

MARKET BULLETIN

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PLANTING URBAN ROOTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

BY SABRENNIA BRYANT, FARM SERVICE AGENCY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY ROOTS ORGANIC FARM

Eric and Robbie McClam own City Roots Organic Farm, an urban farm located in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. This eight-acre operation grows USDA certified organic microgreens year-round, and their produce is sold to restaurants, grocery retailers and food distributors throughout the east, from New York to Florida.



Urban farmers Robbie (left) and Eric McClam (right) are the owners of City Roots Organic Farm in Columbia, South Carolina.

GROWING WITH USDA PROGRAMS

Since 2009, City Roots has worked with both USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to install facilities and conservation practices on their farm.



"Once we learned about USDA programs, mainly by word of mouth and through other agriculture organizations, we immediately started applying for as many programs as we were eligible for," Eric said. "I can say with certainty that we would not be successful without utilizing these programs."

They used two FSA Farm Operating Loans to purchase equipment and build a washing and packing facility. These loans are a valuable resource to start, maintain and strengthen a farm or ranch and, for new agricultural producers, they provide

an essential gateway into agricultural production by financing the cost of operating a farm.

City Roots also utilized Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) from NRCS to install micro-irrigation, cover crops, compost sheds, water wells, and to implement soil preservation and nutrient management practices. EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to address natural resource concerns, helping farmers, ranchers and forest

landowners integrate conservation on their operations.

EXPANDING WITH SOLAR ENERGY

In the Fall 2023, City Roots expanded its operation to include a 90-acre organic farm in rural Richland County. In addition to building a 73,000-square-foot greenhouse and a distribution facility, City Roots received grants through USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program for solar panels, LED lighting and a geothermal radiant floor system, which is used for heating and cooling the floor where they grow their microgreens.

This expansion significantly increases production by six to seven times and expands City Roots' capacity into markets well beyond their current marketing geography. As for their downtown Columbia location, City Roots continues operating their urban farm, which also includes two event rental facilities.

"I enjoy operating a farm in an urban area because it allows us to grow food where our community is," said Eric. "We get to personally connect food to consumer."

Eric's advice to anyone pursuing their urban agriculture dream is to "ensure you have season extension infrastructure, such as high tunnels or greenhouses in place in order to maximize your production and fulfill your customers' needs year-round."

For more information about USDA programs and services, contact your local USDA service center.

City Roots' \$4.4 million expansion was supported by incentives from the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and the South Carolina Department of Commerce. The new facility, which encompasses a microgreen-integrated production facility and a state-of-the-art greenhouse structure, is projected to create 60 new jobs.



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

HUGH E. WEATHERS

SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

WELCOME FALL AT THE FARMERS MARKET

College football is back, harvesting equipment is rolling through the fields, there's a little chill in the air most mornings, and our three State Farmers Markets are preparing for the Fall Plant & Flower Festivals. These are the signs of fall here in South Carolina, and I'm glad for it.

Our three State Farmers Markets hold Plant & Flower Festivals each spring and fall, offering people a chance to buy indoor and outdoor plants, garden décor, in-season Certified SC Produce, and more, while experiencing the market. This first festival was at the Pee Dee market in the spring of 1986, and was so popular that the other two markets adopted the spring tradition, later adding fall festivals, too. These days, the festivals are the largest driver of traffic to our markets and profits for vendors and farmers. A neighbor of mine used to use a vacation day from his job to go to the "plant show".

For many people, fall means pumpkins and gourds, which start arriving at our markets in late September/early October. The variety of specialty pumpkin varieties is really something to see. Some vendors get pretty creative with pumpkin crafts.

The first market of the season is AutumnFest at the Greenville State Farmers Market, held September 27–28. That's followed by the Midlands Plant & Flower Festival October 4–6 and the Pee Dee Plant & Flower Festival October 11–13.

Of course, all the farmers markets in the state have a lot to offer this time of year. Muscadine and scuppernong grapes are a major fall draw, as are green peanuts for boiling. After all, boiled peanuts are our official state snack! We're starting to get some great fall produce like sweet potatoes and apples, while continuing to see late summer items like butter beans. If you're looking for a market near you, visit our website, agriculture.sc.gov, and click "Where to Buy Local".

The crisp air aside, the fall always means some uncertainty when it comes to the weather. As I write this, we're eyeing several tropical disturbances in the Atlantic and hoping none develop into threats to South Carolina. Now is as good a time as any to visit the South Carolina Emergency Management Division at scemd.org and make sure you're prepared. You can find your hurricane evacuation zone and make a plan that will help you protect your home, farm or other business if there's an emergency.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 Grazing: Profitability from the Group Up

September 25 • 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Author and consultant Dale Strickler has more than 30 years of experience in agronomy, pasture management, and soil and crop advising. He has developed highly effective grazing systems for numerous ranches with a range of often challenging climates and soil types. Also speaking are Dr. Buz Kloot of USC and Dr. Liliane Silva of Clemson University. Tickets are \$25 in advance. Lunch included. Annual meeting at end of program. **Phillips Market Center, SC State Farmers Market 117 Ballard Ct, West Columbia**

