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**IRWIN COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWS - Vol. 6 Tue. Feb. 22, 2022**

**Phillip Edwards Irwin County Extension Coordinator**

*In this issue: Recent/Upcoming, Meetings/Events, Suspension of Certain Poultry and Feathered Fowl Activities, USDA FSA Webinar, UGA Beef Short Course, 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*

**Recent**



*Irwin County Junior Market Hog Show Weigh-In*



*Thankful for the rain on Friday*

*Thank You to our Meeting 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.*

**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.**

<b>Meeting/Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Irwin County Junior Market Hog Show	Tue Feb 22, 2022 5:00 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 Beef Cattle Short Course	Tue Mar 1, 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.



Tifton Beef Cattle Short Course March 1) and 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Sale March 2, 2022

*Tifton Beef Cattle Short Course*  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022**  
 UGA BULL EVALUATION CENTER, IRWINVILLE, GA

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION** **G BEEF**

8:30-9:30 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>
9:30 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b>
9:45 a.m.	<b>Managing Forage Input Costs in a Challenging Year</b> Lisa Baxter, Ph.D. UGA Crop & Soil Science
10:30 a.m.	<b>Break (Visit with Sponsors)</b>
10:45 a.m.	<b>Beef Cattle Market Outlook</b> Chris Prevatt, UF, State Specialized Extension Agent II
11:30 a.m.	<b>Lunch (Visit with Sponsors)</b> Lunch Sponsored by Zoetis & Multi-Kare
12:30 p.m.	<b>Genomics for the Commercial Beef Herd</b> Troy Rowan Ph.D., UT Dept. of Animal Science
1:15 p.m.	<b>Another Tool in the Heifer Selection Toolbox</b> Mary Ellen Hicks, DVM, ABAC School of Ag & Natural Resources
2:00 p.m.	<b>Break (Visit with Sponsors)</b>
2:15 p.m.	<b>Recent developments in estrus synchronization</b> Pedro Fontes, Ph.D., UGA Animal & Dairy Science
2:45 p.m.	<b>Demo: Latest Technologies in pregnancy detection</b> Pedro Fontes, Ph.D., UGA Animal & Dairy Science Francine Henry, Ph.D., UGA Animal & Dairy Science
3:15 p.m.	<b>Georgia Cattlemen's Update</b> Dale Sandlin, GCA, Executive Vice President
3:30 p.m.	<b>Wrap up, Door Prizes &amp; Preview the Bulls</b>

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**Mail Registration and \$35 Payment to:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tifton Beef Cattle Short Course  
 2360 Rainwater Rd  
 Tifton, GA 31793  
 229-386-3683  
 \*Free UGA Beef Hat if pre-registered by 2/22/2022  
 \*Student cost is \$10 to cover lunch  
**Make checks payable to:** UGA/GCA Short Course  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**GEORGIA BULL TEST**  *64th Annual Sale*  
 Tifton



**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 | 229-386-3328  
 Grace Nyhuis | gracen@uga.edu | 229-386-3683  
 Videos available prior to sale | ugabeef.com

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)

**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.

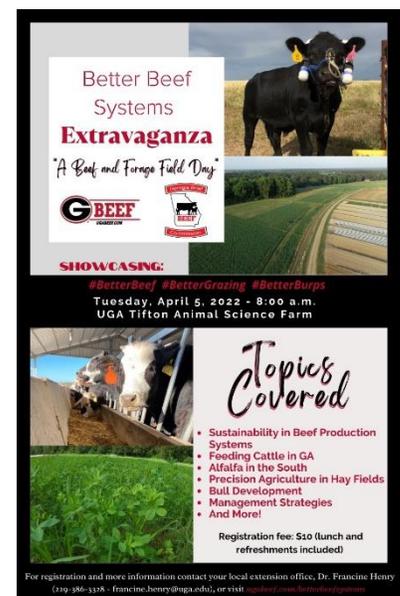
Location: UGA Animal Science Farm, Tifton

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!



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

**G BEEF**

**SHOWCASING:**  
 #BetterBeef #BetterGrazing #BetterBurps  
 Tuesday, April 5, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.  
 UGA Tifton Animal Science Farm

**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 More!

Registration fee: \$10 (lunch and refreshments included)

For registration and more information contact your local extension office, Dr. Francine Henry (229-386-3328 - francine.henry@uga.edu), or visit [estore.uga.edu/C27063](https://estore.uga.edu/C27063)

## 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).*

*Bart Fischer Agricultural & Food Policy Center Texas A&M University [bartfischer@tamu.edu](mailto:bartfischer@tamu.edu) Marc Raulston Texas A&M AgriLife Research [marcraulston@tamu.edu](mailto:marcraulston@tamu.edu)*

## 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 15th 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>

*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.*

*COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, WARNELL SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENCES  
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.*