2027 Award & Scholarship Descriptions for Web/Magazine

DEADLINE FOR ALL GCA AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS IS JANUARY 15TH, 2027

SCHOLARSHIPS

GEORGIA CATTLEMEN'S FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS
These scholarships will be awarded to qualified students for the next school year. To be eligible, a student must attend the University of Georgia, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College or Berry College and must major in Animal Science, Ag Education, Ag Business, or Ag Communications with preference given to Animal Science. Preference will be given to a current member of the Georgia Junior Cattlemen's Association. These scholarships are funded by the Georgia Cattlemen's Foundation through contributions by cattle producer members and supporters of the livestock industry across the state. The purpose of these scholarships is to enhance educational opportunities for students pursuing careers in the livestock industry.

GAIL HILLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship is established in memory of Gail Hilley by her family through the Georgia Cattlemen's Foundation. The scholarship honors Gail's many years of work with the local, state and national cattlewomen and cattlemen and her devotion to the youth of the cattle industry. The scholarship is for $1,000 annually. To be eligible, a student must be a resident of Georgia and attend a Georgia high school or a Georgia college. Preference will be given to a member of the Georgia Junior Cattlemen's Association. It is recommended that preference be given to a student majoring in some phase of animal science, provided other factors are nearly equal.

JOHNNY AND LIDDY JENKINS SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship will be awarded to a qualified student for the next school year. To be eligible, a student must live in and attend school in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee or Virginia and major in Animal Science or Agricultural Communications. Preference will be given to members of the Georgia Junior Cattlemen's Association. This scholarship is presented in memory of Johnny and Liddy Jenkins for their five decades of service in livestock publishing. Funds for the scholarship were donated to the Georgia Cattlemen's Foundation in recognition of the Jenkins lifetime commitment to the livestock industry and their love and support of the youth in our industry.

HARVEY LEMMON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship is presented by his family in memory of Harvey Lemmon for his many years of service to Georgia's cattle industry and his love for the youth of the cattle industry. To be eligible, a student must attend the University of Georgia, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College or Berry College majoring in Animal Science, Ag Communications, Ag Leadership, AgriBusiness or other ag-related fields combined with a livestock background. Preference will be given to students with a veterinary focus. In addition, he or she must be a current member of the Georgia Junior Cattlemen's Association for at least six (6) months.

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BILL PATTEN SUNBELT AG EXPO MEMORIAL
This scholarship is presented annually by his family in memory of Bill Patten for his many years of service to the Sunbelt Ag Expo Livestock section and Georgia's cattle industry, and for his love for youth involved within the industry. To be eligible, a student must attend the University of Georgia and major in Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture Communications, Agriculture Leadership, Agribusiness, or another agriculture-related field combined with a livestock background.

GEORGIA CATTLEWOMENS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS
The Georgia Cattlewomen's Association awards two scholarships yearly, one to a Georgia high school student, and one to a Georgia collegiate student. *NOTE: Cattlewomen's scholarship applications are due March 1st and should be mailed to the Georgia Cattlewomen's Association at P O Box 27990, Macon, GA 31221.*

*All scholarship payments through GCA will be made at the end of the 1st Semester or Quarter when a transcript is provided with a C or higher Grade Point Average (GPA) and carrying a full credit hour load.

AWARDS

TOP NEW MEMBER RECRUITER
This award recognizes a GCA member who has recruited the highest number of new members to the association throughout the year. This award can only be given to one of the top 4 quarterly membership recruiters awarded throughout that respective calendar year. *No application necessary.*

REGION VP MEMBER RECRUITMENT CONTEST
This award recognizes the Region Vice-President(s) who have recruited the highest number of new members to the association throughout the year. *No application necessary.*

LARGEST CHAPTER NET INCREASE AWARD
This award recognizes the outstanding work of a local association that has received the largest net membership increase compared to the prior year. Each year, our friends at Southland Power & Equipment and Priefert donate a portable squeeze chute to the winner of the Chapter Membership Award to congratulate them on their membership recruitment efforts! *No application necessary.*

CHAPTER LARGEST PERCENT INCREASE AWARD
This award recognizes the outstanding work of a local association that has received the largest percent membership increase compared to the prior year. *No application necessary.*

