Cooking Up Inspiration with Local Foods

High school students from across the state met in Montgomery to show off their culinary skills at the second annual Junior Chef Competition. Selma High School’s Bleu Diamond Academy chefs took home the coveted first place wooden spoon plaque again this year.

The goal of this competition is to inspire students from across the southeast region to be involved in creating healthier eating habits that will improve their health now and in the future. In addition, this competition aims to provide nutrition education, and stimulate interest in locally produced agriculture in Child Nutrition Programs, and ultimately increase consumption of healthier products in school cafeteria meals.

To qualify, students were required to meet school lunch program nutrition standards, incorporate at least two local ingredients, include one USDA food commodity, and “cook up” a recipe replicable by school nutrition professionals. The final plates were evaluated by professional chef judges.

Sullivan University, a renowned culinary school, provided scholarship funds to the program for first, second and third place winners ranging from $6,000 to $16,000 for the project “Improving Hydroponic Lettuce,” received a 2018 Specialty Crop Block Grant and is being conducted at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s Ornamental Horticulture Research Center in Mobile.

Specialty crops are defined by USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture (including maple syrup and honey) and nursery crops (including floriculture). Commodity groups, agricultural organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities, state agencies and agricultural nonprofits are all eligible for this grant program, provided their proposals meet all the program specifications.

ADAI and a review committee of industry representatives will make application evaluation reviews and award recommendations to USDA. USDA has final approval for projects submitted. The specialty crops block grant is a competitive grant process. The maximum award to any applicant is $25,000; the minimum, $5,000.

“Specialty crops play a significant role in Alabama agriculture as they meet marketplace demand for locally grown products,” said Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries Rick Pate. “The department looks forward to implementing the USDA

ADAI ACCEPTING SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) will accept specialty crop block grant applications through April 18, at 5 p.m. CST. These grants, made possible through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), are for projects that enhance the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops in foreign and domestic markets.

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CATTLE

All livestock listings must be from bona fide livestock farmers. Nolo coe from livestock dealers, order buyers or persons selling on commission may not be accepted. Contact info:

Cattle 18 months and older must be officially identified at change of ownership. For more information about obtaining official tags, contact the State Veterinarian's Office at 334-240-7253. Animals sold must be in good health.

Gentle polled Santa Gertrudis yearling bulls $1,500, reg., deep red, SF stay fertile in heat, free wallow, $150/ac. Located on the Tallapoosa River at Evans Bridge. Gordon Norton 205/541-7205 (Blount)

CATTLE

Randy Cline 205/393-4470 (Clarke)

Reg. Black Baldy Simmental & Sim-Angus bulls, heifers & cows, grass raised, $1,500-$2,000. LaTricia Isbell 256/366-3347 (Calhoun)

Seven ½ Brahman heifers 12-19 mos. of beautiful Brahman bull, Jersey X cows & purebred Angus @ $2,000,000,000, @ 334/847-7075 (Chambers)

CATTLE

Reg. Angus bull, 3 yr, great for heifers, LBW & high milk EPD's, $1,800. Barry Ferreira 205/275-6522 (Clinton)

Reg. Simmental bulls, 16-19 mos., black, blaze-faced, docile, hand-fed, for EPD's, Bull/Test Winner 5 1/2 years, $2,000,000,000, good selection. Chester Hills 4925 Crawford Rd., Springville 35166 256/440-1918 (St. Clair)


Reg. Angus bull, 2 reg., 3 p., 1 Red Angus p., 14 to 18 mos. ready to go to work, all are AI sired, $1,700 to $1,800. Charlie DaleJones 3561 Hindman Rd., Fayetteville 35566 256/392-3416 (Fayette)

5 purebred Angus heifers, 7 mos., half sisters, sire Upchurch net return son, $850 to $1,000. Katherine Griffin 256/389-3764 (Cahouch)

REG A V AIlAB LE

For SAle

Kale Hembree 256/507-2795 (Cullman)

Peacocks, 2015-2018 hatch, $125/up. 334/321-4145 (Chambers)

BREEDERS

2 bath brick ranch home, $235,000. Call 879/207-7200 (Blount)

205/541-7205 (Blount)

BARRED BEEF

This year, AI sired, dams AI sired, exc. ttle, hand fed, good bloodlines, 16 mos.-28 9 Black, polled, Sim-Angus bulls, very gen-

Black Angus bulls, great disposition, LBW, great health & frost tolerance, $2,500. Red Lilly Farm 4525 P Countryside Rd., Fort Payne 35967 256/677-8628 (Jefferson)

Black Angus cross Gelbvieh x 2 yrs. LBW, meaty & gentle, has already bred a few heifers, exc. bloodlines, $2,250. Claude Lipscomb, blackbuckbluequarters.com 256/950-3630 (Baldwin)

For the 2019 U-Pick Directory in the May issue.


