

Lake and Farm



The big doe sang in Georgia last Sunday, deer season is over

It's been a strange deer season for me and others I know, for many reasons. I missed many days due to back problems, loss of a family member, etc. It's been about the same with the others in my group, appears everyone had problems of some sort throughout the season.

And it was a strange deer season anyway, with limited deer movement during daylight hours. Deer habits and routes they used changed this past season.

Maybe we'll figure it out, maybe not, but I bet wild hogs had something to do with it.

My club has been on the same land for 34 years, our club stands are placed where they've always produced. Not so this year, some stands had less deer traffic than previous years. Here's my thinking: there are several reasons I



Son of Seminole Son Anderson

think can be blamed on the change. Many acres around our property have been cleared and made into cow pasture. Wild hogs have shown up in numbers we've never seen before. Coyotes have increased, even though we take out every one we see.

If that wasn't enough to add to a deer season, we had one more problem. An auction company began trespassing on our private property to access a property they will auction off January the 16th in Miller and Early counties. We couldn't leave our gates unlocked at all, because the auction had directed the public to enter our land to go view the property he's selling. The problem is, our property isn't the access for his land locked property. The legal address for his property is listed in the Miller Co. Tax office. Also listed along with the address, an easement of about four acres is shown on a map, not near us. The auction company has continued to have his sign at our locked gate, even though I have provided a map of the legal easement to the property for auction.

Worse yet, a lawyer sent a threatening letter to Son Anderson, that could be me, my son or grandson, we all have the same name. Sr., Jr. or III wasn't specified. The letter shows copies sent to several people - the wrong probate judge, DNR, owners of the property to be auctioned, but none to the property owner I lease from.

I used that law firm in 1990, but doubt I will ever use them again. No, it's not a local firm, I believe our people would research before sending such a letter. Harassment is the last thing anyone wants when they're trying to enjoy themselves.

Not all bad, though. Having passed many young bucks allowed me to make the season last to the last day. I was holding out for two mature bucks we've had on trail cameras. None of them showed up in daylight



for me or others in my group. The group did get some nice bucks, but not the ones we were thinking we would get.

Last weekend, things were looking slim for me to harvest a buck this season. But I got it done with an old warrior that's been around longer than most bucks. He had scars

everywhere, including the hind legs which looked like he had been caught in a fence at one time. One side of his 9 point rack was deformed, but he's still 22 inches wide. If the rack had been normal, it could have been 25 or so inches wide. Widest Georgia buck I've taken ever. See you outdoors.

USDA is seeking members for Advisory Committee on Urban Agriculture

Nominations must be submitted by mail or email by March 5, 2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking members for a new advisory committee on urban agriculture, part of a broader effort to focus on the needs of urban farmers. The 12-person committee will advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices as well as identify any barriers to urban agriculture.

"We are looking forward to a robust group of nominees to serve on this important new advisory committee," said Terrance O. Rudolph, state conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Georgia.

Added Rachel Santos, state executive director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Georgia: "This group will underscore USDA's commitment to all segments of agriculture and has the potential to support innovative ways to increase local food production in urban environments."

USDA is seeking nominations for individuals representing a broad spectrum of expertise, including:

- Four agricultural producers (two agricultural producers in an urban area or urban cluster and two agricultural producers who use innovative technology).
- Two representatives from an institution of higher education or extension program.
- One representative of a nonprofit organization, which may include a



public health, environmental or community organization.

- One representative of business and economic development, which may include a business development entity, a chamber of commerce, a city government or a planning organization.
- One individual with supply chain experience, which may include a food aggregator, wholesale food distributor, food hub or an individual who has direct-to-consumer market experience.
- One individual from a financing entity.
- Two individuals with related experience or expertise in urban, indoor and other emerging agriculture production practices, as determined by the Secretary.

Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals for membership. Self-nominations are also welcome.

Nominations should include a cover letter, resume and a background form. Nomination packages must be submitted by mail or email by March 5, 2021. They should be addressed to Ronald Harris, Designated Federal Officer, Director of Outreach and Partnerships, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department

of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 6006-S, Washington, D.C. 20250, or emailed to Ronald.Harris@usda.gov.

The 2018 Farm Bill established the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and directed USDA to form this advisory committee as well as make other advancements related to urban agriculture. It is led by the NRCS and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture. Its mission is to encourage and promote urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural practices, including community composting and food waste reduction. More information is available in this notice on the Federal Register or at farmers.gov/urban. Additional assistance is available Ask.USDA.Gov or by calling (202) 720-2791.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with Farm Service Agency, NRCS or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

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