SC Watermelon Association Hosts Annual Meeting

By Stephanie Sox Communications Director SC Department of Agriculture

While sunny beach days spent enjoying summer’s favorite treat are far from the thoughts of many during mid-January, South Carolina watermelon growers are making plans to once again deliver the juiciest, tastiest melons in the Southeast. Every January, the South Carolina Watermelon Association hosts its annual meeting in Columbia. With over 100 farmers, industry partners and researchers in attendance, excitement for the 2017 watermelon season is growing.

During the meeting, members took on the important business of raising money for research and crowning the South Carolina Watermelon Queen. Research funding is generated through a live auction. Farmers donate truckloads of watermelons, which are then sold to major retailers with the highest bid. This year, the live auction raised over $100,000.

The queen competition is far more than just a beauty pageant. This scholarship program affords the winner hands-on marketing experience as she serves as the spokesperson for the SC Watermelon Association. Contestants are ranked on their skills in public speaking, interview, promotion-wear, eveningwear, and of course, seed spitting. The queen will travel to state and national events promoting the health benefits and consumption of watermelon. The 2017 South Carolina Watermelon Queen is Blakely Johnson.

Miss Johnson is the 19-year old daughter of Brent and Dean Johnson of Denmark, SC. She currently attends Clemson University where she is majoring in Agricultural Education. After graduation, Blakely plans to pursue her passion for agriculture in teaching young people about the industry. “I have one word and that is ‘passion,’” Johnson answered when asked why she would make the best spokesperson for the watermelon industry. “Passion for the industry and the people in it.” Blakely comes from a family with strong ties to farming and agriculture and has interned with Dr. Gilbert Miller, lead watermelon researcher with Clemson Extension.

Dr. Miller focuses his research on variety trials at Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville. Each year he plants over fifty varieties and shares his findings with farmers to help them identify watermelons that are best suited for growing in South Carolina. Miller also works with farmers on drip-based irrigation technology, which applies the exact amount of water needed by the plant. Advancements like this help watermelon growers continue to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Money raised through the live auction also goes to fund the SC Watermelon Association’s promotions throughout the year. One of their signature campaigns is “Watermelon Fuels Athletes.” This campaign shares the health benefits of choosing watermelon over sugary sports drinks to help refuel post-workout. Watermelon is naturally high in Vitamins A, B6 and C and is a great source of Potassium while being very low in Sodium. A two-cup serving contains just eight calories and no fat.

As was the story in 2016 for many farmers, the flooding from the previous year impacted the watermelon crop. “After a challenging year last year, farmers are hopeful for a more fruitful harvest in 2017,” said Matt Con, South Carolina Department of Agriculture marketing specialist.

South Carolina is home to around ten commercial watermelon growers and packers, but there are more than 530 Certified SC Grown watermelon farms in the state. In 2015, they grew and sold over 75 million pounds of watermelon. On average, South Carolinians consume about ten pounds of watermelon a year. Grown commercially in eight counties, watermelons generate approximately $18 million in revenue each year in South Carolina. South Carolina is in the top five watermelon producers in the country.

SC Commissioner’s School Applications Now Available

Rising high school juniors and seniors can now apply for this year’s South Carolina Commissioner’s School for Agriculture (SCCSA), held at Clemson University, 2017-2018.

SCCSA is a premier summer academic program coordinated by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) and Clemson University’s College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences. Students are exposed to academic offerings and potential careers in agriculture and natural resources through workshops, field studies, and laboratories.

The program covers broad topics in agriculture as well as emphasis areas for technical and career specific information. The school also includes trips to Clemson University Research Farms and Experimental Forest, a whitewater rafting trip down the Chattooga River, and a Certified SC Farm to Table dinner.

The SC Commissioner’s School for Agriculture is in its 14th year and has graduated 465 students from the program. Of our alumni, 76% are currently studying or studied agriculture in college and 40% are working in an agriculture field.

