



Southeastern Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserve Association Newsletter

2019 No. 8

Date Set for Our 2020 Short Course & Conference

Our 2020 Short Course and Conference will be held **April 21-20** at the Hampton Inn, Summerville, SC. The address of the hotel is: 121 Holiday Dr., Summerville, SC 29483; phones: 843-871-8300, 855-499-0001. More details will follow in our monthly newsletters.

Revised Prediction Raises Hurricane Threat

2019 hurricane season may have above-normal storm activity

PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 11, 2019

GAINSVILLE, Fla. — Floridians have a new reason to be concerned about hurricanes this year. A revised notice by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center indicates that the 2019 hurricane season may have above-normal storm activity.

The agency's updated outlook for the Atlantic hurricane season advises that an above-normal season has the highest chance of occurring (45%), followed by a 35% chance for near-normal season. This outlook reflects the potential for more activity than was predicted in NOAA's pre-season outlook.

The Atlantic hurricane region includes the North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

According to the updated outlook, there is a 70% probability for each of the following ranges of activity from June 1 through November 30:

- 10-17 Named Storms
- 5-9 Hurricanes
- 2-4 Major Hurricanes

Most of the activity is predicted to occur during the peak months of August through October.

To date, the Atlantic hurricane season has produced two named storms, with Hurricane Barry making landfall in Louisiana in July.

For the remainder of the season, NOAA scientists expect that four to eight storms will become hurricanes and two to four of them will be major hurricanes.

For more information,

visit <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>.

–Florida Farm Bureau

Georgia 4-H Program Teaches Students About Agricultural Diversity

One Georgia 4-H, an urban-rural 4-H exchange program

PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 6, 2019

ATHENS, Ga. — Twenty-four Georgia 4-H teenagers spent their summer in a unique agriculture-focused student exchange program without leaving the state.

One Georgia 4-H, an urban-rural 4-H exchange program is designed to showcase the importance of agriculture in rural and urban areas of Georgia to students who are considering a career in agriculture, said Laurie Murrah-Hanson, a University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agent who leads a Georgia 4-H club based at the Atlanta History Center. The first-year program was funded by the Thalia and Michael C. Carlos Foundation in Fulton County.

“The program grew from the Atlanta History Center’s goal to reach new audiences in Atlanta and across the state and educate people about the similarities and differences between Georgians across the state,” said Murrah-Hanson. “We had a very diverse group of youth. Some of the students had an agriculture background and a few even live on working farms, while others live in towns and cities but are familiar with agriculture. The kids taught each other about what their lives are like where they live.” The group first met in Tifton in June and visited sites in south Georgia. In July, they met in Atlanta and toured sites in the metro area.

In south Georgia, the students toured locations including UGA research

facilities and commercial watermelon and cotton production fields. On the UGA Tifton campus, they learned about turfgrass, visited the cotton micro gin, learned hands-on laboratory skills, and toured the UGA Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Students were also able to explore the Future Farmstead, UGA's energy-independent experimental site dedicated to developing and demonstrating advanced technologies to enhance farm efficiency with the goal of achieving future national energy, food and environmental requirements. The group also learned about the varied academic majors available in the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

"They visited Super Sod, a sod farm near Perry, where they learned about sod production and saw sod harvested. That was something that none of us had seen," Murrah-Hanson said. "We also went to Lane Southern Orchards and Dickey Farms to eat peaches and see the production line where the peaches are washed and packaged."

The July tour in Atlanta focused on policy and transportation. The students visited the Delta Flight Museum and experienced piloting a jet in Delta's flight simulator. At the Georgia State Capitol, Rep. Matthew Wilson, a UGA alumnus who represents the 80th District, gave the students a tour. The group also visited the Georgia Department of Agriculture, including the Georgia Grown test kitchen, and met with Mario Cambardella, director of urban agriculture for the city of Atlanta, who told them about Georgia's urban farms.

"They learned that these farms are smaller and more diverse," Murrah-Hanson said. "They also learned about food deserts and the new Urban Food Forest."

The trip concluded with a visit to the Atlanta location of iconic eatery The Varsity and attending 4-H Day at the Atlanta History Center.

The One Georgia participants and their home counties include Mary Ann Bentley, Chattooga County; Jake Carver, Houston County; Madison Clemente, Paulding County; Kaylee Collins, Spalding County; Avery Cross, Catoosa County; Maddie Dean, Crisp County; Jada Faulks, Cobb County; Alyssa Goldman, Madison County; Gracie Grimes, Candler County; Megan Isdell, Worth County; Christopher Kuhbander, Ware County; Grace McBride, Emanuel County; Hannah McElrath, Gordon County; Michael Mercer, Cobb County; Brooke O'Berry, Ware County; Emily Recinos, Cobb County; Aromal Saji, Gwinnett County; Autumn Sims, Murray County; Kolbi Sims, Murray County; Bryson Smith, Gordon County; Cora Jane Tyre, Bacon County; Adriana Walton, Randolph County; Emma Rae Ward,

Chattooga County; and Kate Vaughn, Bulloch County.

