

AGL

Advancing Georgia's Leaders
in Agriculture and Forestry

Program Brief & Directory 2017-2019

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in Agriculture and Forestry

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AGI class of 2019



Foley Field Athletic Turf Tour.



Coach Dooley's Garden Tour

The Program

Advancing Georgia's Leaders in Agriculture and Forestry (AGL) empowers today's professionals in agriculture, forestry, natural resources and allied sectors to be dynamic industry leaders.

A program of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, AGL provides:

- Cutting-edge knowledge of emerging industry issues and trends.
- An understanding of political and agricultural systems.
- Industry connections with peers and leaders throughout Georgia.
- Multi-faceted leadership development.
- Executive coaching.

Study and Travel

Each AGL class is customized to include emerging industry issues and trends while meeting the desired leadership development needs of the selected program participants. The 2017-2019 class is designed as a 22-month program, beginning in August, that includes six in-state institutes, a national institute, and an optional week-long international experience in Costa Rica. The curriculum, a total of 30 days, is designed with a variety of interactive sessions, including personality inventories, media training and team building, all focusing on professional leadership development.

External experiences that expand participants' industry networks are interwoven throughout the curriculum, which incorporates on-site experiences, small group discussions, guest speakers, expert panels, simulations, tours, and reflection. Sessions are designed to allow participants the opportunity to interact with private business leaders, government leaders, state and federal agency personnel, and university faculty and staff.

2017-2019 Participants

Jessie Bland

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jessie.turk@gmail.com



Occupation:

Project Coordinator,
Georgia Peanut Commission

Education:

B.S.A. (Animal Science), University of Georgia; M.S.
(Agricultural Communications), Oklahoma State University

Leadership Activities:

Coordinator, Southern Peanut Farmers Federation's Peanut Leadership Academy; Member, American Agricultural Editors' Association; Member, National Agri-Marketing Association; Public Affairs and Communications Committee Member, University of Georgia CAES Alumni Association; Member, Georgia Cattlemen's Association; Member, Georgia Farm Bureau; Agriscience judge & volunteer, Georgia Governor's Honors Program; Member, Georgia Peanut Tour Committee; Co-Coordinator, Georgia Peanut Farm Show & Conference

Leadership Inspiration:

"The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails."

– John Maxwell

Jarrold Creasy

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Statesboro, GA 30459
803-646-2552
920cattle@gmail.com



Occupation:

Farmer and Owner,
920 Cattle & Company, LLC

Education:

Degree (Animal and Soil Science),
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Leadership Activities:

Director of Advertising, Southeastern Peanut Farmer; Member, Georgia Cattlemen's Association; Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmer Program; Past State Vice President, Georgia FFA; Georgia Club Calf Producers Association; American FFA Degree Recipient, National FFA Organization; Southeast Fruit and Vegetable

Leadership Inspiration:

"There is always a storm. There is always rain. Some experience it. Some live through it. And others are made from it."

– Shannon L. Alder

Kirk Dawkins

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Lavonia, GA 30553
706-491-2747
kirk.dawkins@pilgrims.com



Occupation:

Hatchery Manager, Pilgrim's Pride

Education:

Diploma, Franklin County High School

Leadership Activities:

Head Deacon, Anchor Church; Little League Coach,
Franklin County Recreation Department

Leadership Inspiration:

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way."

– John Maxwell

Lauren Dees

700 Adams Street
Vidalia, GA 30474
912-682-6399
ldees@generationfarms.com

**Occupation:**

Marketing Manager, Generation Farms

Education:

B.S.A. (Agricultural Communication), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Sigma Alpha, AG Hill Council, CAES Ambassador, University of Georgia; Former Vice President of East Georgia CAES alumni chapter; State YMCA of Georgia Alumni; 2017 Vidalia Onion Recipe Contest Grand Champion

Leadership Inspiration:

"Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody."

– Kid President

Katie Duvall

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Buckhead, GA 30625
706-248-2618
kngazda@gfb.org

**Occupation:**

Executive Director, Georgia Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture

Education:

B.S.A. (Agricultural Communication), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Graduate, Georgia Farm Bureau High Potential Leadership Program; Member, Georgia Farm Bureau Youth Outreach Committee; Member, American Angus Association and American Angus Auxiliary; Founding Member, Georgia Cattlemen's Association Young Cattlemen's Council UGA CAES Alumni Committee (Public Affairs & Communications)

Leadership Inspiration:

"O, do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks!"

