

“Transforming Veterans and Small Farmers into Stewards of Our Lands”



University of Georgia Conference Center (Tifton)
15 RDC Road, Tifton, Georgia 31793
8:30AM – 4:30PM January 22, 2015

Conference Agenda

Conference Moderator

Don Wardlaw, Ocmulgee River RC&D (Program Coordinator), Lawrenceville Georgia
8:30—9:00 Registration (Coffee and Breakfast)

9:00 – 10:00	General Session @ UGA Conference Center (Auditorium)
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9:00 Welcome and Conference Preview

Ellis Lamme, President Upper Ocmulgee River RC&D Council, Chairman Gwinnett County SWCD

9:10-9:55 Keynote Speaker: “A Bright Outlook for Georgia Agriculture”

**Amanda R. Smith, M.S. Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics,
University of Georgia (Tifton Campus)**



**10:00 –11:45 MORNING CONCURRENT BREAKOUTS
 PICK TWO OF THE FOUR SESSIONS TO ATTEND
 (45 minute session with a 15 min break, repeated at 10:45)**

Meeting Room A	Meeting Room B	Meeting Room C	Meeting Room D
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<i><u>Small Intensive Farming</u></i> Brennan Washington (Phoenix Gardens)	<i><u>Understanding 2015 Farm Bill</u></i> Raymon Pate (FSA)	<i><u>Food Safety (Fruits and Vegetables)</u></i> Erin Holliman (GFVGA)	<i><u>EQIP Programs (Veteran Ranking)</u></i> Craig Bevan (NRCS)
12:00-1:00	Lunch: Guest Speaker & Entertainment		

12:00-12:15 Mayor J.G. Cater, JR.



12:15-12:45 David Ferrell



**1:00 –2:50 AFTERNOON CONCURRENT BREAKOUTS
PICK THREE OF THE FOUR SESSIONS TO ATTEND**

(45 minute session with a 15 minute break, repeated at 1:45 and 2:45)

Meeting Room A	Meeting Room B	Meeting Room F	Miller Hall
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<u><i>Small Intensive Farming</i></u> Brennan Washington (Phoenix Gardens)	<u><i>Understanding 2015 Farm Bill</i></u> Raymon Pate (FSA)	<u><i>Food Safety (Fruits and Vegetables)</i></u> Erin Holliman (GFVGA)	<u><i>EQIP Programs (Veteran Ranking)</i></u> Craig Bevan (NRCS)
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2:45 Break

3:00-3:30	General Session @ UGA Conference Center (Auditorium) - All Groups “Steps and Programs for Veterans to Successfully Establish Business (Feasibility Test Process, Underwriting, and Banks for Loans)” Blake Daugherty (Veteran Farmer) Humble Hermit Organic Farm
3:30-3:45	Institutions and Degrees available (Veteran and Small Beginning Farmers) H. Anthony Gobert (Veteran/Horticulture Instructor) Gwinnett Tech

3:45-4:15	General Session @ UGA Conference Center (Auditorium) - All Groups Panel Discussion: “Veterans and Small Groups to Stewards of Our Lands” Ellis Lamme, Raymon Pate, Erin Holliman, Craig Bevan, Blake Daugherty
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4:15 Door Prizes & Adjourn

January 22, 2015 “Transforming Veterans and Small Farmers into Stewards of Our Lands” Conference Speakers, Presenters, and Breakout Session Leaders (UGA, Tifton)

Amanda R. Smith, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Georgia (Tifton Campus)

Mrs. Smith is an Extension Economist and Instructor at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus. Her primary responsibility involves timely applied economic research and outreach services for Georgia’s cotton, peanut, and other row crop industries and commodity groups to improve efficiency, profitability, and resource conservation. This includes the development and revision of crop enterprise budgets, applied economic analyses of production practices and new technologies, and conservation policy analysis and education. Her duties also include collaboration with multi-disciplinary teams in the collection and analysis of crop revenues and costs. Her research results are disseminated through seminars, meetings, publications, field days and media outlets. Ms. Smith also teaches two courses in the agricultural business degree on the Tifton campus and provides lab instruction for courses taught via distance education to the Tifton campus. Ms. Smith received her Master of Science degree in Agricultural & Resource Economics from Colorado State University and two Bachelor of Science Degrees in Agricultural Business and Animal Science also from Colorado State University. Outside of her work, Ms. Smith enjoys spending time with her husband, Adam, and toddler son, Scott.

David Ferrell, Agricultural Speaker

For over 20 years, David Ferrell's comical approach to motivating and inspiring non-profit organizations, farmers, and citizens of rural, low-income, and impoverished communities within the agricultural industry has won him several prestigious awards.

