

# FARMERS AND CONSUMERS

## MARKET BULLETIN

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • GARY W. BLACK, COMMISSIONER • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016 • VOL. 99, NO. 8 • © COPYRIGHT 2016

### VIDALIA® ONION SEASON IS HERE: Growers in South Georgia prepare to ship their crop

It's the first day of April, a stormy Friday in Georgia, and Aries Haygood is worried. If the weatherman is calling it right, Haygood could see four inches of rain and hail batter the hundreds of acres of sweet Vidalia® onions that are still ripening in the fields on his Lyons farm. That'll be one cruel trick from Mother Nature if it happens; the official start of the selling season for Georgia's State Vegetable is just 24 days away.

"We all face challenges off what Mother Nature sends us," Haygood said. "No farmer is happy with anything until they've got it in their shed or under the barn and, in most cases, until it's packed and shipped."

In accordance with state rules, Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary W. Black has confirmed April 25 as the official pack date for Georgia's 2016 crop of sweet Vidalia® onions. That's the day Haygood and 85 other registered Vidalia® onion growers in Georgia will box up their crop and start

shipping it to grocery stores and farmers markets nationwide.

Despite the challenges that weather has presented throughout the growing season, Haygood is confident that this year's Vidalia® crop will be worth the wait. The fall was warmer than usual, which raised the disease threat, but a cold winter helped the onion fields rebound, he said.

"The crop that's left really looks good and really looks healthy," he said.

The low sulfur content of South Georgia's sandy soil is what makes the Vidalia® variety of onions sweet. The onion is so unique and valuable that it is protected by a federally registered certification mark. This mark is held by the Georgia Department of Agriculture at the request of the growers. State law governs use of the trademark and rules set the pack date on the Monday of the last full week of April, unless otherwise specified by the Agriculture Commissioner in consultation with growers. All rules for the Vidalia® onion are subject to public comments, hearings and input of the growers.

Sweet onions sold before the pack date are not genuine Vidalia® onions.

"The only true sweet onion is a Vidalia® onion. The gold standard of sweet onions for years has been the Vidalia® onion," said Jack Spruill, director of marketing for the Georgia Department of Agriculture. "Make sure you as a consumer are buying the real Vidalia® onion. You will not, you should not, you'd better not see a Vidalia® onion on the shelf anywhere in the United States before the pack date."

Vidalia® onion growers are so committed to their crop that they requested and approved a Federal Marketing Order with the USDA in 1989. Under that order, the USDA collects mandatory fees from growers that fund research and marketing of the crop. The Marketing Order defines the region where Vidalia® onions can be grown. Vidalia® onions are typically available through July.

The extra layers of self-imposed governance and oversight have made the Vidalia® onion a success for Georgia farmers and consumers.

"Our growing area is large enough to handle the volume that's needed for consumers to enjoy it all summer long," grower Haygood said. "We're confident that we're going to put out a good-tasting sweet onion. The (pack) date gives us an opportunity to allow that onion to grow basically like it should so that it can have the great flavor and the quality that the consumers are looking for."



### Secretary of Agriculture Visits

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack stopped by the Atlanta Farmers Market in Forest Park March 29 for a tour and a meeting with Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary W. Black. While there, Vilsack toured the J.J. Jardina Co., a wholesale distributor of produce with headquarters on the Market. Pictured in the Jardina warehouse are, from left: Secretary Vilsack, Matt Jardina, Larry Jardina and Commissioner Black.

### Public/private partnership saves historic structure at Thomasville Farmers Market

Collaboration among public institutions and the private sector is eradicating termites at the State Farmers Market in Thomasville and providing researchers with new insight into effective methods for fighting *Incisitermes snyderi*, the Southeastern drywood termite, in historic structures.

An infestation of the insect was discovered at the market last summer during preparations for a renovation project. Routine inspections revealed termite damage to the wooden structural members of the oldest building on the market, a 43,162 sq. ft. warehouse built in 1951.

"We had a structural engineer to inspect the building and he said it was still in good shape. He gave us instructions on what needed to be repaired," said Tom Lawson, manager of the Thomasville market for the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Once the repairs were complete, the department began exploring ways to safely treat the building to eliminate the termite threat.

"We felt it was necessary to ensure the safety of our tenants and their workers," Lawson said. "We were also concerned for the public's safety. We did not want termites or the waste they cause to end up in our produce."

