

From the Farm to the Future: An Update from Your GJCA Secretary

By Lydia Hill, GJCA Secretary

Growing up on a commercial cow/calf operation in Marshville, North Carolina, agriculture has always been at the heart of my life. From feeding calves and tagging newborns to working cattle alongside my family, our farm was my first classroom, long before I stepped into a traditional one.

Through FFA and showing cattle, I found opportunities I never imagined possible. These experiences taught me the value of leadership, responsibility, and connecting with others. Today, I am an Agricultural Communications major at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, learning how to bridge the gap between producers, consumers, and policymakers. I'm honored to serve as the Secretary of the Georgia Junior Cattlemen's Association (GJCA), and I'm excited to share what's ahead for our members.

Board Retreat Recap

In May, the GJCA Board held its annual retreat at Barnes Herefords in Cedartown, Georgia. We spent time touring the operation, building friendships, and planning an exciting year of events. Thank you to Shelly McQuaig and the Barnes Herefords team for hosting us with such kindness and hospitality.

Upcoming GJCA Events

Looking for a night of fun? Join us in Macon for a Macon Bacon baseball game as they take on the Flamingos! Each ticket includes admission to the game, a Macon Bacon hat, and all-you-can-eat hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, cookies, drinks, and more. See page [insert page number] for details on how to get your tickets to support GJCA.

We'll also be at the Junior Beef Futurity Show on July 10th, partnering with Hailey Partain to offer Beef Quality Assurance Certification to participants. Be sure to stop by and see us between shows!

Additionally, we're launching an exciting new sweepstakes program with unique prizes. We'll officially introduce this initiative during the GJCA Breakfast at the Young Farmers Show in Perry on August 15th. Check out page [insert page number] to learn how to get involved.

Stay Involved

Whether you're under 21 and interested in joining GJCA or between 21 and 40 and ready to be part of the Young Cattlemen's Council, getting involved ensures you'll have opportunities to connect with fellow cattle producers, grow your leadership skills, and make your voice heard on the issues that matter.

Want to stay up to date with everything we're doing? Follow us on Instagram at [@ga_cattlemens](#) or find us on Facebook under Georgia Cattlemen's Association. We'd love to have you join us as we continue building the future of Georgia's cattle industry together.