

# *The Pecan Grower*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GEORGIA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Orchard Management*

*APC / APPB Hosts  
Indian Importers with  
Georgia Growers*

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VOL. XXXVI, NO. 1

FEBRUARY 2024





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# CONT

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February 2024

- **February 23-24, 2024**  
**Southeastern Pecan Growers Conference**  
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, Biloxi, Mississippi  
Registration available on [sepga.com](http://sepga.com)

### March 2024

- **March 3-5, 2024**  
**Western Pecan Growers Association Conference**  
Las Cruces Convention Center, Las Cruces, NM  
Registration available on [westernpecan.org](http://westernpecan.org)
- **March 19-21, 2024**  
**Georgia Pecan Growers Association Conference**  
Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA  
Registration available on [georgiapecan.org](http://georgiapecan.org)

### May-June 2024

- **May 30 - June 1, 2024**  
**Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association Conference**  
Ardmore Convention Center, Ardmore, OK  
Registration Coming Soon

### July 2024

- **July 14-17, 2024**  
**Texas Pecan Growers Association Conference**  
Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center  
San Marcos, TX  
Registration Coming Soon

### August 2024

- **August 23-25, 2024**  
**Arizona Pecan Conference**  
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Tucson-Reid Park  
Tucson, AZ  
Registration Coming Soon

### March 2024

- **March 19-21, 2024**  
**Happenings at our 2024 show:**  
  
**Beginners in Pecan Production Course**  
Calling all new pecan growers (or anyone who is looking for a refresher course)! Dr. Lenny Wells, UGA Horticulturalist & Pecan Expert, and the UGA Pecan Extension Team, will be hosting a Beginners in Pecan Production Course on Wednesday, March 20th, in the Miller-Murphy-Howard Building. The course will run in tandem with the other educational sessions presented on the main day of the conference. The course will be hosted in one of the two conference rooms, while the traditional Conference educational sessions will be hosted in the other conference room. Conference registration will now cover this course and all conference educational sessions offered.
- Golf Tournament**  
This year's golf tournament will be held at **Houston Lake Country Club in Perry, GA on Tuesday, March 19th** with a shotgun start at 10:00 AM. Lunch and beverages provided.
- Skeet Shoot Tournament**  
This year's skeet shoot will be held at **Meadows Gun Club in Forsyth, GA on Tuesday, March 19th** with registration and lunch at 11:30 AM and shooting to start at 12:30 PM.
- Welcome Reception (Reverse Raffle Drawing & Silent Auction)**  
Join us for a Welcome Reception following the first day's events for sponsored cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres at the Georgia National Fairgrounds, **Miller-Murphy-Howard building, on Tuesday, March 19th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.**
- Orchard Tour**  
This year's orchard tour will be on Thursday, March 21st. Location is still to be determined and announced at a later date.



# EVENTS

## IN THIS *Issue*

### *Association News*

- 6 Editor's Letter
- 49 2024 Georgia Pecan County Extension Meetings
- 52 GPGA Annual Photo Contest
- 54 59<sup>th</sup> GPGA Annual Conference Information
- 62 Winter Rain Events Helping Pecan Production
- 62 Heavy Scab Pressure Not Impactful On This Year's Pecan Crop
- 66 GPGA Membership Information

### *Expert Advice*

- 9 I Have Questions
- 30 Considering Your Herbicide Rotation Options
- 68 Pecan Production Management Tips

### *Industry News*

- 18 GPGA Washington Update
- 38 APC And APPB - The Pecan Opportunity In India
- 48 American Pecan Promotion Board
- 64 Willson To Chair The NPSA Board
- 66 USDA To Kick Off National Agricultural Classification Survey
- 68 With Sympathy



ON THE COVER

2023's Photo Contest Winner,  
Kellie Giddens.  
Congratulations, Kellie!  
Thank you to all who participated!

*The Pecan Grower*  
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## EDITOR'S LETTER



Greetings!

This edition of our magazine gives me my first chance as acting Editor during my current term as GPGA's Interim Executive Director. I hope you find this month's research articles and expert suggestions to be helpful in planning your orchard practices into Spring.

Next month we look forward to seeing you all at our 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Trade Show in Perry, Georgia, March 19 -21. Once again, we offer a full line-up of educational sessions with the industry's recognized research and sales professionals, along with our Annual Awards Luncheon, large equipment exhibitions, featured vendors, a skeet shoot, golf tournament, networking reception and orchard tour! You do not want to miss out! Please make plans to attend by pre-registering online at [georgiapecan.org](http://georgiapecan.org) or by calling our office at 229-382-2187.

Our staff is happy to assist you during this exciting time for Georgia Pecans!

Blessings,

*Mary Mikelyn Bruorton*

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A photograph showing a green tractor driving down a dirt path between rows of young pecan trees in a field. The trees are lush green and appear to be in their first or second year. The tractor is moving away from the viewer towards the background. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

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# EXPERT ADVICE

## with Dr. Lenny Wells

Extension Horticulturist, University of Georgia

### I Have Questions

**T**his time of year, the most frequent question I hear from growers is, “How can I save some money growing pecans?” or “How can I grow these things for less money?”

I’m sure it doesn’t seem like it, but in pretty much every case, it CAN be done. The problem? Most people don’t want to hear the answers to those questions.

It’s often difficult to trust new ideas when you are used to doing things a certain way. It’s hard to see something from a different perspective when we are standing in the same place all the time. I’ve offered solutions on ways to save money on fertilizer, irrigation, sprays, and more, for years now. Proven ways. Methods supported by the scientific literature and by practical application for multiple years. But, change can be hard. However, sometimes change is forced upon us by the circumstances.

Thus, rather than write a redundant article on how to save money growing pecans, let me ask you, as a grower, a few questions and be honest with yourself about the answers. You don’t have to tell me or anybody else, but ***think about your answers:***

- How much nitrogen (N) fertilizer do you apply?
- What form of N do you use?
- How do you apply it?
- Do you split your applications?
- To what percentage of the orchard area do you apply it?
- Do you pull leaf and soil samples?
- Do you know how to interpret those samples?
- Do you look critically at the leaf and soil nutrient levels and the recommendations that come with those samples?
- Do you fertilize according to where your levels are compared to threshold levels, or do you just apply a maintenance application of the same nutrients at the same rate year in and year out?

Continued on Page 10, See Questions





## Causes, Continued from Page 9

- How often do you lime?
- What about foliar fertilizer? Do you apply anything aside from Zinc, Boron, Nickel, or Sulfur in a foliar spray?

If so, here's a secret that shouldn't be considered a secret: Aside from the nutrients listed above, 95% of the time you are 100% wasting your money with foliar nutrient sprays. I'm not saying foliar application of Nitrogen (N), Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Iron (Fe), Copper (Cu), etc. are never warranted. I'm just telling you that it is rare that they are.

Foliar sprays are a temporary fix and their effects are mostly very localized to where you apply them. Most of the time they will not affect anything measurable nor will they increase yield or quality. Thus, they don't increase volume or price. They should be the first thing to be jettisoned from a program when you are trying to save money and should only be used when visible symptoms of deficiency are present or you are below the recommended threshold for said nutrient.

For macronutrients, like N and K, foliar sprays are almost worthless in their effect of supplying anything meaningful to the tree. You need to apply foliar Zinc 2-3 times, early in the season, every year -- regardless of leaf and soil levels -- because they need it early and the trees don't pick it up readily from the soil early in the season. You need Nickel sprays if you have mouse ear. For foliar Boron and Sulfur, there are proven benefits; however, if I am trying to trim my budget, these are the first of the recommended foliar sprays to go. You can do without them in a pinch.

*But I digress from my questioning. Let's get back to it:*

- Do you apply surfactants? There are situations where they are needed, but do you need them with every spray?
- Do you apply humic acid?
- Do you apply microbial products to your soil or trees?
- Do you apply any product for which the rep for

**Continued on Page 12, See Causes**



A photograph of a large, modern industrial facility with a corrugated metal roof and walls. In the foreground, there is a green lawn and a paved parking lot with several vehicles. A sign in the foreground reads "SOUTHERN ROOTS NUT COMPANY".



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## Causes, Continued from Page 10

said product cannot supply you with research results from a non-biased trial?

- How often do you apply a burndown herbicide?
- Do you use pre-emerge herbicides? If so, which ones?
- How long does the residual effect last?
- How often do you mow the orchard?
- Do you chem mow?
- Do you keep a stand of clover in the orchard?
- When do you begin to mow it down?

## Tree Variations

What varieties are you growing? Do you treat them all the same? Do you have to spray more than 30% of your orchard operation with fungicides more than 6-8 times per season? How often do you spray fungicides? When do you begin your fungicide sprays? When do you end your fungicide sprays? What fungicides are you spraying when? What time of year do you use phosphite? What time of year do you use dodine? Have you given any thought to adding a smart-spray system to your sprayer?

## Pests

Do you scout for insects before spraying? Do you spray for casebearer uniformly over the orchards each year regardless of variety and crop load? How many times per season and when do you spray for aphids and mites? Do you spray fungicide on non-bearing, immature trees? If so, what variety are they, how often are you spraying them, and with what?