– Phillips Brooks

Philip Gentry

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Elko, GA 31025
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pgentry@gnfa.com

**Occupation:**

Agriculture and Youth Director, Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter

Education:

B.S.A. (Agricultural Education), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Owner/Operator, Rising G Cattle; Member, First Baptist Church Perry; Member, Houston County Young Farmers; Excellence in Agriculture, Georgia Farm Bureau; Volunteer, Houston County 4-H; Outstanding Young Teacher, Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association; Most First Year Steer Exhibitors

Leadership Inspiration:

"There are three types of people in the world: those that watch things happen, those that make things happen and those that wonder what happened. Which one are you?"

– Argene Claxton

Grant Harvey

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gharvey@thelangdalecompany.com

**Occupation:**

Director of Woodlands,
The Langdale Company

Education:

B.S.F.R. (Forest Resources), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Past Chairperson, University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Young Alumni Committee; Member, Georgia Forestry Association; Member, Georgia Forestry Association Emerging Leaders program; American Tree Farm System Inspector; Member, Flatwoods Chapter, Society of American Foresters; Speaker, Natural Resource Conservation Workshop Career Night; Loan Executive, NEGA United Way; Volunteer, FFA; Speaker, Natural Resource Conservation Workshop; Leadership Team, Shoreline Church in Valdosta; GFA Tax Task Force

Leadership Inspiration:

"Don't find fault, find a remedy; anybody can complain."

– Henry Ford

Cindy Haygood

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Carrollton, GA 30125
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Cindy.Haygood@ga.usda.gov

**Occupation:**

Conservationist, U.S. Department
of Agriculture Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)

Education:

B.S. (Animal Science/Biology), Berry College

Leadership Activities:

Media Team, Cedartown Second Baptist Church; NRCS
DiSC Facilitator; NRCS Mentor; Past President, Berry
College Agriculture Alumni Association; West Region
Coordinator, Georgia Envirothon; Chairman, Georgia
NRCS Civil Rights Advisory Committee; Former Executive
Director, Rolling Hills Resource Conservation and
Development Council; Past President, Georgia Urban
Forest Council; USDA AmeriCorps Program Manager; Berry
College Career Advisory Board; Founding member and
Advisor, Georgia Agricultural Land Trust

Leadership Inspiration:

*"A good leader is a person who takes a little more than
his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the
credit."*

– John Maxwell

Jon Jackson

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Milledgeville, GA 31061
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Jon@stagvetsinc.org

**Occupation:**

Executive Director, STAG VETS INC

Education:

Diploma, Plainfield High School

Leadership Activities:

US Army Airborne Ranger, Bronze Star Recipient; TEDx Talk
(Emory University), Agro-therapy

Leadership Inspiration:

*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where
there is no path and leave a trail."*

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Tamara Jones

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Decatur, GA 30030
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**Occupation:**

Executive Director, Southeastern African
American Farmers' Organic Network

Education:

B.A. (Political Science), Long Island University;
M.A. (Political Science), Yale University

Leadership Activities:

Past Board Member, Greater Atlanta Chapter, Social
Enterprise Alliance; Past Board Chairperson, Common
Market Georgia

Leadership Inspiration:

*"If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big
enough."*

– Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Tim Lowrimore

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Macon, GA 31210
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**Occupation:**

Public Affairs Manager, Interfor

Education:

B.S.F.R. (Forest Resources), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Fellow, Society of American Foresters; Past Chairman,
Local, State and Southeast Region, Society of American
Foresters; Chairman and Trustee, Georgia Forestry
Foundation; Board of Directors, Georgia Forestry
Association; Past Advisory Board Member, The Salvation
Army Central Georgia; Past Member, University of Georgia
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni
Steering and Dean's Advisory Committees

Leadership Inspiration:

*"Each person's destiny is not a matter of chance; it's a
matter of choice. It's determined by what we say, what
we do, and whom we trust."*

– S. Truett Cathy

Garrett Mack

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Decatur, GA 30033
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**Occupation:**

Portfolio Analyst, Forest Investment Associates

Education:

B.S.F.R. (Forest Resources), University of Georgia; M.F.R. (Forest Resources), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Chair, University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Young Alumni Committee; Past Chair, Georgia Forestry Association Emerging Leaders program; Secretary/Treasurer, Chattahoochee Chapter, Society of American Foresters; Member, Georgia Forestry Association Annual Conference Committee; Member and Team Volunteer, Christ Covenant Buckhead

Leadership Inspiration:

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."
– John F. Kennedy

Eliza McCall

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Valdosta, Georgia 31602
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emccall@feedingsga.org

**Occupation:**

Chief Marketing Officer, Second Harvest of South Georgia

Education:

BBA (Marketing), Valdosta State University
MBA (Marketing), Georgia State University

Leadership Activities:

Board Member, Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential; Former Board President, Turner Center for the Arts Guild; Lowndes Associated Ministries to People, Former Board President; VSU Alumni Association, Former Board Vice President

Leadership Inspiration:

"Leadership is service, not position."

