Fertilizer is a global commodity in a complicated market, and prices are unlikely to drop anytime soon. That was the consensus of experts during an April 11 listening session organized by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture to help South Carolina farmers understand the fertilizer situation and plan their planting seasons. Spearheaded by Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers, the session brought together experts along with varied producers, representatives of commodity groups, and South Carolina Farm Bureau.

Geopolitics play a major role in fertilizer prices, and so do the pandemic and even the weather, said Jason Troendle, Director of Market Intelligence and Research with The Fertilizer Institute. A February 2021 cold front and freeze reduced nitrogen production by 2% worldwide, and supplies were also affected by hurricanes and deferred plant maintenance from 2020, he said.

Meanwhile, China, which accounts for 25% of the phosphate market, has banned all fertilizer exports, Troendle noted. Belarus, the second largest potash producer in the world, is the target of sanctions for its support of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. As for Russia, it accounts for 14% of the world’s urea exports and is also the target of sanctions by the US, UK, European Union, Japan, Australia, Canada, and Taiwan.

What’s more, Russian President Vladimir Putin is using energy prices to manipulate global markets, and fertilizer prices start with energy prices, said Frank O’Connell, a vice president with CF Industries.

Still, both experts stressed that fertilizer supply is adequate for US farmers’ needs. It’s simply that prices are high, demand is high, and it’s expensive and difficult to move supplies around with fuel prices high and rail lines clogged.

Prices are likely to stay high for the foreseeable future, according to O’Connell. However, demand will likely go down in the summer.

O’Connell advised farmers to get their orders in sooner rather than later. “Don’t wait for prices to go down,” he said, explaining that right now it’s a guessing game on where fertilizer will be needed. There is enough supply, and the sooner people identify their needs, the more reliable delivery will be.

As for Russia, it has phosphate, it does not have potash occurring naturally, so US farmers will likely continue relying partly on international sources.

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Family Farm Day
April 25 • 9 am - 5 pm
All of our animals are friendly & LOVE attention. Play with baby goats, pet horses, meet the little pigs— we mean, 18 little pigs & Leroy, cuddle kittens...enjoy being outside & letting the kids run/ play! We will have hayrides & pony rides too! We have a Kid Zone with lots of outdoor games, toys, & we may also add a craft or project! Admission is FREE. All event parking will be in our front pasture at $5/ vehicle per day.

Fox Hideaway
1822 Saint Matthew Church Road, Eastover
803-567-1046
facebook.com/FoxHideawaySC

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Claxton’s Auction
April 25 • 9 am - 11 am & 1 pm
Every Saturday. Equine, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, camels, rattries, poultry, and small animals.
18627 Lowcountry Hwy, Ruffin
Contact: William Claxton
843-909-3285 • wlcjr@yahoo.com

Junior Farmer Experience-Chicks
April 25, May 12 & 19 • 9:30 – 10:30 am
An exciting, outdoor farm experience for your little one. Come learn and enjoy the animals on the farm through each unique experience. Each time you and your little one will learn about care, housing, and feeding of a different farm animal. $15 – 40.
Crazy Chic Heritage Farm
450 Renal Road, Ridgeway
843-475-6494
crazychicheritagefarm.com

Scraps & Remnants Market
March 19 – 27
The market for food, clothing, & household items is open to the public at Hampton Park. Visit hfpark.org for more information.

Pics with Chicks
April 24 • 10 am – 4:30 pm
We’re adding to the flock at The Farm and this is your chance for the kids to enjoy interacting with the baby chicks while capturing these priceless moments. Gentleman Farmer Britt Flashnick is also a professional photographer and visual storyteller with more than twenty-one years of experience working with some of the largest organizations in the world. Each 30-minute session includes live interaction with baby chicks. You will receive five digital photos within two weeks of your photo session. Each session includes up to four children.
The Farm 1780
1127 Corley Mill Road, Lexington
803-356-9078
thefarm1780.com

Ole Patchwork Spring Gathering
April 30 • 10 am – 3 pm
Take home our delicious strawberries and other Patchwork products! Enjoy music, food, arts and crafts, demonstrations, and more! This event highlights local talents and small artisan business owners. Fun for kids. Meet the Patchwork barnyard animals. Great local artisan items available for that special Mother’s Day gift. Bring a cooler for food products that will be available for purchase too. Please, NO PETS allowed. This is FREE to the public.
Patchwork Farm
110 Dairy Lane Saluda, SC
864-445-9548 • patchworkfarmllc@gmail.com

