

MARKET BULLETIN

Vol. 100 | Num. 1

Est.



1913

January 1, 2026

BACKYARD FLOCK OWNERS URGED TO GUARD AGAINST AVIAN INFLUENZA DURING PEAK MIGRATION

BY JONATHAN VEIT, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Clemson University animal health officials are urging owners of backyard poultry flocks and pet waterfowl to remain vigilant as peak migration season for waterfowl and other wild birds is underway in the Atlantic Flyway. Owners should isolate domestic birds from wild waterfowl and from ponds, lakes and other waters that wild birds may use.

The reminder follows confirmation of the Eurasian strain of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a small backyard flock in York County. The owners noted a die-off in their flock and had their birds tested at the Clemson Veterinary Diagnostic Center. The flock was depopulated to prevent the virus from spreading.

"With migratory waterfowl reaching South Carolina from Canada, it is unfortunate but not surprising that a backyard flock with increased exposure to viral shedders would test positive," said South Carolina State Veterinarian Michael Neault, director of Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health.

South Carolina's commercial poultry industry has so far avoided the virus through strict biosecurity protocols, but backyard flocks have been more vulnerable.

"It is imperative that all owners of backyard poultry and pet waterfowl keep their birds from mingling with wild waterfowl or accessing waters that could be frequented by wild waterfowl. These precautions not only protect their birds from contracting the virus, but also help keep the entire South Carolina poultry industry safe," said Neault.

In 2024, 23 states — including Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee and



South Carolina — reported cases of avian influenza.

HPAI is considered a low risk to human health, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between March 2024 and May 2025, 70 human cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) were detected in the United States, including two cases from backyard poultry. Most illnesses were mild, and no human-to-human transmission was detected. The virus is not considered a food-safety threat, and infected birds do not enter the food supply.

For information on biosecurity measures, visit the Clemson Livestock Poultry Health Avian Influenza website or the USDA's Defend the Flock Program website.

Report sick or dead poultry to Clemson Livestock Poultry Health by calling 803-788-2260 (Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or using the online report form. Report sick or dead wild waterfowl to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources by calling 803-734-3886.

Warning signs of HPAI include:

- Sudden, high death loss in a short period of time
- Reduced energy, appetite and/or activity
- Lower egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb and wattles
- Purple discoloration of wattles, comb and legs
- Difficulty breathing, runny nares (nose) and/or sneezing
- Neurological signs such as twisting of the head and neck, stumbling, falling, tremors and/or circling

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

HUGH E. WEATHERS

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



A BIG YEAR AHEAD

A very happy New Year to you all. I certainly hope the holiday season renewed your faith and recharged your batteries and you're ready to take on 2026. Ready or not, it's here!

2026 is shaping up to be an important year. For me, one reason outstrips them all: This will be my last year as your Commissioner of Agriculture. That means I'll be doing a lot of things for the last time as Commissioner, whether it's presenting our agency budget to the Legislature or attending the Southeastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston.

That doesn't mean I have one foot out the door. I'm as focused as ever on promoting South Carolina farmers and making it possible for them to earn a living and keep farming. We continue to roll out new initiatives, help along agribusinesses, and push for needed policy changes and funding.

2026 is an important year for other reasons. Last year was filled with economic tumult. I heard from a lot of farmers worried about their businesses making it to next year – and now we'll see whether they were able to hold on. Although slower than hoped for, China is buying soybeans again, which

is good news. However, commodity markets are down and input costs remain high. This could be a make-or-break year for some. We need to do more to protect farmers and preserve South Carolina agriculture. The Department will be laser-focused on that in 2026.

At any rate, I hope you'll join me in making this a great year. Maybe I'll see you at a meeting: This is the time of year I call Meeting Season in the South Carolina agriculture world. Here are a few important ones coming up:

- Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference – January 8–10 in Savannah, GA
- South Carolina Watermelon Association Annual Convention – January 15–18 in Hilton Head, SC
- South Carolina Watermelon Board meeting – January 16, 2026
- South Carolina Agritourism Conference – January 18–20 in Spartanburg
- South Carolina Pork Board meeting – February 19, 2026

Don't miss the opportunity to learn and network within your corner of the industry. Thanks for your support.

2026 AGRITOURISM PASSPORT PROGRAM

Join the fun in 2026 by visiting participating Agritourism farms. Have the farmer stamp your passport. Return your stamped passport for fun prizes. Pick up your 2026 passport at any of the farms below or request a passport at jmoore@scda.sc.gov! IMPORTANT: Call the farm before visiting!

SOUTH CAROLINA AGRITOURISM PASSPORT FARMS FOR 2026

UPSTATE

A Thrasher's Farm, *Pelzer*
Aloha Windmill Farms, *Greer*
Bison Berry Farm, *Enoree*
Chattooga Belle Farm, *Long Creek*
City Scape Winery, *Pelzer*
Denver Downs, *Anderson*
Elf Leaf Farm, *Landrum*
Farm in The Wildwood, *Piedmont*
Greenville State Farmers Market, *Greenville*
Happy Cow Creamery, *Pelzer*
Hereford Hills Ranch, *Union*
Hurricane Creek Farm, *Pelzer*
JEB Berries Farm, *Belton*
Lazy Bear Winery, *Easley*
LushAcres Farms, *Clinton*
Mushroom Mountain, *Easley*
Rooted Family Farm, *Anderson*
Split Creek Farm, *Anderson*
T.E. Market, *Anderson*
Table Rock Tea Company, *Pickens*
The Foothills Farmstead, *Westminster*
The Happy Berry, *Six Mile*

Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center, *Seneca*

MIDLANDS

AA Farms, *Columbia*
Anna Springs Close Greenway, *Fort Mill*
Black Walnut Farmstead, *Sharon*
Blacks Peaches, *York*
Blythewood Farmers Market, *Blythewood*
Boondock Farms, *Jackson*
Bush-N-Vine, *York*
Carolina Pride Pastures, *Pomaria*
Cottle Strawberry Farm, *Hopkins*
Cotton Hills Farm, *Chester*
Creekside Farm of York, SC, *York*
Dolce Vita Farms, *Eastover*
Enoree River Winery, *Newberry*
Fairfield Farmers and Artisans Market, *Winnsboro*
Fire Barrel Farm, *Swansea*
Grow Your Garden with Sal, *Columbia*
Gypsy Wind Farms, *Blair*
Hall Family Farms, *Lancaster*
Laurel Haven Estate Vineyard and Winery, *Lancaster*
Lever Farms, *Pomaria*
Locklair Farm (Supply), *Gaston*

Oak Grove Farms of Gaston, *Gaston*
Old McCaskill's Farm, *Rembert*

Sara's Farm Adventure, *Ridge Springs*

Sara's Fresh Market, *Ridge Springs*

South Carolina State Farmers Market, *West Columbia*

Sustainable Carolina Garden, *Columbia*

The Ivy Place Berry and Flower Farm, *Lancaster*

Wedges Firewood, *Batesburg*

Windy Hill Orchard and Cidery, *York*

PEE DEE

Booth's Christmas Tree Farm, *Conway*
Cascade Farms, *Cheraw*
Cottle Strawberry Farm, *Florence*
Freewoods Farm, *Myrtle Beach*
Kidogo Farms, *Georgetown*
L.W. Paul Living History Farm, *Conway*
La Belle Amie Vineyard, *Little River*

