

## Nominating Committee To Meet June 8

The Nominating Committee will meet on Monday, June 8, 2015 at the Colquitt EMC headquarters in Moultrie to make nominations for three board positions.\*

CEMC members elect directors by mail and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

The 2015 Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015 at Spence Field in Moultrie.

*\*In addition to nominations made by the Nominating Committee, any 50 or more members may make other nominations by petition not less than eighty-five days prior to the Annual Meeting.*

### The following Directors' terms will expire on Nov. 3, 2015:

District 1 – **Bobby Griner**  
Colquitt County

District 5 – **Bobby Exum**  
Lowndes County

District 7 – **Gary Branch**  
Worth/Tift Counties

**Read about nominees in the July newsletter...**

**Georgia's Solar Financing and Free Market Act of 2015 goes into effect on July 1.**

See article on page 2.



## Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day set for July 9th

Are you looking for a one stop shop for the latest and most pertinent Agricultural research and technologies? Look no further. The Sunbelt Expo Field Day is scheduled for July 9, 2015 at the Darrell Williams Research Farm, located at the Expo Show Site. The goal of the Darrell Williams Research Farm is to provide farmers and agribusinessmen with the opportunity to combine education and practicality and this will be a theme of the 2015 Field Day.

Attendees will be able to learn from the region's top agricultural consultants and specialists in many diverse areas of agriculture. Thirty of the best known names in Agriculture showcase plots at The Darrell Williams Research Farm. These industry leaders will be at Field Day to share their technologies and answer any questions you might have.

The day will start with registration at 7:15 a.m. and will be complete by noon so you will be able to return to your farm in a timely fashion. Registration is free for anyone involved in agriculture and agribusiness and will be followed by a complimentary biscuit breakfast, exhibit viewing, and welcome from Georgia Department of Agriculture and Georgia Farm Bureau. You'll have the chance to win some great door prizes and will also receive a complimentary Expo hat. The trams will depart for the field demonstrations at 8:00 a.m. sharp. The tours will conclude by noon with a BBQ lunch provided by Ameris Bank. A tram will take those interested to the runway where, beginning at 12:30 p.m., Thrush and Eagles Vista will showcase the latest aerial application equipment and methods.

- **Registration 7:15 a.m.**
- **Trams Depart 8:00 a.m.**
- **BBQ Lunch 12:00 noon**

Continued on page 2.

*Interested in solar power for your home? Read this article written by Stan Wise, Georgia Public Service Commissioner*

## Look Before Leaping on Solar Offerings

The ink isn't dry yet on legislation making it easier to finance solar power systems for Georgia consumers, and already unscrupulous marketers are misleading consumers with offers to go solar and "eliminate" the electric bill. If Georgia's experience is anything like California, Arizona or even Louisiana, the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs will soon be busy with complaints of deceptive marketing. Rest assured, solar consumers will still get an electric bill. And when you consider all capital and finance costs, solar isn't cheaper than residential and small commercial electric rates offered by Georgia utilities. Even after applying rebates and tax credits, it would take close to 14 years to break even on a \$16,800 7-kw rooftop system.



**Study the offers.** Beware of sales gimmicks that predict electric rates will rise 4 to 6 percent annually. Over the last 25 years, the average annual increase

has been less than 2 percent for the state's investor-owned electric utility. Ask for a good faith estimate of the kilowatt-hours to be delivered by the system over time. Request plain language explanations of pricing terms over the life of the contract, warranties, and operation and maintenance costs and responsibilities. The lowest cost option for solar arrays may not even be a lease, but paying cash or using a home equity loan and taking the 30 percent federal tax credit oneself.

