I've always been passionate about where my food comes from, and this allows me to give back to the farmers who provide us so much."



Durrance

Durrance graduated from Auburn University with a degree in agricultural business and economics in 2017. He joins the Federation from Pilgrim's Pride Live Operations in Chattanooga, where he was a broiler service technician.

In his free time, Durrance enjoys spending time at the lake with family, grilling and watching sports. He and wife Stephanie live in Montgomery.

## On The Move In Ag

**Larkin Martin** was elected chair of the Farm Foundation board of directors in June. Martin, a farmer from Courtland in Lawrence County, will serve a two-year term. Farm Foundation is an agricultural policy institute cultivating dynamic non-partisan collaboration to meet society's needs for food, fiber, feed and energy.

**County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee** nomination forms are due Aug. 1. Producers who participate or cooperate in any FSA programs can be nominated for candidacy for their county committee. Committees help decide how federal farm programs are administered locally. Visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov) or your local FSA office to learn more.



## Blount County Ladies Prep For Conference

The Blount County Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) met June 20 to make agriculture-themed refrigerator magnets. Some magnets will be used in the county's gift basket for the Alabama Farmers Federation's 47th Commodity Producers Conference in Chattanooga Aug. 1-3. Clockwise from left are Buttercup and Brandy Abel, Sherry Brumbeloe, Carolyn Johnson, Kay Maze & WLC Chair Stephanie Miller.



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## Annual Meeting Season Kicks Off

The Sumter County Farmers Federation held its annual meeting July 8 in Livingston. From left are board member David Edmonds, Treasurer Micky Smith, board member Sarah Weekley Reed and President Pat Buck. All 67 county Farmers Federations will meet over the next couple of months to review the year's work.

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# Alabama Educators Attend National Ag Conference

A delegation of six Alabama educators attended the National Ag in the Classroom Conference June 18-21 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Teachers soaked up information on how to incorporate agriculture into their curriculum, led presentations, handed out educational Ag Mags and received national awards.

Presenters included Lorilyn Owen of DeKalb County, Agriculture STEM Careers and Lessons to Engage Student Learning; Kathy DeFoor of Morgan County, A Taste of Geography; and retired educator Linda Hardee of Madison County, who conducted a workshop on water testing.

Rachel Chastain, a teacher at the

Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind in Talladega County, received the National Excellence In Teaching About Agriculture Award.

Alabama Ag in the Classroom (AITC) Steering Committee Chair Kim Earwood said workshops at the conference help build on skills taught during the state's AITC Summer Institute for teachers.

"Alabama has some of the best teachers in the nation, and we're excited to help them teach students about agriculture and its exciting careers and opportunities," Earwood said.



Teachers handed out Ag Mags during the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. From left are Lorilyn Owen, Collinsville School in DeKalb County; Kathy DeFoor, Eva School in Morgan County; Linda Hardee, Huntsville City Schools in Madison County; Becky Davis, Cahawba Christian Academy in Bibb County; Alisha Craft, Childersburg Middle School in Talladega County; Rachel Chastain, Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind in Talladega County; and Alabama Ag in the Classroom Steering Committee Chair Kim Earwood.