

Celebrating our farmers



NICK VASSY / GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

More than a dozen family farms were named as Georgia's newest Centennial Farms in October by the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

"The Centennial Farm program honors the ongoing legacy of family farms and their integral place in Georgia agriculture," says Rose Mayo, outreach coordinator at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. "This year, 13 family farms received the Centennial Family Farm Award, which honors farms that have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years. [The families'] unique histories show their care, expertise, ingenuity, resilience and dedication to agriculture in our state. It is our privilege to be trusted with the history of these farms and tell their stories."

Over the last 30 years, more than 620 farms have been honored by the Georgia Centennial Farm program. Tucker-based Georgia Electric Membership Corp. (EMC), UGA Extension, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Historic Preservation Division, the Georgia National Fair and Georgia Farm Bureau sponsor the annual awards program.

For Gerald Brinson "G.B." Ash Jr., receiving the Centennial Family Farm Award was a way to pay homage to his ancestors "who worked tirelessly and with great sacrifice throughout the last 149 years to ensure the successes of our farm [in Effingham County] and to secure this land and the lifestyle it provides for the enjoyment of future generations. I frequently say that I am just blessed to receive the gift of the farm that was left by our forefathers, as they are the ones who truly put in the work on the farm, and our generation is just reaping the rewards of those efforts."

Bruce White, who runs the White Family Barn Farm in Dahlonega with his daughters, Kelly White-Bryant and Lacey White-Garcia, shares similar sentiments.

"The Centennial Family Farm Award defines our family's importance with our ancestors and our future," he says. "We believe those before us prepared the land for us to use and

Apply for the Centennial Farm Award

The Georgia Centennial Farm awards program honors farms in three categories:

- the Centennial Heritage Farm Award, for farms that are owned by members of the same family for a century or more and that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places;
- the Centennial Farm Award, for farms at least 100 years old that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and
- the Centennial Family Farm Award, for farms owned by members of the same family for a century or more that are not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

To nominate a farm for recognition, download an application at bit.ly/centfarms or contact outreach@dca.ga.gov. Applications must be postmarked by May 1.

borrow from future generations. This award shows our community and customers the values we place upon family and our community."

John Thornton Stubbs III of Teloga Springs Farm in Chattooga County says the award is for his entire family, who started the farm 185 years ago.

"We have had a long history in farming and our community, and it was a great honor for my farm and my family to be awarded this," he says.

—Karon Warren

2023 Centennial Family Farm Award honorees

- **Boggy Branch Farm**, Bulloch County
- **L & M Farms**, Bulloch County
- **Teloga Springs Farm**, Chattooga County
- **Stone Family Farm**, Cook County
- **Ash Farms**, Effingham County
- **The Threatte Farm at Bunton Place**, Evans County
- **Price Family Farm**, Franklin County
- **J.B. Gay & Son**, Jenkins County
- **R.E. Roberts Farm**, Jones County
- **Ganas Farm**, Lanier County
- **White Family Barn Farm**, Lumpkin County
- **Rolling D Farms LLC**, Murray County
- **Fulghum-Beusse Farms**, Wilcox County