Among the 12 research projects funded this year: "A lot of trials are focused on larger soybean-producing states, so being able to fund South Carolina’s soybean industry – for growing soybeans, but the economic content is in the ground to decide when to irrigate. Here, we can evaluate what the soil moisture sensors in deciding when to irrigate their crops. This research can help farmers conserve water resources while maximizing soybean yields.

Farmers base a lot of irrigation decisions off weather data, but depending on where you’re getting your data, the station may be a few miles off. Here, we can evaluate what the soil moisture content is in the ground to decide when to irrigate,” said Plumblee. Soybeans are one of South Carolina’s top crops, with about 335,000 acres planted last year. South Carolina soybeans are used to create oil, animal feed and many other products, and are an important export for the state.

The South Carolina Soybean Board (SCSB) is a group of 12 soybean farmers from South Carolina who are responsible for administering the soybean checkoff in the state. Elected by producers in each group of 12 soybean farmers from South Carolina, SCSB directors serve up to three-year terms to comply with the Soybean Marketing Act and Order. Learn more at scsoybeans.org.

The South Carolina Soybean Board will fund research to quantify deer damage to crops, calculate the fertilizing power of poultry manure, and more efficiently irrigate plants, among other projects.

The board uses South Carolina soybean checkoff dollars – money collected from farmers for promotion, research and education – to competitively award funding to projects that can help the state’s soybean industry.

"A lot of trials are focused on larger soybean-producing states, so being able to fund South Carolina-specific research can benefit growers here at home," said South Carolina Soybean Board Chair Dean Hutto. "This is a vital use of soybean checkoff dollars collected in South Carolina.

Among the 12 research projects funded this year: Clemson University researcher Dr. Bhupinder Farnaha will assess the fertilizer value of poultry litter – a mixture of poultry manure and bedding, abundant in South Carolina due to our strong poultry industry – for growing soybeans. Researchers will test samples of poultry litter to help farmers determine how and when to substitute it for other fertilizer for optimal plant health. White-tailed deer like to eat soybeans, but the economic effect of this predilection in South Carolina is unknown. Dr. Cory Heaton, an Extension wildlife specialist, will conduct night surveys to assess deer populations near targeted farms, and study crop damage by creating "exclusion cages" to compare deer populations with unprotected areas of fields. This research can help wildlife authorities set tag limits and other hunting guidelines.

Dr. Michael Plumblee, the Corn & Soybean Research Specialist for Clemson Extension, and Dr. Matt Inman will study how South Carolina soybean farmers can best use affordable soil moisture sensors in deciding when to irrigate their crops. This research can help farmers conserve water resources while maximizing soybean yields.

Farmers base a lot of irrigation decisions off weather data, but depending on where you’re getting your data, the station may be a few miles off. Here, we can evaluate what the soil moisture content is in the ground to decide when to irrigate,” said Plumblee. Soybeans are one of South Carolina’s top crops, with about 335,000 acres planted last year. South Carolina soybeans are used to create oil, animal feed and many other products, and are an important export for the state.

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You can skip the masks. Now that will feel more normal. To make an appointment, you can contact your health care or pharmacy provider. SCDHEC also maintains an online service, scdhec.gov/vaxlocator, and a hotline, 1-866-365-8110. Our agency is also in communication with state authorities, health care providers, and agricultural businesses about setting up some on-site vaccination clinics at workplaces during this phase.

