

The Pecan Grower

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GEORGIA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



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VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 1

FEBRUARY 2026



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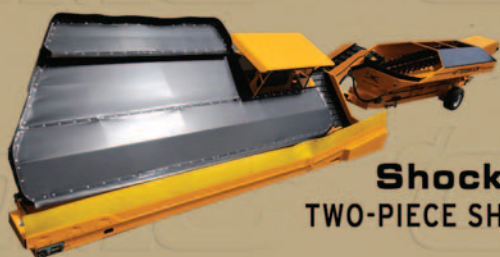
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2026

- **February 11, 2026**
APC & APPB Board Meetings
Irving, TX
- **February 20-21, 2026**
Southeast Pecan Growers Conference
Gulf Shores, AL
More information at www.sepga.org

March & April 2026

- **March 1-3, 2026**
Western Pecan Growers Conference
Las Cruces, NM
More information at www.westernpecan.org
- **March 31-April 1, 2026**
Georgia Pecan Growers Conference
Perry, GA
More information at georgiapecan.org

June 2026

- **June 4-6, 2026**
Oklahoma Pecan Growers Conference
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More information at www.okpecangrowers.org

July 2026

- **July 12-15, 2026**
Texas Pecan Growers Conference
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More information at www.tpga.org

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Registration sent via USPS delivery or download full registration packet at georgiapecan.org

BEGINNER'S IN PECAN PRODUCTION COURSE:

This year we are bringing back by high demand the Beginner's in Pecan Production Course. This event is a separate registration from conference admission. Registration is \$50 and this course will take place on March 31st at the Fairgrounds.

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

This year's golf tournament will be held at Houston Lake Country Club in Perry, GA on Tuesday, March 31st with a shotgun start at 12 PM. Lunch will be served at 11 AM.

SKEET SHOOT TOURNAMENT:

This year's skeet shoot tournament will be held at Meadows Gun Club in Forsyth, GA on Tuesday, March 31st starting at 12 PM. Lunch will be served at 11 AM.

WELCOME RECEPTION:

Join us for a Welcome Reception following the first day's events for beverages, live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, reverse raffle, and a silent auction. This event will be at the Fairgrounds on Tuesday, March 31st from 5:30-7:30 PM.



EVENTS

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Reminiscing on 2025 Harvest!

Photographed by
Kathy Weesner

The Pecan Grower
Newsletter



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EDITOR'S LETTER

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The Pecan Grower (ISSN 1044-9639) is a Production and Marketing News Magazine for pecan growers. Published every other month, (February, April, June, August, October & December), by the Board of Directors of the Georgia Pecan Growers Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1367, Tifton, Georgia 31793; (229) 382-2187. Charter subscriptions are \$40 in the United States each year. Single copy price is \$8.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling, (US only). Copyright 1989. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is prohibited.

The Pecan Grower is published for the GPGA by:

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6 The Pecan Grower

Greetings!

I hope everyone's New Year is off to a fantastic start! As we step into February, the pecan industry is already preparing for another season filled with growth and opportunity. This issue of *The Pecan Grower* is full of research articles from our top researchers in Georgia.



Next month, GPGA will be hosting its 61st Annual Conference and Trade Show. This year's conference will be held on March 31st-April 1st at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. 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, and networking reception! Our conference is an incredible opportunity to learn, connect, and celebrate our shared passion for pecans. Also, returning due to high demand is the Beginners in Pecan Production course hosted by Dr. Lenny Wells. Be sure to pre-register online at georgiapecan.org or call our office at **229-382-2187**.

As always, the GPGA team is here to support growers in every way possible. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance.

Wishing you a productive and prosperous 2026! 🌰

Warmest Regards,

Mary Mikelyn Bruorton

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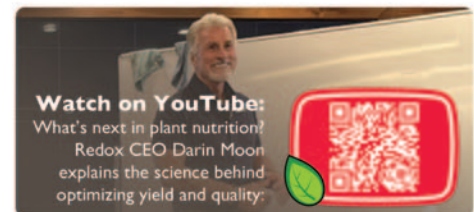
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EXPERT ADVICE

with Dr. Lenny Wells

Extension Horticulturist, University of Georgia

Navigating Disaster Payments

If you are like me, it has become difficult to keep up with all the different disaster relief programs that pop up following a storm event like 2024's Hurricane Helene. While growers are nonetheless appreciative of the assistance, the programs themselves can be rather confusing. With a range of acronyms, deadlines, required documentation, and, in general, an overall lack of clarity regarding who qualifies, the assistance programs can be quite confusing for determining what the payments will cover or address, how these payments are determined, and when they will ultimately pay out to the applicants. For many of these programs I do not (as of this writing) have answers to these questions but want to offer some clarification for what I do know that might offer some clarity to my readers.

There are currently at least 4 programs for which pecan farmers affected by Hurricane Helene should qualify. **These include the USDA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the USDA Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP), Georgia's Hurricane Helene Block Grant Program, and Georgia Timber Tax Credits.** Each of these programs pays for different types of loss. In addition, pecan farmers are to be included in the USDA Farmer Bridge Assistance Program, which is not related to Hurricane Helene but is intended to help farmers through this current economic period of low prices and high inputs. I will try to provide as much detail as we have for each of these.

USDA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The ECP program through USDA is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and is designed to provide emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers to rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

ECP is a cost share program that pays growers up to 75% of their cleanup costs following a storm. This type of program is commonly referred to among

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growers as “clean up money.” Eligible practices include debris removal, grading, and fence repair. *If you have applied for but not yet received your ECP money, contact the Georgia Pecan Growers Association office (229-382-2187) and they can help facilitate your payments.*

ECP is generally the first program that growers seek following a storm. ECP requires documentation in the form of photographs of damage and verification by FSA. ECP deadlines are not fixed but vary by the disaster and state. These deadlines usually last for several months and can often be extended when necessary. Most of you are familiar with ECP. Just remember that when storms occur you need to contact your FSA office as soon as possible prior to cleanup to report damage.

USDA Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)

The SDRP program is also administered by USDA through your local FSA office. SDRP is funded by the 2025 *American Relief Act*, providing more than \$16 bil-

lion in disaster relief payments to producers who suffered revenue, quality or production losses to crops, trees, bushes, or vines due to qualifying disaster events in calendar years 2023 and 2024. It is administered in two stages. Producers can receive payments in both stages, if applicable, and for one or both years, depending on losses.

Stage 1 payments are based on the SDRP adjusted Non-insured Crop Program (NAP) or Federal crop insurance coverage level the producer purchased for the crop. Any crop insurance payments are subtracted from the SDRP payment amount. For stage 1, the total SDRP payment to indemnified producers does not exceed 90 percent of the loss and an SDRP payment factor of 35 percent is applied to all stage 1 payments. If additional SDRP funds remain, FSA may issue a second stage 1 payment. Most of these stage 1 payments went out in the 2025 calendar year but the deadline for application for both stages is April 30, 2026. Bear in mind that *producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the*

Continued on Page 12, See Disaster

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Disaster, Continued from Page 10

next two available crop years will be required to pay back the SDRP payment, plus interest, to USDA.

