Agriculture, Agribusiness and Forestry Are the Backbone of Alabama’s Economy

Findings from an economic impact study released in February point to a brighter future for the people of Alabama, according to Commissioner John McMillan, of the state Department of Agriculture & Industries. A collaborative effort between Auburn University’s research division, the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service and the Alabama Agribusiness Council, the study shows that agriculture, agribusiness and forestry impact the state’s economy by $70.4 billion a year.

“This study clearly indicates that agriculture, forestry and agribusiness are the backbone of Alabama’s economy, amounting to some 40 percent of the state’s $175 billion gross domestic product,” McMillan said.

In addition, the study, entitled “Economic Impacts of Alabama’s Agricultural, Forestry, and Related Industries,” reports 580,295.

(continued on page 9)

2013 Comprehensive Guide to Alabama Agriculture Now Available

The Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries has unveiled the second issue of Alabama Agriculture magazine, a 50-page, comprehensive guide to the state’s farms, food and forestry.

The annual magazine serves as a primer for state legislators, business leaders and consumers about the impact of agriculture on the state’s economy.

“Alabama Agriculture 2013 provides a comprehensive update on our state’s No. 1 industry that employs 580,295 people in our state. When other business sectors of our economy experienced negative growth, our agriculture sector was on the move, growing at an impressive rate. This magazine captures the essence of this dynamic industry,” said Commissioner John McMillan.

The publication, which is free to the public, is also intended to educate Alabama consumers about their food source and give a voice to the state’s farmers. The magazine features original photography, reader-friendly charts and graphs, and profiles of individual farmers. Articles focus on the main commodities — beef, poultry, cotton, peanuts and corn — and other agriculture-based industries, such as forestry and specialty crops, as well as innovations in technology and farm equipment.

The digital version of Alabama Agriculture magazine can be found online at ALagriculture.com, part of FarmFlavor.com.

The magazine’s online presence features farm-to-table recipes, agriculture facts and stats, videos and interviews with farmers across the state.

Published by Journal Communications Inc., Alabama Agriculture is available at the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries office in Montgomery, located at 1445 Federal Drive.

For more information on obtaining a copy, contact Amy Belcher at 334-240-7126.
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Free range chicken eggs, $3.00/lb, 
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road frontage, large timber, good building 
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**Alabama FARMERS and CONSUMERS BULLETIN**

**Farms for Sale**

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HAY & FEEDING GRAIN

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MACHINERY

1 wood splitter, 3 ft hitch, $200; 3 pt hitch 2-row International planter (only) $400 (Frome)
1 wood splitter, 3 pt hitch, $200; 3 pt hitch 2-row International planter (only) $400 (Frome)

MACHINERY

10966 Hwy 9, Anniston 36207 256/310-9823 (Walker)
Jon Nichols 205/529-4728 (Walker)
31 24x8.50-12 bias tires, $400 ea. or all 31 for $9,300. 22852 High Ridge Rd., Fairhope 36532
JD 8200 tractor, 205/507-6647 (Baldwin)
Allis Chalmers 170 gasoline, runs great, new tires, 2-axle 30’ gooseneck trailer $9,500. 225/723-2706 (Greene)

MACHINERY

Ford 9n, tires, paint, very good cond., $2,000. 205/492-300. 334/359-6403 (Etowah)

MACHINERY

Yanmar F22 diesel tractor, 28 hp, barn kept, used for cutting between planted rows, extra King Cutting blades, $4,000. Harold McKee 183 256/333-4479 (Shelby)
Side mirror, 3 pt hitch, barn kept, one of a kind w/6’ bushhog, $5,500. Northport 205/391-6869 (Jefferson)

MACHINERY

Ford 8800, 205/391-6869 (Jefferson)
2180 International planter (only) $600. 3447 Co Rd 92, Fyffe 35971 (Calhoun)

MACHINERY

Ford 8800, 205/391-6869 (Jefferson)
Deere 4430 tractor, $35,000. 11060 Hwy 29, Elkmont 35620 256/359-5171 (Etowah)

MACHINERY

Polaris X2 850, 256/763-6398 (DeKalb)
Cooper 255/360-3122 (Covington)

MACHINERY

JD 6280 cab, 1½ yo, power quad trans., 525 bu., exc. cond., $15,000. Jon Nichols 205/529-4728 (Walker)

MACHINERY

John Deere JD 915 grain platform, $6,000, good cond. 256/270-8623 (Calhoun)