As for me, I am eligible in Phase 1b, got my first shot, and it went fine. A little arm soreness as I have heard with others. The staff at Nephron Pharmaceuticals was very professional and they are working with some of our major ag businesses in the Columbia area. I’ll get my second shot the first week of April. According to the CDC, the vaccine I got is 95% effective at preventing COVID-19 illness. I’d like to thank South Carolina’s agriculture workforce for helping sustain us through the past year. In all my years of public service, I’ve never seen anything like this pandemic. Now there’s light at the end of the tunnel, but it’s not time to relax just yet. Let’s all get vaccinated, and keep taking precautions in the meantime.
SALES & AUCTIONS

SCISA State Equestrian & Open Horse Show
April 17 • 10:30 am
Open horse show to start immediately following the SCISA State Western Equestrian Championship. Estimated start of open show will be noon. Classes will include English, western, ranch & games. The honorable Cailey Culp of Laurinburg, NC will be judging.
10531 Garners Ferry Road, Eastover
Contact: Joy McMillion
803-917-2747 • webcowgirlspaol@gmail.com

Adult Easter Egg Hunt
March 27 • 6:30 – 10:30 pm
On the hunt for a fun experience with your friends or your date? Then bring your basket and flashlight and hop on over to the farm for our annual after-dark Easter Egg Hunt. Beer & Wine, Heavy Hors d’oeuvres, Photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny Pre-Hunt games to win small prizes, Egg Hunt and raffle-style drawings for Cash & Prizes! Live Music by Trent Jeffcoat
Clinton Sease Farm
382 Old Farm Road, Lexington
803-730-2863
clintonseasefarm.com
facebook.com/ClintonSeaseMaizeQuest

Sheep Shearing Day
March 27 • 10 am – 5 pm
Our 11th annual "A day in the life". The shearer returns for the yearly shearing of the sheep as well as Red Creek Farm border collie demo, wood returns for the yearly shearing of the sheep as our 11th annual "A day in the life". The shearer returns for the yearly shearing of the sheep as well as Red Creek Farm border collie demo, wood returns for the yearly shearing of the sheep as our 11th annual "A day in the life". The shearer returns for the yearly shearing of the sheep as well as Red Creek Farm border collie demo, wood returns for the yearly shearing of the sheep as our 11th annual "A day in the life". The shearer returns for the yearly shearing of the sheep as well as Red Creek Farm border collie demo, wood
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10531 Garners Ferry Road, Eastover
Contact: Joy McMillion
803-917-2747 • webcowgirlspaol@gmail.com

Carolina Horseman’s Connection Horse Auction
March 10 • 12 pm
Catalog Horse Sale. For more information, visit our Facebook page:
Grassy Pond Arena
1542 Boiling Springs Hwy, Gaffney
Contact: Shannon Winstead
864-710-4030 • dteusning@hotmail.com
facebook.com/horsemanconnection

Claxton’s Auction
March 20 & 27 • 11 am
Special Sale March 21 • 11 am
Every Saturday. Equine, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, camelots, raittes, poultry, and small animals.
18627 Low Country Hwy, Ruffin
Contact: William Claxton
843-909-4485 • wcljr@yahoo.com

али Stockyards
April 10 • 9 am – 3 pm
Miscellaneous farm equipment, livestock, and small animals sale.
12970 Broxton Bridge Road, Elkhart
Contact: Kristi Sease
803-943-9096 • kristish@yahoo.com

The South Carolina Market Bulletin (ISSN 0744-5986)
The Market Bulletin is published on the first and third Thursday of each month by the SC Department of Agriculture, Wade Hampton Building, Columbia, SC 29201. Periodicals postage paid at Columbia, SC 29201.

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Ads are published free of charge and in good faith. The Market Bulletin reserves the right to edit and verify ads but assumes no responsibility for their content.

Ads cannot be accepted from agents, dealers, or commercial businesses, including real estate. Sealed bids, legal notices, or consignment sales are not accepted.

SUBMITTING ADS
No matter the submission method, you must include the advertiser’s name, complete address with zip code and county, and phone number with area code with your submission. Do not use all capital letters.

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• Online: Go to agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin. Select "Submit Market Bulletin Ad" and complete the form. If you include your email address, you will receive an automated reminder for a renewal.

• Mail: SC Market Bulletin, PO Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211. You must use 8.5 x 11 inch paper.

• Fax: 803-734-0659

The deadline for submitting ads and notices is noon on Tuesday of the week before the publication date.