## Orchard Management

What percentage of your pecan acreage is made up of trees over 60 years of age? Are you interplanting or making plans to transition over to young trees of new varieties? What's the air-flow like around your

orchards? Are you hedge pruning your trees? If so, what pattern are you using? How often are you hedging?

I shouldn't even have to ask this, but are your trees irrigated? If not, don't bother putting another dime into your pecan trees until they are. What kind of irrigation do you have? Drip? Microsprinkler? Solid set? How many zones do you have on a single well? What irriga-

**Continued on Page 14, See Causes**



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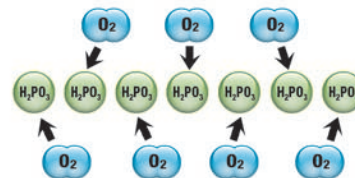
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## Causes, Continued from Page 12

tion schedule are you using? Do you have a timer on that system? Are you monitoring soil moisture? If so, do you know how to interpret the results? It can vary quite a bit from one soil type to the next.

### Conclusions

Every orchard is different. Every variety is different. Every location in the state is different. Perhaps all of these questions and their answers won't apply to every scenario but I'd be willing to bet there are questions on here whose consideration would help nearly all of us save money, including myself. I have addressed the context of these questions and how they apply multiple times in numerous articles and presentations over the years. If you have answered these questions for yourself regarding your own orchard operation and would like to discuss them further with an open mind, feel free to drop me an email or give me a call. I'll be glad to go over them with you and try to tease out pieces of your pecan management program where money can be saved without loss of yield or quality, improving your bottom line. 🌰

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## GPGA Washington Update

By Robert L. Redding, Jr., The Redding Firm

### U.S. Congress Continues Work to Fund Government

In November the U.S. Congress passed a “laddered” continuing resolution that funded the government by setting up two deadlines. The first January 19<sup>th</sup> deadline covered agencies under four appropriations bills: Agriculture-FDA, Energy and Water, Military Construction-VA and Transportation-HUD. The other eight appropriations bills were extended to a February 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. In addition to extending funding and setting up deadlines for appropriations, the legislation included a 1-year extension of Farm Bill programs at the same levels authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. The legislation also includes funding for a number of “orphan programs” which are small-ticket programs that had expired funding at the end of Fiscal Year 2023.

Although this legislation extends the Farm Bill through September 30, 2024, lawmakers are hopeful that the 2023 Farm Bill will be passed ahead of that

deadline. U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR) released the following statement alongside U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson (R-PA) and Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA):

“As negotiations on funding the government progress, we were able to come together to avoid a lapse in funding for critical agricultural programs and provide certainty to producers. This extension is in no way a substitute for passing a 5-year Farm Bill and we remain committed to working together to get it done next year.”

### Agricultural Groups Appeal for Changes to 2022 Disaster Aid

On Dec. 29, 2022 President Biden signed into law the *Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023* that provides about \$3.7 billion in financial assistance for agricultural producers impacted by eligible natural disasters that occurred in calendar year 2022.

Continued on Page 20, See Update

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## Update, Continued from Page 18

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released the process for producers to begin accessing these disaster funds.

The Emergency Relief Program (ERP) 2022 covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to qualifying, calendar year 2022 natural disaster events including wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought and related conditions.

141 agricultural groups, including the National Pecan Federation, signed on to a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack opposing the current 2022 Emergency Relief Program.

The letter states:

**“Yet, we are very concerned about two newly introduced ERP 2022 provisions outlined in program guidance released on October 27: (1) progressive payment factors used to prorate payments; and (2) the method used to incorporate producer-paid insurance premiums. Neither of these provisions were part of ERP 2020 or ERP 2022, and both appear inconsistent with the congressional intent of the enabling legislation.**

**Additionally, these two programmatic changes will penalize many producers throughout the country. In the case of the progressive payment factor, we oppose a policy that delivers the least amount of benefit to those who have lost the most outside of the payment limits provided in**

**statute. While we appreciate the funding restraints under which ERP 2022 was developed, we believe that USDA should instead aim to provide more equitable support for losses of all magnitudes. This can be achieved by using a single, uniform factor, as USDA has done in the past. With regards to incorporating the producer-paid premiums, this change will keep some growers from qualifying for any assistance and create a significant disparity of payments among producers.”**

Members of Congress also sent a letter to Secretary Vilsack highlighting concerns with the 2022 USDA

**Continued on Page 22, See Update**

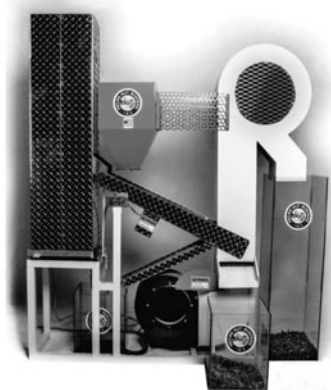
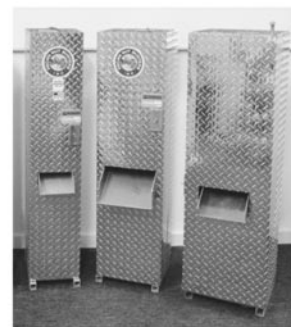
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### Update, Continued from Page 20

ERP Program. This letter was led by Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX) and Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) and was signed by 64 U.S. House and U.S. Senate members.

### USDA Opens Applications for Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP)

In October U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will use \$1.3 billion from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to establish the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP) to bolster and diversify U.S. agricultural export opportunities and enable American exporters to enter new markets and expand market share in current and growth markets.

On November 29, applications opened for the first tranche of up to \$300 million in funding for RAPP. RAPP funds are available to non-profit U.S. agricultural trade organizations, non-profit State Regional Trade Groups (SRTGs), U.S. agricultural cooperatives and state agencies that conduct approved market development activities to foster expanded exports and market diversification by encouraging the development, maintenance, and expansion of diverse commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural commodities and products.

In his comments at the President's Export Council, Secretary Vilsack stated, "It takes significant investment to open and develop new export markets and this new fund will be dedicated to helping provide that start-up capital so that American exporters can diversify their markets and create new opportunities. There

are many regions of the world – in South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa – where the middle class is growing and the desire for high quality products is increasing. In order to capture those markets from our competitors we need to have a presence, address barriers, and showcase America's high-quality, agricultural products across the world."

Continued on Page 24, See Update

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## National Pecan Federation Requests

### Section 32 Purchase for Pecans

The National Pecan Federation (NPF) sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service advocating for a Section 32 Commodity Procurement Solicitation for pecans. Section 32 of the Funds for Strengthening Markets, Income, and Supply Act authorizes USDA to make purchases of commodities experiencing an oversupply situation.

As stated in the letter, the U.S. pecan industry has experienced many challenges in recent years, from retaliatory tariffs in China to rising input prices, labor shortages, and adverse weather. A significant purchase of pecans from USDA would be extremely beneficial to the industry.

USDA has begun considering Section 32 requests and is releasing solicitations on a rolling basis. 🌰



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January 17, 2024

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
BUDGET  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
FINANCE

Dear Colleague:

I want to thank you all for your bipartisan work on the Committee as we continue to draft and negotiate the 2024 Farm Bill.

As we begin a new year and the second session of the 118th Congress, I want to outline my proposal for strengthening the farm safety net in the 2024 Farm Bill.

The good news is the “farm” is on every page of the Farm Bill. From crop insurance and commodity programs, to research, marketing assistance, trade and programs that help low-income families buy local fruits and vegetables, the 2018 law is a strong foundation for American farmers.

The 2024 Farm Bill is an opportunity for the Com-

mittee to make improvements, modernize dated elements, and address emerging challenges American farmers face.

My vision for modernizing the safety net centers around five key principles:

- programs must be targeted to active farmers;
- we need to provide farmers choices and flexibility;
- assistance should be timely;
- we need to expand the reach of programs to help more farmers; and
- we need to address the emerging risks farmers face.

**Continued on Page 27, See Letter**

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## Letter, Continued from Page 26

Crop insurance is a key tool that meaningfully advances each of these goals.

Whether I'm talking to farmers at a hearing, field day, or local diner, they all emphasize the importance of crop insurance. Over time, we have made meaningful improvements, provided more choices for existing coverage, and expanded its reach to cover more crops, varieties, areas, and types of production.

Crop insurance is working. It now covers more than 600 varieties of 134 crops across the country. Nearly \$200 billion in crop value is insured. This is an increase of over \$50 billion since the last Farm Bill, which was driven by new livestock policies and area plans. This critical tool provided nearly \$30 billion in timely support in 2022 and 2023 so far. Other tools, while helpful, often take a year or more after a disaster for assistance to reach farmers.

Farmers want coverage for a greater share of the risk, better affordability, and a more straightforward and streamlined process. The 2018 Farm Bill provided cotton farmers with a choice between the traditional base

acre programs and a highly-subsidized and streamlined area-based crop insurance policy. The next Farm Bill should give a similar option to all commodities.