Contact: Gary Ward, Executive Director of SC Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition
77tarheel@gmail.com • 803-556-6997
scforage.org

Tickets: bit.ly/4dBpAEJ

Farm-to-Table Dinner with The Hollow

September 27 • 6 – 9 pm

The FARM 1780's Annual Harvest Dinner is a true farm to table dinner experience. The food that you will enjoy has been grown and raised on this 8th generation family farm. We also source directly from other farms in the area, which supports other local farms directly by cutting out the middle man (distributors). We are thrilled to partner with Dante Serra, the Executive Chef of The Hollow in Columbia, SC. The Hollow is a forest-to-table restaurant that specializes in the traditions of rustic American cooking. The Hollow strives to provide an immersive and memorable experience while taking the time to educate guests on the quality and benefits of consuming root vegetables and fresh game.

THE FARM 1780

1127 Corley Mill Road, Lexington

hello@thefarm1780.com • 803-356-4978

facebook.com/THEFARM1780

Back to Roots Gathering!

September 28 • 9 am – 6 pm

The Back to Roots Gathering is a time of opportunity. Our aim is to offer a supportive environment to all those wishing to educate themselves on skills from the past. We desire to remind people of the important traditional roots that bring us connection to our community, environment, & ourselves. By offering classes, discussions, demonstrations & connection to leaders in their fields, the event will empower guests to implement these practices in their lives, homes, & communities.

Barefoot Acres

181 Barefoot Acres Way, Fountain Inn

864-484-3879

barefootacres.com/events

facebook.com/barefootacres44

Tickets: ticketsignup.io/TicketEvent/BacktoRootsGathering



AUTUMNFEST AT THE MARKET

SEPTEMBER 27-28

Friday – Saturday
8 am – 6 pm

The area's largest selection of fall plants, pumpkins, and decor.
Free admission and parking.

Greenville State Farmers Market
1354 Rutherford Road • Greenville, SC

EVENT CONTACT: Lia Sanders
lsanders@scda.sc.gov / 864-244-4023

GREENVILLESTATEFARMERSMARKET.COM



FAMILY HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 28, 2024 ~ 10 AM to 3 PM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- Complimentary Children's Pumpkin Painting
Ages 12 & under / While supplies last
- Free rides in the Little Red Fire Truck
10 am - 3 pm
Provided by the Palmetto Rural Fire Co.
- Food Vendors On Site
- Free Children's Games with Prizes
- One Day Scavenger Hunt with Prizes

The biggest and best pumpkin selection anywhere in the Pee Dee!

Free Admission & Parking ~ Complimentary EV Charging
Aloha Kitchen open, serving Hawaiian food with Aloha!

SCDA PEE DEE State Farmers Market 2513 West Lucas St. Florence, SC
PEEDEESTATEFARMERSMARKET.COM

Fall Fun on the Farm

September 28 • 11 am – 5 pm

Come out and enjoy pumpkins, corn maze, hayrides, and more. There's something for everyone to enjoy at our farm this season! Bring the whole family and make some unforgettable memories. Don't miss out on this opportunity to experience the beauty of fall on the farm.

Southern Palmetto Farms

2601 Garner Road, Aynor

843-421-4686

southernpalmettofarms@yahoo.com

Market Bulletin Office

Monday – Friday • 8 AM – 4:30 PM

803-734-2536 • marketbulletin@scda.sc.gov

agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin

EDITOR Eva Moore

ADS & CIRCULATION COORDINATOR Janet Goins

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Stephanie Finnegan

South Carolina Department of Agriculture Contacts

Commissioner's Office

803-734-2190

Certified SC Program

803-734-2207

Hemp Farming Program

803-734-8339

Consumer Protection

803-737-9700

Livestock & Grain Market News

803-737-4491

Fruit & Vegetable Inspection

803-737-4588

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803-737-5900

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803-737-4671

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803-253-4052

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Only ads pertaining to the production of agricultural products and related items are published. Ads are accepted for South Carolina items, even if the seller lives out of state, provided the item is in state at the time the ad is published and at the time of sale.

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SUBMITTING ADS

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. Do not use all capital letters.

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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.

NEXT AD DEADLINE

SEPTEMBER 24 • 12:00 PM

SCDA State Farmers Markets

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FARMERS MARKET

3483 Charleston Highway
West Columbia, SC 29172
803-737-4664

GREENVILLE STATE FARMERS MARKET

1354 Rutherford Road
Greenville, SC 29609
864-244-4023

PEE DEE STATE FARMERS MARKET

2513 W. Lucas Street
Florence, SC 29501
843-665-5154

VISIT AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV

Click on the State Farmers Markets button for more information about each location

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Name _____ Paper: \$15 / 1 year Electronic: \$10 / 1 year
*Active email address required