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CHAPTER OF THE YEAR, LARGE & SMALL DIVISIONS
This award recognizes chapters for their outstanding service to their members, local and community activities and industry events. The Chapter of the Year Award will be presented in two divisions based on total chapter membership: Large Chapter Division, chapters with 60 or more total members; Small Chapter Division, chapters with 59 or fewer total members. A chapter's division will be determined by its total membership as of the January 15, 2027 application deadline. The membership total will include all membership categories assigned to the chapter. **Chapters who have received this honor in the last 5 years will not be eligible for this award.*

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR
The Cattle Producer of the Year award recognizes a GCA member who actively works to enhance the productivity of the association through their involvement on a local and state level, showcasing sustainable management practices in his/her own cattle operation, and shares that knowledge with others through their leadership qualities. Letter of Recommendation required. **Please note this is a once in a lifetime award.*

JUNIOR CATTLEMAN OF THE YEAR
This award recognizes a Georgia Junior Cattlemen's Association member who goes above and beyond the call of duty, participating in a variety of GCA and GCA events and serving as a great advocate for Georgia agriculture and the beef industry. Letter of Recommendation required.

YCC CATTLEMAN OF THE YEAR
This award recognizes a member of the cattle industry from 21-40 years old who goes above and beyond to impact the industry. The selected individual will be someone who is active in GCA and YCC events and serves as an impactful advocate and leader in the cattle industry in Georgia. Letter of Recommendation required.

CATTLEWOMAN OF THE YEAR
This award recognizes an outstanding cattlewoman who supports the state and local associations.

VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
This award recognizes an outstanding large-animal veterinarian who supports his/her local association. Candidates for this award must be nominated by a GCA member or chapter. **Please note this is a once in a lifetime award.*

OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURE TEACHER
This award recognizes excellence in agriculture teachers who support their local GCA chapter. Candidates for this award must be nominated by a GCA member or chapter. **Teachers who have received this honor in the last 5 years will not be eligible for this award.*

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BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE (BQA) AWARD
This award recognizes individuals who are BQA certified, use these principles on their operation and show BQA leadership in their communities. Candidates for this award must be nominated by a GCA member or chapter and attach a letter of nomination to their application. Letters of Recommendation also required.

DAVID GAZDA YCC VISIONARY AWARD
The Young Cattlemen's Council David Gazda Visionary Award is given to an individual who has gone above and beyond to provide opportunity for young people involved in the cattle industry. Recipients of the David Gazda Visionary Award exemplify an individual who wants to see the continuation of young producers involved in our industry and is willing to dedicate time and/or resources to support cattle producers in Georgia. Candidates for this award must be nominated by a GCA member or chapter.

STEVE SELLERS TOP HAND AWARD
For many years GCA has recognized people who have made a significant contribution to the organization over the past year by naming them the Steve Sellers Top Hand award winner. These people included members and non-members, industry leaders and non-connected volunteers. The only needed qualification is a servant's heart and outstanding effort within our organization. In 2020, Steve Sellers joined GCA as our Director of Communications and unfortunately passed away shortly after. While his time at GCA was short, Steve left an indelible mark on our organization. With a servant's heart and an uplifting smile, Steve embodied the spirit of our Top Hand award, and his legacy will continue to be recognized each time this award is given. Candidates for this award must be nominated by a GCA member or chapter.

GEORGIA CATTLEMEN'S QUEEN & PRINCESS CONTEST
The goal of the Miss Georgia Cattlemen's Contest is to promote and educate consumers about the beef industry in Georgia. The Miss Georgia Cattlemen's Contest exists as a leadership opportunity for young women to serve as advocates for Georgia's beef industry. Miss Georgia Cattlemen Queen contestants must be at least 18 years old and not over the age of 21 as of the first day of the annual convention of the year competing and must be a high school graduate or will graduate by June 30th of the year competing. Miss Georgia Cattlemen Princess contestants must be at least 14 years old and not over the age of 17 as of the first day of the annual convention of the year competing. Contestants must be a GCA or GJCA member and be the daughter of a GCA member. The member must live in the state of Georgia and have been a paid member in good standing for at least two consecutive years.

Scholarship & Award application forms can all be found on the GCA website, www.georgiacattlemen.org.

Submit completed applications to Sarah Williams by email at swilliams@gabeef.org or by mail at 101 General Courtney Hodges Blvd, Perry, GA 31069 by January 15th, 2027.