The Committee can also continue to expand crop insurance options to more specialty crop and livestock producers while making crop insurance more affordable for beginning farmers. This means improving and streamlining policies like the Whole Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm Insurance programs to help small and diversified farmers. But it also means making sure there are agents and companies marketing the improved options in the places and communities where there is unmet need. We need to make sure USDA has the right tools to step in if farmers or agents are being denied or discouraged from certain insurance products.

While the Commodity title is limited to 22 crops and payments are less timely, it is also an important tool for farmers. In the last Farm Bill, we made important updates to both the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs to make them more reactive to recent market conditions, and we gave

**Continued on Page 28, See Letter**

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## Letter, Continued from Page 27

farmers the choice each year to pick which program better suits their needs.

The 2018 bill created an “effective reference price” for PLC that tracks the price of commodities and increases support to farmers in a market-oriented fashion. This means that under existing law half of the program crops and more than 90 percent of the program acres are going to see an automatic 10-15% increase in their reference price over the next few years.

I am open to proposals that would make sure every covered commodity receives an increase under an “effective reference price.”

The Farm Bill is not just an opportunity to improve and modernize the current set of tools. It is also our chance to take stock of the emerging challenges we face and develop new tools to support farmers.

Talk to any farmer and you will hear about supply chain challenges and higher input costs and interest rates eating into their already razor-thin margins. This is especially true for beginning, small, and medium-

sized farms, where one bad stretch of weather or turn in the markets can put the whole operation in jeopardy. Aside from dairy’s margin safety net and a few row crops, most farmers have limited tools to protect against this kind of risk.

Instead of spreading taxpayer dollars to investors and absentee landlords, who often capture benefits under the existing programs, the new Farm Bill should use the tools that directly target assistance to the farmers bearing these risks. The Committee can address risks from high costs by improving marketing assistance loans, which provide timely assistance through a price floor, and ensure access to affordable credit and other financing tools to help farms facing high interest rates. Looking to the future, we should develop new crop insurance policies that protect against

high costs, low margins, and the costs from business disruptions from diseases like avian influenza.

The Farm Bill is our opportunity to build on the progress we made in 2018 by providing bipartisan so-

**Continued on Page 29, See Letter**

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## Letter, Continued from Page 27

lutions to the challenges farmers are facing. We can provide farmers the option to pick what tools work best for their crops, region, and farm. No mandates, just more options.

However, we're not going to have the bipartisan votes to achieve these improvements if they are paid for by taking money from nutrition programs which help more than 44 million Americans struggling with hunger, or from popular conservation programs, when the climate crisis is hitting farmers' bottom lines every day.

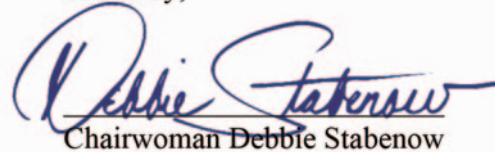
I am working creatively to bring new, bipartisan resources into the Farm Bill. This includes working with Senator Boozman and USDA to double funding for trade promotion programs over the next five years. If we act fast, the new farm bill could leverage this one-time action to bump up permanent baseline funding for trade promotion, which has not happened in the previous three farm bills. I also have a commitment from Leader Schumer to work with us to find several billion

dollars from outside the Farm Bill to help us achieve our goals. We should not let this opportunity pass. In the 2014 Farm Bill, Senate leadership told our Committee to cut spending by over \$20 billion.

By choosing the right tools and finding creative solutions, we can make meaningful improvements to the safety net that meet the needs of farmers, big and small, across the country.

This may be my last Farm Bill, but it's not my first. If we're going to get a Farm Bill done this spring to keep farmers farming, it's time to get serious. I look forward to continuing our bipartisan work to get it done. 🥜

Sincerely,



Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## Considering Your Herbicide Rotation Options

By Andrew Sawyer, SE Georgia Area Pecan Agent,  
UGA Extension

I have spoken with growers recently about alternatives to using Alion® (*indaziflam*) due to concerns for its persistence in the soil and potential to contribute to developing resistance. At the Vidalia Onion Research Center, I sprayed different pre-emergent herbicides for the purpose of rating efficacy and to evaluate other options. Rotation of any pesticide is important to minimize resistance. Alion® controls a wide spectrum of grasses and broadleaf weeds. It is easy to keep using. The compound in Alion® and Centrus®, indaziflam, persists a long time in the soil.

If you have used Alion® or Centrus® in your non-bearing orchard in back-to-back years, I would look at rotating to Chateau® or Tuscany® (*flumioxazen*), Pindar GT® (penoxulam + oxyflurofen), or Simazine. These herbicides exhibited 85 –

95% control at the 60-day mark in my trial. Some would have made it to 70 days before needing a cleanup spray. In the table below, pay attention to the herbicides listed with an ab delineation.

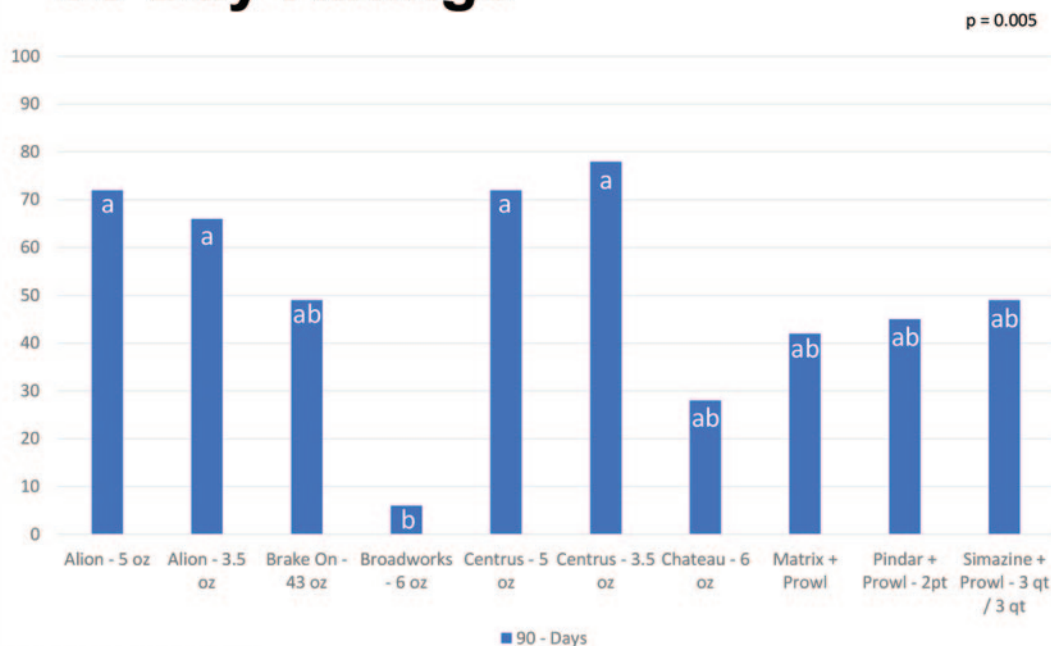
Chateau® is currently our standard rotation with Alion®. The best way to compare it is Chateau® has good control (80 – 90%) of grasses and broadleaf weeds, where Alion is a degree better in its control. In my plots the last two years, Chateau® at two applications of 60z/acre broke down significantly by sunlight. It is listed as lasting 60 – 80 days at 6 – 8 ounces per acre. Again, in full sunlight, the 6 oz per acre struggled. You can use 12 ounces per acre total in a



**Figure 1. Simazine 60 days after application. With the crabgrass starting to sprout, this plot would need a post herbicide spray in the next 7 days.**

Continued on Page 31, See Options

### 90 Day Ratings



**Table 1. Ratings of 2023 pre-emergent herbicides applied April 5, 2023 at the Vidalia Onion Research Center. As a rotation to Alion, consider the herbicides with an “ab” delineation.**



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### Options, Continued from Page 30

season. A great benefit of Chateau® is you can use it on trees at 6 months old.

I was impressed by the performance of Simazine in this trial. For those newer to the industry, Simazine was a part of our standard program years ago. Pecan trees need to be 2 years old for Simazine. We do not use it as much because of Alion® and Chateau®. In the trial last year, it controlled weeds through 60 days equal to Chateau®, Matrix® and Pindar®. It is easy to use and mix. I used three quarts per acre, but you can do 2 – 4 quarts at a time. The disadvantage is that it is recommended to use a tank-mix partner with it. This recommendation is because it does not control summer broadleaf weeds as well. If you stay low cost, we usually put Prowl® or Surflan® with it. I did this last year, but it is not fun mixing the yellow herbicides. Following a few years of Alion®, I would consider the Simazine alone.

I would consider Pindar® as well. I liked its performance in last season's trial. It is a dormant application -- meaning you apply it in the fall and spring,

instead of spring and summer. For spring, you have to have it on the ground before green tissue emergence. This practice is because one of the two compounds in it can volatilize and injure new leaves. This application would be timed for the end of March. It was recommended to me to also use a tank-mix partner to aid in summer grass control. I used 3 quarts of Prowl H2O®. Three quarts of Prowl® is a lot to go through nozzles, but if you used Alion® for two consecutive years, would you need the tank mix? I would try it alone.

