



What & Why Newsletter

Volume 64, No 2
Summer 2015

Georgia Plant Food Educational Society, Inc.

1017 Pearson Road • Sylvester, Georgia 31791 • (229) 881-0254
www.gpfes.org



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Dr. Glen Harris

Sitting at the Chairman's desk, which is the same as the Educational Advisors desk, which is the same as the Soil Fertility Specialist desk....which is still a cluttered mess! I am again honored to wear this many hats and work with as many good people. I am excited for this organization and where it is headed. Willingness to change with the times and "keep it real" as they say is a big reason for the success of GPFES.

The summer meeting is upon us and promises to be another nice mid-year break from the day to day grind. Who doesn't look forward to a good program, a 5K fun run/walk and skeet shooting, silent auction, banquet and valuable time with family. Fall will bring students and GPFES scholarships and planning of the winter meeting. The new Georgia Plant Food Educational Foundation is getting established and guaranteed to help us in the future. Yes, the future of GPFES looks bright and I am just glad to be part of it.

Fourth Annual Fertilizer Fun Run/Walk

The fourth Annual GPFES 5K Fertilizer Fun Run/Walk will be held at 8:00 AM Tuesday, July 14th at the Ritz Carlton. "Enjoy our island while getting your daily exercise in our beautiful backyard." is how they describe it. This year the course will all be on pavement, no beach! And the t-shirt design promises to be an instant classic as usual. Whether you choose to beat the clock or enjoy a leisurely stroll along the Live Oak canopy trail, it promises to be another fun morning. Hope to see you there !



Mark Your Calendar

Florida Fertilizer & Ag Chemical
Association
83rd Annual Meeting
July 8 -10, 2015
Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort
Naples, FL
www.ffaa.org

Sunbelt Ag Expo
Field Day
July 9, 2015
Spence Field
Moultrie, GA
www.sunbeltexpo.com

**GEORGIA PLANT FOOD
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
SUMMER MEETING
July 13 -15, 2015
Ritz-Carlton Resort Hotel
Amelia Island, FL
www.gpfes.org**

Plant Food Association of North
Carolina
Summer Meeting
August 9 - 11, 2015
Asheville, NC
www.ncplantfood.org

NOTES: Please forward any program recommendations you have for upcoming meetings to:
Tim Forshee, Chairman, Arrangements & Program Committee, tforshee@carolina-eastern.com



President's Paragraph

Jimmy Champion, President

The Summer Meeting is almost upon us. Seems like just a few months since we were last at Amelia Island. The move back to the Ritz-Carlton has generated a lot of enthusiasm and a large crowd is anticipated. The educational program will be beneficial to all who attend. This year, in addition to the 5-K Fun Run and Walk, a sporting clay event is being arranged for Tuesday morning following the run. The Silent Auction will once again be fabulous and, as always, a great social event.

One topic you will be hearing more and more about as time passes is the Georgia Plant Food Educational Foundation, our new 501 (c) (3) corporation. Going forward this will be the vehicle for funding research projects and scholarships using tax deductible contributions and grants.

Over the 64 years that GPFES has been in existence, there have always been individuals willing to take on responsibility and actively serve the organization. We are at the point now where we need some of the younger members to move into positions of leadership. This is only possible with the support of their employers. Allow your younger employees to join GPFES and give them the time to be active members. What they learn by being involved will more than offset the time away from the office. Time marches on.

In the almost 19 years I have been keeping our records, over 400 names have been deleted from the membership list. Some left the industry, some retired, some passed away and some simply quit paying dues. That said, our membership numbers remain strong, which is amazing considering all the consolidations that have taken place but the need for new members remains critical. Please support GPFES by maintaining your membership and by asking others to join.

GPFES Honored for Support of Ag Awareness

On May 14, 2015 Jimmy Champion and Glen Harris were recognized for GPFES support of the UGA Ag Awareness program during the volunteer luncheon at the UGA Tifton Campus. The Ag Awareness program was started in 2001 by Benjie Baldree with one class of 65 3rd graders from Omega. Students are brought to the UGA Tifton campus in the Spring as 3rd graders and then back again in the Fall as 4th graders. One thing this allows is for the young students to see a demonstration of crops planted in the Spring and then harvested in the fall. They are also taught about other facets of production agriculture at as many as 40 stations.

The program is now in its 13th straight year and has grown to accommodate as many as 1200 students from Tift and surrounding

event. GPFES has been a proud sponsor of this event for the last 5 years. Support goes in part to feed the volunteers lunch after the event. This year Champion and Harris were honored with plaques that read: The University of Georgia recognizes the Georgia Plant Food Educational Society for their ongoing support and commitment to the Agriculture and Environmental Awareness program.



GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Georgia currently offers producers of agricultural products valuable sales tax exemptions for inputs. A card known as the GATE card is available to producers through the Georgia Department of Agriculture. There are some who would attack these exemptions claiming loss of revenue to counties and abuse by holders of the GATE card and by merchants.

A revised guide as to what is exempt and what is not is included as an insert into this issue of What & Why. This guide, which was developed by the Georgia Agribusiness Council from information provided by the Georgia Department of Revenue, is provided as a tool for our members and their GATE card holding customers.

GEORGIA AGRICULTURE SALES TAX EXEMPTION

An informational guide for the G.A.T.E. (Georgia Ag Tax Exemption) program

Exempt

Machinery, Equipment & Facilities

- Machinery and equipment used for agricultural production, processing, and service operations
- Motor oil, oil filters, grease, lube, and hydraulic fluid for ag machinery and equipment
- All repair and replacement parts to be used on ag production and processing machinery and equipment
- All equipment used in the storage, packaging, and processing of ag products
- Commercial lawnmowers if used to maintain areas around chicken houses and other farm structures
- Chainsaws and other hand-held tools strictly used for ag operation upkeep
- ATVs and off-road vehicles used for farm, ag processing, and ag service purposes
- Self-propelled crop fertilizer and chemical sprayers
- Trailers for transport, shipment, and distribution of ag products including livestock trailers
- Employee safety equipment
- Welding equipment, excluding shield gases, if used for farm/ag processing applications or repairs, and for repairs on exempt property or poultry houses
- Grain bins

Plants, Crops, Irrigation

- All fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators, and all other plant protectants used for ag applications
- Seeds, seedlings, and plants grown from cuttings
- Materials used in production greenhouses (hoses, trays, shades, hangers, tables)
- Materials used for plant production, processing, and packing such as liners, bins, and containers
- Irrigation units and systems
- PVC pipe to be used for irrigation purposes
- Ice and other refrigerants used to cool ag products in storage facilities, delivery trucks

Livestock and Poultry

- All feed used specifically for ag production or services of qualified livestock, fish, bee, and poultry operations
- Veterinary medicines and instruments used in their application used specifically for livestock and poultry production
- Feed and other items for qualified horse facilities
- Cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, poultry, goats, fish, and bees when sold for breeding purposes
- Items designed for husbandry on animal ag operations
- Fencing for livestock and poultry facilities
- Materials used on-farm for meat and dairy production, processing, and packing
- Products used for required ag operation cleaning

Energy, Fuel, Shipping

- Off-road (dyed) diesel for use on the farm
- Other fuels (propane, butane, LPG, CNG, electricity, wood, wood products/by-products) for ag operation use
- Energy sources for ag purposes. These must be metered separately from energy used for non-ag purposes, unless the non-ag use purpose represents 10% or less of total use
- Shipping or freight on items that are qualified as tax exempt

For questions about the GATE card contact: Georgia Dept. of Agriculture
farmtax@agr.georgia.gov or call
1-(855)-FARM TAX or 1-(855) 327-6829
For questions about item exemptions contact:
Georgia Department of Revenue
1-877-423-6711

Not Exempt

Machinery, Equipment, & Facilities

- Any motorized vehicles designed for on-road use
 - Replacement parts for on-road use motor vehicles
 - Barns, greenhouses, strand metal buildings, and other buildings (other than grain bins) used on farm or ag processing facility. These structures are considered real property.
 - Property or fixtures attached to barns, greenhouses, and other metals buildings such as electrical wiring, HVAC, windows, and doors. These are considered real property.
 - Concrete pads. These are considered real property.
 - Clothes, boots, and other apparel
 - ATVs and off-road vehicles not used for farm and ag processing purposes
 - Crushed rock, gravel for road/path construction
- ### Plants, Crops, Irrigation
- Plants, fertilizer, pine straw, and other inputs used for aesthetic/landscaping purposes
 - Fish used for aesthetic or weed/algae control applications for pond irrigation (Koi, Grass Carp, etc.)
- ### Livestock and Poultry
- Animals that are not cattle, hogs, sheep, other livestock, poultry, or bees
 - Pet food and supplies for domestic animals including dogs including cattle/herding dogs, cats, birds, etc.
- ### Energy, Fuel, Shipping
- Gasoline or on-road (clear, non-dyed) diesel, including Aviation gasoline
 - Energy used for administrative purposes
 - Energy metered for residential properties
 - Shipping or freight on items that are not qualified as tax exempt ag inputs



