

FARMERS AND CONSUMERS

MARKET BULLETIN

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Editor's Note: Rumors of our demise are greatly exaggerated

By Amy Carter

amy.carter@agr.georgia.gov

Several times in recent weeks I've been asked if the Georgia Department of Agriculture is still publishing the *Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin*. Many who've asked did so with a note of mourning in their voices. I'd be lying if I told you I didn't feel a small measure of pride on behalf of the entire *Market Bulletin* team to learn that any-

one would be sad to see us go.

Your *Market Bulletin* is alive and well and in production for the 103rd year, both in print and online. We have been working diligently to meet our deadlines and publish on time for you, despite the disruptions of 2020, but once the paper leaves our hands, it becomes a hostage to fate. I'm hopeful that it gets to those of you who request it by mail every two weeks, but if you happen to miss an issue, please give us a call at 404.656.3722.

Our own mail delivery has been spotty of late, so if you've mailed us a Classified ad and haven't seen it in print, give us a call at 404.656.3722. And if you haven't given our online ad entry system a try, please consider it. We're happy to talk you through it if you're intimidated by technology. It scares us sometimes, too, but online entry is the fastest, most reliable way to get your ad to us. Additionally, Classified ads post online several days before they appear in print for

the first time, so you can potentially get a jump on the market whether you're buying or selling.

Speaking of technological advances, your *Market Bulletin* is now on Facebook. We'd love to engage with you there, so give us a "Like" if you're on social media.

As always – and despite 2020's various efforts to the contrary – we're here if you need us. Stay safe and be well, *Market Bulletin* friends!

Atlanta restaurant community, Georgia farmers join forces to feed unemployed hospitality workers

By Amy Carter

amy.carter@agr.georgia.gov

Unlike most catastrophes, the COVID-19 pandemic has touched nearly every life on earth and visited need upon multitudes beyond the scope of other man-made or natural disasters.

How does one begin to help when the need is so vast?

Atlanta restaurateur Michael Lennox started with his own. When Georgia shut down in March to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, Lennox – the founder of Electric Hospitality Group – started Atlanta Family Meal to help thousands of hospitality workers who lost their jobs.

"Atlanta Family Meal is a community of chefs, restaurants, suppliers, community stakeholders and hospitality workers collaborating to effectively feed the devastated Atlanta restaurant community," Lennox said. "We realized early on that we couldn't wait. There wasn't a safety net for our industry, so we mobilized to help ourselves – family helping family."

Restaurants notify Atlanta Family Meal when workers are laid off, and the organization delivers free meals to those who opt for the service. The organization – a nonprofit



An employee of Electric Hospitality Group in Atlanta prepares meals for delivery to unemployed restaurant workers in the metro area. (Photo by Luke Beard)

that operates on donations – pays independent restaurants to prepare the meals. Many meals are made with produce and protein acquired from Georgia farmers. Other food items come from restaurant suppliers who've seen a significant decline in business due to

COVID-19.

Despite the turmoil in their own markets just as the spring harvest season was beginning, Baker Farms of Norman Park donated nearly 2,000 pounds of fresh produce such as broccoli and kale to Atlanta Family Meal

According to the website atfamilymeal.org, the U.S. restaurant industry is experiencing 80 percent unemployment, with 9.6 million of the industry's 12 million workers idle. There are more than 500,000 hospitality workers in Georgia, according to the website, and two-thirds of those live in Metro Atlanta.

in its early days.

Heath Wetherington said the decision to donate was easy, in part because American farmers have "an uncanny ability to overproduce," but also because it was an opportunity to thank workers who don't often get the gratitude.

"We are all so quick to give a nod to the chef when we go to a restaurant and have a great meal," he said. "A lot of times we take for granted the person folding the napkins, sweeping the floor, all the work that goes into a dining experience. Any time you can say thanks to those folks doing that kind of work, day in and day out, they never get any of the credit."

Baker Farms is in production year-
See **UNEMPLOYED**, page 7

Federal agencies invite discussion of foreign trade policy impact on produce growers

Washington, DC – The Office of the United States Trade Representative, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Commerce will convene virtual hearings next month to discuss foreign trade policies that may be harming American growers of seasonal and perishable produce. At the hearings, officials from the federal agencies will hear from interested persons on how the federal government can support producers and redress any harm. The hearings, which were originally scheduled to take place in Florida and Georgia in April, will take place virtually due to the ongoing pandemic caused by COVID-19.

USTR will continue to evaluate additional opportunities to engage directly with stakeholders in Florida, Georgia and elsewhere on this important issue.

The virtual hearings are scheduled for the following dates:

- August 13, 2020 at 9:00 am EDT
- August 20, 2020 at 9:00 am EDT

All parties who would like to provide testimony during either hearing must submit a request to do so by July 27, 2020, 11:59 pm EST.

All parties who wish to testify also must submit the statement

they intend to present at the hearing by Aug. 3, 2020, 11:59 pm EST. Remarks at the hearing will be limited to five minutes, and might be further limited if circumstances warrant, to allow adequate time for questions from the panel.

This applies to those who submitted a request in March to participate in the April hearings. If you submitted a request to testify in March but do not want to testify virtually at an August hearing, you do not need to take any further action.

You do not have to resubmit written statements submitted in March. You can update or supplement a prior submission. Interested parties who do not want to testify virtually at either hearing may still submit written comments for consideration by the Aug. 3 deadline.

Instructions for submitting a request to testify virtually and to submit written testimony can be found online at <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Releases/Hearings%20on%20Seasonable%20and%20Perishable%20Produce.pdf>.