Address _____ Paper & Electronic: \$20 / 1 year
*Active email address required

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ New Renewal

Phone _____ Check # _____ Renewal ID # _____

Email _____ This is a gift 9/19/24

MISCELLANEOUS

LRG BLKSMITH VISE

r885 Vintage William Foster, GC, \$675
D L Dimery
Lexington
803-796-2995

9 HONEY BEE HIVES

w/stands, broods, boxes, 1 & 2 supers, \$3000 for all
Hugh Williams
Spartanburg
864-457-2013

2H WAGON

\$350; peach baskets, \$2 ea;
plastic barrels, \$10 ea
Gary Seay
Spartanburg
864-578-8214

RND CEDAR POSTS

\$7', \$4 ea; Cedar lumber,
\$2/bdft
Joe Culbertson
Greenwood
864-229-5254

OLDER FILSON SQUEEZE CHUTE

auto catch head gate, \$1100;
Woodmizer LT15 w/pwr
feed, saw blades & head
cover, \$8500
Ryan McDaniel
Saluda
803-315-6689

5 HP ELEC MOTOR

new, bought for grain auger,
nvr used, \$750
Charles Nichols
Saluda
864-445-8350

PLASTIC NURSERY POTS

mostly new, \$2 ea/5 gal,
\$1.25 ea/3 gal, 25¢ ea/1 gal
Carol Elliott
Richland
803-261-1666

'19 GRASSHOPPER ZERO TURN MWR

mod 335B w/72" & 35 hp B&S
Vanguard, \$9000
Terry Atkins
Spartanburg
864-706-3738

HDWD LUMBER

boards 1"×12"×8'L, \$4/
bdft, 300 bdft min/del, will
custom cut for lrg dcls
Ryan Anderson
Greenville
864-234-2918

RND CEDAR POSTS

cut to var sizes, 4-10" dia,
6-12' L, \$6-12 ea, depend on
size; cut 4×4, \$2/bdft
Douglass Britt
McCormick
864-391-3334

4' TUBE GATE

\$40; 7'×¾" chain hook one
end, \$20
Russell Goings
Union
864-426-2309

CHICKEN LITTER

tractor trl qty, \$500/load w/in
Newberry Co, \$500/load +
del fee outside Newberry Co
Evan Horne
Newberry
803-960-2699

HONEY BEES

\$160, 5 frames; lrg colonies
& queens, \$45, frames only,
must have own box
David Gainey
Darlington
843-861-2745

GASOLINE HOLE DIGGER

new, 8" & 10" torsion
protection augers, \$335
cash; more
Randy Orr
Calhoun
864-295-3736

SUGAR CANE

FL state hybrid, on ¼A, you
cut, \$175
Carl Sturkie
Lexington
803-957-5247

CUBESTEAK TENDERIZERS

Hobart 403 comm grade,
\$1000-2500
Lamar Snipes
Lexington
803-465-6094

4 MIRAFOUNT AUTO WATERERS

2 hole, 20 gal, \$450 ea
Clyde Smith
Saluda
803-480-1093

OEM JD EXHAUST

vertical pipe assembly for
JD 5055D, EC, \$150
David Grooms
Dorchester
843-345-5608

GARDEN TRACTOR

Cub Cadet 1450, 14 hp
Kohler, hydro trans, hyd
lift, spare frame, tire, mwr
frame, \$450 obo
Ralph Taylor
Chester
803-789-5110

ARIENS RIDING LAWN MWR

B&S eng, 22 hp, 46" cut,
new belt, spindle, blades,
hyd drive, EC, \$850 obo
Lecil Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

NURSERY POTS

1 & 5 gal, all for \$1, lv msg
Sue Queen
Lexington
803-394-8668

SAUSAGE STUFFER

2 gal Enterprise, \$275; 20 gal
wash pot, \$150; Blksmith
post vice, \$175
R Long
Newberry
803-924-9039

275 GAL FG PORTOWTANKS

\$50 & \$60 ea
Philip Poole
Union
864-427-1589

WOODEN PEACH BOXES

1 bu, old, \$30 ea
Robert Yonce
Aiken
803-685-7240

TOP SOIL/FILL DIRT

\$2/yd
R Adams
Darlington
843-393-7280

HORSE HAY RING

\$400
Deborah Worth
Aiken
803-605-4644

SNAPPER ZERO TURN MWR

48" cut, Briggs eng, \$2000
Terry Blakely
Greenville
864-483-1920

SNAPPER RIDING LAWN MWR

33" cut, was running, not
used for over a yr, \$300
Jack Fogle
Orangeburg
803-331-6675

BRASS RAINBIRD SPRINKLERS

EC, \$20 ea; yard vacuum,
EC, \$185; irrig hose, \$75
George Schwab
York
803-493-8021

(2) 280 GAL FUEL TANKS

1 w/pump, 1 w/stand, \$300 ea
Jeremy Shealy
Lexington
803-351-1283

OLD COMP FARM BELL

old, #3, \$350; xl farm bell,
w/wheel, comp, \$1200; #20
hash pots, \$200 ea; #15,
\$150; more
Perry Masters
Greenville
864-561-4792

RABBITS

REX

all colors, yng, \$15-20 ea;
grown bucks, \$20 ea; does,
\$25 ea; LA cottontail, grown
bucks, \$20 ea; does, \$25 ea
Philip Poole
Union
864-427-1589

LA COTTONTAILS

crossed on MS cane cutter,
\$12 ea
Danny Cook
Newberry
803-924-6953

FLEMISH GIANTS

\$25 ea
Joe Culbertson
Greenwood
864-229-5254

SEED

ADS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CURRENT SEED LAB TEST.