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This guidance document was compiled as a member service for agribusinesses and qualified ag producers that use GATE certificates to help identify items that are and are not exempt from sales tax in Georgia. The information does not constitute written tax guidance issued by the Georgia Department of Revenue or other regulatory agency. This document is subject to change as additional clarifications are made. (May 2015)



**THE GEORGIA PLANT
FOOD EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION, INC.**

The Georgia Plant Food Educational Society recently received approval for the establishment of a 501 (c) (3) organization to provide grants for agricultural research and extension services, scholarships for college students desiring a career in agriculture, youth programs such as FFA and 4-H, and financial support for AG Awareness Day in Tifton, GA. The foundation provides an entity to receive tax deductible contributions, bequests, and grants that will be used as an

investment in the future of agriculture in Georgia and the Southeast. All requests for funding will be carefully considered by The G.P.F.E.S board of directors and then, if recommended, by the foundation board to insure maximum return on every dollar invested.

The initial Board of Directors for the foundation will consist of:

Judith D. Sherling, Chairman
Jimmy Champion, Secretary/Treasurer
Roy Embry
Howard L. Holton

Glendon H. Harris
Ty J. DeMuynek
John M. Gladden

Pesticide Container Recycling Opportunity

I was introduced to a fantastic service that I think may be of interest to you and your members.

USAg Recycling recycles used pesticide containers. The best part is that there is no charge for their service. The pesticide containers need to be triple-rinsed, punctured, and the primary label removed. For large plastic drums, the bungs need to be removed also. USAg Recycling will provide a collection container for sites that collect 5,000 to 6,000 plastic pesticide containers annually. I've attached two files highlighting their service.

If you're interested in what you read, please contact the following:

Scott Mosley, General Manager
USAg Recycling
18330 Penick Rd.
Waller, TX 77484
Office: 800-654-3145
Cell: 229-809-0360
www.USAgRecycling.com

I am excited that USAg Recyclers provides an environmentally friendly manner to dispose of used pesticide containers at no cost to growers.

Alan Lowman
Program Director
Agricultural Inputs Section
Plant Industry Division
Georgia Department of Agriculture

Surplus Crops Used to Feed Inmates in Mitchell County

By Clint Thompson, University of Georgia

A collaborative, cost-saving project, spearheaded by University of Georgia Extension, is helping feed inmates at the Mitchell County Correctional Institute.

More than 100 Mitchell County inmates are benefitting from surplus crops donated by farmers in Mitchell and surrounding counties. Inmates are eating homegrown produce, which is saving Mitchell County taxpayers money.

In 2011, it cost Mitchell County taxpayers \$1.79 per day to feed one of the 114 inmates. Three years later, that cost was reduced to \$1.26 per inmate. Over the course of a year, that price difference equates to almost \$22,000 in savings.

“This collaboration between Mitchell County Extension, Mitchell
Continued on page 5



BETWEEN THE ROWS.....

Dr. Glen Harris, Educational Advisor

We knew this year was going to be a challenging one, budget wise and maybe weather wise. We seemed to go from being too wet to too dry overnight but somehow after the mud dried and the dust settled we got the crops planted. We didn't go as crazy planting peanuts as some thought we would (I knew we wouldn't) and now it's time to do what we have to do to make a good crop on a tight budget. I've always said, don't skimp on what you need and don't spend money just to spend money. Spend money to make money. We got the high yield

corn recommendations under control, I think, and by now we know what it takes to make 3-bale cotton. Peanuts and soybeans are more of a wild card but we know peanuts love calcium and soybeans love potassium...and they all love a little boron.

I started some sulfur and magnesium work on corn this year and looking forward to the results. Nitrogen sidedress comparisons for corn and cotton continue as well as foliar potassium for cotton. Hard to believe this year is this far along already. Hopefully we will have a good economically viable crop to harvest this Fall.

Surplus Crops Used to Feed Inmates in Mitchell County

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County commissioners, Mitchell County Correctional Institute and local farmers is definitely a win-win situation for all parties. It not only saves tax money for the county, but also helps the farmers with their costs," said Jennifer Grogan, Mitchell County Extension Coordinator.

Former Mitchell County Extension agent Max DeMott conferred with Bill Terry, warden of the Mitchell County Correctional Institute, about the idea as a way to offset the growing costs of feeding the 114 inmates. DeMott and Mitchell County Administrator Clark Harrell agreed that collecting surplus vegetables and serving them to the prisoners would be a cost-effective strategy that needed to be utilized.