The hearings will be made public and viewable online, and further details about viewing the hearings will be provided ahead of the hearing dates. Full transcripts of the hearings will also be posted online after the hearings.

For more information, contact Trey Forsyth at 202.395.8583 or Trey.M.Forsyth@ustr.eop.gov.

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Advertisers and buyers are advised to be aware of state and federal laws governing the sale and transfer of live animals. GDA rules also require the submission of certain documents attesting to the health and/or viability of livestock, plants and seed submitted for sale before ads for those items can be published. Those rules are posted online at <http://agr.georgia.gov/advertising-information.aspx>. They are also summarized beneath the headers of all affected Classified categories in every issue of the *Market Bulletin*.

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FARM MACHINERY

Please specify if machinery is in running condition.

TRACTORS

1948 Ford 8N: new paint, starter; 12 volt battery, runs good, everything works, also 3ph scrape blade. Jeff Knowles **Eatonton** 706-473-1418

1949 8-N Ford 3pt, good hydraulics, cranks easy, runs good, 12volt, needs rear tires, smokes some: \$1700. 3pt equip avail extra. Joe Davis **Danielsville** 706-206-9095

1949 Cub, new rear tires, \$2000; 1957 Cub, wheel weights, fast-hitch: \$2200; scraper: \$200; disc plow: \$200; belly mower: \$400; cultivators: \$200. T. Noble **Fort Valley** 478-825-0829

1952 Farmall Super C tractor, tricycle wheels on front: \$4500; 1965 International Harvester tractor: \$3500. Both sheltered. Hiram Morgan **Americus** 229-322-3519

1952 Ford 8N with 5ft bush hog. Runs good: \$3200. Jerry Brown **Hartwell** 770-490-5882

1962 Cub Cadet tractor 7HP, includes dump wagon, mower deck, scrape blade, many extra parts, perfect for restoration, runs good: \$1200. J. White **Cobbtown** 912-682-5383

1971 John Deere 820, 2spd trans., 350 PTO, VGC. Also, John Deere 40T, 4spd trans., 2 new tires on back, new battery, VGC. Lamar Wyatt **LaFayette** 423-508-2203

1975 Case 380 diesel, P/S, 45hp, owner's manual, shelter-kept, runs/looks good but slow lift: \$3000. Pictures avail. John Titshaw **Young Harris** 678-425-8255

1976 Kubota tractor, L245H diesel, serviced 9/19: \$5000 firm. Attachments: Bush Hog 48" cut box blade, disc harrow, turning plow, cultivating plow. Al Burke 912-690-4495 **Statesboro**

1992 Kubota M5030SU, 4WD, loader, steel canopy, PS, 2320hrs, 6-cylinder, great tractor, 85% rear tires: \$16,600. Bud Green **Mt Airy** 706-837-8024/706-778-9302

2 Farmall tractors and farm equipment. Fred Gayton **Cumming** 770-887-9476

2003 John Deere 5420, 2WD, 81HP, 65PTO HP, 542 loader, double rear remotes, canopy top, 1540hrs: \$20,000. James Martin **Waynesboro** 706-558-5005

2004 JD 6420, 110HP, 4x4 540/1000 PTO. Self leveling loader, very strong tractor, cabless, no leaks. All hydraulics, 3pt work: \$30,000. Josh Moore **Dawsonville** 770-670-8595

2004 John Deere 6420, premium cab, heat/AC, tilt steering, radio. Also includes loader, hay spear, 4WD, pallet fork, bucket. 3115hrs. Ed Boston **Hogansville** 678-231-9134

2009 Kubota L3240, 385hrs, loader ready, 4WD with turf tires: \$14,000 obo: Butler grain bin, 2000 bushel: \$1200 OBO. James Brown **Ty Ty** 229-272-2653

2011 Versatile 280 Tier-4. Gently used, 600hrs, FWD, Perkins engine, power shift, quick-hitch. Tractor manuals: \$85,000. Photos available for email. G. Williams **Oglethorpe meadowcreek99@windstream.net** 478-952-1075

2016 John Deere 5115M, 115hp tractor with JD H260 loader, 360hrs, ac/heat, radio, buddy seat. Excellent condition: \$59,000. S. Wright **Fairmount** 706-629-0406

2016 XU6158 Cab 4x4 w/front loader, 1090 hrs., radio, cold A/C, heat, dual remotes, warranty good thru 08/21: \$26,500. Steve 770-313-3743 **Canton**

2018 Kioti CK4010 SE HC, cab tractor with hydrostatic transmission, loader, heat/air, radio, 68hrs, dual remotes, powertrain warranty: \$24,900. Tim Carter **Homer** 706-658-6644

584 International tractor with quick disconnect loader, 55 horse tractor, 3260hrs, new clutch and pressure plate: \$7000 or make an offer. David English **Clarkesville** 770-654-7215

7700 Ford tractor for sale. Junior Teague **Ellijay** 706-273-0251

Farmtrac 45, power steering, 8speed, 45HP, quick attach frontend loader with bucket, rollbar, PTO, diesel, 3pt hitch: \$8500. Emily Kenney **Vidalia** 912-537-2890

JD 4650 cab and air: \$12,000 obo, field ready. Jerry Ellis **Griffin** 770-550-0419

John Deere 4455: \$27,500; John Deere 4020: \$13,500; John Deere 5045D: \$10,500. Timothy Smith **Adrian** 706-726-2236

Kubota tractor 1987 L2550, diesel, 2WD, one owner, very good condition, some equipment: \$6000. Bobby McClure **Canton** 770-345-2123

