Irrigation Key to Farming Future

Water is not only essential to maintain human life, it is also a key factor in the sustainability of Alabama agriculture. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that approximately 10 percent of the freshwater resources in the entire continental United States originate in or flow through Alabama. With such an abundance of water resources it is easy to take for granted one of our states greatest assets, WATER!

An analysis of land suitable for irrigation in Alabama revealed that there are slightly over 2.5 million acres of prime farmland where irrigations is highly feasible. Our state has an abundance of both surface and groundwater, which could be used in a responsible and suitable manner to support more irrigation. Irrigation is a sustainable approach, since in a year’s time Alabama receives roughly 56 inches of rainfall to continuously replenish our water resources. Technology is available and more is under development to monitor the real-time supply and usage of our water resources to ensure good stewardship of this valuable resource.

Recently Commissioner John McMillan participated in the Dee River Ranch/ Lindsay Irrigation Technology Field Day at Dee River Ranch near Aliceville. The field day showcased the latest in integrated irrigation technology and products, including center pivots, on-farm reservoirs, integrated pumps and remote broadband telemetry. McMillan said, “After attending the field day and seeing the impressive technology first-hand, I am convinced that irrigation is crucial to the future success of agriculture in Alabama.”

Recognizing the importance of responsible water use, Governor Robert Bentley has issued a directive for several state agencies to work together to establish a comprehensive

USDA Conducts Survey of Cattle Inventories

In July, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its semi-annual cattle survey. The agency will ask producers about their beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop and cattle on feed operations.

Producers should have received the survey questionnaire in late June and can respond via the Internet, as well as by mail or fax. Those who do not respond in one of those ways will have the opportunity for a telephone or personal interview.

“In Alabama, we will contact approximately 1,100 of the larger beef and dairy cattle operations,” said Bill Weaver, director of the NASS Alabama Field Office. “The semi-annual surveys enable NASS to provide timely, accurate and unbiased data that all sectors of the U.S. beef industry can use. Once published, the information will help producers determine production and marketing strategies and plan purchases and capital investments,” he explained.

Processors, warehouse and storage companies and the transportation sector rely on the reports to anticipate future volume.

Weaver noted that, as is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by

AG IN THE CLASSROOM

More than 75 teachers and other educational professionals from around the state attended the 2012 Ag in the Classroom (AITC) Summer Institute held in Opelika, June 12-14. This workshop provides participants with innovative research materials and high yield teaching strategies that increases student knowledge of the nutritional and economic importance of the food and fiber systems in their daily lives. Hands-on activities and teaching materials focused on agriculture incorporate language arts, science, social

(continued on page 10)
AQUACULTURE

Tilapia – $4/lb. plus delivery fee, great for Bass

Silver-laced Wyandottes, Americanas, Black copper, Blue Copper, Blue Splash Marans, Silver-laced Wyandottes, Americanas, Blue Marans, $3 ea.

Two 15-hole metal chicken nest, $50 each

Half-grown, $1-3 ea., come on Saturday

** Please reference the “Submission Guidelines” on our website, under “AG News”, guideline #20 **

ERG & POUTRY

Simply fill out the form below and return it along with your check payable to:
Alabama Farmers & Consumer Bulletin
P.O. Box 336, Montgomery, AL 36103-0336

Please choose one:

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JOHN Mcmillan
Commissioner

The Department of Agriculture and Industries does not assume any responsibility for the transactions for the effects of the columns through the Bulletin, but will use every effort to prevent fraud. Those persons who offer items for sale are expected to fulfill the terms of their offer. Failure through either negligence or fault shall be the sole responsibility of the seller.

On the Cover—Enjoy Alabama’s locally grown fresh produce to locate a Farmers Market near you, log on to www.fma.alabama.gov.

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CATTLE

All livestock listings must be from non-resident producers. Non-residents must send address changes.

Please choose one:

CATTLE

BBU Reg. Beefmaster bulls, $1,500, red and yellow red polychrome, $1,500, polled red and black colors; reg. Beefmaster heifers, $1,500, gentle, beefy, none better, visitors are expected to fulfill the terms of their offer. Failure through either negligence or fault shall be the sole responsibility of the seller.

