Comments and Questions from Ag Commodity Groups

Comments received

GPC – Georgia Peanut Commission
GCC – Georgia Cotton Commission
GEC – Georgia Equine Commission
GCA – Georgia Cattleman’s Association
GFVA – Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Association
GGIA – Georgia Green Industry Association
GPF – Georgia Poultry Federation

Awaiting Comments

Ga Milk Commission
Ga Farm Bureau
MALTA

Regarding Agents

Agents should be able to work across county lines. (GPC)

Can we work more closely with consultants? (GCC)

Find ways for agents to cover more than one county. (GCC)

What do counties pay? Why can’t counties pay all of agent’s salaries, freeing up money for specialist teams? (GPC)

If we use multi-county agents, they can’t be experts in everything, just keep them connected to the specialists. (GCA)

Like the forage team model, but may not work for everything. (GCA)

Industry would be willing to support an agent or other things. Would do what we have to, to keep key people in place. (GFVA)

Would rather share an agent rather than not have one at all. (GFVA)

Get out of counties where ag doesn’t exist (the metro). Some counties need 4-H only, pull ag agents out. (GFVA)

Livestock agents in north Georgia can cover more than one county. (GFVA)
Most residents in our county don’t have a clue who Extension is when I refer them to the county agent. (GGIA)

I work primarily with homeowners and the information provided to them is almost always wrong. Agents are not well educated on pest management issues for homeowners. (GGIA)

The county extension agent system can be eliminated. Most of the information provided in on the internet or provided by industry reps. (GGIA)

Need more agents – have an agent in every county (GGIA)

Giving agents more than one county would be very ineffective. In the city of Atlanta, there are literally millions of citizens relying on a handful of agents. (GGIA)

Agents outdated and often confusing recommendations are certain to create failures for most gardeners. (GGIA)

Ext. agents are spread too thin right now. They need our support. (GGIA)

County agents are critical facilitators and links to UGA. Needed for nutrient management, pesticide licenses, food safety issues, animal welfare, environment, cost and returns, interaction with environmental groups, nuisance complaints (GPF)

Need help with energy efficiency, biggest wildcard in future profitability (GPF)

Regional agents can work, forage team concept can work (GPF)

**Regarding Specialists**

Why can’t specialists be shared across state lines? (GPC)

Are new specialists going to be hired on 9-month appointments? (GPC)

Agents are very important, but specialists are critical. (GCC)

Should provide graduate students for specialists. (GCC)

No one wants to lose agents, but can we shore up our specialist ranks? (GFVA)

Agent is extremely important, but need specialists too. (GFVA)

As long as you (UGA) can maintain travel and operating support, we could support specialist. (GFVA)

Adding additional crops waters a specialist down to the point that he/she is less effective. If you keep asking them to take on more, you’re going to run them off. (GFVA)

Greatly value agents, but not at the expense of specialists (GPF)
**About Administrative Structure**

You have fewer Indians – When are you going to have fewer Chiefs? Why so many layers in your structure? Why do we have an Asst. Dean for Diversity? (GPC)

What about research and teaching, are they downsizing too? (GPC)

**Fees/fund raising**

Take a good look at fees, may to have to go to pay-as-you-go system. (GCA)

Several have kids in 4-H and see it as a bargain compared to other activities (sports, cheerleading, band, etc.) So maybe you need to charge more. (GCA)

May have to charge for services to get through tough times. (GFVA)

Would rather support a person than pay for each individual service. (GFVA)

Do you have a plan to raise funds? Athletics and alumni raise money, what about CAES? Talk to political candidates to see where they stand on ag issues. Work with Democratic and Republican candidates for governor. (GFVA)

We can help raise money if we need to. Would rather give money to ag than football. (GFVA)

If private industry is not willing to support an Extension initiative then that speaks volumes. Get out of it! (GGIA)

**Other**

County level meetings are of value, but not essential. Use technology to deliver information. (GCC)

Will support regional meetings. Growers will get used to it. Use technology, like webinars. (GCA)

Take your time and do this right. Do what you have to do, just be fair. (GCA)

Don’t close Research and Education Centers, this is where new information comes from. (GCA)

Gold Kist analogy – stores that adapted to urbanization survived others didn’t – adapt! (GEC)

When rehires expire, can money be used elsewhere? (GFVA)

We all need each other. (GFVA)

Diverse customer base. Retail vs. Industrial. Maybe there are some retail duties that we can’t afford to cover anymore. Support commercial agriculture! (GFVA)
Promote the ag part of Extension more. (GGIA)

We have to use our money smarter, Extension should too. (GGIA)

Unfortunately, you can’t bring Walter Reeves back, he personifies the value of Extension to all Georgians. (GGIA)

Serve the commodities by the size of their economic value. (GGIA)

For too long, it seems that the ag community and especially CAES have taken a backseat to other interests at UGA. (GGIA)

Please don’t let CES (in Georgia) go the way it has in other states, where it barely exists. (GGIA)

Without agents and specialists, I could not have even started a nursery, much less have lasted for 30 years. (GGIA)

About the last straw! I will definitely be changing my will not to include UGA because of lack of administrative support for agriculture. (GGIA)

CES is a better use of our tax money than other wasteful spending, like nice cars for administrators (GGIA)

Use web-based interaction and pay per phone call as a business model, otherwise, save our tax money (GGIA)

CES is impacting all of us, but the message is not getting out. Walter Reeves is the only one doing that. (GGIA)

CE had aged itself out of the current trends in gardening. (GGIA)

Don’t change anything. Everything is great! (GGIA)