

William C. “Bill” Baisley

2025 “Sumpin’ Big” Scholarship



William C. “Bill” Baisley was a key leader throughout his career in Georgia agriculture and will always hold a place of prominence in the economic success of our state’s \$23.3 billion poultry industry. He was an active member of the Georgia Agribusiness Council for more than 30 years serving in every leadership position possible. Bill helped lay the foundation, secure the roof, and strengthen the load bearing walls of our organization by insisting on sound management based on the fundamentals of service and a love for people. In 2017, Bill was inducted into the Georgia Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Bill Baisley had always been a leader and in his wisdom, he always encouraged others to dream big. A phrase he used, “Folks, we need sumpin’ big” caught on and has been used by many to address challenges facing business and organization leaders. One such “sumpin’ big” challenge in our organization was met by creating a worker’s compensation insurance program for the agribusiness industry in Georgia. This program, AgriTrust of Georgia, has been operating for over 30 years and serves over 800 agribusinesses. Bill was a founding trustee of AgriTrust of Georgia and his leadership has played a vital role in the success of the program. It was his original challenge that set the journey in motion and many agribusinesses across Georgia have reaped the benefit.

Purpose: To provide financial aid to a qualified college student or incoming college student majoring in any agriculture-related subject in an accredited college or university in Georgia. Graduating High School Seniors through graduate level students majoring in agriculture related fields are eligible to apply.

Funds: Proceeds are derived from the Georgia Agribusiness Council Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization, through member and business donations.

Award: Up to three scholarships of \$1,000; non-renewable. Scholarship recipients to be awarded (2) tickets to the Harvest Celebration and recognized in front of agribusiness industry guests on Friday, Nov. 7, 2025.

Judging: The selection of the scholarship winners is made by the Scholarship Committee of the Georgia Agribusiness Council and is based on the criteria listed in the application.

The Georgia Agribusiness Council (GAC) is a chamber-like organization comprised of more than 1,300 member businesses throughout the state of Georgia. Founded in 1966, GAC provides economic services, legislative representation, and agricultural communications to the state’s \$73 billion industry. You can learn more about GAC by visiting us online at www.ga-agribusiness.org or follow us on Twitter @Gaagribusiness. You can also find us on Facebook. We are proud to support the future of agriculture through this program, which is paramount to our mission:

“To Advance the Business of Agriculture through Economic Development, Environmental Stewardship and Education to Enhance the Quality of Life for All Georgians.”

2025 William C. "Bill" Baisley "Sumpin Big" Scholarship Application

Please type or print:

Date: _____

Name in Full: _____

Home Address: _____

School Address: _____

Home Telephone No.: _____ School Telephone No.: _____

E-mail: _____

Present Status: HS Senior ___ Coll. Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Jr. ___ Sr. ___ Grad. Student ___

Major Subject: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Projected Graduation Date: _____ (Month & Year)

To qualify - All applications should be sent in one envelope including this completed form, essay answers, one letter of recommendation, and your most recent official transcript (unless being sent by school).

Please send **official** copy of your most recent transcript. Enclosed _____ Sent by School _____

List or attach additional sheet of scholarships, prizes and awards received: _____

Please also provide one letter of recommendation from a teacher or supervisor along with your application.

Essay Questions - Please answer **all** the following questions on a separate sheet of paper with each question being 250 words or less.

- What is the greatest challenge facing agriculture today?
- What is your occupational objective after graduation?
- Why do you qualify for the scholarship? (Include statement of financial need.)

Applications are due postmarked by October 1, 2025. Please submit to:

Georgia Agribusiness Council
Attn: Jill Hansard
P.O. Box 119
Commerce, GA 30529
706-336-6830
jhansard@ga-agribusiness.org

Staff Use:
Assigned # _____