



*Contact* Robin Klemm  
*Email* [Robin.Klemm@usg.edu](mailto:Robin.Klemm@usg.edu)  
*Website* <http://www.georgiaarchives.org/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 11, 2024

**“Commemorating 150 Years of the Georgia Department of Agriculture”  
Annual History Symposium on April 6, 2024, Hosted by the Georgia Archives**

Join us on Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., for the Georgia Archives Annual History Symposium, “Commemorating 150 Years of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.” This symposium is free and open to the public and will feature scholarly presentations discussing the impact of agriculture on Georgia’s history and culture.

Breaks will be sponsored by the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH), including a pizza lunch for donation. Otherwise, you may wish to visit a local restaurant or bring your own meal. For more information about our presentations and directions to the Georgia Archives, please see our website, [www.georgiaarchives.org](http://www.georgiaarchives.org).

Below is the schedule of events. A brief Q&A session will follow each presentation.

**9:00 Registration and Coffee**

**9:30 Opening Remarks and Introduction**

**9:40 Session 1: Panel**

- “Fort Valley State University: Cultivating Excellence in Georgia Agriculture”  
Moderator: Chrissy Lutz, Ph.D.  
Presenters: Kymara D. Sneed, Dawn Herd-Clark, Ph.D., Kyle Harris, Ph.D.

**11:00 Session 2: Farming Practices and Education**

- Bipul K. Biswas, Ph.D. and Komanduri S. Murty, Ph.D., “A 150-Year Journey: Georgia’s Agricultural Evolution from Slavery to Modernity, Embracing Hydroponics”
- Kiawana Kennedy, Ed.D., “Escape the Virtual Field Trip with GPB Educator’s VR

## Learning Journeys: Georgia Forest and Georgia Peanuts”

### **12:00 Lunch and Exhibits**

#### **1:00 Session 3: African American Experiences and Farming**

- George B. Ellenberg, Ph.D., “James Huling of Wilkes County Georgia: His 1874-1875 Daybook”
- Michael Witherspoon, “Seeds of Change: Unearthing the Hidden Narratives of Slavery in Georgia’s Agrarian History”
- Mark Schultz, Ph.D., “African American Farm Ownership in Jim Crow Georgia”

#### **2:30 Session 4: Food Culture and Food Safety**

- Benjamin Probst, “Disseminating the Dairy Regime: Science and Crisis in the Making of Georgia’s Dairy Industry, 1920-1960”
- Mark Janzen, Ph.D., “The Cranberry Scare in Georgia”
- Georgeta Connor, Ph.D., “Slow Food Movement USA: Conviviality and Localism in Georgia”

The Georgia Archives is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The Georgia Archives identifies, collects, manages, preserves, provides access to, and publicizes records and information of Georgia and its people, and assists state and local government agencies with their records management.

###