The department teamed with the University of Georgia's Entomology Program to mitigate the damage, beginning with treatment of the infested areas. Pesticide maker Nisus Corp. donated 120 gallons of BoraCare to treat all of the exposed lumber in the building. Dixon Exterminating in Thomasville administered the treatment.

Brian T. Forschler, PhD., a professor of entomology at UGA in Athens, oversaw the

treatment/mitigation plan and is monitoring the market for further signs of termites as part of his Household and Structural Entomology Research Program at UGA.

"While Dr. Forschler often presents at national and international audiences, we are fortunate to have him locally and working directly with our staff when urban entomology expertise is needed," said Derrick Lastinger, director of the Structural Pest Program at the Department of Agriculture in Atlanta. "This recent effort to protect the historic building at the market is another example of how GDA and UGA work together to better understand urban pests while using local resources to protect our homes and buildings."

The first step in eliminating the termite threat to the building was to replace damaged and infested timbers. The borate treatment applied to all exposed timbers in the building will prevent termites from chewing into the wood. BoraCare is recognized by national green building organizations such as LEED and EarthCraft as an ecologically friendly approach to preventing new infestations, Forschler said.

"The final phase of the management plan would be an annual examination of the property, after the borate treatment, to pick out accumulations of pellets which identify ongoing, local infestations that could be treated using wood injection," he said.

The Southeastern drywood termite is different from the subterranean termite in that it infests and consumes sound wood. It thrives in dry conditions and does not require contact with the soil to survive. Drywood termites typically target the wood in structural timbers, framing, furniture and hardwood flooring.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Farm Services.....	2
Vidalia® Onion Soup.....	7
Spring Planting Chart.....	11
Pizza Farm.....	12

### Notice

Ads for the May 11 issue are due noon, April 27.  
Spring Pick-Your-Own listings are due May 2.













is proud to welcome these new members:

#### Silver Level

26th and Popped  
Atlanta, Ga.

Anisa's Secrets  
Smyrna, Ga.

Blessed Acres  
Milner, Ga.

Chill-C Farms  
Moultrie, Ga.

Hillside Gardens  
Reidsville, Ga.

Natures Kitchen  
Roswell, Ga.

Olympus Greek Mountain  
Teas  
Atlanta, Ga.

The Blueberry Barn  
Alma, Ga.

and these returning members:

#### Silver Level

Chateau Elan Winery &  
Resort  
Braselton, Ga.

Fort Valley Mainstreet  
Fort Valley, Ga.

Mitcham Farm  
Oxford, Ga.

**Georgia Grown** is a marketing and branding program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. For more information or to join, visit [GeorgiaGrown.com](http://GeorgiaGrown.com) or call **404.656.3680**.

## Youth Day at the Capitol Recognizes Young Georgia Equestrians

The Georgia Commodity Commission for Equine held its annual Youth Day at the Capitol Feb. 2, drawing 110 equestrian youths from around the state to be honored for their achievements in horsemanship. The event recognized youths ages 6 to 19 who won first place in a state horse show, or a national or world championship during the 2015 show season.

Rep. Tom McCall, R-Elberton, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, recognized Jamie Parker, Sydney Banaszek, Kelsey Bostic, Ana Christina Marin, Caroline Stethers, Erin Doyle, Laney Huddleston and Kaydie Hud-

dleston for reaching the level of World Champion in their events.

Meghan Boenig, head equestrian coach for the University of Georgia, received the Golden Saddle Award for her dedication to promoting the equine industry in Georgia. Past Equine Commission Chairman John Clements was recognized for his hard work through the years on the commission and his enthusiasm for Youth Day.

Registration for Youth Day 2017 is open on the Equine Commission web site at [www.gaequinecommission.com](http://www.gaequinecommission.com). The deadline for registration is Dec. 31, 2016.



Beth Williams, left, vice chair of the Georgia Commodity Commission for Equine, presents UGA Equestrian Coach Meghan Boenig with the Golden Saddle Award Feb. 2 in Atlanta.

Equestrian youths from around the state pose with Gov. Nathan Deal in the rotunda at the Capitol.




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**"Without farmers, Georgia can't grow."**  
Agriculture is Georgia's #1 revenue and we have lost 6,000 small farms in the last 5 years. Now, small farmers of all walks of life can benefit from the Bioenergy Market.