Pee Dee State Farmers Market, *Florence*
Philipp's Elderberry Farm – Crafty Maibritt, *Lake City*

South Carolina Cotton Museum, *Bishopville*

Thompson Farm at Brickyard Plantation, *Conway*

Tyler's Flower Farm, *Loris*

LOWCOUNTRY

D & S Plantation, *Hardeeville*

Deep Water Vineyard, *Wadmalaw Island*

Full Circle Farm, *Johns Island*

Jeremiah Farm & Goat Dairy, *Johns Island*

Newton Blueberry Farm, *Hollywood*

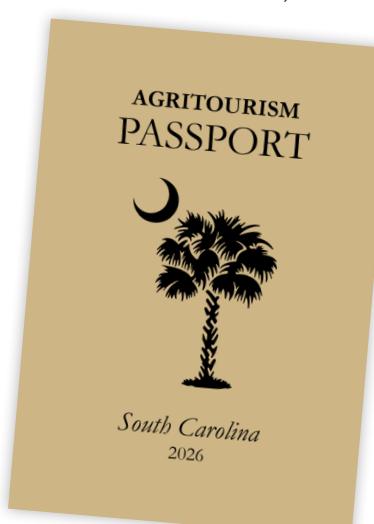
Pluff Mudd Farm, *Wadmalaw Island*

Simply Green Raised Garden Box, *Seabrook*

Southern Oaks Ranch + Dairy, *Wadmalaw Island*

Westbury Farms, *Summerville*

Wild Goose Flower Farm, *Moncks Corner*



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

See page 5 for information about an upcoming change to Market Bulletin subscriptions

SC Market Bulletin Subscription & Renewal Form

Mail completed form with check or money order payable to the SC Department of Agriculture to: SC Market Bulletin, PO Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211
To subscribe with a credit card online, visit agriculture.sc.gov, click on Market Bulletin, select Subscribe to the Market Bulletin, then follow the prompts.
Do not send cash in the mail. Non-refundable. Allow 6 – 8 weeks for processing. Subscriptions may only be purchased for up to 2 years.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Paper: \$15 / 1 year Paper: \$30 / 2 years
 New Renewal
Check # _____
Renewal ID # _____
 This is a gift 1/1/26

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 **Metrology Laboratory**
803-253-4052

Consumer Protection
803-737-9700 **Milk Safety**
803-667-1161

Fruit & Vegetable Inspection
803-737-4588 **Produce Safety**
803-753-7267

Market News—Fruit & Vegetable
803-737-4671 **Retail Food Safety**
803-896-0640

Market News—Livestock & Grain
803-737-4491 **SCATE Card**
803-734-2185

Market News Recording
803-737-5900 **Wholesale Food Safety**
803-737-0147

The South Carolina Market Bulletin

(ISSN 0744-3986)

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.

Postmaster, send address changes to:
SC Market Bulletin, PO Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211

POLICIES FOR ADVERTISING

For our full policies, please visit:
agriculture.sc.gov/Market-Bulletin-Policies

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.

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, 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.

• **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.

• **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

JANUARY 6 • 12:00 PM

Reminder to Advertisers

Ads are due by noon (12 pm) on the Tuesday after the latest published issue. Any ads received after the deadline will be considered for a subsequent issue.

AQUACULTURE

GRASS CARP

\$12; Bluegill, 1-3", 65¢; Redbreast, 75¢; Chan Catfish, 3-5", 65¢; Gambusia, 40¢ Clay Chappell Richland 803-776-4923

BLUEGILL

50¢; Bass, \$2.50; Catfish & Redear, \$1; Trout & Crappie, \$2; Grass Carp, \$10; Minnows, \$25 Derek Long Newberry 803-944-3058

CATTLE

CORRIENTE/LNGHN STEER

\$1800; 2 Braunvieh/Lim hefrs, B-2/24, \$2000 James A Langston Pickens 864-859-6794

2 REG MINI HRFRD BULLS

sire on site, handled often, gentle, B-5/2/24, \$1500; B-5/22, \$1000 Tiffany Craft Greenville 864-263-8266

2 FB CHAR HEFRS

no papers, B-4 & 5/25, both for \$2800 Boyd Caldwell Kershaw 803-438-3455

5 POLLED HRFRD BULLS

14-15 m/o, Home Towne & Knee's J-45 b'lines, VG & exc markings/color, \$2500 John Gossett Spartanburg 803-222-7786

RED ANG BULLS

2 y/o, AI sired, BSE, \$4500+ David Miller Edgefield 706-840-3709

6 HEFRS

ready for service, B-9/24, 3 Blk Baldie, 3 FB Ang, gentle, hand fed, off proven breeding stock, \$2450 Gunnar Palm Sumter 203-837-6814

REG DEXTER CATTLE

(1) hefr B-8/24, (2) hefrs, B-5/25, \$1700 ea; (1) Bull calf, B-5/25, \$1500 ea Stephan Vernet

864-363-5800

2 Y/O BULLS reg SimAng & horned Hrfrd, \$5000+; Sim hefrs, \$4000+ Wayne Garber Laurens 864-923-0581

BUCKING BULLS

& calves, Code Blue & Panhandle Slim b'lines, \$800-6500 Phillip Hutchins Lexington 803-422-1329

4-6 M/O HEIFERS

weaned, wormed, on feed, \$750+ Casey McCarty Newberry 803-924-5239

EQUINE

THE SELLER MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF A CURRENT NEGATIVE COGGINS TEST WITH THE AD. SCANNED COPIES ARE ACCEPTABLE.

17 Y/O 13H QH MARE

12 y/o 15h QH geld, both for \$6000 incl tack Joseph Dyches Allendale 843-812-2138

FARM EQUIPMENT

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

'07 NH 565 BALER

shed kept, LT 10000 bales, last used '14, 3ph rake & tedder, \$9000; more Charles Fairchild Anderson 864-617-1010

JD 4320

\$13,000 obo; Rainflo ser II veg transplanter, \$6500; 4R rolling cult, \$1500 Joe Alsbrook

Bamberg

803-662-0950

JD 458 BALER

\$22,000; 14' Kuhn cutter, \$27,000; Kuhn rake, \$6900; Kuhn tedder, \$6800; Intl 1466, \$23,000

Joseph Henson

York

803-448-5287

SUPER A FA

w/cults & sweeps, incl 3ph setup, GRC, \$2750 obo Perry Bishop

York

803-379-0097

8N FORD TRACTOR

\$1250; 8' drag harrow, 3pt, LN, \$900; 6 1/2'x12 JD pull type 4 whl wagon, \$600; 3pt post, \$650 Jack Hurst

Chesterfield

843-921-8574

'23 JD RC10M

10' pull type rotary cutter, EC, shed kept, \$11,500 Ryght Jordan Edgefield 803-480-1293