Massey Ferguson 240 diesel tractor: \$6500. Disc: \$500. Cultivator: \$450. Fertilizer distributor: \$150. Rototiller: \$500. 3pt lift: \$150. C. Snowden **Douglasville** 770-942-3953

Massey Ferguson 240 w/Bush Hog, model 400, 01357hrs, good cond.: \$8000. Arthur Barnes **Lithonia** 770-771-4209

MF 1230 with 5ft Bush Hog finishing mower. I. Lanier **Reg-ister** 912-658-3943

Super A Farmall with cultivators, hydraulic system, 12volt alternator, new battery. Runs great: \$1700. WD Milburn **Stapleton** 706-872-4216

Super A Farmall with T. plow, harrow, pull mower and other plows. Paul Wilkes **Hazlehurst** 912-375-5667

Super A Farmall, 100 Farmall one point cutting disk, nice full set Cub cultivators. Clyde Parker **Chatsworth** 706-847-8517

T.D. 35 M.F. Tractor, gas, runs good, no P.S., lift works but not properly. Would like to speak with knowledgeable mechanic about lift. Lewis Sanders 706-759-3871 **Stephens**

Two G Allis Chalmers, three Cub Farmall tractors for sale. Cultivators and other implements available. Jim Hammond **Gainesville** 678-316-1611

Wanted injector pump for MF-135, with Perkins engine. Would consider complete motor or parts tractor. June Bruner **Forest Park** 770-968-4457

Yanmar 2000 tractor with equipment. Includes 5ft X 5ft disk, one sweep breaking plow, leaf/root rake and lift boom: \$1800. Jerry German **Oxford** 770-361-9763

CUTTERS AND MOWERS

5ft Bush Hog: \$275 obo. Cecil Etheredge **Conyers** 404-326-7288

Bush hog brand rotary mower. Very good condition, 5ft: \$650. Steve Nail **Hampton** 770-780-0306

HX15 John Deere Batwing, new blades, new hoses, new CV shaft, new gear box, 540 PTO: \$11,500. James Sullivan **Vidalia** 912-537-4944

Jacobsen 2500 Contour mower, 8ft cut, 4-cycle Kubota engine, 4WD, total hydraulic system, 20ft deck-over trailer. Comes with trailer: \$4800. Mark Cress **Washington** 706-401-8825

Rhino mower, TW72, heavy duty, 3pt lift, great shape, sheltered: \$1500; 7-shank chisel plow, box scrape: make offer. L. Alter **Winston** 770-489-1295 leave message

PLANTING AND TILLAGE

(1) 4-row, high residue Buffalo cultivator: \$3500; 10ft Taylor Way 3pt hitch harrow: \$1000; MF T035 tractor: \$2500. J.W. Adkins **Vienna** 229-805-0255

1 JD 3-row trip turn plow: \$300. Jack Harris 912-375-4073 **Hazlehurst**

2 row Covington planter on frame. Bobby Gentry **Tay-lorsville** 770-383-0754

2-row John Deere 71 planters: new disc openers, depth bands, plates, manual: \$1100. 9-shank chisel plow: \$650. James Bunn **Hampton** 404-989-1528

6ft Industrial rotary tiller, 3pt hitch, used very little: \$1175, excellent condition. Ronald Adams **The Rock** 770-468-2494

DR tow behind rototiller. Electric start, 36inch, used 2 hours: \$1500 (originally \$3000). Will deliver. Larry Whitman **Hinesville** 912-977-0730

John Deere 25-B single row planter. Fertilizer hopper, metal wheel, corn and sunflower plate. Located in Jones County: \$375. M.L. Harrington **Ma-con** 478-960-0912

John Deere grain drill, good for deer food plots, 3ph: \$1575. Willis Diehl **Stock-bridge** 678-492-7189

MF two row bottom turning plow, new blades: \$500. V. Dobbs **Stockbridge** 678-898-3173

Two 2-row Pittsburg cultivators: \$300; cultivator with side dresser: \$350. Gene Conkle **Hampton** 770-584-2373

GRADERS AND BLADES

6ft litter bucket skid steer mount: \$500 cash. Ted Reeves **Sparta** 706-878-8562

Grasshopper Zero Turn mowers: 2009 430D, \$4995; 2006 227, \$2750 OBO. **Con-cord** 706-975-3400

Hedgehog box blade pulverizer, 5.5ft: \$895. Barely used. As is. **Concord** 706-975-3400

PICKERS AND HARVESTERS

1973 John Deere 4400D combine with 3300hrs, grain head, soybean head, three row corn head. Dennis Scott **Sylvania** 912-863-5232

1992 Case IH 1680 combine, long screens: \$15,000; 1020 30inch grain platform: \$3000; 2019 EZ Trail 510 grain cart: \$10,000. John Lowrey **Rome** 706-252-0121

GOOD TO GROW: Seasoned gardener advises newbies to do research, start small

By Jay Jones
jay.jones@agr.georgia.gov

In Mike and Cindy Lloyd's garden in Ball Ground, there is a lot more growing than produce and flowers. As master gardeners, they enjoy sharing the bounty of their garden and their experience in growing things.

"I was talking with another Master Gardener about some garlic – he had a named variety that I wanted – and I told him I would buy it," Mike said. "He said, 'No, no, no. You trade some of your honey for my bulbs, and we'll be even.' It's a good thing, and I just love to share."

Master Gardeners Extension Volunteers are trained volunteers with the University of Georgia Extension Service who share a love of plants and gardens. The Master Gardeners' primary goal is to assist UGA Extension in providing unbiased horticultural information through public service.

