



Georgia Agribusiness Council County Agent of the Year Award in Ag Economics and Community Development 2026

**Contact:**

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Deadline:

September 18th 2026

Sponsored by:

Georgia Agribusiness Council & GACAA

Purpose:

With over \$74 billion in economic impact every year, agribusiness is Georgia's leading industry. The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension has had a significant impact in getting crucial information out to our communities and agribusinesses to help them continue to grow and have success. The primary way Extension does that is through state specialists and the county agents that deliver the information from the University directly back to their communities. Agents provide workshops, informational sessions, handouts, spreadsheets, and a host of other learning opportunities to their stakeholders. Some go above and beyond to help facilitate such projects as starting farmers markets or fresh produce subscriptions. Going hand in hand with the work and mission of University of Georgia Extension is that of the Georgia Agribusiness Council. "To Advance the Business of Agriculture through Economic Development, Environmental Stewardship and Education to Enhance the Quality of Life for All Georgians." This award will recognize a GACAA member for their excellent work in helping advance agribusinesses and community development efforts through Extension education programming in agriculture economics.

Eligibility:

All members of GACAA, in good standing with the association, with agriculture economic and community development responsibility may be considered for the Award by submitting a written summary of their Extension program as well as a brief description of how they have supported their local agribusinesses and community development. An individual is not eligible if the award has been won in the past 5 years.

Entry and Judging Criteria:

Entry should not exceed four pages and should reflect program activities and accomplishments within the past three years. Judging of the entry will be based on 1) statement of a problem(s), 2) statement of educational objectives, 3) report of activities implemented, 4) evaluation of activities, and 5) overall creativity.

1–3-page listing of any supporting materials is permissible, in addition to the four-page report. Additional materials will not be considered. Judges will include Extension Ag Econ Specialists, appointed member(s) of The Georgia Agribusiness Council and members of the GACAA Ag Econ Committee.



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Award:

Winning entry will be displayed at the annual GACAA meeting. Award includes a commemorative plaque and the following cash award. The first-place recipient will be presented again at the GA Agribusiness Council Harvest Celebration in November.

1st - \$200, plaque, plus Georgia Agribusiness Council Harvest Celebration tickets the following year (If you win the award in 2026, you will receive two tickets for the Harvest Celebration in 2027) for agent and guest.

Recipients must attend GACAA Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference AND the Georgia Agribusiness Council Annual Harvest Celebration to receive awards, unless exempted by GACAA President because of extenuating circumstances. The recipient of the award will be responsible for travel and room/board to and from the Harvest Celebration. (Established by GACAA Board action, November, 2008)