



**GEORGIA
ANGUS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

Spring 2026

2026 Georgia Angus Association Annual Meeting and Banquet

February 7, 2026 | Precise Cattle | Watkinsville, GA

The Georgia Angus Association Annual Meeting and Banquet was held on February 7, 2026, at Precise Cattle. Over 75 Angus breeders and sponsors gathered for a night of fellowship, awards, and fundraising. Attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour full of making new connections and catching up with old friends, followed by a delicious dinner catered by Crowe's BBQ. During the banquet program, the newly elected GAA officers were announced. We are excited to welcome Jason Johns and Kyle Gillooly to the board, along with re-elected director Kyle Potts. The association honored Ian McClure as the *GAA Member of the Year* for his efforts to help revive the association over the last two years and his continued drive to move it forward. New this year, we added the fundraising auction, which included semen lots along with the top half of each month of the GAA calendar. Through the generous support of members and sponsors, the auction raised \$31,000 to support the association in 2026. We are excited about what the year holds for GAA, and we hope you will join us as we continued to promote the Angus breed in Georgia.



These Angus breeders were elected to serve on the Georgia Angus Association board of directors and are pictured at the 2026 Georgia Angus Association Annual Meeting and Banquet, Feb. 7 in Watkinsville, Ga. Pictured from left are Smitty Lamb, Athens, director; Greg Bennett, Cartersville, director; Andrew McPeake, Arnoldsville, vice president; Kyle Potts, Jefferson; Kyle Gillooly, Wadley; and Ian McClure, Watkinsville, president. Photo by David Gazda, American Angus Association. Not pictured are board members Jason Johns, Adel, and Woody Folsom, Baxley.

Ian McClure, Precise Cattle, Watkinsville, Ga., was named Georgia Angus Association Member of the Year at the 2026 Georgia Angus Association Annual Meeting and Banquet, Feb. 7 in Watkinsville, Ga. Pictured from left are Smitty Lamb, presenting; and Ian and Lauren McClure. Photo by David Gazda, American Angus Association.



Thank you to our banquet sponsors!

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Georgia Angus Association
Executive Secretary
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Word on Weeds

Information provided by Corteva Range & Pasture Specialist, Clay Williams

Palmer Amaranth



Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) is a fast-growing warm-season annual in the pigweed family that is an extraordinary seed producer capable of developing populations that are herbicide-resistant. A common foe for row crop farmers, Palmer amaranth can be a bane to cattle producers managing grazing or haying systems, too.

An easy identifier of Palmer amaranth is its' poinsettia-like rosette leaf arrangement when viewed from above. A central stem grows with lateral toothed leaves alternating up the stalk. The stem will grow 2 to 3 inches a day during peak growing season until reaching 3 feet tall; however, in populations that are herbicide-resistant, plants can exceed 6 feet in height and double their seed production.

Female plants can be identified by green, spiny, thorn-like bracts, which are normally located at the base of the petiole and measure up to one-fourth inch in length. Comparatively, males are distinguished by their long, drooping flowering structures. White or whitish-green flowers on male and female plants usually cluster in cylindrical spikes that can reach up to 3 feet in length off the plant's central stem. As a dioecious plant that has male and female flowers growing on different plants, Palmer amaranth can rapidly diversify its genetics and develop traits to help populations thrive, including herbicide resistance after repeated treatments of the same chemical.

The plant produces fruit from the flowers, which separate at the top – typically in late summer through the first killing frost –

Fast facts

- An extraordinary seed producing, summer annual, in the pigweed family that typically produces more than 500,000 seeds per plant – up to double that under ideal conditions
- Over 30 U.S. states face Palmer amaranth populations that are resistant to certain types of herbicides
- Palmer amaranth is high in nitrates and can be toxic to cattle when consumed in high doses.

exposing 500,000 or more black to dark purple one-half-inch diameter seeds.

Germination from seeds typically occurs in warmer seasons when temperatures near the soil surface reach at least 60°F – generally in May or June; however, some parts of the country have seen germination occur as cold as 41°F.

The seeds spread in many ways and, with their hard coating, can remain viable through a variety of environments. Common sources of spread via farm activities include farm equipment and vehicles, contaminated seed and contaminated livestock feed such as cottonseed meal or hay, with up to 30% of the seeds surviving ruminant digestion.

Palmer amaranth is high in nitrates and can be toxic to cattle when consumed in high doses; however, cattle will generally avoid the plant for other favorable forages when available.



An easy identifier of young Palmer amaranth plants is by a poinsettia-like leaf arrangement when viewed from above.

Carolina and Western Horsenettle



Carolina horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*) and western horsenettle (*Solanum dimidiatum*) are toxic weeds known for causing producers heartache (and itchiness).

Carolina and western horsenettle have erect stems with yellow spines, are loosely branched and covered with thorns and gray hairs are responsible for the itchiness one might experience after brushing against the plant with bare skin. The weeds can grow up to 2 feet tall and have leaves that are dark green ovals with pointed tips and are sharply lobed or wavy-toothed.

