

Chicken Wire

Remember to get out to vote on November 4, 2014!

VOTE 2014 **November Elections Pose Distinct Choices for Poultry Growers**

With the 2014 Elections just around the corner, poultry growers have an opportunity to make their voices heard by showing up at the polls. With this being a midterm election, many voters just stay home without the presidential race to motivate them to the ballot box. But other races are equally important and deserve the attention of growers. Even in a Red State like Georgia, voter turnout can make the difference in a tight general election race. With Libertarian candidates on the ballot, it's even conceivable that no candidate, D or R, exceeds the requisite 50% to win, thus forcing a runoff over the holidays. No one wants to see that, so showing up at the polls on election day is very



United States Senate
David Perdue (R) v. Michelle Nunn (D)



Georgia Governor
Jason Carter (D) v. Nathan Deal (R-I)



Agriculture Commissioner
Chris Irvin (D) v. Gary Black (R-I)

important this year. UPGA recaps some of the most important statewide races growers should focus on. Hotly contested races include an open U.S. Senate seat and newly energized efforts by Democrats to unseat Republican incumbents for Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture.

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Immigration Reform Embroiled in Politics

Despite earlier statements by President Barack Obama, the latest indications are he will not seek the use of executive order to address the immigration crisis. Not yet at least. The President told news outlets in earlier September he would wait until after November's midterm elections to take any action. Republicans immediately cried foul saying the President was further politicizing the issue. U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell released a statement saying:

'What's so cynical about today's immigration announcement is that the President isn't saying he'll follow the law-he's just saying he'll go around the law once it's too late for Americans to hold his party accountable in the November elections.'

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Message from UPGA President Lucius Adkins

As the heat of summer begins to wane, we are faced with another wave of figurative hot air, in the form of political messages coming across the air waves and print media. For most of us, this is not our first rodeo in the political environment and we know elections bring with them the best and the worst in terms of campaign messages.

Having been elected to numerous private and public posts myself, I have a certain amount of empathy for what the candidates must endure. However, it doesn't make it any more palatable when you are served with some of the most egregious advertisements you are expected to swallow.

Instead of tuning it all out and just tending to the farm, I want to encourage you to take a different tack. Get involved, learn the truth and make your own informed decisions. I know it's tempting to just shake your head and mutter "It's just politics"

when you hear the latest accusation or allegation hurled by a candidate, but instead I'd urge you to dig a little deeper.

Do your own research and do it using credible, third party information sources, not campaign websites. More importantly, talk to other farmers and business people and listen to debates when your organization or local civic club features political candidates that can and will affect your livelihood. We do this at UPGA and through our sister organizations like Georgia Farm Bureau. And you know what? I have learned some things about the various candidates mentioned in this very publication you are reading that have solidified my position on which candidates will be best for my business, my family and my state and country. I hope you will do the same as Election Day approaches.

Sincerely,
Lucius Adkins
President, United Poultry Growers Association

Go Online to get The Latest News from UPGA: www.unitedpoultrygrowers.com

P.O. Box 71087
Albany, Georgia 31708




UPGA Annual Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2014
12:00 PM

Three Board member positions will be elected by director's ballot at the annual meeting. Current Board members, Joey Ammons, Lawrence Shadix, and Victor Nguyen have been nominated to fill the three expiring three-year terms.

Phone: 229-439-0361
Email: upga@unitedpoultrygrowers.com
Web: unitedpoultrygrowers.com

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**U.S. Senate Race
David Perdue (R) v. Michelle Nunn (D)**

U.S. Senate candidates Michelle Nunn and David Perdue have been battling it out over the airwaves recently, but UPGA leadership has had some opportunities to get to know the real candidates in person. The two are seeking to replace longtime agriculture leader Senator Saxby Chambliss(R-GA).



Republican Perdue told an Albany meeting of agriculture leaders his top priority was seeking a seat on the Senate Agriculture Committee. He expressed support for continued research in biotechnology crops, immigration reform, including streamlining the H-2A program and a general theme of fiscal conservatism, especially relating to federal spending and the national debt. Perdue also articulated a strong resistance to federal overreach through regulation, citing EPA's harsh impacts on energy (coal) and private property rights (EPA's waters of the U.S. rule) and impacts on his own successful agricultural export business.



Democrat Nunn continues to promote a theme of working across party lines in Washington. She has expressed softer rhetoric on the need for action on immigration, saying her plan would include giving people a pathway to citizenship that requires them to learn English and subjects them to background checks. She has touted her family's rural roots in Middle Georgia, much like Perdue's. Nunn has told farm leaders she wants to support young farmers and ensure they have access to land and capital.

