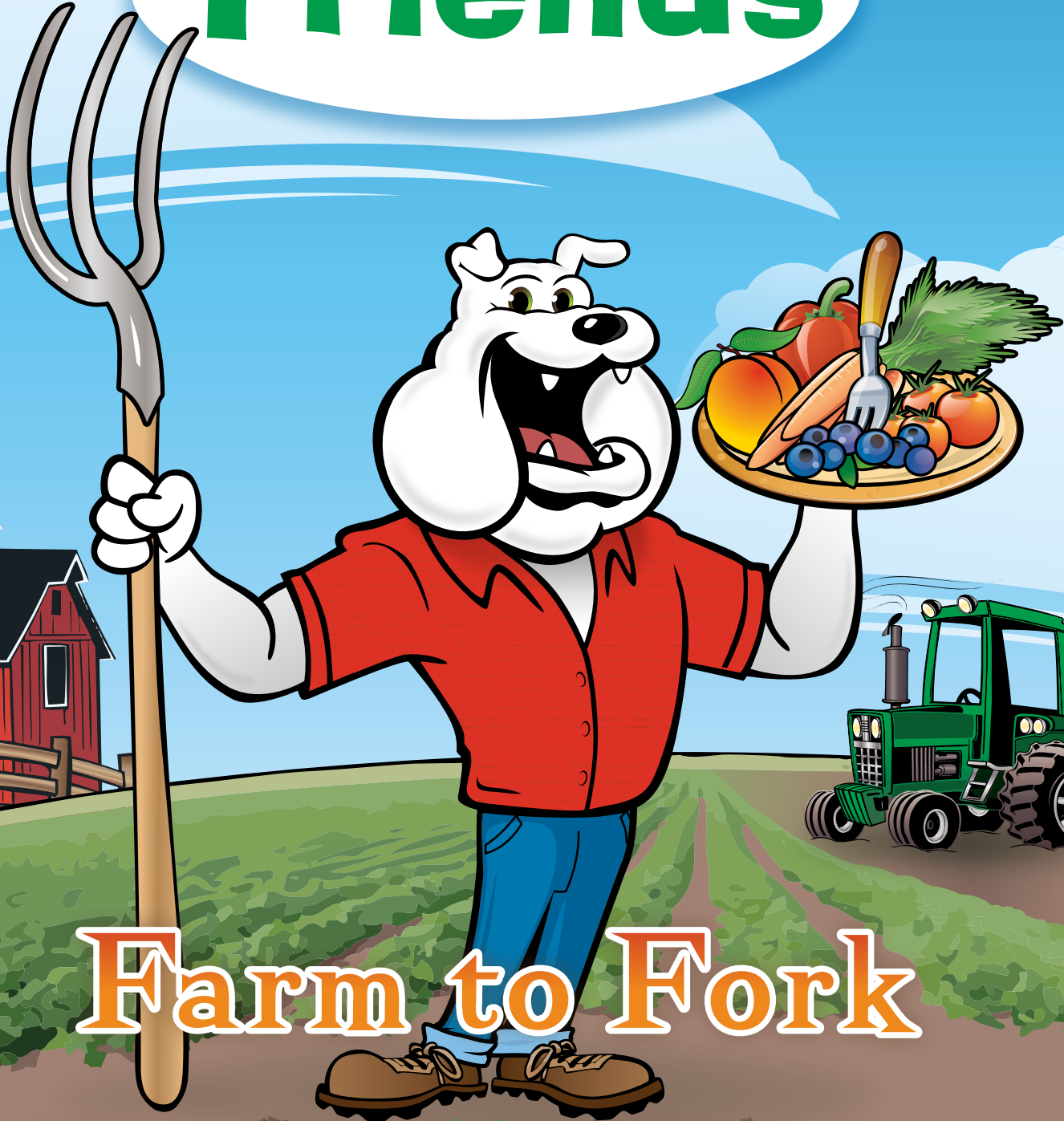




Friends



Farm to Fork

Name _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____

School _____



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION





CONTENTS:

The Tapestry of Georgia's Farmland 3

Where is Georgia's Agriculture? 4

Know Your Region 5

Opportunities in Science 6

Meet the Experts 7

Healthy Habits 8

Can You Define Agriculture?