SDRP Stage 2 provides payments for eligible crops covered by Federal crop insurance or NAP but had losses that were not severe enough to result in an insurance payment, referred to as “shallow” losses. Stage 2 also provides payments for losses of eligible crops, trees, bushes and vines that were not covered by Federal crop insurance or NAP. There is an option to apply for quality losses provided the applicant has verifiable records to support the quality loss. Quality reductions will be calculated using a decrease in value based on discounts provided at the point of sale due to the physical condition of the crop. Documentation must reflect applicable grading factors and corresponding price discounts. You will need documentation from your buyer regarding quality of the crop sold and the discount on standard quality on which this reduction was based. Contact your local FSA office to apply for the SDRP program and they will let you know what documentation is required.

The Georgia Hurricane Helene Block Grant Program

This grant program will be administered by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. *12 The Pecan Grower*

Agriculture. The state of Georgia received over \$531 million to cover future economic losses, infrastructure losses and timber losses caused by the hurricane. Pecan, blueberry and citrus losses are for future production losses due to destroyed bushes and trees.

You qualify for the Block Grant program as a pecan producer if you lost \$1,000 or more to Hurricane Helene in one of the qualifying counties. *See map below for qualifying counties.*

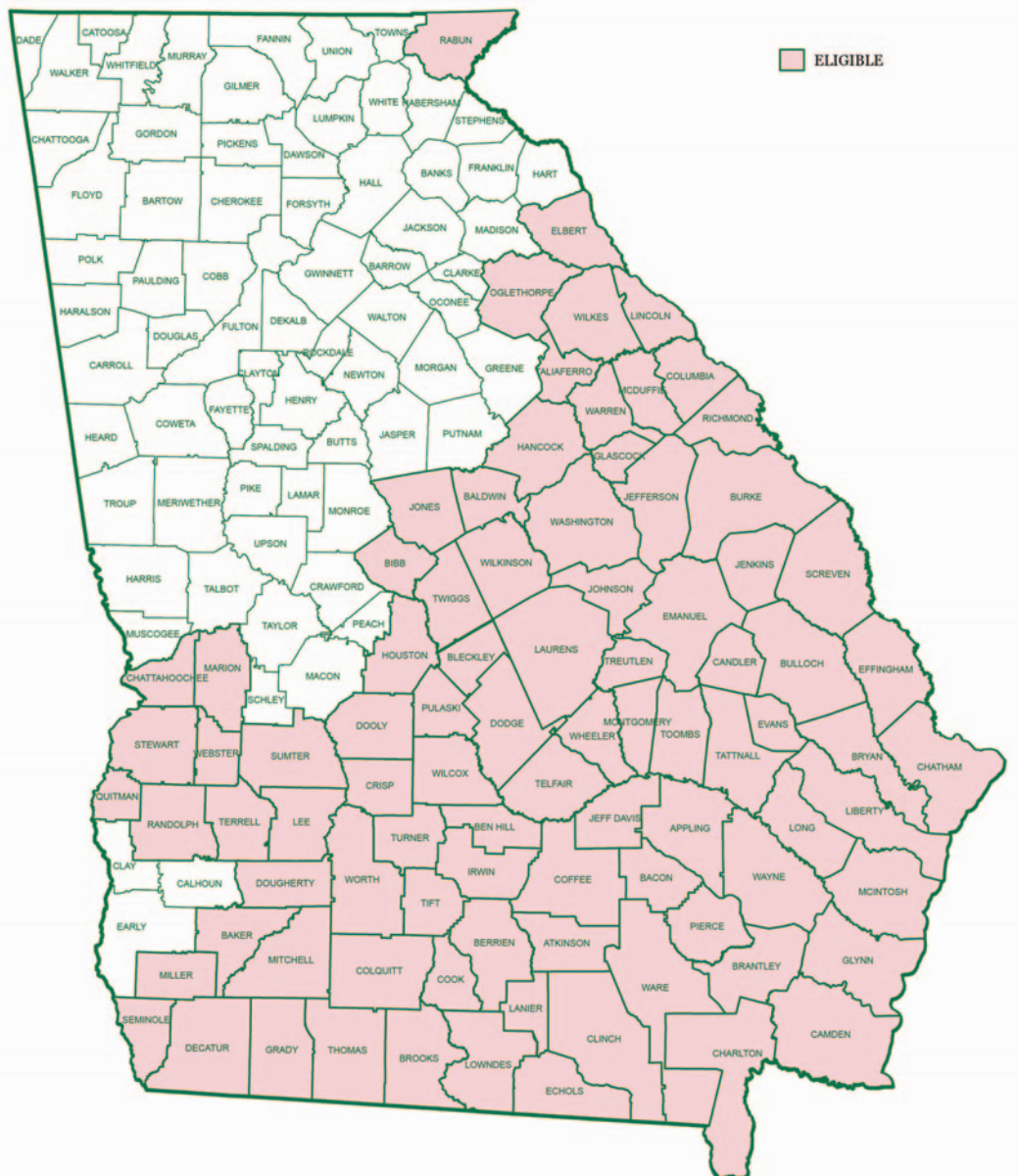
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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GEORGIA HURRICANE HELENE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

ELIGIBLE COUNTIES



SOURCE: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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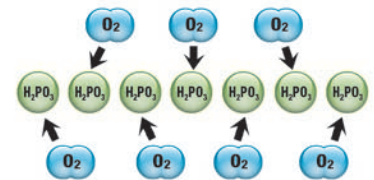
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Disaster, Continued from Page 12

Applications for the Block Grant are not currently open. Once the application period begins, GPGA will notify growers through the GPGA e-Newsletter and social media channels. Growers may also check the Georgia Department of Agriculture website at any time for updates at www.agr.georgia.gov/hurricane-helene-block-grant.

You will need to provide number of trees lost, acres of trees lost, number of replacement trees, and interest in your pecan operation (owned, leased, or % shared). We have many orchards in the state that are leased on a percentage basis. In such cases it is imperative that growers and landowners work together to agree and show documentation of the shared percentages. You will also need acreage reports, crop insurance records, invoices for replacement trees, and photographs. Bear in mind that additional documentation may be required as well.

You may be required to provide latitude and longitude of the orchard property suffering a loss. If you do not have this information, you can find it at

google.com/maps. On the “Search Google Maps” line, type the address of the disaster affected property OR select the property on the map. Right click on the location of the property. An information box will display the latitude and longitude.

Because applications are not yet available (as of this writing) we do not yet know deadlines for the Block grant program. Applications that are approved will receive payments after signup ends. This is all we know about the Block grant program at this time, but more information is expected to be released soon. The Georgia Pecan Growers Association and the Georgia Department of Agriculture will release that information as soon as it is available.

Georgia Timber Tax Credit

Pecan growers affected by Hurricane Helene also qualified for a **refundable state income tax credit** to help offset losses from Hurricane Helene upon meeting certain replanting and/or restoration requirements. The information regarding the details of how these tax credits is calculated are less clear for pecan than for timber.

Continued on Page 16, See Disaster

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Disaster, Continued from Page 14

Regarding timber, eligible taxpayers may claim a Georgia income tax credit equal to 100% of their timber casualty loss in eligible disaster areas, up to \$550 per acre. The total amount of tax credits available statewide is capped at \$200 million.

If total qualified applications exceed the cap (and I expect they will), the available funds will be prorated among all approved applicants. If approved, you will receive a preapproval certificate. Complete the required replanting and/or restoration and report it on the GTC website. You may claim the tax credit on your Georgia income tax returns by December 31, 2030.