The Lloyds have about two acres to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers at their home. Mike said they have the usual stuff – peppers, tomatoes, corn, beans and squash.

"We keep honeybees here, too. We have the pollinators, and we have lots of fruit trees – peaches, pears and apples – and we have blackberries, blueberries, strawberries," Mike said. "Not all of them are perfect and well kept, but I think we are fairly successful in getting crops out of most of it."

They also have many types of flowers growing all around their house and garden. Mike said they have over 100 varieties of daylilies that provide a great show of blooms every spring. Cindy also tends flowers in the vegetable garden to attract pollinators where she grows zinnias, gardenias and all kinds of herbs.

Mike explained that he discovered gardening while a graduate student at Perdue University, where he met Cindy. A friend who grew up on a farm in Ohio taught him the



Mike Lloyd and his wife, Cindy, have lived in several states for work. Mike said they've always kept a garden and learned something different at each stop. They credit Cherokee County Master Gardeners and the UGA Extension Office for helping them grow in Georgia. (Special Photo)

Fun fact: The Lloyds grow 20 different varieties of peppers from seed. Mike pickles his peppers, names them "Miguel's Jalapeños," and enters them in local tasting competitions. "We've won some awards, but it's just for fun," he said.

basics. "I've just done it ever since," he said. "It's a lifetime experience and a learning experience all along the way."

The Lloyds have lived in several states for work – including Virginia, North Carolina and Arkansas – and at each home, they had a garden. Mike said they learned something different in each state.

"To me, Georgia is humid and hot, and as a result, you have a lot more disease pressure and a lot more insect pressure than we got from Arkansas, where it's a bit drier," he said. "We had peaches there and didn't have a problem raising them, but here it's a challenge to keep them going and get a good product out of the orchard."

The Lloyds are always happy to provide insight into gardening. Mike advises a little bit of research goes a long way in trying new crops. He credits Georgia's Master Gardeners program and the UGA Extension Service as great resources that helped them when they moved here.

For new gardeners, Mike said smaller is better. "There are a lot of easy things to grow, and I think that is what you should start with. If you try to start too big, the weeds will take over, and it will become work," he said. "It should be fun as well as productive, so think small and grow as your hobby grows."

For more information about the Master Gardeners program, contact your local county UGA Extension office or go to www.extension.uga.edu/programs-services.

GEORGIA GROWN PROFILE: Southern Soy makes skin care local

By Alexandra Woodford
GDA Intern

Teresa Lytle is a state-licensed esthetician who practices out of a small spa that she owns in Metter. Her focus is on clean, botanical skin care with limited ingredients that offer remarkable results.

Lytle said this was the very statement that drove her search to find a new product for her clients that improved the overall look and feel of their skin. After multiple rounds of research and development, Lytle learned that soy was the ingredient that was going to change the game for her and her clients.

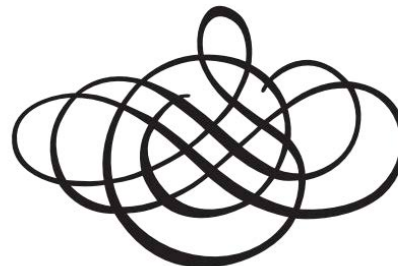
She discovered that soy offered many of the benefits she was looking for on top of burning the cleanest of any other wax on the market. That's important because her debut

Southern Soy product was the "Soy Lotion Candle." The candle not only provides a gentle light and soothing fragrance but also renders skin-soothing moisture from the warm lotion created as the wick burns.

The product was greeted with such high demand and good reviews that Lytle and her husband, Robert, decided to create a separate entity for the candle to exist and expand within called Southern Soy Candle in 2013.

Since launching Southern Soy Candle, the Lytles have developed a range of candles with a variety of scents, packaging and purposes. The candles contain a small amount of skin-safe fragrance with a 100 percent cotton wick. The original line of candles comes in 10 scents, including lemongrass, sea salt and cotton blossom.

Their "Farm to Table" line of soy lotion



Southern Soy Candle

candles offers scents of native Georgia fruits such as blueberries and peaches.

"They provide the most comforting aroma to your room," Lytle said.

The couple has also expanded into a line of CBD lotion candles as well as a CBD lotion stick that is advertised to help with

bodily discomfort. Lytle is currently testing a CBD moisturizer that has gotten good reviews.

Georgia Grown was just forming when the Lytles joined. They were looking to be able to connect with other like-minded businesses that were home-grown, and that's what Georgia Grown was offering.

The couple feels that being in the program has provided them with many networking opportunities that entail exchanging their ideas, struggles and their efforts with a group that "shares interest in making products that provide a local connection to today's market."

-Shop for Southern Soy Candles and other Georgia-grown products online at GeorgiaGrown.com

COOK GEORGIA GROWN: Blue Cheese-Stuffed Vidalia® Onion

Ingredients

4 medium Vidalia onions, peeled, tops and bottoms cut off
4 cloves roasted garlic
¼ cup blue cheese or gorgonzola, crumbled
Salt & pepper
Worcestershire sauce
Hot sauce

Directions

Preheat grill or oven to 350 degrees.

Using a small ice cream scoop or melon baller, scoop center out of onions, making a 1 – 1 ½ inch cavity. Reserve scooped onion for another use.

Season cavity with salt & pepper. Put one roasted garlic clove and one tablespoon blue cheese in each cavity. Drizzle a few drops of Worcestershire and hot sauce over blue cheese.

