

MARKET BULLETIN

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February 19, 2026

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SC SCHOOL CAFETERIAS SERVING MORE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE WITH HELP OF NEW STATE PROGRAM

BY EVA MOORE

COLUMBIA — Schoolchildren across South Carolina will see more locally grown foods on their plates this year thanks to a new state program called Certified SC Cafeteria.

Participating schools and school districts will be reimbursed for buying South Carolina-grown vegetables, fruits, grains, and honey, with additional incentives for those that source the highest percentage of local food.

Incentivizing schools to serve locally grown food helps South Carolina farmers, provides opportunities for students to learn about nutrition and agriculture, and puts more fresh, healthy food on children's plates.



Commissioner Weathers kicked off the Certified SC Cafeteria program at Greenville County Schools' J.L. Mann High School, where he served lunch on the line and met with nutrition staff and students.



Sixty-seven of the state's districts and schools have signed on so far, representing 874 school cafeterias serving 538,066 students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Created with \$1 million in annual funding from the South Carolina General Assembly, the program is operated by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture with additional support from the South Carolina Department of Education.

South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers formally kicked off the program during a visit Feb. 6 to Greenville County Schools' J.L. Mann High School.

"Our state's farmers grow so many fresh healthy foods, but supply chains and red tape have sometimes made it difficult for schools to buy local food," Weathers said. "By creating the Certified SC Cafeteria program, we're investing in our children's future and increasing economic opportunity for South Carolina."

During the kickoff, J.L. Mann students enjoyed Charleston red rice prepared with Carolina Gold Rice purchased from Marsh Hen Mill, the centerpiece of a menu that also featured South Carolina-grown collard greens and sweet potato casserole.

Following lunch, Marsh Hen Mill owner Greg Johnsman and Weathers spoke to a U.S. History class about the role that Carolina Gold played in shaping South Carolina's agricultural heritage. S.C. Rep. Patrick Haddon, member of the House agriculture committee and a key supporter of the Certified SC cafeteria legislation, was also in attendance.

State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver welcomed the partnership and its impact on South Carolina's students.

"Healthy, locally grown food is more than a meal — it's an investment in the future of every child," said Weaver. "Through this partnership with the Department of Agriculture, we're proud to nourish young minds, support our farmers, and build a stronger South Carolina together."

The program also includes a new online tool, the SC Local Food Connector, that farmers can use to share product availability and contact information with buyers.

For more information, visit certifiedsc cafeteria.com.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



HUGH E. WEATHERS

SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL AG POLICY PRIORITIES

I've just returned from Washington DC, where the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, or NASDA, held our annual Winter Policy meeting.

Over the years, I've come to truly appreciate these sessions with my fellow agriculture commissioners and secretaries around the country. Despite our differences, we all serve farmers and we often find common ground.

We adopted some new shared policy priorities to drive NASDA's advocacy work this year and beyond. Some of the newly adopted priorities that may resonate with South Carolina farmers are:

- We are encouraging USDA to develop an additional pathway for products from state-inspected meat and poultry processing facilities to be sold across state lines, provided that the inspection services are 'at least equal to' USDA requirements. This would provide more market opportunities for small beef processors in South Carolina and more options for consumers, while saving federal resources.
- There is a need for federal risk management programs to provide crop insurance products that meet the needs of specialty crop growers. Small, diversified farms need some of the same protections as row crop farms, and they need it in a way that doesn't put them at a disadvantage due to their size.

• We support federal investments in educational programs and community-based initiatives that help individuals enrolled in SNAP or other food assistance programs make healthier choices. We ran a pilot program a few years back doing just this.

• Federal policy related to nutrition or dietary guidelines should be informed by the best available peer-reviewed science specific to human health and nutrition, and should not disparage particular agricultural commodities, food products, or farming practices. This is relevant to the safety and health of vegetable oils.

• NASDA supports the development of a federal tax credit for landowners who donate a perpetual conservation easement. We have state-level programs here in South Carolina to support farmers who protect working agricultural land via easements, and some federal tax relief would be helpful as well.

• We support efforts to allow drivers who hold a valid Commercial Driver's License and are 18 to 20 years old to operate in interstate commerce.