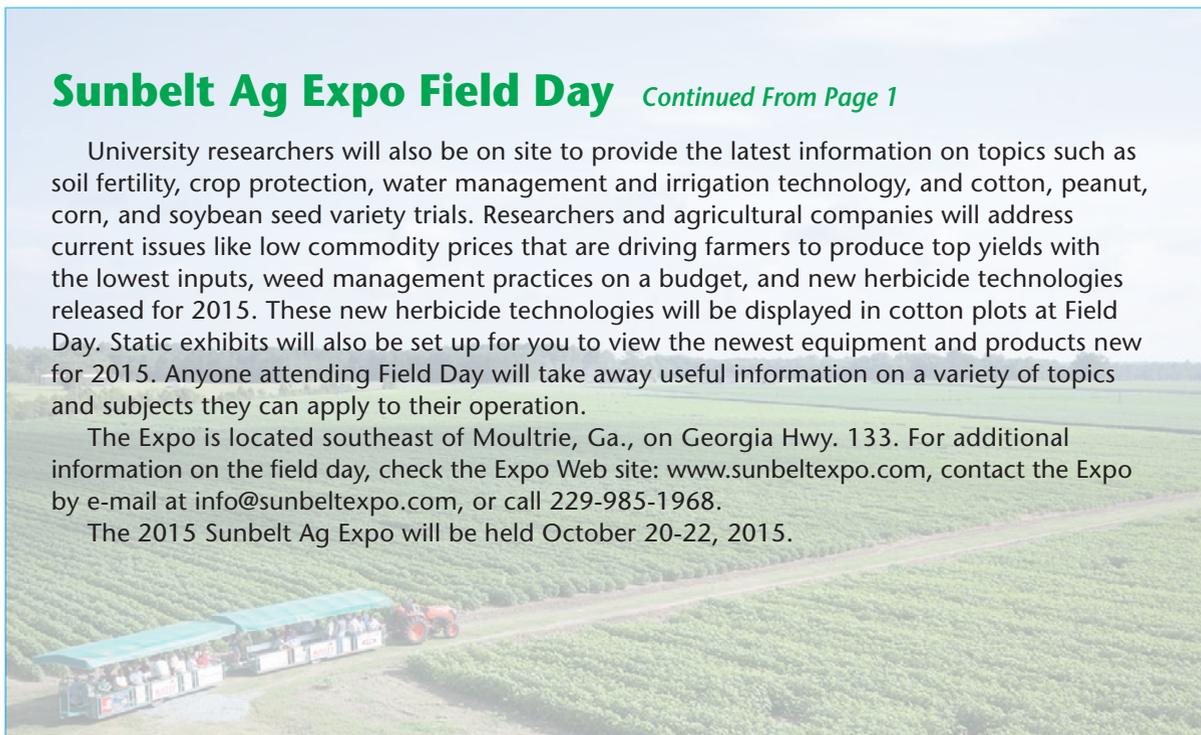
**Think twice about solar backup systems.** Before investing in a solar battery backup system at \$5,000 to \$10,000 every 10 years or so, be sure to weigh that cost against more practical investments in nonperishable foods and other goods necessary to ride | Continued on page 3.

## Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day *Continued From Page 1*

University researchers will also be on site to provide the latest information on topics such as soil fertility, crop protection, water management and irrigation technology, and cotton, peanut, corn, and soybean seed variety trials. Researchers and agricultural companies will address current issues like low commodity prices that are driving farmers to produce top yields with the lowest inputs, weed management practices on a budget, and new herbicide technologies released for 2015. These new herbicide technologies will be displayed in cotton plots at Field Day. Static exhibits will also be set up for you to view the newest equipment and products new for 2015. Anyone attending Field Day will take away useful information on a variety of topics and subjects they can apply to their operation.

The Expo is located southeast of Moultrie, Ga., on Georgia Hwy. 133. For additional information on the field day, check the Expo Web site: [www.sunbeltexpo.com](http://www.sunbeltexpo.com), contact the Expo by e-mail at [info@sunbeltexpo.com](mailto:info@sunbeltexpo.com), or call 229-985-1968.

The 2015 Sunbelt Ag Expo will be held October 20-22, 2015.





## Solar Offerings *Continued From Page 2*

out those rare power outages. If backup power is necessary, a natural gas standby generator is likely more cost-effective.

**Talk to real estate appraisers.** Even if cost calculations suggest you will break even in 15 to 20 years, it may not be a good idea to install solar if you may move before then. A solar array may be a selling point in some parts of California, but here in Georgia it can be a liability that harms resale value. Only a few buyers are willing to have arrays on their houses, much less willing to assume leases of older, less efficient equipment.

**Be aware of restrictions.** Some developments may require that solar arrays not be visible from the road. Considering the arrays perform best when facing south, this may limit your options. If you have trees that shade your home, your house may stay cooler with the shade and save you more money than if you cut the trees down for solar.

