

Cultivator

www.AlfaFarmers.org • News from the Alabama Farmers Federation

Gingrich To Headline Annual Meeting

Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich will address over 1,000 farmers during the Alabama Farmers Federation's 97th annual meeting in Montgomery Dec. 2-3. Registration closes Oct. 24 at AlfaFarmers.org.

Throughout the annual meeting, business sessions for the Federation, Women's Leadership Division and Young Farmers Division will be held. Members will elect leaders and consider policy recommendations.

Alabama Ag & Industries Commissioner John McMillan will receive the Service to Agriculture Award, the Federation's highest honor. Attendees will also view the Federation's annual report, in addition to a report from Alfa Insurance.

County leaders will be recognized through Senior and Individual Leaders Awards, and the Communications Award will be presented. Outstanding Women's Leadership and Young Farmers county committees will be honored as well.

The 2018 Young Farmers contests wrap up as the Discussion Meet Final Four compete. Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag and Outstanding Young Farm Family winners will be honored recognized.

A silent auction will benefit the Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation (AFAF). New this year, the AFAF will present a tribute breakfast honoring county leaders who passed away in 2018.

Classic country quintet Restless Heart will entertain attendees Dec. 2. Purchase extra tickets by visiting TicketMaster.com.

Elementary Libraries To Receive Ag-Focused Book



The Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation and Alabama Ag in the Classroom (AITC) provided over 900 of copies of "John Deere, That's Who!" for Alabama's elementary school libraries. County leaders received the books Sept. 25. Elizabeth Thompson, former Alabama Farmers Federation intern and Miss Wiregrass, helped distribute the books. From left are AITC Chair Kim Earwood, Cullman County Farmers Federation President Ben Haynes and Thompson.

Rain Hampers Alabama Harvest

Harvest stalled in many areas of the state the last week of September but resumed as the calendar flipped to October. While rain delayed harvest in some regions, areas like Barbour County needed moisture to soften the soil for digging peanuts.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported most Alabama corn is harvested — 91 percent as of Sept. 30.

Cotton defoliation began two weeks ago in north Alabama. Limestone County's Jessie Hobbs said his picker is still in the shed for another couple weeks. He said some southern areas of Limestone County could begin next week.

"We've picked all our corn except about 40 acres, and if the weather holds, we'll get that done this week," Hobbs said. "Once we're done with corn, we'll change the heads on the combine and start right into the beans."

Corn yields range from good to very good. Hobbs said local farmers report yields from 120-250 bushels per acre — with the latter being on irrigated land.

Cotton and soybean crops also are looking promising in some areas of the state, said the Alabama Farmers Federation's Carla Hornady.

"The lingering rain experienced in some areas of south Alabama seriously delayed harvest, and yields could be affected," said Hornady, the Federation's director of Cotton, Soybean and Wheat & Feed Grain divisions. "The state's cotton crop appears to be good, with projected yields varying depending on which areas received excessive rainfall late in the season."

Early soybean yields look promising, while late-planted soybeans may suffer reduced yields from lack of rain during early growth.

On The Move In Ag

- **Jim Yance** of Columbia in Henry County was elected to the Red Angus Association of America board of directors. JYJ Red Angus LLC was also named Commercial Breeder of the Year.
- **Mel Koller** is Alabama Farm Credit's new chief executive officer. Koller, formerly vice president at the Farm Credit Bank of Texas, succeeds Ben Gore, who retired after 42 years with the rural lending cooperative.
- **Joshua Duke** will lead Auburn University's Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology beginning March 1. The department head joins Auburn's staff from the University of Delaware.

Moore Named Director Of Multimedia Content

The Alabama Farmers Federation's Marlee Moore was promoted to Director of Multimedia Content Sept. 24. Moore, 24, joined the Federation staff in 2016 as an agricultural communications specialist after graduating from Auburn University (AU). She interned with the Federation in summer 2015.



Moore

In this role, Moore is responsible for the Federation's social media content, where she will develop and execute outreach strategies through engaging posts, video and other digital content.