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JD engine #466 & #404, $2,000 ea.; JD digger $250. 4521 Smith Rd., Southside 205/372-2707 (Greene)
$2,500; JD front weights, 100 lb. ea., $400
JD Model 300 corn picker, 244 corn head, rebuilding, sell parts or whole tractor $700.
650 G Satoh Mitsubishi tractor, motor needs banks and around fishponds, $450.
1974 Peterbilt 359 30" sleeper, 470 Detroit
8-wheel Hay Rake $2,000; 16' goose-
3,000 bales last year, $3,000. Tony Prince $65. Leon Galecki 256/228-119, Montevallo 35115 205/243-5068 or
1993 JD 762B paddle wheel scraper
96 Old Mink Farm Rd., Altoona 32056 256/571-102 Wilson Chapel Rd., Altoona 35952 256/490-6506 (Marshall)
64 Ford 4000, runs great, needs T.L.C., new motors out of box, mounted, & Stratton engine w/some equipment, $2,750. Kerry Godwin 954
1275 Red Hill School Rd., Empire 35063 205/266-3185 (Jefferson)
Tufline disc $400; Cole planter $350; 81 Case Cab tractor, 180 hp/dw $13,000; 7217 Hwy 9, Anniston 36207 256/435-7844 (Calhoun)
1938 Ford tractor 9N $1,500. Steve Lucas, 1065 King Rd., Woodstock 30189 706/265-5151 (Catoosa)
FD 6108, 30" wide foreman, $2,000. 334/397-2340 (Barbour)
334/382-3433 (Russell)
JD 450-D bull dozer, turbo, 6-way blade, Rops Pinon roof, runs good $12,000; 1989 NH 977 track loader, rebuilt engine & trans., asking $11,000. 7217 Hwy 9, Anniston 36207 256/435-7844 (Calhoun)
IH 424 diesel, 40 hp, 3 pt hitch, new clutch, rebuilt head, 12 volt, new paint, decals & drawer full & flowers, good hydraulics, quiet transmission, field ready, $3,200 OBO; other equipment work or for parts $1,200. Brian F. McCorry 205/345-2141 or 205/292-4106 (Tuscaloosa)
Allis Chalmers 6 cyl. turbo, runs great, on $550. 96 Old Mink Farm Rd., Altoona 32056 256/571-102 Wilson Chapel Rd., Altoona 35952 256/490-6506 (Marshall)
Tonutti 8-wheel V-rake, good cond. $2,000; 205/345-2141 or 205/292-4106 (Tuscaloosa)
JD tractor, 45 hp, model 1015, 6' bush guard, 430, $130, 199; Eric 250-508-9966 (Calhoun)
MISCELLANEOUS

50-gal. propane gas tank, good cond., you move, $300. 256/234-6689 (Tallapoosa)

Sandblast trailer, 24 feet long, fully reconditioned, new tires, new bearings, sandblasted, ready for paint, $800 frn. Ford, cooks yard, Cullman, 205/489-5707 (Cullman)

3 to 5 ft. black mix, black, gray, $40. Chuck, 205/999-2281 (Mobile)

Men new wood shaper $150. 256/412-3426 (Etowah)

3-row 3-pt. Cultivator complete, 22’-4”, 8’ wide. 205/789-9612 (Greene)

Horse trailer, 22 ft., 14’x6’, 24’ long, 12,000 GVW, 7.3 ton capacity, solid wood floor, dovetail & ramps $2,500; two-axle 7 ton Equipment trailers 20’, tri-axel, gooseneck $2,500; two-axle 7 ton trailer, 10-ton dovetail, pin-box, never used, $600. 10207 W. State Rd., Montgomery 1401 Lakemont Dr. S., Southside 35074 256/556-6810 (Chilton)

Want to buy cedar logs, $55-$75/ton. Wes Sizemore, 334/494-3037 (Cullman)

MISCELLANEOUS

525’ softball tee, 2 to 10 boxes, 256/354-5122 (Cullman)

Ford 600 series tractor to savage for chicken litter, 2 to 10 tons. 256/354-5122 (Cullman)

565 Co Rd 3600, Lynn 35575 205/269-3730 (Greene)

For trade, a 2011 Chevy Silverado LTZ pick-up truck. 334/567-2211 (Elmore)

For a 715 Int’l Combine 13 or 14’ grain cart. Nina Converse, 256/339-8691 (Cullman)

Are you interested in growing cane and want to learn more? There is a 12 month of teens forum that you can read the month prior to publication.

Want to buy cedar logs, $55-$75/ton. Wes Sizemore, 334/494-3037 (Cullman)

One of the items is that you can have the USDA耳 tags for $3 each.