Applications are available online at clemson.edu/offices/scsca and must be postmarked by March 31, 2017. For information about SCCSA, contact Clemson’s Katie Black at 864-656-6682 or hulse@clemson.edu, or SCDA’s Elizabeth Wood at 803-734-0328 or ewood@scda.sc.gov.

What seemed to be like a carousel turning around and around with regards to naming someone to lead the agricultural industry finally came to a stop when former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue was picked by the President as United States Secretary of Agriculture. Prior to being nominated for this office, Governor Perdue served on President Trump’s agricultural advisory team. I have had the privilege of knowing Sonny for several years now, and I believe him to be an excellent choice for this office.

There have been 30 Secretaries of Agriculture since 1889 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was founded, and though some were raised on a farm, only two actually lived and worked in agriculture as adults. Once confirmed, Sonny Perdue will be number three.

He grew up on a farm in Perry, GA and is formally trained as a veterinarian. He has been involved in several agribusinesses in his career, from grain to eggs, fertilizer and exports. He also has several agribusiness operations in South Carolina. Perdue served two terms as Governor of Georgia from 2003 to 2011, and during his tenure, he succeeded in returning agriculture to the centerpiece of the Georgia economy. Notably during his tenure as governor, the historic drought of 2007.

See Perdue Named Secretary of Agriculture, continued on page 8
The South Carolina Market Bulletin

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Aquaculture

BLUEGILL BREAM SHELL CRACKER, pond stocking, 30¢-3ea; Crappie, 50¢-3ea; Bass, 1.50-3ea; catfish, $1-1.50. Taylor: Newberry, 803-276-0853

STERILE GRASS CARP, 8-10¢, 12¢ea, 15¢ea; tilapia, 1.1-1.50ea; red breast bream, 40¢ea; more. Clay Chappell; Richland; 803-777-4403


FARM RAISED CATFISH, SC grown, 4-8in, 10¢/lb; fryers, $2.50/lb, quantity discount. Russell Smith; Calhoun; 803-568-2994

Cattle

BULL CALVES, PB Holestein, cross bred Jersey, product of Happy Cow Creamery cow, B/B, $4.25ea. Donavon Smock; Greenville; 864-604-5177

OPEN BLK BALDIE HEIFERS, $1000ea; PB polled Hereford bulls, 10m, $1200ea; all exc b/lines & pro. John Gosselt; Spartanburg; 803-222-7786

REG ANG BULL, B-7/14/12, ready to work, gentle calves on site, selling to prevent inbreeding, $3500. Bert Smith; Saluda; 803-928-8826

SEM/ANG, top quality replacement heifers, $800up; b/lines & pro. John Gosselt; Spartanburg; 803-222-7786

CALVES, Lim Dairy Cross, $350-450, depending on age, size & breed. R Turner; Orangeburg; 803-662-0387

2Y/O JERSEY HEIFER, exposed to Jersey bull, to calve in spring, $1100. Kathleen Jerdan; Dorchester; 843-469-2171

ANG BULL, 5y/o, PB, easy calving, $2500. William Pow; Saluda; 803-924-2165

REG BLK ANG HEIFER, good EPD’s. B-9/21/16, vac, wormed, $1250; Ang/Charolais heifer, B-6/21/16, $800. Dale Wilson; Abbeville; 864-376-8327

REG BLK ANG BULL, 14m/o, ready for service, $2200. Robert Steading; Spartanburg; 864-855-0587

2 REG ANG, New Design 878, $2800; 1 conn bull, $2878, $2400, all 2y/o; 2 reg Ang yrng bulls, $1500up. Paul Kicidis; Union; 864-429-6112

2 YRLNG SG BULLS, PB, poll red, $1200ea. Leon Shealy; Lexington; 803-622-1314

REG BLK & RED ANG CATTLE, $1500up. Danny Winchester; Pickens; 864-637-8592

REG BLK ANG BULL, 4y/o, good, $3500, proven breeder, $2000; Bon View New Design 1407 genetics. Richard Pritcher; Orangeburg; 803-496-4660