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★★★★★

## Farmers Market and Ag. Expo

Claxton Elementary School  
Hwy 301 South in Claxton, GA  
May 14<sup>th</sup>

Setup: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
Event Times: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

★★★★★



RSVP Tonya Blocker, School Nutrition Director  
Evans County Schools, to reserve your **FREE** booth by April 1, 2016  
[tblocker@evans.k12.ga.us](mailto:tblocker@evans.k12.ga.us)  
912-739-3544 ext 230



## Iris Spring!

The Flint River Iris Society and Friends of the UGA Research Garden will accept entries to their "Glory of Iris" photo contest May 1-15. Monetary prizes will be awarded.

[IrisSocietyFlintRiver.org](http://IrisSocietyFlintRiver.org)  
**404.826.1688**

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# ARTY'S GARDEN: Summer bulbs offer great variety

By Arty Schronce

“Summer bulb” is a loosely defined term used to refer to plants with either bulbs, corms, tubers, tuberous roots or similar bulbous structures. They are usually planted in spring and bloom or reach their peak in the summer or fall. A few examples are canna, caladium, elephant ear, crocosmia, pineapple lily, sprekelia and agapanthus.

Some are winter hardy but others have to be dug in the fall and stored indoors. They may be sold individually, in packages or potted. Visit your local garden center to see what is available. Don't delay; many mail-order sources have already sold out of the more popular and rare varieties.

Here are a few favorites:



**Dahlia**

Keys to success with dahlias include selecting heat-tolerant varieties, preparing the soil with plenty of compost and mulching them well. Shown here is an unidentified single variety with purple-tinged leaves and Chinese red petals tipped with gold.



**Tuberose**

Tuberose are prized for their gleaming white flowers and heavy fragrance in the evening. This variety is Mexican Single.



**Crinum**

Crinums are often shared from one gardener to another. They are valued for their lily-like flowers and their large, strap-like leaves that add a tropical flair to the landscape.



**Milk-and-Wine Lily**

Milk-and-wine lilies are a group of crinums with showy white flowers marked with pink or burgundy – like milk streaked with red wine. A combination of milk and wine in a glass may turn stomachs, but a milk-and-wine lily in the garden will turn heads.



**Tiger Lily**

Tiger lily manages to be warm and familiar while maintaining an exotic appeal.



**Daylily**

New daylilies come out every year. However, new is not always better or more beloved. This is Hyperion, introduced in 1924 and still deservedly popular.



**Gladiolus**

Many glads are as big as broadswords and difficult to fit in with other flowers in the garden. You may be more successful with smaller varieties such as Atom, a 1946 introduction that still generates excitement with its red flowers with their radiant white edge. Another good choice is the Abyssinian gladiolus with its fragrant white flowers with dark burgundy centers.

-Arty Schronce is the department's resident gardening expert. Write to him at [arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov) or in care of The Market Bulletin.

## COOK GEORGIA GROWN: Creamy Vidalia® Onion Soup



**Ingredients:**

- 2 Vidalia® onions, diced
- 4 Tbsps. butter
- 4 cups chicken stock
- ½ cup half & half
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- Salt & pepper

**Preparation:**

Cook Vidalia onions with butter in a medium-sized pot until translucent (about 20 minutes). Add remaining ingredients to pot and simmer for another 20 minutes. Puree with an immersion blender if desired. Serves 4-6.

All recipes have been tested for accuracy in our Georgia Grown Test Kitchen unless otherwise noted. For more recipes and to watch cooking in action, find our “Pick, Cook, Keep” series at [www.gpb.org/pick-cook-keep/](http://www.gpb.org/pick-cook-keep/)









Cane syrup, 1/5; \$7. Roy Holt Dudley 478-676-2760 478-230-5672

Carpenter bee traps; \$10 each or 3 for \$25, shipping is extra. Billy Middlebrooks Monroe 770-267-7084

Free removal of swarms; remove other unwanted bees for a fee; need new location to keep bees. Leonard Day Macon 478-719-5588

Hive equipment: 5, 8, or 10 frame., complete starter hives too. Harold Lanier Buford harold@lanierbeebarn.com 678-471-7758

Looking for farmers who need honey bees for pollination. James Shepherd Statham 678-509-4164