MACHINERY

Hydraulic adjustable front forks, fits Bush Hog quick attach loader, $900. 334/728-4464 (Lee)
Graceful Ag reel feed mixers 4x30, $1,450 ea. or all 4x30 for $5,400. 205/256-9830 (Blount)

MACHINERY

JD 8200 tractor, 205/507-6647 (Baldwin)

MACHINERY

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Ford 9n, tires, paint, very good cond., $2,000. 205/391-6869 (Etowah)

MACHINERY

10111 Zetor tractor, cab w/almost new bush hoe, hay spear, tractor has JD canopy, $8,900. 205/372-7268 (Greene)

MACHINERY

JD 2510 tractor, 10, 2-row planter tractor, 6’ bush hog, 12’ disk, $2,200. 256/257-1476 (Calhoun)

MACHINERY

John Deere JD 6280 cab, 1½ yo, power quad trans., 525 bu., exc. cond., $15,000. Jon Nichols 334/413-8225 (Jefferson)

MACHINERY

JD 348 sq. baler, baled 2,000 last year w/23-ton National boom truck, exc. $45,000; 15-ton National boom truck, exc. $35,000; Ashville 205/368-4237 (St. Clair)

MACHINERY

JD 2510 tractor, 10, 2-row planter tractor, 6’ bush hog, 12’ disk, $2,200. 256/257-1476 (Calhoun)

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

Two row JD planter, exc. cond. $1,000; Two best offer. 334/672-1595 (Pike)

2400 Int’l baler 5x6, 4-wheel rake, 2 back guarantees, $800. 205/339-3623 or JD Model 51, 1-row, 3 pt hitch planter w/ 2 8N Ford tractors, both reworked & 1066 Int’l rebuilt motor, good tires, new bed, pintel hookups, $4,000 firm. 334/385-2029 (Low.)

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1-m. cert. JD tractor, only 166 hours, $7,500; $1,000 deposit to reserve. 334/792-2554 (Hal.)

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2006 Silverado Z71 off road 4x4 w/ vision system, everything works, burgundy, 4 door, seats 6, low mpg, hard core cover, $35,000. 205/921-1853 (Marion)

3117 skid steer, everything works, 290 hours, $12,000. 205/736-7159 (Benton)

Organic Westcott compost, rich black soil for flowers/garden, $55/pickup load, near Phenix City. 205/748-6775 (Vall.)

For sale: (1) 8’x12’x7’ dog kennel.value $1,500. 915/548-3278 (Cross.)

Waltco Lift Gate, $1,000. 205/712-2170 (Lamar)

Large yard maintenance, $1,250 firm. Rob-

Syrup, honey, maple syrup, for sale. 9651 Hwy 43, Shannon 35765 205/356-6575 (Clark)

Honey bee hive (complete hive: bottom board 9 5/8, deep 10 1/2, medium top board 9 5/8, deep 10 1/2, top 9 5/8, deep 10 1/2, metal box, 10 frames, plastic, comb, frames, covers, nuc box, inner cover, outer cover, hive top, 15th frame, 14th frame, 13th frame), $350. 334/374-6626 (Jackson)

4-Bar Youngblood, Banks 334/735-5811 or

2001 Dodge 4x4 2500, bonus cab, 5.9 V8 engine 3 or 4 cylinder. Earl Hughes 39440 256/773-5051 (Morgan)

Wanted: 100,000 broilers, 1,000 live broilers, 100,000 hatching eggs, 100,000 live roosters, 100,000 live cockerels. All eggs must be USDA ear tags for the National Scra-

3291 SW Bale Hayvan 6-bale hay trailer $1,500. 205/347-7626 (Low.

Delta 12” commercial radial arm saw $600; Bridge, heavy wood built, 8’x10’ $400. 256/412-3426 (Franklin)

Bilt Tiller, 8 horse, electric start, exc. cond. $1,500. 205/336-6899 (Jefferson)

Pony harness for two, black nylon, iron\-

2013 Pepper seeds, hard to find: ghost, potato, nosoy, chocolatey, seed review: 2070 Eden MT, Sycamore 35151 205/562-4650 (Talladega)

Light gate made by Tommy Litt, 1,000 lb. capacity for full size pickup truck, price re-
negotiable. 525/603-3131 (Calhoun)

MISCELLANEOUS

2567/278-8651 (Morgan)

6090 (Hale)

Springs 35775 256/508-1682 (Morgan)

Spine syrup pure MS State Blue Care, sealed $525. 205/372-7609 (Greene)

Lenten rose, purple columbine, red/orange 12x20 storage building, needs some repair, $2,500. Bob Mann 1829 Hornslake Rd., Tal-ladega 36021 205/746-5961 (Jefferson)

For sale: (1) 8’x12’x7’ dog kennel.value $1,500. 915/548-3278 (Cross.)