'24 OATS

cleaned in 2 bu bags, G-97%,
D/HS&G, -97%, \$14/bag
Addison Livingston
Lexington
803-608-0998

BLK OATS/COSAQUE

combine run, P-99.60%,
IM-0.40%, G-99%, \$8/bu
Trent Jamison
Barnwell
803-300-2255

WHEAT SEED

in bulk bags, G-96%, D/
HS&G-96%, \$9/bu
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
843-517-0315

RYE SEED

cleaned, P-98.87%, G-92%,
PWg-79.74, \$18/bu
David Shumpert
Lexington
803-920-8710

SOYBEANS

cleaned & bagged, P-99.96%,
G-98%, D/HD SD&G-98%,
IM-0.04%, \$20/50 lb bag
Kevin Anderson
Barnwell
803-259-6888

WANT - FARM EQUIPMENT

INTL FA 100

or 130 tractor, w/good sheet
metal & in GRC
Robert Yonce
Aiken
803-685-7240

FORD 501 SICKLE MWR

Rowland Alston
Sumter
803-491-7180

L SHAPE CORN CONVEYOR

elec motor, in GWC,
reasonably priced
Adam Anderson
Newberry
803-924-8466

WANT - LIVESTOCK

EACH AD MUST LIST SPECIFIC ANIMALS.

BEEF CATTLE

any age or size
Kenneth Satterfield
Laurens
864-304-3172

WANT - MISCELLANEOUS

CHICKEN PLUCKING MACHINE

used
Roger Barnes
Lexington
803-606-3335

BLKSMITH ANVILS

any size farm bells, #4 bell
stands
R Long
Newberry
803-924-9039

BIG BOY PEA SEED

1 lb, call or text
George Whelchel
Pickens
864-635-1260

BEE EQUIPMENT

woodenware, boxes, frames,
will pay reasonable price
David Gainey
Darlington
843-861-2745

PULPWOOD SAW TIMBER

hdwd pine, all types of thinning
or clear cut, Upstate cos
Tim Morgan
Greenville
864-420-0251

FARM WAGON

1 or 2 horse w/wood spoke whls
Harry Isbell
Anderson
864-617-2627

ANY SIZE WASH POTS

syrup kettle, anvils, lrg coffee
grinder, old lighting rod w/
balls & weathervane, more
Perry Masters
Greenville
864-561-4792

OLD JUMBO PNUT SEEDS

Kenneth Beason
Orangeburg
803-614-1684

SMALL POWER UNIT

for sawmill
Earl Mackey
Colleton
843-709-3677

SEEKING HAY PRODUCERS

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture's Livestock Market News seeks contributors for a monthly South Carolina Direct Hay Report. This report is currently in the planning stage, and is an effort to provide the state's hay producers a free and unbiased source of price information. Cooperators will not be disclosed in the report. All hay producers interested in providing confidential price and grade information to Market News reporters once a month are encouraged to contact Market News Programs Coordinator Shannon Rhodus at 803-737-4491, or text Livestock Reporter Chad Smith at 864-934-2780.

MARKET BULLETIN REMINDERS

2024 SCHEDULE - REMAINING ISSUES

AD DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
September 24	October 3
October 8	October 17
October 22	November 7
November 12	November 21
November 19	December 5
December 17	January 2, 2025

SUBMITTING AN AD? MAKE SURE TO CLEAR YOUR VOICEMAIL

Here's a suggestion submitted by a Market Bulletin reader: Please clear your voicemail so callers can leave a message about your item for sale. Your voicemail may not let you know when it's full, so make sure to delete and purge messages regularly.

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SC STATE HELPS 400 WOMEN FARMERS WITH SOLAR WATER SYSTEM IN THE GAMBIA

BY SC STATE UNIVERSITY

Note: This is the first in a series of articles regarding South Carolina State University's academic exchange and agricultural extension partnership in the developing West African nation of The Gambia.

ILLIASSA, North Bank Region, Gambia — For over two decades, Saffiatou Jammeh has worked the soil in a community garden near her village to grow onions and other vegetables to feed and earn money for her family.

"I have been working here 22 years. When we were coming here in those early days, we even had to cut the trees because it was bushy," Jammeh said through an interpreter. "In the past, one of our challenges was fencing around this garden to keep animals out. We had to go into the thick bush and cut some wood to make a fence."



Gambian farmer Saffiatou Jammeh draws water for her plot from a reservoir constructed through SC State's solar water project at a community garden near the village of Illiassa.