Market Bulletin Office
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EDITOR
Eva Moore

ADS & CIRCULATION COORDINATOR
Janet Gain

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Stephanie Finnegan
**FARM EQUIPMENT**

**JD 420 TRACTOR**
not running

Colin Daley
Richland
803-447-7813

**INTL TRACTOR**
W/PS, 2 new rear tires in GC, disc harrow, plows, $4,000
F C Noles
Barnwell
803-386-6666

**BUSH HOG SCRAPER BLADE**
$7, 6”x6”, ID post hole digger, cut auger, $700, both w/ little use
Will Kraft
Greenville
803-979-7190

**JD 7000 OR 690 ROLLN PTNR**
in EC, $5,200; JD 334 ftr md, $800
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
803-537-9035

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**864-296-3496**
Wayne Burdette
Pickens
864-505-8566

**100% KIKO BUCK**
B-1/21, M/30–250
Saluda

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**GREAT VICKY WAGONS**
5’gh wheel, GC, $1,200 each
Cahill Farms
803-870-5522

**WOODS MOWER WW# 59**
For cub FA, $210, rolling scoop blade, 1/2 blade, $150, both LN
Robert Vane
Chester
803-680-7470

**5’ DITCH BANK CUTTER**
Harder, $1,000; Harde 16’th bush hog, LN, $2,000
Glynn Webster
Chester
803-496-2709

**CUB FA**
w/CI, $960; Wilson
Chesterfield
803-689-3050

**TRACTOR RT-8**
apart, $8,000, w/cults & drawbar, good tires, w/subsoilers, $4,000; JD 650, $900;
w/gauge whl, new points, $1,400
Jacoby Farms
Greenville
803-979-1935

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**CASE DISC CUTTER**
Wood’s Heritage RD60, GC, $1,500; 4r hay rake, $300
Scott Williams
Saluda
803-962-8550

**RABBIT**
7 b/c & 2 doe; $40 for all
Victor Auger
Bereley
803-588-3531

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**SEED**
**SOYBEAN SEED**
cleaned, in 50lb Bushel tote, Kp: 99.97%, G-94.5%, D/1H & G-4.5%, more
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
803-979-9115

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**RABBIT**
7 b/c & 2 doe; easy to keep, cost $95 to $100
Victor Auger
Bereley
803-588-3531

**GRAIN AUGER**
h/CI, G-98%, H/CI, D/1H & G-94%, for grining or milling, $10/pt and ship
Clarence Gibbs
Sparr
803-594-9155

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**MARKET BULLETIN 4**

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**KIKO/KIKO MIX**
B-1/M, 83/150-20
Jonathan Hardy
Richland
803-710-8531

**100% KIKO BUCK**
6,000 pxl, $400
Charles Judy
Orangeburg
803-506-0333

**SHEEP**
ramps & eews, 800-200
Koby Bearden
Pickens
804-355-8566

**4 NANNY GOATS**
$150 each
Wayne Burdette
Anderson
803-546-1346

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**ST CROIX RAM LAMBS**
reg, nvr wormed, bred rams, easy to keep, $35
Edgar Martin
Anderson
803-304-0654

**ARGA FB BOER GOAT HERD**
all 100% reg, 10 rams, 50% each, sold for $100
Lucas Girce
Orangeburg
803-186-0600

**PROVEN M PYGMY GOAT**
$800
Wayne Hahn
Chester
803-831-2006

**2 PYGMY DOELINGS**
6 m/f, friendly, bottle raised, $35 each
Robert Pickens
Oconee
803-652-4659

**2 NANNY GOATS**
Pygmy cross 2/3 x 2/4 kids, each $150
Gardner H yon
803-370-1990

**2 PYGMY GOATS**
small, 15% each, for both $80
Randal Von
Charleston
803-203-2877

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**LAMBS**
males intact or neutered, weighing age, $5
Otis Wagner
York
803-676-4912