18' AMCO DISC HARROW

GC, \$4200 James Linder Colleton 843-908-3193

6' LAND PRIDE TILLER

LN, \$2000 John Miller Sr Aiken 803-646-3343

'22 JD 2025R TRACTOR

106 hr, 18 hp ldr, bucket, 60" Land Pride mwr, EC, \$19,000 Linda Berger Dorchester 843-832-9233

JD 850

25 hp, 2 wd, 3ph, PTO, shed kept, \$4900 Mike Buck Saluda 864-445-7399

'06 CHEV 3500 DUMP TRUCK

Allison trans, Duramax innovative 6.6 dsl, LN, 96,400 mi, \$28,500 John Lyons Chester 803-899-4308

20'x7' ENCL TRL

Tandem axles, loading ramp, new tires, EC, \$7000 Jerry Comeaux Spartanburg 864-992-3869

16' STOLL CATTLE TRL

older, FC, \$4600 James A Langston Pickens 864-859-6794

IH 140 WAGON

14x8, \$495; 3pt scoop pan, \$125 Jason Nichols Saluda 864-992-9292

9600 FORD TRACTOR

VGRC, 135 hp, dual remotes, \$12,000, call/text Toney Farr Union 864-251-4046

OAK TRL

& small metal trl, \$100 ea; 3ph carry all, \$250; all cash only Randy Orr Anderson 864-201-5666

JD 4020

\$13,500; MF 1105, \$15,000; Cat D7E, \$27,000; Ford 3930, \$13,500 Ronald McGraw Lancaster 980-255-8584

5' BHB GROOMING MWR

antiq/vintage '60-64, cuts well, \$300 Bob White Spartanburg 864-457-2293

13' ROUNDUP WICK BAR

4r, \$400 Otto Williamson Williamsburg 843-372-2692

20 BLADE DISC

\$1200; (2) ir cults, \$300; 7' boom pole, \$125; call/text Franklin Brown Charleston 843-224-4711

FORD 5030 FARM TRACTOR

ERC, 75 hp dsl, 4 wd, w/ bush hog & ldr, \$19,000 Wayne Krause Greenville 864-385-4583

L-210 FRT END LDR

GC, all hdwe, \$3800; Livestock trl, \$475 obo; 14' Ponderosa livestock trl, GC, \$1200 William Shealy Lexington 803-513-3485

JD 4020

\$13,500; MF 1105, \$15,000; Cat D7E, \$27,000; Ford 3930, \$13,500 Ronald McGraw Lancaster 980-255-8584

6' JCT BRUSH HOG

quick attach, high or low flow, new, \$1500; Kubota LA1353 frt end ldr, GC, \$2500 obo Jeremy Shealy Lexington 803-351-1283

JD 4230

\$18,000; JD 3020, \$15,000; IHC 385, \$5500 Ronnie Judy Dorchester 843-701-6394

8N FORD

new tires, wiring, gauges, \$3000; ir cult, \$200; 6' scrape blade, \$400; 5x8 util trl, \$600; all obo Otis Hembree Spartanburg 864-316-1222

CARRY-ON LIVESTOCK TRL

6x12 w/rear & side doors, Tandem axles, wood floor, LN, \$5950 Danny Leitner Fairfield 843-200-0887

6' W AERATOR

LN, tractor mount, 12" drum, \$1200 Charlie Doyle Florence 843-992-6267

20' GN STOCK TRL

neck over brand, new tires, 4 axle brakes 1 cut, \$4300; 20' Tagalong trl, new flr, \$3500 Robert Hurley Laurens 864-981-5352

VAIL BRUSH CUTTER

42 1/2", for mini excavator, EC, used IX, \$7500 Al Bryan Edgefield 803-480-4107

3000 FORD TRACTOR

\$6000; btm plow, \$300; 20 disc harrow, \$100; more Gary Seay Spartanburg 864-578-8214

'97 HYSTER 120XLS FORKLIFT

GRC, 2800 hrs, propane powered w/indoor-outdoor tires, \$7500 John Wren Orangeburg 803-308-0097

JD 510 RND BALER

VGC, new top belts, shed kept, FR, \$1250 Howard Steele York 803-230-2627

FARM LABOR

NOTICES ARE ACCEPTED FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK ONLY AND NOT FOR HOUSEWORK, NURSING, OR COMPANIONSHIP NEEDS.

CRACK & SHELL PECANS

only cost I keep 1/2 of the pecans; I also buy pecans Wade ten Bensel Lancaster 803-283-4631

BEAVER TRAPPING

& exclusion, Aiken Co & surrounding area Joe Leonard Aiken 803-507-4940

LIME SPREADING

specialize in TN valley lime, call for prices Drake Kinley Anderson 864-353-9628

FORESTRY MULCHING

& mini X brush cutting up to 8" clearing/dozer/Deere work, pond maint, bldg pads, etc Phillip Hutchins Lexington 803-422-1329

MOBILE SAWMILLING

30"+ dia & 21'L, drop off up to 52"; land clearing, excavator work, Veteran owned/insured John Smith Pickens 864-982-2249

TREE LIMB TRIMMING

for roads, fence lines, field edges, up to 26', all surrounding cos Damon Archie Chester 803-517-7436

PASTURE MGMT SERV

spray weeds, treat fire ants, fert & lime, plant pastures, Fescue, Ryegrass, Bermuda, Bahia Kenny Mullis Richland 803-331-6612

HERBICIDE/PESTICIDE APPS

& seeding by ground or UAV, Ag, forestry & aquatic Joel Cox Spartanburg 864-706-1495

DOZER/TRACKHOE WORK

land clearing, ditching, ponds, roads, trackhoe, bush hog, bldg pads Fred Morris Florence 843-621-8647

FORESTRY MULCHING

Market Bulletin delivery issues?

Contact the U.S. Postal Service at
usps.com/help/contact-us.htm or 1-800-275-8777.

FRESH PRODUCE

PRODUCE MUST BE RAW AND NON-PROCESSED. RAW MILK, BUTTER, AND CHEESE PRODUCTS MUST BE PERMITTED BY SCDA. AN EGG LICENSE IS NOT REQUIRED FOR ON-FARM POINTS OF SALE.

FRESH PECANS

shelled, \$27/gal bag; in shell, \$1.50/lb
 Deborah A Worth
 Aiken
 803-605-4644

CHICKEN EGGS

farm fresh, \$4/dz
 Ron Handley
 Georgetown
 843-896-0829

BLUE RIBBON SUGARCANE

100 stalks, \$100
 F C Noles
 Barnwell
 803-383-4066

JUMBO QUAIL

& chicken eggs, \$3-4/dz
 Brian Motley
 Kershaw
 803-315-7598

CHICKEN EGGS

farm fresh, blue & brn, \$4/dz
 Courtney Terry
 Laurens
 814-876-2127

PECANS

shelled, \$9/lb, in the shell, \$2/lb; eggs, \$3/dz
 Joe Culbertson
 Greenwood
 864-229-5254

GARDEN

ADS ARE NOT ACCEPTED FROM COMMERCIAL NURSERIES, WHICH HAVE ANNUAL SALES OF \$5,000.