The tax credit can be used in the following ways: offset your current Georgia income tax liability; apply the credit against your Georgia income taxes due for the current taxable year; If your allowed timber tax credit exceeds your state income tax liability, you may request a refund for the difference. This option is available only to the original taxpayer who incurred the timber loss; You can sell or transfer the credit to another Georgia

taxpayer, subject to program rules. Any unused credit may be carried forward for up to 10 years until fully used, refunded, or transferred.

These options provide eligible taxpayers flexibility to utilize the credit in the manner that best suits their needs. Again, I am not exactly sure how they determine the pecan loss uses for the timber tax credit. However, I have supplied letters regarding the value of pecan tree loss (\$448.88 value/tree not including nut crop loss) to several individuals and CPAs intended for this use. If you need such a letter, please contact me and I will send you a copy.

USDA Farmer Bridge Assistance Program (FBA)

Pecan producers are eligible for an additional program in 2026 not associated with Hurricane Helene. The USDA Farmer Bridge Assistance Program is a one-time bridge payment to American farmers. It is a \$12 billion program, with \$1 billion available for specialty crops, of which pecans are included. Very little information is

Continued on Page 18, See Disaster

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Disaster, Continued from Page 16

available regarding this program at this time. If you were actively engaged in farming during 2025 you are eligible. The December 19, 2025 acreage report deadline only applies to FBA eligible commodities and does not apply to additional assistance that may be provided to specialty crops. There is very little information out there yet on this program for FBA commodity crops and even less so for specialty crops.

Hopefully, my brief summaries of these programs will help clarify to some degree all the potential programs available to help pecan producers in these difficult times. The Georgia Pecan Growers Association has been instrumental in securing the inclusion of pecans in each of these programs and bringing awareness of both the effects of the hurricane and the economic situation surrounding pecan production at this time. Your support of this organization is critical to Georgia pecans having a seat at the table when these situations arise again. 🌰



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Working Together to Tackle Pecan Diseases

Dr. Clemen Oliveira, Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology, University of Georgia

It is a pleasure to communicate with the pecan industry through *The Pecan Grower* for the first time. In 2025, I joined the University of Georgia as the Peanut and Pecan Pathologist and had the opportunity to spend a few months with my work overlapping with Dr. Tim Brenneeman. Much of that time was spent in pecan orchards, evaluating fungicide trials, visiting growers and learning firsthand about the challenges facing Georgia's pecan industry.

I grew up on a farm, where I learned early on how challenging and risky growing food can be. That experience motivated me to pursue a career in agricultural science, with the goal of better understanding plant diseases and finding practical ways to manage them. What I enjoy most about this work is listening to growers, learning from their experiences and using science to develop solutions that are both sustainable and profitable.



Dr. Clemen Oliveira

During my recent orchard visits with Dr. Brenneeman one of the most common things growers talked about was how severe pecan scab was this year, even in orchards with solid spray programs in place. Many growers commented that 2025 felt like one of the

Continued on Page 22, See Diseases



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Diseases, Continued from Page 20

toughest scab years they've seen in a long time. They also pointed out how much scab pressure varied by cultivar.

We conducted fungicide trials across seven counties in Georgia with the support of county Extension agents (Austin Bagby, Aubrey Shirley, Vivek Bist, Will Brown, Scout Carter, James Jacobs, Jonathan Smith and Andrew Sawyer) and Dr. Brenneman. These trials generated field-based data under real orchard conditions. We observed satisfactory control of pecan scab on nuts with products such as Dodine®, Super Tin®, their combination and Miravis Top®; however, performance varied among locations - a trend that was also confirmed in laboratory studies. These results clearly reinforce the importance of rotating fungicide modes of action and strictly following label recommendations to maintain efficacy and protect the long-term usefulness of these products.

Our goal is to connect what we observe in the orchard with what we learn in the lab, so we can continue to provide clearer and more reliable management recommendations. I encourage growers to attend upcoming county meetings, where I will share more detailed results from both our preliminary field trials and laboratory work.

I am very excited to be part of the University of Georgia Pecan Extension team and to support the pecan industry in Georgia. I look forward to continuing this work and collaborating with growers as we tackle pecan scab and other challenges together. 🌰

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National Pecan Federation Washington, D.C. Update

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

National Pecan Federation Signs Ag Economy Letter

The National Pecan Federation, along with 55 Other Agricultural Associations, signed a letter to Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jefferies (D-NY), calling attention to the growing economic stresses facing America's agriculture sector.

The letter drew attention to many of the stressors facing America's agricultural producers - addressing increasing input costs, declining crop and specialty crop prices and a significant ag trade deficit. The letter emphasized that many farmers are experiencing severe financial losses now and may not be able to secure financing to grow their next crop.

Agricultural organizations concluded by urging Congress to take immediate action to provide additional, robust economic support to help offset remaining losses, stabilize the farm economy, protect rural communities and ensure the long-term security of the nation's food supply.

U.S. Senate Leaders Propose Expanded Farm Assistance in Response to Industry Letter

U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman (R-AR), along with Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Hoeven (R-ND), released a joint response to a January 15th letter from 55 agricultural organizations urging Congress to

provide relief to agricultural producers including pecan growers.

Senators outlined a proposal to expand federal assistance by building upon the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program. The plan would broaden FBA coverage, add support for specialty crop producers, and increase farm ownership and operation loan limits.

USDA Announces Implementation of Agricultural Economic Assistance Program Including Specialty Crops

On December 8, 2025 President Trump announced the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program - a new agricultural economic assistance package, totaling \$1 billion reserved for specialty crops and sugar beets.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins is leading efforts to study the market impacts and economic need of certain specialty crops, therefore details including timelines for specialty crop payments are still under development.

Key agricultural members of Congress are working to obtain additional economic assistance funding for specialty crop growers including pecan.

FY26 Appropriation and Farm Bill Update

On November 12th Congress passed and President Trump signed into law a temporary funding bill known as a continuing resolution (CR) that will fund federal programs and services through January 30, 2026 and provide funding through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) for programs covered under the Veterans

Continued on Page 24, See Update

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Affairs, Agriculture, and Legislative Branch Appropriations bills. This CR also extends Farm Bill funding and programs that were not included in H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) until September 30, 2026.

Pecan-specific provisions included in the FY26 Agriculture Appropriations bill were \$5 million for pecan processing research and \$5 million in pecan genetics research, each project receiving an increase of \$500,000 from FY25 levels.

USDA and HHS Unveil 2025-2030

Dietary Guidelines for Americans

On January 8th U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins with Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. presented the new dietary guidelines through 2030 at a White House Press Conference. The new guidelines encourage Americans to consume more whole, nutrient-dense foods while avoiding overly processed ones. The consumption of nuts is championed as both a great source of protein and healthy fat.

House Ag Committee Ranking Member Offers

Farm and Family Relief Act Framework

In response to the letter sent to Congressional leaders by 55 agricultural organizations, U.S. House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Angie Craig (D-MN) unveiled the framework for the Farm and Family Relief Act. The act seeks to ease the burden of tariffs by reasserting Congressional authority over trade policy and by delaying the scheduled cost shift for SNAP programs.

The Farm and Family Relief Act also proposes a one-time supplemental economic assistance payment for family farmers who were ineligible for the Farmer Bridge Assistance program (FBA), including foresters, specialty crop and sugar beet growers and would revise the FBA aid formula to better support producers.

USDA Launches New Regenerative Pilot

Program to Lower Farmer Production Costs

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins recently announced a new \$700 million Regenerative Pilot Program to incentivize U.S. farmers to implement practices that strengthen soil health, improve water quality and enhance long-term productivity.

