



Destination Ag

ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture



2019-2020 Annual Report



Student instructors, Katie and Alicia, show visiting students what wool feels like before it is sheared from a sheep.

Contents

4	Letter of Thanks
6	Year at a Glance
10	Impact
20	Assessment
24	Partners & Donors
25	Advisory Committee
26	Finances

A student discovers that moving water is not easy in the Year 4 career lesson, irrigation specialist.



Letter of Thanks

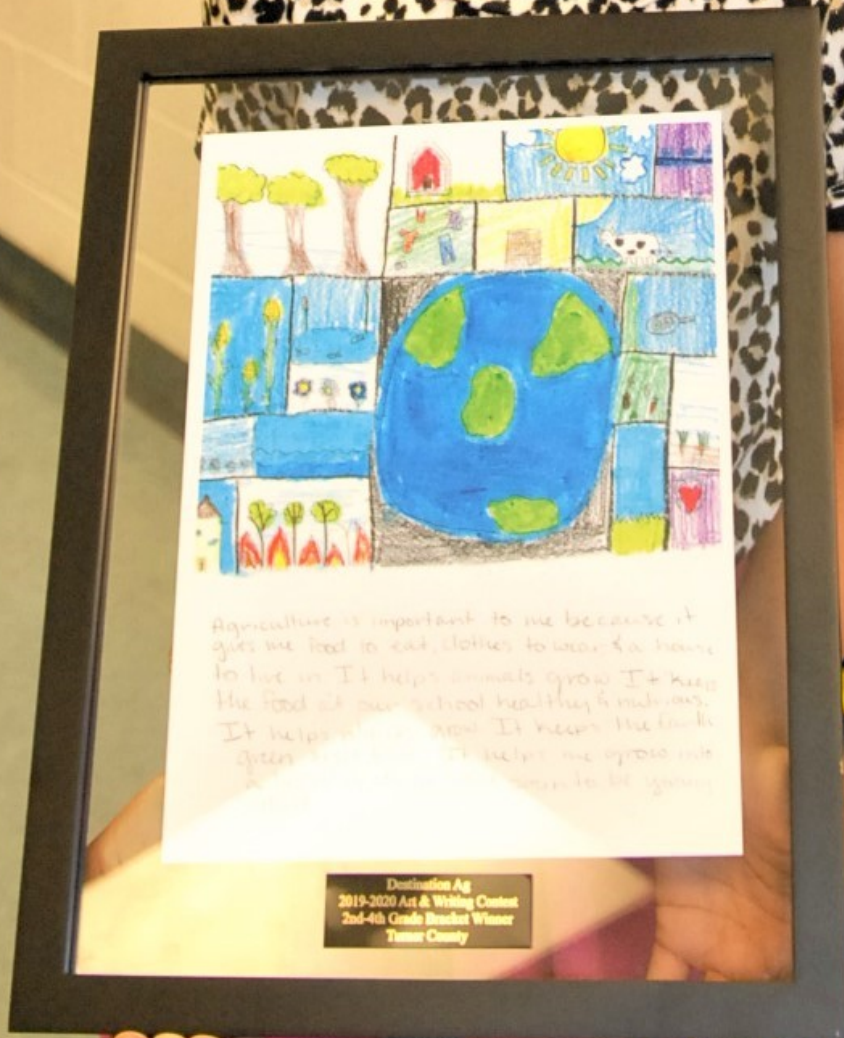
The Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation has allowed the Georgia Museum of Agriculture to showcase the past and present of agriculture and natural resources through Destination Ag. With this support, we provide experiential learning opportunities for the next generation of agriculture and natural resource leaders.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, more than 12,000 first through fourth grade students were impacted by participating in Destination Ag. Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, kindergarten and PreK students were unable to attend. Destination Ag did not continue programming to assist in ensuring the safety of all participants and staff. We appreciate your interest and support as we continue “planting knowledge and cultivating the future.”

Visiting 4th grade students conduct water quality tests to determine if the water in Destination Ag’s aquaponics system is suitable for the catfish being raised.



Kaydence Joiner of Turner County shows off her winning entry to Destination Ag's Art and Writing Contest.



Year at a Glance

Throughout this year, Destination Ag has introduced new curriculum and on-site improvements. A new addition to the 'My Family Farm' literature series became available, *My Family's Peach Farm*. New on-site curriculum was incorporated for fourth grade and careers with the new aquaponics system. This system allowed fourth graders and kindergarteners to explore aquatic ecosystems while all other grades visited the aquaponics system during the fisheries manager career lesson. A new on-site improvement located in the Opry Shelter is the 'Teacher Refueling Station,' where teachers and bus drivers are welcome to complementary drinks and snacks.