Wrap each onion in aluminum foil, gathering foil on top, forming a pouch. Grill over indirect heat or bake for 45-60 minutes or until soft. Unwrap and serve hot.



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Gary W. Black, Commissioner
MARKET BULLETIN STAFF
Julie McPeake, **Chief Communication Officer**
Amy H. Carter, **Editor**
Jay Jones, **Associate Editor**
Lee Lancaster, **Contributing Writer**
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Lee Nunn named 2020 Georgia Farmer of the Year

By Josh Paine

UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Lee Nunn of Madison planted his first wheat crop on 50 acres of his wife's family farm when it became available to rent just over a dozen years ago. He quickly realized his passion for farming and began renting more land, now growing wheat, soybeans, field peas, corn and cotton on more than 1,500 acres.

Nunn's relatively quick success and community involvement have led to him being honored as the 2020 Georgia Farmer of the Year. He's now in the running for the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition/Swisher Sweets Southeastern Farmer of the Year award. He was nominated by Lucy Ray, agriculture and natural resources agent for University of Georgia Cooperative Extension in Morgan County.

Nunn grew up visiting and helping at his grandfather's row crop and dairy farm in his native Morgan County until the farm was sold. Although he has been around agriculture most of his life, it was not a given that he would go into farming, and he doesn't farm any land his family owned.

"I was very humbled and shocked, but I appreciate the honor – it shows the hard work we farmers do," said Nunn, who owns related agribusinesses including custom farming services, agricultural construction and a trucking division. "I've been thrilled to be able to do it every day. I'm on the farm all day every day, doing what I love."

An avid believer in using the latest technologies available, Nunn is always open to field research, according to Ray, who has collaborated with him on projects including cover crops and thrips control in cotton.

"He definitely will try something new, but he makes sure the research and data back up the decisions he



Gov. Brian Kemp recognized Lee Nunn of Madison as Georgia's 2020 Farmer of the Year on July 8 in Atlanta.

makes," she said.

Although most of his crops are dryland, Nunn is collaborating on UGA Extension's soil moisture sensor project to optimize irrigation for about five percent of his land. "Water is the limiting factor, so that's why we have to be so efficient," he said. "We have to micromanage every decision. It's a totally different atmosphere up here than South Georgia."

Nunn started working with precision agriculture about eight years ago and has progressively increased its use on his land every year. All his tractors, sprayers and combines are now auto-steer.

"I'm a very big believer in precision guidance. It's the only way to go. We do yield mapping on the combine. We save on fertilizer by having that system pay for itself," he said. "It's a

good initial investment but pays in the long run. Even when I talk to some of my friends (who aren't involved in agriculture) they're amazed about what the technology can do."

Some of his notable production achievements include a 30 percent reduction in pesticide use, a 75 percent increase in conservation tillage with no-till or minimum-till cropland, and improved soil fertility using local poultry litter.

"We test every batch of litter we buy so we know what we're getting and we know exactly what we're putting out," he said.

Said Ray: "He's a good example that conservation practices are profitable in the long term and they make sense in today's production system."

Off the farm, Nunn and his wife Sally have two children, Claire and Mason, and he is very involved in the local agriculture community. He has served as president and treasurer of the Morgan County Farm Bureau and chairman of the local U. S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency board. He has also participated in the Conservation Stewardship Program offered by the USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service and serves on the county's Extension advisory board.

"He's got a reputation as someone who can get things accomplished and a really good heart," says Ray, who helped Nunn jump-start a Morgan County Row Crop Association in 2015. He sought her help in creating a place for quarterly updates similar to other commodity associations.

"We never had something specifically for row crop farmers," he said. "It's been a good thing."

Nunn will compete against nine other state winners this August for the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award, which will be announced on Oct. 20 at the Expo. To learn more about the award, visit sunbeltexpo.com/foty.

UNEMPLOYED: Need still exists

Continued From Page 1

round growing leafy greens and other vegetables. When the economy faltered due to COVID-19, the company fared somewhat better than others because demand on the grocery side spiked as food service demand tanked. Still, decisions about planting – made months before a crop goes from field to table – gave them some pause.

"In agriculture, things don't happen one week to the next. They happen one season to the next," Wetherington said. "You either tuck tail and quit what you're doing, or you go ahead with the plan already put in place maybe even three months before January."

Springer Mountain Farms, a poultry grower and processor based in Baldwin, also made room for charity in the midst of uncertainty. The company donated close to 2,000 pounds of chicken to Atlanta Family Meal, even as its own business model was changing due to COVID-19.

"We've tried to do what we could do. I wish it were more, and we're probably not done," said Dale Faunce, marketing manager for Springer Mountain Farms.

Meat processing facilities have been hit hard by the spread of novel coronavirus due to the close working quarters. To accommodate social distancing requirements, the company has adjusted its product line to include more bone-in product. Like so many things people have rediscovered in the age of COVID-19, the art of cooking with a whole chicken is just one more adaptation that might or might not stick.

"We can't produce enough of the boneless cuts, so we're trying to encourage as many as possible to select bone-in parts and whole birds," Faunce said. "We're not going to change the world. We don't have that kind of power anyway."

What will remain is the need for Atlanta Family Meal, said Karen Bremer, the director of the Georgia Restaurant Association who also sits on the board of directors for Atlanta Family Meal.

Although the economy is reopening, restaurants have reduced dine-in capacity to meet social distancing requirements, and that has reduced staffing needs. The industry is still struggling with the issue of positive tests among staff and patrons. Some restaurants opt to close for a period of deep cleaning when that happens, putting their staff out of work again.