Wanted to buy cedar logs, 50-150, 205/372-0641 (Greene)

Backyard chicken farm equipment, anything low cost for children wanting to start farming. Nina Converse 256/330-8681 (Cullman)

For trade, a 2011 Chevy Silverado LTZ pick-up truck. 334/567-2211 (Elmore)

35586 205/932-0872 (Lamar)

For a 715 Int’l Combine 13 or 14’ grain cart. Nina Converse, 256/339-8691 (Cullman)

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Applications Due for 2012 Century & Heritage Farm Program

The Department of Agriculture and Industries is now accepting applications for the 2010 Century and Heritage Farm program. This program is designed to recognize and honor those farms that have been in operation as a family farm over a long period of time and have played a significant role in Alabama history.

A Century Farm is one that has been in the same family continuously for at least 100 years and currently has some agricultural activities on the farm. The farm must include at least 40 acres of land and be owned by the applicant or nominee.

A Heritage Farm is one that has been operated continuously as a family farm for at least 100 years. The farm must possess interesting and important historical and agricultural aspects, including one or more structures at least 40 years old. The farm must be at least 40 acres of land owned and operated by the applicant, who must reside in Alabama.

This program began in 1976 when the director of the Alabama Historical Commission and a representative from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries met to discuss some way to recognize small family farms that had been in operation over a long period of time. Out of this original meeting the idea for the Century and Heritage Farm program that have been born. They (continued on page 11).

Product Spotlight

Borden is one of the most trusted names in the dairy aisle, enjoyed by Americans for more than 150 years. Locally processed, Borden is best known for nurturing families and providing great-tasting, high-quality nutritious milk. Recognized for its rich, creamy taste, premium Borden® milk comes from artificial growth hormone-free cows* and is processed with the highest quality service and processing standards.

About Elsie the Cow

Borden is proud to reintroduce Elsie, the brand’s beloved spokescow, to a new generation of milk drinkers. Elsie first arrived on the scene in 1937. She symbolizes the trust, quality and freshness of Borden products. In 2000, Advertising Age recognized Elsie as one of the top 10 advertising icons of all time. The doe-eyed cow has enamored children and adults of all ages for more than 70 years with her good looks and charm, and was one of the country’s first witty working moms.

About the Borden Heritage of Quality and Innovation

During a voyage home from London, England, Gail Borden Jr., a philanthropist, businessman and inventor, witnessed something that altered his mission in life. Infants and children were dying as a result of drinking tainted milk. Borden knew something had to be done. And in 1857, he discovered a solution.

The company Borden founded, New York Condensed Milk Co., became the first dairy farm to develop a commercial method of condensing milk, which made it easy to transport wholesome, nutritious and, most importantly, safe milk to countries in need. In 1875, Borden began selling fluid milk. Ten years later, his company became the first to distribute milk in glass bottles.

Besides delivering wholesome dairy products, Borden brought stability and structure to dairy farming methods, milk distribution and business practices. Borden wrote “The Dairyman’s Ten Commandments,” setting forth dairy industry standards that still hold true today.

Alabama Seafood Subject of Designer T-Shirts

Menswear fashion designer Billy Reid has debuted a special series of Alabama Gulf Seafood t-shirts and hats that feature fishing boats, crabs and oysters, along with the Alabama Gulf Seafood mark. The clothing is available at BillyReid.com, in his store in Florence, and in his other stores around the U.S. Hats will sell for $38 and t-shirts for $56. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources Foundation.

Corn crib located on Wadsworth Farms in Cropwell, Ala. built in 1911.
**Imperial BowStand™**
Can be planted with a minimal effort. Quick germination for results early and late-season.
4 LB. $13.95

**No Plow™**
Game Plot Seed
Fast-growing annual. Perfect for logging roads, clear cuts, and minimal tillage situations.
9 LB. BAG $35.95
25 LB. BAG $64.95

**Winter-Greens™ Game Plot Seed**
Designed for late-season food plots and late-season hunting. Blend of cold-season brassicas.
3 LB. BAG $35.95
12 LB. BAG $99.95

**Imperial Whitetail CLOVER**
Up to 30-35% protein. A perennial with 3-5 years longevity.
4 LB. BAG $35.95
18 LB. BAG $139.95

**Imperial PURE ATTRACTION Annual Plot Seed**
Substantial forage for late-season plots. An oat, brassica and pEA blend. Establishes early - last all season long.
26 LB. BAG $39.95