BLUEBERRY PLANTS

3/\$20; Figs, Pomegranate, Elderberry plants, \$20; grapevines, \$10; Mulberry trees, \$30
 Freeman Noles
 Barnwell
 803-383-4066

GOATS / LLAMAS / SHEEP

NUBIANS

buckling & doeing, both are pets, not reg, \$500 for pr
 Dana Lawson
 York
 803-322-2920

5 RAM LAMBS

\$245; 2 ewe lambs, \$225
 Larry Seyller
 Greenville
 864-360-1849

KATAHDIN LAMBS

ram & ewe, 6+ m/o, healthy & wormed, \$200 ea
 Rebekah Olson
 York
 803-351-4994

KATAHDIN RAMS

gentle, hand raised, vac & wormed, \$200+
 Tammy Hodge
 Sumter
 803-983-5041

HIGH % BOAR/BRIAR MIXED

nannies & billies, \$75-150
 Ken Evans
 Lee
 803-464-1370

ND GOATS

does & bucks avail, some w/ blue eyes, \$50-100 ea
 Deborah Reed
 Orangeburg
 843-312-5018

BOER

& Briar goats, \$95-185 ea
 Joe Culbertson
 Greenwood
 864-229-5254

SAVANNA/BOAR BUCK

3 y/o, breeds yr rnd, \$250; 7 m/o steers & nannies, \$130+
 James Briggs
 Abbeville
 864-446-3235

HAY & GRAIN

'25 4x5 FESCUE

NR, \$30
 Carroll Shealy
 Laurens
 864-872-4184

CRABGRASS
 \$7.50/sq bale
 Jacob Boozer
 Saluda
 803-687-3682

HQ 4x5 RND CB
 shed kept, \$75 ea, qual disc
 Grady Johnson
 Horry
 843-527-9091

PREM SQ CB
 HQ, \$12
 Leslie Howell
 Cherokee
 803-517-8167

'24 4x5 CB
 twine, shed stored, \$40
 Michael Hallman
 Lexington
 803-917-9044

GRAHAM OATS
 \$6/bu
 Jim Harwell
 Florence
 843-669-6730

DEER CORN
 cob & shelled, \$10/bag
 Drake Kinley
 Anderson
 864-353-9628

'25 TIFTON 44 BERMUDA
 sq, \$7 ea
 Tom Thain
 Lexington
 803-920-7023

HIGH QUAL CB
 \$8/sq
 Wallace Wood
 Anderson
 864-993-5012

'25 HQ 4x5 CB

net wrap bale, fert & lime, NR, shed kept, \$75, del avail for fee
 Eddie Chavis
 Barnwell
 803-671-3108

'25 MIXED GRASS
 net wrap, \$45; grass straw mix, for mulch, \$30 ea; both 4x5
 Charles Nichols
 Saluda
 864-992-9292

'25 FESCUE
 net wrap, \$50; Grass hay, \$45; both 4x5
 Jason Nichols
 Saluda
 864-992-2753

'25 4x5 RND CB
 NR, barn stored, \$70/bale; \$8/sq
 Mike Cousins
 Newberry
 803-924-7539

'25 FESCUE/ORCHARD
 HQ 4x5 rnd, net wrap, barn stored, \$55 ea
 Joseph Henson
 York
 803-448-5287

FESCUE MXED
 4x5 net wrap, 9 or less, \$35/bale; 10+, \$30/bale, 200 bales avail
 Shannon Parsons
 Newberry
 864-981-5375

'25 MIXED GRASS
 4x5 net wrap, CQ, \$40; '24 mulch hay, \$15
 Kenneth Sprouse
 Laurens
 864-682-9402

TIFTON 85

& CB, both '25 & HQ, over edge net wrap, not shed kept, no del, \$50
 Ann Furtick
 Orangeburg
 803-707-4826

'25 4x5 RND HQ CB
 net wrap, no chicken litter, NR, well fert, \$75/bale
 Vernon Bonner
 Sumter
 803-481-4225

'25 OAT STRAW
 4000 bales avail, \$6/bale; '25 Oats, \$12/bag
 Victor Smith
 Berkeley
 843-870-8522

4x5 RND BALES
 net wrap, CQ, \$50/bale, HQ \$65/bale, can del for fee, can load if p-up
 Allen Kellett
 Greenville
 864-607-7444

'25 HQ CB
 \$7/sq; 4x5 rnd, \$50; CQ, outside \$40 ea
 Anthony Carroll
 Anderson
 864-314-2111

'25 SPRING FESCUE MIX
 5x5, \$25/bale; summer hay, \$35/bale
 Luke Berry
 Saluda
 864-982-6911

'25 HQ 4x54 CB
 net wrap, shed kept, \$70 ea; CQ, \$60; no del
 Rickey Meetze
 Lexington
 803-667-0285

'25 MIXED GRASS

4x5 rnd, net wrap, fert, \$50 ea, disc on lrg quant
 Danny Leitner
 Fairfield
 843-200-0887

'25 HQ 4x5 RND CB
 net wrap, limed & fert, NR, stored outside on indiv pallets, \$70 ea
 Eddie West
 Aiken
 803-507-8205

4x5 MIX GRASS
 \$45/bale; HQ CB, NR, no weeds, \$65/bale
 Paul Kicidis
 Union
 864-429-6112

'25 4x5 VOLUNTEER GRASS
 string wrap, \$30 ea
 Harroll Stockman
 Newberry
 803-924-7878

HQ FESCUE MIX
 in barn, \$50/bale; CQ, outside, \$30/bale; both 4x5 rnd
 Terry Blakely
 Greenville
 864-483-1920

BERMUDA GRASS
 18" x 36" sq, baled 9/17, \$6 ea; p-up or del avail for bulk for addl fee
 Nicholas Mosher
 Marion
 912-289-5575

'25 4x5 RND MIXED GRASS
 fert Bahai/Bermuda, net wrap, \$45/bale, call/text Jason Sandifer
 Richland
 803-606-3596

HQ SQ CB

no litter used, \$8; rnd, \$65/field, \$75/barn; CQ, \$40
 George McCoy
 Chesterfield
 843-307-8866

SUMMER MIX

4x5 rnd, \$35
 Mary Riddle
 Saluda
 803-727-5844

'25 COASTAL

limed & fert, shed kept, HQ, \$70/bale; CQ, \$60/bale; sq, \$8/bale, del avail
 Eddie Phillips
 Sumter
 803-486-0081

'25 4x5 RND

HQ, CB, net wrap, shed kept, \$80/bale
 Carlisle Kinard
 Bamberg
 803-824-9247

'25 FESCUE/MIXED GRASS

4x5 rnd, baled w/o rain, barn stored, no manure put on land, fert only, \$50/bale
 Billy Gallman
 Newberry
 803-276-7171

'25 CB

& Oats Rye grass, 4x4, \$50/bale
 Thomas R Steele Jr
 Lexington
 803-917-1470

'25 HQ COASTAL

net wrap, rnd, \$70, shed stored; \$60; field stored
 David Fulmer
 Orangeburg
 803-917-0467