Pindar® did excellent for me when used on November 1<sup>st</sup>. At 2 pint per acre alone, it held the strips until I re-applied in the spring. The rate is between 1.5 pint to

Continued on Page 34, See Options



*Figure 2. Pindar 120 days after application at 2 pint per acre. A great place for Pindar is in the fall.*



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### Options, Continued from Page 32

3 pints per acre. Research has shown that the 2-pint rate is as good as the 3-pint rate. Your trees need to be 9 months old before you apply it.

Brake On® (*fluridone*) is an herbicide I used as well. It is a newer herbicide for pecan. Do you remember Solicam®? Brake On® is another Group 12. Sepro says that it has reduced microbial breakdown, which is a characteristic of Alion®. I used it last year as a stand-alone application. The use rates are between 21 and 43 oz per acre. Though it was recommended to me to use a tank-mix partner, I applied it as a stand-alone to observe efficacy. It looked great at 60 days after application. It did break down at 90 days. The disadvantage is that I used the full rate to get that control. I do not know the price of Brake On®. You can use the 21-ounce rate with Chateau®, but you then need to consider both costs. This

year I may do split applications at 21 ounces with a tank partner just to observe it. I will hopefully let you know more.

To summarize, if you have been on Alion® for consecutive years, you need to rotate. At the same time, if your soil has had indaziflam build up, the herbicide you choose this year will have that as an added benefit. There are a number of rates and / or combinations I am interested in testing for this year and look forward to bringing you that information in future issues. 🌰



**Figure 3. Brake On 60 days after application at full season rate.**

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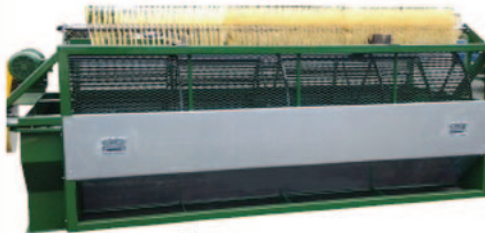
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# American Pecan Council And American Pecan Promotion Board

## *The Pecan Opportunity In India*

*Submitted by The American Pecan Council*



**D**riving export opportunities is a significant area of focus for the American Pecan Council. In particular, India presents a great opportunity to reach a growing, heavily vegetarian country where general awareness about pecans is low, but interest in nuts, especially U.S. nuts, are high – not just for cultural holidays, weddings or gift-giving, but for nutritious snacking and ingredient solutions. Additionally, India's population is projected to reach 1.5 billion by the end of this decade, and with the recent tariff reduction, it's a critical moment for U.S. pecans to secure a foothold there.

In January, the American Pecan Council teamed up with the Georgia Pecan Growers Association to host five prominent Indian nut importers from Mumbai and

New Delhi for an up-close, educational look at the U.S. pecan industry and how the full value chain can offer a high-value, nutritious product for Indian consumers.



**Continued on Page 40, See India**

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To kick-off the trade mission, importers attended a welcome reception at the Indian Consulate of Atlanta. There they had an opportunity to meet with the Consul General of India as well as Senator Jon Ossoff and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Tyler Harper.

Over the course of the Georgia trip, importers met with more than a dozen Georgia pecan growers, learning about different varieties, something they weren't aware of about previously, and sampling their distinctive flavors.

Two university professors, Dr. Lenny Wells and Dr. Ronald Pegg provided a rich history of pecan production and reinforced the importance of proper packaging, handling and shelf life and its effect on a quality product. During the afternoon, importers also had a chance to tour Lane Southern Orchards with Mark Sanchez and Duke Lane and were treated to southern favorites like pecan pie and cobbler.

Importers also traveled to El Paso and Las Cruces to tour plant facilities and orchards and attended a luncheon co-hosted by APC and the Western Pecan Growers Association. The final stop included a culinary dinner experience in Dallas where pecans stole the show from appetizer to dessert.

After the experience, importers were impressed by the industry and believe there is "true potential" for American pecans in India. They believe their Indian consumers are hungry for wholesome, nutritious snack options and the taste and health benefits of pecans will make it a unique and sought after exotic nut and are excited to grow the American pecan presence in India. 🌰



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# First Stop: Georgia



A welcome reception hosted at the Consulate of India in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15th gave trade delegates their first taste of Georgia pecans integrated into traditional Indian cuisine. As pictured, left to right, are delegates Ali Asger Yusuf and Mariah Mansoor Alkanes of Tajir Private Limited, and Bhavin Laxmichand Gada of Frunuts Exim LLP & The African Trading Company Private Limited.



At right, Consulate General Shri Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan welcomed the crowd and introduced U.S. Senator from Georgia, the Honorable Jon Ossoff.

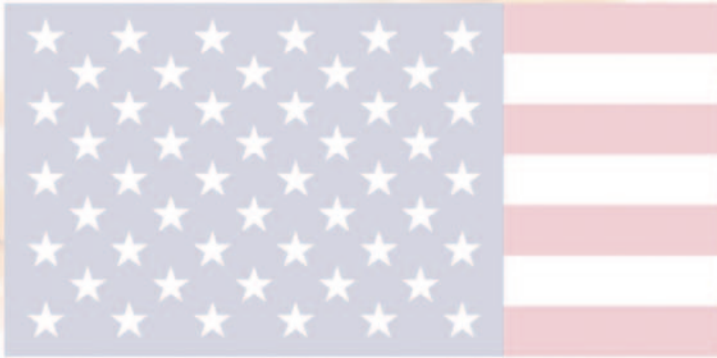


Additionally joining the delegation for the evening, at left, includes Anne Warden, CEO of the American Pecan Council and American Pecan Promotion Board, and Georgia's Commissioner of Agriculture, Tyler Harper.





*Buck and Kristy Paulk of Shiloh Pecan Farm speak with delegate Yash Jagdishlal Gawdi of Candor Foods Private Limited, which is based out of Mumbai, India.*



*Senator Jon Ossoff discussed the importance of building trade relationships between the United States and India. Ossoff was instrumental in negotiating a lower tariff for U.S. pecans in India in 2023.*



*Attendees included members of the India-American Chamber of Commerce. They joined representatives from Georgia Pecans and the American Pecan Council/ American Pecan Promotion Board.*



# Georgia Day Two: Connecting Suppliers



*The Georgia Pecan Growers Association welcomed the delegation for a networking event at Fort Valley State University's Agricultural Technology Convention Center on January 16th. Indian importers were able to discuss opportunities with Georgia suppliers experienced in the export market.*

*Delegates received hands on information and product samples from Georgia pecan suppliers.*







*Delegates are particularly interested in the health benefits and nutrition of Georgia pecans.*



*Lane Southern Orchard hosted the delegation to demonstrate their shelling plant and retail market.*



*Delegates are interested in both in-shell and prepared product for distribution.*



*American*  
**PECANS**

**THE ORIGINAL SUPERNUT**

# India Export Opportunities

## The Indian Consumer



1.4 Billion



28 Average Age

-----

3rd Largest  
Consumer  
Market by 2027



68%

Cook  
or Bake



58%

Look for  
healthy  
ingredients

In January, Indian Importers embarked on a three-state tour to learn about the U.S. Pecan Industry and potential export opportunities.



Euromonitor Voice of the Consumer: Lifestyles Survey (India), fielded January-February 2023.

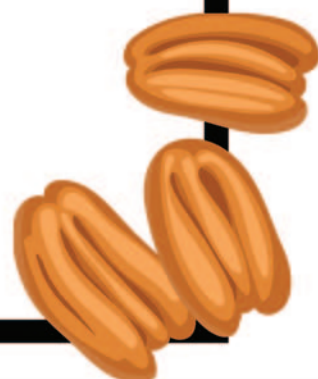
Pew Research. [Key Facts as India Surpasses China as the World's Most Populous Country](#). February 9, 2023

MSBC: [India's consumer market set to become the world's third largest by 2027, behind the U.S. and China](#). September 6, 2023





**Thank you to the  
Georgia Pecan Growers  
Association for sharing  
their research library  
with us to support the  
growth of the entire  
pecan industry!**





# American Pecan Promotion Board

## Official Resolution Re: Reimbursements/Exemptions on Re-Imported Pecan Product

Submitted by The American Pecan Promotion Board

**F**ort Worth, TX - Attention all pecan importers: On December 15, 2023, the American Pecan Promotion Board ("the Board") adopted a resolution to begin implementing an interim process pursuant to which importers may request an exemption from past due assessments or reimbursement for assessments collected by U.S Customs and Border Patrol ("Customs") that were shipped outside the U.S. and returned as shelled meats. If you should have any questions about forms, exemptions, or reimbursements, or to pay past-due assessments, the Board office is available to assist at [forms@eatpecans.com](mailto:forms@eatpecans.com) or (817) 985-3034.

Please note, outstanding assessments from October 1, 2021, are still due unless an application is submitted by importers to the Board office and approved for an

exemption or reimbursement from the obligation to pay assessments on pecans that are re-imported into the United States between October 1, 2021 through November 30, 2023. Failure to pay past-due assessments will result in penalties. If you know someone who this directly affects, please feel free to share this press release.

