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**IRWIN COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWS - Vol. 5 Thu. Feb. 17, 2022**

**Phillip Edwards Irwin County Extension Coordinator**

*In this issue: Recent/Upcoming, Meetings/Events, Suspension of Certain Poultry and Feathered Fowl Activities, UGA Tifton Bull Sale, Better Beef Systems Extravaganza, Southern Ag Today, Should I Buy STAX, TM Hobbs and GA Peanut Achievement Club, Peanut Efficiency Award, Important Links and Information, Pruning Muscadines*

**Recent**



Extension Row Crop Disease and Nematode Meeting



4-H Shotgun Team Meeting



You'll have to look close - Sign of the times - sandhill cranes headed north



4-H Poultry Judging Team practices underway now

**Meetings/Events – Please call if you have any questions and to sign up for these meetings in BOLD – WATCH FOR UPDATES, ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS. All of the times are correct. Pesticide credits for meetings in BOLD.**

*We appreciate all of our sponsors of our meetings. So far this year we have received sponsorship for our Irwin County Extension Meetings from the following sponsors: **D and F Grain, Osceola Cotton Co. Farmers Quality Peanut, Chaney Bush Irrigation, Bayer, Corteva/Pioneer, Nutrien, Americot, Irwinville Ag Services, Plant Food Systems, Shann Peanut, and South Central Gin.** We will continue to recognize all of our sponsors and provide a complete listing of all of our sponsors in future newsletters and at our meetings and any other opportunities to recognize your contributions to our efforts to support agriculture. Your support is greatly appreciated.*

| <b>Meeting/Events</b>                          | <b>Date</b>                                  | <b>Location</b>                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Irwin County Junior Market Hog Show            | Tue Feb 22, 2022 5:30 pm                     | Gary Tankersley Livestock Pavilion    |
| Georgia Junior Livestock Show                  | Feb 23-26, 2022                              | GA Nat'l Fairgrounds Perry            |
| <b>Extension Cotton Meeting</b>                | <b>Mon. Feb. 28, 2022 8:30 am (New Time)</b> | <b>Morehead Country Store</b>         |
| Crop Insurance Deadline                        | Monday February 28, 2022                     |                                       |
| Tifton Bull Evaluation Sale                    | Wed Mar 2, 2022 12:30                        | UGA Bull Evaluation Center Irwinville |
| <b>Extension Pecan Meeting</b>                 | <b>Tue Mar 8, 2022 8:30 am (New Time)</b>    | <b>Morehead Country Store</b>         |
| USDA FSA ARC/PLC... Election Deadline for 2022 | March 15, 2022                               |                                       |
| Better Beef Systems Extravaganza               | Tue Apr 5, 2022 8:00 am                      | UGA Animal Science Farm Tifton        |

**Suspension of Certain Poultry and Feathered Fowl Activities – Georgia Department of Agriculture**

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been identified in commercial poultry operations and a backyard flock in Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia. There have been NO cases of avian influenza (AI) identified in commercial or domestic

poultry in the State of Georgia. Please see <https://bit.ly/3oVSJn4> for more information about HPAI detections in the United States.

Effective immediately all exhibitions, shows, sales (flea markets, auction markets), swaps, and meets pertaining to poultry and feathered fowl in the State of Georgia are suspended until further notice. Notifications will be announced when listed activities can resume in Georgia.

Good biosecurity practices are the best defense against AI infection and poultry producers must take the following measures to protect their flocks:

- Move all poultry with outside access indoors.
- Implement strict biosecurity.
- Monitor flocks for clinical signs consistent with AI.

o With HPAI, birds may become quiet, not eat and drink, have diarrhea, and have discolored combs and feet. Birds may also die suddenly with no signs of disease.

• Report any concerns to your Veterinarian, State Animal Health Official or Federal Animal Health Official immediately. AI is a reportable disease in Georgia. If you have concerns about AI in birds, call the Georgia Avian Influenza hotline at (770) 766-6850 or visit <https://bit.ly/3oyC8p9>.