**NORWEGIAN DWARF GOATS**
12 w/3-eyes, blue-eyes, born 8/15
Albert Woodward
Georgetown
803-158-2019

**REX**
yng, 85 b/c & 82 b/c; grown bucks, $2 each
Philip Unze
Columbia
803-427-1695

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**FRENCH SILVER**
2 does & 1 buck, $500 for all
Lincoln May
Colleton
803-909-2825

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**SHEEP**
**SOYBEAN SEED**
cleaned, in 50lb Bushel tote, Kp: 99.97%, G-94.5%, D/1H & G-4.5%, more
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
803-979-9115

---

**KNOX**
G-97%, C-94.5%, D/1H & G-4.5%, more
Victor Auger
Bereley
803-588-3531

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**SEED**
**ADSM MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED BY COMMERCIAL DEALERS. A CURRENT FARM TAG ISSUED BY THE SCDMV IS REQUIRED ON ALL FARM VEHICLES.**

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**MARKET BULLETIN 4**

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**MARKET BULLETIN 4**
COB CORN 8% shell, 10% meal, 20 lb, $7.35 Old gum, 40 lb not incl. Wyant Earle Aiken 803-604-7355
4 x 5 RND MIXED GRAZE Q: can, do él, 40 lb, David Guard Saluda 803-710-4875 20 x 4 RND NET wrap, 45/5, Wesly Biles Barnwell 803-316-5577
20 FESCUE & MIXED GRAZE baled 3/2, NR, net wrap, 40 bale Russell Estelle Greenwood 843-910-0192
300 MIXED GRAZE 45 bnd, 45 each; fed, NR, Pauline area John Graham Spartanburg 803-499-0102
20 HQ FESCUE net wrap, 45/bale, under shed Tony Williams Edgfield 803-910-3175
300 RND FESCUE net wrap, 85/bale; fed, under shed Johnos Williams Bamberg 843-933-0970
HQ CB 500 each; Q: 85 x 30$ each, all 45 net wrap Henry Welch Berkeley 803-819-6244
20 x 5 RND YEGRASS net wrap, 35/bale, on field Mike Cousins Newberry 803-940-0555
20 FESCUE & MIXED GRAZE 45/5, 30 each, Wayne Crandell Greendale 803-421-5289
20 HQ FESCUE WRAP CB 50 lb, do, at barn, feed, and NR, well kept Charles Nichols Saluda 843-992-2753
20 x 4 RND CB net wrap, lined 5/bale, at barn, feed, and NR, under shed on ponds Colby Cook Lexington 803-467-6640
400 RND 5 MIXED GRAZE 45/5, 40 each, Wayne Crandell Greendale 803-421-5289
20 x 4 RND BIRDY GRAZE net wrap, lined 5/bale, feed, and well, and under shed at farm, feed, and NR, under shed on ponds Mike Armstrong Newberry 843-904-0178
20 HQ FESCUE WRAP CB 50 lb, do, at barn, feed, and NR, well kept Charles Nichols Saluda 843-992-2753
20 x 4 RND BIRDY GRAZE net wrap, lined 5/bale, at barn, feed, and NR, under shed on ponds Colby Cook Lexington 803-467-6640
400 RND 5 MIXED GRAZE 45/5, 40 each, Wayne Crandell Greendale 803-421-5289
20 x 4 RND BIRDY GRAZE net wrap, lined 5/bale, at barn, feed, and NR, under shed on ponds Mike Armstrong Newberry 843-904-0178
20 x 4 RND BIRDY GRAZE net wrap, lined 5/bale, at barn, feed, and NR, under shed on ponds Mike Armstrong Newberry 843-904-0178

SPARKLING ICE 25 oz, 75 each; all 75 oz, 25 each, Billy Smith Union 864-974-6558
GUINEAS $5.00 each; extra jacks, 10 each; Game Warehouse, Flurry Eyes, $30/b, Phil Poole Union 843-427-1578
PIGEONS 200 5/2, $50 each; white racing Homers, 450 each; mixed color racing Homers, 150 each; can send photos Habron Smith Pickens 883-189-0499
EGYPTIAN FAYOU CHICKS 2 yr old, easy care, heat tolerant, disease resistant, NPPIP/AI clean, straight run, 8 ask each Patricia Dukes Calhoun 803-606-1100