### About the American Pecan Promotion Board

The Board was created pursuant to the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996 and formed to administer the Pecan Promotion, Research and Information Order (7 CFR Part 1223) (the "Order") to strengthen the position of pecans in the marketplace, maintain and expand markets for pecans, and develop new uses for pecans. 🌰

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# 2024 Georgia Pecan County Extension Meetings

- February 1 Grady County:** 12 PM; Grady Agri-Center: 65 11th Ave NE, Cairo, GA 39828
- February 7 Peach County:** 10 AM; Flint EMC Auditorium: 3 S Macon Street Reynolds, GA
- February 8 Toombs, Treutlen, Montgomery Counties:** 12 PM; Toombs Co. Extension Office: 360 Bulldog Road Lyons, GA 30436
- February 13 Cook County:** 12 PM; Cook Co. Extension Office: 206 East 9th Street Adel, GA 31620
- February 14 Crisp County:** 8 AM; Crisp Co. Extension Office: 110 W 13th Ave, Suite C Cordele, GA 31015
- February 15 Colquitt County:** 12 PM; Colquitt Co. Extension Office: 350 Veterans Parkway N Bldg 1, Room 132 Moultrie, GA 31788
- February 20 Sumter County:** 12 PM; Sumter Co. Extension Office: 127 William Bowen Point Americus, GA 31719
- February 21 Thomas County:** 12 PM, Location TBD
- February 22 Laurens County:** 12 PM; Cloverleaf Restaurant: 425 Central Drive, East Dublin, GA 31027
- March 7 Ben Hill, Irwin, Wilcox Counties:** Ben Hill Co. Extension Office: 406 W Palm Street, Fitzgerald, GA 31750
- March 12 Mitchell County:** 12 PM; Mitchell Co. Agri-Center: 4590 GA Highway 37 E, Camilla, GA 31730
- March 13 Berrien County:** 12 PM; Berrien County Extension Office: 516 A County Farm Road #1, Nashville, GA 31639
- March 14 Dougherty County:** 6:00 PM; Albany Fairgrounds: 810 S Westover Blvd, Albany, GA 31707



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## *Pecan Smoked Winter Squash Hummus, Candied Pecans*

### **Ingredients**

- 1 ½ lb Local Winter Squash, such as butternut
- 3 Tbsp Georgia Olive Oil, divided
- 1 ½ cup Chickpeas, drained with liquid reserved
- 2 Tbsp Tahini
- 2 clove Mince
- 1 Lemon, juiced
- ½ tsp Salt
- To taste Black Pepper
- Pinch Cumin
- ¼ tsp Paprika
- ½ cup Candied Pecans, chopped
- Applewood smoked salt, to taste (optional)



Courtesy of **Georgia Grown**

**From Chef Thomas McKeown**

Hyatt Regency - Atlanta

### **Instructions**

1. Cut winter squash in half and deseed. Coat with Georgia Olive Oil, salt and pepper. Place on a smoker on medium heat with pecan wood. Smoke until fork tender, about 1 ½ hours. Or, bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until tender.

2. Add squash, 1 ½ Tbsp olive oil, chickpeas, tahini, garlic, and lemon to a food processor or blender and process until smooth.

3. Add in spices and blend until well combined. Taste for seasoning. If baked, add applewood smoked salt for seasoning to create a smoky flavor. Top with more olive oil and candied pecans for garnish.

4. Serve with vegetables, crackers, or toasted bread for dipping.



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## *Pecan Linzer Heart Cookies*

### Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 cups unsalted butter softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup pecans halves
- 1/2 cup raspberry jam
- confectioners sugar for sprinkling

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place pecans on baking sheet and toast for 6 minutes until fragrant. Let cool then finely chop. Set aside.

2. In a small bowl whisk together flour and salt.

3. Cream butter and sugar in large bowl. Add vanilla and beat until smooth. Stir in half of dry ingredients until just combined. Add remaining dry ingredients and the toasted finely chopped pecans. Mix until just combined. Shape the dough into two balls and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Take one ball of dough out of the refrigerator. Roll the dough out on a floured surface to a 1/4 inch thick. Cut out the cookies with a 2 or 3 inch heart cookie cutter for the top and bottom of the cookie or you



Course: 1 hour 30 minutes

Servings: 20 -24 cookies

Author: Mary Ann Dwyer

can use a cookie cutter with a small heart cutout in the center for the top cookie and a solid cookie for the bottom. Arrange on the parchment lined baking sheet 2 inches apart and bake for about 15 minutes or until lightly browned around the edges. Keep your eye on the tray so it doesn't brown too quickly. Cool on the sheet then remove to wire rack. Repeat with second ball of dough. Spread 1 tsp. raspberry jam on bottom cookie then sandwich with another cookie on top. Sprinkle with confectioners sugar.

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# THIRD ANNUAL GEORGIA PECAN MONTH

This past November one of the ways that the Georgia Pecan Growers Association celebrated Georgia Pecan Month was through a social media photo contest. The contest guidelines asked that pictures submitted for review would include any aspect of Georgia Pecans. We ran the contest through Facebook the entire month of November and received a total of 16 entries that represented a wide variety of features for Georgia's state nut, including people, orchards, harvest, and celebrations of pecan. All photo entries were posted to the GPGA Facebook page for followers of our page to vote on the winning photo. Followers 'voted' by 'liking' their favorite picture. The contest reached over 5,000 people.

Congratulations to Kellie Giddens on winning the 2023 Georgia Pecan Month Photo Contest! Her photo featured pecans in the process of the nut filling stage! The top photographers who submitted photos were Kellie Giddens and Payton Spell. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Georgia Pecan Month photo contest!



**1st: KELLIE GIDDENS**



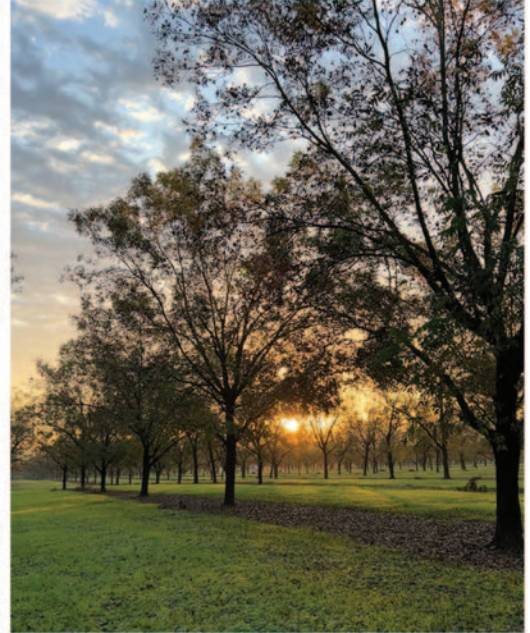
**2nd: PAYTON SPELL**



**3rd: PAYTON SPELL**



# ***PHOTO CONTEST***







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## 59th Annual Conference & Trade Show

March 19-21, 2024 | Georgia National Fairgrounds, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry, Georgia 31069

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### Greetings!

We are looking forward to another great conference and all the amazing opportunities for you to network with your peers, learn about new ideas and practices, and get an update from the pecan industry's national organizations all in one place! For 2024, the Conference returns to **Perry to the Georgia National Fairgrounds, March 19-21, 2024**, a week earlier than last year due to the Easter Holiday the following week. Please read the below and attached information carefully as there are some **new changes** for this year's program.

This year, the GPGA Conference kick-off activities will be held on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024. GPGA's 14th Annual Golf Tournament will again take place at Houston Lake Country Club in Perry.** If golf is not your forte, be sure to sign up for **GPGA's 3rd Annual Skeet Shoot Tournament held in Forsyth at Meadows Gun Club.** Following the first day's activities, all Conference goers (whether you participated in an activity or not) will come together back at the Conference's home base at the Georgia National Fairgrounds Miller-Murphy-Howard Building, Main Exhibit Hall for the **Welcome Reception.** The Welcome Reception will offer fun for all with heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, silent auction, and reverse raffle drawing. Winning teams from the afternoon tournaments will also be recognized and receive their awards at the reception.

On **Wednesday, March 20th**, a full day of Conference educational sessions will take place, with a slight change in the itinerary for 2024. In addition to the regular educational and industry focused learning sessions, the UGA Pecan Extension team will be hosting the **Beginners in Pecan Production** course in tandem to the traditional Conference educational sessions. Attendees will be presented with the option of attending either/or both throughout the day, depending on the topics being discussed. The Annual Awards luncheon will take place at noon as usual, with educational sessions to resume after lunch and will be scheduled to conclude by 4 PM.

Concluding Conference activities on **Thursday, March 21st**, all are invited to attend an **orchard tour.** More information will be provided closer to Conference.

We hope you will capitalize on these extended opportunities for you to enjoy some time away from the farm and will consider participating or sponsoring an event to enhance your overall Conference experience. We offer many packages and ways in which you can show support to the Association outside of membership and attendance. As a non-profit organization that exists solely to support Georgia's pecan growers, we depend on your support and involvement to advance the industry together. This three-day Conference event is held for the benefit of the industry and as a fundraiser for the Association.

We look forward to seeing you in March!