Here's a simple definition: The science or practice of farming, including cultivating the soil, producing crops, raising livestock and in varying degrees, the preparation and marketing of the resulting products. Georgia's Agriculture and Georgia 4-H have been "Friends" for more than one hundred years. In fact, the first 4-H members in Georgia were kids learning how to increase corn yields on their family farms. Georgia 4-H and Cooperative Extension at the University of Georgia have used the research of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to improve agricultural production practices of Georgia farmers. As a result of this research-based education, our nation's farmers are producing food and fiber for much of the world.

Agriculture is the United States largest industry, but consider this interesting fact: Less than two out of every 100 people in the US are involved in farming. Knowing this, join me, Arch the Dawg, as we explore the many careers that are involved from Farm to Fork!

Georgia 4-H is a partner in public education and strives to incorporate state curricula standards and studies in career awareness in the educational materials produced for in-school use.

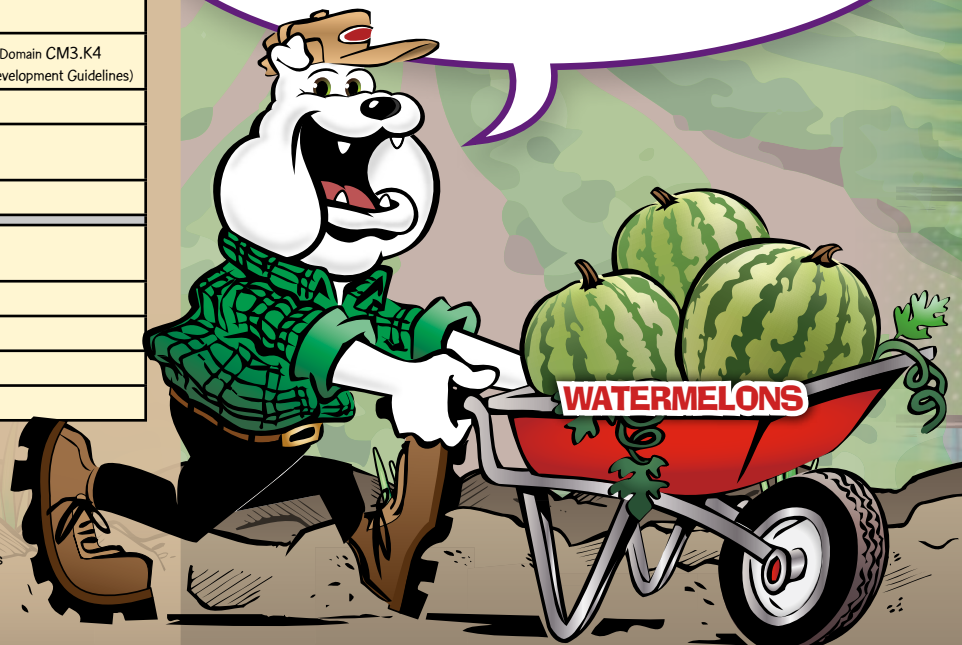
Career Cluster/Guidance 4th GRADE	Standard
STEM	Career Management Domain CM3.K4 (National Career Development Guidelines)
Manufacturing	CM3.K4 (NCDG)
Business Management & Administration	CM3.K4 (NCDG)
Architecture & Construction	CM3.K4 (NCDG)
Career Cluster/Guidance 5th GRADE	Standard
Finance	CM3.K4
Information Technology	CM3.K4
Marketing	CM3.K4
Government & Public Admin.	CM3.K4

National Career Development Framework: ncda.org



Think Green!

Not just 4-H Green...but let's help do our part to recycle and reuse. Save this book, reread it or pass it along to a friend. If it's too worn, please recycle it.





THE TAPESTRY OF GEORGIA'S FARMLAND

Georgia's farmland is like a patchwork quilt across our state.

Have you ever seen a quilt? A quilt has many individual squares that have their own design and pattern. When sewn together, the squares form a large and colorful covering. Many people think of quilts as a treasure because of the time and effort invested in constructing them. Quilts are often handed down as family heirlooms, and we can think of Georgia's farmland much the same way. Many family farms have been handed down from generation to generation, giving us a rich history of farming in our state. In fact, 84% of Georgia's farms are family owned!