Her new duties include serving as associate editor of Neighbors magazine, with specific responsibility for recipes and the Alabama Gardener. She continues to serve as editor of the Cultivator.

"It's a joy to serve Alabama farmers," Moore said. "I come to work excited to share stories, promote products and advocate for agriculture on a daily basis."

Moore has been recognized nationally for her writing and is a former Federation scholarship recipient.

A Thomasville native, Moore currently lives in Auburn.

Commodity Corner

Horticulture

Auburn University is conducting a survey focused on potentially developing organic marketing in Alabama. The survey targets fruit, vegetable and nut producers and will determine issues growers face when certifying organic or using organic practices in general. Consumer and retailer surveys will be available soon. Visit tinyurl.com/AUOrganic to access the survey.

-Brian Hardin, Governmental & Ag Programs (GAP) Department director

Beef, Equine

The electronic logging device exemption for livestock haulers is extended through Dec. 7. There is language in the U.S. House and Senate Fiscal Year 19 appropriations bills to extend the exemption through Sept. 30, but those bills were not passed before the House recessed, resulting in the continuing resolution.

-Brian Hardin, GAP director

Forestry, Wildlife,

Alabama TREASURE Forest Association

There are several landowner-focused events around the state this October. Check with your local Extension agent, Alabama Forestry Commission representative or visit TREASUREForest.org to find the nearest landowner tour or seminar.

-William Green, divisions director

Pork, Poultry

Hurricane Florence and its aftermath killed over 4.1 million chickens and 5,500 hogs. The toll could increase as recovery efforts continue. In response to this tragedy, North Carolina Farm Bureau established the Florence Relief Fund, where contributions will support the state's farmers and rural neighbors as communities recover. To learn more, visit ncfb.org/Florence-Relief-Fund.

-Guy Hall, divisions director

Wheat & Feed Grain

Alabama winter wheat production was up 3 percent from 2017 to 7.92 million bushels, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Winter wheat planted acreage, at 160,000 acres, was up 10,000 acres from last year. However, yield was down 5 bushels to 72 bushels an acre. Oat production is up 58 percent from last year to 945,000 bushels, thanks to a 5,000-acre increase in harvested acreage.

-Carla Hornady, division director

Peanuts

Watch the America's Peanut Farmers video at americaspeanutfarmers.com. Learn about America's peanut farmers and their passion for farming and supplying consumers with an affordable, sustainable and nutritious product.

-Caleb Bristow, division director

Students Flock To Annual Pike County Farm Day



The Pike County Young Farmers hosted a Farm Day Sept. 18 at the Pike County Cattlemen's Park in Troy. Nearly 400 third-grade students from all elementary schools in the county attended the annual farm day, where they learned about poultry, cotton, horses, clean water, soil, swine and more.



Endorsements

FEDERAL & STATE RACES



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | Governor | Kay Ivey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Lt. Governor | Will Ainsworth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Attorney General | Steve Marshall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Secretary of State | John H. Merrill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | State Treasurer | John McMillan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | State Auditor | Jim Zeigler <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries | Rick Pate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Public Service Commission Place 1 | Jeremy H. Oden <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Public Service Commission Place 2 | Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice | Tom Parker <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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|--|--|---|
| | Alabama Supreme Court Place 2 | Tommy Bryan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Alabama Supreme Court Place 3 | Will Sellers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Alabama Supreme Court Place 4 | Jay Mitchell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Place 1 | Christy Olinger Edwards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Place 2 | Chad Hanson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Place 3 | Terry A. Moore <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals Place 1 | Richard Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals Place 2 | Chris McCool <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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| | Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals Place 3 | Bill Cole <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | US Congress, District 1 | Bradley Byrne <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | US Congress, District 2 | Martha Roby <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | US Congress, District 3 | Mike Rogers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | US Congress, District 4 | Robert Aderholt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | US Congress, District 5 | Mo Brooks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | US Congress, District 6 | Gary Palmer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | US Congress, District 7 | Terri A. Sewell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Amendment #1
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, providing for certain religious rights and liberties; authorizing the display of the Ten Commandments on state property and property owned or administrated by a public school or public body; and prohibiting the expenditure of public funds in defense of the constitutionality of this amendment.