USDA is dedicating \$400 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and \$300 million through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to fund this first year of regenerative agriculture projects.

Continued on Page 25, See Update



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Update Continued from Page 24

Farmers interested in participating are encouraged to apply through their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Center by their state's ranking dates for consideration in FY2026 funding. Applications for both EQIP and CSP can now be submitted under the new single regenerative application process.

USDA Announces \$16 Billion Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the launch of the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in relief payments to farmers and ranchers impacted by qualifying natural disasters during the 2023 and 2024 crop years.

This program is authorized by Congress and aims to deliver timely financial assistance to producers recovering from events such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, freezes, excessive drought and other weather-related losses.

To expedite the implementation of SDRP, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering assistance in two stages. This first stage is open to producers with eligible crop losses that received assistance under crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program during 2023 and 2024. Stage 2 will cover shallow or uninsured losses. Producers can receive payments in both stages, if applicable and for one or both years depending on losses.

In general, if a crop was eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP coverage and suffered a loss due to a qualifying disaster in 2023 or 2024, it may be eligible under the SDRP.

Enrollment is now open for Stage 1 and Stage 2 programs and will close on April 30, 2026. 🌰

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The *Phylloxera* of Pecan

Dr. Ted E. Cottrell, USDA, ARS, Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory

Damage from *Phylloxera* species, especially when populations are high, leads to an unsightly mess of galls on foliage, petioles, nuts, twigs and stems that hang around all season. But of greater concern is that high populations of *Phylloxera* can be economically damaging. Most galls elicited from plant tissues by *Phylloxera* persist on the pecan tree from the time of their formation during early spring until defoliation in the fall. In this article, I will cover the basics of gall formation, the dominant *Phylloxera* species found on pecan, describe their life cycles, the plant tissues attacked and, most importantly, their management.

Galls elicited by insects are an abnormal or tumor-like growth of plant tissues formed around the insect for protection and feeding. The process of their formation is similar across *Phylloxera* species. *Phylloxera* eggs overwinter on the stems, limbs and trunks of

pecan. Once the egg hatches, the nymph moves to a suitable site, settles and begins to feed where it manipulates the pecan tree's growth and nutrient systems directing the transformation



A nut cluster with a pecan phylloxera gall. Photo by Ted Cottrell (USDA).

of host plant tissues into the gall. Changing the formation of plant cells from what the plant intended to what

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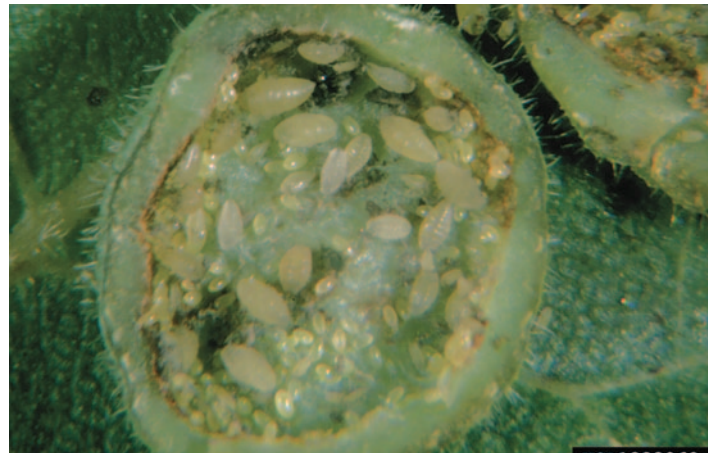
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Pecan Continued from Page 26

the *Phylloxera* intends is due to pluripotency of affected cells (i.e., the ability of normally differentiated cells to undergo de-differentiation and regain embryonic-like plasticity, allowing them to divide, grow, and differentiate into the specialized tissues that form the gall). Hormones such as auxin and cytokinin in the saliva of the feeding *Phylloxera* nymph signal plant cells around the feeding site to begin rapid cell division and enlargement forming the gall. The galls become nutrient sinks that attract and accumulate sucrose and other nutrients from adjacent tissues due to increased phloem flow to the forming gall thus diverting these nutrients from normal plant functions. Gall formation is relatively quick with the nymph being enclosed by manipulated tissues within a couple days.

There are many species of *Phylloxera* that feed on hickories and pecan with most being monophagous, feeding on just one tree species. Only four of these many *Phylloxera* species are recognized to attack pecan: *Phylloxera devastatrix* (Pecan Phylloxera),



A pecan leaf phylloxera gall showing the developing nymphs in a gall. Photo by Louis Tedders (USDA).

P. notabilis (Pecan Leaf Phylloxera), *P. russellae* (Southern Pecan Leaf Phylloxera) and *P. texana*. However, only the first three are expected to cause economic injury to pecan when populations are high. *Phylloxera texana* is a minor species of pecan and spends part of its life cycle on oak species.

The life cycles of the *Phylloxera* seem simple but are more complicated than expected. For instance, the

Continued on Page 30, See Pecan

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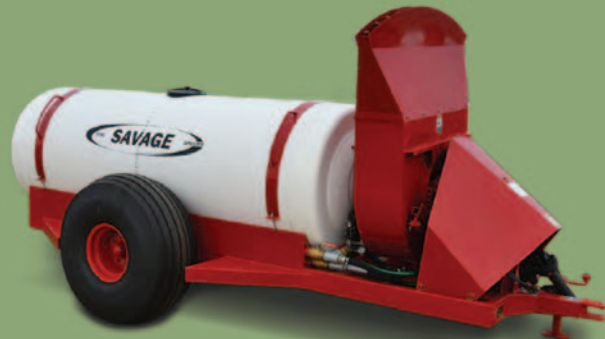
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Pecan Continued from Page 27

pecan phylloxera (*P. devastatrix*) only produces one generation of galls per season on pecan during early spring and in conjunction with bud break. This is what we expect with *Phylloxera*, an early season issue that is over and done with for the year. But there is a bit more to the life cycle of all the *Phylloxera* species than meets the eye. The eggs of the pecan phylloxera overwinter on the bark of pecan. When leaf buds begin to break, eggs hatch and the small nymphs (the eventual stem mothers) move to susceptible tissues to feed. The pecan phylloxera is known to settle and initiate gall formation on many “woody” parts of the pecan tree: twigs, stems, petioles, the midrib of leaflets and even on nuts. This species attacks more parts of the pecan tree than the other three species. When pecan phylloxera galls are found on pecan leaflets, they are often misidentified as being formed by the pecan leaf phylloxera (*P. notabilis*), to be described next. But pecan phylloxera galls on leaflets develop from the insect feeding on the woody cells of the leaflet midrib, not leaflet tissue.



Pecan phylloxera gall showing the developing nymphs in a gall. Photo by Jerry Payne (USDA).

During April after the gall is fully formed and the wingless, asexual stem mother feeding within the gall matures, she begins laying eggs inside the gall. After the eggs hatch, nymphs begin feeding while the stem mother continues to feed and lay eggs. These nymphs develop into the asexual winged migrant stage of this insect. By late April, all developmental stages (egg to adult) of the winged migrants can be found within the

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gall. In early May the gall will open and most winged migrants will disperse to a different location, maybe on the same leaflet as the gall, or to another compound leaf, but not too far. Some will stay in the gall. Once settled at their new feeding location, the winged migrants will begin laying eggs of two sizes, large and small, to begin the sexual stage of this species' life cycle. The larger eggs develop into sexual females and the small eggs develop into males. Upon hatching both sexes are sessile and neither feed. The female produces a single egg that is fertilized by the male. Oddly, this singular egg is never laid. The female moves to a protected location on the tree where she will die with her egg still within her body sometime in June. The female's body will dry up around the egg, and it is this egg that overwinters ready to hatch at budbreak the following spring.