Georgia has many different types of farms, and the differences we find in growing seasons, soil, and climate make our ability to produce agricultural products very diverse. Let's take a look at the tapestry of Georgia's Agricultural Farmland and see some commodities from Georgia farms.

The impact of Agriculture on Georgia's economy is \$83.6 billion each year!



POULTRY

Broilers (chickens) are Georgia's top commodity



COTTON



EQUINE



CORN



PEACHES



PECANS

Georgia has ranked No. 1 in pecan production nationwide for decades.



EGGS

Georgia's laying flocks produce 7.88 billion eggs per year!



FORESTRY



GREEN INDUSTRY



DAIRY/BEEF

Georgia is home to 81,000 dairy cows. Each cow provides an average of 2,544 gallons of milk.



VIDALIA ONIONS



BLUEBERRIES

Blueberries contributed a value of \$449.4 million to the total agricultural impact on the economy.



SWINE



PEANUTS

Peanuts are the official state crop. Georgia's 1.56-million-ton yield accounts for 53% (or over half) of the nation's peanuts.

CULTIVATING 4-H KNOWLEDGE

Georgia 4-H has a core program called 4-H Project Achievement. In 4-H Project Achievement you explore a topic of interest, develop a speech and poster and present your information in a public forum. We have many projects that connect to Agriculture. Take a look at 4-H Project Achievement here: georgia4h.org/projectachievement



WHERE IS GEORGIA'S AGRICULTURE?

As we have already discovered, the economic impact of agriculture in Georgia is \$83.6 billion each year. Because our state is so large, Agriculture looks different in each of the 5 growing regions in Georgia. Georgia farmers (we can also call them producers) grow all types of crops, including **cotton, peanuts, watermelon, blueberries, pecans, apples, peaches, Vidalia onions, peppers** and much more! They also raise **beef cattle, bees, dairy cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, goats, and swine**. Some farmers even grow fields of trees, and we call this commodity **timber**.

Georgia Grown is a program from the Georgia Department of Agriculture that helps producers, processors, suppliers and consumers as they grow, process and sell agricultural products that are grown in Georgia. You can find out more information at georgiagrown.com



Arch the Dawg is ready to map agriculture in our state... let's journey together to discover what grows where!

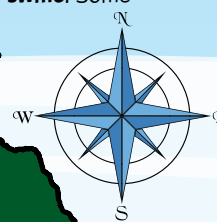
Key Terms

- A **commodity** is another word we can use to describe agricultural products like cotton, peanuts and poultry.
- Poultry producers raise birds, like chickens and turkeys, for their eggs or meat. **Broilers** are chickens raised for meat and they are Georgia's number one agricultural product.
- Some farmers in Georgia produce **timber**, which are trees grown to produce wood for building, carpentry and paper products.

Did You Know?

- Georgia supplies nearly one-half of the nation's peanuts.
- Poultry, beef and dairy cattle, and horses can be found in all five physiographic regions of Georgia
- Cordele, GA is known as the Watermelon Capital of the World because of the quality and quantity of their watermelons. Who doesn't love to eat a tasty watermelon on a hot summer day?
- Georgia's top 5 **Vegetable** Commodities are:

1. Sweet Corn
2. Onions
3. Bell Peppers
4. Watermelon
5. Tomatoes



2024 Georgia Farm

Bruce Allen Redmond

Redmond operates Shiloh Farms in Guyton, Georgia, managing 2,800 acres of peanuts and cotton after taking over the family farm when his father passed in 2018. He grows both dry and irrigated cotton, peanuts, Bahia grass, and TifQuik Bahia grass. As one of only three certified TifQuik seed growers worldwide, he values

its faster germination, lower resource needs, and higher yields. TifQuik also supports crop rotation, reducing nematode and disease issues in following crops.

Redmond said, "Farming is all I've ever known; it's all I've ever done. Everything in my life has come from the hard work and long hours that farmers all know too well."