“This was my favorite 4-H trip so far,” said Emma Rae Ward. “I’m from an ag community and I live on a farm, but it was very refreshing to see what agriculture looks like in Atlanta and to see some of the things that I see at home in north Georgia — we just have fewer gnats.”

Gracie Grimes lives on a farm but says she never knew Atlanta “had so much to do with agriculture.”

“This experience has truly been one of my best and I made a lot of new friends,” she said. “My favorite part was visiting the capitol and the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The sod farm was new for me and the watermelon farm was cool, as we used to grow watermelons on our farm.”

Following the exchange experience, students are required to share their experience with groups in their community such as county commissions, boards of education, school administrations and community or civic groups, as well as with their peers at Georgia 4-H’s Fall Forum.

Georgia 4-H hopes to secure funding to offer the program again next summer, Murrah-Hanson said.

To learn more about Georgia 4-H, visit www.Georgia4H.org.

—Sharon Dowdy, University of Georgia

South Carolina 4-H Shooters Shine on National Stage

Four high school students are chosen each year to represent S.C. in the event

PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 8, 2019

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. — Cameron Huston of Edgefield County nabbed the first High Over All score ever for a South Carolinian at the 2019 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships with a near-perfect 99/100 score to take first place in the Shotgun Trap Individual competition.

Huston, a recent graduate of Strom Thurmond High School, picked up shooting when he started high school and heard about the competition from a friend who had taken part and shared how much fun it was with him.

“I said I would give it a try and go and I’m so glad that I did because I met some good people, had a lot of fun and it was just an overall good experience,” Huston said. “My grandparents took me out there (to Nebraska) over the summer one year and that’s the place to live for me. I just really enjoyed it. It’s just the flat openness and you can see for miles in every direction.”

Four high school students are chosen each year to represent South Carolina in

the event, and Huston was joined on this year's Palmetto State team by Walker Kelly (Abbeville County/Rocky Knoll), Chase Land (Pickens County/Clemson 4-H) and Makayla Porter (Saluda County/Richland Creek). To qualify, shooters must fill out an application that shows their involvement in the community, leadership, grades, as well as shooting scores, making it an "extreme honor" to be chosen for the team, according to South Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports coordinator Richard Willey.

"Every year four new shooters are chosen, so no one can go more than once," Willey said. "This allows other shooters to experience this wonderful opportunity. All four members of this year's team members have represented South Carolina very well both on and off the shotgun fields, and all four of them kept a positive attitude and worked hard for every target. Their sportsmanship, manners, fellowship and teamwork have been outstanding." On day one, the South Carolina team competed in sporting clays, with Kelly faring the best among the Sandlappers as he just missed the podium by a single target on a challenging course, Willey said.

The team continued to perform during skeet shooting on day two and finished in seventh place, missing the podium by only three targets. Huston posted the highest individual score of the four but missed the podium by two targets before following it up with his 99/100 score in Shotgun Trap on day three to garner top honors in that competition.

Huston said he was pleased with his performance, but reaching the 99/100 mark didn't enter his mind during the competition.

"I'd kind of heard about it, but it didn't really process for me that I was the first (South Carolinian to win first place in the Shotgun Trap competition,)" he said.

"We are very proud of these young people and especially happy for Cameron for winning the first High Over All in this competition that South Carolina has ever won," said S.C. 4-H assistant state director Ashley Burns. "It is always gratifying for those of us who work with 4-H youth to see these young people taking on a learn-by-doing approach, overcoming the obstacles and challenges in their way, having success on their own terms and realizing it was their own dedication and work that drove them to that positive outcome. That's the heart of the 4-H mission."

South Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports is one of several project areas offered in the area of natural resources to the state's young people. The major disciplines offered include archery, BB gun, hunting, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle and shotgun. The program is flexible and adaptable to nearly any audience — rural or urban — and allows youth to learn marksmanship, the

safe and responsible use of firearms, career exploration and more.

—Steven Bradley, Clemson University

Farmers, Other Outdoor Workers Need to Prevent Sun Damage

Light-colored clothing also helps repel ticks

PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 8, 2019

BEDFORD, Va. — Extended amounts of sun exposure to those who work outdoors can increase their risk of developing skin cancer.

“Farmers and others who work outdoors are at an increased risk of skin cancer since most skin cancers are secondary to sun damage,” said Dr. Amy Johnson, a family nurse practitioner for Centra Medical Group in Bedford County and president of Bedford County Farm Bureau. “Skin cancer is actually the No. 1 type of cancer that we see in farmers. Typically, skin cancers are found on the nose, tops of the ears and the back of the neck since these are areas most exposed to the sun.”

Johnson said the most common skin cancers she treats are basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. “Melanoma is very aggressive,” she noted. “It will move to other body areas, sometimes very quickly, and can be deadly.”