Biosecurity and other resources:

GDA Avian Influenza Resource Page <https://bit.ly/34skUmA> Protect Your Flock (GDA) <https://bit.ly/3Jz9GMc> Defend the Flock - Resource Center (USDA APHIS) <https://bit.ly/3JxEI77>

### March 2, 2022 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Sale - Tifton Bull Evaluation Sale Catalog Online

See more information at Georgia Bull Evaluation Centers

<https://beef.caes.uga.edu/programs/georgia-bull-evaluation-centers.html>

Online catalog

[https://issuu.com/ugabullevaluation/docs/64\\_tifton\\_bull\\_catalog\\_web](https://issuu.com/ugabullevaluation/docs/64_tifton_bull_catalog_web)

**GEORGIA BULL TEST**  
Tifton

*64th Annual Sale*

**MARCH 2, 2022**  
UGA Bull Evaluation Center, Irwinville | 12:30 pm

Angus | Hereford | Salers | Simmental | SimAngus

Selling 80 Performance Tested Bulls **LiveAuctionsTV** 2.0 Genomic Enhanced & Parentage Verified

Catalog and Sale information:  
Dr. Francine Henry | [francine.henry@uga.edu](mailto:francine.henry@uga.edu) | 229-386-3328  
Grace Nyhuis | [gracen@uga.edu](mailto:gracen@uga.edu) | 229-386-3683  
Videos available prior to sale | [ugabeef.com](http://ugabeef.com)

## Better Beef Systems Extravaganza "A Beef and Forage Field Day"

Sponsored by the Georgia Commodity Commission for Beef

Event Date: Tuesday, April 5th, 2022 @ 8:00 a.m.

Location: UGA Animal Science Farm, Tifton

Online Registration at

[https://estore.uga.edu/C27063\\_ustores/web/store\\_main.jsp?STOREID=487&SINGLESTORE=true](https://estore.uga.edu/C27063_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=487&SINGLESTORE=true)

Topics Covered

- Sustainability in Beef Production Systems
- Feeding cattle in Georgia
- Alfalfa in the South
- Precision Agriculture in Hay Fields
- Bull Development
- Management Strategies
- And more!

The poster features a black and white photograph of a cow in a field. Text on the poster includes: "Better Beef Systems Extravaganza 'A Beef and Forage Field Day'", "G BEEF", "#BetterBeef #BetterGrazing #BetterBurps", "Tuesday, April 5, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.", "UGA Tifton Animal Science Farm", and a list of topics covered: "Sustainability in Beef Production Systems", "Feeding Cattle in GA", "Alfalfa in the South", "Precision Agriculture in Hay Fields", "Bull Development", "Management Strategies", and "And More!". It also states "Registration fee: \$20 (lunch and refreshments included)".

## Southern Ag Today

Extension economists from Southern Land Grant Universities launched a new effort of a newsletter, "Southern Ag Today." We publish the latest news in agriculture and specifically provide insight targeting southern agricultural producers. If you want to sign up for the Southern Ag Today, attached is the barcode for signing up.



Many of you have questions about ARC/PLC selection in row crop producers and its implications for crop insurance. Below is a publication from Dr. Fisher about his insight in ARC and PLC selection and crop insurance choices like STAX, SCO, and ECO.

*2022 Farm Safety Net Decisions For the 2022 crop year, producers will have several decisions to make over the next few months. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that producers will have until March 15, 2022, to make their Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) elections and enrollments for the 2022 crop year. In addition, many of the sales closing dates for crop insurance for spring-planted crops are rapidly approaching. For the ARC-County (ARC-CO) and PLC decision, the Agricultural &*

*Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University provides a decision tool to evaluate the trade-offs between the two programs on a crop-by-crop and farm-by-farm basis. AFPC also offers a spreadsheet calculator for producers who are considering ARC-Individual (ARC-IC). Given the current price outlook – where producers may expect to receive little (or no) assistance from ARC and PLC – it arguably makes the crop insurance coverage decisions even more important. To that end, we offer the following "rules of thumb" for you to consider as you make farm safety net decisions for the 2022 crop year:*

