

# Season 5 Episode 13 — July's Reconciliation Bill: What It Means for Ag

## July 17, 2025

## Scott Graham

Hey everybody, welcome into another episode of the Alabama Crops Report Podcast. Today, Simer, I think we're going to be out a little bit over our skis on this topic. We we've got the man, the myth, the legend, Max Runge with us, and we're going to talk about the new budget reconciliation bill. Is that what we?

## Max Runge

Yes. That's right. Yeah. That's good.

Scott Graham

On July the 4th.

Simer Virk

In our world. That's the technical terminology.

Max Runge

That's right. Yes.

#### Scott Graham

So, a lot of information out there on it and its relation to agriculture. So obviously that's where we're going to stay.

Max Runge

Very good.

Scott Graham

In our agricultural lane. But I've just seen a lot of positive things about what it's going to mean for the agricultural industry. And so, we want to talk about how that's going to help Alabama farmers.

## Max Runge

All right. And before we get into that, I think it's important to sort of look back and see where we are in this climate. You know, we are supposed to have a farm bill every five years. There was one passed in 2014, 2018, and then the next one was 2024. The 2024 farm bill has been extended two times.

## Max Runge

The outlook for getting a brand new farm bill is not the best in the world. So, when we, they were able to use the budget reconciliation bill to get some agricultural components in there, it's been great. Another thing that's worth remembering is that when we were at the 2014 farm Bill, a lot of the price levels reference prices were coming off of higher commodity prices.

#### Max Runge

Since then, those commodity prices have not been as strong. And those reference prices, you know, really didn't kick in. So, but you're right, Scott, there are a lot of things in this that are very positive for agriculture. And we're pretty excited.

#### Simer Virk

So, the farm bill is kind of completely different from this, but they were able to do some things in this bill.

## Max Runge

That's correct. I think there's like 12 or 13 provisions or chapters in the farm bill or titles, is the correct term, and so typically we're only concerned about the, the commodities title. And this has a number of components that are tied to that and make it good for agriculture.

#### Simer Virk

Now obviously there were a lot of things in this bill, you know, and I like the fact that Scott said there are a lot of positive things. You know, I've been also hearing about a lot of other things. So maybe let's start with all the positives and maybe if there are some concerns or something, we'll probably touch that later too, you know?

## Max Runge

Okay.

#### Simer Virk

So, what's the biggest thing I guess that benefits us or our growers?

#### Max Runge

There's a couple of things that stand out to me, and one of them is the reference prices for our commodities. We've seen increases. Soybeans have gone from \$8.40 a bushel up to ten seed cotton from 36.7 cents a pound to \$0.42 a pound, corn up to \$410, peanuts from \$536 a ton to \$630. And wheat was, \$550 up to \$635.

## Max Runge

And I know that's a lot of numbers.

## Scott Graham

And I'll let me interject and ask the first of many dumb questions I'll ask today. That reference price is the lowest guaranteed price you'll pay.

## Max Runge

That you would receive. Yes.

## Scott Graham

That you would receive.

#### Max Runge

Yes, that you would receive, yes that's right. And there are a lot of other...

#### Scott Graham

If it goes lower, which if cotton price goes below 40, whatever cents, it doesn't, you know, nobody is going to grow cotton, but if it goes below that, they'll pay you up to that point.

## Max Runge

That's correct. Yeah. It's basically setting a floor. Alright, now on the cotton, it does get a little complicated.

## **Scott Graham**

Yeah.

## Max Runge

Because it's not a straight cotton price.

## Scott Graham

Okay.

## Max Runge

And there's...

## Scott Graham

Because I was...

## Simer Virk

Is that because I was paying the difference to get it to the reference?

#### Scott Graham

That's right. Yeah.

## Simer Virk

It's the government paying whatever the difference between the reference...

## Max Runge

Right.

#### Simer Virk

Price and the selling price.

Or if it goes below that reference price, they'll pay a...