She said people working outdoors should cover sun-exposed areas with light-colored, lightweight long sleeves. “There are clothing items now that can make you feel cooler outdoors and protect from UVA and UVB rays,” Johnson added.

Light-colored clothing also helps repel ticks, whose bites can transmit serious illnesses. Tick bites are another hazard for people who work outside in the summer, particularly in the woods or in tall grasses.

It’s also important to wear a wide-brimmed hat that protects the nose, ears and back of the neck, and sunglasses to protect the eyes from sun damage.

Johnson said any sun-exposed areas that can’t be covered with clothing should be covered in a water- and sweat-resistant broad spectrum UVA/UVB sunscreen rated SPF 15 or higher. Sunscreen should be applied 30 minutes prior to going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours or more often with excessive sweating.

Avoid working during the hottest parts of the day, and always hydrate well. “Drink plenty of water or sports drinks, which will replace electrolytes like sodium and potassium,” Johnson explained. Stay in the shade if possible between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

When taking certain blood pressure medications, blood thinners or diabetic medications, you can dehydrate faster, Johnson shared. Many medications increase sun sensitivity, increasing the likelihood of burning. Check skin regularly, and note any changes to moles or any new skin lesions that develop, she suggested. If a lesion increases in size, changes color, bleeds frequently or is painful or itchy, it should be checked by a medical professional.

—Virginia Farm Bureau

Cover Crops, Compost and Carbon

Comparing techniques in organic farming that influence soil health

PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 7, 2019

MADISON — Soil organic matter has long been known to benefit farmers. The carbon in this organic matter acts as a food source for soil microbes, which then provide other nutrients to the crops grown. Microbes, insects and small soil critters produce materials that can improve soil structure and water retention. It's a healthy ecosystem every farmer wants to encourage.

Measuring changes in soil organic matter can be a challenge in intensively tilled soil that is used for vegetable production. Even in production systems with less soil disturbance, soil organic matter changes slowly. But, Eric Brennan and Veronica Acosta-Martinez are testing for soil enzymes as early indicators of improvements in soil health in a long-term systems study. Brennan manages the study in an area of California known as the "Salad Bowl of the World." The Salinas Valley has high-input, organic vegetable production systems. "Farms in Salinas usually need to produce two or more vegetable crops per field annually to be profitable," says Brennan. "This production intensity complicates the adoption of winter cover cropping. This is why many farmers in this region prefer to use compost to add large amounts of organic matter to the soil."

Specifically, the team compared farming systems that received different amounts and types of organic matter. The sources were from compost and cover crops. They recently published their results in the Soil Science Society of America Journal.

"Our results on soil enzyme activity illustrate the importance of frequent cover-cropping in tillage-intensive, organic vegetable production," says Brennan. "This raises questions about the sustainability of organic and conventional vegetable systems if cover crops are seldom used. We need to find innovative strategies to help farmers increase cover cropping. The

practice is shown to improve soil health. It also provides other benefits like reducing nitrogen leaching into ground water.”

It’s not that organic or conventional farmers in this region are against cover cropping. It’s that their use can complicate many aspects of vegetable production.

Brennan’s study showed that cover cropping annually – no matter the type of plant grown – greatly benefits the soil. The study found that annual inputs of compost have relatively small benefits. There was an increase in microbial activity with compost, but not as much as with annual cover crops.

There are some caveats in the study. This research was conducted in a loamy sand soil in Salinas Valley. Organic farmers in different regions may have different results. Using different types of fertilizers could impact results, as well.

“The growing body of information from this long-term trial challenges the overly-simplistic notion that certified organic management improves soil health or quality,” says Brennan. He adds that the USDA organic standards require that certified farms show that their tillage and cultivation practices maintain or improve soil conditions. This refers to physical, chemical and biological factors. It also refers to minimizing soil erosion, which can worsen with intensive tilling.

The team hopes that future research will focus on different soil types, such a clay or loam soil. Evaluating changes over shorter increments would provide useful data, too. The soil enzyme data tells one part of the interesting story of this relatively long-term experiment.

Read more about this research in the Soil Science Society of America Journal. This research was funded primarily by the USDA-ARS, but also received 2 years of initial funding from a Specialty Crops grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

To watch a 5-minute video of Eric Brennan explaining the Salad Bowl of the World, visit [youtube.com/watch?v=M-8tCXXKqNA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-8tCXXKqNA).

— American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, Crop Science Society of America

Secretary's Corner

At last year's SEGB&HPA meeting we discussed promoting two different dates in April for our yearly meetings. This idea was well received, and proved beneficial for next year's meeting. It's a good idea to keep this type of scheduling in the future. Please be thinking about speakers and events for

next year's meeting. Since we will be near Brosnan Forest, our hopes are high that we will be able to visit their facilities, if not have our presentations there, and more.

Happy Hunting
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