- *Similar to the 2021 crop year, ARC and PLC are less likely to pay. That's okay! Most producers tell us they would rather get their income from the market than the government anyway.*
- *Rather than focusing on expected ARC/PLC payments (when neither may trigger), consider instead where you are most vulnerable. Is it lower prices due to trade disruptions or slow economic recovery? Is it lower yields due to persistent drought?*
- *Talk to your crop insurance agent to make sure you've evaluated all yield enhancement options (e.g., Yield Exclusion) and unit structures.*
- *With current price elections on crop insurance, perhaps now is the time to focus more on adding area-wide tools like the Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) for upland cotton, the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), and the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO). o You can have STAX on a farm if the seed cotton base on the farm is not enrolled in ARC/PLC. o You can purchase SCO for a crop on a farm as long as it's not enrolled in ARC. o You can purchase ECO on the farm regardless of ARC/PLC enrollment.*
- *At a minimum, on farms with little (or no) seed cotton base, be sure to take a close look at area-wide policies like STAX.*
- *If your APH is relatively higher than the county average yields, then be sure to compare STAX against both SCO and ECO. Because of the 10% limitation in ARC, you may find SCO to be a more attractive alternative (and PLC can be utilized as well, providing some downside price protection, even if you do not expect to need it).*

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## Should I Buy STAX - Southern Ag Today Recent Email

I shared the link for Southern Ag Today above and signed up a few weeks ago and here is the link

<https://southernagtoday.uada.edu/the-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-could-offer-new-information-to-sdfrs-in-rural-america/> and their most recent article is below

*As we've traveled throughout the Southern United States over the past two months, one of the questions we've most often been asked is whether a producer should purchase a Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) insurance policy for the 2022 crop year. While we would never presume to know what's best for a producer – because we are neither on the hook for paying the premiums nor do we know a particular producer's financial situation or appetite for risk – we have been encouraging producers to take a very close look at STAX and to exhaust that option before considering any other alternatives. Generally speaking, area-wide policies like STAX can serve as an effective complement to an individual crop insurance policy. With prices at their current levels, that option arguably becomes even more important.*

*STAX was first authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill. It was retained in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and the 2018 Farm Bill, but both bills required producers to choose between (1) Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and (2) STAX. Any farm (FSA Farm Number) with seed cotton base enrolled in ARC or PLC is ineligible for STAX. As a result, most producers we talk to are currently trying to choose between ARC (particularly ARC County, or ARC-CO) and STAX.*

*While there are a number of factors that must be taken into consideration – for example, how much seed cotton base do you have on your farm and do you plan to plant that farm to cotton – in the example that follows we attempt to draw some comparisons between ARC-CO and STAX. For those parts of the cotton belt with February 28<sup>th</sup> sales closing dates (including the Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi counties in the example below), the projected price for crop insurance has been set at \$1.02/lb with a 0.22 volatility factor (which is used to establish crop insurance premiums). While the Texas and Oklahoma counties have a March 15<sup>th</sup> sales closing date and are still undergoing price discovery, the analysis that follows uses the same price assumptions. The analysis also assumes that the maximum amount of STAX is being purchased, including a 20% coverage level with a 120% protection factor. If a producer has an underlying crop insurance coverage level above 70%, then the STAX coverage would be reduced.*

*Table 1 below illustrates the maximum possible ARC-CO payment rate in the event of sufficient price and/or yield losses. It illustrates the same for STAX, but it also includes the estimated premiums paid for STAX coverage. The last column compares maximum possible net indemnities from STAX to the maximum possible ARC-CO payments. As noted below, in every case, STAX provides more than TWICE the coverage of ARC-CO (even after accounting for premiums). Naturally, if both prices and yields end up hitting their average levels, then neither ARC-CO nor STAX will pay, and the producer will be left paying the STAX premium. As a result, there is no clear-cut answer to the question above, but it is abundantly clear that the amount of protection a producer can secure under STAX vastly exceeds that offered by ARC-CO. Finally, while we provide estimates in this article for purposes of illustrating options for you to consider, nothing can substitute for discussing these options with your crop insurance agent.*