CULTIVATING 4-H KNOWLEDGE

Georgia 4-H has many opportunities for you to participate in that have a direct tie to Agriculture. Here at Horse Quiz Bowl, Forestry Judging, Livestock Judging, Poultry Judging, Land Judging, Hippology Contests we call these 4-H'ers Youth Exhibitors. To learn more about judging events go to georgia4h.org



KNOW YOUR REGION

The State of Georgia extends from the Atlantic Ocean into the Blue Ridge Mountains. The State is divided into five regions based upon physical geography. These regions are called Physiographic Provinces. The five physiographic provinces of Georgia are the **Coastal Plain**, the **Piedmont Region**, the **Blue Ridge Region**, the **Ridge and Valley Region**, and the **Appalachian Plateau**. Vegetation varies among these provinces and within them. You can find out more about these regions on the New Georgia Encyclopedia website: georgiaencyclopedia.org

Let's learn more about where Georgia's Agriculture can be found among the regions

The Appalachian Plateau is the smallest region and is found in Georgia's northwest corner. Farmers in this region produce beef and poultry and small grains (like wheat). Wheat is harvested for grain and then baled for straw.

Farmers in the **Ridge & Valley Region** produce commodities like corn and soybeans and also grow and produce food for dairy cattle, beef cattle, and horses. We call this food hay and **forage** (bulky food such as grass). **Silage**, (grass that is compacted and stored in silos), is another commodity grown to support dairies in the region.

In the **Blue Ridge** region of Georgia you'll find apples, peaches and grapes. You will also find vegetables to support the many local farmers markets (multi-stall market at which farmers or producers sell agricultural products directly to the general public) throughout the region.

The **Piedmont** Region is one of the largest regions in Georgia and is in the northern part of the state. Agriculture in this region includes many commodities like beef, poultry, eggs, ornamental horticulture and dairy.

The **Upper Coastal Plain** and **Lower Coastal Plain** are home to the state's vegetable and fruit producing regions. Farmers in the Coastal Plain produce a wide variety of crops like cotton, peanuts, timber, watermelons, blueberries, peaches, peppers, pecans, soybeans, and Vidalia onions.

Test your Agricultural and Geographic knowledge!







Can you define the word **Commodity** in your own words?

List a few commodities that you have learned about that grow in your physiographic region:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Share one interesting fact about Georgia's Agriculture that you have learned:

GEORGIA PHYSIOGRAPHIC MAP

-  APPALACHIAN PLATEAU
-  RIDGE and VALLEY
-  BLUE RIDGE
-  PIEDMONT
-  UPPER COASTAL PLAIN
-  LOWER COASTAL PLAIN



Farmer of the Year

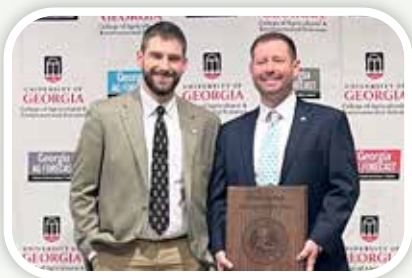


Photo by Georgia Farm Bureau

<https://sunbeltexpo.com/2024-farmer-of-the-year-bruce-allen-redmond-georgia/>

...e some to consider: Cotton Boll & Consumer Judging, Dairy Judging, Dairy Quiz Bowl, Horse Judging, ...t (this is not a contest about Hippos!) and Wildlife Judging. We also have youth who show livestock,