**Imperial Whitetail “Chic” Magnet Perennial Food Plot Seed**
Up to 44% protein. Features WNA 100 Perennial Forage, specifically selected for whitetail deer food plots.
3 LB. $35.95

**TALL TINE TUBERS**
Designed to provide deer with two food sources (forage and tubers) for late-fall through winter.
3 LB. BAG $22.95
12 LB. BAG $79.95

**KRAZE Flavored Attractant**
5 LB. $9.95

**Last Bite™**
A food plot blend developed by World-Class Hunters Mark & Terry Druzy. Outstanding fall attraction with a flush of clover in the spring. A deadly blend of oats, wheat, brassica and clover.
9 lb. Plants 1 acre. $64.99

**New Zealand Clover Plus**
9 lbs. Plants 1 acre. $16.99

**Perennial Perfect Plot™**
Bio-Logic® best. Includes New Zealand red and white clovers, alfalfa, winter peas, chicory and the best brassicas. Plant year round.
27 lbs. Plants 3 acres. $155.99

**New Zealand Maximum**
2.25 lbs. Plants 1/4 acre. $19.99

**Green Patch Plus**
A blend of New Zealand brassicas and clovers. 20 lbs. Plants 1 acre. $22.99

**Full Draw**
Made for bowhunting! A blend of New Zealand brassicas, clovers, wheat and special grains.
2.5 lbs. $12.99
10 lbs. $46.99
30 lbs. $118.99

**BioRock**
All-natural mineral supplement for health and antler growth.
1 Rock $10.99
Mama’s Recipes

A staple of most Southern tables is the potato. The variety of ways this vegetable is served always amazes and delights me. This month, Cindy Wright has shared with us one of her family favorites. I can’t wait to try it out.

As always, we invite you to share with us some of those tasty treats that your family is known for. So dig into the family cookbook, and send in your recipes to Alabama Farmers & Consumers Bulletin, Attn: Mama’s Recipes, P.O. Box 3336, Montgomery, AL 36109-0336, fax to 334-240-7169 or email it to afcb@agi.alabama.gov.

Mom’s Meat Stuffed Potatoes

6 large baking potatoes
1/2 lb. ground sausage
1/2 lb. ground beef
1/4 cup chopped onion
1 heaping tablespoon ground sage
1 teaspoon sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

Bake potatoes on baking pan in 400 degree oven until done—no foil on them!

Allow potatoes to cool; then scoop out potato from shells and place in large bowl. Save potato shells on baking pan. Combine meats and other ingredients to potato filling in bowl. Spoon mixture back into shells on baking pan. Bake in preheated 400 degree oven until meat is done, approximately one hour.

This recipe will feed four, but can easily be doubled, because they are also great the next day for breakfast, topped with cheese.

Enjoy!

Submitted by Cindy M. Wright of Letohatchee

Developing Beef Cattle

It’s nearly that time of year again: time to sell last year’s calves and start thinking about the next breeding season. Maybe you’re thinking about selling the cull cows while prices are high and replacing them with some of your heifers.

Have you ever considered the total cost of developing a heifer properly, taking into account not only money but also time and effort? The Upper Coastal Plain Beef Heifer Development Program (UCPHDP) can provide an economical and management solution to the challenge of raising replacement heifers.

This program allows producers to leave the raising of replacement heifers to UCPHDP experts. The producer retains ownership of the heifers and pays a daily fee to cover the cost of feed, medicine, reproductive procedures, and other associated expenses, including labor. Consignors can choose to breed heifers using artificial insemination (AI) or natural service. The AI option gives producers access to some of the top genetics in the industry. The natural service option also introduces new genetics to the herd. Either way, producers will see broader herd genetics without the bother or the expense of keeping a bull.

Here are four great reasons to be involved:

1. You will save time. By registering your heifers in the UCPHDP, you will eliminate the time spent on developing the animals properly. You will not have to find hay and feed to your animals on those cold, rainy winter mornings. You will not have to organize a nutritional plan. Plus, since your heifers will all be calving within a short season (See #4), you will not have to spend all of fall and winter checking to see if they have calved or are having trouble delivering.

2. You will save money. You do not have to find a heifer bull. You do not need to feed the heifers through the winter. Since your heifers are being developed elsewhere, you can devote time to cull problem cows that are not producing but are consuming valuable resources. The UCPHDP includes a reproductive soundness exam and pelvic measurements, which allows you to determine if your heifer is reproductively sound and mature enough to be bred. You can decide early which heifers to breed rather than encountering problems during pregnancy.