Rabbiteye blueberry plants, premier & tif- fermentation and testing. 334/494-3037 (Coffee)

MARCH 2013           ALABAMA FARMERS AND CONSUMERS BULLETIN                            PAGE 5

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Bilt Tiller, 8 horse, electric start, exc. cond. $1,500. 205/336-6899 (Jefferson)

Pony harness for two, black nylon, iron\-
By Mary Johnson

Teachers seeking new ways to introduce their students to reading, science, math and history can find all that and more at the annual Alabama Ag in the Classroom (AITC) Summer Institute June 4-6 in Birmingham. Educators have until April 15 to apply for the institute.

During the three-day conference, AITC participants learn innovative techniques for integrating agricultural activities into the classroom. Participants tour local farms, speak one-on-one with farmers and gain first-hand insight into producing food and fiber.

“This program is an inspiration for educators who attend,” said AITC Chairman Kim Ramsey. “Participants learn about the importance of agriculture in Alabama, and they pass those lessons on to their students. The visits to farms and discovering agriculture teaching resources are eye-opening experiences for teachers.”

Faucett-Vestavia Elementary School kindergarten teacher Jacqueline Hope attended the 2012 institute after seeing a flyer for AITC in the teacher’s lounge.

“I just started thinking I need to learn more about agriculture,” Hope said. “The institute really enlightened me on a lot of things. I think everything was my favorite because it is something authentic I never would have gotten by sitting in the classroom.”

The program covers language arts, science, social studies and mathematics skills, including those found in the Alabama courses of study and on the Stanford 9 Test. Educators completing the program will return to their classrooms armed with lesson plans, examples of hands-on learning activities and books to help teach students about agriculture.

Walter Jackson Elementary School librarian and 2012 AITC participant Todd Jackson said the resources he got made him feel prepared to start teaching agriculture lessons on the first day of school.

“I am excited about the box of stuff we’re getting with the books, DVD, lesson plans and Powerpoints,” Jackson said. “I like that Ag in the Classroom has done a lot of the legwork for us, and we can modify it for our own school.”

Teachers in kindergarten through sixth-grade, media specialists, administrators, extension agents and district conservationists are eligible to attend. AITC fulfills continuing education requirements. Only 95 spots are available, and preference is given to first-time attendees.

Sponsors include the Alabama Farmers Federation, Alfa Insurance, Alabama Cattlemen’s Association, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, Alabama Farmers Federation State Soybean Committee and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. Proceeds from the sale of ag tag license plates also benefit the program.

For the registration form, visit www.AlabamaAITC.org. There is no fee to apply or attend. Lodging at the Wynfrey Hotel and meals are provided.

For additional information, contact Kim Ramsey at 334-612-5370 or email kearwood@alfafarmers.org. Applications may be mailed to Kim Ramsey, Alabama Ag in the Classroom, P.O. Box 11000, Montgomery, Alabama 36191 or faxed to 334-284-3957.
Millie Ray’s rolls began in 1979 in the kitchen of Millie Ray in Homewood. Ray took her mother’s handed down recipe and modified it to her liking. When she was asked to bring bread to the local garden club meeting, she decided to bring her orange rolls. From there she began receiving orders from friends and family throughout the holidays.

Ray has always had an active career in real estate, but had a small catering company called Delectable Edibles. She catered parties, corporate meetings and small gatherings. Her orange rolls were always requested. She would serve them with every meal: breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. When Ray moved to Montgomery in 1991, she focused all of her time on real estate and did not do much catering. When the holidays came, her husband and two sons would pitch in to help turn the kitchen into a roll manufacturer.

Her two sons, Ben and Ryan, always believed that she could sell them on a larger scale to the public. Her two sons were active in the restaurant business when they wanted to expand what their mother had created. They took the rolls to 10 stores in the Atlanta area to meet with owners and get their perception. They dropped off sample cases and within two weeks got calls back from all 10 stores wanting to carry the product. They focused on small independent stores, butcher markets, farmer markets and specialty stores. The brand began to grow and started to receive emails and phone calls from larger distributors and grocery store chains. As of today, the rolls are in over 200 stores across the Southeast and in many restaurants.