'25 4x5 RND BALES

net wrap, CQ, \$45/bale, can del for fee
 Nathan Uldrick
 Abbeville
 864-391-1359

GRAIN SORGHUM

\$60, in your 55 gal drum, or \$9 in 50 lb bags; also avail in bulk bags
 Jeffrey Gilmore
 Chesterfield
 843-517-0315

DEER COB CORN

\$7.50/bag for pallet of 40 bags, \$9/bag for indiv bags, call to schedule p-up
 J Painter
 Spartanburg
 864-641-9855

4x5 RND FESCUE MIX

CQ, fert, net wrap, \$45/bale
 Quinton Whitener
 Union
 803-923-2036

'25 4x4 FESCUE MIX

stored off-ground on racks, \$30, please text
 Waitman Dixon
 Laurens
 864-684-4641

SQ FESCUE

barn kept, \$7 ea; sq mixed grass, \$5 ea; both NR
 Jerry Butler
 Laurens
 864-697-6343

'25 TIFTON 44 & COASTAL

4x5 net wrap, in barn, \$50; local del for 8 or more
 William Shealy
 Lexington
 803-513-3485

HOGS / PIGS

KUNEKUNES
 1M, 2F, 4 y/o & (1) 2 y/o, take all 3, \$100; pls text
 Leo Nettles
 Florence
 843-687-3065

PIGS

60-70 lbs, \$50 ea
 Joseph Smith
 Calhoun
 803-878-1337

AZALEAS
 Gardenia, Boxwoods, \$7; Tea Olives, \$8; Banana
 Shrub, Camellias, Carolina
 Sapphire, \$25
 Freeman Noles
 Barnwell
 803-383-4066

PLANTS & FLOWERS

ADS ARE NOT ACCEPTED FROM COMMERCIAL NURSERIES, WHICH HAVE ANNUAL SALES OF \$5,000.

MONKEY GRASS

aka Liriope, Hosta, \$4 ea; Iris, Daylily, \$5 ea; Hydrangea, Gardenia, \$10 ea
 Woody Ellenburg
 Pickens
 864-855-2565

TAMUK

var ages & colors, \$50 ea
 Courtney Terry
 Laurens
 814-876-2127

REX

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

RABBITS

7-12 W/O TAMUK

bucks & does, \$20 ea
 Dustin Derrick
 Lexington
 803-622-4782

LA COTTONTAILS

PB, \$15 ea
 Bradley Brewington
 Laurnes
 864-923-5804

Unsure of an ad abbreviation meaning?



DOWNLOAD OUR REFERENCE LIST:
[agriculture.sc.gov/
 market-bulletin/abbreviations](http://agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin/abbreviations)

MISCELLANEOUS

5 HP ELEC MOTOR new, bought for grain auger, nvr used, \$750 Charles Nichols Saluda 864-992-9292	HDWD LUMBER boards 1"×12"×8'L, \$4/ bdft, 300 bdft min/del, will custom cut for lrg dels Ryan Anderson Greenville 864-234-2918	SHOP HEATER nvr used, \$150, call after 5 pm Dan Coward Dillon 843-472-8122	JD X320 LAWN TRACTOR 22 hp, 48" cut, w/dump cart, new frt tires incl, \$3500 Wayne Krause Greenville 864-385-4583	HI-TENSILE BARB WIRE new, 1320', 15.5 gauge, 4 pt, 5" spacing, \$50 Joseph Dyches Allendale 843-812-2137	BREWSTER BRUNSON WAGON late mod 1900, bearing whls, lamps, near orig cond, \$3500 Otto Williamson Williamsburg 843-372-2692
PINE BEDDING shavings for animals & woodchips for landscaping, \$12/yd, del avail Dakota Hollman Lexington 803-687-6382	WORM CASTINGS FERT 100% organic, Certified SC, no fillers, 30 lb bags, \$20/ bag, \$120 for 10 bags Maryann Little Lexington 803-530-9219	GAS IRRIG/TRASH PUMP pipe & fittings, needs tune up, \$250; oil & skid tanks, \$225 ea Randy Orr Anderson 864-201-5666	COMP TURBO KIT for JD 4020, \$2500 Ronnie Judy Dorchester 843-701-6394	PURPLE MARTIN GOURD RACKS & poles, 14'T, all alum, easy to operate, holds 16 gourds, \$325 ea Richard King Lexington 803-447-2175	55 GAL FG DRUMS metal & plastic open top w/top & rings, \$20+; solid top 55 gal, \$20 ea; 275 gal portow tanks, \$60 ea Philip Poole Union 864-427-1589
HDWD TIMBER on +/-A, mostly 60-80" T Oaks, thick, \$1000 James Littlefield Spartanburg 864-978-2375	LIVE EDGE SLABS var species & sizes, \$50-200 Becky Elliott Hampton 843-368-5158	OAK FIREWOOD long/bed p/up, cut to size, del & stack, \$150 Ronald Wright Richland 803-606-1616	LRG DRILL BIT AUGER w/wooden handle, \$35; oak cotton basket, \$75 R Long Newberry 803-924-9039	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	WHT OAK TRL FLOORING 1-2"D×6-10"W×8-21'L, \$2.50/bdft; Red Oak barn siding, 1"D×6-12"W×8-12'L, \$2/bdft Otis Hembree Spartanburg 864-316-1222
FARRIER TOOLS comp set incl anvil & stand, \$400 Donald Henson Spartanburg 864-707-8336	4' TUBE GATE \$45; 7"x3/8" chain, hook on one end, \$25 Russell Goings Union 864-426-2309	CHICKEN/RABBIT HUTCH \$25 Joe Meetze Lexington 803-917-5302	'19 5TH WHL HITCH PillRite Auto glide 16,000 lbs, pulled 30' Winnebago 8000 mis, \$800 Brooks Bosley Oconee 410-440-7714	2 NURSE TANKS 500 gal poly, \$1200; 6 rolls blk bedding plastic, 3 rolls drip tape, \$1500; 200+ seedling trays, \$2000 Joe Alsbrook Bamberg 803-662-0950	5 HP LOG SPLITTER vert/horiz, starts, VGC, \$900 Vernon Bonner Sumter 803-481-4225
8 LRG WALNUT TREES in pasture, for lumber, you cut, \$500 ea Dudley Adams Union 864-429-6942	GRAIN BOX that fits in back of p-up or on trl, holds 40 bu, \$40 Carroll Stockman Newberry 803-727-8101		WOOD SPLITTER 5 hp Tecumseh eng, variable stroke length 16-24" in new carb, tires, oil, GRC, \$350 Boyd Caldwell Kershaw 803-438-3455		