"Technically they do not have to close," Bremer said. "There are sanitation procedures in place, but many are electing to close to do another sanitation cleaning for consumer and staff confidence. The restaurant industry has always been the wash your hands/sanitize industry. This is not new to the restaurant industry to be hypervigilant about sanitation and cleanliness."

Before March 17, the Georgia Restaurant Association represented 7,000 of the 19,000 restaurants in Georgia. Bremer estimates 20 percent of Georgia's restaurants won't survive the virus-induced downturn.

"I see a long-term need for it," Bremer said of the meal program. "Will we ever have 100 percent employment in our country? There's always going to be change in people's lives – people lose their jobs, family members become ill – beyond what we're going through right now."

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For advice on protecting yourself and others from COVID-19 while going about your daily routine, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/index.html>

EMPLOYMENT

Farm Help Needed and Seeking Farm Employment ads must be related to agricultural farm work. Ads submitted for domestic help, companions, baby sitters, housekeepers, etc. will not be published.

FARM HELP NEEDED

Seeking live on property help. Fully furnished housing in exchange for p/t help with horses and farm property. References required. Linda Daughtry **Adrian** 478-299-6446

Seeking to hire part-time, 20-30 hr week farm labor for weed eating, bush hogging, pruning, gardening and light maintenance. D. Lance **Calhoun** davidjlance1@gmail.com

SEEKING FARM EMPLOYMENT

Now hiring all positions at Midsouth Packers meat processing facility. New plant opening in early August. Joseph Egloff **Forsyth** 478-731-6262

WANTED

Items wanted in all Classified Categories will be advertised here.

1 to 5 grass fed calves, any sex or breed. Nelson Massey **Conyers** 770-483-2639

16in harrow blade for a 1in-round shaft, one bearing housing, for a 1953 Dearborn harrow. Charles Murphy 912-264-6815 **Brunswick**

6ft finishing mower in SE Georgia. Must be in good condition. Randy Welty **Alma** 912-614-2637

Cash in hand looking for a 50-70HP Kubota or John Deere tractor. Loader preferred. \$30,000 or less. Connor Power **Monroe** 404-989-2306

Cash paid for running and non-running diesel tractors and skid steers. Have trailer with winch. Also buys back hoes. Joshua Fowler **Dacula** 404-886-7423

Fenced pasture near Franklin, Hart, Madison and Elbert counties, for long-lease or purchase. 100+ acres preferred or multiple smaller pastures. Call/text. Bob Coward **Lavonia** 678-663-3853

Heirloom impatiens seed that will reseed every year. Elmore Stuart **Woodstock** 404-683-5989

Hood for John Deere LX188 mower. Rex Nelms **Mc-Donough** 770-468-6490

Husband and wife with 15 years farming experience looking for 2+ acres of growing space with home to rent/buy within 25 minutes of Athens. Dana Nivens **Athens** 706-254-4346

I am looking for hunting land to lease, within 50 miles of Grovetown. This is not a club. Victor Johnson **Grovetown** 706-833-9685

In search of homegrown/field-grown tomatoes and corn. A. Stanley **Atlanta** 404-271-9596

ISO: 36inch wheels with or without tires to fit 4600 Ford tractor. Reasonable price. Roy Wiley **Ashburn** 229-402-3462

Looking for a 3-point tiller attachment for an Yanmar 1700 tractor. Please leave message. Sid Moorhead **Conyers** 770-728-2304

Looking for a 2008 or later model 80-100hp utility tractor w/loader and cab, 4WD; high hours ok if well-maintained. Will pick up. Steve 404-563-2731 **Dahlonega**

Looking for a pea sheller to shell purple hulls and cream peas. Daniel Williams **Senoia** 770-351-7098

Looking for a steering gear box for a Yanmar 186. Daniel Kelly **Senoia** 678-381-3431

Looking for Barred Holland chickens or hatching eggs. Tim Williams **Temple** 770-459-4827

Looking for Black Spanish turkeys. Vickie Hogan **Clarksville** 706-768-5441

Looking for dewberries. D. Dimler 770-315-3265 **Auburn**

Looking for hunting land lease within 60 miles of Athens. This is not a hunting club. Call or text. David Daniel **Athens** 919-996-9464

Looking for Loofah seeds and bottleneck gourd seeds in the Newnan area. Email info. Terrie Promis **Sharpsburg** newnan-neuronurse@gmail.com

Old car/truck wanted. 1930-1965 running or restorable condition. Frank Patton **Martin** 770-310-1338

Old farm tables, signs, advertising, rusty cool stuff, farm items, cupboards, pie safes, southern pottery, furniture, old artwork, military, toys, collections. Craig Walker **Cleveland** 770-294-5920

Ole time Candy Cane Petunias, female pepper seed, Flemish Giant rabbits. Henry Lee **Sale City** 229-328-8867

Seeking a male and female Nubian goats under \$100 each. Chloe Campbell **Mc-Donough** 770-274-9093

Tractor tires 13.6x28. Tommy Victor **Dawsonville** 770-757-6933

Want a Case 310 and a Farmall C for parts. Want a Farmall M for restoration. M. Howington **Pine Mountain** 770-842-0083

Want distributor [4cylinder] Massey Ferguson 135 non-diesel engine. Must be in good shape. Leave message. Jim Hobson **Homer** 706-677-3966 or 706-654-8372

Want permission to hunt Civil War relics on property near battle sites w with metal detectors. will share finds. David Walter Mashburn **Epworth** 706-632-5456

Want rear tires and wheels for 800 Ford tractor, 13.6X28. Reasonable price. Garland Benefield **Oxford** 770-784-1655

