

FOOD HUBS



WHAT'S A FOOD HUB?

As defined by the USDA, a food hub is “a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products.”

In simpler terms: Food hubs help connect farmers to buyers. They work with farmers to identify market opportunities and plan crops accordingly; they buy and store food; and they sell it to wholesalers, retailers, or directly to consumers.

Food hubs make local food more readily available and showcase the farmers who grow it.

SUPPORTING FARMERS

“Swamp Rabbit is really consistent. At the beginning of the year, we’ll sit down and talk, and they’ll say what they’re projecting they’ll need. We’ll map out how many steers we’ll need. We raise everything we produce for them from birth.”

–Angus beef cattle producer Travis Howard of Trail Place Farms

SERVING CUSTOMERS

“Having the ability to order produce through GrowFood has been a huge asset for Hendrix. Supporting small, local farmers is more important now than ever before. The pandemic has crushed small businesses; we are one of those who has suffered over this time, but continuing to buy local is still very important to us. We want to give our customers the best food we can find, and because of GrowFood we are able to connect with and support these farms.”

–Frank Bradley, Executive Chef, Hendrix Restaurant, Columbia

WHAT'S THE SC FOOD HUB NETWORK?

The SC Food Hub Network is a group of established food hubs in South Carolina. The network coordinates efforts among the hubs to increase efficiency through coordinated regional crop planning, logistics, and farmer training.

The Network was piloted under the leadership of food hub GrowFood Carolina with funding support from a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, then supported in its continued development through the support of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE).

SOUTH CAROLINA'S FOOD HUBS

GrowFood Carolina | Charleston

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Swamp Rabbit Café and Grocery | Greenville

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Catawba Farm and Food Coalition | Chester

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Axiom Farms Cooperative | Columbia

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ACE Basin Growers | Orangeburg

acebasingrowers@gmail.com

Lowcountry Fresh Market and Café | Bluffton

cindy@lowcountryfresh.com | andy@lowcountryfresh.com

Freshlist | Charlotte

Also Serves some South Carolina Counties

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