Amendment #2
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended; to declare and otherwise affirm that it is the public policy of this state to recognize and support the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children, most importantly the right to life in all manners and measures appropriate and lawful; and to provide that the constitution of this state does not protect the right to abortion or require the funding of abortion.

Amendment #3
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating to the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, to specify that the congressional districts from which members are appointed continue to reflect those as constituted on January 1, 2018, to remove the State Superintendent of Education from membership, and to delete the requirement that members vacate office at the annual meeting of the board following their seventieth birthday.

Amendment #4
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that, if a vacancy in either the House of Representatives or the Senate occurs on or after October 1 of the third year of a quadrennium, the seat would remain vacant until a successor is elected at the next succeeding general election.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | In Support of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Neutral |

I farm. I grow. I lead. I vote.

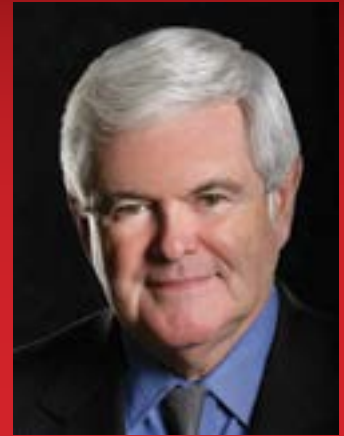
Alfa Farmers ■ 97th Annual Meeting

Dec. 2-3, 2018

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018

<http://www.cvent.com/d/tgq6rp>



**Keynote Speaker
Newt Gingrich**

The background of this section is a vibrant array of fresh vegetables, including carrots, onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, and leafy greens. In the center, there is a circular wooden-textured area containing the AFVGA logo and text. The logo features a green leaf above the letters 'AFVGA', with a white outline of the state of Alabama integrated into the letter 'V'.

AFVGA
ALABAMA FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Conference 🌐 **Nov. 15-16**
Clanton Conference and Performing Arts Center
Clanton, Alabama

🌐 **Trade Show** 🌐 **Educational Workshops**

Register by Oct. 30
at AFVGA.org

McBrayer Named Federation Commodity Director

The Alabama Farmers Federation welcomed Hunter McBrayer to its Governmental & Agricultural Programs (GAP) Department Oct. 8.

McBrayer will serve as director of the Federation's Bee & Honey; Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod; and Horticulture divisions. He is also Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association executive director.



McBrayer

"I'm excited to learn from our stakeholders and lead them in a new direction,"

said McBrayer, 29.

A native of Blount County, McBrayer was involved in the Marshall County Young Farmers program and was a two-time Discussion Meet contest finalist. He graduated in August from the Federation's elite Agricultural Leaders For Alabama Class IV. McBrayer previously worked for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System as a regional horticulture agent.

The University of Alabama graduate is pursuing a master's degree from Alabama A&M University. He has been married to Brooke, an Alfa Insurance customer service representative, for seven years.

Cattlemen Urged To "Check Yes" In Referendum

The Alabama Cattlemen's Association (ACA) will conduct a statewide vote among cattle owners Oct. 24 to determine if the Alabama Beef Checkoff Program will continue, in accordance with Alabama law.

The vote is open to all cattle owners in Alabama (no age restrictions apply) and will take place at statewide county Extension offices from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

The Alabama Beef Checkoff Program provides funding for programs implemented each year in areas of beef promotion, beef cattle research, educational programs for cattlemen and youth events.

"The Alabama Beef Checkoff is invaluable to cattle owners in this state," said ACA President and Limestone County cattleman Jack Batts. "You would be hard-pressed to find another program that generates as much bang for the buck in terms of promoting our product and providing educational opportunities for cattlemen and youth. I urge everyone to check yes when they go vote this month."



Commodity Organization Meeting Dates

Registration for the Alabama Farmers Federation's Commodity Organization Meeting opens Nov. 1 at AlfaFarmers.org.

The meeting, where commodity committee members are elected, is Feb. 5-7, 2019.