WHIT KING PIGEONS Silver Kings, Homers, $5 each; Rollers, $2 each; Giant Bantts, $7 each Lynn Claxton Colleton 843-909-4285
INDIA BLUE PEACOCKS $25/pt; guineas, $12/20; Golden & Silver Bobwhis, $15/b, bantams, more, $10-15 each Joe Culbertson Greenwood 843-202-5254
4 LIGHT BRAHMA ROOS 6/20, $2 each Dottie Young Chester 803-581-1005
TOM TURKEY Rio Grande, 1500/lb, $105 Larry Gunter Lexington 803-531-7794
FRANCE BLK COPPER MARAN trio, 20 Hatch, 85 Vivian Hickman Florence 837-877-3727

VIGOROUS FOWL 100 5/2, 2 old; 850 each, Bob Neilson McRae 834-806-6250
DORADO 100 5/2, 850 each, Bob Neilson McRae 834-806-6250
RCopyright 2023 American Agricultural Association. All Rights Reserved. Not for Sale or Distribution.
The South Carolina Soybean Board is looking for soybean farmers interested in filling South Carolina’s alternate position on the United Soybean Board, which will become vacant in December 2021.

The United Soybean Board is made up of 78 volunteer farmer-leaders who oversee the investments of the soybean checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers. Checkoff funds are invested in the areas of meal, oil and meal, as well as consumer information, through the Soybean Checkoff Program. The South Carolina Soybean Board is responsible for selecting a farmer from our state to represent South Carolina on the United Soybean Board.

Any farmer interested in applying needs to meet the following criteria:

1. Be a soybean producer who owns or shares the ownership and risk of loss in soybean production
2. Be at least 21 years of age
3. Be a resident of South Carolina
4. Be at least 21 years of age
5. Be a soybean producer who owns or shares the ownership and risk of loss in soybean production

For more information about the United Soybean Board, visit unitedsoybean.org.

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will make the final appointments. The USDA has a policy that membership on USDA boards and committees is open to all qualified individuals, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. The chosen individual appointed is eligible to serve a total of three consecutive terms.

For more information about the United Soybean Board, visit unitedsoybean.org.
**Peach Insects**

In addition to diseases, insects, including the oriental fruit moth, San Jose scale, and the plum curculio also can cause problems for peach growers. Brett Blaauw, a peach entomologist with a joint appointment between Clemson and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Services, said problems with the oriental fruit moth in South Carolina are more of an issue in the upstate.

“Adult moths emerge and mate shortly before bloom,” Blaauw said. “The most severe damage occurs later in the season when the larvae attack developing fruit.”

Oriental fruit moth management includes monitoring with pheromone traps. Blaauw advises growers to treat up to 10 per 10 acres. Treat if 10 moths are found in one trap.

“Timing is crucial,” Blaauw said. “Deciding if and when to spray for the oriental fruit moth can be based on pheromone catches and using the degree-day model.”

The degree-day model predicts adult emergence and egg hatch for each of the five to six generations of oriental fruit moths during a season. To use the model, begin accumulating daily degree days when male flight begins in the spring (biofix). The biofix date is when pheromone traps detect the first sustained catch of two or more moths. Traps should be placed in orchards near the bud swell stage and checked one to two times per week. The traps should be hung at eye-level at a density of 1 trap per 10 acres of orchard. Check traps weekly after the biofix date.

Andy Rollins, a Clemson Extension county agent, has been monitoring the oriental fruit moth in the upstate. His traps estimate biofix beginning around March 18–25 of this year (2021). Degree Day Calculators are available from UGA Weather and Degreedays.net.

