



April 2019

University of Georgia

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Special points of interest:

- Vidalia Onions
- Cattle Corner
- Fire Ants
- Upcoming Programs

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Georgia Sweet Vidalia Onions

It's that time of year again here in Georgia, it's onion season! There aren't many folks here in the state of Georgia that have not enjoyed a Sweet Vidalia Onion. Did you know that the original farmers of the Vidalia onion were not expecting a sweet tasting vegetable, but a hot one?

During the time of the Great Depression, farmers grew everything they could here in Georgia, from corn to cotton. They had high hopes that the sandy soils would make the onions an immediate money maker, but to their dismay, that was not the case.

Fortunately, the state had just built a farmers market in the area, located at the hub of many major roads. Word started to spread of "those sweet onions from

Vidalia" throughout the state. Soon, people started requesting that family and friends bring some of the non-traditional tasting onions whenever they visited, and local businesses even started to give them as gifts to their clients.

A major chain grocery store, Piggly Wiggly, was headquartered in Vidalia at that time. Recognizing the potential of the produce, the men who ran the store helped farmers all over the area get their produce on the store shelves.

In 1990, the Vidalia sweet onion was declared the official state vegetable. By the 2000's about 12,000 acres were planted annually, with an average annual farmgate value of \$150 million. Now Vidalia onions are available in all 50 states and in most of Canada.



Vidalia Onion Harvest; Photo by Stephen Morton

Southeastern Hay Contest

Time to start thinking about pulling samples for the ***Southeastern Hay Contest***.

Samples submitted to the SE Hay Contest must be pulled with the County Extension Agent Present.

Please call the Upson or Lamar County Extension offices to set up a time to get your samples pulled.

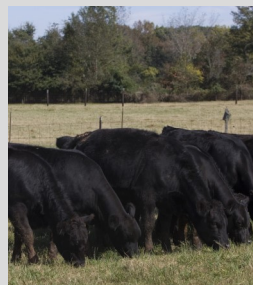
It costs \$25 to submit each sample into the contest. That covers contest registration, as well as postage.

The description of the hay contest can be found at the link provided.

If you have any questions feel free to call one of the Extension Offices, or email Hailey Robinson.

Contact Information:
Upson (706)647-8989
Lamar (770)358-5163
hrobinson@uga.edu

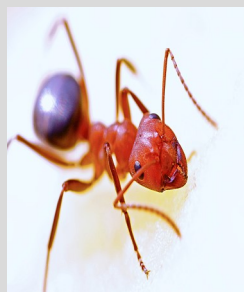
Contest Link:
<https://site.caes.uga.edu/sehaycontest/>



Extension Beef Cattle Replacement Heifers;
Photo by John Amis

“The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.”

—Masanobu Fukuoka



Fire Ant;
Photo by Dr. Freccia

Cattle Corner

Georgia HERD program is over fifteen years old. HERD stands for heifer evaluation and reproductive development.

The program is a cattle producer consignment test where heifers are delivered to the UGA farm in Floyd County each fall with the program concluding in May. During the process, heifers are developed and evaluated on numerous reproductive traits with a goal of a confirmed bred heifer in the spring. A producer has the option of taking his heifer

consignments back home or having them sold in our annual sale.

Why should a cattle producer consider entering heifers to the HERD program? First, it is a great way to gather data on heifers you are raising in an evaluation process. You can take the data and compare it to heifers that other cattle producers are raising. Second, instead of you taking the time to raise your own heifers on your farm, you can let someone else handle that for you for approximately six months.

The fee you will be charged for this service can be cheaper than you can do it on your own farm. A third reason is the opportunity to market your bred heifers through our annual sale which will on May 29th, 2019 at the NW Georgia Livestock Pavilion in Calhoun, GA.

Think you might be interested next year? Contact the Upson County Extension office and they will get you into contact with the HERD program manager.

Fire Ants

Fire ant research is not a hot topic in the scientific community because effective control products are available, but management of this pest remains an ongoing issue, according to Will Hudson, University of Georgia entomology professor. Lately, fire ant mounds have been popping up in pastures and in rows along roadsides. Hudson said that a few days of warm weather, followed by rain, make the right conditions for the ants to begin stirring.