3. You will save land. You do not need a separate pasture for your heifers. You also do not have to worry about keeping the heifers and the bull apart.

4. You will have a calving season. All of your heifers will calve within a 75-day calving season, which allows you to better monitor calving heifers. Since they will all be at the same stage, their needs will, for the most part, be the same. You will be able to care for them as a group and better market the calves as a uniform group.

For more information about the program, visit www.aeces.edu/animalforage/BeefHeiferDevelopmentProgram.php or contact Ilana Kell at 205-221-3392 or 205-442-1743 or e-mail ike0002@aces.edu.

Alfa Presents Reward

A retired Monroe County farmer received $11,000 from Alfa Insurance and the Alabama Farmers Federation as a reward for the arrest and conviction of a man who stole nearly $10,000 worth of copper wiring from an irrigation system near Frisco City.

Monroe County Farmers Federation President Ronnie Joe Jordan presented Willie Saucer, of the Goodway community, a $10,000 reward check from Alfa Insurance and a $1,000 check on behalf of the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Jordan said, “Mr. Saucer has always been an honest, hard-working man who does the right thing. I’m glad he saw the crooks and helped the sheriff bring them to justice.”

Alfa Insurance President Jerry Newby, who also serves as president of the Alabama Farmers Federation, said Saucer’s involvement should serve as an encouragement to others to follow suit and report metal thieves.

Newby said, “Metal theft causes thousands of dollars in damage to homes and businesses, and it can impact a farmer’s livelihood by leaving important equipment inoperable. We hope this reward will encourage others to turn in metal thieves.”

Saucer’s farm is now run by his son, Wesley, and his grandson, Scott Saucer. The elder Saucer, 80, spotted the thieves on a Sunday morning in March of last year.

“There were two of them trying to get their truck out of the ditch in the edge of the field,” Willie Saucer said. “I knew something wasn’t right, so I drove back to the house and told my wife, Nellie, to call the sheriff. I drove back up there, and they broke and ran.”

Monroe County Sheriff Tom Tate arrived several minutes later and, after setting up a perimeter around the property, called for help from the state prison in Atmore, which brought in two tracking dogs. The suspects were soon in custody.

Both suspects were indicted by a Monroe County grand jury. One pled guilty, and the other is awaiting trial.

The damage to the irrigation system was covered by an Alfa farm owner’s policy. The thieves stripped nearly a quarter mile of copper wiring from the system.

More information is available at www.alfa.com.
HORSEWEED A HEADACHE FOR GROWERS

By James Langenstein

In the social sciences, they call it unintended consequences, in the military, collateral damage — good intentions gone awry. In row-crop farming, there is no technical term for it, but the effects always work out the same way: higher input costs, coupled with added work and worry for producers.

Whatever one chooses to call it — unintended consequences or collateral damage — horseweed is a case of a good intention gone awry.

In the decades when conventional tillage practices were the norm rather than the exception, horseweed was never a problem. A winter annual, it germinated in fall, grew during the winter and produced seed during the spring and early summer.

The windblown seed that nature had equipped to germinate on the soil surface was easily eliminated through conventional tillage.

The problem started when minimal tillage cropping systems were introduced roughly a generation ago, both as cost-saving measure and as a strategy for building up organic residue. Minimal tillage provided the optimal conditions in which horseweed seed could germinate and grow.

Dr. Michael Patterson, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System weed scientist and Auburn University professor of agronomy and soils, remembers the first time he encountered horseweed problems in 2003 on cotton acreage located a few miles west of Decatur.

He was accompanied by his colleague Charles Burmester, a Tennessee Valley-based agronomist who had first inspected the field and invited Patterson up from Auburn University to take a closer look.

“It was a cotton field just covered with horseweed,” Patterson recalls. “The cotton was planted and was up about 3 or 4 inches, while the horseweed was standing at between 6 and 8 inches.”

Fortunately for the producer, extensive cultivation, reinforced with a few herbicide applications, brought the horseweed under control.

This marked the beginning of a recurrent theme throughout north Alabama, Patterson says. Alongside the far more virulent Palmer pigweed, horseweed rates as a comparative lightweight.

A few herbicide sprays and, in worst-case scenarios, cultivation, usually stops these weeds in their tracks before they can pose serious threats.

However, in an era when cost-cutting is a paramount concern among producers, horseweed is causing plenty of grief, especially among the unfortunate handful of Tennessee Valley producers who are dealing with horseweed and pigweed.

