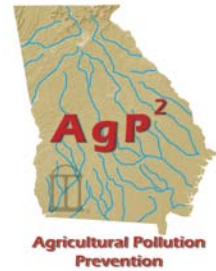




## Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia *AgTrack* Partner Application

### General Information For Bronze, Silver, and Gold Applications



## Background Information

The Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia (PSG) is a voluntary program sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources Sustainability Division. The Partnership was begun to assist Georgia businesses and promote conservation practices in such areas as energy use and waste production. In conjunction with the Agricultural Pollution Prevention Program (AgP<sup>2</sup>), housed in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at UGA, an application process and program have been created to best meet the needs and concerns of the agricultural community in Georgia.

**The *AgTrack* is a leadership program for farmers and producers in Georgia.** This is a voluntary program designed to encourage your efforts to incorporate environmental stewardship and pollution prevention into daily operations and decisions. While doing this, you as a partner are promoted as an environmental leader. You will be networked with other Ag environmental leaders as well as industry partners to provide innovative techniques and new approaches to issues affecting agriculture. In addition, you are provided opportunities to serve as advisors to AgP<sup>2</sup> in your sector and given the chance to communicate with influential parties in your respective sector.

Agriculture is a diverse and historic part of Georgia's economy and tradition. **This program hopes to involve everyone in our agricultural community, from traditional row crop farmers to nursery and greenhouse managers, to achieve one goal: the promotion and improvement of Georgia agriculture in environmental stewardship.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *1. Where do I fit in the Program?*

There are four partnership levels: Champion, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The level at which a farmer or producer enters is based on activities already in place. Although we have levels set for previous work done by farmers, each farm will be looked at on a case by case basis to determine the appropriate level of entry.

<b>Champion</b>	Open to agricultural non-governmental agencies, environmental groups, trade organizations, and others that provide assistance and services to agricultural producers.
<b>Bronze</b>	An entry level for most farmers and producers. Bronze partners develop proactive policies and procedures, such as developing an Environmental Policy Statement and conducting self-assessments of the operation.
<b>Silver</b>	A level designed for farmers and producers operating under a farm conservation plan, environmental management system (EMS), or NRCS conservation stewardship plan (CSP).
<b>Gold</b>	A level designed for farmers and producers who are “model” leaders in conservation. These partners are already operating under an EMS or have otherwise exceeded the bronze and silver levels of partnership.

### *2. What benefits do I receive from joining the Partnership program?*

Partners are able to receive assistance from members the AgP<sup>2</sup> staff, which specialize in pollution prevention and practices that maximize efficiency. Many of the benefits that result from being a partner are those that result from the practices you choose to implement on your operations. These benefits improve your bottom line while also improving the long-term management of your business. Other benefits include, but are not limited to:

- Assistance in partners application and implementation
- Workshops and seminars
- Access to mentoring and networking with other partners
- Interaction among leaders and stakeholders in GA agriculture
- Improved community relations
- Publicity in local and other media
- Recognition at events and in newsletters

### *3. What does filling out a Partnership application involve?*

The application is designed to be easy to complete while also providing AgP<sup>2</sup> with sufficient information to evaluate if you qualify for acceptance.

**These instructions—which follow the same order as the application— should help you complete the application and answer any questions that you have.**

The application consists of three sections:

- Section A–Operation Information
- Section B–Partner Commitment
- Section C–Application and Participation Statement

Sections A and B ask you to tell us about your facility and explains your commitments as a partner. After completing these two sections, you will need to complete and sign Section C, which certifies that you have read, understand, and meet the participation criteria as established in these instructions.

***4. Will I need to provide any confidential business information?***

No, we do not want you to submit any confidential business information on your application. All information received will be public record.

***5. What if I have questions about the application process or about the Program in general?***

If you have any questions, contact Adam Speir, *AgTrack* Coordinator, by phone at (706) 542-5512 or by email at [aspeir@engr.uga.edu](mailto:aspeir@engr.uga.edu). You may also visit the AgP2 website ([www.agp2.org](http://www.agp2.org)) for program info and other assistance on ag pollution prevention.