The grow-bed seen here demonstrates a symbiotic relationship between the catfish in the aquatic tank and the plants that filter the water coming from the tank. This entire ecosystem is another aspect of agriculture, called aquaponics, which raises fish and grows plants for human use.

Educational Exhibits

With the help of sponsors, new exhibits and educational signage was added to different areas throughout the Destination Ag site.

Fiberglass hog, Crisp E. Bacon, and two educational signs focusing on Georgia's pork industry sponsored by Stripling's General Store



In the U.S., 22 billion pounds of pork are produced each year.

Chicken breeds flip book located near Destination Ag's chicken coop sponsored by the U.S. Poultry Foundation



per 1 Cup serving

- Only 80 Calories
- 3.6 grams fiber
- 10% daily zinc
- 24% daily vitamin C
- 100% daily manganese

Blueberry bushes and educational sign near Destination Ag's bee shed sponsored by the Georgia Blueberry Growers Association



Curriculum

Throughout Destination Ag's fourth year, new curriculum for fifth grade was being created for the 2020-2021 school year. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Destination Ag's curriculum was adapted to better fit the various needs of the schools. For on-site curriculum, teachers will be able to choose the number and type of classes their students will participate in. Each class offered will address various standards for multiple grade levels. Topics for the classes include Georgia's georegions, erosion, pollinators (specifically bees), and aquaponics. Students will be asked to take the new careers lesson, which will focus on a large animal veterinarian and a fertilizer technician. Additionally, Destination Ag will offer outreach programming to schools who are not able to partake in fieldtrips.



On-Site Updates

The Destination Ag site incorporated various improvements throughout this year. The Teacher Refueling Station is located in the Opry Shelter and provides complementary drinks and snacks to teachers and bus drivers (seen below). The playground was relocated to a larger fenced in location with two new swings (seen right). A new livestock yard allows Historic Village guests and Destination Ag participants an equal chance in viewing the animals (seen right).





New
Pasture
Location



New
Playground
Location

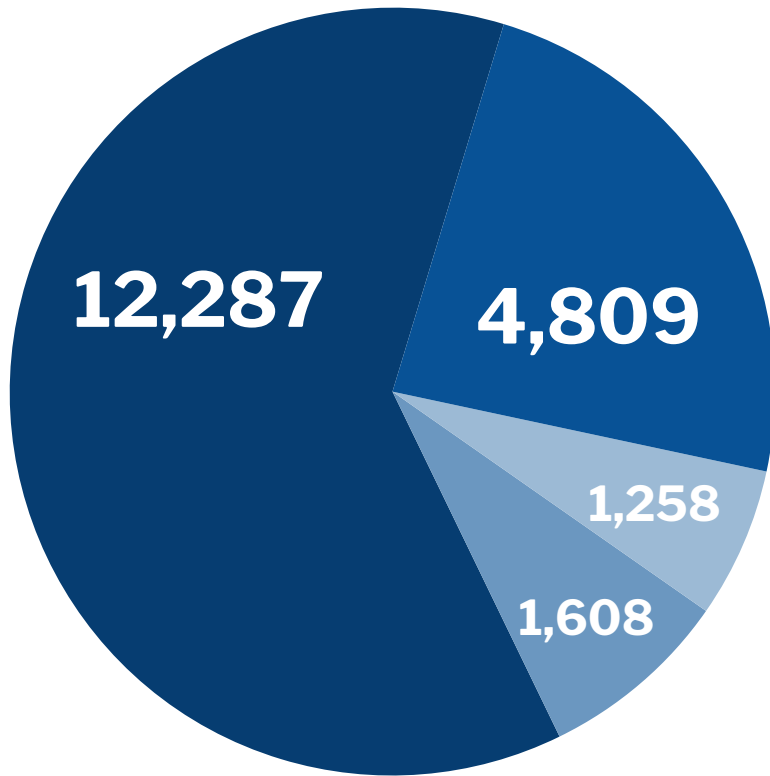


With on-site field trips, outreach resources and programs, new online resources, and social media, Destination Ag's impact continues to increase annually. The collegiate students who work with Destination Ag are also impacted on a daily basis, gaining valuable experience and motivation from the thousands of children they teach.



ANR Educator, Taylor, teaches first graders about the needs of corn and assists them in planting their own corn plant.