REG BLK ANG HEIFERS, 12+ m/o, ready to breed, vac, good temperament & genetics, $1400up. Kevin Renwick; Abbeville; 803-924-0535

YLRNG POLLED HEREFORD BULL, solid pedigree, grass program w/o drugs or implants, exc disp, $1250. David Hendrickx; Pickens; 864-878-5035

REG BLK ANG BULL, 6y/o, gentle, easy calving, $1800. Roger Stegall; Greenville; 864-561-5376

BLK ANG BULL, 2y/o, AAA #18289624, $1900. Davis Baird; Kershaw; 803-309-1448

REG BLK GELBIE BULL, 3y/o, EPD’s avail, $2100. Terry Sudduth; Greenville; 864-449-6024

REG LIMO BULLS, 10m, loc. EPD’s, 8-18m/o, $1500up. Benny Coats; Kershaw; 803-475-6694

PB BLK GELBIE BULLS, calving ease, passed BSE, AI sired, exc EPD’s. B-8/10/12, $2100up. Virgil Wall; Greenwood; 864-669-6643

REG BLK BULLS, $1300; 3 yr frame bally cows bred; 1200ea; bulls, 15m/o, ready to breed. Ken Shuler; Orangeburg; 843-790-2201

HEREFORD BULL CALF, 6m/o, $450, good color, $600. Gene McCarthy; Edgefield; 803-278-2274

REG BREHAN BULLS, Hands On Gentle, 1-2y/o, $1200-2500. Jim Braniman; Greenville; 864-510-7678

RED & BLK BALDIE HEIFERS, 12-13m/o, $1000; 6m/o bull calves; $600. Gene McCarthy; Edgefield; 803-278-2274

BLK BULL CALF, $750; heifer, $650; both 7m/o. L Gunter; Lexington; 803-532-7394

2 BLK BALDIE COWS, 3y/o, Bred, $1700. Terry Gibert; Greenwood; 864-414-8173

PB JERSEY COWS, bred to beef bull, $850up. Robert Cely; Calhoun; 803-765-2004

REG BLK BULLS, 17-29m/o, $2500up; bred & open heifers, 16-28m/o, $1200up, low BW, exc EPD’s. Bob Baker; Lancaster; 803-285-7724

4 REG BMFR BULLS, $1500; good disp, 118m/o, 2-27m/o, 1-36m/o, $1400-1750, good b/lines. John Steele, Lancaster; 803-285-7720

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Tel ( ) __________________ Email Address __________________


Check # __________ Circle one: Renewal Renewal ID #: __________

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CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE.

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## South Carolina Market Bulletin

### February 2, 2017

#### 8y/o, perfect markings, wormed, on feed, $300 up. BLK, 803-924-5239

#### 20m/o, exc EPDs, calving REG ULTRA BLK BULLS, 15M/O AI REPLACEMENT ease, good b’lines, $2500. David Miller; Edgefield; 706-840-2692

#### 924-1000

#### REG BLK ANG BULLS

#### 629-1174

#### 9m/o & up, low BW, $1200up; more. David Rickey Smith; Hampton; 803-673-2673

#### 5PB ANG HEIFERS, 3Y/O REG BLK ANG BULL, $700-900. Lynn Shealy; Cayce; 803-987-9593

#### 4PB ANG HEIFERS, 266-3021

#### 3PB

#### 456-3204

#### PLOTMASTER, not 4 or 6 way blade, it pitches & load, new tracks, $12,000cash; tri, $2200. Franklin Brown; Chesterfield; 803-917-1722