#### Scott Graham

And as soon as you said something about \$8 beans, I knew that cotton number was in the 40 cent range. And I was like, well, that don't sound fair. So, I'm glad you were about to...

## Simer Virk

So, where are we with beans today?

## Max Runge

Right now, beans are a little over \$10.

## Simer Virk

Oh, okay.

Max Runge

So, it's close to that reference price.

#### Simer Virk

So, are any of our commodity prices right now are below the reference price?

#### Max Runge

No, not. Well hold it. I say no. No we're close on several of them.

#### Simer Virk

Oh, okay.

## Max Runge

On corn and soybeans. Are there.

## Simer Virk

Gotcha.

#### Max Runge

The cotton one. Like, say, it's a little different. And they call it seed cotton, not cotton seed, but seed cotton. And that came about because in the 2014 farm bill, there was no provisions for cotton because of the World Trade Organization and lawsuits from that.

## Max Runge

So, they couldn't provide a floor for cotton. So, they worked it out. I believe it was the 2018 farm bill, or at some point where they take our lent price and the cotton seed price and combine it to get a pound per price. And so, you'd have to work it out.

#### Simer Virk

When we usually talk about cotton price, that's just lent. Right?

## Max Runge

That's correct. That's just lent.

#### Simer Virk

What the growers are selling it for, and the gins can do whatever with the seed.

## Max Runge

Well, yeah. Yeah. And that's a whole nother thing too. Some of them, it used to be that they gave it back to the farmers or they would give them credit. So, they would basically get credit for that cotton seed.

#### Simer Virk

Mhm, yeah.

## Max Runge

Now the, the prices on a lot of the commodities, it's based on the, the exchanges like Cargo Mercantile Exchange or in the case of Cotton International. ICE exchange.

## Max Runge

And then there's premiums or discounts based on quality and for all the, the products. So, and then a basis goes along with that too. But it's, it's basically there. So, it's good to have a floor obviously in agriculture, you know, we are very dependent on the weather. A lot of times we do have things that we can overcome irrigation, but that doesn't always solve all the problems.

## Max Runge

So, you know, we need a floor. So that in case something bad happens, we don't lose everything.

#### Scott Graham

Yeah. It just would be nice if that floor was remotely close to our breakeven line.

## Max Runge

That would be correct. Yes. That's a very...

#### Simer Virk

Well, does the, with everything, with the fluctuations in the market or the prices, all that, I guess, in our breakeven is also kind of dynamic in a way. Or does that stay more consistent?

## Max Runge

No. You're correct. They are dynamic in it. You know, a lot of times when you ask an Ag economist a question, his answer is, well, it depends. Well, that breakeven price depends, depends on a lot of stuff. You know, if you're using brand new equipment, your breakeven is a lot different than somebody whose using older...

#### Simer Virk

Somebody who has already owned and paid for.

#### Max Runge

Yeah. That's right.

#### Simer Virk

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

And it's, and then, you know, the weather comes in on production and all that. You know, another thing we always sometimes lose sight of is we operate in a world market. And so, it doesn't matter necessarily what our neighbors do or what another state does, or what happens across the US.

## Max Runge

But it's what happens across the world and a lot of our products, and we're competing with other countries and a lot of other countries have subsidies on those crops that the government gives those growers that our growers don't get.

## Simer Virk

Don't get, gotcha.

## Max Runge

So sometimes it's not, you know, it's not a level playing field. And that's what the US producers want is a level playing field.

#### Scott Graham

Yeah and we're seeing that right now with I know the most recent USDA plantings report came out and I don't know that I agree with it. They didn't survey me. But, you know, the market really hasn't responded to any report, you know, anything and like you would expect. But we are playing in a much bigger market than just over here.

#### Max Runge

That's right. Yeah. We are all competitors or we have world competitors and it's and it depends on what happens in other places.

#### Simer Virk

Okay. All right. Prices increase in reference prices. What's next.