Impact by the Numbers



12,287 students participated in on-site field-trips (over 4,000 were unable to visit due to Covid-19)

4,809 students received Family Farm books: 3,559 Tree & 1,250 Peach

1,258+ students participated in Traveling Trunks outreach programs

1,608 adult attendees during on-site field trips

Most people reached through a single social media post

2,041

Combined followers on social media platforms

1,358

ABAC student instructional hours

2,027

On-Site Field Trips

Destination Ag hosted 12,287 students in first through fourth grade from 10 participating school systems: Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Echols, Lowndes, Tift, Turner, Valdosta City, and Worth.



School System	Visiting Students
Berrien County	798
Brooks County	542
Colquitt County	2834
Cook County	417
Echols County	411
Lowndes County	1354
Tift County	2152
Turner County	408
Valdosta City	2990
Worth County	375
Total	12,287
A school outside the sponsored region, also participated.	



Above: 4th graders joined this fall with new classes: Aquatic Ecosystems and Fire: Is it Good or Bad?

Below: Students participated in two new careers: Fisheries Manager and Irrigation Specialist



Public Events

Destination Ag provided programming and interactive exhibits during the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo and the new Antique Ag Show held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds. Visitors to the exhibits learned about agricultural products, beekeeping, native reptile species in Georgia, and poultry.

Destination Ag student instructors also provided public programming for the Historic Village on Saturdays. Programming topics included raising dairy goats and protecting gopher tortoises.



My Family's Peach Farm



Family Farm Books

The Family Farm book series is a special project under Destination Ag to provide free resources for educators focusing on Georgia agriculture. These books are written at an elementary age level, in the perspective of a child whose family operates a farm. *Our Family Tree Farm* focuses on Georgia's forestry industry and is currently available online with two classroom lessons. *My Family Peach Farm* was introduced this spring, and lessons are in development. Over 3,500 copies of *Our Family Tree Farm* books and 1,200 copies of *My Family Peach Farm* books were sent this year in grades ranging PreK-middle school.



Fall 2019 Student Instructors

ABAC Student Instructors:

Destination Ag is proud to provide experiential learning for visiting school children and ABAC students alike. ABAC students become role models for visiting children and gain valuable real world work experience. Not only do Destination Ag student instructors implement the program; they create lesson plans, construct teaching materials, develop interpretive exhibits, and care for Destination Ag's animal staff. They truly are the heart and face of Destination Ag.

Spring 2020 Student Instructors



ABAC Student Instructors



“Destination Ag is an excellent way to spread my passion for agriculture and teaching.”

-Erica Lewis

Ag Education Major

Spring Instructor

“I love the exciting atmosphere and educating the young minds about agriculture!”

- Chrys Milner

Ag Education Major

Spring Instructor & Summer Intern



“I love getting to take time to teach the next generation about agriculture.”

- Kendall Prescott

Ag Education Major

Spring Instructor

“I love getting to see the kids when they learn new things about agriculture!”

- Kaitlyn Bullock

Business Major

Fall & Spring Instructor & Summer Intern





"I love having a job with such a great atmosphere"

ABAC
Graduate!

- **Baylee Palmer**

Natural Resource Management
Spring Instructor

"Destination Ag was hands-on learning for myself and the visiting students."

- **Megan Simone**

Ag Education Major
Spring Instructor



"The kids keep me returning every semester to share my passion for agriculture."

- **Chasity Denmark**

Ag Education Major
Fall & Spring Instructor

"Destination Ag let me make connections I never would have otherwise."

ABAC
Graduate!

- **McKenzie Lewis**

Ag Communications Major
Fall Instructor



ABAC Student Instructors



"I'm not only teaching kids about agriculture, but I'm reaching their parents and teachers as well."

- Taylor Hodel

Ag Education Major

Fall & Spring Instructor & Summer intern

"Destination Ag brings me so much joy spreading the importance of agriculture!"

- Alicia Hernandez-Perez

Ag Education Major

Fall & Spring Instructor



"I love getting to both teach and learn all while I'm working."

- Brittany Ray

Natural Resource Management

Spring Instructor

"I love the opportunity to share my passion for agriculture with local students!"

- Katie Horlock

Ag Education Major

Fall & Spring Instructor





“Destination Ag is a wonderful program for both students and instructors to grow!”

- **Macy Coker**

Ag Education Major

Fall Instructor

“Destination Ag lets you get your feet in the water and gain valuable teaching experience.”

- **Courtney Barber**

Ag Education Major

Fall & Spring Instructor



“I love inspiring the youth of tomorrow.”

