



South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

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2019 Industrial Hemp Pilot Program Growers Selected

40 growers to participate in 2nd statewide growing season

COLUMBIA, S.C. - The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) has selected 40 farmers to participate in the 2019 SC Industrial Hemp Pilot Program. The famers represent 24 counties throughout the state. 19 of the 20 Permitted Growers from 2018 are included in the selection.

Permit Recipient	County
William Dupree Atkinson	Marion
Steven Neal Baxley, Jr.	Marion
Nathan James Bradford	Sumter
Albert Stewart Bueno	Orangeburg
David F. Bulick	Charleston
Patrick Edward Burch	Florence
Jack Canty	York
Michelle Diane Davis	Berkeley
Kevin R. Dean	Charleston and Williamsburg
Vanessa English	Richland
Mark P. Ezekiel	Aiken
Felicia Roshell Jamison	Calhoun and Orangeburg
John Andrew Fogle	Orangeburg
Danny Lee Ford	Anderson
Thomas E. Garrison III	Anderson
Norman Daniel Gibson	Greenwood
Dianne Hill Harrell	Florence
Deborah Justice	Oconee
Kimberly Ann Kitchens	Charleston
Michelle White Lein	Anderson
Harry Bancroft Limehouse III	Aiken
Robert Douglas Mason	Marion
Matthew O'Brien	Fairfield
Gerard Pick	Pickens
Randle Palmer Quimby	Bamberg
Shawn Ransford	Charleston
Janel Dena Ralph	Horry and Marion

Jaqueline Rhinehart	Saluda
John Townsend Rivers	Sumter
Walter Lamar Scott	Charleston
Melinda F. Shambley	Colleton
Don Carlos Sharp	Allendale
Robbie Lanier Springs	Williamsburg
Michael Todd Stamps	Richland
Michael J. Tucker	Lexington, Newberry
James Ulmer	Orangeburg
Richard Alan Varnadoe	Bamberg
Joseph Henry Watson	Saluda
Joe Edward Wilkes	Fairfield
Robert P. Wilkins, Jr.	Florence

“I’m excited about the increased interest in growing industrial hemp, and look forward to working with each of the 40 growers this upcoming year to continually build upon our state’s agriculture industry” said Hugh Weathers, South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture.

The 40 permit recipients were chosen from 162 applications. Selection was based on several key factors, including:

- Completed application
- Agriculture experience
- Geographic balance across South Carolina
- Accredited college/university partner
- Purpose of the crop, end use
- Processor experience and location
- Ability to secure needed equipment and financing

Seven accredited universities will work with the pilot program participants: University of South Carolina, Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, Clemson University, USC Beaufort, Furman University and College of Charleston.

“A high priority is nurturing the current growers and the investments they made, risks they took for this inaugural growing season. And as we continue developing this industry, we work towards a goal of expanding opportunities for farmers, so South Carolina can truly compete on a national and international level,” said Weathers.

For more information about the Industrial Hemp Pilot Program, please contact Vanessa Elsalah, 803-734-8339, velsalah@scda.sc.gov or visit agriculture.sc.gov.

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