- Three-time nominee for **Inspirational Comedian of the Year** by ICM
- As Heard on **Sirius/XM "Laugh USA"**
- Named one of five **"Hot Acts in America"** by *Event Solutions Magazine*

David's humorous re-enactments of his real life experiences motivate his audiences and leave them with the mindset that rural communities and all that they encompass (farming, livestock, etc.) can provide a sustainable career, as well as laughs and memories that can last a lifetime.

Brennan Washington, Owner (Phoenix Gardens)

Brennan has been farming for over 10 years and owns Phoenix Gardens in Lawrenceville, GA on which he manages 2.5 acres of organically grown vegetables, fruits, and herbs. He prides himself on growing wholesome food in a sustainable manner that nourishes the land than wearing it out and truly believes that local agriculture helps to build and strengthen communities. In addition, he currently works for NRCS and on the boards of Southern SARE, Georgia Organics, and the Georgia Food Policy Council.

Raymon Pate, USDA County Executive Director Farm Service Agency (Tift County)

Ray Pate has been employed with Farm Service Agency for 26 years and has served as the County Executive Director in Tift County Georgia for 16 years. Ray brings a wealth of knowledge about agriculture and considered an "expert" in discussions that include Agricultural Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage, Non Insured Assistance Program, Emergency Livestock Assistance Programs and highly erodible – wetland provisions.

Erin Holliman (Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Grower's Association)

Erin is a food safety specialist and consultant with the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. A 2012 graduate of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, she holds a bachelor's degree in Diversified Agriculture and an Associate's degree in agribusiness management and economics. Previous to the agricultural food safety industry, she headed a laboratory assistant position at the University of Georgia Plant Pathology Lab in Tifton, Georgia. With a background in laboratory and agricultural sciences, she assists farmers from all over the South in all their food safety needs.

Craig Bevan, District Conservationist (Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Craig Bevan was born and raised in Waynesboro, GA. He attended ABAC for 2 years and graduated from UGA with a BS in crop science. He began his professional career as a crop consultant for 10 years prior to coming to NRCS. Over the past 7 ½ years while employed with the NRCS, Craig has served as the District Conservationist for Louisville, GA and currently in the Tifton Field Office covering Tift, Turner, Ben Hill and Irwin counties.

Blake Daugherty, Veteran and Owner (Red Stag Farms, LLC)

Blake is an alumni with a Bachelors from Valdosta State University. He holds a Masters of Business Administration in Project Management from American Intercontinental University and is currently acquiring his Doctorate of Business Administration with a self -designed program in Entrepreneurship and Project Management. His Dissertation is in Agri-finance with an emphasis in the disparity and difference of the ability for industrial and traditional farmers to get loans while sustainable and organic farmers have a problem with the process. Born in South Georgia in Lowndes County, near Valdosta in 1975, Blake lived there until 1994 when he moved to Brooks County, an area drenched in agricultural dependency for the economy. In 1996, his family procured a pecan orchard and Blake began to learn the agricultural process from his Father, who is presently a contractor, but spent the first part of his life farming. In 2014 he formed Red Stag Farms, LLC an agricultural/construction conglomerate geared towards producing luxury goods on an agriculturally sustainable level in order to best benefit a small piece of land. Recently, a study to decide the feasibility of growing mushrooms, truffles, lavender and a bee apiary was conducted for the farm with a positive outcome stating the establishment of such products from the farm would be lucrative. Presently the LLC is in the loan underwriting process. Blake is also the Chief Organizational Officer of a virtual international consulting firm - International Alliance for Strategic Change (IASC) - and is also on a panel for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) board conducting a study on the feasibility of converting chicken houses into aqua-ponic and hydroponic farms.

H. Anthony Gobert, Veteran and Horticulture Instructor (Gwinnett Technical College)

Tony is the lead instructor in the Sustainable Urban Agricultural program at Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Born on a farm in South Louisiana, Tony was the first in his family to attend college. As a student at Southern University and A&M College, Tony began his life-long education in agricultural. Tony holds a B.A. degree in Government, a degree in Horticulture from Gwinnett Technical College and many years of large market garden production. Tony is also a Certified Permaculture Instructor, Georgia Certified Landscape Professional; PLANET landscape industry certified Professional, Georgia Master Gardener and a Squared foot Garden Instructor. Tony believes that education is the future of small farmers and knowledge of crop production and less dependency on inputs and petroleum products is the key to profitability. Tony is currently facilitator of the Gwinnett Tech's Learn-In Farm, located on the campus to teach students how to examine environmental factors such as light, temperature, rainfall, wind, soil and fire separately, to explain how important each one is in the agro-ecosystem and ultimately to each plant.

4:00 Door Prizes & Adjourn