

Volume 2, Issue 5

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## Georgia FFA Foundation

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## Sunbelt Ag Expo

The 35<sup>th</sup> Sunbelt Ag Expo will be held October 16-18 in Moultrie, Georgia. The Expo showcases the future of agriculture. Georgia FFA is represented at the Expo with a booth in the Titan/Goodyear Farm Tires space. Titan/Goodyear Farm Tires host two auctions each year during the Expo. All proceeds from the auctions benefit Georgia FFA through the Georgia FFA Foundation. Funds raised from the auctions provide awards and recognition for FFA members who excel in career development events (CDEs) and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs.



Titan has a heritage of over 100 years in the off-highway wheel manufacturing business. Titan is a leading global supplier of complete wheel and tire assemblies for off-highway vehicles. One of Titan's primary markets is agriculture. The Georgia FFA Foundation is grateful to Titan/Goodyear Farm Tires for their support of Georgia FFA!

## Georgia Agriculture Education Celebrates Farm to School

As Georgia students settle into the new school year, they're finding more local agriculture produce on their lunch trays, more nutrition and agriculture-related topics in their curriculum and more gardens in the schoolyard thanks, in part, to the "Farm to School" movement. Georgia FFA students, Baylee Brock and Megan Parker from Northwest Whitfield, Hunter Titus and Victoria Lopez representing Gladden Middle and Taylor Sills and Ben Gibson of Sonoraville High School celebrated national Farm to School month by setting up a Farmers Market in Atlanta's Twin Towers state government building, passing out student-grown cool season vegetables and sharing with the public their farm to school experiences.

Congress approved a resolution officially designating October as National Farm to School Month in November 2010. Farm to school programs now exist in many school districts in Georgia with more coming on board each month thanks to an effort being led by Georgia Organics, the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, Agriculture Education, Georgia Department of Public Health and others. This collaborative initiative resulted in more than 3 million school meals served last year featuring locally grown produce.



FFA Students and Agricultural Teachers display farm to school pilot programs produce in the lobby of the State Department of Education building

The "Farm to School" movement seeks to improve student nutrition, support small farms and local economies, and help students understand where their food comes from. School food service directors, teachers, farmers, parents, students and advocates are banding together to increase the presence of healthy, local foods in school lunchrooms and lesson plans.

Farm to School is getting a boost this year from the new USDA nutrition guidelines for school meal programs. Beginning this school year, the nearly 32 million children who participate in school meal programs will be served nearly twice the previous amount of fruits and vegetables each day.

## Farm to School continued

While schools operating Child Nutrition programs are not required to purchase locally grown and locally raised foods, they are allowed to use geographic preferences in the procurement bidding process for school meal programs.

Agriculture Education currently has 18 middle and high school farm to school pilot programs throughout North Georgia. The programs have been established with the goal of developing educational models and preparing lead teachers to serve as mentors in growing additional programs. The pilot programs include school gardens, lesson plans and labs that integrate academics with garden and vegetable produce activities, development of educational partnerships with local farmers and chefs, and community action greet and meet to link local farmers with school administrators and nutrition directors. If you would like to learn more about farm to school programs, please contact John 'Chip' Bridges, State Program Manager of Georgia Agriculture Education, [JBridges@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:JBridges@doe.k12.ga.us) and Erin Croom Georgia's Farm to School Director, [erin@georgiaorganics.org](mailto:erin@georgiaorganics.org).



## A Note from the North Region Director

### **North Region FFA Chapters Travel to Indianapolis for National Competitions**

Several FFA Chapters from all over North Region will be traveling to the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis to represent Georgia in National Career Development Events as well as the Proficiency Award Program and the National Agriscience Fair. We wish you the best of luck and appreciate your outstanding representation of North Region FFA.

### **Career Development Events:**

East Jackson High School – Agricultural Sales  
Franklin County High School – Dairy Evaluation  
Gordon Central High School – Livestock Evaluation  
North Murray High School – Parliamentary Procedure  
North Oconee High School – Nursery/Landscape  
Pepperell High School – Job Interview  
Sonoraville High School – Prepared Public Speaking  
White County High School – Agricultural Communications  
Farm Business Management  
Ag Marketing Plan

### **Proficiency Award National Finalists:**

Franklin County High School – Ansley Akin – Agricultural Sales  
Cole Roper – Goat Production  
Karlle Oliver – Landscape Management  
Candace Barnes – Poultry Production  
Jacob Trites – Turfgrass Management  
Jackson County High School – Steven Cooper – Diversified Agricultural Production  
Newton County High School – Josie Stamps – Equine Science  
Rabun County High School – Jennifer Mitcham – Food Science