As the years went on, yields from the garden diminished because of insufficient water. Wells dried up, and the equipment used to draw water was worn out. Approximately 400 women who tended plots in the garden saw their livelihoods jeopardized by the conditions.

"In the past, my gardening was very bad," Jammeh said. "My husband asked me to stop because the production was limited because of the scarcity of water. My husband asked me to stop working because the benefit wasn't coming."

Now, thanks to a project led by South Carolina State University's Public Service and Agriculture division (SC State PSA), the community garden has an abundant supply of water.

Funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture via the 1890 Universities Foundation Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense (GFSD), the new solar-powered well and pump system delivers water to 49 new and renovated concrete reservoirs throughout the fields. The system's tanks have a 30,000-liter capacity. SC State also provided buckets and watering cans for water distribution.

"When we had limited water, I used to have about six bags of onions from my garden, but now with this water supply system here, I can have double or even more because of the availability of water anytime we need it," Jammeh said. "So, I will have more and more yield with more onions to sell."

"These days, I come twice a day," she said. "I can come in the morning because there is abundant water, and I even come back in the evening and then I can go back and sleep. It has been transformative and has eased my life and constraints these days."

The water system resulted from the GFSD's 2021 needs assessment of agriculture sector and food supply chain systems in several African countries.

With SC State PSA's Dr. Lamin Drammeh, a Gambian native, coordinating the efforts, the university entered a partnership with Gambia's National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the Ministry of Agriculture to design and implement the project.

Fast facts about the project:

- Title: Cultivating Productivity and Resilience to Mitigate Food Insecurity in the Gambia.
- Beneficiary: Illiassa Women Garden Kafo, Gambia
- 10 new concrete reservoirs.
- 39 renovated reservoirs.
- 30,000-liter water tank system.
- 12 units of solar power system (385W/32V) per unit.
- Water network to the reservoirs.
- Water meter system.



Dr. Louis Whitesides, SC State vice president for Public Service and Agriculture and research, dances with Gambian farmers.



The solar-powered water system at the community garden near the Gambian village of Illiassa.

GLOBAL IMPACT AND BENEFITS FOR SC STATE RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS

The garden project represents the first of a series of ongoing initiatives between SC State and the West African nation, which also include an academic and research exchange with the University of the Gambia. SC State President Alexander Conyers described the international relationship as fulfilling the university's global outreach objectives and its educational commitment to SC State students.

"When we help others, we help ourselves," Conyers said. "When we teach others, we teach ourselves. These relationships and experiences are key for our students as they compete on a global scale. It's essential for SC State to be involved globally."

Dr. Louis Whitesides, SC State's vice president for PSA and research, described how the impact of the university applying its knowledge around the world. He noted that SC State's next Gambian venture will be the introduction of a new goat species in hopes of mitigating nutritional deficiencies causing stunting in children.

"As a global citizen, SC State University has a responsibility to invest in communities around the world who would benefit from our expertise, particularly in agriculture education, research and outreach," he said. "SC State Public Service and Agriculture leads this work on behalf of the university by leveraging its resources, technical expertise and research-based knowledge to transform communities, not just in South Carolina but globally."

"For Gambia, much like the U.S., agriculture is the leading economic industry," Whitesides said. "The work we are doing in the country will advance agriculture innovation and practices that will produce far-reaching outcomes that will impact Gambians for countless generations."

A JUBILANT CELEBRATION

On Aug. 6, Conyers, Whitesides, and Drammeh joined Gambian officials and SC State PSA scientists in handing over the water system to the garden's farmers. The event was a joyous occasion filled with song, dance, and a traditional Gambian feast.

"Ladies, South Carolina State University heard your request, and this is for you," Conyers said as he addressed the farmers with an interpreter. "You deserve this and more."

The SC State president drew parallels between the agricultural economies of South Carolina and the West African nation, including the production of sweet potatoes and peanuts.

"What we are doing for you today is what we do for the citizens of South Carolina, and that is to innovate, educate, and elevate," he said. "When we empower women in the Gambia, we empower the entire Gambia, just like when we empower women in the United States, we empower the entire country. When we empower women, women help us empower children, and those children help us empower the entire community."

"We continue to pray for your blessings, and I ask that you pray for South Carolina State University so that we can continue to do this type of work throughout the world," Conyers said. "Many blessings to you, your family and this great country."

A THANKFUL NATION

Conyers was joined on the program by Gambian and village dignitaries, including North Bank Region Gov. Ebrima KS Dampha and Minister of Agriculture Demba Sabally, who both expressed gratitude for SC State's intervention at the garden and their hopes for the relationship's sustainability.

We are very grateful for this. Your works here will transform lives," Sabally said, "It will transform livelihoods and make these women increase their income, increase their access to health and increase their access to education."

"NARI being under the Ministry of Agriculture will continue to work with these women to move this garden to a better height," he said.

Dr. Demba B. Jallow, NARI's director general, described the water project's domino effect for the people of Illiassa.