**Table 1: Comparing ARC-CO and STAX in the Counties with the Largest Number of Planted Acres in the 5 Largest Southern Cotton States**

| State       | County      | Practice | Possible ARC Payment | Maximum Possible Indemnity* | Producer-Paid Premium | Maximum Possible Net Indemnity* | Ratio: STAX-to-ARC |
|-------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Arkansas    | Mississippi | IRR      | \$107                | \$282                       | \$18                  | \$264                           | 2.47               |
| Arkansas    | Mississippi | DRY      | \$88                 | \$234                       | \$17                  | \$217                           | 2.46               |
| Georgia     | Dooly       | IRR      | \$105                | \$312                       | \$19                  | \$293                           | 2.78               |
| Georgia     | Dooly       | DRY      | \$67                 | \$183                       | \$17                  | \$166                           | 2.50               |
| Mississippi | Coahoma     | IRR      | \$108                | \$316                       | \$19                  | \$297                           | 2.76               |
| Mississippi | Coahoma     | DRY      | \$97                 | \$271                       | \$17                  | \$254                           | 2.62               |
| Oklahoma    | Jackson     | IRR      | \$126                | \$337                       | \$57                  | \$280                           | 2.22               |
| Oklahoma    | Jackson     | DRY      | \$42                 | \$104                       | \$14                  | \$90                            | 2.16               |
| Texas       | Lynn        | IRR      | \$77                 | \$224                       | \$19                  | \$205                           | 2.67               |
| Texas       | Lynn        | DRY      | \$23                 | \$60                        | \$8                   | \$52                            | 2.26               |

*\*The maximum possible [net] indemnity can go up if harvest price exceeds the price at planting. There is no additional premium paid by the producer in that case.*

### **TM Hobbs Irwin County High Peanut Yield Award and Georgia Peanut Achievement Club**

There are two awards the TM Hobbs Irwin County High Yield Peanut Award and the Georgia Peanut Achievement Club Award and our peanut farmers are encouraged to apply. Peanut farmers please take a look at your peanut total acres, total yield and begin getting this information together. We are early in this process but we will be ready to get to work assisting you with these applications. Please consider applying for the GA Peanut Achievement Club. From these award applications we will also recognize the high winner in the county and they will be named the TM Hobbs High Yield Peanut Award winner. There is no acre requirement for the TM Hobbs Award. You will need to have a copy of the FSA 578 form showing all your peanut acres and also get all of your weight tickets. Come to our office and we will assist you with this application. Fifteen winners will be chosen for the GA Peanut Achievement Club. One statewide winner in each of the three acreage categories (100-299.9 acres), 300-699.9 acres), and (700 or more acres). There will also be one district winner from each of the four districts in each of these categories (100-299.9 acres), 300-699.9 acres), and (700 or more acres). In the first two categories, you need to average 4000 pounds per acre or more. If you are in the third category (700 acres and above) you will need to average 3500 pounds per acre or more. Take a look at your total acres, yield, and please consider applying. We have had numerous winners from Irwin County in years past. Our most recent winners of this award were Chip Dorminy and Bucky Tyler.



### **Farm Press Peanut Efficiency Award**

Peanut growers who consistently produce high-yielding, high-quality crops are deserving of special recognition. Farm Press, in cooperation with the Southern Peanut Growers Conference, has established the Peanut Efficiency Award. Farm Press will present Peanut Efficiency Awards to growers in three major U.S. peanut producing regions. Awards will be based on production efficiency, honoring those growers who produce the highest yields at the lowest cost per acre. Four regional winners are honored and if you're interested you will be in the Lower Southeast Region. Armond Morris was the regional recipient of this award in 2021.