For more information and a list of stores that carry Mille Ray’s products, log on to http://millierays.com.

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**Product Spotlight**

**Millie Ray’s**

Since 1979

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**Roby Bill Keeps Farmland in Rowcrop Production**

By Debra Davis

**Alabama Farmers Federation**

A bill filed in February by U.S. Rep. Martha Roby (R-Ala.) tightens enrollment requirements in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

CRP was implemented to prevent erosion and protect sensitive farmland by providing funding for landowners to convert marginal cropland to grass or timber. Recently, however, the program has tended to enroll high-quality and otherwise highly productive land, all at a time when farmland is becoming scarce, Roby said.

“We need to apply smart erosion prevention and conservation techniques on marginal lands, but using taxpayer money to encourage landowners to let quality cropland lay dormant doesn’t make sense,” Roby said. Roby’s bill, the Preserving Marginal Lands and Protecting Farming Act, H.R. 349, would:

- Reduce the acreage held in CRP nationwide by 24 million acres over four years.
- End payments for non-farming of the most fertile and least sensitive lands. This bill would make non-marginal Class I and II lands, which are the most fertile and least sensitive, ineligible from the CRP.
- Save taxpayers millions in federal spending annually.

Roby put forward a similar bill last year and was able to get portions of it included in the farm bill that passed the full House before the 112th Congress adjourned.

Farming and conservation groups from across the agricultural spectrum support Roby’s resolution.
FIRST ALABAMA GULF SEAFOOD SUMMIT

The Alabama Gulf Seafood Summit will take place March 4-5 at the Mobile Convention Center, bringing together representatives from all segments of the Alabama seafood community to examine conditions in the business and discuss issues affecting the industry.

Sponsored by the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission (ASMC) and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, the summit will be attended by Governor Robert Bentley, Commissioner of Agriculture & Industry John McMillan, Marine Resources Director and ASMC Program Administrator Chris Blankenship, as well as local officials, distributors, restaurateurs, wholesalers, small producers and grocers.

“The seafood business landscape is undergoing a period of rapid change,” said Bentley, who established the ASMC in 2011. “From pricing pressures driven by imported seafood product to increase demand for domestic seafood, the Alabama seafood industry faces pivotal issues that will shape the future of this industry. The summit will give us an opportunity to explore these and other topics, as we work together to increase the positive impact of Alabama Gulf Seafood on our coastal economy.”

McMillan urges people in Alabama’s seafood industry to attend the conference and learn the potential of tapping into the national and international markets. “Louisiana seafood industry generates $2.4 billion a year and employs 26,000 people, due in large part to incredible marketing and branding,” McMillan said. “There is no reason why Alabama’s seafood industry cannot replicate that model.”

Participants, including buyers from Sysco, Inland Seafood, Whole Foods Market and others, will engage in panel discussions with this singular goal in mind — to forge new business opportunities for Alabama Gulf Seafood.

“Thanks to the high-quality seafood product sourced from Alabama Gulf waters, and the fervent support of restaurateurs like Buffy Donlon with Wintzell’s Oyster House, Chris Hastings with Hot and Hot Fish Club and Bob Baumann with The Compleat Angle and Baumann’s, we are fortunate to be at a point where there is heightened national interest in our local cuisine,” Blankenship said. “Gathering around the table with the key players in this business is mission-critical if our state is to capitalize on this increased demand.”

For more information on the summit or to register, visit www.alseafoodsummit.com.

Mama’s Recipes

Did you know that peanuts, peanut butter and peanut oil benefits your health? Large population studies show that when eaten in small amounts daily, peanuts reduce the risk of many chronic diseases, while providing key nutrients that are important to our diet. In honor of this healthy source of nutrition, March has been named National Peanut Month. So, what better way to celebrate peanuts than with a dessert recipe that is mouth watering.

Frozen Peanut Butter Pie

Note: Lightly coat hands with cooking spray to press the slightly sticky crust into the pie plate. The filling may be thin after mixing but will harden in the freezer.

1 2/3 cup chocolate graham cracker crumbs (about 8 ½ cookie sheets)
7 tablespoons sugar, divided
2 large egg whites, lightly beaten

Cooking spray
1 ¼ cups fat-free milk
2/3 cup reduced fat crunchy peanut butter
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine crumbs, 3 tablespoons sugar, and egg whites; toss with a fork until moist. Press into bottom and up sides of a 9-inch deep-dish pie plate coated with cooking spray. Prick crust with a fork before baking. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from oven; cool on a wire rack.

