

## **UGA Extension Meriwether County ANR E-Newsletter**

### **December 2, 2016**

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### **SMALL RUMINANTS**

#### **December Dinner Meeting**

We will be having an informal meeting on Friday **December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM** at the Golden Corral in Newnan. If you are interested in learning about raising sheep and goats you are welcome to join us. This get together is a chance for producers to share stories, problems, concerns, and successes.

The Golden Corral is at 605 Bullsboro Drive (Hwy 34), just a couple blocks off I-85 in Newnan, GA.

#### **Future Programs**

**Levi Russell**, UGA Professor of Agricultural & Applied Economics, will be visiting us to talk about small ruminant marketing on February 21, 2017-time and place to still be determined.

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### **NRCS-EQUIP**

#### **DUE TO DROUGHT, USDA-NRCS ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) SIGN-UP EXTENSION IN GEORGIA**

The statewide sign up for fiscal year 2017 [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) has been extended through **December 16, 2016**. The sign-up period was supposed to close November 18<sup>th</sup>, so there is still time to get your application submitted if you ran out of time! **Remember you must have your property on file with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in order to qualify for any NRCS program.**

According to State Conservationist Terrance O. Rudolph those applicants in the worst impacted counties of Georgia (counties designated as “extreme drought” (D3) or “exceptional drought” (D4)) will be assigned the highest priority. Others in non D3 or D4 counties are still eligible to apply.

“Our farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are among the more than 8.3 million Georgians currently experiencing drought conditions of some kind. We want them to know that NRCS is prepared to assist those most affected, as much as we can,” said Rudolph. “I encourage producers to take this extra time to contact their field office staff and discuss if EQIP is right for them. Also, if they already have an application on file, to make sure it reflects all of their current needs.”

For more information on **EQIP** please visit:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ga/programs/financial/eqip/>

Or you can contact Rory Richardson, District Conservationist at 770-251-4283 or [rory.richardson@ga.usda.gov](mailto:rory.richardson@ga.usda.gov)

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## **FSA LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM**

There is also still time for farmers to file with **FSA** for the **Livestock Forage Program**. Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than **January 30, 2017** for 2016 losses. Producers with cash-leased land are required to provide written lease agreements from the land owner containing specific information on the rented land. In addition, grazing land for which benefits are requested under LFP are required to have been reported to the FSA office; if the land has not already been reported, a late-filed acreage report can be accepted but a "late-filing" fee will be assessed.

Please contact the Carrollton FSA office at 770-834-2097 for more information.

To receive email updates from FSA please visit:

[https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USFSA\\_15](https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USFSA_15)

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## **BACKYARD POULTRY**

### **Chicken Coops, Also Known as Poultry Housing Class**

Brian Maddy, ANR Agent in Troup County, has put together an awesome presentation on the design and construction of chicken coops for Tuesday evening, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Even if you already have poultry housing I highly recommend that you attend to make sure that it is adequate or to learn how it can be improved. And if you are just thinking about getting chickens, come learn how to get construction of your housing done right from the beginning. The location is still to be determined. There will be no cost.

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## **WEATHER**

So everyone should have gotten some rain this week. I've had reports of 2.1 to 3.3 inches total of rainfall for Tuesday and Wednesday. We experienced quite a range of temperatures this week from a low of 25°F to highs in the mid-70s. There was also a confirmed EF-1 tornado with 100 mph winds in the county around 2:30 Wednesday afternoon. This morning I found a heavy frost outside my Greenville office while the temperature when I left home in Manchester was a much warmer 38°F. Basically, we had a "normal" week of "winter" weather which seems to fluctuate much more than summer weather.

The USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub sent out a seasonal ENSO summary for winter 2106-2017 today. The expectation is that our winter will be warmer and drier than normal due to La Nina influence. There may be concerns about meeting chilling requirements again in 2017 for peaches. Cool season forage crops may be impacted by

low rainfall but hopefully not as severely as forages this past spring and summer. Bear in mind that we are in a weak La Nina situation so things could change.