#### KV 15FT INT COMBINE HEADER AUGER, $750. Jason Nichols, Saluda; 803-309-0963

#### INT 656 TRACTOR, new ftires/rear LN, metal good, 6 cly, 3pt, $4500. Dennis Fulmer; Horn; 843-347-7903

#### 1998 BETTER BUILT LOW DUMP, 5400 capacity, 5k miles, 490t, w/outgriggers & amp, 8ft hydraulic ramps. James Mace; Berkeley; 843-324-2227
**FARM FENCING**, game, barn & SC fence. Mike Gingerich; Abbeville; 864-328-7025

**HORSE BOARDING**, room & board, horse. (If you have no room, we can provide fence grading, clearning, fencing free est. James Lang; Laurens; 864-444-3038 **WANT BOARDING**, farm, home & horse, & upkeep, 3 PA pasture, negative reg coggins test required. Nathan Shirley; Greenville; 864-429-1610

**HORSE BOARDING**, barn, pastures, turn out shelter, wash r, & board full b, 5 mi trails on 90A farm, owner present. Tammy Hodge; Sumter; 863-983-6862 **CUSTOME LIME & FERT SERVICE**, TN valley lime, crop to 70 acres, good sir acreage, call for est. Joshua Waters; Lexington; 864-303-1195

**PASTURE MGMT SERV**, crops, weeds treat, fire ants in livestock pas, licenced & bonded. Kerry Munllis; Richland; 863-331-6612 **FENCE CONTRACT & REPAIR**, Andy Anderson; Greenville; 864-838-8617 **CUSTOOL CATTLE SERV**, pastures, new fence, reno or companion. James Lang; Laurens; 864-444-3038

**LAND FOR LEASE**, for hunting Abbeville Co or surrounding areas, must have big hardwoods & creaks, refs avail. Sammy Manley; Pickens; 864-909-0717

**WANT HUNTING LEASE**, 250-1000Ac tract, prefer Richland, Calhoun, or Orangeburg Co. Stacy Shull; Lexington; 803-319-2738

**WANT LAND TO LEASE**, for hunting Abbeville Co or surrounding areas, must have big hardwoods & creaks, refs avail. Sandy Manley; Pickens; 864-909-0717

**WASHINGTON**, farm, pastures or hay production. 40Ac, references avail upon request. Keith Hawkins; York; 803-230-1598

**WANT TO LEASE**, farm land for pasture or hay production, 40Ac, references avail upon request. Keith Hawkins; York; 803-230-1598

**WANT TO BUY 20-30A FARM**, or working farm land in Lexington Co. D Snyder; 803-320-5900

**WANT TO BUY 64 A FARM**, parcels, 5 acres, 120Ac or under, 75k. Susan Georgion; Anderson; 423-955-9449

**WANT TO BUY/LEASE PASTURE LAND, for cattle/hay production in Union. Zachary Arthur; Union; 864-426-6392
**February 2, 2017 South Carolina Market Bulletin**

**Goats, Llamas & Sheep**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DRAGOYOATS</strong></td>
<td>$100/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUCK KIDS</strong></td>
<td>$75/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOER BILLIES</strong></td>
<td>$125/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOER KIKO MIX BILLIES</strong></td>
<td>$125/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KATAHDIN EWE</strong></td>
<td>$175/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BILLY BRIAR GOAT</strong></td>
<td>$175/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PREM HORSE HAY</strong></td>
<td>$75/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B-C MIX</strong></td>
<td>$75/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAY &amp; GRAIN</strong></td>
<td>$75/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIX</strong></td>
<td>$75/bag</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Shelled Corn**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHelled CORN</strong></td>
<td>$5/bushel</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Sugar Cane**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BERMUDA</strong></td>
<td>$30/bushel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COASTAL</strong></td>
<td>$30/bushel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diary Goats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BABY GOATS</strong></td>
<td>$25/bag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Blackberries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACKBERRIES</strong></td>
<td>$5/bag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hay**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHEEP HAY</strong></td>
<td>$45/bale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vegetables**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lrg Blueberry</strong></td>
<td>$1.50/lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pomegranates</strong></td>
<td>$4.75/lb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Livestock**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brown Eggs</strong></td>
<td>$2.75/lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KIDS</strong></td>
<td>$100 + cost of hay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fertilizer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BROWN EGGS</strong></td>
<td>$2.50/lb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fescue Mix</strong></td>
<td>$4.75/bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Corn</strong></td>
<td>$40/bushel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Miscellaneous**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Redwood</strong></td>
<td>$35/bale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Notes:**