"Horticultural needs a lot of work, but if they do not have access to water, the garden is there, but nothing will grow in it," Jallow said "About 400 women are working this garden, so this will help them a lot. They grow all kinds of vegetables, but the major ones are tomatoes, onions, okra, and garden eggs (a small type of eggplant)."

"For this community, it will create a source of income for them, especially for young people," he said. "Young people have some beds here where they can produce and sell for themselves. This area is known for having some migrating youths, especially to Europe and the U.S. If they have something like this, it will keep them home with their families."

Continued on page 7

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

GAMBIA, CONTINUED

In that same vein, Jallow lauded Drammeh for his leadership in connecting his native country to his adopted home in the U.S.

“This is what is expected of every Gambian,” Jallow said. “If you go abroad, you bring back something that will uplift the living conditions of your people. This is really commendable on his side. Dr. Drammeh can stay in America and have everything, but he came back home and contributed to the development of his country.”

FURTHER NEEDS AND NEXT STEPS

While access to water was the farmers’ most pressing necessity, Jallow said they still have unmet needs to tend to their fields and protect their crops. He said NARI’s top priority is a storage facility to prevent crops from wilting before the farmers can get them to market.

“Most of the vegetables are highly perishable – tomatoes for example. They need a place they can store the vegetable and get what they can to market,” he said. “If they do not have a place to store these things, it means their hard work can be in vain.”

Next on the list would be machines to help them plow rather than relying on “muscle power.”

“They use donkeys and horses and their own muscles, which is not very efficient,” Jallow said. “What they need is small power tillers to help them till the soil and prepare their beds.”

Jallow expressed his gratitude for SC State’s transformational partnership with NARI and the promise of the ongoing relationship.

“To the people of South Carolina, the government of the U.S. and South Carolina State University, I want to say thank you very much,” he said. “This is a rare thing for us to have something of this magnitude.”

CHANGES TO BLUE CRAB LAWS COMING IN 2025

BY SCDNR

If you enjoy tossing a line or pot out for blue crabs, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) wants you to be aware of a few changes coming to the fishery in 2025.

The South Carolina Legislature recently passed a suite of changes to blue crab laws to help ensure the sustainability of the fishery. Most of the changes pertain to the commercial blue crab fishery and address ways to prevent overexploitation of the fishery, which remained largely unregulated in South Carolina over recent decades. The modifications will bring South Carolina’s laws on par with neighboring states, and commercial crabbers have been notified of the impending changes.

The following changes will impact recreational crabbers:

1. **Recreational crabbers may harvest a limit of one bushel of crabs per person per day or two bushels per boat.** Previously, South Carolina had no harvest limit. Research suggests that most recreational crabbers harvest well under a bushel of crabs daily.
2. **All crab pots must have escape rings for undersized crabs;** single-chambered crab pots must have at least one escape ring, while two-chambered pots must have two rings, at least one of which must be in the upper chamber. These vents/rings provide a means of escape for undersized crabs and other small marine animals. They were already required in



commercial traps, and many recreational traps are already sold with escape rings standard. If you need to retrofit an older crab pot, plastic escape rings are available for <\$1 at many tackle shops and are easy to install. Follow this tutorial to install your own escape vents.

3. **Recreational crabbers may purchase an annual enhanced recreational crab trap endorsement (\$5) to fish up to five crab pots.** A recreational saltwater fishing license currently allows holders to fish up to two crab pots. For those individuals who like to crab for family and friends but do not intend to sell them commercially, this new endorsement will allow up to five crab pots per person.

These changes will take effect on July 1, 2025.

CRABBING BEST PRACTICES

- **Follow all existing laws,** including observing the size limit for blue crabs (do not take crabs smaller than 5” wide from point to point) and returning all females with eggs to the water.
- **Regularly check your crab pots.** Unattended or abandoned pots continue to catch and kill marine animals.
- **Consider buying a recreational saltwater fishing license** even if you don’t fish or crab; license fees provide important funding for coastal research, education, and enforcement.

For more information, email marine@dnr.sc.gov.

DPH REPORTS SOUTH CAROLINA DEATHS LINKED TO U.S. LISTERIA OUTBREAK

BY SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) urges residents to avoid recalled Boar’s Head deli meat following a national Listeria outbreak that might have contributed to two deaths in the Lowcountry region of South Carolina.

Since July, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been investigating a Listeria outbreak that has led to 43 hospitalizations and three deaths across 13 states as of Aug. 8.

“Unfortunately, an outbreak of Listeria has reached our state, and is potentially the cause of two deaths here,” said Dr. Linda Bell, State Epidemiologist. “We want to ensure South Carolinians are aware of this outbreak and that everyone takes necessary steps to avoid consuming products that could be the source of infection.”

Epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback data show that some meats sliced at delis, including Boar’s Head brand liverwurst, are contaminated with Listeria and are making people sick, according to CDC. Boar’s Head Ready-to-Eat Liverwurst Products and other deli products from the same processing plant have been recalled.