– Unknown

Dewey Newton

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Statesboro, GA 30458
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dnewton@agsouthfc.com

**Occupation:**

Vice President of Corporate Lending, AgSouth Farm Credit

Education:

B.B.A. (Finance and Real Estate), Georgia Southern University

Leadership Activities:

President, Ogeechee Technical College Foundation; Past President, Joseph's Home for Boys; Past Member, Leadership GBA (Georgia Bankers Association) Executive Committee; Past Chairman, Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee; Director, Exchange Club Family Skills Center; Director, Rotary Club of Statesboro; Graduate, Georgia Banking School; Graduate, Southeastern Agricultural Leaders School (SEALS); Agribusiness Leader of the Year, Effingham County; Past Member, Jenkins County Chamber Ag Committee; Former Recreation Volunteer Coach, Bulloch County; Former Treasurer, Statesboro Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter

Leadership Inspiration:

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal."

– Henry Ford

Jeremy Oxford

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LaGrange, GA 30240
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joxford27@yahoo.com

**Occupation:**

Horticulturist, Hills and Dales Estate

Education:

B.S.A. (Horticulture), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Board of Directors, Georgia Green Industry Association; Resource Family, Safe Families for Children; Coordinator, Financial Peace University, FBC Lagrange

Leadership Inspiration:

"Have the courage to do the right thing, the right way, at the right time."

– Dave Ramsey

Jeff Paul

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**Occupation:**

Director of Member Services,
Walton EMC

Education:

B.S.A.E. (Agricultural Engineering), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Vice chair, Oglethorpe County Board of Education;
President, Oglethorpe County Chamber of Commerce;
Chairman, Board of Deacons, Salem Baptist Church;
Greene County Chamber of Commerce Leader in
Education, 2003; Honorary Chapter, State, and American
Degrees; National FFA Organization; Coach, little league
baseball, soccer and softball

Leadership Inspiration:

"Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best that you are capable of becoming."

– John Wooden

Ross Pritchett

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Roswell, GA 30075
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pritchett@tirllc.com

**Occupation:**

Investment Forester, Timberland
Investment Resources, LLC

Education:

B.S.F.R. (Forest Resources), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Outreach Committee Co-chairman, Georgia Sustainable
Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee; Member,
Georgia Forestry Association; Member, Chattahoochee
Chapter, Society of American Foresters; Past Activities
Officer, Alpha Gamma Rho; Volunteer, Georgia Forestry
Foundation/Chattahoochee Nature Center

Leadership Inspiration:

"After all, if you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much space."

– Jim Whittaker

Adam Pugh

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Griffin, GA 30224
770-633-4105
adam@therockranch.com

**Occupation:**

Senior Director of Operations and
Marketing, The Rock Ranch

Education:

B.A. (Communication, with Public Relations Concentration),
Berry College

Leadership Activities:

Coach, Little League Baseball; Board of Deacons, Adult
Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader and Praise Band
Member, First Baptist Church Griffin; Mentor/Servant,
Chrysalis and Walk to Emmaus Camps; Coach, Upward
Basketball; Member, Presenter, Tour Guide and Event
Planner, North American Farmers' Direct Marketing
Association; Event Coordinator, Steve and Marjorie Harvey
Foundation Boys National Mentoring Camp; 2016 Friend
of Education Award, Monroe County Schools; Graduate,
Georgia Academy for Economic Development; Board of
Directors, Upson County Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Inspiration:

"A life isn't important except in the influence it has on other lives."

– Jackie Robinson

Zack Purvis

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Perry, GA 31069
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**Occupation:**

Executive Vice President and Chief
Lending Officer, AgGeorgia Farm Credit

Education:

B.B.A. (Finance), University of Georgia; M.B.A. (Business
Administration), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Alumnus, Wharton Leadership; Past Member, National
Chicken Council Marketing Committee; Member, Atlanta
Society of Finance and Investment Professionals

Leadership Inspiration:

"Leaders don't create followers, they create more leaders."