- **Kristen Nienstedt**

Ag Education Major

Fall & Spring Instructor



“I loved that everything we teach is hands-on no matter the age or the grade!”

- **Deaunna Holsey**

General Studies Major

Fall & Spring Instructor



ABAC Student Instructors



“Destination Ag is a great place for instructors to improve their communication skills.”

- **Daniel Stout**

Wildlife Management

Fall Instructor

“Destination Ag lets you gain experience and make a difference at the same time.”

- **Julianna Rezek**

Ag Business Major

Fall & Spring Instructor



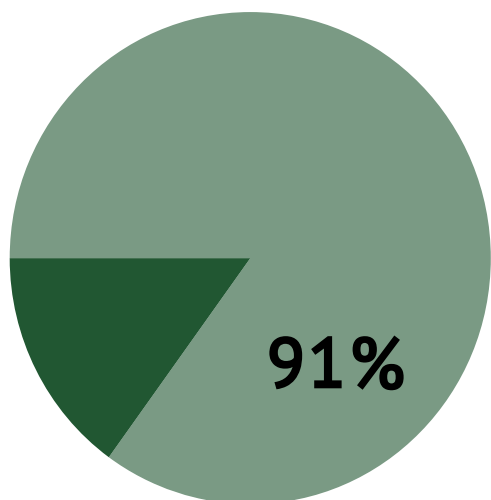
Assessment

Destination Ag is continually striving for improvement. With multiple assessment avenues such as post program surveys, an art and writing contest, and pre/post online student assessments, Destination Ag is able to incorporate the needs of its target audience.

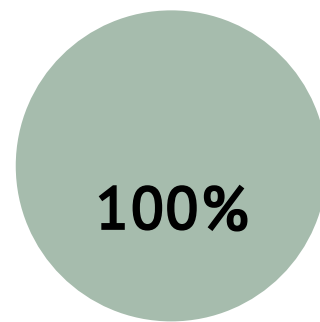
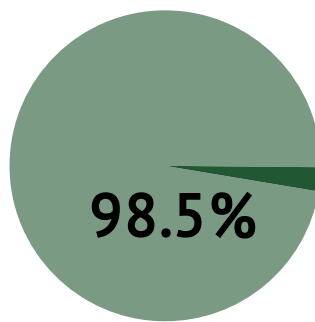


Seen here are Rebecca Chesser and her student, Rebecca Godwin, Destination Ag's Art & Writing Contest winners from Valdosta City.

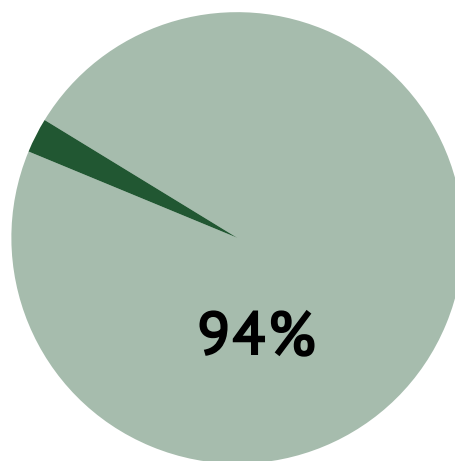
Feedback Surveys



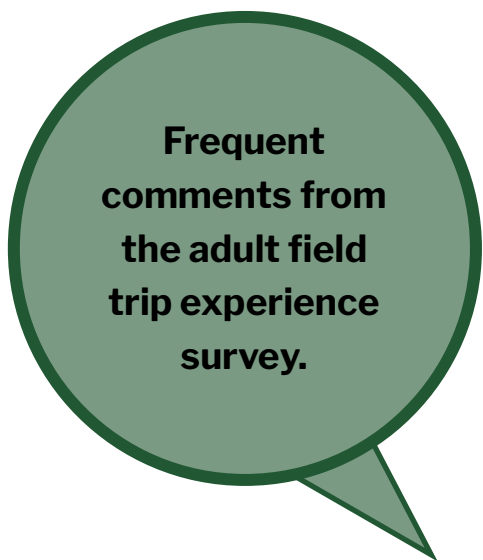
On average 91% of teachers and visiting adults would recommend Destination Ag to others.



98.5% of **teachers** and 100% of **visiting adults** felt that students made further connections between agriculture and natural resources in their daily lives.



On average 94% of teachers and visiting adults would rate their experience as **excellent or good**. In addition, less than 6% rate their experience as only **fair or okay**, and less than 1% rate it as **poor**.



