



May 6, 2015

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Now taking applications for the 2015-2016 Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Foundation Scholarship!

Each year since 2003, the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Foundation has awarded a scholarship to a high school graduate whose parents are a member of the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association or employed by a member of the association.

\$500 dollars is awarded each year for 4 years, \$2000 total, to assist with the expenses associated with pursuing a college degree. The deadline to apply is May 20th.



For more information and to apply [click here](#).



June 1st deadline to submit AD-1026 form to receive premium subsidy on crop insurance

United Fresh recently published an email regarding the 'interim rule for Conservation Compliance requirements' for growers who participate in USDA programs. Prior to the 2014 Farm Bill, conservation compliance requirements applied to marketing assistance loans, farm storage facility loans, and payments under commodity, disaster, and conservation programs. The new Farm Bill added a provision which expanded this requirement to growers who are eligible and receive Federal Crop Insurance subsidy benefits.

For specialty crop growers who participate in crop insurance and

want to continue receiving the federal premium subsidy, must certify their status by June 1st by turning in the AD-1026 form to USDA. Growers may have already received a letter in the mail from USDA regarding this new rule, as they have sent out more than 55,000 letters to growers who have crop insurance but do not have an AD-1026 form on file with the FSA.

To read more [click here](#).

REFERENDUM PASSES: Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Vegetables Reinstates Marketing Order

Press release by Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Georgia vegetable growers have a new marketing order. The Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Vegetables - Marketing Order for Vegetables was approved with 92% of eligible growers responding in favor of the new assessment during the balloting period of March 1 through March 30.

For a vote to be valid, a least 25% of the eligible ballots must be returned. This new marketing order replaces the marketing order which failed passage in 2014 due to a lack of returns.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

PFSS Addresses Food Safety Certification at Georgia Grown Symposium

Beth Oleson, Director of The Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association's (GFVGA) Produce Food Safety Services (PFSS), addressed food safety certification at the 2015 Georgia Grown Symposium in Perry, Georgia, April 30th.



The overarching topic that this year's symposium focused on was "Growing Innovation and Profits." This was supported by four discussion panels which had industry leaders covering topics including: food certifications, expanding your farm/business, product diversification, and future food trends.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

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FOCUS ON FOOD SAFETY



FOOD SAFETY NEWS & EVENTS

National GAPs Training Beginning May 6th

May 6 - 26, 2015

Online

For more information and to enroll, [click here.](#)

NSF Food Safety and Quality Courses in May

Advanced HACCP Verification and Validation Training

May 15, 2015

Atlanta, Georgia

To enroll for the Atlanta course, [click here.](#)

For more information regarding other courses, [click here.](#)

OTHER NEWS

Vegetable Update from UGA Extension

To read the full article, [click here.](#)

GATE Card Guidance Document Updated

To view the document, [click here.](#)

Georgia Ag Commodity Commissions Seeking Nominations

For more details, [click here.](#)

Georgia Plant Science Scholars Program

For more information and to submit an application, [click here.](#)

SEE WHAT ONE OF YOUR BOARD MEMBERS HAS TO SAY ABOUT BEING A GFVGA MEMBER

Brent Bloser

Farm Name:

*Brent Bloser Farms, LLC and Evergreen Produce,
LLC*

Years in the produce industry:

22





What is the biggest benefit of being a member of GFVGA?

My biggest benefit of being a member of GFVGA is the fact that they always inform me of the latest political, educational, and food safety services for Georgia agriculture.

What are you looking forward to while serving on the board?

I'm looking forward to learning more about what the GFVGA does for the produce industry and to help further the future of the association.

What is your favorite fruit or vegetable?

My favorite fruit would have to be the watermelon, because that's where I started 22 years ago.



[Click here](#) to become a member today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jaemor Farms Second Annual Strawberry Festival

Alto, Georgia

May 9, 2015

[Click here](#) for more information.

Georgia Olive Growers Assoc. Annual Conference & Meeting

Lakeland, Georgia

May 14, 2015

[Click here](#) for more information.

Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Foundation Scholarship Applications Due

Online

May 20, 2015

[Click here](#) for more information.

Georgia Grown's Farmers Market Showcase in Macon

Macon, Georgia

June 6, 2015

[Click here](#) for more information.