The pecan leaf phylloxera (*P. notabilis*) attacks pecan leaves and produces from three to five generations of galls spread across the season. So, yes, you can find new *Phylloxera* galls being formed on flush growth



Galls of the southern pecan leaf phylloxera. Photo by HC Ellis (University of Georgia).

foliage at just about any time during the season. Note however, that the first generation of the pecan leaf phylloxera is generally the most damaging and, in most cases, the only generation for which management may be required. The biology and development of *P. notabilis* is comparable to *P. devastatrix* but with some differences.

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At budbreak during early spring, the overwintering egg hatches and the nymph, the eventual wingless, asexual stem mother, moves to expanding leaf tissue to begin feeding. As described earlier, this stem mother similarly produces a gall on a leaflet and feeds and lays eggs within the gall. In late May or June, the galls (1st generation) split open, releasing new adults. But here, there are two forms of adults: short-winged (brachypterous) females that cannot fly and winged migrant females. The short-winged females lay eggs of two different sizes, large eggs producing sexual females and small eggs producing males. Here again, the sexual forms mate and the female produces a singular egg that will overwinter. In this case the egg is laid and not retained within the body of the female to overwinter. The asexual female migrants, however, lay eggs that hatch into nymphs that once again hijack leaf tissues to form a gall and produce short-winged and winged migrants. This process will repeat several times across the season and is why you can see new gall formation across the season.

The biology and development of southern pecan leaf phylloxera (*P. russellae*) is comparable to that of the pecan phylloxera. There is only one gall generation on pecan leaflets each season and galls are formed be-



Winged migratory pecan leaf phylloxera and their eggs. Photo by Ted Cottrell (USDA)

tween the secondary veins of leaflets. In contrast with the pecan phylloxera, the southern pecan leaf phylloxera do not produce winged forms. When the gall splits,

Continued on Page 33, See Pecan

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crawlers emerge to move to new locations on the leaf. In this regard, their dispersal is akin to the crawlers of scale insects.

Luckily for us, each of these three species of *Phylloxera* can be managed with the same treatment at the same time. Because these insects become protected within the developing gall, timing applications soon after budbreak is critical. Contact insecticides can certainly manage the nymphs before enclosed within the gall but their timing is even more critical because their

residual activity is more limited, especially if there is rain event after treatment. Products with systemic or translaminar activity will provide better control. The *Phylloxera* nymphs feed similarly on tissues as do aphids so products containing imidcloprid generally do a good job. Be aware that a second treatment will provide better control as later emerging foliage and hatching eggs will then be controlled. The latter generations of the pecan leaf phylloxera rarely need management. Overall, these pests are quite manageable with proper timing of a treatment application. 🌰

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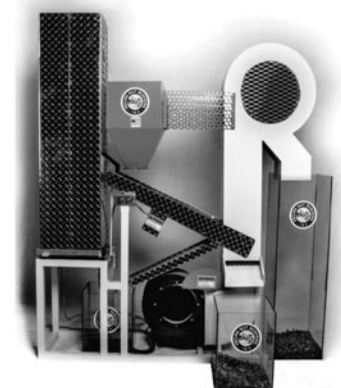
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New Scientific Review Examines Pecans and Human Health



By Anne Warden, CEO of American Pecan Council & American Pecan Promotion Board

A newly published literature review in the journal *Nutrients*¹ brings together the current body of research on pecans and human health, offering a high-level assessment of what scientists know so far and where gaps remain. Rather than presenting results from one experiment, this review evaluates findings from more than 90 studies to summarize the nutritional profile of pecans and their potential effects when included in the human diet.

This latest literature review is part of the exciting pipeline of science driven by APPB's Research Committee. Over the coming weeks, the team at the American Pecan Promotion Board (APPB) will be promoting these findings to continue to bring awareness of the health benefits of pecans to health professionals and consumers.

A few key findings of the review include:

- Pecans contain rich sources of polyphenols (a type of antioxidant) and other bioactive components. This could be important as we look at the benefits of antioxidants on the body when it comes to reducing things like inflammation.
- Cholesterol levels seemed to be the most positively impacted health marker when eating pecans. Good cholesterol levels are essential to overall heart health.
- Findings on pecans effect on blood sugar/diabetes are mixed, so more research needs to be conducted in that area to show a clear and positive tie to pecans, metabolic syndrome, pre-diabetes and diabetes.

Continued on Page 37, See Health

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Health, Continued from Page 36


- Findings on weight are also mixed; however, some measures did show a positive impact on satiety. This is a promising area of research, particularly as consumers are looking for foods that keep them full and can help them manage weight.
- Research is limited on effects with brain health and gut health, which could be new, opportune areas for APPB and the scientific pipeline to investigate next.

This review provides a strong foundation for responsible, science-based communication across the industry. New studies are also underway at five top-tier research institutions, and interest from the scientific community to conduct research around the health benefits of pecans continues to grow. This past year APPB received more than 30 scientific research proposals – 10 more than the year before.

Stay connected with APPB by visiting EatPecans.com for the latest updates on ongoing research in the Industry News section, along with new fact sheets and ready-to-use materials available in the Resources section to help communicate these findings. 🌰

¹*Nutrients* 2025, 17(23), 3686; <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu17233686>

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* Scientific evidence suggests but does not prove that eating 1.5 ounces per day of most nuts, such as pecans, as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol may reduce the risk of heart disease.

** A one-ounce serving of pecans contains 18g unsaturated fat and only 2g saturated fat.

Serving size = 1 ounce or about 19 halves DV = % Daily Value
Source: USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference

REFERENCES

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- https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Dietary_Guidelines_for_Americans_2020-2025.pdf
- USDA, Agricultural Research Service. FoodData Central, 2019. <https://fdc.nal.usda.gov/>. FDC IDs: 170182. Accessed September 2025

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Building Nutrients at a Young Age

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

At the low-input pecan planting at the Vidalia Onion & Vegetable Research Center, I have an opportunity to work with some management issues that I hear about also threatening Southeast Georgia pecan orchards. This orchard provides a good education for me on basic pecan management at each growing stage in

order to better assist our growers. For example, I had to trap and treat for ambrosia beetles the first two years of the planting. Pecan budmoth and deer impact as pests needed to be addressed. Furthermore, I observed the difference in small compared to large trees from the nursery and their needs and challenges. Cold injury took a few smaller trees in 2023.

Continuing through the learning process, we planted clover two years ago to assess those benefits. I have applied the recommended young tree fertilizer program for four years, including zinc. In 2023, we figured out how to utilize liquid nitrogen in the fertilizer program. This year, I took leaf tissue samples for the first time to assess nutrients, as it is very important to build the soil with these specific nutrients with a granular fertilizer program. **(Refer to Table 1)**

I was very satisfied with the zinc levels from these samples from the VOVRC to compare with zinc deficiency I am seeing in orchards with trees in the 5 to 10-year age range.