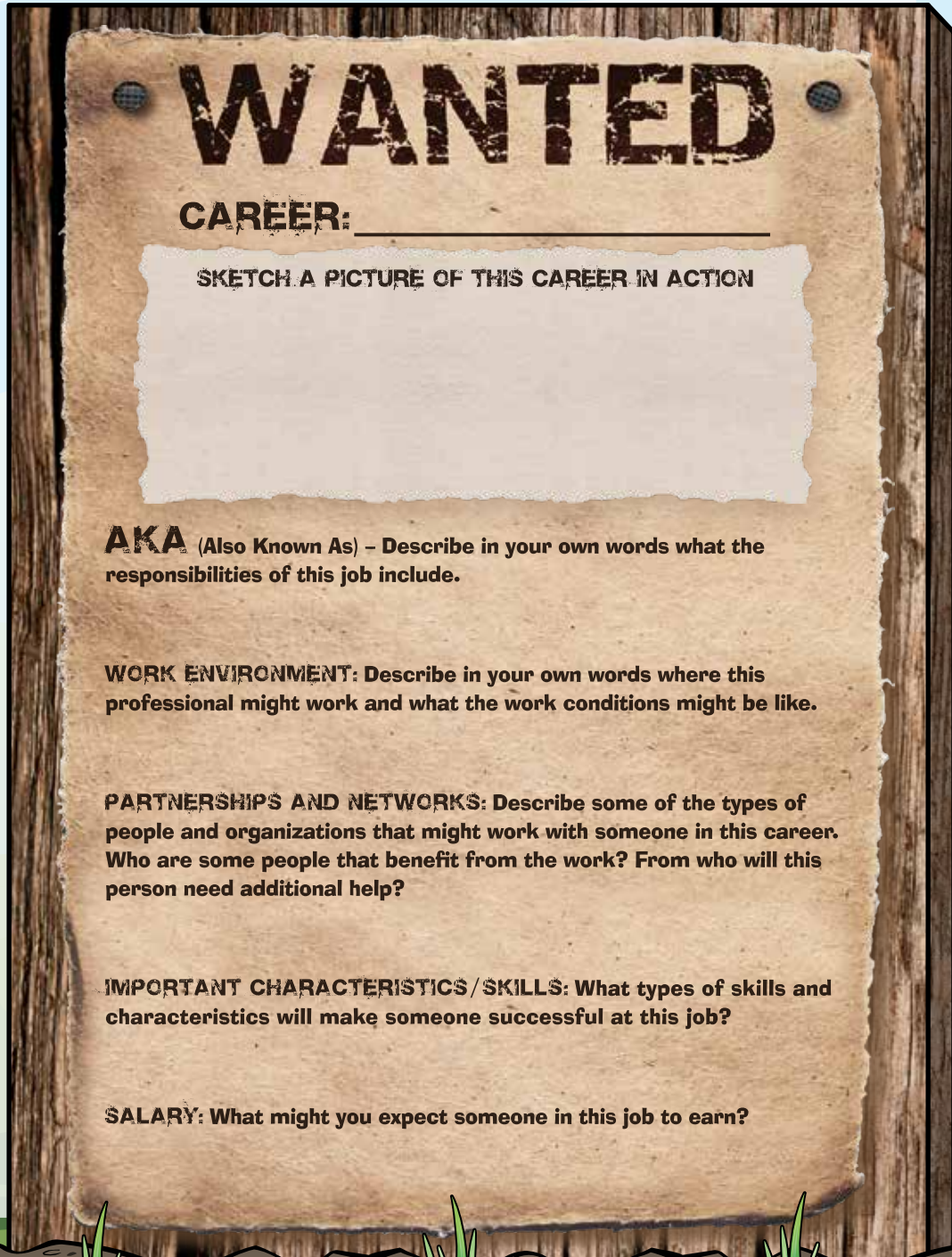
OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE

It takes many **STEM** (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers to get food from the farm to your family. In fact, one in every seven Georgians works in agriculture, forestry, or a related field. Take a closer look at what it takes to have a career in agriculture by selecting an agricultural-related career, conducting your own research, and completing the "Wanted Poster" below.

Places to visit for research help: gaaged.org/Careers_in_Agriculture and agcareers.com/career-profiles.

Choose one of these careers to explore - OR - explore your own area of interest!

- Agronomist
- Beef Producer
- Breeding Manager
- Climatologist
- County Extension Agent
- Economist
- Entomologist
- Food Product Developer
- Food Safety Inspector
- Geneticist
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist
- Horticultural Scientist
- Plant Pathologist
- School Nutrition Director
- Scientific Illustrator
- Soil Conservationist
- Soil Scientist
- Teacher/Educator
- Turfgrass Farm Operator
- Vegetable Farmer
- Waste Management Specialist



CULTIVATING 4-H KNOWLEDGE

Georgia 4-H has several contests related to Agriculture that you can enter.

Those contests are: Egg Chef, Chicken Barbecue, Georgia 4-H, Georgia Peanuts Powering the Perfect Recipe, Food Challenge, Pantry Pride, and MilkMake. We also have Pumpkin growing, Watermelon growing and Water Wise Scholarship contests.



