USE OF MEETING ROOMS

1. Auditoriums and conference rooms are provided at each of the locations within the Agricultural Experiment Stations system. These are a part of the necessary working facilities for the conduct of the research activities assigned to the locations. Over the years, many groups other than Station personnel have requested the use of these facilities for meetings and conferences on many topics.

2. The Experiment Station will provide use of its facilities to organizations whose interests and purposes are closely related to the betterment of Georgia’s agriculture. In addition, other units of the University System, cooperating federal agencies, and state agencies or governmental units concerned with higher public education or public information have general access to Experiment Stations’ facilities. All users of Experiment Stations’ meeting rooms are subject to the policies given in Paragraph 6 below.

3. There are certain restrictions and practices which must be observed. Use of Experiment Stations’ facilities implies to the public an approval by the College of the organization using the facility and of the technical content of the meeting. The use of Station facilities to further the commercial interests of profit-making organizations is not deemed to be in the public interest. Programs or meetings to which a selected or general public attendance is invited and which are concerned primarily with the promotion of an interest in or sale of proprietary products, programs, or services to the exclusion of other products, programs, or services will not be permitted. This restriction cannot be altered by having such meetings scheduled or co-sponsored by otherwise eligible groups.

4. This policy does not discourage a free public discussion of the merits of such products or commercial offerings when this is done (a) under the sponsorship of a unit of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (b) when all pertinent proprietary interests are represented, and (c) when the program content is consistent with the research findings and recommendations of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

5. This policy is not intended to restrict the use of Station facilities for membership meetings of agricultural organizations such as the Farm Bureau, Farmer Cooperatives, Commodity or Enterprise groups, and Agricultural Alumni.

6. The University of Georgia has established firm policies to promote equal opportunities for all persons. The Experiment Stations conform to these policies of the University of Georgia and of agencies from which federal funds are received. The policies related to meeting rooms are:

   A. All facilities (e.g. restrooms, dining areas, auditoriums, and seminar rooms) shall be made available on a non-discriminatory basis. For all research-oriented meetings sponsored by the Experiment Stations, attending shall be on a non-discriminatory basis.
B. Groups, associations, and organizations which are furnished assistance by the research unit (i.e. use of the meeting facility) must be informed in writing that such groups cannot receive assistance if they practice discriminatory policies based on color, race, or national origin. The responsible official of the research unit must determine that the groups, associations, or organizations do not practice discrimination.

C. There can be no participation in duplicate or similar sessions for research-oriented events open to the public when such duplication maintains segregation on the basis of race, color or national origin. Announcements of events open to the public must contain the statement that the event is “open without regard to race, color, or national origin.”

7. The following general priority ranking is used in the allocation of meeting facilities:

A. Station personnel for the conduct of activities related to the operation and administration of the Experiment Stations.

B. Related Station activities such as field days, farmer meetings, and conferences planned and presented by Station personnel.

C. Meetings and conferences conducted by other units of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the USDA, or similar agricultural organizations within the normal conduct of their agricultural programs.

D. Membership meetings of agricultural organizations such as the Farm Bureau, farmer cooperatives, commodity groups, and similar organizations.

E. Meetings of other groups for purposes which have been examined by the location Assistant Dean or Superintendent and found to be in the best interest of the Georgia Experiment Stations.

8. Persons in charge of meeting rooms should expect and receive an accurate statement of the planned program prior to making a commitment of the room use. These policies may be supplemented by local regulations prepared by the location Assistant Dean or Superintendent to insure the proper use and care of the physical facilities.