Sincerely,

*Mary Mikelyn Bruerton*

Interim Executive Director

Georgia Pecan Growers Association

georgiapecan.org | PO Box 1367, Tifton, GA 31793 | Phone: 229-382-2187 | info@georgiapecan.org





## 59th Annual Conference & Trade Show

March 19-21, 2024 | Georgia National Fairgrounds, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry, Georgia 31069

### REGISTRATION:

This packet provides information on the 2024 GPGA Conference. Attendee registration forms are included in this packet. Registration can also be completed online at [georgiapecan.org](http://georgiapecan.org) or by calling the GPGA office (229) 382-2187. On-site registration will be available on the day of the Conference, however, there will be an additional charge for same day registration. *(Please consider pre-registering as it helps the Association better plan and prepare for meals throughout the conference).*

### MEMBERSHIP:

Please renew membership separately from the Conference registration, in order to receive your member discount. **Membership DOES NOT cover Conference admission.** Renew online at [georgiapecan.org](http://georgiapecan.org) or by calling the office.

### 14th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT:

This year's golf tournament will be held at **Houston Lake Country Club in Perry, GA on Tuesday, March 19th with a shotgun start at 10:00 AM.** Lunch and beverages will be provided throughout the tournament thanks to generous sponsors. Register as a 4-man team or as an individual (*individuals will be placed on teams by the Association*).

### 3rd ANNUAL SKEET SHOOT TOURNAMENT:

This year's skeet shoot will be held at **Meadows Gun Club in Forsyth, GA on Tuesday, March 19th with registration and lunch at 11:30 AM and shooting to start at 12:30 PM.** Register as a 4-man team or as an individual (*individuals will be placed on teams by the Association*). Rental guns and equipment are available but must be requested in advance. Shotgun shells (*both 12 gauge & 20 gauge*) and golf carts will be provided. This is a shotgun-only facility.

### WELCOME RECEPTION:

Join us for a Welcome Reception following the first day's events for sponsored cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres at the Georgia National Fairgrounds, Miller-Murphy-Howard building, on **Tuesday, March 19th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.** The Welcome Reception will feature networking among growers and exhibitors, a Silent Auction and the Reverse Raffle drawing! All are welcome!

### RAFFLE:

As the key component to our annual fundraising efforts, the Reverse Raffle Draw Down is ready for your support in 2024! The draw-down will take place at the Welcome Reception, **Tuesday, March 19th.** All tickets will be sold. No tickets will be auctioned off. Only 500 tickets in circulation. Enter for a chance to win \$10,000 in cash & prizes! Winners do not need to be present to win. Winnings can be split between the final 4. Contact one of the GPGA Board Members or GPGA office staff to get your ticket before they're gone!

### SILENT AUCTION:

As a non-profit organization, GPGA depends on fundraising efforts at Conference to help us offset costs of hosting this grand event. The Silent Auction will aid in these efforts and will only be available for bidding during the **Welcome Reception on Tuesday night, March 19th**, with a variety of price ranges and gift options for everyone. Please consider bidding on these unique items and/or donating items for this special event.

### ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON:

GPGA's Annual Awards Luncheon will be held at the **Georgia National Fairgrounds on Wednesday, March 20th at 12:00 PM** which is included in your Conference registration fee. GPGA's annual awards and scholarship recipients will be announced and recognized during the luncheon.

### ORCHARD TOUR: Thursday, March 21st -Location TBD

### BEGINNERS IN PECAN PRODUCTION COURSE:

Calling all new pecan growers (or anyone who is looking for a refresher course)! Dr. Lenny Wells, UGA Horticulturalist & Pecan Expert, and the UGA Pecan Extension Team, will be hosting a Beginners in Pecan Production Course on **Wednesday, March 20th, in the Miller-Murphy-Howard Building.** The course will run in tandem with the other educational sessions presented on the main day of the conference. The course will be hosted in one of the two conference rooms, while the traditional Conference educational sessions will be hosted in the other conference room. No additional registration required. Conference registration will now cover all conference educational sessions offered.

Georgia Pecan Growers Association

[georgiapecan.org](http://georgiapecan.org) | PO Box 1367, Tifton, GA 31793 | Phone: 229-382-2187 | [info@georgiapecan.org](mailto:info@georgiapecan.org)





## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Monday, March 18th:

**1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**    **Exhibitor Registration & Set-Up**  
Miller-Murphy-Howard Building,  
GA National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA

### Tuesday, March 19th:

**8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**    **Exhibitor Registration & Set-Up**  
Miller-Murphy-Howard Building,  
GA National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA

**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**    **14th Annual Golf Tournament**  
Houston Lake Country Club  
100 Champions Way, Perry, GA

**11:30 AM - 4:00 PM**    **3rd Annual Skeet Shoot Tournament**  
Meadows Gun Club  
1064 Rumble Road, Forysth, GA

**5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**    **Welcome Reception**  
Miller-Murphy-Howard Building,  
GA National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA

### Wednesday, March 20th:

**7:30 AM - 4:00 PM**    **All Attendees Registration Open**  
**Trade Show Floor Open**  
Miller-Murphy-Howard Building,  
GA National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA

**8:45 AM - 4:00 PM**    **Educational Sessions**  
*(full agenda coming soon)*  
Miller-Murphy-Howard Building,  
GA National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA

**12:00 AM - 1:30 PM**    **Annual Awards Luncheon**

**4:00 PM**    **Conference Wrap-up for the day**

**4:00 PM**    **Exhibitor Move-Out**

### Thursday, March 21st:

**8:00 AM - 11:00 AM**    **Orchard Tour- LOCATION TBD**

**11:00 AM**    **Conference Concludes**

### SUPPORT THE PAC

*The National Pecan Federation's 'Political Action Committee'*

#### What does NPF do?

The NPF advocates for the pecan industry using the services of The Redding Firm. Advocacy can take various forms and often begins with the education of key policymakers about the industry's concerns, and, depending on the issue, might involve partnering with other specialty crop organizations, working with state departments of agriculture, or with other industry participants. A well-funded PAC is essential to ensuring that the voice of the Pecan Industry is heard in Washington, D.C.

#### What has NPF/PECAN PAC accomplished?

1. \$146 per acre tariff mitigation paid to growers
2. Millions paid to growers to offset hurricane damage
3. Research and Promotion authority to assess imported pecans expected to generate \$4,000,000 in additional marketing and research funding.
4. \$8,500,000 funding for cracking and pasteurization research
5. \$8,500,000 funding for pecan breeding research
6. Pecan Crop Insurance reforms
7. Pecan Participation in COVID-19 economic stimulus programs
8. USDA pecan purchases for feeding programs
9. Lowered India tariffs on U.S. Pecan exports

#### What are NPF/PECAN PAC's current priorities?

1. Improvements to Federal Pecan Crop Insurance & Tree Loss Insurance
2. Processing and breeding research continued funding
3. Positioning the industry to benefit from the Biden Administration's carbon sequestration initiatives

*To have a successful advocacy program, the pecan industry must have a political action committee. The Pecan PAC can accept contributions from individuals, partnerships, or LLCs. Contributions are limited to \$5000 per year. Please send contributions to:*

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## PECAN PAC

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## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

	DIAMOND \$5,000	GOLD \$3,000	SILVER \$2,000	BRONZE \$1,000
Color Ad in <i>The Pecan Grower</i> Magazine (Page Size)	FULL	1/2	1/4	1/8
Golf OR Skeet Shoots Teams	2 teams	1 team	1 team	1 team
Banner Recognition (All Events)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meal Sponsorship Recognition (Awards luncheon & Welcome Reception)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full Logo Recognition in Program	✓	✓	✓	✓
Table Tent Display at Awards Luncheon	✓	✓	✓	✓
Awards Luncheon Meal Tickets	6 tickets	4 tickets	2 tickets	2 tickets
Web Advertising Scroll Bar on <i>georgiapecan.org</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Premium Exhibitor Booth Location	✓	✓		
Ultimate Beverage Sponsorship	✓			
Lanyard Representation	✓			

\* Golf or Skeet Shoot teams can be traded for a hole or target sponsorship, upon request.

\* Banner Recognition included at welcome reception, golf tournament, skeet shoot tournament, presentation rooms, awards luncheon & orchard tour.

\* Color ad can select preferred month to run between June, August, October, or December 2024 issues.

\* No sponsorships listed are exclusive packages.

### ULTIMATE BEVERAGE SPONSOR \$1,500

- Recognition in Program, Banners and Magazine: (Includes ALL Conference Beverages, Session Breaks, Golf Beverage Carts, Skeet Shoot Lunch, Golf Tournament Lunch, & Welcome Reception)

### MEAL SPONSOR

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  - Logo Displayed at Lunch
  - Name Listed in Program and Magazine
  - Table Tent Display at Awards Luncheon
- Supporting - \$250
  - Name Listed in Program and Magazine
  - Table Tent Display at Awards Luncheon

### Extra Opportunities

- Golf or Skeet Tournament
  - Hole and/or Target Sponsor - \$500
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### Donate to GPGA's Silent Auction Fundraiser

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## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

QTY PRICE TOTAL

GPGA MEMBER ADMISSION ..... x \$75 = \_\_\_\_\_

- Early Registration Discount (Prior to February 15, 2024)
- Admission to conference is separate from membership. Admission fee does NOT cover or include membership. Membership forms can be found online to print and mail in or can be completed online at [georgiapecan.org](http://georgiapecan.org). Members get free admission to FALL FIELD DAY only.