“They are active during warm spells all winter long,” he said. “If we have another cold spell, they will just stay in the ground. Any pest that can get inside a structure or go underground can survive year-round in Georgia.”

Hudson says homeowners can “get by” treating for fire ants twice a year. Bait treatment should be applied in southern and central Georgia in April and October to eliminate existing colonies and their mounds, but

reinvasion can occur any time, he said. Four to six months later, the mounds will reappear, which means homeowners should treat for the pests twice a year, about six months apart.

“Fire ant bait has to be put out when the ants are actively foraging,” Hudson said. Put bait near the base of the mound, not directly on top. If applied on top, the ants will go into defense mode and will not forage the bait.

Upcoming Events

Vidalia Onion Fundraisers April 12 and 17, 2019 Please contact Upson or Lamar Extension if interested in participating in the Fundraiser.

(10lb bag for \$10)

Food 4 Thought April 16, 2019 at 6pm. The topic will be Toxic Weed ID, Symptoms and Control. Cost is \$10. Pesticide credit available (Private, Com 21 and 24). Please RSVP by April 12, 2019 to the Upson Extension Office.

(706)647-8989

Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Association Membership Meeting May 9, 2019 at 7pm. The May meeting will be held in Lamar County at Rolling R Ranch. Please RSVP on the MGCA website.

<http://mgcaonline.com/>

Monroe County HERD Bred Cow Sale May 11, 2019 Please contact Monroe County Extension if interested.

(478)994-7014 or
uge2207@uga.edu

Lunch 'N Learn May 13, 2019 at 10:30a-12:30p. Location is Barnesville-Lamar Library. Cost \$10. Topic will be Pollinators. Please RSVP by May 10, 2019 to the Lamar County Extension Office.

(770)358-5163

Extension Holiday DIY (Summer) May 31, 2019 at 3p. Location is Upson County Extension Office. Cost \$15. Please RSVP by May 24, 2019 to the Upson Extension Office.

(706)647-8989

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 ———— Cattlemen's Convention/Beef Expo ————	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Lamar 4H Onion Sales Fundraiser	13
14	15	16 F4T *Pesticide* (Upson)	17 Upson 4H Onion Sales Fundraiser	18 Small Veg Garden Work- shop (Griffin)	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 MGCA Membership Meeting (Lamar)	10	11 15th Monroe HERD Sale
12	13 Lunch 'N Learn 10:30a-12:30p (Lamar)	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Calhoun HERD Sale	30	31 Extension Holiday DIY Summer (Upson)	

Upson/Lamar Extension
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What is UGA Extension?

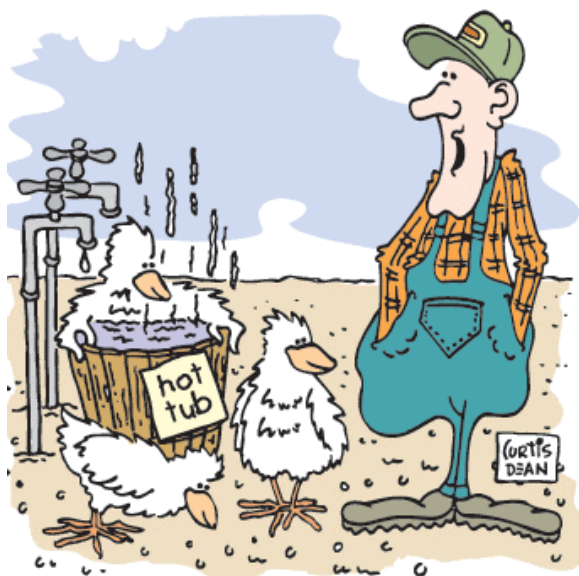
Through county offices throughout the state, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension offers reliable information and programs in the areas of agriculture, food, families, the environment and 4-H youth development. Let us help you learn, grow and do more!

<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/upson.html>
or
<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/lamar.html>

An equal opportunity/affirmative action institution

Follow us on Facebook!!! <https://www.facebook.com/upsonlamarextension/>

AG Comic of the Month



"Okay, which one of you has been laying the hard boiled eggs?"