**Rate structures may change.** Solar customers must be connected to the grid for backup power and to sell excess power back to the system, which means they still need power plants and all the network infrastructure necessary to serve the home 24 hours a day. However, residential solar customers do not pay all these fixed costs. Efforts are under way in some states, such as Wisconsin and Arizona, to roll back the cost shifts that result. In California, a 2013 study estimated that rooftop solar has caused a \$1.2 billion cost shift onto non-solar customers because solar customers pay about 19 percent less than what it costs the utility to serve them. For these reasons, Georgia should consider restructuring the fixed infrastructure costs into a demand component on residential customer bills so that everyone who uses the grid pays his fair share of the costs of keeping it operational.

Before investing a large amount of money in a home solar system in hopes of saving a few dollars a month, have an energy audit performed on your home to see if you can save energy costs every month. As consumer protections develop, technology improves and prices decline, solar energy shows great promise under the right application.

*(This article is reprinted courtesy of Georgia Magazine, May 2015 issue.)*



## How High Will He Go?

During a recent "Community Helper" visit, Sunset Elementary Pre-K students watch as Tony Green demonstrates the use of a bucket truck. The students learned that SAFETY COMES FIRST and to always be aware of electrical equipment in their surroundings.

# Local. Dependable. Serving YOU.



Colquitt EMC offices will be closed  
Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
in observance of Independence Day.

## Summer Safety Sense

- Take care when stepping into a flooded area, and be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, posing a potential lethal trap.
- Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Electrical parts can become grounded and pose an electric shock hazard, or overheat and cause a fire. A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment that has been wet.
- Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death. If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.

**Always Play it Safe,  
Stay Away from  
Downed Power Lines**

## Deadline for Electric Vehicle state tax credit is July 1st

If you are thinking of buying a new Electric power vehicle, sooner would be better than later. Georgia gives buyers of an electric vehicle a 20% of the purchase price tax credit off their state income tax with a maximum credit of \$5000, but vehicles purchased or leased after July 1, 2015 will no longer qualify. The federal tax credit of (\$7500 maximum) will continue to be available after July 1, 2015.

### **Why you might consider Electric for your next vehicle**

- **Convenient refueling at home.** Say goodbye to gas stations.
- **Fueling cost is stable,** and less than half the cost of gasoline.
- **No emissions** – making your community a cleaner place.
- **Very low maintenance cost** – No oil, No belts, No spark plugs.

- **Quiet ride** – No combustion engine or exhaust noise.
- **They are Affordable** – prices are dropping from previous years and tax incentives are substantial.
- **Very reliable** – less parts mean fewer potential breaks.
- **Infrastructure for refueling on the road is in place and growing every day.**



# Recipes of the Month



## Zucchini and Summer Squash Skillet

2 tablespoons butter *Servings Per Recipe: 2*  
1 garlic clove, minced  
1/4 cup scallion, sliced thin  
1 small zucchini, sliced thin  
1 small summer squash, sliced thin  
1/2 teaspoon dried basil  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper, freshly ground  
1/4 teaspoon salt

### **DIRECTIONS**

- In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter.
- Saute garlic and scallion until garlic is tender but not browned.
- Loosely scatter zucchini and summer squash into skillet. Stir in basil, pepper and salt, cover skillet.
- Cook for 8-10 minutes, stirring occasionally until zucchini/squash slices are tender.

**Per Serving:** 128 Calories, 11.8g Fat, 382mg Sodium, 30.5mg Cholesterol, 5.6g Carbohydrate.



(Cut Here) ✂

## Easy Summer Cucumbers

2 large cucumbers (peeled and seeded if desired) *Servings Per Recipe: 4*  
1 small onion, sliced  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup cider vinegar  
1/4 teaspoon celery seed (optional)  
salt and pepper

### **DIRECTIONS**

- Seed the cucumbers if you desire, and slice them, no thicker than 1/4". Place in bowl or other container with a tight-fitting lid.
- Add the sliced onions.
- Sprinkle generously with salt and pepper, and add remaining ingredients.
- Tightly seal the bowl and give it several good shakes to combine all ingredients.
- Refrigerate, minimum one hour to overnight.
- Enjoy!

**Per Serving:** 81.4 Calories, 0.2g Fat, 4.3mg Sodium, 0mg Cholesterol, 19.9g Carbohydrate.