## Max Runge

Okay. There's provision in this budget reconciliation bill that's adding, a one-time allocation to new base acres, up to 30 million acres. This is the first time since 2002 that there's been a chance to change base Acres. Now, why that is important is, because the growers that are enrolled in the with the government, they can enroll in a program and get, they have their base acres.

## Max Runge

So, their production, if it changes, they can get, they're eligible for programs and assistance in various ways, because some of the payments are decoupled from production. So, a lot of the farmers, the head base acres have retired, and those base acres were lost. So, we've got a lot of newer or and or younger producers that are out there that are producing have no base acres.

#### Max Runge

So, they're ineligible to qualify for some of the programs that are out there.

## Simer Virk

Dumb question again, going back to Base Acres. How does that work with the grower and all this?

Max Runge

It's the.

Simer Virk

Define, they say.

(Laughs)

## Scott Graham

I've had this explained to me by three different people, and I still have no idea. So Max is going to break it down.

Simer Virk

Define base acres.

Max Runge

(Laughs)

Simer Virk

For people like us.

Max Runge

Yeah.

#### Simer Virk

Because you said like the older farmers or the previous generation, they had base acres, but the newer don't. So even though they, they're operating the same farm.

## Max Runge

So, I'm going to go with how I understand it. We may or may not be right. Scott was right. You know people you asked three different people, you get three different answers. So, years ago we used to have allotments on farm commodities. There was an allotment for cotton. There was an allotment for tobacco, there was an allotment for sugar and there was an allotment for some other things, which meant that basically the government was trying to hold down production so that people would have to have an opportunity to make money.

## Max Runge

Like a lot of other things, it was based on politics. The South had very strong politicians. So that's why you saw a lot of these programs with cotton, tobacco and peanuts that were in there. So, they had a base or an allotment. They did away with the allotment, but they kept the base acres on how they were doing.

#### Max Runge

And then corn and soybeans have sort of come in the program because they hadn't always been on that. So, they were, it's only based on acres and sometimes production. So, like peanuts used to be tons, it was an allotment. And so, if you had so much of that you were guaranteed a price on that. So, they did away with that, did away with the guaranteed price.

#### Simer Virk

Gotcha.

#### Max Runge

But they have set those base prices on there. So, now the, and this is one of the, I guess, negative things, these base acres is that they are decoupled from production, which means if I owned a lot of land and I had base, historical base on that, I don't have to produce those crops to get a payment from the government.

#### Max Runge

If there was one that was triggered. So, you know, I could own the land or own both.

#### Simer Virk

And still get the payment.

## Max Runge

And go get a payment. But I wasn't producing. So, that was, you know, there there's a little bit of heart behind that.

#### Simer Virk

So is that... A scenario I can think of very common, people who rent land. The owner gets the payment, whereas the grower actually...

## Max Runge

Right and that's the way it used to be. And they've changed some of that. And I'm not exactly sure how all the, it works. But when the 2014 farm bill came out, there was you had to make a decision whether it was ARC (Agricultural Revenue Protection) or PLC (Price Protection). And the landowner made that decision, and which was extremely confusing because we had a lot of people that rented land.

#### Max Runge

And I had one producer tell me, he said, I've got 32 landlords and a lot of them are older. He said, "I'm struggling to understand this farm bill, and now I've got to go ask them to sign to choose one." And he said, "it's a little stressful and all that." So it is, that it's supposed to go to the landowner and, and then they were working on getting ways that the payment would stay with the producer.

## Max Runge

So, there's a lot of intricacies in this. And what it is today is different than what it was five years ago, what it was 20 years ago.

## Simer Virk

So, are there the numbers for each crop in the bill that increased or?

## Max Runge

All I saw is that creating up to 30 million acres of new base for producers who do not have base on their farm, or whose average planted and prevented planted acres from 2019 to 23, exceed their current base acres on the farm. So, the base acres does stay with the farm and the land.

## Simer Virk

Gotcha.

#### Scott Graham

Is there a limit to how much base you can have?