“It may not be as big a problem as pigweed, but it’s still a problem,” Patterson says.

“You’re not going to have the same sized populations with horseweed as you do pigweed because it doesn’t produce as many seed, but it’s still a problem considering that it can grow as tall as 6 feet.”

The part that concerns Patterson and Burmester alike is that the weed is undergoing a change in growth patterns.

“We’re talking about a weed that has historically been considered a winter annual that germinated in fall and grew in the spring and that could be taken out by tillage,” Patterson says.

“Now this weed is turning up during the summer in cotton and soybeans, especially those that are planted within minimal tillage. Roundup Readying cropping systems.”

Several other herbicides, particularly gramoxone and paraquat, mixed with diuron or valor and used in burn-down applications ahead of cotton, soybean and corn plantings are still effective.

So is the old stand-by, 2,4-D, as well as dicamba.

However, timing is critical.

With 2,4-D applications, growers must wait a month to plant cotton to avoid damage plants. The wait for soybean is considerably less — only a week, if the grower opts to apply a pint-per-acre of 2,4-D ester, but two weeks if the grower applies a pint of 2,4-D amine. Growers should delay for corn planting for a week following 2,4-D application.

Patterson says the use of glufosinate, used with Liberty Link cropping systems, is gaining favor among some growers.

The critical issue, especially with cotton, Burmester says, is taking out the weed early — before it reaches sufficient size — for example, in the case of cotton, “kill ‘em before the crop emerges.”

“With cotton, for example, once the weeds are up, you don’t have many options,” Burmester says. “There’s nothing other than Liberty herbicide, which is only available with the Liberty Link variety.”

Burmester says he’s noticed many growers using a combination of dicamba and Roundup, though they’re reporting more problems compared with last year.

He says these problems have encouraged many growers to return to Liberty cropping systems, which, in addition to burning down the horseweed, can carry fewer restrictions between spraying and planting.

Many growers still find 2,4-D effective, which is a good thing, Burmester says, because it ensures that more Liberty herbicide is held in reserve to deal with pigweed outbreaks.

“We just don’t want to put too much pressure on Liberty herbicide because of what we’re encountering with pigweed,” he says. “We don’t want to put too much pressure on it with overuse.”

Drought conditions continue to plague much of the state, but few farmers are suffering more than those in the Wiregrass region.

The U.S. Drought Monitor indicates nearly 86 percent of the state is suffering from drought; however farmers in southeast Alabama have been in an extreme drought since January. Most of Henry County and sizable portions of Dale and Barbour counties are in an exceptional drought — the worst condition graded by the drought monitoring system.

Dale County Farmers Federation President Jerry Byrd and Henry County President Thomas Adams are among the farmers desperate for rain.

“My cotton and peanuts haven’t grown in weeks,” Byrd said. “I know that if we can get some rain in the next few weeks, the cotton and peanuts will respond. Unfortunately, I don’t think my corn is going to bring much of a profit.”

Byrd said the drought is affecting his cattle and hay operations, too. While he’s had one partial cutting of hay and adequate grazing for his cows, he’s worried if it doesn’t rain soon, he’ll be forced to feed hay that’s normally saved for winter.

Thomas Adams, at the beginning of June, began irrigating his crops. After last year’s drought, creeks and ponds in the county already are lower than normal.

“I tried to wait for as long as I could on the first irrigation because we need to conserve water,” he said.

Adams also has a herd of about 125 beef cows. A shortage of grass has forced him to feed hay as fast as he can get it cut and baled.

Adams and Byrd remain hopeful rain will come and give their crops the extra push they need.

“Crops don’t need water now like they will in about three months,” Adams said.

“Right now the peanuts and cotton look fine, it is the cattle we are more concerned about.”

For more drought information, visit the U.S. Drought Monitor for the Southeast at http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM-southeast.htm.

SCTA NEW LEADERSHIP

Michael Buchart, of Louisiana, has assumed the role of executive secretary of the Southern Christmas Tree Association.

The SCTA is a non-profit association of primarily choose and cut Christmas tree farmers in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi organized to promote and facilitate education and development of the Southern Christmas tree industry.

Choose and cut farms are one of the few farming endeavors that enable consumers, particularly urban, and their younger family members the opportunity to go on-site and experience first hand a real, working farm.

Buchart, in July 2011, retired from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry following a 30-year career.

Joe Gersch, owner and manager of Yawn Station Christmas Tree Farm in Louisiana, is SCTA’s 2012 president.

