



### Sign up now for the June 8th Seminole County Farm Tour

The 2022 Seminole County Farm Tour is stock Exchange, known as our local stockscheduled for Wednesday, June 8, beginning at the Seminole County Agriculture Center, 3041 Town and Country Road, with sign-in from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. EST.

A spokesperson said, "Take this opportunity to come to the 2022 Seminole County Farm Tour. It'll be a great agricultural awareness tour again this year."

The first stop will be at Seminole Live-

yard. There used to be one in every rural community where livestock are bought and sold and we are glad to still have a vibrant one here in Seminole County.

The next stop will be at an emerging agricultural enterprise, an olive farm, Cook Redlands Corporation. After seeing where olive oil comes from, we will stop by The Peach Depot, where fresh fruits and vegetables are available in season.

The last stop for the day will be AFG Feeds, where by-products from other local agricultural enterprises are used to make a great pelletized animal feed.

This will be a great tour and will include breakfast, refreshments along the way, and a bag lunch provided by our local sponsors during the tour.

is required for preparations in transportation (by bus) and food arrangements. The deadline for registration will be 6:00 p.m. on June 3. If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact us five days prior to the tour.

To register for the tour, please contact the University of Georgia Seminole County Extension Office at 229-524-2326 or email us at: cindym@uga.edu.

Although this is a free event, registration

# Talking about fishing, hunting and low water levels

I don't boat around Lake Seminole as much as I used to, due to the cost of fuel. Boats get very poor mileage.

But I can tell you one thing, I haven't seen any improvements to the lake in the way of putting buoys back where they belong. Or replacing channel marker posts, and the weeds continue to get worse in some areas.

Some of us can remember when fishing in the mule lot was possible, when boating all over Spooner Field was possible with any boat. There are islands I used to go between with the boat when searching for cracker and bream beds. I can't go between those islands any more.

The lake has been low



#### Son of Seminole Son Anderson

lately, making it easier to spot stumps and I can get under the island bridge with the top up on the pontoon boat. When the lake drops a foot or more, my honey holes don't produce like they usually do.

Low water also puts more vegetation near the surface, fouling our motors. I've noticed folks having to reverse often to clear the prop here lately.

Nothing stops fishermen though, people are still catching plenty of shellcrackers, crappie and bream. Some of those shellcrackers that I'm catching along grass edges are still full of roe. I haven't fished a cracker bed and probably won't. I'll pick on a bream bed, though, when they begin showing up in the areas where I like to fish

When my chores are done and I'm not fishing. I like to spend some time in the hunting woods. Latest projects were planting food plots and repairing hog traps. I'm improving my large hog trap to make it easier to go in to set it, and to get the hogs out. In the past we had to do all that by crawling through the drop gate, and that's not a good activity for folks with many years on their frames.

I was all excited about the Georgia turkey season opening this Spring. Well, that waned a lot because just before the season opened, the turkeys left our property. We had two flocks that stayed with us through deer season, totalling about 50 birds. Each year a majority of the turkeys leave our property about two weeks before the season opens. They did the same this year, and I'm wondering how they knew the opening date changed?

We have 15 food plots that were in oats and clover but that wasn't enough to keep the turkeys around. There's no feed on our property during turkey season. Nobody in my club turkey hunts, so I could give it up, too and feed the turkeys. Bet it would save some birds plus some gas and I could skip those early mornings watching the sun come up. I don't get up early to go deer hunting because I like mid mornings and

late afternoons to deer hunt. Unless it's the rut, smart old bucks will lay around until they know the does have gone to bedding areas. Mid morning and midday is when those old bucks begin checking bedding areas. And that's when most deer hunters have left the woods for lunch and maybe a nap.

But don't let me change your habits, I like how you're doing, it works for me. See you outdoors.



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## Will cottonseed make my bull infertile?

Last week I had an interesting conversation with a local farmer about feeding cottonseed to bulls. Apparently, there was a belief that cottonseed would make bulls sterile if they ate it. Now back in Kentucky I don't ever remember feeding our cows cottonseed and that's just because we don't grow any. So, I went to looking up where this belief came from, was it true, and how good is cottonseed as cattle feed anyway. The information I am sharing today came from Lawton Stewart, a UGA Extension Specialist and Texas A&M research. There is some truth behind the idea that cottonseed has sterilization properties. Cotton contains a chemical known as gossypol. This chemical is a



animals including humans and young ruminants like cattle. Cottonseed should never be fed to cattle under 400 pounds for this reason alone. Research has shown gossypol does have sterilizing properties in mature bulls, but at what point? For the sterilizing effects of cottonseed to even begin to be noticed it had to be fed at a rate of 40% of the total diet. Granted cottonseed is very nutritious (TDN 95%, 24% CP), 40% of the total diet is extremely high. Even if you take gossypol out of the equation, the fat content (20%) is enough to interfere with fiber digestion in cattle rumens. The other factor in feeding cottonseed is what species is being feed. Here in the southeast we almost grow entirely upland cotton, verses pima cotton. Pima cotton contains a more volatile form of gos

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pigment produced in the roots, leaves, stems and most concentrated in the seeds of cotton plants. This chemical is toxic to many

sypol which should not be fed to cattle. If fed in the correct ratios, cottonseed is a great food source for cattle.

The UGA recommendation is no more than six pounds per day, or no more than 20% of total daily intake for mature cattle on cottonseed. If you are experiencing fertility issues with your bulls there are other causes that are more likely the explanation (genetics, injury etc.). It's always advisable to get a breeding soundness exam prior to purchasing any bull.

If you have cattle questions please feel free to call me at the office, 229-524-2326.

Be safe out there.

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