Frequent
comments from
the adult field
trip experience
survey.

Standards-Connected Hands-on
Informative Great Real-Life Experience
Learning Teachers Great fun
engaging Knowledge Experiences

Art & Writing Contest



Each county was awarded one winner in the following grade brackets: prek-first and second-fourth. Students were awarded \$100 and teachers were awarded \$500. Thank you to everyone who entered. There were many wonderful submissions!



2019-2020 Winners

PreK-1st Grade Bracket

Berrien County

Student: Raelyn Vickers

Teacher: Donna Harrod

Brooks County

Student: Gabriella Wheeler

Teacher: Taylor Hoes

Colquitt County

Student: Gracie Beck

Teacher: Angie Whitaker

Turner County

Student: Alexander McKinley

Teacher: Savannah Morris

Valdosta City

Student: Tatianna Mosley

Teacher: Courtni Oneal

2nd-4th Grade Bracket

Berrien County

Student: Adalyn Beckelheimer

Teacher: Diane Rithcart

Brooks County

Student: DeNasia Dorsey

Teacher: Serena Martin

Colquitt County

Student: Peyton Roberts

Teacher: Monica Tugwell

Cook County

Student: Rece Stone

Teacher: Angela Harry

Lowndes County

Student: Brody Whitehead

Teacher: Sheryl Nelson

Tift County

Student: Layla Jones

Teacher: Susan Nimmo

Turner County

Student: Rebecca Godwin

Teacher: Rebecca Chesser

Valdosta City

Student: Tatianna Mosley

Teacher: Courtni Oneal



Above: Peyton Roberts displays her winning artwork.

Left: Brody Whitehead shows his winning artwork.

Pre/Post Testing

Destination Ag continued to provide a pre- and post-online assessment for visiting first through fourth grade students. Overall, results showed that students that visited Destination Ag maintained their level of knowledge about agriculture and natural resources. Additionally, there was increase in positive attitudes towards agriculture in every grade that visited.



Partners & Donors

Destination Ag would not be possible without assistance from its outstanding partners and donors. We appreciate their contributions and investment in educating youth about the future of agriculture and natural resources.

Education Collaborators

- ABAC Agriculture Education Faculty
- ABAC Natural Resources Faculty
- ABAC Rural Studies Faculty

Industry Collaborators

- Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District
- Georgia Blueberry Growers Association
- Georgia Farm Bureau
- Georgia Peach Council
- Georgia Peanut Commission
- Georgia Pecan Grower's Association
- Georgia Power Foundation Inc.
- Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation
- Lasseter Tractor
- The Langdale Company
- Pearson Farms
- Steve McWilliams
- Stripling's General Store
- US Poultry Foundation
- Synovus



Advisory Committee

Destination Ag's Advisory Committee was created to provide feedback and advice during the program's implementation. The Advisory Committee includes local educators from the targeted counties, ABAC faculty/staff, and representation from the Langdale Company. The Committee's support is a vital component to Destination Ag's continued success.

Mr. Paul Willis	Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, ABAC
Dr. Darby Sewell	Assistant Vice President for Engaged Learning, ABAC
Dr. Deidre Martin	Director of Advancement, ABAC
Dr. Mark Kistler	Dean, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, ABAC
Dr. Sandra Giles	Professor of English, ABAC
Dr. Frank Flanders	Associate Professor of Agriculture Education, ABAC
Dr. Marcus Johnson	Assistant Professor of Education, ABAC
Ms. Robin Marcum	Superintendent, Berrien County Schools
Ms. Belinda West	K-5 Curriculum Coordinator, Berrien County Schools
Mr. James Howell	Superintendent, Colquitt County Schools
Dr. Marni Kirkland	Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Learning, Colquitt Co. Schools
Ms. Trish Lirio	STEM Director, Colquitt County Schools
Dr. Tim Dixon	Superintendent, Cook County Schools
Dr. Joi Williams	Pre-K Director/ Primary School Assistant Principal, Cook County Schools
Ms. Joy Folsom	K-5 Curriculum Coordinator, Cook County Schools
Ms. Barbara Boler	Education and Outreach, The Langdale Company
Mr. Adam Hathaway	Superintendent, Tift County Schools
Ms. Joanna Hand	Pre-K - 5 Curriculum Director, Tift County Schools
Ms. Tracy Ingram	Teacher, Len Lastinger Primary School, Tift County Schools
Mr. Craig Matthews	Superintendent, Turner County Schools
Ms. Melanie McLemore	Director of Curriculum/Instruction, Turner County Schools



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