Barbed wire, net wire, high tension & bale rail fencing, free quotes, work guaranteed. Kale Hembree 256/307-2756 (Cullman)

HR-102 ac. 9.22 ac., near Clinton, 2 miles to Lake Mitchell, full open pasture, creek, furnished 2 BR, 1BA, trailer, 3240 metal building, tractor 45 hp, shooting house, lots deer & turkey, $47,900. 205/379-8716 (Chilton)

125.9 ac. as close, year-round stream, 3 BR brick house, 2 baths, central heat & AC, fireplace, storm shelter, fenced yard, outbuildings, off Hwy 191, south of Centreville, $104,970. 205/506-6347 (Perry)

Beautiful family farm in Calhoun County, 146 ac., nice house, large barns, outbuildings, fences, half open, half bison, good hunting, $365,000, serious buyers only. Donald Byblay 191 Gray Cir., Winfield 35959 205/482-6922 (Lamar)

170.6 ac. 2 pastures, 10 ac. of newly planted longleaf pines; 80 ac. good timber & food plots, might sell parcels separately, $410,000, 256/314-1145 (Lauderdale)

340 ac. with house, barn, 3 ac. pond, fenced & cross-fenced, natural spring, deep well for watering cattle, 100 yo hardwoods, good hunting & fishing, 1 mile off Hwy 77 in Talbot County, $97,900. Gary Singleton 202 Mayfield Rd., Lincoln 36864-3940 (Talbot)

30 ac. of lower black tail 2 x 2, good hunting & fishing, 1 mile off Hwy 37, $175,000. Daniel Price 4898 PeacocK Rd., Center 36015 334/321-4145 (Chambers)

205/540-3071 (Cullman)

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Tilapia $6/lb. plus delivery fee; Floating Creek Rd., Goodwater 35072 256/223-9511 (Blount)

Amy Belcher             Erica J. West           Anita Miller

J. Hudson Loften 334/219-4154 (Chambers)

205/972-8686 (Montgomery)

Albert Lee, good selection, 3 yr & 4 yr, bred heifers, LBW, $100,000-$1,000,000. Richard Bright 8100 Geradale Rd., Trussville 35717 205/665-7882 (Jefferson)

Breeder: Send address changes to AFCB, P.O. Box 3336, Montgomery, AL 36109-3036, Phone: 240-321-0756 or 240-374-6428 (Lee)

ABALA MA FARMERS AND CONSUMERS BULLETIN

简单地填写表格并将其与Alabama Farmers and Consumers Bulletin一起邮寄。

Barbecued chicken, large 2 x 2, $2 bath ranch home, $225,000. Call 879/207-7200 (Blount)

Several millimeters away from the capsule, a 13-day-old embryo was transferred to a recipient animal. The use of these embryos will help to reduce the number of fertile cows needed to produce a large number of offspring. It will also help to reduce the number of unnecessary pregnancies that are occurring in cattle herds. The use of this technology will allow farmers to maximize their profits and reduce the environmental impact of their operations.

On this page, you will find several options for additional reading material. These include articles on the benefits of genetic selection in beef cattle, the importance of proper health care for dairy cattle, and the latest research on the impact of climate change on livestock husbandry. There are also several advertisements for livestock products and services, including heifers, bulls, and other breeding stock.

The bulletin also includes information on the latest news in the agriculture and livestock industries, including updates on the latest developments in animal health, genetics, and management practices. Additionally, there are articles on the impact of recent weather events on livestock production, and the latest research on the benefits of sustainable farming practices.