From May through October, horsenettle will bloom clusters of whiteish-to-purple flowers that produce green berries that turn yellow-orange as they ripen, somewhat resembling a tomato plant – a defining characteristic that prompted a common slang name for the plant, wild tomato or devil's tomato.

Other common names for this toxic nuisance include bull nettle, sand briar, devil's potato, ball-nettle and apple-of-Sodom.

Fast Facts

- Perennial weeds that produce berries that look like small tomatoes
- Commonly referred to by many names, such as bull nettle and devil's tomato
- Contains solanine that is toxic to cattle

The entire plant contains solanine – a toxic glycoalkaloid that affects the gastrointestinal and neurological systems in cattle. Toxicity is highest in the berries and in late summer into fall once plants reach maturity. However, it generally takes high levels of ingestion to cause clinical symptoms in livestock.

In general, cattle will avoid eating horsenettle due to its bitter taste and thorny stems if other favorable forages are present but will consume the plant in overgrazing situations or in stored forages where sorting is difficult.



Range & Pasture Specialist

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New GAA Members

Tammy Biles Hawkins
Biles Farm
Jackson, GA

Breck & Kacie Debnam
Debnam Angus Genetics
Madison, GA

Michael Ewing
E4 Farm LLC
Buford, GA

James "Jay" Thompson
Winky Branch Cattle LLC
Senoia, GA

Justin Gay
J & G Farms
Broxton, GA

Dalton Joiner
DJ Farms
Sparks, GA

Stanley & Judi Lawson
Lawson's Diamond Dollar Genetics
Cleveland, GA

Michael Q Lowder
Redwol Acres
Watkinsville, GA

Eustace Griffin
Griffin Cattle Company
Mershon, GA

Blake Rowland
Wolf Creek Farms
Eastman, GA

Justin Holloman & Stuart Sprewell
Cherokee Hills Land & Cattle
Bowdon, GA

Jamie Hall
Pinegrove Berry LLC
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TWO



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Join the Georgia Junior Angus Association

Our juniors are the future of the Angus business here in Georgia. We are excited to have three new ladies taking the reins of the junior association to advise our youth. Holly Alford, Amber Gilbert, and Macy Taylor will be working together as a team to support the Georgia Junior Angus Association. There are many opportunities to get involved with the junior Angus associations on both the state and national levels. We encourage juniors (age 21 and under) interested in the Angus breed to join the Georgia Junior Angus Association. You can join by using the Google form with the QR code below.

If you have questions regarding the GJAA, you can reach out to the advisors at georgiajunioraa@gmail.com.



National Junior Angus Show
Louisville, KY
July 11-18, 2026
Deadline: May 15

L.E.A.D Conference
Orlando, FL
July 28-31, 2026
Deadline: June 15

Angus Foundation
Scholarships
Deadline: May 1

Georgia National Livestock Show

Angus exhibitors led 32 entries at the 2026 Georgia National Livestock Junior Show, February 20 in Perry, Ga. Jeff Jackson and Lauren Jackson, both of Walnut Springs, Texas, evaluated the entries



Missie 49M won grand champion owned female at the 2026 Georgia National Livestock Junior Show, Feb. 20 in Perry, Ga. Ky Alford, Elberton, Ga., owns the April 2024 daughter of BNWZ Dignity 8017. She also won fourth high breeding heifer overall. Photo by Square One Agri Marketing.



K&J COOR Proven Queen 455 won reserve grand champion owned female at the 2026 Georgia National Livestock Junior Show, Feb. 20 in Perry, Ga. Cate Gilbert, Lula, Ga., owns the March 2025 daughter of BLC/MLA Omega 2258. Photo by Square One Agri Marketing.

2026 Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic Regional Preview Show

Angus exhibitors led 155 entries at the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) Regional Preview Show, March 13-15 in Harrisonburg, Va. Jake Scott, Gordon, Neb., evaluated the entries.



KLCS MK Glorious Nikki won grand champion bred-and-owned female at the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) Regional Preview Show, March 13-15 in Harrisonburg, Va. Keely Shultz, Danielsville, Ga., owns the February 2025 daughter of SCC SCH 24 Karat 838. She earlier won junior calf champion. Photo by Next Level Images.



KLCS MK Mikey won reserve grand champion steer at 2026 Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) Regional Preview Show, March 13-15 in Harrisonburg, Va. Keaton Shultz, Danielsville, Ga., owns the September 2024 son of PVF Blacklist 7077. Photo by Next Level Images.

Raising The Bar *Iowa State University*



Three Georgia Angus juniors attended the Raising the Bar conference in Des Moines, Iowa, held at Iowa State University, April 9-12. Raising the Bar is designed to develop stronger leaders within state associations, foster regional connections, and prepare juniors for the future. Each year, Raising the Bar is held at a different agricultural university. It includes learning about the university, industry tours, and leadership workshops. Pictured from left are Ellie Taylor of Nashville, GA, Emma Patton of Hoschton, GA, and Keaton Shultz of Danielsville, GA.