Continued on Page 41, See Age



SPRAYER MODEL 1705/2005/ 1710/2010



- 500-1000 gallon stainless steel baffled tank with mechanical agitation
- Electric controls, throttle, left and right spray control valves, electric by-pass mixing valve
- Engine compartment has vented hoods and doors
- Heavy duty, high debris cooling system
- Fan - 44" - 10 blade variable pitch fan, made of super tough polyamide stainless steel blower housing
- John Deere 173 or 200hp Tier 4 Final diesel engine (Tier 3 available for export only)
- Myers 2C95 centrifugal pump with non-corrosive plumbing
- 100 gallon stainless steel fuel tank
- 4 filtration points (tank, suction, pressure, nozzle)
- 28 nozzles with individual cut-offs with ceramic disc and whirls
- Tires are 21.5L x 16.1 - 14 PLY
- Hot dipped galvanized sprayer frame and dirt shield



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WWW.DURAND-WAYLAND.COM

	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)	Zinc (Zn)
Avalon	2.02	0.14	1.10	143.3
Excel	1.96	0.14	1.13	151.2
Lakota	1.91	0.15	1.25	116.2
McMillan	2.08	0.13	1.12	224.9
Sumner	2.17	0.12	0.94	74.7

Table 1. Leaf tissue sample by variety at VOVRC in Toombs County, GA.

Our trees just completed their 5th leaf. After planting, I followed the young tree fertilizer program applying 10-10-10 at recommended rates for the first four years. The zinc recommendation is 1 - 3 lbs per tree for the first four years. I applied 36% zinc at 2 lbs per tree for the first three years only. In 2024, our fertilizer pump malfunctioned and the orchard did not receive any phosphorus or potassium last year. Only one application of nitrogen was made that July.

Zinc leaf tissue sufficiency range is between 50 - 100 parts per million (ppm), which means I have sufficient zinc in the VOVRC trees. This concentration has come from just three years of 2 lbs zinc per tree with no foliar sprays. Considering the importance of zinc to nut production, we need to understand the buildup of zinc over time and its uptake.

The first issue we have with zinc is that pecan trees need a lot of it. The second issue is soil chemistry related to zinc uptake. In the soil, these elements are competing for uptake. They are competing with each other, and they are competing against the pH in the soil. The same happens in our bodies with cholesterol, nutrients, medicines, etc. Too much of something may reduce the utilization of something else we need.

As the pH falls, micro-elements become more available for uptake. Zinc is one of those micro-elements. Our soils are naturally more acidic in Georgia. Primary nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) are better absorbed when the pH is between 5.5 and 6.5. For pecan, if we are around at pH 6.0, we are fine.

The other uptake issue is competition from other nutrients, especially phosphorus. Once phosphorus builds in the soil, it stays for a long time. But too much will restrict the uptake of zinc. The tree needs these other elements as well. A high demand for zinc, nutrient com-

Continued on Page 42, See Age



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Age, Continued from Page 41

petition in the soil, and finally, the preferred uptake by the tree itself makes zinc uptake more complex.

When I first started my position, I learned about spraying pecans for zinc. We often think of zinc as a nutrient taken up through the leaves. But pecans actually take up zinc through roots as well. The tree would like to pull it from both its roots and its leaves. This is why our soil zinc levels remain important. It is easy to plant pecans, put out zinc once, then spray after trees are bearing. Many of these zinc soil levels fall below 10 lbs per acre, which is too low for root uptake. Once root uptake is hindered, zinc levels cannot be fully compensated through leaf uptake alone. For long-term soil management, it is better for zinc, phosphorus, and potassium to be broadcast throughout the herbicide strip. This way, roots have availability at all times as those nutrients are competing for uptake.

Zinc EDTA is a chelated zinc applied to the roots through irrigation. It works very well in getting zinc to the trees. However, it was not designed for long-term

management. It is not recommended as a general maintenance application due to cost and some environmental concerns with over-use. Zinc EDTA is a fast-acting option to fix a problem with uptake. One such application should last for approximately three years. Please keep this in mind.

In summary, building the soil zinc is ideal for pecan since high soil levels remain for a long time. As seen at the Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center, just a few years of granular zinc builds soil and leaf levels to optimal amounts. (I would have been satisfied to either not apply or apply on one pound per tree in the third year.) The same is true with phosphorus and potassium.

This year, I expect some nuts off our 'Avalon' and 'Lakota'. With our pump fixed, I will get out some nitrogen and potassium this season and have these trees set for production. Next, we will focus on nutrient management between years five and ten, or as trees begin bearing. 🌰

GET A RAFFLE TICKET

Today!



As the key component to our annual fundraising efforts, the Reverse Raffle Draw Down is ready for your support in 2026!!!

The draw-down will take place at the Welcome Reception, Tuesday, March 31st, as we kick off our 61st Annual Conference and Trade Show. 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 tickets today!

SAVAGE

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5205 Inspection Table moves pecan meats across three vibrating trays to enable final visual inspection and debris removal.



1485 Meat Sizer with round vibrating screens sorts large volumes of pecan meats by size with great speed & efficiency.



400-Series Shellers are available in three sizes. Once pecans are cracked, these shellers separate meats from their shells.



8155 Vibratory Conveyor provides smooth, quick conveyance of nut meats. Available in several lengths and "stackable" end-to-end over long distances.



252S Cracker cracks pecans at speeds up to 750 nuts per minute. High-volume cracking in a small footprint with a high percent of halves.



Elevator and Packaging Table allow for regulated, precise flow of pecans for packaging into boxes or bags and weighing.



150S Meat Sizer vibrates pecan meats across four perforated plates with holes of increasing size to sort pecan meats.



238C Cracker cracks at speeds up to 400 nuts per minute and produces a very high percentage of complete halves.

For decades, Savage Equipment's Silverline machines have been setting the industry standard for fast and efficient pecan processing. Skillfully crafted with heavy-gauge stainless steel to provide long years of service, this line includes an extensive array of crackers, shellers, meat sizers, aspirators, elevators and inspection tables. Our decades of experience in manufacturing and operating shelling equipment allows us to design a plant that can accommodate virtually any level of throughput. You can learn more about these wonderful machines on our website, savageequipment.com, and our YouTube channel, youtube.com/savageequipmentinc.

Madill, OK: 866-572-8243 | Baconton, GA: 229-787-5115 | Mesquite, NM: 575-233-2964

Georgia Farm Bureau Annual Convention

By Scout Weesner, GPGA Communications & Events Coordinator

To close out 2025, staff from the Georgia Pecan Growers Association had the opportunity to attend the annual Georgia Farm Bureau Conference that is held each December on Jekyll Island. The two-day event provided a wonderful setting to connect with Farm Bureau members and staff from across the state to highlight the importance of Georgia pecans and to share information about the many nutritional benefits and versatile uses of Georgia's state nut.

Throughout the event, GPGA staff enjoyed networking with attendees, answering questions, and promoting all things pecan. We shared a variety of materials, including pecan samples, magazines, merchandise, recipe cards, and fact sheets, which gave attendees a chance to learn more about how unique and versatile pecans can be used. Events like this conference allow GPGA to strengthen relationships within the agricultural community and to continue spreading awareness about Georgia's pecan industry.



Mary Mikelyn Bruorton, GPGA Executive Director and Scout Weesner, GPGA Communications & Events Coordinator chat with visitors about Georgia pecans.