Overall, this issue of the Alabama Farmers and Consumers Bulletin provides valuable information for farmers and anyone interested in the livestock industry. Whether you are a farmer, a veterinarian, or simply a consumer of meat and dairy products, this bulletin is an excellent resource for staying informed on the latest developments in the field.
MACHINERY

2018 First cutting mixed hay CP 9.8%, TDN 53%, Nitrates (ppm) 201, no rain, net wrap, in bales, 1,000+ lbs roll, $420/bale, delivery extra, 205/234-7018 (Pickens)

54' x 48' x 11' Midstate, $3,000, 2 sets of tires, 4240 hrs, John Deere tractor, 85 hp, $2,700; 3440 hrs, John Deere 5200, 2,900 ac, $10,200. Gary E. Sewell 334/714-1093 (Coffee)

2/7/19, tris $450, exc. Quality, 20 years raising them. Kerry & Lamar Waters, Enter- prise 334/391-4693 (Elmore)


Manure spreader, 1991 IC 1034, $12,000. 256/239-1040 (Blount)

Hay loader, New Holland model 1103, pull behind tractor to load 70 sq. bales, 4x4, 200. 251/979-9826 or 251/979-7718 (Sauter).

JD 1041 baler, needs knower work, $350 OBO 2 sections of spike tooth harrow $100 ea. Rodger Sherman 2762 North- cutt Ln., Robertsdale 36567 251/979-9826 (Baldwin)

H 18 foot (4+14) bale elevator complete w/motor, $600, used very little, bought from ASC. Rodger Sherman 2762 Northwest- cutt Ln., Robertsdale 36567 251/979-9826 (Baldwin)

JD 2320 diesel tractor w/quick attach loader, bucket, spear, roll bar, remotes, 8 speed transmission whist-Whu, locks & runs great, $8,200. 7211 Hwy 9, Anniston 36207 205/392-5906 (Calhoun)

JD 250 JD diesel tractor w/quick attach loader, bucket & spear, hay tedder, $12,500. 11095 Choctocoola Rd., Anniston 36207 205/392-5906 (Calhoun)
 увелиренный текст
GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ADS

Following are the guidelines for advertising in the classified section of the Alabama Farmers and Consumers Bulletin. Adherence to these rules will ensure quick processing of ads. All ads that do not meet the following guidelines will not be published.

1. Only those ads which pertain to agricultural or forestry products and to those items employed in the actual growth, harvesting and disposal of such products will be accepted.

2. Ads should be typed or printed. Those ads that are not legible will not be published.

3. Ads must be limited to 20 words. This does not include name, address or phone number.

4. Ads must include name, address, city, zip code, area code/phone number and county, no “Farm Names or Work Names/Addresses.” Only two phone numbers will be listed. Due to the number of character spaces required for most e-mail addresses, an advertiser must select either a resident address or an E-mail address. Both cannot be printed.

5. Only paid subscribers are permitted to advertise in the Bulletin.

6. Paid subscribers can submit more than one advertisement per category per month but each advertisement is still limited to 20 words.

7. Ads for the classification section will not be accepted from dealers, merchants or commercial establishments.

8. Ads received by fax or e-mail must be received by 5 p.m. on the 10th day of the month and ads received by regular mail must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on the 12th day of the month in order to appear in the following month’s issue. The e-mail address is afcb@agi.alabama.gov and the fax number is 334/240-7169.

9. Ads which are to be repeated must be submitted for each issue.

10. Land advertised/wanted must be minimum of 10 acres or more. Ads will not be accepted from dealers or persons selling land as a business. Advertisements should reflect the conditions of the land/farm.

11. Only livestock (herding/working) dogs will be published in the Bulletin.

12. Instructional material cannot be advertised in the Bulletin.

13. Ads will be accepted for agricultural work only. Ads for household, nursing or companionship will not be accepted.

14. Ads to exchange one item for another item will be accepted only when both items being exchanged relate to agriculture. Ads for cars, boats, mobile homes, etc. will not be accepted as an exchange for agricultural items.

15. Prices must be included with all items offered for sale. Price ranges may be used in certain ads; for example, due to age, weight, etc. cattle can be advertised as $1,200-$1,500.

16. Ads may be accepted for livestock, hay, fertilizer and related agricultural items only.

17. All quotes must be accepted in the Bulletin.

18. Advertisements in the Bulletin are published on a first come, first serve basis. It is to the advertiser’s advantage to submit their items as soon as possible. While the Bulletin does not assume responsibility for transactions resulting from the use of this publication, all means of preventing fraud will be exercised. Misrepresentation will result in the revocation of all privileges. For questions concerning the guidelines, please e-mail afcb@agi.alabama.gov.
A Full Line of Beekeeping Supplies Available at Your Co-op


Croplan PM 4611 BMR
Best in class digestibility with leafy compact structure. Extremely uniform height with high yield potential and quick drydown. Resistant to surgarcane aphid, strong disease tolerance and no prussic acid.

Heavy-Duty Hay Cover
Made of heavy, reinforced super-tough poly fabric with 200-lb/inch tensile strength.