“Last year, this information was very important to upstate growers because it helped them time the applications of pheromones which reduced insecticide use and provided better control of this pest than traditional methods,” Rollins said.

More information is available in the 2021 Southeastern Peach, Nectarine and Plum Pest Management and Culture Guide.

San Jose scale is another insect peach growers should pay attention to. Problems from this insect include branch dieback and eventually tree death if left untreated. Pruning peach trees to improve spray coverage and applying horticultural oil twice during the dormant season can help.

Additionally, combining an insect regulator, such as Centaur or Esteem with the oil can enhance the control of the scale. Combining Venerate with the delayed-dormant oil application has also shown to significantly suppress scale numbers compared to oil alone. Blaauw provides updated information for insect control in his UGA Peach Blog. Information in the blog is applicable to South Carolina peach crops, as well as Georgia peach crops.

**Peach Weeds**

In addition to diseases and insects, peach growers also need to control weeds in their orchards.

Wayne Mitchem, Extension associate and Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium coordinator from North Carolina State University, talked about successful weed management.

“Weeds will reduce yields in mature orchards,” Mitchem said. “In order to maximize yields and fruit size, growers must maintain weeds from bud break.”

Growers who use herbicides for weed control will be faced with some decisions to make in 2021. Surlan and oryzalin will not be available. Prowl will be the alternative. Brake On! is a new herbicide available this year, and Gramoxone has a new formulation.

Brake On! is labeled for use in some stone fruits, including peaches, but should not be used in orchards for more than two consecutive years. The new Gramoxone SL 3.0 formulation is more concentrated and requires less herbicide applied per acre. However, it does contain parquat, so certain restrictions must be followed if using this herbicide including:

- Applicants must be certified.
- All parquat applicators must complete EPA-approved parquat training.
- Using a new closed-system packaging for parquat-containing herbicides.

The closed-system packaging is designed to prevent transfer or removal of the pesticide except directly into proper application equipment. This prevents spills, mixing or pouring the pesticide into other containers or other actions that could lead to parquat exposure. The closed-system packaging design requires use of an adaptor mounted to the mix bowl or spray tank for dispensing.

“Retailers will have the adapters,” Mitchem said. In addition, Syngenta has a video available to teach people more about the closed-system packaging used for Syngenta products containing parquat. The video, Gramoxone SL 3.0 Closed-System Packaging, is available on YouTube.

Peach is a main crop in the Carolinas and Georgia. According to the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, more than 80,000 tons of peaches were produced in the Carolinas in 2020, while Georgia reported producing 28,000 tons.

**Peach**

Peach is one of the leading crops grown in the Carolinas and Georgia, and the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service provides valuable information to help growers maintain their pole position.

By Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

GIVE PEACH A CHANCE AGAINST DISEASES, INSECTS, WEEDS

Plum curculio is a snout beetle native to North America. Early spring in the southeastern United States, the female plum curculio begins depositing eggs singly in a hole that she creates in the fruit at shuck split in peaches. Eggs in about five days and larvae feed in the fruit for 8 to 22 days. Full-grown larvae tunnel out of the peach, enter the soil and transform into pupae. First-generation adults usually emerge about four weeks after larvae enter the soil. The complete life cycle, from egg to emerged adult, requires five to eight weeks, depending upon the climate. There are usually two generations of plum curculio in Georgia and South Carolina.

**Plum Curculio**

In addition to diseases and insects, peach growers must also be aware of the plum curculio. Plum curculio is a snout beetle native to North America. The female plum curculio begins depositing eggs singly in a hole that she creates in the fruit at shuck split in peaches. Eggs in about five days and larvae feed in the fruit for 8 to 22 days. Full-grown larvae tunnel out of the peach, enter the soil and transform into pupae. First-generation adults usually emerge about four weeks after larvae enter the soil. The complete life cycle, from egg to emerged adult, requires five to eight weeks, depending upon the climate. There are usually two generations of plum curculio in Georgia and South Carolina.