– Tom Peters

Melissa Riley

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**Occupation:**

Area Horticulture Teacher, Central
Region Agriculture Education

Education:

B.S. (Agricultural Education), Fort Valley State University;
M.S. (Agricultural Education), Oklahoma State University

Leadership Activities:

Executive Secretary, Georgia Vocational Agriculture
Teachers Association (GVATA); National Floriculture
Career Development Event Superintendent, National
FFA Organization; Past Systemwide Teacher of the Year,
Houston County Schools; Past Outstanding Young Member
and Past Outstanding Agriculture Education Program,
GVATA

Leadership Inspiration:

*"Leaders become great not because of their power, but
because of their ability to empower others."*

– John Maxwell

Ben Salter

85 WC Carpenter Road
Tifton, GA 31794
229-392-1715
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**Occupation:**

Nursery Manager and Farmer, Lewis
Taylor Farms, LTF Greenhouses

Education:

B.S.A. (Agriscience and Environmental Systems),
University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Organizer and Co-owner, Local CSA Springhill Fresh;
Member, Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association;
Partner, Syngenta's Full Count Plant Program; Member,
Georgia Watermelon Association; Past President, University
of Georgia Agronomy Club

Leadership Inspiration:

"Progress, not perfection."

– Unknown

Lindy Savelle

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Camilla, GA 31730
850-830-2644
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**Occupation:**

CEO and Partner, 1 DOG Ventures
and LP/Jonina Farms

Education:

B.B.A. (Business Administration), Valdosta State University;
M.B.A. (Business Administration), University of West Florida;
M.P.P. (Public Policy), Georgetown University

Leadership Activities:

Regional Director of Investigations, International Contract
Corruption Task Force, Baghdad, Iraq; Special Agent
in Charge, International Contract Corruption Task
Force, Kabul, Afghanistan; President & Board Member,
Georgia Citrus Association; Board of Directors, Glenlake
Subdivision; Basketball Coach & High School Referee;
Rotary Club Featured Speaker; Citrus Speaker - Georgia
Farm Monitor; Featured Leadership Speaker & Trainer

Leadership Inspiration:

"There are leaders and there are those of us who lead."

– Simon Sinek

Brittany Saylor

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Tifton, GA 31794
229-224-3095
brittanysmithsaylor@gmail.com

**Occupation:**

Technical Sales Specialist, SePRO

Education:

B.S.A. (Agricultural Education), University of Georgia;
M.P.P.P.M. (Plant Protection and Pest Management),
University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Youth Leader at Liberty Baptist Church, Tifton; CAES
Ambassador, University of Georgia (2011-2012); Georgia
Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Team Member;
Fellowship Committee Director, Liberty Baptist Church;
Georgia Young Farmer Member; Georgia FFA Alumni Member

Leadership Inspiration:

*"Good enough isn't good enough if it can be better. Better
isn't good enough if it can be best."*

– Rick Rigsby

Carlton Self

4373 Plantation Crest Road
Valdosta, GA 31602
319-883-6686
SelfCarltonD@JohnDeere.com

**Occupation:**

Territory Manager, John Deere

Education:

B.S. (Political Science/Agriculture), University of Georgia;
M.A.L. (Agricultural Leadership), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Past Cedar Valley Committee, United Way; Alumnus, John Deere Through Their Eyes; Cropping Systems Lead, Specialty Crops and Cotton; Past Philanthropy Chair and Past Vice Noble Ruler of Alumni Relations, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity; Past Philanthropy Committee Chair, University of Georgia CAES Student Connections Committee; Precision Agricultural Technologies and Crop Care SME

Leadership Inspiration:

"Effort and courage are not enough without purpose and direction."

– John F. Kennedy

Michael Westbrook

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Statesboro, GA 30461
205-861-6498
mwestbrook@westervelt.com

**Occupation:**

Atlantic Region Manager, The Westervelt Company

Education:

B.S.F.R. (Forestry) (Wildlife), University of Georgia;
M.S. (Forest Resources), University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

SAF Chair, Savannah; Warnell Young Alumni Chair; Participant in GFA Emerging Leaders Group; Wednesday night Royal Ambassador Leader; TeamKid Leader; Sunday School teacher, Statesboro First Baptist; Boy Scout Leader; Warnell compass Program Mentor

Leadership Inspiration:

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

– James 4:10

Program Director

Lauren Griffeth

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Athens, Georgia 30602
lauren1@uga.edu
706.542.4753

**Occupation:**

Director, Advancing Georgia's Leaders in Agriculture and Forestry

Education:

B.S.A. (Agriculture), University of Georgia
Interdisciplinary Certificate of Leadership and Service, University of Georgia
M.Ed. (Education), University of Georgia
Ph.D. (Adult Education), University of Georgia
Interdisciplinary Certificate of Qualitative Research, Certificate of Human Resources and Organizational Development, University of Georgia

Leadership Activities:

Leadership Specialist, Cooperative Extension; Treasurer, University Woman's Club; Executive Committee, Georgia 4-H Foundation Gala; Alumna, Leadership Oconee; Past Trustee, Georgia 4-H Foundation

Leadership Inspiration:

"Do not wait on a leader, look in the mirror ... it is you!"

– Katherine Miracle

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For more information, please contact:

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