

# Budget puts a bounty on feral hogs in Georgia

By Ty Tagami  
Capitol Beat News Service

After passing a budget that puts a bounty on wild pigs, Georgia lawmakers reiterated their lethal intent by enlisting cutting-edge technology to hunt them down.

Feral hogs have been ripping through farmers' fields, inflicting millions of dollars of damage a year. Lawmakers, it seems, would prefer them sitting on a plate as bacon.

So, last week, the state House passed a preliminary 2027 budget with \$400,000 toward a feral hog eradication incentive program and another \$500,000 for a state management program.

It didn't end there. On Friday, the state Senate sent House Bill 946 to Gov. Brian Kemp for his signature.

"All it simply does is make it where you can take a drone and locate feral hogs that destroys

and damages your property," explained Sen. Lee Anderson, R-Grovetown.

Anderson had already left the well of the Senate when Sen. Carden Summers, R-Cordele, said he had a question.

Lt. Gov. Burt Jones did not make Anderson return, so Summers exploited the rules of the Senate and raised what's known as a "parliamentary inquiry," a technical question for the lieutenant governor. "What's the differ-

ence between a hog and a hog," Summers asked, adding an extra vowel to his second expression of the word in an attempt to mimic Anderson.

Jones had a quick response.

"Depends on if you're below the Gnat Line or not," he said, with a flourish of his hand. It was a reference to the geological "fall" line that spans Middle Georgia and acts like a screen door to keep gnats down there.

Before he had left the well, Anderson had implored his fellow senators to vote for HB 946, which had been sponsored by Rep. Rob Clifton, R-Evans.

"I just ask each and every one of you vote green so we can go kill some hogs this afternoon," Anderson had

said. With those words, he had doomed the pigs. The vote was 46-0 for HB 946.

The legislation also allows people to catch hogs without a hunting or trapping license "provided that such hogs shall be killed upon capture."

## Ribbon cuttings

(Continued from Page 1) March 17. The Chamber is proud to welcome new entrepreneurs who have chosen Clinch County as the place to invest and grow.

"These ribbon cuttings are a celebration

of progress," said Reilly Robbins, Executive Director of the Clinch County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority. "Whether it's a new business opening its doors or a familiar one beginning a new chapter,

each plays an important role in strengthening our local economy."

The Chamber extends its appreciation to the business owners, community members, and local leaders who came out to show their sup-

port throughout the week. The Clinch County Chamber of Commerce remains committed to supporting local businesses and fostering an environment where they can thrive.

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## UGA Blueberry Field Day

Hosted by the UGA Blueberry Breeding Program and UGA Berrien County Extension Office

**Date: March 27, 2026**

**Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Location: UGA Alapaha Blueberry Research Farm, Alapaha Georgia (<https://goo.gl/maps/yC54vkyALCqP8waS9>; about 2.7 miles south of Alapaha on US Hwy 129)**

**After farm visit, we will serve lunch at the UGA Berrien County Extension office followed by an educational session.**

Presenter	Title
Dr. Luan Oliveira	Precision Agriculture Blueberry Trials.
Dr. Jonathan Oliver	Blueberry Disease Management
Dr. Angelos Deltsidis	Postharvest management of Georgia blueberries
Dr. Ashfaq Sial	Monitoring and management of insect pests in blueberries
Federica Rossi	From Light to Fruit: How Selective Pruning Affects Blueberry Yield and Quality
Natalia Espinoza	Optimizing fertilizer use: How do fertilization practices impact soil health and blueberry nutrition?
Sindooraa Nalajala	Breeding Better Blueberries: Expanding diversity through hybridization

- **Any trouble finding the farm please contact Benjamin Reeves at 229-445-5962**
- **Pesticide credit hours will be available**
- **In the event of inclement weather, the program will be promptly rescheduled**