Combine milk and remaining 1/2 cup sugar in a heavy saucepan over medium-low heat. Cook 2 minutes or until sugar dissolves, stirring constantly; transfer mixture to a bowl. Add peanut butter and vanilla, stirring with a whisk until combined. Cover and chill 30 minutes.

Place cream cheese in a large bowl, and beat with a mixer at medium speed until light and fluffy. Add milk mixture, beating on low speed until combined. Fold in whipped topping; pour mixture into prepared pie crust. Freeze, uncovered, 8 hours or overnight or until hard. Sprinkle with peanuts and shaved chocolate. Transfer pie to refrigerator 30 minutes before slicing.

Calories per serving: 259

Upcoming Ag Events

• **March 1 & 2**—A short course in queen rearing will be held at the Foley Library beginning at 9 a.m. The class consists of how to raise queens, make splits, mark and clip. Bring your hat, veil, gloves and coveralls — you will be working with bees. The cost of the course is $50 and does not include meals. Payment may be made in advance or at the door. Checks should be made to Roger Bernis and mailed to P.O. Box 353, Bon Secour, AL 36511. There will be door prizes and refreshments. For more information, call 251-213-0168 or email bernisserg@yahoo.com.

• **March 2**—Are you interested in growing cane and making syrup? Do you have syrup-making equipment for sale? The Alabama Syrup-Makers Association meets at 8 a.m. at Ryan’s Steakhouse in Enterprise. Interested in joining, the association is accepting new members. For more information, call Earl Stokes at 334-494-3037.

• **March 6**—The Capital City Master Gardener Association is sponsoring a monthly series, Lunch and Learn. Gardening topics will be highlighted during the noon to 1 p.m. session held at the Armory Learning Arts Center at 1018 Madison Ave., Montgomery. The programs are free and open to the public. The March topic is Container Gardening with Annals and Perennials. For more information, call 334-288-6024.

• **March 9**—The Cowboy Cook-off, sponsored by the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association, will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at SLE Rosenblum’s. Attendees will be treated to delicious barbecue dishes cooked by teams of up to 4 people and eligible dishes should be in hamburger, steak or both categories. All products must be 100 percent beef products. A registration form is available online at www.barnabeef.org/cowboy_cookoff.php. Send the completed form to Alabama Cattlemen’s Cowboy Cook-off, C/O Erin Beasley, 201 S. Bainbridge St., Montgomery, AL 36102.

• **March 16**—Celebrate the agricultural heritage of the Wiregrass at Spring Farm Day at Landmark Park in Dothan. Admission is $8 for adults, $6 for seniors, $4 for children and free for park members and children 3 and under.

• **March 22 & 23**—The Lookout Mountain Honey Bees is hosting a way to raise queens and make splits class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Gadsden. The cost of the class is $75 per person and includes 2 lunches, 10-pound box of honey, 2 bees and a transportation. For more information, contact David Kelton for more information at 256-523-4767.

• **March 30**—The North Alabama Livestock Auction will hold a special sheep and goat sale at 1 p.m. at Hwy 243 in Russellville. For more information, call 256-332-3323.

• **April 6**—Come experience daily life on a farm in rural Alabama at the Children’s Zoo and Alabama Wilds at the Birmingham Zoo. Demonstrations will show how to raise farm animals, planting and harvesting crops, egg collecting and rural crafts. Come watch sheep shearing, horseshoe making, hoof trimming and take a look at antique tractors and farm equipment. For more information, visit www.birminghamzoo.com or call 205-879-0409.

• **April 20**—The Alabama Chapter #23 of International Harvester Collectors will hold its annual Alabama State Show at the CASE/ IH dealer, Snead Equipment Inc. in Snead in Blount County. The show will feature antique IH tractors, stationary engines, ag displays and products by the International Harvester Co. while it was in business. Admission is free. Snead Equipment will provide lunch. For more information, call 205-466-3500 or visit www.sneadequip.com.

• **April 27**—Timberland Cattle’s annual Female (Angus & Sim-Angus) Cattle Auction will begin at noon at the Cullman Stockyard. For more information visit www.timberlandcattle.com or call 205-695-6314.

• **Anytime**—Equestrian trails are available at Oakmulgee-Talladega National Forest. Mud Cut Horse Camp offers approximately 3 miles of trails at no cost. Bring your horse 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.
Solutions to Human Conflicts with Canada Geese

By Ericha S. Nix
Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

The sights and sounds of a flock of Canada geese often bring to mind a peaceful scene. For some landowners, however, the Canada goose is more a nuisance than an enjoyment.