As always, we had a great time reconnecting with our friends at the Georgia Farm Bureau and look forward to future opportunities to work together! 🌰



Stone Mountain Pecan Company

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Contact

Robby Coker or **Chris Coker**

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Fax - 770-207-4403

Toll Free - 1-888-280-7073

2026 Georgia Pecan County Extension Meetings

- January 27 Grady County:** 12 PM; Grady Agri-Center: 65 11th Ave NE, Cairo, GA 39828
- February 3 Brooks County:** 12 PM; 400 E Courtland Ave, Quitman, GA 31643
- February 5 Thomas County:** 12 PM; Thomas County Public Library - 201 N Madison St, Thomasville, GA 31792
- February 9 Colquitt County:** 12 PM; Colquitt Co. Extension Office: 350 Veterans Parkway N Bldg 1, Room 132 Moultrie, GA 31788
- February 10 Tattnall/Evans/Candler:** 12 PM; Evans County Recreation Department - 11093 US-280, Claxton, GA 30417
- February 16 Crisp County:** 12 PM; Crisp Co. Extension Office in the Ag Room: 110 W 13th Ave, Cordele, GA 31015
- February 19 Sumter County:** 12 PM; Sumter Co. Extension Office: 127 William Bowen Point Americus, GA 31719
- March 5 Irwin/Ben Hill County:** 8 AM Irwinville Country Store, 1962 GA-32, Irwinville, GA 31760
- March 10 Emmanuel County:** 6 PM Emanuel County Food Processing Facility, 104 Rountree Avenue, Twin City, GA
- March 11 Berrien County:** 12 PM; Berrien County Extension Office: 516 A County Farm Road #1, Nashville, GA 31639
- March 12 Mitchell County:** 12 PM; Mitchell Co. Agri-Center: 4590 GA Highway 37 E, Camilla, GA 31730
- March 19 Dougherty/Lee County:** 5:30 PM; Albany Exchange Club Fairgrounds: 810 S Westover Blvd, Albany, GA 31707
- March 26 Appling County:** 12 PM; 2761 Blackshear Hwy, Baxley, GA 31513

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 phylloxera 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



61st Annual Conference & Trade Show

March 31- April 1, 2026 | Georgia National Fairgrounds, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry, Georgia 31069

Greetings!

We're excited for another fantastic conference filled with opportunities to network with growers and see many new products and updated research findings! In 2026, the GPGA Conference returns to **Perry, Georgia, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds on March 31st- April 1st**. Please review the details below and the attached materials carefully, as there are some updates to this year's program.

The Conference kicks off on **Tuesday, March 31st**, with two great options: **GPGA's 16th Annual Golf Tournament at Houston Lake Country Club in Perry, GA**, or the **GPGA's 5th Annual Skeet Shoot Tournament at Meadows Gun Club in Forsyth, GA**. Whether or not you participate in these activities, we'll all come together afterward at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in the Miller-Murphy-Howard Building's Main Exhibit Hall for the **Welcome Reception**. Expect an evening of fun, including heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, a silent auction, raffle, and live music. Winners from the tournaments will also be announced and awarded.

Due to its popularity and high demand, the Conference will also host Dr. Lenny Wells' UGA Beginners Pecan Production Course from 9 AM - 4 PM at the Georgia National Fairgrounds Miller-Murphy-Howard Building conference room on **Tuesday, March 31st**. Registration is required and more information for the course can be found in this packet as well.

On **Wednesday, April 1st**, we have a full day of educational sessions lined up. The Annual Awards Luncheon will take place at noon, and the afternoon will continue with sessions concluding by 4 PM.

We couldn't host this annual Conference without the generous support of our Attendees, Exhibitors and Sponsors. As you review this year's packet, please consider the various sponsorship opportunities available to help ensure the success of this year's event. We offer a range of packages designed to allow you to support the Association and engage with growers.

This event is not only an opportunity to connect with the industry but also serves as a key fundraiser for the Association, a non-profit dedicated to supporting Georgia's pecan growers. Your involvement and support are essential to advancing the industry.

We look forward to seeing you in March!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Mikelyn Bruorton".

Mary Mikelyn Bruorton, Executive Director



61st Annual Conference & Trade Show

March 31- April 1, 2026 | Georgia National Fairgrounds, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry, Georgia 31069

REGISTRATION:

This packet provides information on the 2026 GPGA Conference. Attendee registration forms are included in this packet. Please fill out forms manually, scan and send back to sheila@georgiapecan.org or call us at 229-382-2187 to register. Registration is also available online as well. 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. **Membership DOES NOT cover Conference admission or booth space.** Renew online at georgiapecan.org or by calling the office.

16th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT:

This year's golf tournament will be held at **Houston Lake Country Club in Perry, GA on Tuesday, March 31st with a shotgun start at 12:00 PM. Lunch will begin at 11:00 AM and registration will begin at 10:30 AM.** 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).*

5th ANNUAL SKEET SHOOT TOURNAMENT:

This year's skeet shoot will be held at **Meadows Gun Club in Forsyth, GA on Tuesday, March 31st with registration and lunch at 11:00AM and shooting to start at 12:00 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 31st from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.** The Welcome Reception will feature networking among growers and exhibitors, a Silent Auction, live music 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 2026! The draw-down will take place at the Welcome Reception, **Tuesday, March 31st.** 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 tickets 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 31st,** 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, April 1st 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.

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, will be hosting a Beginners Pecan Production Course on **Tuesday, March 31st,** in the Miller-Murphy-Howard Building. This will be an additional, all-day event where you will learn everything you need to know to be successful in pecan production. This will be an additional registration fee of \$50, which includes the course and lunch.

Registration is required.

Georgia Pecan Growers Association

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



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, March 31st:

- 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM** **Beginners in Pecan Production Course: Registration Required!!**
Miller-Murphy-Howard Building,
GA National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA
- 11:00 AM- 4:00 PM** **16th Annual Golf Tournament**
Houston Lake Country Club
100 Champions Way, Perry, GA
- 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM** **5th 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, April 1st:

- 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 PM** **Annual Awards Luncheon**
- 1:30 PM** **Educational Sessions Resume**
(full agenda coming soon)
Miller-Murphy-Howard Building,
GA National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA
- 4:00 PM** **Conference Wrap-up for the day**

SUPPORT THE PECAN PAC

The National Pecan Federation's 'Political Action Committee'

What does the National Pecan Federation (NPF) do?

The NPF advocates for the pecan industry in Washington, D.C. Advocacy can take various forms and often begins with the education of key policymakers about the industry's concerns and depending on the issue, may involve partnering with other agricultural organizations or state governmental entities.

What has NPF accomplished?

1. Lowered India tariffs on U.S. Pecan exports
2. Secured tariff mitigation payments for growers
3. Secured federal disaster assistance and block grant programs for pecan growers following hurricanes.
4. Research and Promotion authority to assess imported pecans expected to generate additional marketing and research funding.
5. Worked to establish current import assessment program at U.S. Customs including reducing expenses for the pecan industry.
6. Millions in funding for cracking and pasteurization research
7. Millions in funding for pecan breeding research
8. Pecan Crop Insurance reforms
9. Pecan Participation in economic assistance programs
10. USDA pecan purchases for feeding programs

What are NPF current priorities?

1. Additional federal purchases of pecans.
2. Assure USMCA Review addresses pecan trade interests.
3. Prioritize U.S.-India trade policies and other countries' policies that encourage commerce with the U.S. pecan industry.
4. Pecan Economic Assistance
5. Processing and breeding research continued funding
6. Improvements to Federal Pecan Crop Insurance and Tree Loss Insurance
7. Assure Farm Bill 2.0 addresses pecan industry concerns.