Poly Bale Twine
7,000, 9,000 or 20,000

Net Wrap
Orange/White, Green & White Sizes 48”, 51”, 64” and 67”

WB-6S Cu. ft. Wheelbarrow
$109.99

300G Pastrue Sprayer
* 300gal. poly tank
* PT0 driven, piston pump
* Sprayer features jet action so you get a
uniform application

Ditch Bank Blade
Wood Handle

Hi-Yield Turf & Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper
Use in ornamental grass areas and established lawns. Can be applied 4 weeks later than other pre-emergencies. 12 lb. bag

Simply Southern Television Show
www.alafarm.com

ALAFARM DOG FOOD
Premium Adult Dog Food 25-18
20% Protein - 18% Crude Fat - 30 lb. bag
High Energy Dog Food 24-20
21% Protein - 20% Crude Fat - 10 lb. bag
Puppy Food 20-20
30 lbs.- $0.99 Crude Fat - 20 lb. bag

Moultrie
Quick-lock Directional Tripod Feeder (30 gallons)

Contact your local CO-OP
store for all of your farming, hunting, or gardening needs!

Albertville 256-878-3261
Alhambra, FL 803-762-3161
Andalusia 334-222-1651
Arab 256-585-6515
Ashland 334-899-2565
Auburn 205-828-7042
Athens 256-202-6580
Atmore 251-368-2191
Bloomington, IN 859-674-8194
Centre 256-927-3335
Columbiana 205-669-7082
Courtland 256-637-2939
Crossville 256-529-7188
Decatur 256-353-4663
Demopolis 334-289-0155
Elba 334-678-6782
Elberta 251-980-5810
Enterprise 334-347-9077
Fauquierdale 334-628-2681
Fayette 205-922-9901
Flora 334-618-6142
Florence 256-764-6414
Frisco City 251-267-1375
Geneva 334-898-7932
Goshen 334-484-3441
Greenville 334-382-6548
Haleyville 205-485-5794
Hampton 205-921-2631
Hartselle 334-588-2992
Huntsville 256-533-6822
Hazel Green 256-628-2010
Headland 334-693-3131
Holly Pond 256-796-3837
Jacksonville 256-435-3430
Jasper 203-387-7342
Jay, FL 850-675-4597
Leighton 256-446-8328
Leroy 251-216-2672
Linden 256-998-2097
Live Oak, FL 386-926-2149
Luverne 334-335-6882
Lynnville, TN 931-527-3923
Madison, FL 850-973-2269
Meridianville 256-828-5360
Moulton 256-974-9214
Northport 205-339-6818
Notasulga 334-257-9090
Orange 205-574-2185
Opp 334-403-7715
Pelt City 205-338-2821
Piedmont 256-447-6560
Pulaski, TN 931-363-2563
Rainville 256-638-2559
Rogersville 256-247-3403
Scottsboro 256-674-1488
Selma 334-374-1095
Stevenson 256-437-8629
Talladega 256-662-2716
Troy 334-566-3882
Tuscumbia 256-363-6442
Wetumpka 256-537-4743
Wetumpka 334-567-4252
**ALABAMA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Cattle and calves at reported markets throughout the state for March totaled an estimated 32,000 head compared to 37,193 head for February and 40,940 head for March 2018. Compared to last period: Slaughter cows sold $5 to $7 higher, slaughter bulls sold $7 to $9 higher. Feeder steers sold mostly $4 to $6 higher. Feeder heifers sold $3 to $6 higher. Replacement cows sold mostly steadily. The feeder supply consisted of 23 percent steers, 44 percent heifers and 33 percent bulls.

**Slaughter Cows Breakers 75-80**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wt Range</th>
<th>Avg Wt</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
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<td>1120</td>
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<td>900-1700</td>
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**Slaughter Cows Boners 80-85**

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**Slaughter Cows Lean 85-90**

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**Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1**

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<td>250-295</td>
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<td>350-395</td>
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**Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1**

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**Feeder Steers Medium and Large 2**

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**Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2**