### **National Agriscience Fair:**

Sonoraville High School	Hunter Pruitt Kevin and Lori Edwards Miranda Northrup
Franklin County Middle School	Dennis Barron and Memori Eavenson Samantha Neal and Caleb Phillips
Franklin County High School	Faith Toy April South Chloe Thomason Caleb Bond and Cole Roper

# North Region continued

## National Agriscience Fair:

Cedar Shoals High School  
Madison County High School

Katie Siemion and Kim McMahan  
Samantha Cofer and Sierra Goss  
Luke Frank and Aaron Hall

## 2011-2012 North Region Chapter of the Year Winners

Each year chapters across North Region compete for the coveted Chapter of the Year Banner. This recognition is awarded to a High School and Middle school in each area that excels in three basic components of the Chapter of the Year criteria:

1. Total number of students participating in *above the chapter level* FFA Activities
2. Total number of different individual students participating in *above the chapter level* FFA activities.
3. Total number of students placing in the top 1/3 and earning a Gold emblem in an *above the chapter level* FFA activity

Bonus points are also awarded for winning a State event and for competing in the National Chapter Award Program. Congratulations to the 2011-12 Chapter of the Year Winners:

### Area I

High School – North Murray. Advisor, David Bushey  
Middle School – Gladden Middle. Advisor, Sara Duckworth

### Area II

High School – Franklin County High School. Advisors, Gary Minyard, Cale Watkins, and Owen Thomason  
Middle School – Franklin County Middle. Advisor, Anna Watkins



Area I Middle School Chapter of the Year Gladden Middle



Area I High School Chapter of the Year North Murray High



Area II Middle School Chapter of the Year Franklin County Middle



Area II High School Chapter of the Year Franklin County High

## A Note from the South Region Director

### **South Region FFA Chapters Active This Fall**

Fall has been a busy time in the South Region. Our first rounds of FFA Career Development Events have been held, and several chapters have qualified to compete in the state finals for their respective events. The State Meats Evaluation CDE and the State Landjudging CDE will be held in Athens on November 10. The other state events for the fall CDEs will be held at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton on December 1. It is an awesome thing to witness hundreds of students exhibiting career and technical skills at these events. If you have not had the opportunity to participate with your local FFA chapter, I encourage you to do so. We are always glad to have CTAE directors and other administrators help by serving as judges or facilitators at these events. If you would like to help in this way, please contact me or any one of our area teachers.

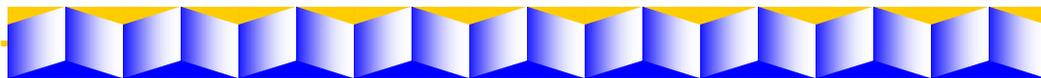
### **It's Not Too Late to Pursue Industry Certification**

Several agricultural education programs in South Georgia are in the process of pursuing industry certification. If your agricultural program is not currently industry certified, I encourage you to consider it. The Agricultural Education Industry Certification Guide can be found at [www.gaaged.org](http://www.gaaged.org) under the "industry certification" link. If you are ready to start the process, please call or email and our staff will be glad to assist you and your teachers in any way.

### **Professional Development Key to Strengthening Teachers and Programs**

As educators, we all know how important it is to be a life-long learner. Not only is education constantly evolving with new trends and methods, but industry is forever changing. Thankfully, high-quality professional development courses are available to help our teachers stay abreast of the latest ideas, trends, and techniques. Each year, the Georgia Agricultural Education state staff carefully plan and conduct a variety of staff development opportunities. These professional development courses cover a wide array of areas such as teaching technical skills, managing a successful FFA chapter, or supervising agricultural projects. Agriculture courses for FY13 are listed on the CTAERN website and courses for FY14 will be available soon.

Lynn Barber, Ed.D



## Regional Directors Contact Information



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“Making Agricultural Education Work for All Georgians”

## From the Agricultural Education Program Manager

Right now is one of the greatest moments in my career and one of the best parts of my job. I will soon have the privilege of watching our state winners compete during the 85th National FFA Convention. Each of them has worked hard to be named a state winner and have the distinct honor of representing our state at the National FFA Convention as a competitor.

Mr. Cain Thurmond, Southern Region Vice President from Jefferson Georgia will deliver his retiring address, "Home" during the National FFA Convention. He has traveled through the United States and abroad promoting Agricultural for the last twelve months.

In closing, I would like to extend a heart-felt THANK YOU to all CTAE administrators and the local school systems for the support that you continue to provide to the FFA students and Agricultural Education instructors. Your help and support at the regional, state, and national events has helped mold, shape, and make a positive difference in the lives of many of our future leaders.

Chip Bridges