Make top bar bee hive/inner cover, super; also 5 and 10 frame bee hives, \$65 and \$85. Eliseo Delia Mineral Bluff 706-492-5119

NUCs, queenless packages and frames of brood with bees. Patrick Wilbanks Metter 912-286-7789

Taking orders for 5 comb NUCs, active hives, empty hives, bees, telescope metal tops and supers. Edward Colston Taylorsville 770-382-9619

Taking orders for 5 frame NUCs and queens, order five minimum each order, call for details. Jim Garvine Byron 478-956-7672

Will pick up hanging swarms for free in Coweta area. Craig Exner Newnan 678-326-0053

Will pick up swarms free; want to purchase unwanted beekeeping equipment; need new locations to keep bees. David Larson Mitchell 770-542-9546

Will remove low hanging bee swarms free in Rockdale County area. Ronald Johnson Conyers 678-357-1814

Will remove swarms and unwanted bee equipment, also bee removal from structures. Derry Oliver Commerce 706-335-7226

Things To Eat

Advertisers submitting ads using the term "organic" require Certified Organic registration with the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Ads submitted without this registration will not be published. If you are faxing or mailing in an ad, the registration needs to be sent along with it. For ads submitted online, the registration can be attached using the attachments button. For information on this registration, call the Organic Program Manager at 706-595-3408.

2015 Desirable pecans, \$10 lb + shipping; also will crack, shell, separate your pecans for \$.50 lb. Russell Eaton Stockbridge 770-506-2727 770-506-7778

2015 Stuart pecans in shell; \$5/lb. + shipping. Charles T Sawyer 2057 Toccoa Highway Mount Airy 30563 706-768-4776

Fresh eggs from free range hens; \$2/dozen or \$3/18. Janni Martin Maysville 770-605-3812

Fresh free range brown/white/mixed eggs; certified by GDA candler's license N8260; 3 dozen for \$10. Wayne Knight Auburn 678-425-4550

Grassfed, pastured, naturally raised beef, pork, lamb, goat; free range eggs; natural pecans. Fernando Mendez 627 Buford Road Arabi 31712 info@marviewfarms.com 229-401-8722

Strawberries/sweet onions, Mon-Sat 8a-7p and Sun 10a-6p; 2nd location: 9515 Feagin Road, Macon. Debra Elliott 4761 Holley Road Lizella 31052 478-935-8180

Water ground meal, whole wheat flour and grits; 5 lb./\$5 + shipping. Mike H Buckner Junction City 706-269-3630

Fish & Supplies

Advertisers selling sterile triploid grass carp must submit a current Wild Animal License from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Ads submitted without this license will not be published. If you are faxing or mailing in an ad, the license needs to be sent along with it. For ads submitted online, the license can be attached using the attachments button. For license information, call 770-761-3044.

All quality farm grown channel catfish fingerlings; graded/priced by size, accurate weights/counts, guaranteed live, healthy delivery. J.F. Gilbert Thomaston 706-648-2062 770-468-0725

All fish species: bluegill, shad, bass, shellcracker, minnows, shiners, catfish. Pond surveys, aeration/feeders, weed consultation, vegetation control. Ethan Edge Baxley 912-602-1310

All sizes bass, bluegill, channel catfish, threadfin, gizzard shad, shell cracker and more; free delivery or pickup. Danny Austin Roberta 478-836-4938

All sizes catfish, minnows, shiners, bluegill, shellcracker, sterile carp, electrofishing, feeders, shad, aeration, consulting services. Keith and Kim Edge Soperton 478-697-8994

Bass, bluegill, hybrid bream, channel catfish, sterile grass carp. David Cochran Ellijay 706-889-8113

Bass, bluegill, shell cracker, hybrid bream, channel catfish, fingerlings, sterile grass carp; delivery available. Tony Chew Manchester 706-846-3657

Big red Europeans, red wigglers and worm castings; \$35-\$25/lb. + shipping. Lew Bush Byron lewbush@cox.net 478-955-4780

Bluegill and hybrid bream, large mouth bass, triploid grass carp, channel catfish, threadfin shad; delivery available. Brian Simmons Hawkinsville 478-892-3144

Composting, fishing, and redworms; \$49.95/2000, \$25/5 gallons, \$10/5 gallons worm castings. Jerry Seymour Bronwood 229-995-5994