GPGA MEMBER ADMISSION (LATE OR ON-SITE REGISTRATION) ..... x \$100 = \_\_\_\_\_

- Registration is considered "Late" after February 15, 2024

GPGA NON-MEMBER ADMISSION ..... x \$125 = \_\_\_\_\_

2024 PAC CONTRIBUTION (min. \$100, max \$5,000)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Receive a Designated Ribbon on Name Badge at Conference

RAFFLE TICKET (GPGA'S MAIN ANNUAL FUNDRAISER)..... x \$100 = \_\_\_\_\_

- GPGA receives its funding from loyal membership support, sponsorships at Conference and Fall Field Day, and from this Annual Raffle. GPGA is a non-profit that solely works for the members of the organization. Please consider supporting this annual fundraiser by taking a little gamble to win \$10,000.00 in cash & prizes! Do not have to be present to win!

### SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE SELECTION:

DIAMOND.....	X \$5,000 = _____
GOLD.....	X \$3,000 = _____
SILVER.....	X \$2,000 = _____
BRONZE.....	X \$1,000 = _____
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SUPPORTING MEAL SPONSOR.....	X \$250 = _____
HOLE SPONSOR (GOLF TOURNAMENT).....	X \$500 = _____
TARGET SPONSOR (SKEET SHOOT TOURNAMENT).....	X \$500 = _____

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

GOLF TEAM.....	\$500 = _____
GOLF INDIVIDUAL.....	\$125 = _____
SKEET SHOOT TEAM.....	\$500 = _____
SKEET SHOOT INDIVIDUAL.....	\$125 = _____

WELCOME RECEPTION (Tuesday, March 19th)..... x FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

ORCHARD TOUR (Thursday, March 21st)..... x FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

JACK THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP DONATION..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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## CONFERENCE CHECK-OUT FORM

ATTENDEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME (FREE): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### GOLF TOURNAMENT: (If Applicable)

NAME	Handicap	Email
Player One: _____		
Player Two: _____		
Player Three: _____		
Player Four: _____		

### SKEET SHOOT TOURNAMENT: (If Applicable)

NAME	Email
Player One: _____	
Player Two: _____	
Player Three: _____	
Player Four: _____	

### PAYMENT OPTIONS (Please select one from the below)

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ONE: ☐ VISA ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED

**TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_





## **HOTELS**

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Best Western Bradbury Inn & Suites: (478)-218-5200  
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Perry, GA 31069  
Rate: \$91.99 + Tax

Hampton Inn Perry: (478)-987-7681  
1-75 Exit 136, 102 Hampton Ct.  
Perry, GA 31069  
Rate: \$120 + Tax

Comfort Inn & Suites: (478)-987-8777  
1-75 Exit 135, 201 Lect Drive  
Perry, GA 31069  
Rate: \$124 + Tax

Avid Hotel Perry: (478)-224-1199  
1-75 Exit 136, 209 Hampton Ct.,  
Perry, GA 31069  
Rate: \$130+ Tax

Holiday Inn Express & Suites: (478)-224-3000  
1-75 Exit 136, 1502 Sam Nunn Blvd  
Perry, GA 31069  
Rate: King- \$127.49 + Tax, 2 Queens: \$135.99 + Tax

### **Other hotels in Perry with no exclusive rates:**

Microtel Inn & Suites: (478)-287-4399  
1-75 Exit 134, 110 Fairview Drive, Perry GA 31069

La Quinta Inn & Suites: (478)-287-4431  
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Oil Lamp Restaurant: (478)-988-2643  
1-75 Exit 135, 401 General Courtney Hodges Blvd  
Perry, GA 31069

Georgia Bob's BBQ: (478)-224-1227  
1-75 Exit 136, 107 Perimeter Rd  
Perry, GA 31069

Hazard's on the Green: (478)-224-3742  
1-75 Exit 135, 901 Carroll St  
Perry, GA 31069

Props Steakhouse & Seafood: (478)-224-7767  
1-75 Exit 142, 1289 Houston Lake Rd S  
Warner Robins, GA 31088

Bodega Brew: (478)-224-3499  
1-75 Exit 135, 1025 Ball St  
Perry, GA 31069

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The Reverse Raffle Draw-Down will take place at the Welcome Reception for the 2024 GPGA Annual Conference and Trade Show on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds Main Exhibit Hall. The raffle will begin promptly at 5:30 PM.

Call the GPGA office at 229-382-2187 to get yours today!

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# Winter Rain Events Helping Pecan Production

By Clint Thompson  
Reprinted courtesy of Specialty Crop News

**R**ainfall is important this time of year for pecan production in the Southeast. On the heels of another harvest season, trees can use the rain during the winter months to sustain high production during the following season. Lenny Wells, University of Georgia Extension pecan specialist, speaks about the importance of growers receiving rains and overcoming the drought-like conditions that were present during the fall time period. “In the wintertime it’s not bad; it’s not a bad thing at all. It helps with the planting as far as getting those new trees off to a good start. It helps re-establish the water table and the aquifers,” Wells said. “Winter rain doesn’t bother us that much. It’s when it comes during the summer that it hurts us the most.” The rain events increased in the Southeast in December following a prolonged

drought that blanketed all of the Southeast and offered little to no moisture for multiple months. According to the UGA Weather Network, Tifton, Georgia, received 6.96 inches of rainfall during December, compared to 1.45 inches in 2022 and 2.79 in 2021. Moultrie, Georgia, received 7.48 inches during December, compared to 1.28 in 2022 and 4.28 in 2021. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor that was released last week, most of southern and eastern Georgia remains drought free. 🌰



## Heavy Scab Pressure Not Impactful On This Year’s Pecan Crop

By Clint Thompson  
Reprinted courtesy of Specialty Crop News

**T**his year’s pecan season endured the worst scab disease pressure in 20 years according to one industry expert. However, this year’s crop survived and thrived thanks to better available fungicides, says Lenny Wells, University of Georgia Extension pecan specialist.

“As far as scab pressure goes, the worst I’ve ever seen was 2003. We had an enormous amount of scab that year. This year I think the scab pressure was probably equal to that,” Wells said. “There was some scab out there, but it was not to the extent we saw in 2003. I think a lot of that has to do with the chemicals we have now.”

Continued on Page 57, See Crop

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*Photo by Clint Thompson/Shows Russ Griffin operating a sweeper to knock away leaves before harvesting pecans.*

### Summer Rains

Wells said that summer rains contributed to the increased scab pressure. “From June through about mid-August, we had a good bit of rain in most areas. There was a lot of scab pressure out there. Most growers did a pretty good job of keeping that off even with the pressure that we had,” Wells said. “I think we’re doing a much better job of rotating that chemistry, and growers are doing a better job with their timing of their sprays than they were 20 years ago. I think that has helped it not be as bad as it could have been given the scab pressure that we had out there.” Weather played a key role in pecan’s production this year, capped by Hurricane Idalia on Aug. 30. “We saw some quality issues over in that hurricane area in east Georgia. I think there were some problems there from the storm like we see commonly in that situation with nuts not quite filling out right and don’t have the weight that we would expect,” Wells said. “I haven’t heard a lot of that recently outside of that area.” 🌰



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## Willson To Chair The NPSA Board



**C**ongratulations to Alex Willson, who serves as CEO of Albany, Georgia-based Sunnyland Farms, for being selected as the new Chair of the National Pecan Shellers Association (NPSA). Sunnyland boasts a 1,760 acre pecan farm and manufacturing company that celebrated its 75th business anniversary just last year.

As explained on their website at [www.ilovepecans.org](http://www.ilovepecans.org), “The National Pecan Shellers Association represents members of the pecan shelling and processing industry. Its purpose is to serve the best interests of industry members, its customers, and consumers of its products through a governing body of Board of Directors and several committees. The Association represents members in public relations, legislative and regulatory issues. General membership meetings are held twice a year.

Day-to-day administration is managed by Kellen, an employee-owned global professional services and association management company with offices in Atlanta, Beijing, Brussels, Chicago, Kansas City, New York, and Washington, D.C.”