## Max Runge

As far as I know, there's not where the limits come in is on the payment side. Prior to this increase, the payment limit was \$125,000, and now it's increased up to \$155,000. That you can get.

#### Simer Virk

That's a total across the farm.

## Max Runge

Yes.

#### Simer Virk

Doesn't matter. You know, if you even if you have more acreage than what that payment will amount to, that's where you're getting capped at for your max...

## Max Runge

Right.

#### Scott Graham

That's for all your base acres?

## Max Runge

Right.

## Scott Graham

Yeah. Okay. So, the original base plan was actually to reduce the amount of acres basically you kind of had a little safety net there. And the idea was people won't plant a whole lot above this base because there's no safety net.

## Max Runge

Right, that's correct. Yeah.

## Scott Graham

Interesting.

## Max Runge

Yeah. So, they were basically trying to control production which equaled price. So.

## Scott Graham

Was that... that was if I remember right, when I learned in school that would have been after the pick plant pick program or whatever.

## Max Runge

Well now Base Acres was even before the pick.

#### Scott Graham

Before that. Okay.

#### Max Runge

Yeah. The pick was payment in kind but it was. Yeah.

#### Scott Graham

Then they were just paying them, Simer, you probably didn't learn this. It's an undergrad type thing. You learn, but they're paying them, just not to plant.

## Simer Virk

Oh.

#### Scott Graham

Yeah.

## Max Runge

And the payment in kind was like if you needed corn, if you were a fed livestock and you needed corn, they would pay you in corn...

#### Scott Graham

Yeah, yeah, right.

## Max Runge

Or that that equivalent.

## Scott Graham

Yeah, yeah, they would just give it. Yeah. Yeah. It's pretty.

## Simer Virk

Alright. So, I was curious because I saw this and, okay, there's no number even for peanuts because the Peanut Commission posted some of the things related to the peanut production. And the reference price went from \$535 to \$630, which you, I think mentioned about it, limitations. But the base acres, all it says is 30 million new base acres.

## Max Runge

So, and that's I guess one of the things with these bills that get passed in, from what I understand, it was a huge bill. A lot of pages in it, that some of the details have to be worked out. I remember working on the 2014 farm bill, working with some of the USDA people. They said, you know, they passed it, but we hadn't got the details yet.

## Max Runge

We're still waiting on that. So that's one of those things, you know, to be determined is,

## Simer Virk

Gotcha.

Used a lot.

#### Scott Graham

And so that could even mean what crops received those base acres or what regions of the state get them more of that, that would be more dependent on the crops though.

## Max Runge

It sits on the crops, and sort of in, I guess, you know, determining, well how many acres are not under base.

#### Scott Graham

And also you said, if I remember, it's based on the last like five years of production and those with lesser production are more likely to get base.

## Max Runge

Yes, that's correct.

## Scott Graham

That would likely help Alabama farmers who have no, very little irrigation. And though you know that those types of things. So maybe that plays into our favor over the "I" states that...

## Max Runge

That's right.

## Scott Graham

It's different production systems.

#### Max Runge

Yeah. That's right. Because up there you know, they basically choose between soybeans or corn.

## Scott Graham

Right.

## Max Runge

And we have options. But yeah, it is you know, and I think this is a good thing because they look at the years it's 2019 through 2023 and you know and we.

#### Scott Graham

We had Hurricane Michael in there.

## Max Runge

Hurricane Michael. Well, he was 18.

#### Scott Graham

Not Hurricane Michael.

## Max Runge

But we also had stress crop rotation. So, you know, if you just look at one year you may have something heavier than something else.

Scott Graham

Right, right.

Max Runge

So, it does help with us when we looking at crop rotations.

Scott Graham

We had Helene in there.

Max Runge

That's right. Helene was in there.

Scott Graham

Helene.

Simer Virk

So is the payment limitation. Is that what would relate to base acres or is that a different thing?

Max Runge

No, it's just in general.

Simer Virk

It says that it went from older was 125,000 and the new is 155.

