

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

July 1, 2018

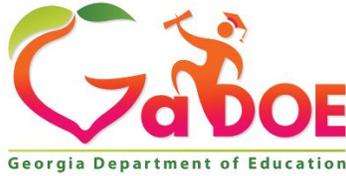
Dear Georgia Agriculture Educators,

Much has been accomplished for agriculture education under the leadership of Mr. Chip Bridges. I certainly wish him well with his decision to return to the classroom in Lumpkin County. As you well know, the greatest impact on students is made in the classroom. There is much excitement among former students of Mr. Bridges' return.

Many accomplishments have also been made in the South region under the leadership of Mr. Ira Tucker. When I attended Area VI Region FFA Banquet this spring, I was most impressed with the outstanding work that is taking place in South Georgia and how many students were recognized in a short time period at the banquet due to the organization of the event. Little did I know at that time that Mr. Tucker would be vacating the South Region Coordinator position to go to Wilcox County as the Young Farmer Teacher. I am confident that he will serve the Young Farmers well there and a big plus of this decision is that he will be able to spend more time with his family.

I want to inform you of my plans as we move forward with the replacement of Mr. Bridges, Agricultural Education Program Manager and Mr. Tucker, South Region Ag Coordinator. I want to get the new program manager in place as soon as possible, but I will not want to act in haste, as I know you will want the best possible person in this position to serve as our ag leader. I want this process to be as smooth as possible and our existing State Ag Staff is committed to providing outstanding service to our local systems during this time. Below is my plan:

- The program manager position was posted on June 18, 2018 for 2 weeks. The deadline for applications is July 2, 2018. <http://www.gadoe.org/Finance-and-Business-Operations/Human-Resources/Pages/JobDetails.aspx?Jid=810>
 - Human Resources will begin screening applications soon after July 2, 2018.
 - At GVATA on July 9, 2018, I hope that I will be able to share with you how many applications were received.
 - Over the next few weeks, I will assemble an interview team.
 - Due to vacation and numerous conferences in July, I plan to conduct interviews early August and have the Ag Program Manager in place by September 2018.
- The South Region Coordinator Position will be reposted this coming week for 2 weeks. The new program manager will take the lead on the hiring of this position and the new person should be in place by October 2018.



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- A new state position for Young Farmer will soon be posted for 2 weeks. The new program manager will also take the lead in the hiring of this position and this position could also be filled by October 2018.
- Chris Corzine, Central Region Coordinator, will assume the duties and responsibilities of the Agricultural Education Program Manager until September 2018. He will be working from the Atlanta office on Monday's and other days to be determined.
- Shawn Collins, South Region Forestry/Environmental Science Area Teacher, will assume the duties and responsibilities of the South Region Coordinator until October 2018.
- Stan Mitchell, North Region Coordinator, and Ben Lastly, State FFA Executive Secretary, are ready to serve and assist as needed.

If you have any questions about this information or any other ag related topics, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please know that I am on annual leave July 2-July 8, 2018 and will have no e-mail or cell phone availability during this time. If you want to send me e-mails or texts during this time, go ahead but know that it will be after July 8 before I will be able to respond.

I look forward to seeing you on July 9 at GVATA in Gainesville. I will be headed to GAEL conference the afternoon of July 9 for speaking engagements and plan to be back in the office on July 12. GACTE conference is July 15-17 and is in Athens this year. The July state board of education meeting is July 18 & 19. I want you to be aware of these July events, so if I am not able to get back with you promptly you will understand.

Georgia Agricultural Education is 2nd to none and I plan to keep it that way!

Sincerely,

Barbara M. Wall

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