POULTRY

8 M/O TURKEYS Bourbon Red & Narragansett, 3 gobbling toms, 2 hens, \$80 ea Ed Haddon Abbeville 864-993-4515	GROWN GESE wht & gray, \$40 ea; Turkeys, \$50 ea; pls text Leo Nettles Florence 843-687-3065	PIGEONS Indian Fantail, Jacobin, \$50 ea, all show qual James Malphrus Dorchester 843-821-8172	BOB WHT QUAIL fight & weather cond, \$4.50 ea John Reed Sumter 803-464-5757	NH RED ROO w/hen & 5 chicks, \$35; Bronze Bourbon Red turkeys, \$75 ea; big Araucana guineas, \$12 ea Joe Culbertson Greenwood 864-229-5254	FLIGHT COND QUAIL Bob Wht & TN Red, \$6 ea Dwight Gilliland Saluda 864-941-0958
PEACOCKS \$150 ea Ernie Redmond Orangeburg 803-535-8038	SEX LINK Lavender Orp, Blk Copper Marans & jumbo Coturnix quail chicks, \$2-5 ea Brian Motley Kershaw 803-315-7598	TURKEYS \$75 ea; Runt pigeons, Guineas, Cornish Bantams, & colored Homers, \$20 ea Thomas Waters Colleton 843-696-6627	EASTER EGGRS M & F, \$15 ea or disc on volume Brian Baldwin Fairfield 803-337-6070	WOOD DUCKS \$65/pr; extra drakes, \$30 ea; Pintails, \$140/pr; Blk-bellied whistling ducks, \$130/trio Dan Geddings Sumter 803-938-2793	YG ROOS H-9/15, Speckled Sussex & Speckled Sussex x Barred Rock, \$10 ea obo Derek Drafts Saluda 803-429-3291
GROWN GUINEAS \$20 ea; yng, \$7+; Cochin bantams, \$10+ Philip Poole Union 864-427-1589	BOBWHT QUAIL full grown birds, \$6 Billy Gallman Newberry 803-276-7171	3 ROOS (2) 8 m/o, (1) 2 y/o, \$13 ea Ted Tallman Pickens 843-918-2075	3 BUFF ORP ROOS grown, H-4/25, \$10 ea, or \$25 for all 3 Keith Gibbons Clarendon 843-372-2472		

WANT-FARM EQUIPMENT

JD 3020-4020 dsl; JD 158/ldr Ronnie Judy Dorchester 843-701-6394	12' LIVESTOCK TRL & 2h trl, w/no tack room, both BP, used in GC Charlie Doyle Florence 843-992-6267	EACH AD MUST LIST SPECIFIC ANIMALS.	BILLY GOAT Nubian or Saanen Joseph Smith Calhoun 803-878-1337	FIBERGLASS COVER for pump/well, resembles big stone Otto Williamson Williamsburg 843-372-2692	ANY SIZE WASH POTS syrup kettle, anvils, lrg coffee grinder, old lighting rod w/ balls & weathervane, more Perry Masters Greenville 864-561-4792
6-7' ROTOTILLER 3ph, in GC Randy Orr Anderson 864-201-5666	2R BURCH PLNTR must have fert hoppers, would consider other brands Joe Meetze Lexington 803-917-5302	GOATS rabbits, peacocks, guineas, chickens, turkeys, pheasants, geese Joe Culbertson Greenwood 864-229-5254	BILLY GOAT Alpine, Nubian or Saanen for breeding Roger Barnes Lexington 803-606-3335	PULPWOOD SAW TIMBER hdwd pine, all types of thinning or clear cut, Upstate cos Tim Morgan Greenville 864-420-0251	ANY SIZE FARM BELLS & blksmith anvils, syrup kettles, cradles & stands for bells R Long Newberry 803-924-9039
17-19' FOLDING DISK 7 1/2 or 9" spacing, any brand Drake Kinley Anderson 864-353-9628		HORSE must be buggy broke, safe & sound Harry Isbell Anderson 864-617-2627		FARM WAGON w/orig wood spoke whls, 1 or 2 horses Harry Isbell Anderson 864-617-2627	

WANT-LIVESTOCK

GOATS rabbits, peacocks, guineas, chickens, turkeys, pheasants, geese Joe Culbertson Greenwood 864-229-5254	BILLY GOAT Alpine, Nubian or Saanen for breeding Roger Barnes Lexington 803-606-3335
--	--

WANT-MISCELLANEOUS

FIBERGLASS COVER for pump/well, resembles big stone Otto Williamson Williamsburg 843-372-2692	ANY SIZE WASH POTS syrup kettle, anvils, lrg coffee grinder, old lighting rod w/ balls & weathervane, more Perry Masters Greenville 864-561-4792
PULPWOOD SAW TIMBER hdwd pine, all types of thinning or clear cut, Upstate cos Tim Morgan Greenville 864-420-0251	ANY SIZE FARM BELLS & blksmith anvils, syrup kettles, cradles & stands for bells R Long Newberry 803-924-9039
	FARM WAGON w/orig wood spoke whls, 1 or 2 horses Harry Isbell Anderson 864-617-2627

WE'RE EXPANDING MARKET BULLETIN ACCESS

ANYONE CAN READ THE BULLETIN ONLINE STARTING FEB. 5, 2026

BY EVA MOORE, SCDA

Beginning February 5, 2026, the *South Carolina Market Bulletin* will be accessible online without a subscription.

We will continue to print and mail the *Bulletin* to print subscribers for \$15 a year.

This change will support the continued viability and relevance of the *South Carolina Market Bulletin*.

If you are a print-only subscriber: You will continue to receive the print *Bulletin* in the mail, and can renew at the same \$15 annual rate.

If you are an electronic-only subscriber: Closer to Feb. 5, 2026, we will email you an optional link to sign up for email notifications when a new *Bulletin* issue is published. We will also post the email sign-up link on the *Market Bulletin* website. After Feb. 5, no login/privacy code will be required to view the *Bulletin* online, and you will not need to maintain a subscription.

If you are a combo subscriber (both print and online access): Your print subscription will continue as before. When you reach your renewal date, you can renew at the print rate of \$15 per year. Closer to

Feb. 5, 2026, we will email you an optional link to sign up for email notifications when a new *Bulletin* issue is published. After Feb. 5, no login/privacy code will be required to view the *Bulletin* online.



USDA TO EXPAND CROP INSURANCE ACCESS FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS, BOOSTING THE FARM SAFETY NET

BY USDA

On Dec. 5, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced major updates to federal crop insurance, reducing red tape for farmers, modernizing long-standing policies, and expanding access to critical risk protection beginning with the 2026 crop year. The Expanding Access to Risk Protection (EARP) Final Rule streamlines requirements across multiple crops, responds to producer feedback, and strengthens USDA's commitment to putting America's farmers first.

"President Trump is cutting burdensome regulations and strengthening the farm safety net to ensure the future viability of American agriculture. Across the Trump Administration, we are removing burdensome regulations that were strangling small businesses. For every new regulation, President Trump has eliminated a remarkable 48 – lifting a weighted blanket from the American economy," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "With this new rule, we are delivering real, meaningful relief by modernizing the system, expanding access to crop insurance, and making it easier, not harder, for farmers and ranchers to protect their operations and keep doing the work that keeps America fueled and fed. We are continuing to put Farmers First every step of the way."

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS

IMPROVING LAND ACCESS THROUGH PREVENTED PLANTING RELIEF

- Removes the "insured" requirement from the "1 in 4" rule for prevented planting payments. Producers must still show the land was planted and harvested (or adjusted for an insurable cause of loss) in one of the previous four years.