MEET THE EXPERTS

SPOTLIGHT ON CAREERS

A **Career** is defined as an occupation undertaken for a significant period of a person's life with opportunities for progress. Your teachers and parents are charged with the task of helping you to begin to think about career choices

based on your strengths and interest. As educators we are charged with helping you to be College and Career ready so that you have the skills and knowledge necessary to qualify for schooling or job training after high school. An ideal way to explore career choices is to get to know what types of careers exist. Let's take a look at some careers that you can find from the Farm to the Fork... it begins with a farmer, but there are lots of people who contribute to the agricultural industry in our state.

Child Nutrition Programs Director

– **Michele Chivore** serves as the Atlanta Community Food Bank's Director of Child Nutrition Programs where her role is to develop the strategy around and implementation of the Atlanta Community Food Bank's programs aimed at reducing child hunger. This includes **outreach programs** to increase capacity and participation in federally funded child nutrition programs while strategically exploring new opportunities to reduce the prevalence of childhood hunger across the Food Bank's service area.



Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) – Alison (Ali) Berg

is an Assistant Professor and serves as the **Extension** (an outreach unit of UGA) Nutrition and Health Specialist. She coordinates programs at the University that teach people about the prevention and control of **chronic diseases** (long lasting condition that can be controlled but not cured) and does research on the effectiveness of these programs (how well they work). Dietetics is a rewarding career with opportunities to do many different things in many places.



Citrus Grower – **Lindy Savelle**, a retired federal law enforcement agent has a new career as a citrus grower. She and her husband Perry, returned to Georgia with a goal of finding a way to give back to their communities through the development of an alternative niche, yet **sustainable agricultural commodities** (crops raised to provide food).

Lindy and Perry planted a commercial citrus grove in Thomas County and a test plot in Mitchell County. They now sell fresh farm, Georgia Grown citrus. Lindy and Perry started Georgia Grown Citrus LLC, (GGC), a commercial tree nursery hub partnering with four other commercial nurseries which propagate citrus trees for sale to commercial growers and homeowners.

Field Manager for AGCO – Ash Alt

I lead a team that trains ag technicians at Fendt and Massey Ferguson dealerships across North America and collaborate with youth organizations like 4-H, FFA, and Skills USA to promote ag technician careers. Our Farmer First initiative aims to train and hire 2,000 new ag technicians over the next five years. We focus on showing young people that the ag industry offers rewarding, tech-driven careers if they enjoy hands-on work and STEM. By providing tuition assistance, toolbox allowances, and apprenticeships, we support clear career progression within dealerships.



FUTURE EXPERTS

Presley Douglas – Candler County 4-H

How did you become interested in showing livestock in Georgia 4-H?

Growing up in an agricultural family, I developed a passion for livestock, which deepened through my involvement in Georgia 4-H. I now breed and raise livestock, and as a 4-H Livestock Ambassador, I educate others on animal care and showmanship.

What are your plans after high school? And how has your 4-H experience equipped you to follow your dreams and pursue your future plans?

Guided by the 4-H pledge—clear thinking, loyalty, service, and health—I'm committed to inspiring future generations in agriculture. I plan to study Animal Health or Science at the University of Georgia to pursue a career as a veterinarian or surgeon.



Nataleigh Belcher – Emanuel County 4-H

How did you become interested in showing livestock in Georgia 4-H?

My interest in livestock began at age six, inspired by family stories, leading me to join Georgia 4-H and develop dedication and a strong work ethic. The 4-H pledge guides my life, emphasizing clear thinking, community loyalty, service, and better living. My experiences with livestock have instilled responsibility, patience, and a deep connection to agriculture.

What are your plans after high school? And how has your 4-H experience equipped you to follow your dreams and pursue your future plans?

After high school, I plan to study Agricultural Education at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, aiming to inspire the next generation about agriculture's importance.





HEALTHY HABITS

Diagram Your School Day Diet – Do you know where the food you ate today came from?

Write down what you ate and drank today. Now circle the foods you can identify that came from a farm.