- *Fescue Mix* includes *Redwood*.
- *Corn* includes *Redwood*.
- *Hay* includes *Redwood*.
- *Goat Hay* includes *Redwood*.
- *Sheep Hay* includes *Redwood*.
- *Diary Goats* includes *Redwood*.
- *Blackberries* includes *Redwood*.
- *Hay & Grain* includes *Redwood*.
- *Shelled Corn* includes *Redwood*.
- *Sugar Cane* includes *Redwood*.
- *Vegetables* includes *Redwood*.
- *Livestock* includes *Redwood*.
- *Fertilizer* includes *Redwood*.
- *Miscellaneous* includes *Redwood*.
- *Other* includes *Redwood*.
Each listing must be
803-518-4289
Jason Murphy; Fairfield; 803-402-5877
TAMWORTH YORKSHIRE
John Warner; Lexington; 803-606-2499
Curley; Kershaw; 803-427-7706
B-10/15 & 10/17, cut
HAMPSHIRE YORK
R Turner; Orangeburg; 803-606-1666
Old Spot, 200 lbs & up,
PERENNIAL PEANUT
wrap, rnd, in field, $50,
COM BERM MIX,
$1/lb. Nancy Walker;
Lexington; 803-606-2499
Chavis; Barnwell; 803-671-9232
'16 CB,
8230
rnd, in field, $40; '15 CB,
803-480-7381
806-299-1932
11y/o, reg, buckskin, can
11y/o, reg, grulla color,
$1000. Tommy Rhodes;
Chester; 803-872-4879
HORSE,
Warmblood, 2y/o F, blk/wht,
Greenville; 864-483-9708
Hogs & Pigs

TAMWORTH, Gloucestershire Old, 800 lbs & up, $1/lb. Nancy Walker; Anderson; 864-940-4593
PIGS, wormed, cut, $50ea. R’s Valley, Cheraw; 803-662-0387
HAMPSTEAD YORK DUROC CROSSES, B-10/15 & 10/17, cut & weaned, $500/pig. Jim Curley; Kershaw; 803-247-1700
MULE FOOT PIGS, from different mothers, 80 lbs ea. 1M, 1F, $75ea obo. John Williams; Lexington; 803-920-9145
YNP PIGS, $115/b, various sizes, fed only! No health papers, no veterinary, no antibiotics or hormones. Walt Teachman; Anderson; 864-366-1933
TAMWORTH YORKSHIRE CROSS CROSSES, $40/pig. Jason Murphy; Fairfield; 803-402-5877
2 PB DUROC Gilts, 9mo, 150-175lbs, $165ea. DuPont, Darlington; 803-518-4289

Horses, Mules & Donkeys

MARCH TACKY MARE, 8yo, reg, grulla color, $1000. Tommy Rhodes; Hamburg; 803-518-4289
REG FRISIAN SPORT-HORSE, Friesian x Warmblood, 2yo F, blk/wht, $550. Kathey Bailey; Greenville; 864-483-9708

Miscellaneous

WEATHERED POST OAK LUMBER, 200 1in x 8in x 12ft boards, $50/1000, less if you remove & clean up; with great paint, EC, $800firm. Sue Ward; Lexington; 803-606-1666