Protecting Family Land
April 30 • 12 – 2 pm
Join a Forester and a Lawyer from the Center for Heirs Property Preservation to learn about the importance of protecting and preserving family land and sustainable forest. Free and all welcome!
Hartsville Library
147 W. College, Hartsville
Contact: Baronda Ltd
843-866-6535 • ruth.m.baronda@verizon.net

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Paper & Electronic: $20 / 1 year
Paper: $15 / 1 year
Electronic: $10 / 1 year
Active email address required

This is a gift
4/21/22

Next AD deadline: April 26 • 12:00 PM

SCDA State Farmers Markets

SC Market Bulletin Office

Upcoming Events

Family Farm Day
April 25 • 9 am - 5 pm
All of our animals are friendly & LOVE attention. Play with baby goats, pet horses, meet the little pigs—we mean, 18 little pigs & Leroy, cuddle kittens...enjoy being outside & letting the kids run/ play! We will have hayrides & pony rides too! We have a Kid Zone with lots of outdoor games, toys, & we may also add a craft or project! Admission is FREE. All event parking will be in our front pasture at $5/ vehicle per day.

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SCDA State Farmers Markets

South Carolina State Farmers Market
3483 Chimneys Highway
West Columbia, SC 29172
803-737-4664

Greenville State Farmers Market
1514 Rutledge Road
Greenville, SC 29609
864-244-4023

Pee Dee State Farmers Market
2513 W. Lucas Street
Florence, SC 29501
843-665-5154

Piedmont Plant & Flower Festival
April 28 – May 1
Market bulletin@scda.sc.gov

South Carolina Department of Agriculture Contacts
Commissioner: Office
803-734-2190

Certified SC Program
803-734-2207

Consumer Protection
803-737-9700

Livestock & Grain Market News
803-737-4621

Frut & Vegetable Inspection
803-737-4568

Market News Recording
803-737-5900

Market News
803-737-4497

Metrolgy Laboratory
803-253-4052

The South Carolina Market Bulletin
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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No matter the submission method, submissions must include the advertiser’s name, complete address with zip code and county, and phone number with area code. While we don’t publish the address, we need this information for our records.
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• Mail: SC Market Bulletin, PO Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211. You must use 8.5” x 11” inch paper.
• Email: Send ads to marketbulletin@scda.sc.gov. Put the words “Market Bulletin Ad” in the subject line.
• Fax: 803-734-0659

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

The South Carolina Market Bulletin
ISSN 0744-3986

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FARMERS MARKET
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803-737-4664

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VISIT agriculture.sc.gov
for more information about each location

Market bulletin@scda.sc.gov
5 Gal buckets: clean, $1 each, 55 gal plastic drums, clean, $10 each Michael Wise Newberry 803-771-4235

Halflinger size buggy breaker, rubber on airl, $1200 Harry Isbell Anderson 864-627-2671

Campbell L’Egg saddles, endurance 865 Anil Burgess St Greenville 864-256-7166

Dehorners
HD, 48¢, $400 Robert Turner Orangeburg 803-506-6451

Honey bees 5 frame box in nucs w/young queen laying, $16 each, rule to reserve Dale Stanis Lancaster 864-377-5781

Organic Form casting 20 lb bags, $5 each, bulk sale available Mary Little Lexington 803-530-2010

6-35c cedar lumber cedar posts, & utility poles, 1-1/2 James Burn Lauren's 864-918-8658

20 gal wash pot clean, $1 each, 10 gal w/handles, $8 each Igor Young Pickens 864-269-4594

2022 cutting of SQ FESCUE IN FIELD Fert treated for weeds. $4.50 Will Kraft Greenville 843-797-5100

Wheat seed
800# bag, 0.75¢/#, 1000#, $0.85 Michael Franklin Lexington 803-672-3158

21-45# CB string wrap, stored under tarp on pallets, .45¢/bale Mike Robertson Barnwell 803-664-4645

90¢ to reserve for Case back, all 400# & states ditched for sale Russell Goodings Union 843-466-2119

SAND CLAY & TOPSOIL
275 gal port t/w lids & rings, $15, $20, $25 for seed, $70 Each Ronnie Judy Newberry 864-361-9997

JEANS STICKS
fiberglass, 61/2 Each; garden push plow w/6 ft wide & mild frame con/pa plant, $75 Each R Long Newberry 803-924-1939

PURPLE MARTIN GOURDS
25¢ each, 50¢ extra males, wood is sound, $50 Sam Phillips Florence 864-916-9997