During the early 1900s, the giant Canada goose was almost driven to extinction. The resident geese in Alabama are of that subspecies. The Canada goose population explosions in areas of North America are attributed to both the successful implementation of wildlife management programs aimed to re-establish this subspecies and its adaptability to a variety of conditions.

Canada goose have greatly benefited from man’s alterations to the landscape. In Alabama, Canada geese are readily observed year round throughout the state in both rural and urban areas. Most human-goose conflicts are associated with urban settings like parks, golf courses and large fields.

The most common complaint about Canada geese comes from landowners and business owners who are frustrated with the bird’s droppings. When geese congregate in large numbers, the accumulation of their droppings can become very unpleasant and, in some instances, a health issue. Other impacts landowners experience include damage to lawns and landscaped areas due to overgrazing, injuries due to attacks from geese defending their nests or by slipping in fecal material. Health concerns can arise when geese congregate in shallow water areas, which could potentially increase bacteria levels via fecal coliform and other pathogens.

Canada goose can sometimes cause agricultural damage, such as trampling or grazing of young crops. This can reduce crop yields and can also cause erosion issues in some situations. Native wetland habitats and wetland restoration sites also can be damaged by grazing of goose.

Several methods of controlling damage are available. The first step is to stop feeding the geese. Feeding geese leads to larger than normal congregations of the species, causes the animals to lose their fear of humans and can lead to the animal’s having a nutrition imbalance.

Habitat modifications or lakeshaping can be quite effective in deterring goose from your property. Leaving a 13- to 15-foot-wide unmowed natural vegetative buffer that can reach 24 to 36 inches in height around this shoreline can reduce use of the area by geese. A natural vegetative buffer is comprised of native grasses, forbs and shrubs. There are many greatemyre options to consider. One thing you should consider is that some devices are only effective for a short time, such as before rain or during molting season. For best results, place the fence around the shoreline of your property. Fences should be at least 30 inches high and can be made of a variety of material.

Several companies sell goose repellents to deter geese. The active ingredients is a non-toxic grape extract. This method can be expensive if applied to a large area and it is only effective for a short time, such as before a rain or molting season.

The techniques above should help you to manage these nuisance issues.

Economic Impact

Continued...

Alabamians — roughly 22 percent of all workers in the state — work in agriculture, forestry and related industries.

“Growth in our sector, thanks to strong foreign demand for farm commodities, has been steady and the outlook is positive,” McMillan added.

He added that the goal of the state agriculture department is to support the growth of agriculture and agribusiness. “With up-to-date technology, we can provide improved services to meet the demands of the farmers and agribusinesses, who, in turn, must meet the demands of the marketplace, both foreign and domestic,” McMillan said.

He commended the Alabama Agribusiness Council, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service and Auburn University for their leadership and commitment to providing solid research to define the size and importance of Alabama’s agriculture, agribusiness and forestry industry.

“They have stepped up to demonstrate leadership at a time when Alabama has become more urbanized and distanced from rural interests,” McMillan added.

Classifieds Wanted

Continued...

Grey Call Ducks, grown or ducklings. Benny Howell, Aniston, 256/237-6922 Cahaba.
Coyote 2-row doubles on a Pflugerville 16’ frame w/small duplars (not large speed hopper) used sometimes, needs to be in field ready condition, able to plant, will pay reasonable price. W.D. Eubanks, Decatur 256/560-8243 (Morgan).


Tractor tires that fit front end MF size 26-8.50. Pasture gate 16’ welded wire. 205/387-0881 (Alabaster).

Gardening tools for sale, good working condition. Randy Moon 1802 Cambry Court, Opelika, 334/374-8366 (Lee). 30”/18’/3’/12’/10’/2’/10’/10’/6’/6’/4’-inch bentonite solid for 440FC. 256/762-6675 (Calvert).

New idea disc mower for pastures; chamber assembly for 2037 or 3347 baler or will buy complete baler for parts. 256/491-6041 (Mobile). Bucket for 2496 bushing loader. 334/665-6955 (Madison).

97-87 rear end/2.08 ratio for Chevy 1/2 ton pickup 1980-1993. 256/560-2920 Budworth.
One JD Model 122 cotton picker (1959-1960) circa, for parts or restoration, will pay reasonable price. W.D. Eubanks, Decatur 256/560-8243 (Morgan).