PECAN PAC is the pecan industry's political action committee. PECAN PAC supports federal political candidates who advocate for issues of importance to production agriculture and Rural America. PECAN PAC is an essential part of the NPF and pecan industry's advocacy program.

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 person per year. Please send contributions to address below or by scanning the QR code:

PECAN PAC
313 Massachusetts Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002



PECAN PAC

Earn your badge to wear at conference by
supporting the PAC in 2026!

Georgia Pecan Growers Association
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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	3 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.

*Color ad selects preferred month to run between June, August, October, or December 2026 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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Premier - \$500 - Logo Displayed at Lunch - Name Listed in Program and Magazine - Table Tent Display at Awards Luncheon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
 - Only 17 Sponsorship Spots Available Per Event

Donate to GPGA's Silent Auction Fundraiser

- Contact Scout Weesner via email:
scout@georgiapecan.org

ALL SPONSORS: SEND LOGO TO MARY@GEORGIAPECAN.ORG UPON REGISTRATION



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
GPGA MEMBER ADMISSION		x \$100 =	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Registration Discount (Prior to March 2, 2026) - 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. Members get free admission to FALL FIELD DAY only. 			
GPGA MEMBER ADMISSION (LATE OR ON-SITE REGISTRATION)		x \$125 =	_____
- Registration is considered "Late" after March 2, 2026			
GPGA NON-MEMBER ADMISSION		x \$150 =	_____
BEGINNERS IN PECAN PRODUCTION COURSE		x \$50 =	_____
RAFFLE TICKET (GPGA'S MAIN ANNUAL FUNDRAISER)		x \$100 =	_____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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! You 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 =	_____
ULTIMATE BEVERAGE.....		x \$1,500 =	_____
PREMIER MEAL SPONSOR.....		x \$500 =	_____
SUPPORTING MEAL SPONSOR.....		x \$250 =	_____
HOLE SPONSOR (GOLF TOURNAMENT).....		x \$500 =	_____
TARGET SPONSOR (SKEET SHOOT TOURNAMENT).....		x \$500 =	_____
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:			
GOLF TEAM.....		x \$500 =	_____
GOLF INDIVIDUAL.....		x \$250 =	_____
SKEET SHOOT TEAM.....		x \$500 =	_____
SKEET SHOOT INDIVIDUAL.....		x \$250 =	_____
WELCOME RECEPTION (Tuesday, March 25th)		x FREE =	_____
JACK THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP DONATION			\$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Georgia Pecan Growers Association
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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:	_____	_____	_____

SKET SHOOT TOURNAMENT: (If Applicable)

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS (Please select one from the below)

PLEASE INVOICE ME:
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____

PAY BY CARD:
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD: _____
CARD NUMBER: _____
EXPIRATION DATE: _____ / _____ SECURITY CODE: _____


CHECK ENCLOSED **TOTAL: \$** _____

GEORGIA PECAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. Box 1367 • Tifton, GA. 31793 / 220 E 2nd Street, Suite A • Tifton, GA. 31794

Phone: 229-382-2187 – Fax: 404-393-9298

www.georgiapecan.org • email: mary@georgiapecan.org

The Georgia Pecan Growers Association  is a growing, dynamic organization striving to serve the Georgia Pecan industry and meet the needs of our members. Whether you are a grower, supplier, consumer or industry supporter, GPGA welcomes your support of Georgia's Pecan industry through our membership. The GPGA needs your continued support for research, education, marketing and development for the pecan industry in 2026.

Voice of the Industry

GPGA is a founding member of the National Pecan Federation, which houses the Pecan Political Action Committee and allows pecans to lobby in Washington D.C. through one of the agricultural industry's top lobbying firms, The Redding Firm.

GPGA represents your interests at all agriculturally-focused legislative events, both state and national, in order to affect policy.

Education

The Pecan Grower magazine & *The Pecan Grower* eNewsletter are the official publications of GPGA. They provide both time-sensitive news along with the latest research and production management updates for anyone involved in the pecan industry.

GPGA's Annual Trade Show & Educational Conference provides an outlet for networking, industry updates, and new educational information, aiding growers in pesticide credits for application licensing, and more.

GPGA's Fall Field Day showcases hands-on research outcomes from the nation's leading pecan research teams in unique research-based orchards.

Marketing & Promotions

GPGA Staff promotes Georgia Pecans at:

- Domestic & regional trade shows
- International trade shows
- Outbound trade missions
- Inbound trade missions
- Ag field days

GPGA markets Georgia Pecans through:

- Chef camps & partnerships
- Georgia's Museum of Agriculture
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)
- Traditional Media (TV ads, billboards)
- Samples Distribution program (at Georgia Welcome Centers, expos, trade shows)
- Georgia Pecan Supplier List

Member Resources

- Graphic Design assistance for ad development
- Educational Resources through our website
- Free subscription to *The Pecan Grower* magazine & *The Pecan Grower* eNewsletter
- Full time staff ready to assist you with all production and marketing needs
- Free admission to GPGA's Fall Field Day

Commercial Membership

Commercial members are critical to the success of the GPGA. Commercial members receive their company contact listing on georgiapecan.org, as well as premium booth placement as an exhibitor at the annual conference, admission for 2 to Fall Field Day, and a year's subscription to *The Pecan Grower* magazine and *The Pecan Grower* eNewsletter.

Please complete the form on the following page and return with payment to GPGA:

By Mail: Georgia Pecan Growers Association; PO Box 1367, Tifton, GA 31793

By Email: sheila@georgiapecan.org

By Fax: 404-393-9298

By Phone: 229-382-2187

Information for joining GPGA can also be found on our website www.georgiapecan.org. A 2026 Membership Card will be mailed out to you for admittance to 2026 Fall Field Day upon receipt of membership payment.

TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, and PROMOTION of GEORGIA PECANS

JOIN US TODAY!



The Georgia Pecan growers Association (GPGA) needs your continued support for research, education, marketing, and development for the pecan industry in 2026.

Quantity	Category	Price	Benefits	If you have multiple memberships: How many magazines would you like to receive?
	Grower, 30 Acres or more	\$200	Includes magazine, free admittance for two to Fall Field Day and voting rights in GPGA	
	Grower, 29 Acres or less	\$100	Includes magazine, free admittance for two to Fall Field Day and voting rights in GPGA	
	Grower Family of 3: NO Farm Managers or Employees, and has to be Same Entity Name	\$500	Includes magazine, free admittance for three to Fall Field Day and voting rights in GPGA	
	Farm Managers	\$75	Includes magazine and free admittance for one to Fall Field Day	
	Out of State & Non- Grower Supporter	\$75	Includes magazine and free admittance for one to Fall Field Day	
	Commercial Membership	\$250	Includes magazine and free admittance for two to Fall Field Day	
	UGA/Researcher/Ext. Agent	\$40	Includes magazine and free admittance for one to Fall Field Day	

Member/Contact Name: _____

Company/Entity Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

If you are doing a "Grower Family of 3" Membership, please provide the following information:

Name 2 & Address (if different than above): _____

Name 3 & Address (if different than above): _____

Additional Email Addresses for Newsletter: _____

Check this box if you would like to receive an invoice from us.

**** The 2026 GPGA membership card will be mailed upon receipt of your payment. Credit card payments can be made online at the georgiapecan.org website or by calling our office at (229)-382-2187.**

The Pecan Grower THANK YOU, ADVERTISERS!

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