**Brown Rot**

Brown rot is arguably the greatest challenge to peach tree spray programs. The disease cycle for brown rot begins early in the season, said Guido Schnabel, a Clemson plant pathologist. “The brown rot fungus infects flower blossoms and in severe cases causes twig dieback.”

To minimize damage, Schnabel said growers should remove all fruit mummies and cankerous parts from trees.

“Orchard floor management also helps minimize spring spore release,” he said. “Strategically, the most important sprays are during bloom and the weeks leading up to harvest.”

In organic peach production, Schnabel advises growers to focus on soil and tree health, preserve beneficial insects and other microbes, and tighten spray intervals given that most organic products are only marginally effective.

“Brown rot is arguably the greatest challenge to manage for organic growers and research is in the works to find control options,” he said.

Several tools to help fruit growers have been developed by researchers in the Clemson Fruit Pathology Program. The MyIPM Smartphone App Series provides growers along the East Coast with information about fruit crop diseases, pests, and disorders. App content is maintained in collaboration with fruit extension specialists at Clemson, Cornell University, University of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania State University, University of Maryland, North Carolina State University, the University of Florida, and the University of Georgia.

MyIPM is a free app available in the Apple Store and Google Play.

Clemson post-doctoral scientist Madeline Dowling has created a video, MyIPM: App for Pest and Disease Management on Fruit Crops, to assist growers in learning how to use the app. This video is available online at vimeo.com/456537277.
North Charleston farmer Germaine Jenkins was inspired to create the SC Black Farmers Coalition soon after. Jenkins runs Fresh Future Farm, an urban farm in North Charleston. Like many farms, it was hit hard by the pandemic, especially in spring 2020 when things first shut down. The pandemic exacerbated existing problems,” she says. “We don’t have the staff and resources to apply things first shut down. The way Black farmers have struggled during the pandemic highlights the need for the SC Black Farmers Coalition, she says. The new group has been meeting on Zoom during the pandemic, discussing its core goals, which include a Black farmland incubator, more Black-led food hubs, and continuing education for Black farmers. The group has also raised money for seed capital to help young farmers get started in business. They’re hoping to attract more rural members around the state, and more older farmers. "For elder farmers who can see ahead of them a time when they’re not farming any longer but want to have their land actively used for farming: We have a bevy of young Black farmers who are looking for land," she says. "We’re interested in starting a land bank where we can develop contracts with elder farmers to create a win-win lease situation with young farmers who need that one-on-one mentorship and space where they can grow long term.” The other thing elder farmers have to offer is experience and expertise. We want the knowledge that Black farmers have gathered for generations to not die when they transition.” Jenkins knows the Coalition’s virtual meetings are a barrier for some farmers who may not have reliable internet access or computer know-how. The coalition is naming regional captains around the state to help reach members by phone or in person. The coalition is also holding a conference March 28 and 29, both virtual and in-person. The theme is “Drive Into Justice” and topics include how Black farmers can tap into Black churches for resources, how to collect information on your farm legacy for posterity, and presenting the results of a Black Farmer Equity Audit.

To join the SC Black Farmers Coalition, visit scblackfarmers.com or email info@scblackfarmers.com. The Coalition’s Regional Captains include: Bonita Clemons, Columbia (803) 479-2231, bonitaclemons@gmail.com; Najmah Thomas, St. Helena Island/Beaufort, najmahthomas@gmail.com; Derek Hopkins, Estill (480) 450-5498, g2gentllc@gmail.com, and Alex Curtis, Charleston (202) 841-2447, clemson extension@gmail.com.

2021 SC BLACK FARMERS CONFERENCE

Sunday, March 28 and Monday, March 29

The conference will be held virtually. Participants who registered by March 1 were entered into a lottery for one of 30 spots to attend in-person from the safety of their cars.