Want used trusses, 36+in wide. Call Marty Brown 706-207-9086 **Watkinsville**

Wanted in Crisp or Dooly County area: pickup load of horse or cow manure. Please call 706-781-8992 or 706-994-3407. I will pick up. Joe Bryant **Cordele**

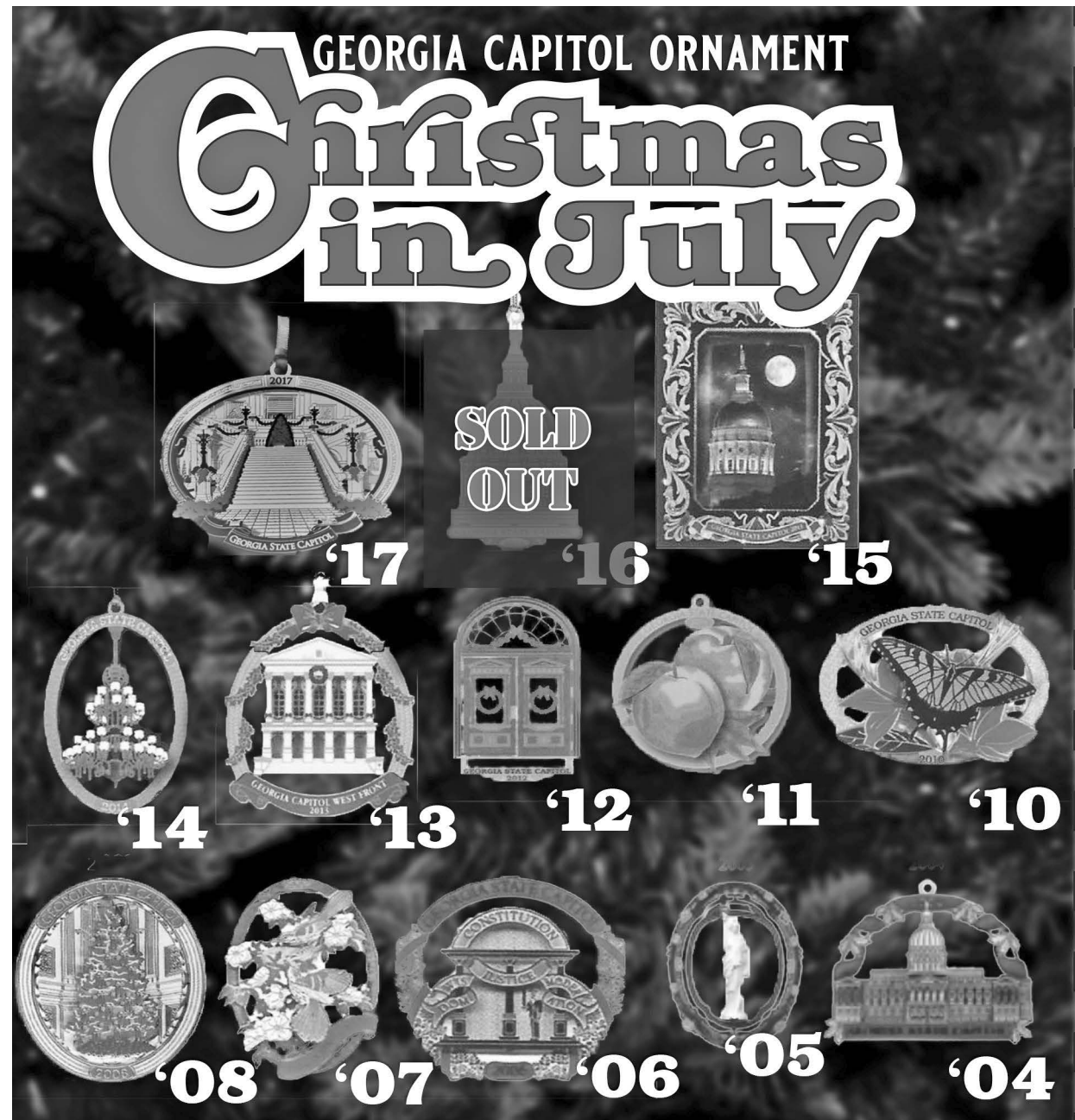
Wanted: Female goats between 1 and 18 months old. Must be 50% white & 50% black and NOT sterile. Joel Wiley **Coolidge** 229-890-8888 Email: numberman4@yahoo.-com

Wanted: Gear box for John Deere 706 rotary mower. Richard Smith **Gay** 706-538-6395

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We are living in a virtual world

COVID-19 changes the way ag knowledge is shared

By Jay Jones

jay.jones@agr.georgia.gov

Spencer Oliver and his friends were looking forward to the annual FFA state convention before it was canceled in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Oliver considers it to be a place where everyone shines and is recognized for their work in agriculture.

But through that disappointment and uncertainty, Oliver said the experience of having to start from scratch and hold the convention virtually in May is a lesson he will take with him for the rest of his life.

“To have the experience of looking at the situation that may not be ideal and saying, ‘Alright now, what do we do with it?’ and having to work through that process to make sure it’s the best thing that you can do, I think that’s one of the most important skills anybody can have,” said Oliver, a past Central Region State Vice President from Harris County High School.

Ben Lastly, executive secretary of the Georgia FFA Association, said it was essential to everybody to hold the convention. Along with recognizing accomplishments, the convention is where FFA conducts its business meeting and elects new officers.

To prepare for a virtual convention, FFA produced videos and multimedia presentations to recognize Stars Over Georgia and proficiency award winners.