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**Upcoming Ag Events**

- **April 3**—The Capital City Master Gardener Association sponsors a free monthly Lunch and Learn from noon to 1 p.m. at the Armory Learning Arts Center at 1018 Madison Ave., Montgomery. The April topic is Growing and Cooking with Herbs, conducted by Janell Diggins, a Master Gardener. For more information, call 334-270-4133 or visit www.capcitymga.org.
- **April 4**—The Autauga County Master Gardeners Association is hosting a free Lunch and Learn beginning at noon at Trinity United Methodist Church at 610 Fairview Ave., Prattville 36066. The April topic is Fruit Tree Care, conducted by Arlie Powell, of Petsals from the Past. For more information contact Tana Shealey at 334-361-7273.
- **April 5, 12, 19 & 26**—A poultry and small animal sale will be held at 7 p.m. at Clay County Goat and Poultry Auction at 748 County Rd. 91, Goodwater. For more information, call Richard Askew at 256-839-6824.
- **April 6**—A horse and tack sale will be held at 5 p.m. at Clay County Goat and Poultry Auction at 748 County Rd. 91, Goodwater. For more information, call Richard Askew 256-839-6824.
- **April 9**—The Elmore County Master Gardeners Association is hosting a Lunch and Learn from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. at the Elmore County Cooperative Extension Service building at 340 Queen Ann Rd., Wetumpka, AL 36092. The April topic is Native Plants for Our Area, conducted by Peggy Thompson, of Jefferson County Master Gardeners. For more information, contact 334-361-7273.
- **April 10 & 11**—A free three-hour workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on the features and benefits of using biodiesel and how to convert from petroleum diesel to B20 biodiesel. On Wednesday, April 10, the workshop will be held at Lawson State Community College in Bessemer. On Thursday, April 11, the workshop will be at the Department of Agriculture & Industries in Montgomery, Registration is required. For more details, contact Mark Bentley at 205-402-2755 or visit www.alabamacleanfuels.org.
- **April 13 & 14**—The West Georgia Two Cylinder Tractor Club is hosting the free 26th annual Old Time Farm Days Show at the VFW Fairgrounds, 1625 Bankhead Hwy., Carrollton, GA 30116 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. There is a raffle for several prizes including the grand prize of a 1953 John Deere 40S. For more information, call 770-301-6319.
- **April 13 & 27**—Goats, sheep and cattle sale will be held at noon at Clay County Goat and Poultry Auction at 748 County Rd. 91, Goodwater. For more information, call Richard Askew 256-839-6824.
- **April 13 & 27**—The Central Alabama Goat & Poultry Auction will be held at noon at 1403 Kincheon Rd. in Clanton. Additional livestock and poultry are welcome. For more information, call Jada at 205-256-8307 or Kathy at 205-351-2039.
- **April 16-17**—The 2019 Food Entrepreneur Conference will be held at the Center for Advanced Science, Innovation and Commerce in the Auburn Research Park on Auburn University’s campus. The conference will provide the latest information on selling to a big box store, trends in food production, labeling and testing regulations and more. The cost to attend is $200. To register, visit www.aufsi.auburn.edu/2019-food-entrepreneur-conference.
- **May 4**—Douglas County Master Gardeners annual greenhouse plant sale, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Douglas County Master Gardener Greenhouse at 8750 Dorris Rd., Douglasville, GA 30134 (next to Woodie File Senior Center).
Miller Poultry Research Center Opens New Facility

By Josh Woods

One of the nation’s largest food industries will soon find its innovation hub in Alabama, thanks to Auburn University’s new Charles C. Miller Poultry Research and Education Center. The 30-acre, multi-facility complex will celebrate the opening of its newest facility, an administration and classroom building, April 10 at 3 p.m.

Current and planned Miller Center facilities and technologies reflect every detail of the U.S. poultry industry — from hatching to housing and beyond — to offer a comprehensive lab environment for university students and research faculty, as well as industry professionals across the nation.

Research at the Miller Center will target key issues of efficiency and sustainability in poultry production, avian health and well-being and food safety and quality.

“The poultry industry is the largest and fastest-growing food industry in the country,” said Paul Patterson, dean of Auburn’s College of Agriculture. “As this industry grows, we need solid, reliable research and training to ensure the level of quality, safety and efficiency that consumers and businesses deserve. We are proud to offer the nation’s leading poultry scientists and professionals the very best in research and teaching facilities at the Miller Center.”

The Miller Center broke ground in 2016 with the construction of two nutrition and poultry management research facilities, as well as an equipment testing and demonstration facility, which houses the National Poultry Technology Center. The site of the Miller Center already was home to a feed mill and animal and poultry nutrition center, built in 2012.

Auburn is preparing to break ground on the Miller Center’s next facility, a state-of-the-art processing plant, which will serve as a stage for developing new, improved methods of controlling foodborne pathogens and advancing the use of data-driven poultry processing technology.