For more information on SCTA, visit their website at www.SouthernChristmasTrees.org.
For the last several years, members of the Central Alabama Master Gardeners’ Association (CAMGA) have participated in the Millbrook Farmers Market each summer from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday. By this method, Project Chairman Rick Ohison, of Deatsville, estimates that CAMGA members Ken Moore, of Millbrook, (left) and Fred Evans, of Deatsville, participate in the Millbrook Farmers Market. Moore, also a member of the Central Alabama Beekeepers Association, was on hand to inform visitors of the importance of bees in our ecosystem, while Evans answered gardening questions.

**Master Gardeners Answer Questions at Farmers Market**

For the last several years, members of the Cherokee County School Board. During the workshop, teachers also toured local farms and were able to interact with “real” farmers. With so many budget restraints some times it is not possible for students to take field trips to local farms, but the teachers will now be able to share their farm experience with their students.

Teachers visited the Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center (www.vetmed.auburn.edu/raptor/), Randle Farms (www.randlefarms.net), Lazenby Farms (www.lazenbyfarm.com), the Auburn Department of Horticulture Paterson Greenhouses (www.ag.auburn.edu/hort/), and the field facilities of the Auburn Fisheries Department (www.ag.auburn.edu/fish/). Jacqueline Hope, from Fauett-Vestavia Elementary School in Tuscaloosa County, kept her iPad handy throughout the tour day and was able to video the experience. Now she has a visual story about life on the farm to share with her students.

Teachers who attended this year’s Summer Institute left the three-day workshop with a container full of supplies that included books, DVDs and classroom materials. The AITC program is funded largely from the support of the Farming Feeds Alabama ag tags. For more information, visit www.alabamaaitc.org.

**Ag in the Classroom CONTINUED...**

This year, several graduates from previous Summber Institutes shared how they have integrated the Ag in the Classroom curriculum in their teaching plans. These were made by: Beth Haynes, AITC Teacher of the Year and kindergarten teacher at Bluff Park Elementary in Hoover; Emily White, fourth grade teacher at Leon Sheffield Magnet School in Decatur; Jan Hill, principal, and Brenda Overby, science lab director at Forest Avenue Academic Magnet School in Montgomery, and Dewandee Neyman, retired second grade teacher from Centre Elementary with 31 years of service and current member of the Cherokee

**Cattle Surveys CONTINUED...**

operation can be identified,” he said.

NASS will publish survey results in the semi-annual Cattle report on July 20. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Alabama Field Office at 800-832-4181.

**Upcoming Ag Events**

- **July 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31—**The Prattville-Autauga Farmers Market will be held on Tuesdays from 3-6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 7-11 a.m. at the Prattville Square Shopping Center parking lot, near Planet Fitness. It will include fresh homegrown produce, canned goods, baked goods, jams/jellies/honey and plants. For more information, call Yvonne Thomas at 334-201-5209 or 334-361-7273.

- **July 5, 12, 19 & 26—**The McQueen Smith Road Farmers Market will be held on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. at Gilmore Ford and behind Hancock Bank. It will include fresh homegrown produce, canned goods, baked goods, jams/jellies/honey and plants. For more information, call Yvonne Thomas at 334-201-5209 or 334-361-7273.

- **July 7—**Are you interested in growing cane and making syrup? Do you have syrup making equipment, cane mills, syrup kettles, etc. for sale? The Alabama Syrup-Makers Association meets at 8 a.m. at Ryan’s Steakhouse in Enterprise. For more information, call Earl Stokes at 334-494-3037.

- **July 8 & 21—**The East Alabama Goat & Poultry Auction will be held at 1006 Co Rd 474, Woodland 36280 beginning at noon. The auction sells goats, sheep, hogs, cattle, horses and poultry. For more information, call 256-419-8527.

- **July 27 & 28—**The 2012 short course queen rearing class will be held at the Foley library in Baldwin County beginning at 9 a.m. The class will discuss how to raise queen bees, make splits, mark and clip. The registration fee is $50 and should be made out to Papa’s Honey and sent to P.O. Box 353, Box Secour, AL 36511. For more information, contact Roger Bemis at 251-213-0168 or email bemisroger@yahoo.com.

- **August 15—**Today is the last day to apply for the Central Alabama Master Gardeners’ Association Fall classes, which are held for 14 consecutive weeks in September-December at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service facilities at 340 Queen Ann Rd. in Wetumpka. Each class begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday mornings. For more information, call the ACES office at 334-567-6301.