**Georgia Governor Race
Jason Carter (D) v. Nathan Deal (R-Incumbent)**



Youthful state Democrat senator Jason Carter has decided to take on Republican incumbent, Governor Nathan Deal, using an education based platform. Carter is the grandson of former Georgia Governor and President Jimmy Carter(D). Carter claims he can add \$1 billion in spending for Education by cutting a "giant amount of waste," yet

no specifics on where that "waste" would come from have been revealed.



Governor Deal continues to tout the state's remarkable economic progress during his tenure, including Georgia being named the number one state in the nation to do business. His campaign continually reminds voters he has budgeted conservatively, downsized state government, implemented tax reforms and created nearly 300,000 private-sector jobs as Georgia rebounded from the Great Recession.

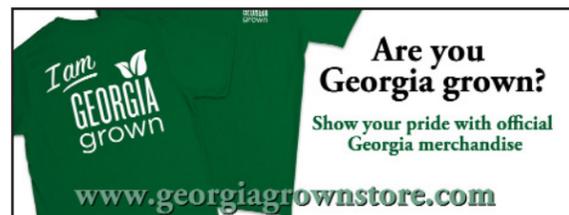
**Agriculture Commissioner Race
Chris Irvin (D) v. Gary Black (R - Incumbent)**



Another grandson making a political run this election cycle is Democrat Chris Irvin. The grandson of longtime Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin(D), the young Irvin hopes to convince voters he'd make an agriculture leader like granddad. He has put a focus on Agritourism and has laid out his own three point plan to enhance the activity in the state.



Incumbent Republican Gary Black has already been widely credited with revamping an out of date and inefficient department over his first term. The Commissioner has a "Focus on Strong Farms" and the "Keep Georgia Growing" programs as priority initiatives. He reminds voters that "Agriculture contributes more than \$77 billion to our state's economy, and "Strong Farms" are the bedrock of this success." He says he remains committed to continuing the expansion of business development across every sector of the industry. He will continue the expansion of Georgia Grown initiatives, and increase agricultural trade across the U.S. and globally. ♦



Perdue Takes Antibiotics Out of the Hatchery

Salisbury, Md. (Wednesday, September 3, 2014) - Perdue Foods announces that it has removed all antibiotics from its chicken hatcheries, another step in setting a standard that defines the responsible use of antibiotics in poultry production. Perdue does not use antibiotics for growth promotion in its chicken production, and has not since 2007. The company does use an animal-only antibiotic to control an intestinal parasite, and will use antibiotics to treat and control illness in sick flocks.

"By no longer using any antibiotics in our hatcheries or any human antibiotics in feed, we've reached the point where 95 percent of our chickens never receive any human antibiotics, and the remainder receive them only for a few days when prescribed by a veterinarian," said Dr. Bruce Stewart-Brown, Senior Vice President of Food Safety, Quality and Live Operations for Perdue Foods.

Eliminating use in the hatchery has taken five years to fully implement, and is the latest stage of a 12-year evolution in the company's approach to antibiotic use. No antibiotics in the hatchery exceeds the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) voluntary guidelines for antibiotic use in food animals, as well as the standards of the USDA Organic certification program.

"This very limited use of antibiotics is more restrictive than the new FDA Guidelines announced last December. We have yet to read any proposed legislation that we are not compliant with, and in fact, have been since 2008," said Stewart-Brown.

Go online to see more of this story and other related stories. ♦

 http://www.perduefarms.com/News_Room/

Clean Water Information-Get AWARE

Take advantage of a wealth of information on your rights and responsibilities when it comes to managing waters on your farm. Animal Waste Awareness in Research and Extension -AWARE - is a program designed to keep you in the know. AWARE is a collaborative effort of The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and others. Those involved in AWARE include: scientists, educators, agricultural professionals, farmers, universities (UGA and others), federal agencies, agricultural associations, and businesses.

AWARE team members are experts in a variety of areas related to animal waste management, environmental regulations, agricultural economics, crop and soil science, water quality and agricultural pollution prevention. Go online to find out the latest on meetings, information products and ongoing studies to help famers protect their water quality. ♦

 <http://agp2.org/aware/>

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Meanwhile, pro farm groups have been doing a little campaigning themselves, developing ads and public relations efforts to encourage politicians to move forward. The Partnership for a New American Economy and the American Farm Bureau Federation are leading such advertising advocacy efforts.

The group's ads star Texas farmer Bernie Thiel, who has had to destroy some of his own crops for two consecutive years due to nonexistent labor force.

"A farmer should never have to destroy a crop due to the lack of an adequate labor force," American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman was quoted as saying. "If that situation doesn't illustrate the clear need for agricultural labor reform, I'm not sure what will, he said." ♦