The Miller Center’s final phase of construction will include a hatchery facility, a battery house, chamber and breeder houses and floor pen houses.

For more information on the Miller Center at Auburn, visit poul.auburn.edu/miller-center.

Wallace State’s Small Farmer Training Programs Expanded

Wallace State Community College’s Small Farmer Training program is already expanding its offerings, beginning with the Summer 2019 semester.

The Farm and Ready to Market (FARM) short-term certificate consists of 24 credit hours and can be completed in two semesters. It is offered during summer and fall semesters and concentrates on fruit and vegetable production and marketing. Online summer semester registration for the short-term certificate begins April 18.

Classes on the summer schedule for the FARM certificate are Vegetable Crops, Intro to Horticulture, Agriculture Salesmanship and Soils and Fertilizers. Classes planned for the fall for the degree are Agribusiness Management, Plant Propagation, Pest Management and Agricultural Equipment Repair.

The new FARM certificate is a complement to the non-credit Small Farmer Training program, which is designed to prepare participants to begin and operate their own farms or serve as a farm manager of an existing farm.

For more information about the program, visit www.wallacestate.edu/programs/technical-division/farmer-training or contact Travis Kress at 256-352-8115 or travis.kress@wallacestate.edu.

Specialty Crop Block Grants CONTINUED...

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and anticipates continued success.”

A conference call will be held on April 3, regarding the writing, processing and submittal of the specialty crop block grant. Please contact Johnny Blackmon at 334-240-7257 or by email at johnny.blackmon@agi.alabama.gov to RSVP and obtain the conference connection code.

All prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in the conference call.

Projects cannot begin until official agreements are signed, which is expected to be in October 2019. For more detailed information, please visit www.agi.alabama.gov/scbpg or contact Johnny Blackmon.

National Weekly Hog Report

The following are national statistics of hog sales, as compiled by the USDA on Friday, March 15. Early weaned pigs steady. All feeder pigs steady. Demand moderate for light offerings. Receipts include 80 percent formulated prices. All prices quoted on per head basis with an estimated lean value of 50-54 percent.

Receipts this Week: 50,325 Last Week: 109,799 Last Year: 75,864

Information below (l-r) is: Lot Size, Head, Formula Range, Formula Wtd Avg., Head, Cash Range, and Cash Wtd Avg.

Early Weaned Pigs 10-12 lbs. Basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lot Size</th>
<th>Formula Range</th>
<th>Formula Wtd Avg.</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Cash Range</th>
<th>Cash Wtd Avg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>600 or less</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>40.00-40.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-1200</td>
<td>5,136</td>
<td>38.80-42.00</td>
<td>40.35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 or more</td>
<td>35,339</td>
<td>34.12-51.43</td>
<td>41.47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comp.</td>
<td>40,475</td>
<td>34.12-51.43</td>
<td>41.33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feeder Pigs 40 lbs. Basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lot Size</th>
<th>Formula Range</th>
<th>Formula Wtd Avg.</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Cash Range</th>
<th>Cash Wtd Avg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>600 or less</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>68.00-68.00</td>
<td>68.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-1200</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>67.00-67.00</td>
<td>67.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 or more</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>71.00-72.50</td>
<td>71.75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total composite</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>67.00-72.50</td>
<td>70.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Composite Weighted Average Receipts and Price (Formula and Cash): All Early Weaned Pigs: 46,425 at 41.82; All 40 lbs. Feeder Pigs: 3,900 at 70.05.

Note: Prices are quoted on a per head basis delivered to the buyers farm. Prices include freight and fees on a farm to farm basis.

AU Researchers Try to Close Gaps in Local Food Safety

The local foods movement continues to grow in the U.S., with an increasing number of consumers wanting to know where their food comes from and buying it at farmers markets and through community-supported agriculture programs.

One of the obstacles to further growth, however, is making sure that locally produced foods are produced and distributed safely.

Working with a more than $4 million grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Auburn University researchers are addressing the gaps between knowledge and practice in the production and distribution of local and regional foods, with the ultimate goal of ensuring a more secure food chain.

Christy Bratcher, lead researcher, College of Agriculture professor and director of the Food Systems Institute, is working to make sure this meat is safe to eat. Bratcher began the research project by going to farms where cattle are raised for commercial harvests and for direct sales.

“We looked at E. coli prevalence, in addition to feeding, bedding and working chutes, along with environmental swabbing,” she said. “We collected fecal samples and water samples from any streams or ponds that those animals had access to, and we found higher levels of E. coli in water to which cattle had access, which wasn’t a surprise.”