- **August 23 & 24—**A land management training seminar will be held at Bent Creek Lodge in Choctaw County. Hosted by the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts Forestry and Wildlife Standing Committee, the two-day event costs $85, which includes lodging in bunkhouse-style accommodations, as well as three meals and two breaks. The seminar will cover many aspects of wildlife habitat and population management. Registration deadline is August 15. For more information, contact Katherine Patton at 205-387-1879 ext. 1.

- **October 1—**The Alabama Outdoor Heritage Day will be held at Wehle Land Conservation Center in Midway from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. There will be exhibits and demonstrations. For more information, contact Otis LoCompte at 334-775-7448.

- **November 17—**Timberland Cattle’s “Best of the Blacks” Angus & Sim-Angus bull auction will be held at noon at Cullman Stockyard. For more information, call 205-695-6314.

- **Anytime—**Equestrian trails are available at Mud Cut Horse Camp in Oakmulgee-Talladega National Forest at no cost. Bring water for you and your horses. If you would like a map of the trails or directions, call Joe or Cindy at the Rangers office in Brent at 205-926-9765.
Alabama Livestock Summary

Cattle & calves at reported markets throughout the state for June totaled an estimated 44,000 head compared to 43,070 head for May and 49,834 head for June 2011. Compared to last period: Slaughter cows sold $4 to $7 lower. Slaughter bulls sold $1 to $2 lower. Feeder steers and heifers sold steady with a weak undertone. Trade light to moderate with light to moderate demand on feeders throughout the month of June. Feeder classes for the month of June consisted of 20% steers, 48% heifers and 32% bulls.

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2

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Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1

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Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1

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Source: USDA-AL Dept of Ag Market News Service, Montgomery, AL. David Garcia, OIC / Office 334-223-7488. For more information contact: Montgomery/lgmn@ams.usda.gov

Feeder bulls Medium and Large 2

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Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1

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Farmers, agribusiness owners and others interested in learning about the new state income tax credit bill was passed. Plans are to continue to create more incentives for farmers to implement irrigation solutions into their operations. At this time, Alabama has less than 10 percent of the irrigated farmland of Mississippi and Georgia.

Farmers, agribusiness owners and others interested in learning about the new state income tax credit for irrigation should attend the Alabama Irrigation Initiative Summit on August 15, at the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries in Montgomery.

The summit will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but registration is necessary so that appropriate lunch accommodations can be decided recognition should be given to these farms because they had played such a significant role in Alabama’s history.

The population in rural Alabama at that time was rapidly changing as people moved to urban areas. The number of family farms was diminishing rapidly, as it still is today. It was decided that farms with over 100 years of ownership should be awarded a certificate to recognize this significant achievement.

It was agreed that the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries would administer this program. The first certificates of recognition were presented at an Alabama Farm Bureau meeting in Birmingham during December 1977. To date, over 500 farms have been recognized from all across the state.

All applicants must complete an ownership registration form supplied by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. If you feel your farm meets the above qualifications and you are interested in applying for the 2012 program, please contact Amy Belcher at 334-240-7126 or by e-mail amy.belcher@agi.alabama.gov. The application deadline for the 2012 Century and Heritage Farm program is August 31st. A complete list of all farms that have previously received a Century and Heritage Farm designation is available at www.agi.alabama.gov/chfarms.

Century Farm

CONTINUED...

Division Focus

CONTINUED...

water management plan by December 2013. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Alabama Office of Water Resources, the Geological Survey of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries will evaluate the water resources Alabama possesses and recommend a statewide management plan.

In this past legislative session, a 20 percent state income tax credit bill was passed. Plans are to continue to create more incentives for farmers to implement irrigation solutions into their operations. At this time, Alabama has less than 10 percent of the irrigated farmland of Mississippi and Georgia.

For more information, contact the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station office at (334) 844-5063. The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries is in the Richard Beard Building at 1445 Federal Drive in Montgomery.
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   (251) 626-5100
MONTGOMERY
   (334) 215-9000
OPPLEKA/AUBURN
   (334) 749-3359
OXFORD/ANNISTON
   (256) 831-4104
PANAMA CITY
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PENSACOLA
   (850) 471-8700
SHELBY COUNTY
   (256) 664-4833
THOMASVILLE
   (334) 636-0420
TUSCALOOSA
   (205) 247-2800
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   (256) 381-2711

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