Max Runge

155.

Simer Virk

What does that mean?

#### Max Runge

Well that's how much you if you qualify for if you hit the safety net or you had, if you've use revenue protection and revenue protection, there's a whole big old long thing on how it's calculated, but it's basically price versus price times your production. And you should, you know, you have an average of, let's just say \$500 an acre in revenue.

## Max Runge

And you get below that, that will get you close to it. The other thing I think to think about this is these safety nets are not made to make you whole.

Scott Graham

Yeah.

Max Runge

That they are there to help, to protect you from a catastrophic ending. And another thing that that we do look at is with crop insurance, which is sort of along the same lines, and it is subsidized by the government.

## Max Runge

And the subsidies are increasing a little bit, but the producers themselves have skin in the game other than all their costs, because they have to pay for that crop insurance and hope that they never have to use it.

#### Scott Graham

Just like, just like me with car insurance.

Max Runge

That's correct.

(All Laugh)

Simer Virk

You pay for it, you don't know when you need it.

Scott Graham

You hope you never use it.

Max Runge

Right, But I did out hear a long time ago that the insurance is a guaranteed loss.

Scott Graham

Yeah, yeah.

Max Runge

But the other side of that is you can't stand to be totally wiped out.

Scott Graham

Yeah.

Simer Virk

Yeah. All right. What other stuff in there?

Max Runge

It's pretty wide ranging.

Simer Virk

Okay.

## Max Runge

It goes to other things just besides our row crop commodities. There are some trade program provisions that increase some funding, through market access program, foreign market development, through that. So, which is pretty interesting because, you know, we're here, we're wanting to develop foreign markets and then we're talking tariffs and some other things like that.

So, it's good that we are trying to develop these markets. And to increase our market availability. And on our Ag products. Ag products, depending on which product you look at, you know, almonds, we export like 98% of our almonds, to other parts of the world. We export between 75 and 80% of our cotton to other parts of the world.

#### Max Runge

And it goes and gets spun and made into cloth and whatever, and we import it back in. But anyway, soybeans, about 50%, corn about 20%, and cattle about 10%. And I think poultry is along in that 10% as well. So, some of these products, we don't need a lot of help in, but some of them, we could stand to export more and help our domestic prices on that.

#### Scott Graham

Some of this stuff, it would help to export less. If we had the industry right now with cotton, we're selling cotton at wholesale prices and buying it back at retail.

## Max Runge

That's correct.

#### Scott Graham

It would be nice if we still had the infrastructure to spend it here.

## Max Runge

You're correct. And if we do need some of that infrastructure here and bringing it back, you know, we've got some small examples. Redland cotton is one. They are doing some spinning and processing cotton. In the States. We do need more of that. And it's a challenge though.

#### Scott Graham

Yeah. Oh yeah.

#### Simer Virk

So, it's a lot of money in the infrastructure and all that to get it going.

## Max Runge

Yes, it is.

#### Scott Graham

And then, people to work.

## Max Runge

Right. Laborers are a huge thing. You know, just looking at agriculture, from what I can remember, I grew up in North Alabama. And there were two cotton gins within three miles of my house. And now there's probably nowhere there's not one within 50 miles.

#### Scott Graham

Yeah.

## Max Runge

Really.

Scott Graham

Yeah.

Max Runge

So, we lost that. Dairy is another industry that we've lost the infrastructure in.

Max Runge

And when we don't have those milk processing facilities, you know, it's sort of a egg, chicken versus thing. You know, you got to have the milk to have the processing facilities for the milk. If you don't have the processing, you're probably not going to haul the milk long. Well, the same thing with cotton and some of our other commodities.

Simer Virk

Okay.

Max Runge

You know, on a positive note on that though, you know, Alabama's a corn deficit state, but we grow a lot of poultry, so our corn goes to most of our poultry processing facilities.

Scott Graham

Yeah.

Simer Virk

Yeah. Didn't I mention in the last podcast that,

Scott Graham

That's right. Yeah.