The E. coli investigated for this research project do not typically harm cattle, but certain species of E. coli can be pathogenic to humans.

The biggest problem Bratcher faced was making sure local producers kept their facilities sanitary. Her research colleague for this portion of the study was Manpreet Singh, formerly of Purdue University, but now at the University of Georgia. They looked at federally inspected small regional facilities, state-inspected very small regional facilities and very small local facilities.

“While all had E. coli positive samples prior to processing, the concern is the overall reduction in the pathogen by the time all of the harvesting steps have been done and the carcass reaches the final chilling step. For the small and very small regional facilities, there was no detectable E. coli at the end of the harvest process, while in the very small local facilities, there were still some positive carcasses.”

She says large production facilities are designed to and have the monetary capital for investment in intervention strategies to make sure E. coli and other pathogens aren’t transferred from feces and intestinal contents to the meat.

“Small and very small facilities do not have as many resources, and, while there are definitely fairly inexpensive ways to assure a safe and wholesome product, many of the facilities have untrained employees who could use some extra training in processing practices and a clear understanding that their every activity in the processing facility has a potential to impact the safety of the product for the end consumer,” Bratcher said.

To assist local processors in reducing the amount of E. coli transferred to beef in a harvest facility, Bratcher’s team put together a series of Alabama Cooperative Extension System talks on sanitary design to present to producers and packaging plants. Bratcher also has partnered with the Auburn University Lambert-Powell Meat Laboratory staff and Regional Extension Agent Alex Tigue to develop a butchery school to train producers on proper sanitary design in facilities and education for processing meat. They hope to implement the school in 2019.

The original research project began in 2012 to determine the presence of E. coli in beef cattle. However, while conducting the research, the presence of poultry animals in close proximity to cattle prompted Bratcher and her team to expand their research to Salmonella as well.

Researchers found that Salmonella was present on cattle farms where chickens and turkeys were present. “We found some linkages between the amount of Salmonella that was on those farms and the amount of Salmonella that was in the water, and we also picked up positive samples where cattle were located,” she said.

Bratcher partnered with fellow Auburn researchers Stuart Price in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Ken Macklin in the Department of Poultry Science through the Food Systems Institute’s Salmonella Working Group to determine how Salmonella was spreading across animals in close proximity.

She has also teamed up with USDA Agricultural Research Service researchers Jeff Carroll, Rand Broadway and Nicole Burdick Sanchez to determine routes of transmission of Salmonella in cattle from the gastrointestinal tract into the meat through atypical carcass reservoirs, such as the lymph nodes and synovial fluid in the joints.

“We found that cattle infected with Salmonella sometimes do not appear sick enough for anyone to realize that they shouldn’t be harvested for food,” Bratcher said. “So we want to find out if there’s anything we can do to reduce the amount of Salmonella in those animals.”

Bratcher hopes her research efforts will lead to a safer food supply so consumers can be guaranteed they’re eating a healthy product, no matter where it is purchased from.

Division Focus CONTINUED...

Carter, Farm to School Program assistant. “I am inspired by the creativity of students and the time invested in crafting delicious gourmet recipes.”

The Junior Chef competition provides students an opportunity to learn valuable skills in recipe development, food preparation, marketing, public presentation, organization, teamwork and local food systems.

Students with Selma High School’s Bleu Diamond Academy created chicken fajitas, which won them the grand prize for a second consecutive year. They will move on to the Southeast Region Junior Chef Competition, which will take place in May at Sullivan University in Louisville, Kentucky.
FEES FOR BEES: PAYING FOR POLLINATION SERVICES

By Paul Hollis

As bee and other pollinator populations and habitats continue to decline throughout the world, markets for pollination services have been growing in importance.

Studying the complexities of these markets is one area of research for Britney Goodrich, assistant professor and extension economist with Auburn University’s College of Agriculture’s Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.

In a study recently published in the journal Food Policy, Goodrich focuses specifically on pollination fees in California, where 80 percent of the world’s almonds are produced.

“This research is important because almond pollination is a major source of income for beekeepers in the U.S.,” she said, “I found that increases in honey bee colony winter mortality rates decrease beekeeping income by lowering the number of colonies they have available for almond pollination and lowering the per-colony fee they collect.”

Goodrich estimates that a 10 percent increase in a beekeeper’s winter mortality rate leads to an average decrease of 16 percent in total revenues from almond pollination, a substantial overall loss given that almond pollination is a primary source of U.S. commercial beekeepers’ revenues.

