



South Carolina Department of Agriculture Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

Media Contact:

Stephanie Sox, 803-734-2196, ssox@scda.sc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- May 13, 2016

AT&T Makes Donation to Plant it Forward SC

COLUMBIA, S.C. – AT&T donated \$10,000 to *Plant it Forward South Carolina*, an initiative by South Carolina Advocates for Agriculture, on May 13, 2016.

Plant it Forward SC will provide relief funds specifically for covering a portion of seed costs for 2016, as well as hay losses livestock farmers suffered because of the flood. Total agricultural losses from October's flooding are approaching \$600 million.

"At AT&T, we are committed to helping connect people with opportunities for success," said Pamela Lackey, president of AT&T South Carolina. "While that often involves advanced technology, we are committing to helping meet specific community needs. For many farm families, the flooding may be the greatest challenge they have faced in generations. We are pleased to have the opportunity to join in supporting the Plant It Forward program and helping farmers recover from this economic disaster."

AT&T has a long history of community and philanthropic engagement. In South Carolina, the company's employees and retirees contributed more than 59,000 hours of personal time to community activities in 2015, worth more than \$1.3 million. From 2012-2014, the company and its employees contributed more than \$2.4 million to local causes and organizations.

"On behalf of South Carolina farmers, I cannot thank AT&T enough for their generous donation to Plant it Forward SC. AT&T has long provided service to South Carolinians and this further illustrates their commitment to serving the people of our state, particularly the farmers still trying to recover from the flood," said Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers.

For more information about AT&T, visit www.att.com. For more information on Plant it Forward SC, visit www.plantitforwardsc.org or contact Stefanie Kitchen at 803-734-2210.

###

[Print and Web Editor's Please Note: Photo(s) enclosed; please see cut lines below.

Cutline:

South Carolina Advocates for Agriculture accepted the generous donation from AT&T to Plant it Forward SC. Pictured above (from left to right): Ted Creech – AT&T, SC Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers, Pamela Lackey – AT&T.