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# Pecan: America's Native Nut Tree

## by Lenny Wells

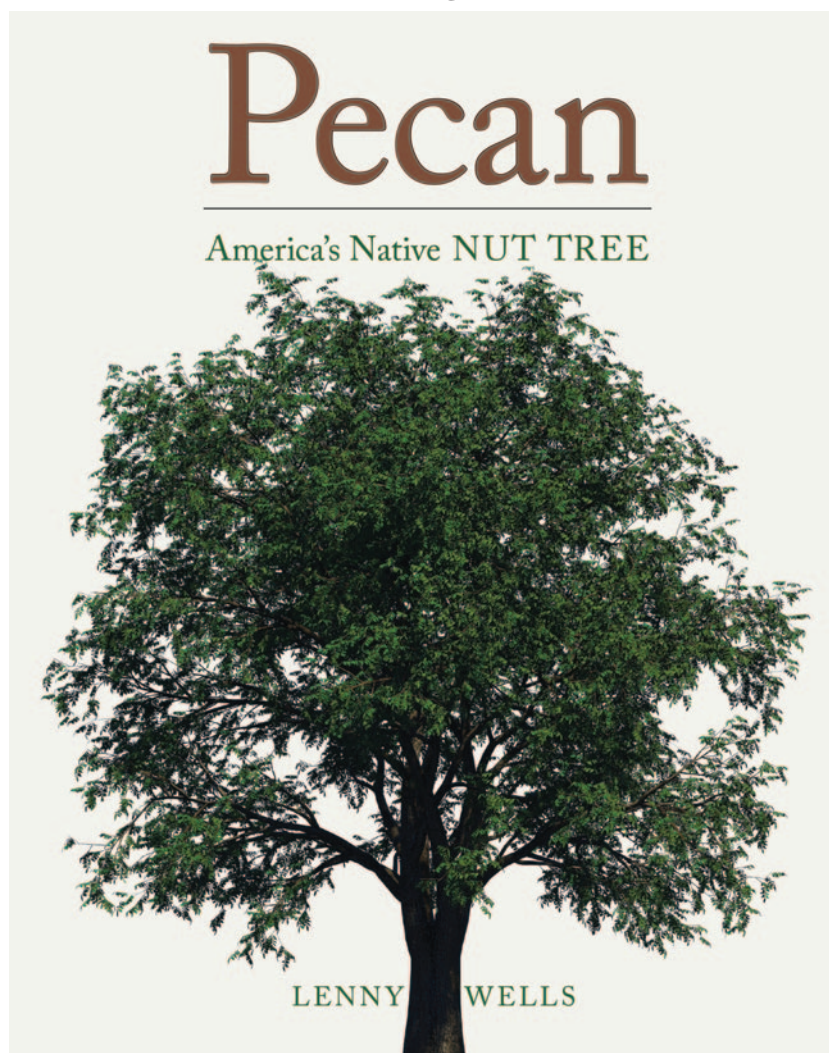
*Pecan: America's Native Nut Tree* tells the rich and largely unknown story of the pecan, a nut unique among food crops, and delves into the history and culture of this unique tree nut in great detail with interesting insights into its world.

*"I was captivated by the story, and riveted by the accounts as he related them. The book is not only a unique history of the pecan, but an interesting account of a significant part of American history."*

—William D. Goff, senior editor for *Pecan Production in the Southeast*

*"Lenny Wells has done a masterful job weaving together many topics regarding the pecan—tree improvement, propagation, horticulture, and the related topics of environmental science, natural history, and the duality of human planning and human caprice—relating it to the history and culture of North America over the last four hundred years."*

—Henry Hughes, director of education at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, Alabama



***Call Today!***

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# USDA To Kick Off National Agricultural Classification Survey

*Submitted By USDA*



**W**ASHINGTON – Already preparing for the 2027 Census of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the National Agricultural Classification Survey (NACS) starting Wednesday, Jan. 24. The survey, an important step in determining who should receive a 2027 Census of Agriculture questionnaire, will be distributed to approximately 250,000 recipients to ask if they conduct agricultural activity. The results will ensure that every producer, no matter how large or small their operation, has a voice and is counted in the highly anticipated and influential agricultural census data.

"This survey helps illustrate the breadth of American agriculture and enables USDA to get a complete

count of all farmers and ranchers," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "Every response matters. Even if a recipient believes that the survey does not apply to them, we ask that they respond to the few screening questions."

## Survey Details

NASS encourages recipients to respond securely online at [accounts.usda.gov](https://accounts.usda.gov), using the unique survey code mailed with the survey. Completed questionnaires may also be mailed back in the prepaid envelope provided. NASS requests that each person who receives the survey respond promptly.

"The NACS ensures that everyone who produces and sells, or normally would sell, \$1000 or more of

**Continued on Page 64, See Survey**

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## Survey, Continued from Page 66

agricultural products in a calendar year are represented in these vital data,” said Hamer.

Referenced by countless national, state, and local decision-makers, researchers, farm organizations, and more, the once-every-five-year Census of Agriculture remains the most comprehensive source of data on American agriculture. The data tell the story of American farmers, ranchers, and growers over time, and inform agricultural policies and programs that impact operations across America. USDA will release the 2022 Census of Agriculture data in February 2024.

If a producer did not receive the 2022 Census of Agriculture or the NACS, NASS encourages them to sign up to be counted at [accounts.usda.gov/getcounted](https://accounts.usda.gov/getcounted). All information reported by individuals will be kept confidential, as required by federal law. For more information about the NACS, visit [nass.usda.gov/go/nac](https://nass.usda.gov/go/nac). For assistance with the survey, call 888-424-7828.

Source: USDA NASS 



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# With Sympathy

By David Soignier, President  
Louisiana Pecan Growers Association



**F**rancis “Plugga” Ridley Gros, Jr., a resident of Ventress, LA, passed away on January 1, 2024 at the age of 70. Plugga was a long time employee of Dow Chemical and Jacob’s Engineering where he worked as a Piping Design Manager. He retired after 45 years in the industry. Plugga was a founding member of Baton Rouge Parrothead Club -- Loyal Order of Disorder. He was also a member of the Louisiana Pecan

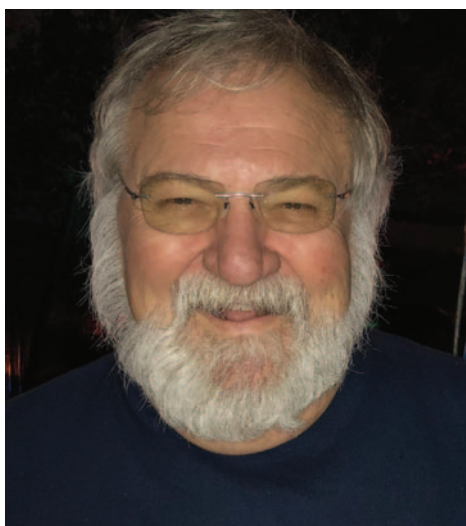
Growers Association

Board, and served as The Pardi Gras King 2019, where he and his wife, Lona, were crowned King and Queen. Santa to all, Plugga loved and adored his family and friends, and always lived his life to the fullest.

Plugga is survived by his wife of 25 years, Lona Spivey Gros; in-laws D.D. and Lois Spivey; son-in-law, Dane Babin; two stepchildren John and Leigh Ann Greco; and numerous grandchildren. He had a special place in his heart for his brother Kevin Gros and his cousin Kathy DeShazo.

He is preceded in death by his daughter, Rachel Gros Babin; and parents Frank and Lorraine Gros.

A visitation was held at Niland’s Funeral Home in New Roads, LA on Thursday, January 4, 2024 from 9:00 am until the memorial service in the funeral home parlor at 11:00 am. 🌰



## PECAN PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT TIPS

### February

- Fertilize dryland orchards according to leaf and soil analysis
- Apply potassium to dry and irrigated orchards
- Lime, zinc and phosphorous and magnesium may be applied (unless previously done)
- Thin overcrowded orchards
  - Hedge trees
  - Prune/train trees
  - Plant/move trees
- Apply sethoxydim for rye grass suppression and clover release
  - Service/repair equipment
  - Clean up limbs/debris
- Collect and store graftwood
  - Whip graft
  - Dig trees
  - Plant nuts

### March

- Fertilize dryland orchards (if not previously completed)
- Apply potassium to dry and irrigated orchards (if not previously completed)
- Complete pruning, training, thinning and planting
  - Plant nuts
  - Whip graft
  - Spring bud
- Begin fungicide sprays at budbreak
- Treat trees with history of phyloxera at budbreak

### April

- Make first application of nitrogen to irrigated orchards
- Apply foliar zinc sprays beginning with 2nd fungicide application if needed
- Apply foliar boron sprays
- Apply nickel sprays to mouse ear affeted trees at parachute stage
  - Apply herbicides
- Continue fungicide sprays at 14 day intervals
- Scout for insect pests and spray as needed
  - Irrigate as needed
  - Bark graft
  - Four flap graft



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Grosch Drilling/Irrigation .....	Page 32	TOL, Inc. ....	Pages 16, 17
Holiday Tins & Containers. ....	Page 51	TRC Partners, LLC .....	Page 48
Hudson Pecan Company. ....	Page 67	Triangle Chemical Company .....	Page 39
Merritt Pecan Co. ....	Page 50	TriEst Ag Group .....	Page 66
Nipan .....	Page 28	Vann Farms Pecan Nursery .....	Page 33
OMC (Orchard Machinery Corporation) .....	Page 2	W.G. Hamil, LLC .....	Page 40
Pacific Distributing/Orchard Rite .....	Page 49	WECO .....	Page 31
Pacific Western (Tree Protectors) .....	Page 51	Weiss McNair. ....	Page 71
Pecan Nut Busters, Inc. ....	Page 20	Wizard Manufacturing. ....	Page 35





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