DPH and CDC recommend the following steps to avoid Listeria:

- Do not eat recalled meats. Throw them away or contact stores about returns.
- Check your refrigerator for any recalled deli meats and throw them away or return them to the store. Listeria can grow on foods kept in the refrigerator.
- Clean your refrigerator, containers and surfaces that may have touched recalled meats.

Additional steps should be taken by those who are at higher risk. Listeria is especially harmful to people who are pregnant, aged 65 or older or who have weakened immune systems. CDC always recommends people at higher risk for listeriosis avoid eating meats sliced at the deli or heat them to an internal temperature of 165°F or until steaming hot before eating.

Delis that received recalled meats should thoroughly clean and sanitize all food and non-food surfaces and throw away any open meats and cheeses in the deli. The United States Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service also advises businesses to use best practices for controlling Listeria contamination in deli areas.

For up-to-date information on the Listeria outbreak, visit the CDC website.

2024 LEGAL NOTICE

NOMINATIONS FOR CANDIDATES TO FILL VACANCIES ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA PEANUT BOARD

Pursuant to the provisions of the “Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act” of 1968, as amended and Marketing Order No. 6 for South Carolina Peanuts issued July 1, 1975, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the terms of office of approximately ½ of the board members of the South Carolina Peanut board, expire on December 31, 2024, and, therefore, the listed vacancies shall occur at that time.

As a board member for the South Carolina Peanut Board, your primary focus is to establish plans for advertising and sales promotion of peanuts especially in domestic and international trade. The Board shall prepare and engage in programs for promoting and advertising to increase the sales of such peanuts without reference to a brand or trade name.

There are two board seats open in District 1:

District 1 includes the Counties of Berkeley, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Richland, Sumter, and Williamsburg.

There is one board seat open in District 2:

District 2 includes the Counties of Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Colleton, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, and York.

If you are interested in becoming a SC Peanut board member, you will need to request a petition. This petition can be requested by calling 803-734-9807, 803-734-2217 or by emailing elloyd@scda.sc.gov. All petitions must be received by **Monday, September 30, 2024**. For a petition to be eligible/accepted, it must be signed by no less than five peanut producers from the counties of the district seat you are petitioning for.

Terms of office are for 3 years. To qualify, a candidate must be a resident of South Carolina and be actively engaged in producing peanuts within the State of South Carolina for a period of no less than one year. Additionally, during that one-year period, candidate will have derived a substantial portion of his income there from and shall continue to do so during their term of office. The SC Peanut Board holds approximately 4 quarterly meetings per year to conduct business. Reimbursement for mileage is paid for travel to and from meetings. In addition, a \$50 per diem is paid per meeting attended.

Frances Price, Chair
The Agriculture Commission of South Carolina
PO Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211

CLEMSON NAMES ANDRAE DIRECTOR OF EDISTO REC

BY DONNA BOWEN, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

John Andrae was recently selected as the new director of the Edisto Research and Education Center (REC), following a national search. Andrae steps into the position during a period of significant growth and development at the facility, bringing a vision focused on consistent management, impactful research, and increased visibility.

Andrae, who previously served as the Clemson University Experiment Station associate director, brings valuable experience overseeing state capital projects. This background will be crucial as he takes charge of several key initiatives at Edisto REC.

“Currently, there are over \$10 million in capital projects underway at Edisto REC,” said Experiment Station Director Paula Agudelo, who also serves as associate dean for research in Clemson’s College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS). “These projects are critical to our CAFLS mission, and Dr. Andrae is well-prepared to manage and prioritize these efforts to enhance our research capacity.”

MAJOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

One of the most significant projects involves improving and expanding the center’s lab facilities. The existing analytical labs, initially built in the mid-1980s, are being updated to meet modern research standards. The former educational Discovery Lab is being remodeled into

a 1,500-square-foot wet lab designed primarily for plant pathology research. Additionally, plans for a new 4,500-square-foot analytical lab, estimated at \$7 million, are in the final stages, awaiting approval to begin bidding.

ENHANCING GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES

Recognizing the challenges posed by the center’s rural location, Andrae is also focusing on improving resources for graduate students. The former administration building is being converted into residential space, with construction on the \$1 million project set to begin this fall. This will add 11 new bedrooms, helping to attract and retain graduate students. A new office area is also being completed, providing desk space for 16 graduate students and a conference room for virtual meetings with the main campus.

EXPANDING RESEARCH CAPABILITIES

Under Andrae’s leadership, the Edisto REC is also expanding its field research capacity. A \$1.2 million federally funded containment facility is being constructed to study the guava root-knot nematode, a pest affecting crops in the southeastern United States. This facility will enable controlled research on effective management strategies, including screening vegetable crop varieties for resistance.

The center also responds to growing interest in specialty crops by nearly doubling its vegetable research acreage. Current research focuses on watermelon, sweet corn, tomatoes, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes. This expansion is supported by a recent hire specializing in vegetable production and increased collaboration with the Clemson Coastal REC and the USDA National Vegetable Research Lab in Charleston.