BEES, hivetop box top & 3 super frames, $100ea no bees & no use made. No use made, no use included incl. Steve Van Patton; Spartanburg; 864-607-5211
FRICK 00 SAMWILL, rebuilt, w/2 saw Frick Edger, 10ft carriage, 52in blades, no power, $8500. Furman Mahon; Laurens; 843-871-8635
REDWORMS, 30/1000; 40/1000, SW small worms, $35/1000; bed run, $30/lb; call for shipment. Terry Upchurch; Unger; Greenville; 864-299-1932
GOUDERS, hang ready, $1-3.50/pig, unc. $36ea, 12 gourd rack, $20; antique Solar milk can, $125, Robert Yonce; Aiken; 803-685-7240
WATER TOWELS, 3-1000gal Emergency, 1000gallon, $450; 2500gallon, $550, for pigs & animals, new, $35. Billy Gallman; Newberry; 803-276-7117
FUEL TANKS, 2-500 gal, $200ea, 100gal $50, 500gal, $150, 1000 gal, $500, Dellett; Charleston; 803-430-9040
RND CARROT FEEDERS, cut to various sizes, 3-12in, 6-15ft, $3-18ea per size; carrot lumber, $2/bf. Douglass Britt; McCormick; 864-391-3345
HANGING LAYING NESTS, $50, 2 small animal cages, $25, portable rabbit cage, $50, rabbit hutch, $75, Rick Clark; Berkeley; 843-356-4375
PURPLE MARTIN GOURDS, XL, cut & ready to hang, $2.50ea; gourd caps, $1ea, most $1ea, Rick; Philo; Union; 843-427-1589

PLANTS & FLOWERS

Adverts are not accepted from commercial nurseries, which are defined as having annual sales of $5,000.

LGR AZALEAS, 3yo, $1.75ea; hydrangeas, boxwood, azaleas, dogwoods, crape myrtles, camellias, 3gal pots, $25, 5gal drums, $60; 2-3ft poles, $3ea. Mike Dries; Barnwell; 833-383-4066
Canna bulbs, President red, pink, Bengali Tiger, no ships, $10dz. Robert Yonce; Aiken; 803-865-7240

BEE HIVE SUPPLIES, 3-100 frame super, 2 alum top covers, 3-500, $24, 500 super, more, $10ea. Elihu Wiggins, Anderson, 864-366-1933
55GAL METAL, w/lids & rings, $20ea; portable tow tank, $65ea; plastic drums, $30ea; rubber mobiles, $3ea more. Phil Pooie; Union; 843-427-1589
BOBBIE WHITMORE, flight conditioned, $3.75ea. John Hilyard; Darlington; 843-567-5023

MIXED DUTCH, BREDER PRICES, 200 birds, $100ea. Albert Edwards; Sumter; 803-497-2010

2/25 SHELBY NO. 10 CASTLETON 24TH ANNUAL CATTLE SALE, 11am, Black Crest Farm, Noon sale. view catalog @ www.blackcrestfarm.com. W McLeod; Sumter; 803-481-2011

LIVESTOCK SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION, 1st & 3rd Fri of Mon, 4pm, 200 open & bred heifers. Travis Mitchell; Saluda; 803-329-3684

2/18 YON FARMS SPRING CATTLE SALE, LIVESTOCK/SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION, 7pm, www.Dixiestockyard.com. Phil Grant; Chester; 803-329-3684

1/10-2/7 SIRE SEMINARS, 6:30-8:30, $85 or $20/night, must RSVP. Cassie Wycoff; Union; 864-984-2514

3/9-10 20TH ANNUAL SC CATTLEMAN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, 10am, at Hollywood School. Charles Nichols; Saluda; 864-445-8350

WANTED - LIVESTOCK, Wanted - Hay, Wanted - Farm Equipment, Wanted - Miscellaneous, Att. Black Crest Farm, noon, 80 bulls, 100 females, view catalog @ www.blackcrestfarm.com. W McLeod; Sumter; 803-481-2011

1/30-2/27 SIRE SEMINARS, Clemson Ext 5wk series, Union & York Ext Ofc, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 6:30-8:30, $200 each, view catalog @ www.yonfamilyfarms.com for more info. Kevin Yon; Saluda; 803-685-5048