The schedule is

- Feb. 5 — Bee & Honey; Beef; Pork; Soybeans; Wheat & Feed Grain; Wildlife; Alabama TREASURE Forest

Association

- Feb. 6 — Cotton; Equine; Forestry; Horticulture; Meat Goat & Sheep; Poultry
 - Feb. 7 — Dairy; Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod; Hay & Forage
- The Alabama Peanut Producers Association meets Feb. 7 in Dothan. The Alabama Catfish Producers meet Dec. 4 in Demopolis for an industry update and to elect leaders.

Farm Bill Talks To Continue After Midterm Elections

Farm bill negotiators are expected to pass a conference report after midterm elections in November.

Though the 2014 bill expired Sept. 30, lawmakers said they're still working to provide producers with certainty amid low commodity prices and trade woes.

U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, said he hopes Congress can vote on the compromise during the first week back after midterms.

The timeline change raises questions about how dynamics could alter talks if Republicans lose the House or Senate.

Events & Deadlines

- **Oct. 14-16** - Alabama Landowners Conference in Prattville
- **Oct. 16-18** - Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Georgia
- **Oct. 22** - Last day to register to vote in the General Election
- **Nov. 1** - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
- **Nov. 2** - Alabama Farmers Ag Foundation Skeet Shoot in Alpine
- **Nov. 2-11** - National Peanut Festival in Dothan
- **Nov. 6** - General Election
- **Nov. 15-16** - Alabama Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Conference and Trade Show in Clanton
 - Registration closes Oct. 30 at AFVGA.org
- **Dec. 2-3** - Alabama Farmers Federation's 97th annual meeting in Montgomery
 - Registration closes Oct. 24 at AlfaFarmers.org

Validation Locations Set For Junior Beef Expo

Youth interested in participating in the 2019 Junior Beef Expo (JBE) must validate their animals at one of four remaining validation locations.

Registration papers, tattoos, electronic identification and entry fees are all required at validation.

Remaining dates and locations are

- Oct. 13 in Cullman
 - Oct. 20 in Fayette
 - Oct. 27 in Atmore
 - Nov. 2 in Dothan
- JBE is March 14-16. Learn more at jrbeefexpo.com.

OBITUARY

Thomas Lewis "T.L." Conner of Mount High died Sept. 19. He was 96.

Conner was a former Marshall County Farmers Federation president.

He was preceded in death by wife of 70 years Nell, daughter Martha Sue and son Mike. He is survived by daughters Denise and Linda; sons Charles and Tommy; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Leaders Review Policy Proposals



The Alabama Farmers Federation held its annual Policy Development Meeting Sept. 25 in Montgomery. Policy recommendations from the meeting will be voted on at the Federation's 97th annual meeting in Montgomery this December. From left are Coffee County Farmers Federation President Max Bozeman and Chambers County Farmers Federation President Phil Slay.



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Trump Negotiates Trade Deal To Replace NAFTA

The Alabama Farmers Federation joined U.S. farm groups in praising progress on trade agreements.

President Donald Trump has announced a renegotiated trade deal with Canada, which would replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The U.S. and Mexico agreed to trade terms in August.

The Canada agreement comes on the heels of a new South Korean trade deal.

The USMCA will provide new access for dairy and poultry products. The agreement eliminates aspects of Canada's dairy program used to undercut U.S. sales of dried milk products. U.S. dairy products will gain access to an additional 3.6 percent of Canada's dairy market.

Canada will also grade imports of U.S. wheat in a manner no less favorable than their own. Mexico and the U.S. agreed all grading standards for agricultural products will be non-discriminatory.

Congress must still consider and approve the USMCA, most likely in 2019.

Youth Learn Life Lessons During Livestock Shows



The Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance sponsored livestock shows during the Alabama National Fair in Montgomery Sept. 28-Oct. 8. Shows focused on beef cattle, goats, sheep, dairy cattle and swine. During the Youth Goat Show Sept. 29, judge John Tart III of North Carolina shared words of wisdom with, from left, Lou Lou Thompson of Troy in Pike County and Claire Smith of Jemison in Chilton County.