Simer Virk

That all of our grain production, corn and soybeans get consumed within a week.

Max Runge

Well, it's not quite right.

Simer Virk

Well, maybe North Alabama's, but they said that it's actually a week that all the North Alabama production maybe.

Max Runge

And it could be North Alabama, I've ranked the numbers for the state.

Scott Graham

Maybe Etowah County or something.

Max Runge

Right.

#### Simer Virk

You know, like the people who were exporting it, they were like we only open this for export.

#### Scott Graham

Yeah.

## Simer Virk

Or you know, not really export. Like when we take when it is we only close it for like a week or two when they are actually running ours and then it's over and then we start getting in more from there.

## Max Runge

Yeah, so, it's you know, it's been obviously depends on acres and in yield. But basically 135 days we provide if all our corn went to the poultry industry, our broiler industry, you would do that. And I think last year it was down to like 85 days because yields were down. So, we only were able to provide that.

## Max Runge

So, it's there. The other thing going on that a lot of the poultry industries will work with producers to store the corn on the farm.

#### Simer Virk

Yeah.

## Max Runge

And then deliver it in the, the one of the advantages is we end up with a positive basis on that, where the Midwest that grows a lot of corn does not have to.

#### Simer Virk

Yeah. So, there's some positive news for our poultry producers.

#### Max Runge

Well, actually there is. There's a, you know, one of the things our contract poultry growers, they don't have a lot of control over, you know, they don't price the chickens, and they don't price to feed, what they have to pay for the utilities in the buildings. So, there's a provision in there to establish a poultry insurance pilot program.

#### Max Runge

To index, energy related costs, related to extreme weather related things. So, if it gets really, really cold and the poultry producers have to buy a lot of extra natural gas or LP gas, there's an index and an insurance product that will be developed to help them offset that extra cost. And the same thing in the summer, whether it's with fans on the electricity or extra water, on cooling fans that they have, so.

#### Scott Graham

Kind of need that in my house this summer.

#### Simer Virk

Yeah.

## Max Runge

Oh, absolutely.

#### Simer Virk

I wish there was a provision to help us with the electricity bill in the summer.

#### Scott Graham

Yeah, yeah. That's what I'm saying yeah, yeah. Well.

#### Simer Virk

So, I see you got a bunch of other stuff highlighted. What is all that about.

## Max Runge

This is just a little background on some of this, but you know, and part of the reason we talk about this is that the government, I'll say Congress, has tried to set up safety nets to produce, to protect our producers because, you know, the primarily things that affect our profitability are prices, yields and cost. We can't do a whole lot about the input cost that we have.

#### Max Runge

And a lot of times we can't do anything about yields because that's for on weather. So, and we've mentioned this, and it's been mentioned numerous times before, but food safety and security is key. And it truly is a national security issue. And that we don't want to have to depend on other countries for our food. I think it's a great thing that we can go to the grocery store in December or January and buy a watermelon.

## Max Runge

That's not necessarily grown in the US, but we have that option, that's there. But we don't want to have to depend on other countries for our food.

#### Simer Virk

Yeah.

## Max Runge

So, that's.

#### Simer Virk

All the stuff we're mentioning. I just want to make clear, everything like this base acres or other increase in different prices. This starts for next year's crop, not nothing is.

## Max Runge

It's going to be for the 2025 crop.

## Simer Virk

Oh, it is.

## Max Runge

It is so it is for the 2025 crop and.

## Scott Graham

But payments will probably be in 26'.

That's correct. Yeah. That's on the row crops especially. They don't know what the season average price will be until the following marketing year. So, for most things, that's after September 1st. So, if there was a crop in 2025 that was planted that triggers a payment. That payment will be received probably at the end of 2026, which is another challenge for agriculture producers because, you know, that's a cash flow issue.

## Max Runge

You invest all this money, and you make those payments and then you don't get a payment for, you know, 12 to 15 months later. So that...

