

USDA launches new Farmers.gov features to help farmers hire workers

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced new features on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farmers.gov website designed to help facilitate the employment of H-2A workers.

“My mission from the beginning of my time as Secretary was to make USDA the most effective, most efficient, most customer-focused department in the entire federal government – these changes to Farmers.gov are doing just that.

USDA’s goal is to help farmers navigate the complex H-2A program that is administered by Department of Labor, Department of Homeland Security, and the State Department so hiring a farm worker is an easier process,” said Secretary Perdue. “President Trump knows how essential these workers are to our farmers and America’s food supply chain. We will continue working to streamline these and other processes to better serve our customers across the country.”

The primary new H-2A features on Farmers.gov include:

- A real-time dashboard that enables farmers to track the status of their eligible employer application and visa applications for temporary nonimmigrant workers;
- Streamlining the login information so if a farmer has an existing login.gov account they can save multiple applications tracking numbers for quick look-up at any time;
- Enables easy access to the Department of Labor’s (DOL) Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG);
- Allows farmers to track time-sensitive actions taken in the course of Office of Foreign Labor Certification’s (OFLC) adjudication of temporary labor certification applications;
- Allowing for farmers to access all application forms on-line.

All information can be found at www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a.

In 2018, Secretary Perdue unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where customers can apply for programs, process transactions and manage accounts. With feedback from customers and field employees who serve those customers, Farmers.gov delivers farmer-focused features through an agile, iterative process to deliver the greatest immediate value to America’s agricultural producers – helping farmers and ranchers do right, and feed everyone.

SRTC Vet Tech students join worldwide evidence-based CPR training opportunity


The Veterinary Technology program at Southern Regional Technical College (SRTC) is taking part in a worldwide effort to train Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians in the most current, evidence-based emergency life-saving techniques for cats and dogs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the RECOVER Initiative extended a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training to students of accredited universities and colleges with veterinary training programs at no cost to the students or their institutions. The RECOVER Initiative is a non-profit, volunteer-based program within the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC) and Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (VECCS) dedicated to conducting high-quality education, evidence search, and guideline creation.

As of May 2020, over 160 schools in 23 countries had registered with the program and 18,507 students enrolled in the online evidence-based canine and feline CPR training, the signature program of the RECOVER Initiative. As of July 15, 2020, 83% of SRTC’s Veterinary Technology current program students and 100% of the recent graduates had completed the training.

“We had already covered canine CPR in our labs, but this training deepened my knowledge and confidence in emergency care for cats and dogs,” said SRTC Vet Tech student Savannah Maton.

The online training module covers Basic Life Support (BLS) consisting of five modules including concepts in assessing a non-responsive patient, performing chest compressions and ventilation during CPR, as well as team communication, and Advanced Life Support (ALS) consisting of three modules detailing concepts in patient monitoring, vascular access, drug administration, and defibrillation. The next step towards becoming a RECOVER Certified Rescuer is participation in the in-person training and skills assessment.



SRTC Vet Tech Student Savannah Maton

“The Executive Board of the RECOVER Initiative believes that CPR training is essential for students in veterinary training programs,” said Jamie Burkitt, DVM, DACVECC who is a co-chair to the RECOVER Initiative. “We hope that our online training modules help students continue to learn these critical skills in our new, virtual world.”

SRTC has instructional sites located

in Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Thomas, Tift, Turner and Worth counties for the convenience of its students.

Fall semester begins August 18. Don’t wait, enroll today. For the most up-to-date information on registration, class dates, and program offerings, log on to www.southernregional.edu.

Gov. Kemp signs foster care and anti-human trafficking legislation

Governor Brian P. Kemp today signed to improve Georgia’s foster care system and crack down on human trafficking in Georgia. Joined by legislative leaders in the Ceremonial Office, Governor Kemp signed HB 823, HB 911, HB 912, HB 993, and SB 439.

“Today is an important step forward to ensure a brighter, safer future for Georgia’s children in foster care and bring an end to human trafficking in our state,” said Governor Kemp. “As these bills take the force of law,

we are fulfilling an ongoing commitment to enhance our foster care system, achieve positive outcomes for our children, and hold the perpetrators of human trafficking accountable. I am grateful for the hard work done by the General Assembly on this important legislation, and I look forward to continuing to work together to safeguard our children’s futures.”