55 Gal FG drums metal & plastic, open tops, lids & rings, $40 Each; 275 gal port t/w tanks, $50 Each Philip Poole Union 864-559-1859

Used tractor tires
10.1-9.5, $10 each for; veg/flower bed/water tank, $15 each, more Billy Gallman Newberry 803-727-7772

AIR DRIED PINE LUMBER
2x4's $24/ft & 2x6's $21, 120, 2x10's, 8, 2x12's, 12, $22, 5, 2x16, 8, $18x16, 8, $36x8, Alsoland Firestones, $1800 ea Ronnie Judy Newberry 864-310-7084

PICLINE
20.9-838 tractor tire, good for duals, $205 Joey Gunter Lexington 803-920-1605

19.5-24 "tires" 10 ply, new, $150, 14.9-28x6.5, $120; all terrain Firestones, $1800 ea Robert Turner Lexington 803-707-0106

Barnes 864-591-9754

50 GOURDS
holes bored, $5 Newberry 803-306-1410
In our April 7 issue, we left out some ingredients from our strawberry shortcake recipe. We are reprinting the recipe in full to eliminate confusion. The Market Bulletin staff apologizes for the error.

**STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE**

**INGREDIENTS**
- ½ c. shortening
- ½ c. sugar
- 2 egg
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 c. milk
- ½ tsp. salt
- 3 c. all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 16 oz. whipped cream topping
- ⅓ c. sugar
- 3 quarts Certified SC Grown strawberries

**DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a 9x13 inch baking pan with foil/parchment paper and grease; set aside. In a separate bowl, combine dry ingredients and whisk; set aside. In a bowl fit with a mixer, cream together shortening and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla extract and beat well. With mixer on low speed, slowly alternate between adding dry ingredients and milk. Pour mixture into greased baking pan and bake for 20–25 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Place sliced strawberries and sugar in medium saucepan on medium heat and stir gently until sugar is dissolved. Take off heat and set aside.

Once cake is cool, cut cake into 9 or 12 pieces. Next, cut each piece in half. Spread whipped cream in the center of each piece and spoon strawberries over the top. Place top layer of cake on top and spread whipped cream and strawberries over each piece.

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In addition, we strongly recommend that all of HPAI outbreaks at its website, aphis.usda.gov. Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), regulatory agency, said the temporary measure applies to birds from counties that have had a positive test. University Livestock Poultry Health (LPH) director, Michael Neault, who directs the Clemson University Veterinary Diagnostic Center in Columbia; the diagnosis was confirmed by the Clemson University Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Programs office at (803) 726-7805.

U.S. farmers realize these gains by employing a range of sustainability best practices, including cover crops, crop rotation and conservation tillage, to maximize yields while also capturing carbon from the atmosphere and conserving soil, water and other precious natural resources. Advances in technology, such as precision farming equipment and drones, also support more sustainable farming.

These efforts advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

“Continuously improving is at the heart of our role in delivering solutions in the U.S. and around the globe,” said Polly Ruhland, USB CEO. “With the world demanding sustainably sourced food, feed, fuel and thousands of other nonfood uses, we know that U.S. Soy plays an outsized role in developing solutions in the U.S. and internationally.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture report.

U.S. Soy's commitment to developing solutions in the U.S. and internationally is a testament to its leadership in delivering solutions for people and the planet, now and into the future. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. However, achieving these goals requires an urgent and sustained commitment from all stakeholders.

U.S. Soy continues to make progress towards these goals, particularly in the areas of food security, nutrition, and climate action. For example, U.S. Soy has set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030 and a target of sourcing 30% of its feed ingredients from sustainable sources by 2050.

In addition, U.S. Soy is working with partners to develop new uses for soy's meal and oil components, in many cases advancing solutions for a world where soy is a fundamental ingredient in every life, every day across the three priority areas of Infrastructure & Connectivity, Health & Nutrition, and Innovation & Technology. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff. For more information on the United Soybean Board, visit unitedsoybean.org.

United Soybean Board’s 78 volunteer farmer-leaders work on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers to achieve maximum value for their soy checkoff investments. These volunteers create value by investing in research, education and promotion programs to deliver sustainable soy solutions to every life, every day across the three priority areas of Infrastructure & Connectivity, Health & Nutrition, and Innovation & Technology. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff. For more information on the United Soybean Board, visit unitedsoybean.org.

Although South Carolina and Georgia so far have reported no infected poultry flocks, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Oconee counties south of Raleigh discovered the disease in multiple flocks at the end of March and beginning of April. Nearly 400,000 chickens and turkeys were affected.