“We felt like our engagement in the virtual convention was really good just from watching the analytics come in and how many people were watching the sessions live, how were they being shared and liked and retweeted,” Lastly said. “We had lots



Georgia FFA adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic by holding its annual state meeting online this year. Former FFA Central Region State Vice President Spenser Oliver of Harris County was one of eight outgoing state officers who delivered their farewell speeches virtually. View a recording of Oliver's speech online at <https://youtu.be/7wcqF191Ch8>

of feedback and engagement, so it wasn't as maybe big a deal as having 6,000 people gather in the same place live, but we felt like people were paying attention.”

Cristina deRevere, Georgia 4-H public relations coordinator, said 4-H had to cancel all its spring events and redo programming for online access. 4-H also replaced its camps that would have been going this summer with online educational series from the state's six 4-H facilities. She added that 4-H had also provided activity resources on its Website to keep youth involved with learning.

“Our targets were not only the youth but also the parents to help with their children's education at home and teachers to help come

up with virtual lesson plans,” she said. “The point of the Web site was to help everyone.”

4-H also lost its state-wide meetings to COVID-19. The organization combined its annual State Congress and State Council meetings this month into virtual meetings called the State Achievement Series and streamed the series on the Georgia 4-H YouTube channel.

Technology has provided an opportunity to do the same things different.

“If this happened 30 years ago, before the Internet, we wouldn't have these opportunities,” Lastly said.

But technology is no substitute for actual facetime.

“We learned a lot from our virtual contests, and we decided that we want to keep them in-person once this pandemic is over,” deRevere said, “but it's a nice option to make sure we are inclusive to everyone in case they are unable to attend in person.”

Paula Burke, Carroll County UGA Extension Agent, said the shutdown offered an opportunity to expand her knowledge of existing technology, as well as use it in new ways. She was teaching Master Gardeners and Journeyman Farmers certification classes when the shutdown occurred and had to complete them online using video conferencing applications like Zoom.

Burke said her office had done video conferencing internally but had limited use of it in programming, which she said they did exclusively person-to-person prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Burke said technology gave her office the opportunity to reach more people.

“If you're in Carroll County and there's a really good program being put together by an agent on the other side of the state with the Zoom type or the recorded videos, you don't have to get in your car and travel there. You can just do it from the comfort of your home,” she said. “So, it's really opened up how many more people we're able to reach because we haven't been able to meet face-to-face.”

Burke dusted off presentation materials from talks she gave at conferences and meetings and turned them into webinars on topics like fire ant eradication and small ruminants. She also helps her master gardeners continue with their monthly meetings online, complete with guest speakers.

Eating virtually

Keep food safety in mind when ordering food prep kits for home delivery

By Tamsin Smith

GDA Food Safety Intern

Ordering food online – maybe you love it, maybe you are a first-time user. Food companies that sell directly to consumers are on the rise. In 2014, one out of 10 Americans reported that they had bought meat, poultry, game or seafood online. Those numbers have certainly grown, especially in these times.

Direct-to-consumer food services, also known as mail-order, sell products to consumers through non-face-to-face communication and deliver direct to the consumer's house. These companies sell a variety of products, from raw meats to specialty jams. This category also covers meal kits, where customers are given pre-measured ingredients and instructions to create a meal.

While subject to the same regulatory guidelines in facility, they are distinct from ordering from restaurants or through a third-party system. In those cases, the food is usually ready-to-eat and delivery is the responsibility of the business.

DTC food services can be wonderful. They allow customers to explore food or support far-away businesses. But there are some things to keep in mind before ordering. The companies often release responsibility for their products after the products leave their facilities. Packages can be subject to extreme temperature conditions in transit because they are

put in with non-perishable mail.

A 2015 study found that food safety information on company websites was confusing or missing. Out of the websites surveyed, 58 percent of them did not offer any information for the safe handling, storage or cooking of their products.

If you are thinking of ordering through a DTC food delivery service, follow these steps.

- **Check the company website for food safety information.** Often, this is found in the “Frequently Asked Questions” page. Look for information on the five components of food safety: cooking, storage, handling, thawing and temperature guidance.
- **Find details on how your product will be packed.** Make sure that if you are ordering a perishable product that it will be packed in an insulated bag with coolants. The most effective coolant is dry ice.
- **Make sure the delivery process is transparent.** Choose to track your package, if the option is available.
- **Schedule your delivery for a time when you know there will be someone at your house to receive the package.** If this is not possible, look at the delivery policy. Is the delivery “signature release”? If so, that means that the package will be left at your external door without a notice to you.
- **See if the company has a return or reimbursement policy.** If your package is damaged, you should have a

way to return it.

- **If any of this information is missing or unclear, do not be afraid to call the company to ask for it.**
- **When you get your package, open it immediately and inspect it.** Measure the product contents with a food thermometer. Cold products should be at a temperature of 40 degrees F or below. Was the package properly sealed? Also check for other signs of damage, such as animal droppings or leaks.
- **If possible, note how long your package has been outside.** Perishable food that has held a temperature above 40 degrees F for more than two hours is no longer safe to consume.
- **If the product shows signs of contamination or degradation, do not consume it.** Take pictures of your package, including readings from a food thermometer, if used.
- **Share your experience with the company.** Your feedback can give valuable information to future consumers and show the company if it needs to improve. Use these tips next time you use a DTC food service to keep your food safe and enjoyable. Happy ordering!

-Tamsin Smith is interning in the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Division this summer. She is a second-year master's candidate at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

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