



2018-2019 GVATA Executive Board

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GVATA Update

October 2018

President's Message

"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of men."
- George Washington

As I hurry to write my October update before November gets here, I reflect on the whirlwind this month has truly been. From the Georgia National Fair to National FFA Convention, ag teachers have (stating the obvious) been busy. Those busy schedules, however, mean you're giving your students experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. Many of you have also witnessed your students succeed in big ways, and your programs have received well deserved recognition. I commend you all on the hard work and dedication you continue to give each and every day.

On top of everything else this month, Hurricane Michael brought forth unfathomable damage to our little corner of Georgia. I know the extent of devastation stretches across the state, and we will be feeling its effect for years to come. I am thankful that all of our GVATA members were safe, but a few did incur some damage to their homes. I have been moved by the outpouring of support and know that many of you have coordinated relief efforts with your FFA and Young Farmer chapters. Please continue to pray for these farmers and communities that were affected.

Last week, the House Rural Development Committee met in Brunswick to discuss the potential move of CTAE to TCSG. Thank you to Joel McKie and the PRC for representing us well at that meeting. I hope you took time to read his update and watch some of the presentation that was given. If not, I urge you to do so. We will continue to monitor the situation and will know more once the committee's final report is given in December. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to a board member or your area PRC representative (Area 1 - Michael Gardner, Area 2 - Skyler Davis, Area 3 - Jessica Bowden, Area 4 - Beth Galloway, Area 5 - Bert Bodiford, Area 6 - Chad Crews, Chairman - Reggie Beasley, Chairman Elect - Daryl Baxley)

During the coming weeks and after elections, I ask that you reach out to your local legislators. Take the time to showcase your programs and invite them to see the hard work that each of you are doing on a daily basis. Have your students write letters of appreciation, send newsletters, or attend a local ag appreciation event. Do not wait until the legislative session begins to reach out. We want to continue to build strong relationships with our legislators across the state to ensure a successful future for our programs.

The NAAE Convention will be held November 27- December 1 in San Antonio, and we look forward to a great time networking with ag teachers from across the country and highlighting all the wonderful things we're doing in Georgia. We have numerous teachers attending, serving as delegates, presenting workshops, and receiving awards.

Our bi-annual newsletter will be coming out next month. Please read through it to find important information about Mid-Winter Conference and upcoming items of business. If you would like to serve on a tactical plan committee or have ideas for a breakout session, please reach out to your Area Director.

As always, I am proud to be a part of Georgia Agricultural Education and GVATA.