Several companies sell scare devices and sight stimulis are other methods used to control nuisance goose. Some scare devices are shell crackes, bird bangers, screamers, rockets, bird alarms, motion detector accessories and electronic noise systems. These devices will work at first, but will become less effective with time as the birds get acclimated to them.

Barrier fencing can be constructed to exclude geese from your lawn during their molting season (June-July). For best results, place the fence around the shoreline of your old time crock neck squash seed, small amount. 305 Co Rd 599, Harveston 35007 205/620-1727 (Calhoun).

For best results, place the fence around the shoreline of your property. Fences should be at least 30 inches high and can be made of a variety of material.

Several companies sell geese repellents to deter geese. The active ingredient is a non-toxic grape extract. This method can be expensive if applied to a large area and it is only effective for a short time, such as before a rain or molting season.

The techniques above should help you to manage these nuisance issues.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack stated he received notification on February 21 from the Scientific Commission for Animal Health (OIE) recommending that the United States’ risk classification for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) be upgraded to negligible risk.

“I am very pleased with this decision and recommendation by the OIE’s Scientific Commission. This is a significant achievement for the United States, American beef producers and businesses, and federal and state partners who work in coordination to maintain a system of three interlocking safeguards against BSE that protect our public and animal health. Being classified as negligible risk for BSE by the OIE will also greatly support our efforts to increase exports of U.S. beef and beef products,” Vilsack said.

“In recommending that the United States receive negligible risk classification, the Commission stated that the risk assessments submitted for their evaluation were robust and comprehensive, and that both our surveillance for, and safeguards against, BSE are strong. U.S. beef and beef products are of the highest quality, wholesome and produced to the highest safety standards in the world. The United States continues to press for normalization of beef trade with several nations in a manner that is based on science and consistent with international standards. U.S. food and agricultural exporters and consumers worldwide benefit when countries adopt international standards.”

Last year, the United States submitted an application to the OIE’s Scientific Commission to upgrade the United States’ risk classification from controlled to negligible. The Commission, in turn, conducted a thorough review before recommending that the risk classification be upgraded to negligible.

Before the OIE’s annual General Assembly meeting in Paris, France, in May 2013, delegate countries will have the opportunity to review the Commission’s recommendation. The U.S. expects that formal adoption of negligible risk status for the U.S. will occur at the General Assembly meeting.

The OIE determines a country’s risk status based on actions the country has taken to manage the risk of the disease. These actions include instituting a strong ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban, strictly controlling imports of animals and animal products from countries at risk for the disease, and conducting appropriate surveillance.

The OIE Code provides guidelines for the safe trade of animals and products based on the country’s risk status and the risk presented by the specific item being traded. Negligible risk is the lowest risk level under the OIE Code.

The OIE administers and governs the foundational international standards on animal health, as well as trade in livestock and animal products. With a total of 178 member countries, the OIE is recognized as a reference organization by the World Trade Organization (WTO), the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. The official recognition of disease status by OIE is of great significance for international trade.

The United States has a longstanding system of three interlocking safeguards against BSE that protects public and animal health, the most important of which is the removal of specified risk materials from all animals presented for slaughter. The second safeguard is a strong feed ban that protects cattle from the disease. The third is its ongoing BSE surveillance program, allowing USDA to detect the disease at very low levels in the cattle population.

**Farmers’ Fuel Tax Deadline is April 1**

By Melissa Martin
Alabama Farmers Federation

The Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR) reminds farmers that April 1 is the deadline for filing 2012 state fuel tax refund claims.


The 2012 refund claims are based on portions of the state excise tax paid by farmers on gasoline and “clear” motor fuel used in tractors or any auxiliary engines attached to tractors during 2012 for agricultural purposes. The refund rate is 11 cents per gallon of gasoline and “clear” motor fuel. The refund provision also allows Alabama farmers transporting biomass to electricity-generating facilities to receive a fuel tax refund up to $1,000.

Farmers who have previously filed refund claims with the ADOR were mailed forms early this month. Any individual qualifying for a refund may obtain a claim form by writing to the following address: Alabama Department of Revenue, Business and License Tax Division, Motor Fuels Section, P.O. Box 327540, Montgomery, AL 36132-7540 or call 334-242-9608.

For more information on the fuel tax refund, contact the Motor Fuels Section at 334-242-9608 or email Bonita.Calhoun@revenue.alabama.gov.

**USDA Offers Emergency Loans Prior to 2013 Crop Season**

Farmers in 33 counties designated as primary natural disaster areas due to drought now qualify for low-interest emergency loans with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA).