#### Simer Virk

So, when the bill is passed and all that, is it more like our documents over here that it's effective from today when it gets signed on or whatever. Or is it the start date.

Max Runge

It depends.

Simer Virk

Okay.

## Max Runge

In this bill it does say this. It takes effect in the 2025 crop. A lot of these details still have to be worked out. And they have to work through some of the new stuff that's there. So, you know, the.

## Simer Virk

So even if it gets passed, there's still some stuff like these details that, when it gets passed, I mean, the heading, the title gets like, whatever that number is

Max Runge

Right.

Simer Virk

Gets signed on. But everything under it could still be...

Max Runge

Right, changed.

Simer Virk

Need to be worked out and changed.

Max Runge

Right, yeah.

Simer Virk

Oh, okay.

Max Runge

So just like those base acres we talked about, they're going to add 30 million. How that gets divided up.

#### Simer Virk

That hasn't been decided.

## Max Runge

We don't know, that hasn't been decided yet. You know, the best advice is to make sure you stay in contact with your farm service agency and USDA people and, you know, keep that relationship open and, and do all you can to work with them and be in touch with them.

## Simer Virk

Or call Max Runge.

## Max Runge

I'm not quite sure he always has the right answers.

(All laugh)

#### Scott Graham

Well, I think I've asked about all I'm qualified to ask. Not qualified, but all I can think to ask. But I learned a lot. Anything else? Max, any important points to make?

## Max Runge

Just again, keep those relationships with the FSA office and, all that, because a lot of these details haven't been worked out yet. And so, you know what? It's going to be interesting to see how they come up with this. The final answer on this.

#### Simer Virk

Do they have a certain date that they need to decide all this or just kind of as it goes.

## Max Runge

Sort of as it goes there, you know, they'll be they've started working on it now I know. And usually, it takes months.

#### Max Runge

So hopefully you know things will be a little more clear by the end of the year for sure. But there still could be some changes in there.

#### Scott Graham

All right. Well, hey again, a lot of good information. I feel like I know this much more than I did when I started, which is actually a lot. If you knew how much I knew when we started. So, appreciate that, Max and your time, Simer?

## Simer Virk

Yeah. No. Thank you. I think we were planning to get you on last year, but I feel like this is a great opportunity to kind of learn more about, you know, the bill and everything. And like I said, you were the best choice we had.

(All laughs)

Well, there's a lot to it. And it's not just straightforward. So, you know, some of this stuff may not be quite exactly right, but I did the best that I knew.

#### Simer Virk

Yeah.

## Scott Graham

All right. Well, thanks again. Also. Hey, good to have Jacob back in the room with this on the production board over there. So, Simer doesn't have to worry about doing that. But.

#### Simer Virk

Yeah. And hopefully by the time this comes out, which will hope to push this sooner. I was just thinking about how we've got Field days coming.

#### Scott Graham

That's right, yeah.

#### Simer Virk

No, I don't have all the dates, but maybe they're posted on the extension website.

#### Scott Graham

Yeah, they should be posted on the extension website.

## Simer Virk

But it's the last week of July and the first week of August. There will be.

## Scott Graham

So, we've got the East Alabama crops tour on July 22nd, Society Hill, we've got the Tennessee Valley, experiment, our field day at the experiment station in Belle Mina on July 30th. And then we've got... my phone messed up.

## Simer Virk

Is Headland usually there?

#### Scott Graham

The Gulf Coast is on August the 1st. Friday, August 1st. Brewton is on Tuesday, August 12th, and Wiregrass is on Friday, August 15th.

#### Simer Virk

Nice.

#### Scott Graham

So, those again, if you're on any newsletters with your local agent or, you know, our team newsletters as well. Those, those dates are out there. I hope to see everybody there, hopefully, and in good shape.

## Simer Virk

Yeah.

## Scott Graham

So, well alright, as always, we appreciate our listeners. If there's anything anybody with Alabama extension can ever do to help, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. And we'll be back with another episode shortly.