2/18 YON FARMS SPRING CATTLE SALE, 11am, 200 bulls & 75 females, visit www.yonfamilyfarms.com for more info. Kevin Yon; Saluda; 803-685-5048

CONFEDERATE ROSES, Rose of Sharon, Azaleas, more, $10ea. Steve Martin; Kershaw; 803-438-7599

JAVELINA, MIQUELS, 100 varieties, 5-25gal, $39pp. Mike Britton; Edgefield; 803-476-8460

CONFEDERATE ROSES, wht dogwoods, forsythia, gardenias, camellias, angel trumpets, azaleas, more, $10pp. Cornell Clark; Berkeley; 843-761-2343

LEYLAND CYPRUS, 8g, $20ea; 12g, $25ea; 25g, $30ea; 50g, $30ea. Ed Cade; Calhoun; 803-592-2510

MO COTTONTAILS, y/o, 6-9m/o, $75pr; 2nd/4th Sat each month, 10am, poultry, animal related & farm equipment. Judy Cathcart; Union; 803-329-3684

NEWBERRY; 803-924-9039

PEKING DUCKS, hens, in exc breeder, $150up. Cornelius Clark; Pickens; 864-431-6301

HAY, rd or sq. Carl Pickens; Pickens; 846-833-6301

RIBBONS

PB NETHERLAND DWARFS, $25ea. Janice Malrath; box: 2032, 843-821-8172

MIXED DUTCH, all sizes, $5 to $15/bag. Ernie Redmond; Orangeburg; 803-568-4043

MO CONTINENTALS, $7/bag, J.Jones; 803-359-4857

NO TILL DRILL, 8 or 10ft, 3hp, must be in EC. Bill Kraft; Greenville; 864-895-6283
Perdue Named Secretary of Agriculture

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he held a rally on the State House steps to pray for rain. As the story goes, just 24 hours later, rain fell in Georgia.

Once, toward the end of Sonny’s term as Governor, Blanche and I had the privilege of attending a function at the Governor’s mansion. Sonny and his wife Mary were great hosts. They said they had enjoyed their time in Atlanta, but were looking forward to more time with their grandchildren.

Sonny’s experience with international exports affords him the perspective to understand the value of a sound trade policy and how that policy directly affects farmers. He will be an advocate for a trade plan that will be positive for the agricultural industry. Additionally, he will have an understanding of the production challenges Southern farmers deal with.

Perdue has much respect and support from within the agricultural community and has been regarded as a strong administrator and also as someone who can work across the aisle to build necessary coalitions to pass often-divisive legislation like a farm bill. Sonny is one of the few candidates for Secretary with experience running a large organization such as USDA, which has more than 100,000 workers in the nation’s capital area and numerous counties.

As we’ve discussed many times, the political climate is changing and there will be challenges for farmers moving forward. The 2018 Farm Bill, regulatory reviews, and labor challenges certainly will be high on the list of priorities for Secretary Perdue. I think there’s value in diverse perspectives at the United States Department of Agriculture. I am confident that Sonny Perdue will build an effective leadership team at USDA that reflects the diversity that is American agriculture.

SCDA Gas Pump Stickers Get a New Look

After seeing the Florida Department of Agriculture’s gas pump inspection stickers, Commissioner Weathers decided it was time to give South Carolina’s stickers a new look. The new stickers incorporate the SCDA logo in the center and match the style of other SCDA publications. Assistant Commissioner Derek Underwood and Consumer Services Director John Stokes worked with the Consumer Protection Division drafted five versions before deciding on the newest inspection sticker.

The new stickers were deployed starting January 1 of this year. The registration stickers for Food and Feed Safety were also revamped to be more consistent with the gas stickers. Inspectors will write the issuing date and Registration Verification Certificate (RVC) number on these stickers before issuing them to companies to publically display. Be sure to look for the new stickers at gas pumps, grocery store scales and businesses you shop in.