Frozen Catalpa worms; \$1.50/dozen. Joe Mask Fayetteville 770-461-7068

Good stocking quality trout of various sizes, hatched and grown on our farm, delivery available. David Cantrell Ellijay 706-273-6199

Grass carp, bluegill, shellcracker bream, channel catfish fingerlings, bass, fathead minnow; delivery/pick up by appointment only. Robert Brown Brooks 770-719-8039

Koi and goldfish all sizes; fish food and supplies; 3"-5" albino catfish; \$5 each. Glenn Kicklighter Sandersville 478-232-7704

Pond stock: blue gill, copper nose bream, channel catfish, bass, grass carp, shell cracker, shiners, minnows. Mike Buford Cordele clarkbufordbait@gmail.com 229-923-4157

Worm compost available, also have red wigglers; \$3 cup, \$35 for 5/gallon bucket, \$100 for 25/gallon tub. Anthony Self Byron 478-538-6167

Fertilizers & Mulches

2015 Wheat straw, stored at barn, delivery available; \$3 each. Gary Brinson 6786 Old Louisville Road Tarrytown 30470 912-286-3191

Aged garden compost, horse manure w/shavings, we load by appointment; \$5 small trucks or \$10 full size. Byron Cook Fort Valley 478-825-0259

Free aged manure/compost, easy access, will help load, Crabapple area. Nina Macrae Alpharetta 678-793-0694

Free compost of horse manure and shavings. Jerry Riles Douglasville 770-337-1516

Free horse manure mixed with shavings. Danny West Fayetteville 770-617-9095 404-771-4041

Longleaf pine straw, delivery/installation available, semi-trailers available. Joshua Bulloch Manchester 404-925-1076

Pine straw, \$3 each bale; delivery costs extra. Randall Lynch Gay 706-538-6347

Pre-bagged horse manure, you load; \$150 per 20-40 lb. bag; price reduced for 100+ bags. Martha Braumann Lawrenceville 678-662-9393

Oddities

Hundreds of new gourds: Martin, bushel, crooked handle, craft, small snowmen; shop anytime. Thelma Moon 3226 Hoot Owl Road Royston 30662 706-245-4218

Lucky buckeyes, \$4.25/dozen; planting buckeyes, \$5.25/dozen; instructions included, please add additional for postage. Jules Simmons 495 Royal Oaks Ter Smoke Rise 30087 828-226-4700

Martin gourds for sale; \$2.50 each. Paul Bailey Hoschton 706-654-9245

Martin gourds, plain or fixed, ready to hang, other varieties, at farm or to ship. Crystal Lang Cordele 229-322-1321

New crop of gourds is in, several varieties to choose from. Patsy Banks 9845 Hwy 88 E. Keysville 30816 706-547-2724

Wood burning stove for sale, call for details; \$250. Carl Taylor Meansville 404-408-8466

Notices

Mableton Farmers Market needs vendors every Thursday, May 26-Aug. 25; call/email to book your booth. David McDaniel Mableton farmersmarket@mableton.org 404-323-0608

Firewood

Firewood must be cut from the advertiser's personal property. Ads for firewood must use the cord when specifying the amount of firewood for sale. 1 Cord of red oak, was split 02/2016, you pick up in Canton/Holly Springs area; \$160. Barney Kendall Canton 770-597-9560

Seasoned and split oak hardwood, 18"-20" lengths, free local delivery; \$85/half cord. Corey Campbell Decatur 404-241-0192

Seasoned hardwood, at barn; \$160/cord. Wade Cown Monroe 770-207-6983

Tops and logs, hickory and oak; you cut and haul, quantity discount. Blaine Ruhbusch Junction City 850-450-2752

Timber

Timber must be individually owned and produced by the advertiser on his personal property. No companies or businesses are allowed to advertise timberland in this category. Timberland advertised must be at least one acre. Timber wanted ads will not be published.

Free pulp wood, you cut & haul. 3 acres. Second growth, 25 years old. Charles Kemp Marietta kempc@cox.net 770-926-6749

Huge Poplar trees for sale, you cut. Peggy Griffin Clarkesville 706-768-8417

Advertisement for Georgia Grown apparel featuring a t-shirt and the text 'Get your Georgia Grown apparel today! www.georgiagrown.com'

Oak, pine, cedar, cypress trees on acreage, May 2016 selective harvest for timber, firewood, mulch. A. Kmetz Hampton 30228 770-897-0423

Poplar log, 41"x24"x35'L, on the ground with easy access; free. Deanna Carter Douglasville 404-409-9328 404-409-7721

CORRECTIONS

Registered/poled black Beefmaster bulls, good confirmation, all shots, semen tested, gentle, 10 m/o-2 y/o. NOT Angus bulls. Vernon Turner Dalton 706-278-7814

Handicrafts

If you have questions regarding ads in this category, call 404-656-3722.