Pollinators — including bees, butterflies, moths, bats, birds, beetles and other insects — contribute approximately $500 billion a year to global food production, with honey bees alone providing pollination services valued at $15 billion to $20 billion annually in the U.S. The honey bee, Goodrich said, is one of the most important pollinator species to food security and ecosystems worldwide.

“I don’t see native bee health improving anytime soon,” she said. “Native bees are declining not only in the United States but all over the world, so we’ll likely become more and more dependent on honey bee colonies for pollination services.”

Most of the honey bee colonies in the U.S. are managed as livestock, with commercial beekeepers often having 4,000 or more colonies and trucking them all over the country, she said. There are more than 1 million acres of almond orchards in California, and every acre of almonds requires two honey bee colonies for proper pollination, Goodrich said. Almonds are 100-percent pollinated crops, and every colony produces from 6,000 to 8,000 pounds of almonds per year.

Goodrich said. In future research, Goodrich wants to explore colony strength issues from the beekeeping cost side.

“Also, there are many crops in Alabama that require pollination services, and there are a lot of beekeepers in Alabama. I’ve heard from producers in the state who say they can’t get enough bees from within Alabama to pollinate their crops. I’m interested in looking at how we can facilitate some of those contractual relationships between the beekeepers in Alabama and the crop producers who need them.”

MONTHLY HAY REPORT

Compared to last month: Hay prices were fully steady for the month of March. Trade moderate with moderate supply and good demand. All prices are FOB unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimated Tons</th>
<th>Last Month: 1,622</th>
<th>Last Year: 1,155</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southeast Hay Tons</td>
<td>Price Range</td>
<td>Wtd Avg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda Grass Small Square</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>180.00-300.00</td>
<td>227.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium</td>
<td>180.00-300.00</td>
<td>133.33-133.33</td>
<td>133.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda Grass Large Round</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>100.00-130.00</td>
<td>112.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium</td>
<td>100.00-130.00</td>
<td>70.00-90.00</td>
<td>80.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda Grass Mid Round</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>100.00-100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium</td>
<td>100.00-100.00</td>
<td>100.00-100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahia Grass Mid Round</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>70.00-90.00</td>
<td>80.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Straw Small Square</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>160.00-160.00</td>
<td>160.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employee Spotlight**

We continue to spotlight an employee each month to put a face with the many services provided by the Department of Agriculture and Industries. We hope you enjoy getting to know more about our excellent employees!

Our Spotlight Employee of the Month is Shabnam Neupane. She began working for the State of Alabama 13 years ago and has served two years at the Department of Agriculture and Industries.

Neupane works in the accounting section and is responsible for out-of-state travel, reimbursements, professional services contracts and accounts payable. She maintains accurate financial records for these transactions in preparation for any potential audit.

Neupane works with the State Comptroller’s office on a regular basis to ensure financial requests are processed sufficiently. The comptroller is essentially the state’s chief financial officer and all department financial requests go through that office.

Neupane assists in processing professional services contract payments for a variety of projects for the department. She also assists Gwen Barnett, accounting director, with preparation of legislative budget requests and financial reports.

Neupane’s favorite part of her job is the family-friendly environment at the department and the kind people she works with. She has enjoyed the opportunity to learn so much about agriculture these past two years.

Neupane and her husband, Rabi, have been married for 13 years. They have two children, a daughter, Resham (11), and a son, Shaan (2).

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**Product Spotlight**

SlapHappy BBQ was founded in 2011 in Birmingham. Their award-winning sauce incorporates high quality ingredients and spices not found in your typical BBQ sauces. It comes in two distinctive flavors: Sweet and Heat!

SlapHappy also makes a seasoned salt that will enhance the flavor of any meats whether it’s for grilling or smoking. Make sure to have some SlapHappy for your next tailgate or cookout. The company sticks by their slogan, “Everybody deserves to be SlapHappy!”

SlapHappy products are available at most Western Markets, Winn Dixie and Piggly Wiggly stores. It’s also available online at www.slaphappybbq.com.

SlapHappy is proud to be a member of the Buy Alabama’s Best campaign, which increases awareness and sales of Alabama food products. Since it originated in 2006, the campaign has strived to help in the fight against pediatric cancer.

During the months of March and September, a portion of sales raised from participating Alabama food products goes to the UAB Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Children’s of Alabama. To learn more about the Buy Alabama Best campaign, visit www.buyalabamasbest.com.

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