STRATEGIC FACULTY HIRES

Looking ahead, Andrae plans to bolster the center’s research and educational capabilities with strategic faculty hires. Three new positions are scheduled in precision agriculture and agricultural engineering, including a control and sensor engineer, a harvest mechanization expert, and a faculty member to interface with the Clemson University Center for Advanced Technology. Additionally, funding will be sought for an Extension livestock specialist focusing on beef nutrition research.

“This director position is a service role,” Andrae stated. “I’m here to listen to faculty and develop the best strategies for the REC’s future.”

With Andrae at the helm, the Edisto REC is poised to continue its growth, enhancing its research capacity, and strengthening its integration with Extension.

RABID WILDLIFE CONFIRMED IN GREENVILLE AND SALUDA COUNTIES: FOUR PETS EXPOSED

BY SCDPH

The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed that a bat and a skunk—from different counties—have tested positive for rabies.

The bat that tested positive was found near Woodcreek Drive and Merry Oak Trail in Piedmont, S.C. No people are known to have been exposed at this time. Two cats were exposed and will be quarantined as required in the South Carolina Rabies Control Act.

The rabid skunk was found near Firetower Road and Dalmatian Drive in Saluda, S.C. No people are known to have been exposed at this time. Two dogs were exposed and will be quarantined as required in the state Rabies Control Act.

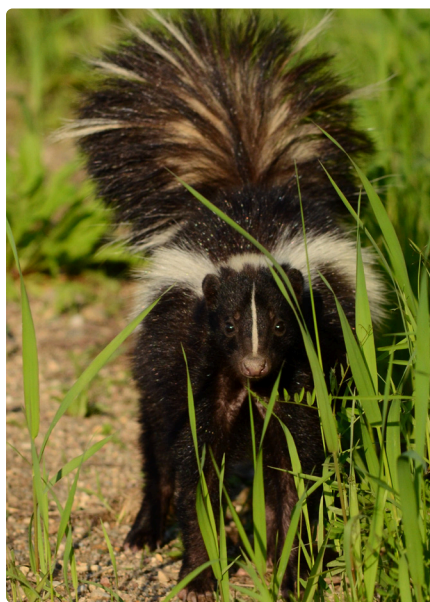
The Greenville County bat was submitted to DPH’s laboratory on Sep. 5, 2024, and was confirmed to have rabies on Sep. 6, 2024. The Saluda County skunk was submitted to DPH’s laboratory for testing on Sep. 6, 2024, and was confirmed to have rabies on Sep. 9, 2024.

If you believe you, someone you know or your pets have come in contact with this bat or skunk, or another animal that potentially has rabies, please call DPH’s Upstate Greenville-Spartanburg office at 864-372-3270, or the Aiken office at 803-642-1687 during normal business hours (8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday) or after hours and on holidays at 888-847-0902 (Select Option 2).

Never handle a bat or any wild or stray animal, alive or dead, with your bare hands. Any bat that could have had potential contact with people, pets, or livestock should be safely trapped in a sealed

container and not touched. Never release a bat that has potentially exposed a person or pet. Once a bat is released, it cannot be tested for rabies.

“Rabid bats have been known to transmit the rabies virus,” said Terri McCollister, Rabies Program director. “People don’t always realize they or a pet have been bitten since bat teeth are tiny and bites are easy to overlook.”



You cannot tell if a bat, or any other animal, has rabies by simply looking at it. Rabies must be confirmed in a laboratory. Unusual behavior in bats that might indicate they have rabies includes daytime activity, inability to fly, and being found in places they are not usually seen, like in your home or on your lawn. An exposure is defined as direct contact (such as through broken skin or mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, or mouth) with saliva

or brain/nervous system tissue from an infected animal. Be sure to immediately wash any part of your body that may have come in contact with saliva or neural tissue with plenty of soap and water and seek medical attention.

To reduce the risk of getting rabies, always give wild and stray animals their space. If you see an animal in need, avoid touching it and contact someone trained in handling animals, such as your local animal control officer, wildlife control operator, or a wildlife rehabilitator. Please report all animal bites, scratches, and exposures to potentially rabid animals to DPH.

Because of this, you should always assume a person or pet has potentially been bitten when:

- They wake up to find a bat in a room or tent;
- A bat is found where children, pets, or persons with impaired mental capacity (intoxicated or mentally disabled) have been left unattended; or
- They have been in direct contact with a bat.

“Not every bat is infected with the virus,” McCollister said. “Bats are an important part of South Carolina’s ecosystems and deserve a healthy degree of respect just like all wild animals.”

In 2024, the Greenville County bat is the fourth animal to test positive for rabies in that county, and the Saluda County skunk is the third animal in that county to test positive for rabies. There have been 55 cases of rabid animals statewide this year. Since 2002, South Carolina has averaged approximately 148 positive cases a year. Of the 78 confirmed rabies cases in South Carolina in 2023, three were in Greenville County, and one was in Saluda County.

Contact information for local Public Health offices is available dph.sc.gov/RabiesContacts. For more information on rabies, visit dph.sc.gov/rabies or cdc.gov/rabies.