Handicraft ads are limited to 30 words.

All chair caning, blind cane, French weave, hole-to-hole, porch/press, rattan reed/splint, some repair, 50+ years experience. George E Shelton Cartersville 770-607-6455

All chair caning/wicker restoration done, laced/pressed cane, binder cane, rush/split oak, seagrass, shaker tape, rattan, quality work. Dotty McDaniel Cumming 770-887-8518

All types of chair caning, refinishing and repairs. James J Lewis 1404 Kenwood Drive Perry 31069 478-987-4243

Aprons, sun bonnets, adult bibs, walker bags; \$7 each, or 3 for \$15. Margaret Hottle 4220 Union Road Sw College Park 30349 404-344-0568

Bluebird nestbox w/glass viewing window, all cedar, seen at "Bluebirds over Ga" show; \$20 + \$7.50 shipping. John Chaney Winder 770-867-8263

Chair and rocker caning of all kinds, also wicker and rattan repair, 35 years of experience. Duke Dufresne Statham 770-725-2554

Crocheted doilies, table runners, dolls, kitchen towels. Repairs available at reasonable prices. Marcia Brookins 219 Sheila Circle Thomaston 30286 706-647-0593

Hand knitted dishcloths/washcloths, they make wonderful gifts, call for information; \$4 each + \$1 each, for packaging/postage. Roberta Watts Monroe 770-464-1979

Handmade tatted lace items, bookmarks, cards, Christmas ornaments; order today for Mother's Day. Amie Cleg-horn Tifton 229-256-3557

Handmade wooden garden whirligigs, 18 traditional models, ready to mount; \$25 to \$60 + shipping. Sharon Batchel Buford serenitygardens.com 770-932-1932

Homemade goat milk soap, made with oatmeal and honey, 5 oz. bar; \$5. Galen/Betty Sharpe Morrow 404-366-6930

Need someone to quilt; tops are already put together, will send cotton and lining with top. Bonnie Morgan Cumming 770-887-6885

Quilts: Handmade, premade, custom. Beautiful colors and patterns. Great Mother's/Father's Day gifts at reasonable prices; \$75-\$450. Doris Brown McDonough fdbrownj@charter.net 770-898-8701

Rabbit boxes: Stick trigger system, weathered wood, 50 years' experience building/trapping; \$28 includes shipping. Donald Allen 3647 Spain Rd Snellville 30039 404-578-7758

Raggedy Ann/Andy dolls, 25"; all handmade, no paints/plastics, beautifully dressed, original 1970 pattern. Betty Hopkins 914 28th Street E Tifton 31794 229-382-2310

Trying to find a quilting by hand in Dawson, Lumpkin, Hall or Forsyth. Tommy/Annie Pinion Dawsonville 706-265-3167

Spring Vegetable Planting Chart table with columns: Vegetable, Days to Maturity, Planting Dates, Seeds/Plants per 100 ft., Spacing Rows per plants, Depth to Plant. Rows include Beans, bush, pole, lima, pole lima; Butterpea; Cantaloupe; Corn, yellow, white, bi-color; Cucumber: slicing, pickling, gynoecious; Eggplant; Okra; Peas; Peppers, bell, hot, hot-sweet; Potatoes, sweet; Pumpkin, tiny, pie type, small, large, giant; Squash: summer (zucchini), winter; Tomato: cherry, grape, determinate, indeterminate; Watermelon: lg, round, small.

Adapted from the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service

# ‘Pizza Farm’ delivers a live lesson in agriculture to urban youth in Atlanta

## State Farmers Market hosts 1,200 elementary school students for three-day UGA event

If every kid in America realized that pizza grows on farms, there would be no need to worry for the future of farming in the United States.