A wild duck harvested in January by a hunter in Colleton County, South Carolina as part of a surveillance program was the first wild bird detected with the Eurasian H5 type of HPAI since 2016. The bird, an American wigeon, was tested by the Clemson University Veterinary Diagnostic Center in Columbia; the diagnosis was confirmed by USDA-APHIS.

This type of HPAI virus is considered a low risk to people but poses a danger to the poultry industry, backyard and commercial, which generates billions of dollars annually in the Palmetto State's economy.

Importation requirements of backyard poultry, waterfowl and raptors, contact the LPF Animal Health Programs office at (803) 726-7805.

The temporary importation prohibition announced April 13 by Clemson Livestock Poultry Health applies to birds from counties that have had a confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza infection in a domestic flock (backyard or commercial). As of our print deadline, no counties in South Carolina have had such an infection. We urge all avian owners, buyers, and sellers to practice good biosecurity and stay alert to the latest avian influenza news and any future actions by Clemson Livestock Poultry Health. Highly pathogenic avian influenza is a serious concern for the state's agribusiness industry, and it's important that we work together to combat its spread.
Fertilizers claim much of the input costs for growing crops and a Clemson University specialist says that, especially with today’s fertilizer prices, precise input management is important.

Bhupinder Farmaha, a nutrient management specialist housed at the Clemson Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville, South Carolina, and Clemson Cooperative Extension Service agent, recently conducted a Zoom meeting to talk about crop fertilizer needs. Among row crops, corn demands the most in fertilizer costs.

‘For corn, 37% of the input operating costs goes to fertilizer,’ Farmaha said. ‘Because fertilizer prices are continually increasing, it is very important for growers to precisely manage fertilizer inputs.’

Several factors, including increased costs in nitrogen, phosphate and potash, have attributed to the climb in fertilizer prices. These prices have doubled since the end of 2020 when prices were about $400 per ton. Nitrogen recommendations for corn are based on yield goals. For phosphorus and potassium, farmers should account for sub-soil fertility by taking 6-inch to 12-inch samples.

‘Right now, we are at more than $800 per ton,’ Farmaha said. ‘Because fertilizer prices have doubled, managing inputs has become quite challenging. So, farmers should set realistic goals this year.’

Understanding the roles nutrients play in maximizing yields helps growers understand where they can cut and still profit. Soil tests and lime to adjust soil acidity levels are two items that should not be cut, Farmaha said. Soil tests can show growers the level of nutrients already in the soil, indicating where less fertilizer is needed. When the soil acidity level, or pH, is found to be less than required for a crop, a liming adjustment is recommended to bring the soil pH to the ‘Target pH.’

Calculators and web apps developed by the Clemson Extension Precision Agriculture team also can help growers make proper management decisions and develop prescription plans for their crops.

Information on collecting soil samples can be found at tinyurl.com/ClemsonSoilSamples.

Samples can be mailed directly to the Clemson Agricultural Service Laboratory. Guidelines for submitting samples can be found here: bit.ly/CU_SoilSampleSubmit, or by visiting the local Clemson Extension County Office. To order soil sample mailers or for more information, visit tinyurl.com/ClemsonAgLab.

USING COVER CROPS AND CONSERVATION TILLAGE

In addition to fertilizers, cover crop rotations and conservation tillage also can help reduce input costs. Cover crops are planted between periods of cash crop production to help soils stay healthy and productive. In South Carolina, cover crops typically are planted from October to November through April to May. Determining which cover crop or cover crop mixture to grow depends on a farmer’s goals.

‘Cover crops can be planted to improve soil health as well as provide insect and weed control and conserve moisture in the soil,’ Farmaha said. ‘Before a cover crop is planted, farmers must decide what they want to achieve.’

Planting a mixture of multiple cover crops is more beneficial than single species but can substantially increase the cost of seed and chemicals to terminate them. Mulch from cover crops can help improve soil structure, promote water infiltration and limit pest and disease outbreaks. Cover crops also can be used in weed suppression.

Conservation tillage such as no-till, in-row subsoiling, strip-till and ridge-till also can reduce the need for costly chemicals. These tillage practices build up crop residues on soil surfaces to minimize impacts of water and wind erosion. Properly managed crop residues protect soil resources, enhance soil quality, restore degraded ecosystems, improve nutrient cycling, increase water conservation and availability, enhance pest suppression, reduce runoff and leaching of nutrients off-site, and sustain and enhance crop productivity and profitability.

For more information on soil fertility visit clemson.edu/cals/research/soilfertility.