### **Important Links and Information**

- 2022 UGA Corn Production Guide (NEW) <https://grains.caes.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-subsite/grains/docs/corn/2022-Corn-Production-Guide.pdf>
- See link for 2022 crop budget information - <https://agecon.uga.edu/extension/budgets.html>
- UGA Statewide Variety Trial Link <https://swvt.uga.edu/>
- UGA Irwin County Extension Webpage <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/irwin.html>
- Irwin County Extension Agriculture Newsletters – you can find all of our past newsletters by clicking on the link below. <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/irwin/agriculture-and-natural-resources/newsletters.html>
- Check your Georgia Private and Commercial Pesticide License credits here <https://agr.georgia.gov/pesticides.aspx>
- Georgia Forages YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL6DgfaB8V2DRnGxzEBxU3w>

### **Pruning Muscadines**

**Here is the link for our home garden muscadine** [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20949\\_8.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20949_8.PDF)

*Since muscadine fruit are borne on new shoots arising from last year's growth, you should prune back the canes that grew the previous year, leaving about 3 inches of growth to form spurs. Prune in February or early March. Don't be alarmed if the vines "bleed" at pruning cuts. Bleeding does not harm the vines.*

*When you leave too many buds on the vine, the plant over produces and fruit are poor. After three or four years of production, you will need to remove every other spur cluster to prevent overcrowding. Try to leave spurs that are on the top of the arms (see picture). It is a good idea to remove old fruit stems since they are a source of disease.*

*Remove tendrils that wrap around the arms or spurs. (Tendrils are finger-like plant parts muscadines use to attach themselves to their supporting structure.) If tendrils are not removed, they will girdle the arms or spurs and cause reduced production. Remove old fruit stems if fruit rots are a problem since the disease may overwinter in the old stems.*

*"You can prune muscadines anytime they're dormant," he said. "But in late winter the vines are less likely to be cold-damaged after you prune."*

Gerard Krewer former UGA Extension Horticulture Specialist shared the following in a UGA Newswire many years ago but it is still relevant. Muscadines, produce most of their flower-bearing shoots from the lower part of the previous year's growth. So, the lower section -- the first two to four buds -- of that part of the vine that grew during last year will wind up growing the shoots and blooms and, ultimately, the grapes of this year.

That's how you prune your muscadines. The part of the vine that grew after those first two to four buds of the previous year is unneeded growth. Cut that off.

Start at the tip of each shoot, and follow it back to the first raised bump on the stem, the "collar" that marks where last year's growth began. That should be anywhere from six inches to five feet from the tip.

When you come to the "collar" where the last year's growth begins, back up to the second to fourth bud and make your pruning cut. The vines may "bleed," or ooze sap. But that won't harm the plants.

Pruning will keep your vines from getting unmanageably tangled over the years. Perhaps more important, it will also assure you of more reliable crops of grapes.

If you let muscadines go unpruned, they tend to produce too heavily, which leads into alternate bearing. That becomes a feast-or-famine kind of production.

If you've let your muscadines go unpruned long enough that they're a tangled mess already, consider cutting them back to the original cane running down the wire.

If you do that, though, you won't have grapes this year, since this year's grapes will grow only on shoots that emerge from the previous year's buds.

Unless you're willing to almost forgo a crop next year, I would suggest pruning one side back to the original cane and the other side back to the bottom two to four buds of last year's growth.

Then the following winter you can do the reverse. Severely prune the other side. In that way you'll have grapes each year and still be able to clean up your vines by next winter.

On overgrown arbors, where you have seven or eight major canes, you might want to take out one or two large canes each year. That way you can completely renovate the arbor in a few years.

Each year, be sure to cut the previous season's growth back to two to four buds. That will keep the arbor from becoming overgrown again.

*As always for more information contact your Irwin County Extension Office.*

*Thank You, God Bless You,  
Phillip Edwards - Irwin County Agent*



*The mention of trade names in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Georgia Extension Service, nor criticism of similar ones not mentioned.*

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The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating, The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or protected veteran status." An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.*