The University of Georgia Extension Service made that point to more than 1,000 students from urban elementary schools in Clayton, Fulton and Newton counties recently by staging a “Pizza Farm” at the State Farmers Market in Atlanta. Extension agents, 4-H coordinators and master gardeners from all over the state broke the pizza pie down into six stations where 4th and 5th graders learned the importance of being active and eating a balanced diet; the final four stations allowed them to see, smell and touch the ingredients of their favorite food in raw form.

They saw laying hens at work and petted a Holstein dairy cow. They saw wheat in various pre-dough forms, and sauce ingredients and vegetable toppings rooted in soil.

“Our target audience is urban youth,” said Kisha Faulk, a coordinator of the three-day event. “They are least likely to see this on their own.”

State Sen. Valencia Seay, D-Riverdale, and Rep. Mike Glanton, D-Jonesboro, were urban youth themselves who never had the opportunity to see agricul-

ture the way the children of their district saw it at the pizza farm event.

Seay got her first introduction to Georgia’s No. 1 industry as a member of the House of Representatives when she was appointed to the Agriculture Committee. Now a seasoned member of the Senate, she boasts proudly of a winning turn at showing livestock at the Georgia National Fair in Perry. Every year members of the Georgia Senate and House Agriculture committees pair with FFA and 4-H members to show calves at the fair, and Seay’s team won.

“That’s the year the Senate beat the House, because I was there,” Seay joked. “I’d never been around a dog, a cat, nothing. Being from the inner city of Atlanta, you don’t know about agriculture.”

Glanton called the pizza farm concept “awesome,” especially for a city dweller.

“For these kids, this will be the first time they’ve come into direct contact with agriculture,” Glanton said.



State Rep. Mike Glanton, D-Jonesboro, visited the Atlanta Farmers Market to share a rare opportunity to experience agriculture with some young constituents. With him, from left, are: Christopher Hernandez, Lamont “Jr.” Brinson, and Shameria Coleman.



Petting a Holstein dairy cow turned into a photo op for this student, who handed her smart phone to a friend to capture the moment.



State Sen. Valencia Seay, D-Riverdale, gained her knowledge of agriculture following her election to the State House of Representatives. She applauded the effort to educate younger generations early.



The meat station featured live laying hens, which amazed the students with their abilities.



Tossing pizza dough is harder than it looks.

## CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING: April is National Safe Digging Month

ATLANTA – The Georgia Public Service Commission reminds all Georgians that April is National Safe Digging Month. The law requires anyone who plans to excavate where underground utilities are located to call 8-1-1 before they dig. The process is simple and can prevent major damage that can endanger and inconvenience communities and cause economic disruption. Damage from excavation activities to gas and water pipelines, along with sewer systems and buried distribution power lines, remains a leading cause of utility incidents resulting in death or injury.

“We are pleased to work together with Georgia 811, our federal partners, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners to prevent damages from occurring to the state’s underground utility facilities,” said Commission Chairman Chuck Eaton. “Our common goals are to prevent the disruption of utility services and personal injuries that result from accidents which damage underground facilities.”

The Georgia Public Service Commission is charged with the enforcement of the state’s underground utilities damage prevention programs as a result of state legislation approved in 2000. The commission also enforces federal pipeline safe-

ty standards under an agreement with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The commission’s program is rated one of the top five in the nation and serves as a model for other states to follow in reducing damages to underground utilities.

Using these programs, the commission provides training



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

and education for excavators and utilities in order to avoid accidents that can cause expensive and often dangerous damage to buried utilities. The commission also works closely with Georgia 811 Inc., which accepts calls from the national federally mandated “Call Before You Dig” number 8-1-1.

This “one call” system is free to contractors and excavators as well as homeowners and helps all excavators comply with the law.

“Always contact Georgia 811 before every digging project, every time. All digging projects need to be done safely, including projects like installing a mailbox, landscaping or fence installation. Log on to Georgia811.com or simply dial 811. It not only saves lives, but money and time. If you have dug in the past without calling, don’t make that mistake again. The call is free and having the underground utilities marked is free,” said Claudette Campbell, president and CEO of Georgia 811.

The public, excavators and others can find resources available at [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) and at [www.Georgia811.com](http://www.Georgia811.com).

The Georgia Public Service Commission is a five-member constitutional agency that exercises its authority and influence to ensure that consumers receive safe, reliable, and reasonably-priced telecommunications, electric and natural gas service from financially viable and technically competent companies. For more information on the commission visit [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us).