REGISTER: freshfuturefarm.regfox.com/sc-black-farmers-conference-2021

MARKET BULLETIN

BLACKVILLE, S.C. – Most South Carolina vegetable growers agree that proper fertilization and irrigation are important for their crops. But just how much fertilizer is enough? Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service horticulture agent Gilbert Miller, coordinator of a 6-acre community farm on Spring Island, said the Drip Fertigation Calculator helps make his job easier. “We grow a whole range of vegetables here. Think cucumber, tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, okra, eggplant, radish and herbs. This year, we will plant spinach, fennel, kohlrabi, zucchini, squash, lettuce, kale, bok choi, turnips, greens, carrots, spinach, fennel, kohlrabi, zucchini, squash, cucumber, tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, okra, eggplant, radish and herbs. The researchers say using it will help farmers achieve the greatest returns on their investments while protecting the environment. This free web-based calculator (app), developed by Justin Ballew, Kendall Kirk, Rob Last and Zack Snipes, helps farmers make more precise fertilizer applications. The researchers say using it will help save money and increase crop productivity. “By adding liquid fertilizer to irrigation systems, plants are given a little bit of fertilizer each time farmers water their crops,” said Snipes, assistant program leader for the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service horticulture team and an area horticulture agent. “This reduces runoff and leaching as compared to granular applications.”

To use the tool, growers select the fertilizer formulation to be used, pounds of nitrogen needed per acre per day and the amount of acreage to be fertigated. The calculator determines how many gallons of fertilizer are required to supply the needed nutrients through the drip system. The app has a drop-down menu for users to input the age of a crop to help determine crop nutrient demands at that stage of development. Those recommendations are cross-referenced from the Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook and the N.C. Strawberry Association’s Strawberry Plasticulture Guide. “This app makes use of published data for nutrient requirements throughout a crop’s life,” said Last, a Clemson Extension horticulture agent. In addition, Last said there are several factors for determining the amount of fertilizer to be applied. “Development stage of crops always has an impact,” he said. “For example, the amount of fertilizer to be applied to younger vegetative crop will generally be lower than a more mature crop. Nutritional status of a crop can also play a role. For example, in strawberries, if the petiole nitrogen content is low then additional nitrogen should be applied. This reduces the risk of nutrients becoming limited and limiting yield potential. The same calculations generated by the app can be done manually and give the same results.”

Gilbert Miller, Clemson Extension vegetable specialist, said fertigation is an “excellent method” for meeting the daily nutrient needs of fruit and vegetable crops, adding if the drip irrigation cycle time is not too long, nutrients provided via fertigation will remain in the crop root zone and be readily available. “Growers should make sure they use a high-quality liquid fertilizer that will not clog up the drip irrigation emitters,” Miller said. “Also, it is generally not recommended to apply phosphorous through a drip irrigation system because of the possible precipitation of phosphates and consequential clogging of drip emitters. Phosphorous does not move freely through the soil so it can be easily applied pre-plant with a granular fertilizer.”

A GROWER’S PERSPECTIVE

Jim Basara, coordinator of a 6-acre community farm on Spring Island, said the Drip Fertigation Calculator helps make his job easier. “We are a 6-acre community farm,” Basara said. “We grow a whole range of vegetables here. Think of it as a private CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm with sweet corn, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, onions, cabbage, lettuce, kale, bok choi, turnips, greens, carrots, spinach, fennel, kohlrabi, zucchini, squash, cucumber, tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, okra, eggplant, radish and herbs. This year, we will plant well over 200 different cultivars of crops.”

The farm is divided into three watering zones. Each zone contains plants of the same crop family that have similar water and fertilizer requirements. Basara said using the calculator helps ensure crops receive the proper amount of nutrients. It also saves time and is a stress reliever because he doesn’t have to worry if his calculations are correct. “I think there are farmers out there like us who are hesitant due to a number of unknowns and this calculator knocks down a big barrier to adopting fertigation,” Basara said.

In addition to the Drip Fertigation Calculator, other calculators and web applications (apps) available from the Clemson Extension Precision Agriculture Group can be found at clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/PrecisionAgriculture/calculators/index.html.