SCDA to Host Farmers Market Nutrition Program Training

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture will host Farmers Market Nutrition Program Training at four locations around the state. The FMNP allows farmers to accept SNAP and WIC customers for sales of fruits and vegetables.

The training will include rules and regulations of each program including allowable fruits and vegetables, authorized locations and banking information.

Attendees will be provided information from the 2017 Guidebook for Farmers and will be required to complete and turn in an application and agreement that includes a crop plan for the year. Representatives from DHEC, DSS and SCDA will be on hand to answer questions.

Training Schedule:

February 7 – Greenwood Municipal Building
520 Monument Street
Greenwood, SC

February 9 – Chester Market Building
116 Columbia Street
Chester, SC

February 21 – Historic Bean Market
111 Henry Street
Lake City, SC

February 23 – State Farmers Market
Phillips Market Center
3483 Charleston Highway
West Columbia, SC

All sessions begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m.

Training is only required for new farmers who wish to participate in FMNP and farmers who received a violation in 2016. Please contact SCDA at 803-734-2218 to register. For more information, please visit agriculture.sc.gov.

SC Christmas Tree Association 2017 Winter Meeting

The South Carolina Christmas Tree Association 2017 Winter Meeting is scheduled to be held February 18 at the SC Farm Bureau, 724 Twigg Abbott Dr., Cayce. The registration and socializing will begin at 1:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 2 p.m. Adjournment is set for after dinner, probably about 7 p.m.

The meeting will be very informal with a Grower Talk led by Tom Sawyer and ample opportunity for members to interact with fellow members about their operations and experiences. Dinner will follow the meeting and will be catered by Shealy’s Bar-B-Que.

There will be no registration charge for members or attendees from affiliate state associations. Non-member farms are required to pay a $50 registration fee. This fee will be credited toward 2017 membership dues if the attendee chooses to join the association in the first month of attendance.

To register, please notify Steve Penland, Sec SCCTA, 6457 Campbell Rd., York, SC 29745, 803-366-7605, email: spenland68@bellsouth.net.

Yon Family Farms

Spring Cattle Sale Feb. 18

The Yon Family Farms Spring Cattle Sale will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 11 a.m. at the farm which is located on Highway 392 in Ridge Spring, SC.

The offering of over 250 head will include Long Yearling Bulls, Cow/Calf Pairs, Bred Heifers and Bred Cows. The majority of the bulls will be registered Angus, and there will also be a nice selection of SimAngus and UltraBlack (Brangus x Angus) bulls to choose from.

Registered Angus & SimAngus females will be offered and many of the cows will sell with heifer calves at side. Breeding information will be available on the website and at the sale. Many of the cows will sell confirmed pregnant. A new feature is a group of spring calving commercial bred heifers.

You can visit the Yon’s website to see videos of all the cattle selling or to view or print the sale book. On sale day, the auction will be broadcast live on the internet at www.4vauction.com and can be viewed on the DISH network on Rural TV channel 998 via Superior Productions. You can reach the Yons at 803-622-8597 or email lydia@yonfamilyfarms.com if you have questions.

**Note: The sale date published in the January 24 issue was incorrect.**

All-Star Pork Meatballs

Prep time 15 minutes  Cook time 30 minutes

1 pound ground pork
1 tablespoon onion flakes
3/4 cup cold butter, cut into small pieces
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 egg
1/4 cup ketchup
3 tablespoons brown sugar
1 teaspoon dry mustard

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. In a large bowl, combine ground pork, onion flakes, corn flakes, salt, pepper and egg. In a small bowl stir together ketchup, brown sugar and dry mustard. Spoon 2 tablespoons of the ketchup mixture into the pork and mix well.

Spray muffin tin with vegetable cooking spray. Form 6 meatballs and place in muffin tin. Coat the top of each meatball with the remaining ketchup mixture. Bake for 30 minutes at 375 degrees F., until nicely glazed and internal temperature is 160 degrees F. Serves 6.

Courtesy of the SC Pork Board