"In the tough times that we've been in, we're always looking for ways to save money. With help from UGA Extension, we were able to sit down and come up with a way to bring in local produce," said Harrell. "It has saved us a tremendous amount of money."

During his time as warden, Terry has collected bell peppers, corn, eggplants, cantaloupes, watermelons and greens. Terry has paid reduced prices for some, but most produce has been donated free of charge.

Various factors result in farmers having extra produce they aren't able to sell. Some seasons, the low prices of produce markets make it uneconomical for farmers to harvest their crops. Also, donated produce may be a result of low quality that may be unmarketable in grocery stores or on fruit stands.



Obituary for Mr. Robert "Bob" Brooks Jr.

Long time GPFES member Robert Brooks, Jr, died Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at his home in Baconton, GA.

Bob Brooks was born on April 4, 1927 in Fernandina, Florida to Robert and Doris Frances (Shirling) Brooks. He grew up in Mitchell and Stewart Counties.

Mr. Brooks raised his family in Albany and returned to Baconton in 2008. He graduated from Lumpkin High School and attended Gordon Military College and Presbyterian College. He was a veteran of the US Army. Bob Brooks served on the Board of Trustees at Riverview Academy in the 1970s. He was an active member of Central Baptist Church.

Mr. Brooks retired from Farmers Favorite Fertilizer after a long career in the agriculture industry, which included many years with Columbia Nitrogen. He was a member of the Georgia Peanut Producers Assoc. and the Georgia Corn Growers Assoc., serving as President of both organizations. Bob was also a member of the Georgia Plant Food Educational Society. He was a life-long farmer in Mitchell County.

Mr. Brooks was preceded in death by his wife, Ronnie Kirbo Brooks, and sisters: Bernice Snell, Frances Prince, Tina Morton, and Blanche Thrift. Mr. Brooks is survived by his children: daughter: Leslie Brooks Brisendine (Joe), Conyers, GA; sons: Robert Brooks III (Marilee), Perry, GA, Frank Brooks (Gina), Baconton, GA, Kevin Brooks (Jill), Alma, GA; grandchildren: Joseph Brisendine, JB Brisendine, Robert Brooks IV, Marren Brooks, Benjamin Brooks, Ashley Brooks Graham, Anna Brooks, Bill Bowles II, Lauren Bowles Tabb (Cody); great grandchildren: Tripp Graham, Avery Tabb, Bristol Tabb; nephew and Business Partner: Dr. Dick Hydrick (Phyllis).



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1017 Pearson Road
Sylvester, Georgia 31791

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GPFE Summer Meeting

July 13 -15, 2015
Ritz-Carlton Resort Hotel
Amelia Island, FL
Contact: Jimmy Champion
(229) 881-0254
jpchampion3@bellsouth.net

SUNBELT FIELD DAY - JULY 9, 2015

This year's Sunbelt Expo Field Day will be held July 9 at the Darrell Williams Research Farm, where researchers will show off new and improved genetics in seed plots, including new herbicide tolerances in cotton. Farmers also will hear about irrigation techniques, soybean research, issues facing the peanut industry and fertility.

Researchers and agricultural companies will address current issues like low commodity prices that are driving farmers to work for high yields with fewer inputs, weed management practices on a budget, and new herbicide technologies released for 2015. Static exhibits will also be set up for you to view the newest equipment and products new for 2015.

University of Georgia agronomist Stanley Culpepper will

present weed control research that is important for row-crop farmers looking to squeeze their input budgets. What they learn might convince them to invest in chemicals as they would any other year.

The day will start with registration at 7:15 a.m. and wrap up by noon – a quick pace designed to get busy farmers back to their fields.

Registration is free for anyone involved in agriculture and agribusiness and will be followed by a complimentary biscuit breakfast, exhibit viewing, and welcome from Georgia Department of Agriculture and Georgia Farm Bureau.

Trams will depart at 8 a.m. for the field demonstrations, which will conclude at noon with a barbecue lunch provided by Ameris Bank. Beginning at 12:30 p.m., Thrush

and Eagles Vista will showcase the latest aerial application equipment and methods at the runway for anyone who is interested. The Expo is located southeast of Moultrie, Ga., on Georgia Hwy. 133. For additional information on the field day, check the Expo Web site: www.sunbeltexpo.com, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, contact the Expo by e-mail at info@sunbeltexpo.com, or call 229-985-1968.

Portions Exerted from "Growing Georgia"