Morning Snack	Lunch	Afternoon Snack
Example: Grapes, Cheese and Crackers	Example: Barbecue Pork Sandwich, Celery and Carrot Cup, Pears, Strawberries	Example: Graham Crackers, Sliced Apples

Health is part of the 4-H pledge and has been an important focus of 4-H for more than 100 years. As you charted your food today and traced it to the farm where it was grown, we want to remind you that healthy habits are important at every age. Everyone needs a food plan based on the My Plate Guidelines. To learn more about healthy food choices, visit choosemyplate.gov/kids

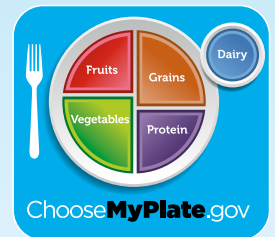
Being Active is also an important part of a healthy lifestyle.

Take a look at your school's breakfast and lunch menu. The School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch program can help you to understand how farmers, growers, food processors, distributors, school nutrition directors and the United States Department of Agriculture work collaboratively to supply food to schools.

Do you know how 4-H is connected to School Nutrition? We are both part of the United States Department of Agriculture; we just connect with you through different avenues.

Take time to thank a farmer, a producer, a cafeteria manager or school food service worker for the delicious meal you had today. If you brought your lunch from home, ask your parents where they got the food. Pay close attention to the fruits and vegetables you ate since many grocery stores are marketing locally grown produce in support of our Georgia farmers.

To learn more about the Farm to School Food movement go to: fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school



Parents! Thank you for taking time to review this publication with your child. Please help your 4-H leader know that you have learned more about Georgia 4-H with your child.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

References: From Seeds to Supper, Getting to Know Georgia by Looking at Agriculture—A workbook just for you from Georgia 4-H. (1981) Georgia Grown—A Guide to Georgia's Farms, Forests, Food and Exports. Georgia Department of Agriculture. (2012-2013; 2013-2014)

ncda.org; extension.uga.edu/Agriculture; caes.uga.edu/Departments; fcs.uga.edu; New Georgia Encyclopedia: georgiaencyclopedia.org; dictionary.reference.com; youtube.com/watch?v=iy8OLpQsg7Y; Scotty Raines Named 2022 Georgia Farmer of the Year newswire.caes.uga.edu/story/8860/2022-georgia-farmer-of-the-year.html; youtube.com/watch?v=XZw1SK2U_fg&t=10s

Compiled and Written by: **Mandy B. Marable**, Associate State 4-H Leader; **Melanie Biersmith**, State 4-H Leader

Contributing Writers and Editors: **Michele Chivore**, Georgia Food Bank Association Campaign Director; **Connie Crawley**, UGA State Extension Faculty-Food, Nutrition and Health; **Michael Reeves**, Reeves Design Services, LLC; **Jenna Saxon**, Georgia Department of Agriculture Deputy Director for Communications; **Bobby Smith**, UGA Extension Agricultural and Natural Resources District Coordinator/Faculty; **Amanda B. Stephens**, UGA CAES Associate Director of Student Engagement; **Michael Wheeler**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Kent Wolfe**, Director, UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Special Thanks for Contributions on the Publication: **Tammy Cheely**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Sonya Fears**, UGA Georgia 4-H Administrative Assistant; **Carole Knight**, Extension 4-H Specialist; **Raymond Joyce**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Brent Marable**, Plant Licensing Manager, UGA Technology Commercialization Office; **Jennifer T. Miller**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Krispin Peavy**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Lucy Ray**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Tamie Ruark**, Ruark Farms; **Heather Shultz**, UGA 4-H State Extension Faculty; **Jennifer Whitaker**, Georgia Farm Bureau

Reviewers: **Jennifer Grogan**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Tori Kimbarl**, UGA 4-H State Extension Student Worker; **Cindy Meadows**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Kevin Tatum**, UGA County Extension Faculty; **Patrick Willis**, UGA County Extension Faculty

Design and Layout by: **Sam Pittard**, UGA Printing *Editing by:* **Tim Welsh**, Bulldog Print + Design

Arch Smith
Interim Associate Dean for Extension

Melanie Biersmith
State 4-H Leader

Nick Place, Dean and Director, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



Departmental Publication 4-H FM-12

Printed 2024

Published by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. For more information or guidance, contact your local Extension office. The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (working cooperatively with Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the counties of Georgia) offers its educational programs, assistance, and materials to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or protected veteran status and is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action organization.