Two of the bills signed today are part of First Lady Marty Kemp’s initiative to end hu-

man trafficking and protect children in Georgia:

HB 823: House Bill 823 provides that a person who knowingly uses a commercial motor vehicle in the commission of sexual or labor trafficking crimes will be disqualified as a commercial motor vehicle driver for life.

HB 911: House Bill 911 closes a dangerous loophole and strengthens penalties for offenses of sexual misconduct by a foster parent.

“I want to thank the sponsors of HB 823

and HB 911 for working alongside Governor Kemp and I to put Georgia’s children first, hold bad actors accountable, and ultimately bring an end to the evil of human trafficking in our state,” said First Lady Kemp. “This fight is far from over, and it is one that we are focused on winning. Every day, we will continue to do our part to keep our children safe and ensure that those who would put them in harm’s way know that they have no place in Georgia.”

Local schools to reopen for in-person instruction August 12th

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must watch the videos in order to receive the registration link for the Full-Time Distance Learning Registration Form. Upon completion of the orientation, parents/guardians will receive the link to register students in the K-5 Full Time Distance Learning Program.

Parents interested in declaring the full-time distance learning model need to understand that there is a semester-long commitment for distance learning and changes to each option cannot occur until the next grading period. Interested parents should complete the interest application, which can be accessed through the following link: <https://bit.ly/3ffK0Fq>

Each declared interested application will be reviewed by a district committee, and in order for the full-time distance learning model to work at the K-5 level, minimum class sizes must be met.

“It is important that students and parents understand distance learning for the 2020-2021 school year will not be structured like distance learning from this past Spring. Expectations in terms of attendance, grading and accountability will be the same as traditional instruction,” commented Superintendent Mark Earnest.

Some of the guidelines included in the in-person instruction Roadmap to Reopening plan include:

- ❖ The use of masks can be a challenge for some children and adults, so it will not be required. However, the wearing of masks will be encouraged for those who can.
- ❖ Temperature checks will be conducted. Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms or a temperature of 100.0+ will be isolated immediately and sent home.
- ❖ All students and employees must stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive, or had close contact with a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
- ❖ For those who have been ill, health department guidelines will be followed for return to school/work.
- ❖ Frequent handwashing is encouraged and breaks will be scheduled for handwashing at the elementary level. We also recommend bringing individual hand sanitizer from home.
- ❖ Cleaning and disinfecting of buildings, surfaces, and high-touch objects will be more frequent. Ventilation systems will be monitored for proper operation.
- ❖ Buses will be cleaned/disinfected after morning and afternoon routes.
- ❖ Schools will limit visitors; stagger lunch, playground, and class-change schedules
- ❖ Students will be discouraged from sharing computers, books, materials, supplies, or equipment, including devices and equipment used for athletics/PE.
- ❖ Water fountains will be shut off. Handless water bottle dispensers will stay on. Students are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle from home.

So, traditional in-person school days will begin on August 12 unless otherwise directed by the Governor or the Georgia Department of Education. However, the August 12 opening date could be affected yet again when the system’s *degree of community spread* is determined by state agencies. A recommendation for Seminole County’s schedule and method of instruction, based on that degree of community spread determination, is expected to come from Georgia’s Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools and the Georgia Department of Public Health by the end of July.

If the state and public health officials determine the degree of community spread is in the “low/no spread” or “minimal/moderate spread” SCSS will begin the year with traditional, in-person instruction. In the event state and public health officials determine the degree of community spread is “high/substantial”, SCSS will transition to a distance learning model of instruction. School officials commented that there is a very real chance that SCSS could begin in a traditional model and within a week or two shift to a distance learning model.

Come join the growing team at



We are now accepting applications for the following positions:

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Please send completed applications to: kbusby@lifebriteearly.com

Or fax to: 229-724-7335

Applicants may apply in person at
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Blakely, GA 39823

LifeBrite Community Hospital of Early is an
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7/30, 8/6, 13, 20

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE PROBATE COURT
OF SEMINOLE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF:
VERA MAE MURRELL-AUSTIN,
DECEASED
ESTATE NO. E-19-105
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: John Groomes and to whom it may concern: Shirley Murrell Christmas has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of Vera Mae Murrell-Austin deceased, of said County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before August 24, 2020.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact Probate Court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

/s/ Michael Jon Rogerson
Judge of the Probate Court
200 South Knox Avenue
P.O. Box 684
Donalsonville, GA 39845
229-524-5256

7/30, 8/6, 13, 20