STREAMLINING PRODUCTION REPORTING

- Allows policyholders switching Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) to submit production reports directly to their new provider, reducing confusion and paperwork.

EXPANDING DIRECT MARKETING OPTIONS

- Allows insurance under the Dollar Plan for direct-marketed fresh market tomatoes and peppers beginning with the 2027 crop year, reflecting specialty crop business practices in Northeastern states.

SIMPLIFYING DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- In accordance with Executive Order 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, removes the "automatic nullification" rule and shifts fact-finding authority to the courts, reducing administrative burdens on policyholders and AIPs.

DEREGULATING COVERAGE DATES

- Removes termination, cancellation, and end-of-insurance dates from federal regulations and places them in policy provisions, enabling more flexible, county-level updates.

ADDITIONAL POLICY UPDATES

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT (OBBA) IMPLEMENTATION

- Incorporates provisions from Manager's Bulletin 25-006.
- Extends beginning farmer and rancher eligibility from 5 to 10 crop years.
- Updates additional premium subsidy rates: 15% (years 1-2), 13% (year 3), 11% (year 4), and 10% (years 5-10).

REVENUE PROTECTION CLARIFICATIONS

- Establishes that harvest prices will equal projected prices when insufficient data prevents use of the approved methodology.
- Creates a reimbursement process for policyholders who paid additional revenue protection premiums in such cases.

CROP-SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS

- Fresh Market Tomatoes: Extends end of insurance period by one month in TN and SC to better cover late-season hurricanes (2027 crop year).
- Fresh Market Peppers: Adds insurance dates aligned with northern growing seasons to support Dollar Plan expansion into Northeastern states.
- Safflower: Moves the contract change date from December 31 to November 30, aligning with other spring crops and simplifying enrollment.

EFFECTIVE DATES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The EARP Final Rule became effective Nov. 30, 2025, for crops with a contract change date on or after that date (2026 crop year) and for the 2027 crop year as specified. USDA will accept public comments until January 27, 2026.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Producers should contact their local crop insurance agent or visit the RMA website for guidance on how these updates may affect coverage options.

RMA supports American agriculture by providing world-class risk management tools through Federal crop insurance and education programs, offering coverage for more than 130 crops and continuously improving policies based on producer feedback.

USDA APPROVES GOV. HENRY MCMASTER'S WAIVER TO EXCLUDE CANDY, UNHEALTHY DRINKS FROM SNAP PROGRAM

COLUMBIA, S.C. – U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins today approved Governor Henry McMaster's waiver to exclude the purchase of candy, energy drinks, soft drinks, and sweetened beverages from the list of eligible foods under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps.

"Thank you to President Trump and Secretary Rollins for approving our light-touch, common-sense approach to strengthen the SNAP program by promoting healthier outcomes for South Carolinians," said Governor Henry McMaster. "By encouraging families to purchase healthy, nutritious food – and not junk food – we ensure federal taxpayer dollars are used to their maximum benefit and keep South Carolina at the forefront of the effort to Make America Healthy Again."

Governor McMaster announced his intent to pursue the waiver in August and issued an executive order in September directing the South Carolina Department of Social Services to submit the waiver.

"President Trump has made it clear: we are restoring SNAP to its true purpose – nutrition. Under the MAHA initiative, we are taking bold, historic steps to reverse the chronic diseases epidemic that has taken root in this country for far too long," said Secretary of Agriculture Brooke

Rollins. "America's governors are answering that call with courage and innovation, offering solutions that honor the generosity of the taxpayer while helping families live longer, healthier lives. With these new waivers, we are empowering states to lead, protecting our children from the dangers of highly-processed foods, and moving one step closer to the President's promise to Make America Healthy Again."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, South Carolina has one of the highest adult obesity rates in the United States, with approximately 36% of adults in the state classified as obese. In addition, a recent report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that 38% of children in South Carolina between the ages of 10 and 17 were considered obese.

The waiver aligns with President Donald Trump's efforts to improve health outcomes across the country. South Carolina is now among a growing number of states that have secured USDA approval for similar waivers.

According to data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, SNAP enrollees consume significantly more sugary drinks than nonrecipients, with children enrolled in SNAP consuming 43% more than children not enrolled in SNAP with similar incomes.

SCDNR DEPLOYS FORMERLY ABANDONED NAVY VESSEL AS NEW ARTIFICIAL REEF

BY CHEYENNE TWILLEY, SCDNR

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), in partnership with Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) South Carolina and Steven's Towing Company, has deployed a decommissioned Navy torpedo recovery vessel (TWR-8419), known as the HAZAR, as part of the state's Marine Artificial Reef Program.

The vessel, abandoned for more than four years, was recently removed from the marsh following an SCDNR investigation that resulted in the arrest of the responsible party.

Before deployment, the HAZAR underwent an extensive environmental cleaning process led by Steven's Towing. Crews removed all fuel, fuel cells, hydraulic fluids, motors, and any other materials that could pose a risk to the marine environment. This labor-intensive effort ensured that the vessel was environmentally safe and ready to serve as a productive reef structure.

The TWR-8419 (HAZAR) was deployed on Sunday, December 7 at the Y-73 reef site off the South Carolina coast. Planning and coordination remained tentative throughout the process, as the final deployment decision depended entirely on weather and ocean conditions.

This project is partially funded through support from CCA South Carolina and marks the 25th reef deployment completed through the longstanding partnership between SCDNR and CCA. It

also marks the 612th artificial reef deployment completed by SCDNR. Artificial reefs provide critical habitat for marine life, enhance recreational fishing opportunities, and contribute to the overall health of South Carolina's coastal ecosystem.



"CCA South Carolina, its members, supporters, and partners are dedicated to creating and enhancing vital marine habitat and healthy fisheries along South Carolina's coast — provide one, and you sustain the other," said Scott Whitaker, executive director of CCA South Carolina. "Reefs of this nature benefit species ranging from the snapper-grouper complex to highly migratory species, providing a wide abundance of fish and marine life, making it a true destination for recreational anglers and diving enthusiasts for decades to come. The curating and deployment of this reef is a testament to the state and the people of South Carolina's enviable marine conservation heritage and recreational anglers' role in the wise

stewardship of our marine resources. We are honored to be a part of such a unique opportunity."

State Senator Chip Campsen, a longtime conservation champion and author of South Carolina's abandoned vessel law, collaborated with SCDNR to make the HAZAR an artificial reef. "This is exactly what responsible stewardship looks like—protecting our marshes by removing a dangerous derelict vessel, holding the owner accountable under the new law, and then using that recovered asset to strengthen our offshore reef system. It's a triple win for the environment, for coastal protection, and for the people of South Carolina."

Senator Campsen continued, "SCDNR's work converting the HAZAR from an environmental threat into a marine habitat is a shining example of how good policy, good science, and good governance come together. I am proud of the SCDNR leadership and the entire team for seeing opportunity where others only saw a problem."