FSA State Executive Director Daniel Robinson made the loan announcement in February following the release of the weekly Regional Drought Monitor, which is produced in partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Eligible counties suffered a drought intensity value of D2 (drought severe), D3 (drought extreme) or D4 (drought exceptional) for a minimum of eight weeks. Affected counties include Bullock, Chambers, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Elmore, Henry, Lee, Macon, Montgomery, Randolph, Russell, Talladega and Tallapoosa.

Farm operators in Autauga, Barbour, Bibb, Butler, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chilton, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Geneva, Houston, Lowndes, Perry, Pike, St. Clair and Shelby counties also qualify for natural disaster benefits because their counties are contiguous.

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration (Jan. 9 and Jan. 16) to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures. Additional information is available online at http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov.
**Alabama Livestock Summary**

Cattle and calves at reported markets throughout the state for February totaled an estimated 32,000 head compared to 40,093 head for January and 46,634 head for February 2012. Compared to last period: Slaughter cows sold $2 higher. Slaughter bulls sold $3 higher. Feeder steers sold $1 to $3 higher. Feeder heifers sold steady to weak. Trade moderate with moderate demand throughout the month of February. Replacement cows and pairs sold steady to $50 per head higher. Feeder classes for the month of February consisted of 22 percent steers, 43 percent heifers, and 35 percent bulls.

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**Slaughter Cows Lean 80-85% Lean**

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**Feeder Steers Lean 85-90% Lean**

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**Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1**

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**Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 2**

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**Slaughter Cows Medium 70-80% Lean**

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**Slaughter Cows Boner 80-85% Lean**

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**Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1**

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**Feeder Steers Medium and Large 2**

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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.igm@ams.usda.gov.

**Disaster Loan Application Deadline March 11**

The U.S. Small Business Administration reminds homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profit organizations of the deadline to submit disaster loan applications for damages due to severe storms and flooding that occurred on Dec. 25-26, 2012. The deadline to apply for physical damage is March 11.

Low-interest disaster loans are available in the following counties: Baldwin, Barbour, Bullock, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Mobile, Montgomery, Pike and Washington in Alabama, and the counties of George, Greene and Jackson in Mississippi.

Anyone with insured losses should not wait for an insurance settlement before applying to the SBA. “If someone does not know how much of their loss will be covered by insurance or other sources, the SBA will consider making a loan for the total loss up to its loan limits, provided they agree to use insurance proceeds to reduce or repay their SBA loan,” said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Loans up to $200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets.

For most small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

The SBA may increase a loan up to 20 percent of the total amount of disaster damage to real estate and/or leasehold improvements, as verified by the SBA, to make improvements that lessen the risk of property damage by future disasters of the same kind.

Disaster loan information application forms may be obtained by called SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955, by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or downloaded from www.sba.gov.

The filing date to return applications for physical property damage is March 11. The deadline to return economic injury applications is October 10.

**Country Stars Headline Rodeo**

Country music stars return to the 56th Southeastern Livestock Exposition at the Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. The rodeo, held March 7-9, will feature Justin Moore and John Michael Montgomery.

SLE President Bob Helms said, “Thanks to a generous sponsorship by PCI Gaming Authority, the SLE is not only bringing a championship rodeo to Montgomery, but two popular stars will perform in concerts on Friday and Saturday nights, as well.”

Moore will hit the stage on Friday night following the rodeo, while Montgomery will entertain fans on Saturday night.

The SLE is hosting the International Pro Rodeo Association (IPRA) National All-Region Finals rodeo. Fans will see the top four competitors in all seven rodeo events from each of IPRA’s regions competing in two rounds. Bringing the best of the IPRA cowboys and girls, as well as the top stock from multiple contractors, for this $40,000 added-money event will guarantee excitement for rodeo fans.

The SLE rodeo will include four performances, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and a matinee on Saturday starting at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices for the Thursday and Saturday matinee shows are $22 for adults and $7 for youth 12 and under. The Friday and Saturday night tickets are $25, which includes the concerts. Prices for Friday and Saturday night tickets increase $5 on the day of the show.

A new event for this year will be the Beef Cowboy Cookoff, which will place on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. For more information on the cookoff, contact ebesley@bamabeef.org.

Tickets for the rodeo are available online at Ticketmaster.com or by calling 1-888-2Rodeo2. Fans can also purchase tickets in person at Garrett Coliseum or in Montgomery at the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association office.
Country Living at its Best!

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