

23RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

*The Alabama Agribusiness Council is the **ONLY** organization in the state that brings **ALL** agriculture interest together.*

Our Mission: To advocate, enhance, and promote agribusiness in Alabama as the collective voice.

Our Purpose: Our primary purpose is to work with groups and organizations to effectively promote and enhance the business of agriculture and forestry in Alabama.

We represent: The broadest base of agricultural interest in Alabama. Membership is open to individuals, trade associations and companies ranging from 1-500+ employees who share a common interest in positively enhancing agriculture and agribusiness in Alabama.

On October 6th, AAC members and guests gathered at Wynlakes Golf & Country Club in Montgomery for the 23rd Annual Golf Tournament on a day perfect for golf. For 23 consecutive years, members have joined in this casual way to support the Council and network with fellow members. Longtime tournament participant, John Gamble, with the Alabama Farmers Cooperative Grain Division, has supported the tournament since the first year and looks forward to seeing many members he only sees at the tournament.



The 2016 tournament was well sponsored and supported with 19 teams



participating. Each golfer received an AAC golf shirt and raffle tickets for drawings held throughout the tournament for top prizes. Items included a Ping Driver sponsored by First South Farm Credit and an Odyssey Putter from Syngenta.

The Alabama Poultry & Egg Association and Yara North America sponsored a hearty box lunch for the golfers before they hit the links. The beverage cart was sponsored by PowerSouth to quench the golfer's thirst throughout the tournament. Following the outing

golfers gathered at a reception hosted by Alabama Power and the Alabama Farmers Cooperative as they waited for the scores to come in.



Tournament winners were: 1st Place Gross: Alabama Rural Electric

Association of Cooperatives, 1st Place Net: Alabama Ag Credit, 2nd Place Net: Syngenta, 3rd Place Net: Alabama Power Company and Putting Contest Winner Gage Bendinger.



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Congressman Bradley Byrne Visits AGRI-AFC Facility

Representative Bradley Byrne made a stop at the AGRI-AFC Facility in Atmore as a part of his #AgMatters tour throughout his Congressional District, AL-1. Rep. Byrne took this opportunity to visit an agricultural retail facility to better understand the crop protection industry



and to get a firsthand look at the role an agribusiness plays in supporting agriculture. Employees at AGRI-AFC helped Rep. Byrne realize how government regulations and rule-making can drastically impact the way they do business.

Rep. Byrne was active in requesting House Appropriators to prevent funds from being used

by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to implement a memo attempting to redefine an exemption on anhydrous ammonia and directs OSHA to go through a formal rulemaking process with stakeholder input before enforcing. This would have greatly impacted 3,800 agricultural retail facilities in the United States including Alabama. In late September a ruling came down from the DC Circuit Court against OSHA requiring OSHA to go through a formal notice and rulemaking process to make any changes to the Process Safety Management (PSM) regulations as it relates to agricultural retailers. AAC appreciates Rep. Byrne's leadership on this.

AAC and the Agricultural Retailers Association coordinated this visit along with AGRI-AFC in Atmore to provide Rep. Byrne with an informative experience on his tour of an ag-retail facility.

AAC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

- Walter Cartwright
- John Deere
- Shep Morris
- PNC Bank-Madison

NOT A MEMBER?



Apply Online!

www.alagribusiness.org



I appreciate the integrative force that the Alabama Agribusiness Council has become. In my opinion, the future for agribusiness in Alabama is very bright. We have opportunities to grow markets for our state's products and opportunities to grow the products offered by our state. Furthermore, our

state has a rich resource base, good transportation networks, and a pro-business environment. I am certain the AAC will play an important role in helping develop new agribusiness opportunities. I also appreciate the internship opportunities and scholarship support the AAC has offered to College of Agriculture students, who will be tomorrow's agribusiness leaders. I look forward to working with the AAC to build a stronger Alabama agribusiness sector.



*Dr. Paul Patterson
Dean, Auburn University College of Agriculture*

Romanian Dignitaries Join Ag Leaders to Discuss Trade

On September 28, AAC hosted lunch and conversation with Romanian dignitaries for Alabama agricultural leaders to promote agriculture and discuss trade opportunities. In 1993 Alabama and Romania entered into an agreement to establish one of the first partnerships in the National Guard State Partnership Program linking U.S. states with partner countries around the world. The United States Ambassador to Romania Hans Klemm, Romanian Secretary of State for Trade and Investments Manuel Costescu and Oana Bizgan with InvestRomania joined ag leaders in Montgomery to discuss developing stronger trade relationship between the two.

The dignitaries travelled to Alabama to spend time visiting with representatives from various industries around the state. This luncheon put the spotlight directly on agriculture. AAC Executive Director Leigha Cauthen led the effort in hosting the guests while Alabama Agriculture & Industries Commissioner John McMillan officially welcomed them to our state and presented them with a gift basket full of Alabama goods and products. Dr. Gary Lemme, Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, prepared a presentation outlining many of the similarities Alabama and Romania share as well as highlighting potential trade opportunities.

An open discussion provided the opportunity for ag leaders to showcase their respective commodities and exchange questions and comments with the Romanian trade leaders. Ambassador Klemm stated that the presentation “served as a catalyst for an enlightening dialogue between all of the guests and increased the potential for future interactions between Alabama and Romania.” This was an excellent opportunity for AAC to shine on a world stage and share a bit of southern hospitality with our international partners. This event carried out the Council’s mission of working with groups and organizations to effectively promote and enhance the business of agriculture and forestry in Alabama.



Left to Right: Commissioner John McMillan, Major General Perry Smith, Secretary de Stat Manuel Costescu, Oana Bizgan, Invest Romania, AAC Executive Director Leigha Cauthen and U.S. Ambassador to Romania Hans Klemm

AAC 2016-2017

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Glen Zorn - *Zorn Brothers*

SAVE THE DATE



Legislative Reception

February 14

RSA Plaza Terrace, Montgomery

Annual Meeting

June 25-27

Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach

Golf Tournament

October 5

Wynlakes Golf & Country Club

Montgomery

AACF Scholarship Available



Agriculture and ag related studies students can apply for the Alabama Agribusiness Council Foundation's scholarship. The deadline to apply is **March 31, 2017**. Applicants must be majoring in a field directly related to the study of agriculture or agribusiness. Applicants should be accepted or enrolled in a four-year institution in Alabama. Applicants should have a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants are screened by the AACF Board of Directors. The scholarship amount is \$1,000 and awarded to the University in the students' honor upon proof of enrollment. For more information or to download an application visit www.alagribusiness.org or contact lcauthen@alagribusiness.org



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