"This project reflects the very best of conservation partnership," said Dr. Tom Mullikin, SCDNR Director. "Through collaboration with CCA South Carolina and Steven's Towing, we've turned an abandoned vessel — once an environmental liability — into a valuable habitat that will benefit marine species, anglers, and coastal communities alike. It's a powerful reminder that when we work together, we can transform challenges into opportunities for stewardship and sustainability."

SC UNVEILS UPDATED STATE WATER PLAN TO GUIDE LONG-TERM PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS IDENTIFY KEY UPDATES FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER USE

BY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Executive Order 2024-22, which established WaterSC, required SCDES to submit an updated State Water Plan to the Governor's Office by Dec. 31, 2025 — a goal the agency achieved on Dec. 11 and announced with Governor McMaster at the Statehouse. The plan is available at des.sc.gov/WaterSC.

The State Water Plan is a data-driven report that captures input from WaterSC participants and other key stakeholders. It focuses on topics such as water demand by sector, water availability assessments, drought response preparations, and conceptual considerations for water policies. The plan focuses on ensuring water availability for all water users for the next 50 years.

Key takeaways and concepts of the plan are summarized in *Our Water Future: The Leadership Guide to South Carolina's Water Plan*.

"The updated State Water Plan isn't just a report — it's a roadmap that prepares us for growth, protects us in times of drought, and safeguards the water resources that sustain our way of life," said Myra Reece, SCDES Director and Chair of WaterSC. "While South Carolina's water resources are abundant, they are not limitless. If we continue to plan wisely and collaboratively, we will have the water we need to support our residents and economy for generations to come."

This is the third version of the South Carolina State Water Plan. The previous two versions, developed in 1998 and updated in 2004, were written by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which was responsible for water planning activities prior to the establishment of SCDES in 2024.

The state's eight River Basin Councils contributed data, technical analysis, and modeling to support the updated plan. Additionally, considerable input was received during the public comment period for the draft water plan, all of which was reviewed by water plan development staff. As part of the planning process, six public listening sessions were held throughout the state over the past several months to engage and inform residents about the importance of water planning and sustainable use.

"The State Water Plan is a living document that will evolve to reflect the latest data and information, and the public will have continued opportunities to engage in plan updates and provide future comments," said Director Reece. "While we achieved this important milestone for sustainable water use and protection, there is still work to be done as more and more people and businesses call South Carolina home. Our work to protect South Carolina's water resources will continue."

To learn more, visit des.sc.gov/WaterSC.

To help ensure water resources are managed in the best interest of all South Carolinians, Gov. Henry McMaster proactively established WaterSC in September 2024 to unite key stakeholders — including those from farming and agriculture, public drinking water, energy, industry, tourism, forestry, conservation, academia, and more — to provide necessary input to the state's water plan.



USDA LAUNCHES NEW REGENERATIVE PILOT PROGRAM

BY USDA

On Dec. 10, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, alongside U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz announced a \$700 million Regenerative Pilot Program to help American farmers adopt practices that improve soil health, enhance water quality, and boost long-term productivity, all while strengthening America's food and fiber supply.

Building off the Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy released in September, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is also investing in research on the connection between regenerative agriculture and public health, as well as developing public health messaging explaining this connection.

"Protecting and improving the health of our soil is critical not only for the future viability of farmland, but to the future success of American farmers. In order to continue to be the most productive and efficient growers in the world, we must protect our topsoil from unnecessary erosion and improve soil health and land stewardship. Today's announcement encourages these priorities while supporting farmers who choose to transition to regenerative agriculture. The Regenerative Pilot Program also puts Farmers First and reduces barriers to entry for conservation programs," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "This is another initiative driven by President Trump's mission to Make America Healthy Again. Alongside Secretary Kennedy, we have made great strides to ensure the safe, nutritious, and affordable food our great farmers produce make it to dinner tables across this great country."

"In September, under President Trump's leadership, we released the MAHA Strategy Report, which includes a full section on soil health and land stewardship," said HHS Secretary Kennedy. "Today's regenerative farming announcement directly advances that deliverable. If we intend to Make America Healthy Again, we must begin by restoring the health of our soil."

"We cannot truly be a wealthy nation if we are not also a healthy nation. Access to wholesome, nutritious, and affordable foods is a key tenet of the Make America Healthy Again agenda, which President Trump has directed this administration to execute across all government agencies," said

CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz. "I commend Secretary Rollins and Secretary Kennedy for today's efforts to strengthen our nation's food supply."

PROTECTING SOIL AND REDUCING PRODUCTION COSTS

In response to the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, Congress created the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help people help the land and improve conservation of the nation's soil and water resources.

This action led to improved soil health and natural resources management which, in turn, has led to increased productivity. Between 1948 and 2021, total U.S. farm production increased 190% while total farm inputs—such as land, labor, and water—decreased 2% in the same period.

However, current conservation programs at USDA have become overly burdensome and farmers are bogged down with red tape whenever they try to adopt soil health and regenerative agriculture practices. Even with the improved soil health since the creation of NRCS, USDA data shows that farmers recently reported that 25% of acres had water-driven erosion concerns and 16% of acres had wind-driven erosion concerns.

The Regenerative Pilot Program directly addresses these challenges by cutting administrative burdens for producers, expanding access to new and beginning farmers, and boosting yields and long-term soil resilience across operations.

ABOUT THE REGENERATIVE PILOT PROGRAM

Administered by NRCS, this new Regenerative Pilot Program delivers a streamlined, outcome-based conservation model—empowering producers to plan and implement whole-farm regenerative practices through a single application. The initiative highlights USDA's commitment to putting Farmers First and advancing the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) agenda by building a healthier, more resilient food system.

In FY2026, the Regenerative Pilot Program will focus on whole-farm planning that addresses every major resource concern—soil, water, and natural vitality—under a single conservation framework.

USDA is dedicating \$400 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and \$300 million through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to fund this first year of regenerative agriculture projects.

Producers can now bundle multiple regenerative practices into one application, streamlining the process and increasing flexibility for operations. The program is designed for both beginning and advanced producers, ensuring availability for all farmers ready to take the next step in regenerative agriculture.

CHIEF'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

To keep the Regenerative Pilot Program grounded in practical, producer-led solutions, NRCS is establishing the Chief's Regenerative Agriculture Advisory Council. The Council will meet quarterly, with rotating participants, to advise the Chief of NRCS, review implementation progress, and help guide data and reporting improvements. Its recommendations will shape future USDA conservation delivery and strengthen coordination between the public and private sectors.

PUBLIC + PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

There is a growing desire among private companies to fund conservation practices that improve natural resources management. This announcement unlocks new opportunities for USDA to leverage existing authorities to create public-private partnerships within NRCS conservation programs. These partnerships will allow USDA to match private funding, in turn stretching taxpayer dollars further, and bringing new capacity to producers interested in adopting regenerative practices.

Companies interested in partnering with USDA NRCS in the Regenerative Pilot Program can email regenerative@usda.gov for more information.

HOW TO APPLY

Farmers and ranchers interested in regenerative agriculture are encouraged to apply through their local NRCS Service Center by their state's ranking dates for consideration in FY2026 funding. Applications for both EQIP and CSP can now be submitted under the new single regenerative application process.