Below are some definitions that might be helpful in understanding the terms used in forecasting the weather based on El Nino/La Nina. For even more information please visit:

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/ensostuff/ensofaq.shtml](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ensofaq.shtml)

ENSO stands for El Nino/ Southern Oscillation. The ENSO cycle refers to the coherent and sometimes very strong year-to-year variations in sea- surface temperatures, convective rainfall, surface air pressure, and atmospheric circulation that occur across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. El Nino and La Nina represent opposite extremes in the ENSO cycle.

El Nino refers to the above-average sea-surface temperatures that periodically develop across the east-central equatorial Pacific. It represents the warm phase of the ENSO cycle, and is sometimes referred to as a Pacific warm episode.

La Nina refers to the periodic cooling of sea-surface temperatures across the east-central equatorial Pacific. It represents the cold phase of the ENSO cycle, and is sometimes referred to as a Pacific cold episode.

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### **DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>. World Soil Day 2016**

In 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), made a resolution proposing the 5th of December as World Soil Day to celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to human wellbeing.

The FAO Conference, in June 2013, unanimously endorsed World Soil Day and requested official adoption at the 68th UN General Assembly. In December 2013, the 68th UN General Assembly declared 5th of December as the World Soil Day.

So what's so important about soil? The adopted resolution says it all pretty clearly:

Noting that soils constitute the foundation for agricultural development, essential ecosystem functions and food security and hence are the key to sustaining life on Earth

Recognizing that the sustainability of soils is key to addressing the pressures of a growing population and that recognition, advocacy and support for promoting sustainable management of soils can contribute to healthy soils and thus to a food secure world and to stable and sustainably used ecosystems

Our office hadn't planned any special event to celebrate "soils" but I hope everyone will take time to think about how their lives are impacted by soils and hopefully realize that it is a very important resource to be conserved, protected and even better, improved.

Protecting the soil, which is a major component of our environment, will be emphasized in the class (Pesticides in the Environment: Movement and Effects) that I will be teaching on the evening of Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The class was structured for commercial and private pesticide applicators to receive recertification credits but in the spirit of celebrating World Soil Day 2016 anyone is welcome to attend.

December 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:00 PM  
Greenville Public Library  
2323 Gilbert St, Greenville, GA 30222

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## **LOCAL MARKET**

### **Hudson Farm Peaches**

The Hudson Farm stand at the corner of Hwy 85 and Main Street in Woodbury has been taken over by reindeer. Charles and his crew are busy creating holiday cheer. I really appreciate all of the local materials that have gone into producing the reindeer but I especially love the antlers made from the branches of fig trees.

### **Strickland Brothers Farm**

An assortment of greens is for sale including **kale, arugula, collards, turnip greens, mustard greens, spinach** and **romaine lettuce** as well as daikon radish. You can contact Terry at 706-881-2414

**Fitzgerald Fruit Farms** on Imlac Road outside of Woodbury has started harvesting their fall producing **Albion strawberries**. They also have a variety of apples for sale. You can contact them at 706-553-2795 or visit [www.fitzgeraldfruitfarms.com](http://www.fitzgeraldfruitfarms.com)

**Frank Fowler** is selling pecans from his family's pecan orchards off Imlac Road. Frank takes exceptionable care of these trees, some of which his daddy planted 75+ years ago. I bought some and it is amazing how well they filled out considering the drought. Contact Frank at 678-967-1438.

The pecans are in the shell but you can get them cracked at the Chipley Food Co-op in Pine Mountain. They are charging 45¢ per pound. They are also selling shelled pecans for \$11.00/pound. The co-op is at 206 N. King Ave Pine Mountain, phone number is 706-457-1978. Their hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 1; Friday from 4 to 6 and Saturday from 8 to 1.

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Have a wonderful weekend,  
Susan