And of course, we'll continue advocating on perennial issues of concern to farmers: the H2A labor program, trade, and other policies that support farmers' ability to feed, fuel and clothe the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SC Christmas Tree Association Winter Meeting

February 21 • 2–5 pm

This year's special guest is Carolina Lewis, the founder of The Farmers Feed. Carolina helps farmers bridge the gap between agriculture and modern marketing to help them grow their business and connect with consumers. Following Ms. Lewis, Rusty Barr from Evergreen Nursery will give a short program on the Improved Virginia Pine seedlings program. Our Grower Talk and short business meeting will follow. Registration and socializing will begin at 1:30 pm.

SC Farm Bureau

724 Knox Abbott Drive, Cayce

To register, contact: Steve Penland, Sec SCCTA
6457 Campbell Road, York, SC 29745
slpenland69@gmail.com

803-366-7605 • 803-417-0239

Bee School (2-Day Course)

February 21 & 22 or March 21 & 22

Saturday 12–6 pm, Sunday 2–6 pm

Classes are taught by certified experienced commercial beekeepers. 1 Person: \$95; 2 People: \$175; 3 People: \$250.

HoneyStrong

1753 Ebenezer Road, Smyrna

info@honeystrong.com • 704-993-6833

facebook.com/HoneyStrongHomestead

Free Children's Program

February 28 • 9, 9:30, 10, or 10:30 am

Children will learn how scrap fabric was used to make bed and floor rugs in the past. They'll also start their own piece to take home. Parents can sign children up for a half hour session. Group sizes will be limited. The L.W. Paul Living History Farm is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 am–4 pm.

L.W. Paul Living History Farm

2279 Harris Short Cut Road, Conway

Contact: Marian Calder

calder.marian@horrycountysc.gov • 843-915-7861

horrycountymuseum.org

Cork Shuckin' Festival

February 28 • 9:30 am–6 pm

Featuring our wine and draft meads as well as mimosas, bloody marys, wine slushies, hot spiced wine, and beer too! Live music throughout the day, bouncy house, lawn games, and local oysters available by the bucket. By purchasing your \$18 oyster bucket in advance, you'll gain free entrance into the festival for everyone in your car. Don't want to buy oysters ahead of time? Totally fine! Day-of entrance to the festival is \$5 per person (18 and under free) and oysters are market price while they last.

Deep Water Vineyard

6775 Bears Bluff Road, Wadmalaw Island

info@deepwatervineyard.com • 843-559-6867

fareharbor.com/embeds/book/deepwatervineyard/items/686726/calendar/2026/02/?flow=1439720&full-items=yes

Palmetto Veterans in Agribusiness Outreach Fair and Symposium

February 28 • 10:30 am–2 pm

Co-hosted by Project Victory Gardens and the Farmer Veteran Coalition of South Carolina and open to any military veteran, service member, or military family member interested in farming and agriculture. We will have a wide variety of veteran and agricultural resource providers. Lunch will be provided, and the official program will feature leaders from across the veteran and agriculture community!

The Phillips Market Center

117 Ballard Court, West Columbia

projectvictorygardens@gmail.com • 803-522-4703

www.projectvictorygardens.org

Tickets: palmettovetsinag.org/event-details/palmetto-veteran-agribusiness-outreach-fair-3

Gullah Campfire Supper with Stories and Songs Book Series

February 28 • 5–7:30 pm

Join us on the farm for campfire supper with book talk series inspired by Mildred D. Taylor's work about the Logan family. Expect powerful, immersive ways to explore land stewardship in Black communities—combining storytelling, foodways, place-based learning, and intergenerational dialogue.

Morning Glory Homestead Farm

42 Robert And Clara Trail, St Helena Island

morninggloryhomestead@gmail.com • 843-812-0344

facebook.com/morninggloryhomesteaders

SALES & AUCTIONS

Yon Family Farms Spring Cattle Sale

February 21 • 11 am

200 service-age bulls and 70 females (cow/calf pairs, bred cows and heifers, and open heifers) sell at auction. Mostly registered Angus, some Simmental and Brangus influenced cattle. Bulls are fertility tested and all animals sell with complete performance data and EPDs.

Contact: Kevin or Lydia Yon

Yon Family Farms

318 Aiken Road, Ridge Spring

lydia@yonfamilyfarms.com • 803-622-8597

yonfamilyfarms.com

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

SC Market Bulletin Subscription & Renewal Form

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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 _____ Paper: \$15 / 1 year Paper: \$30 / 2 years

Address _____ New Renewal

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Check # _____

Phone _____ Renewal ID # _____

Email _____ This is a gift 2/19/26

Market Bulletin Office

Monday – Friday • 8 AM – 4:30 PM

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

agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin

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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

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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 × 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
FEBRUARY 24 • 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/Shellcracker, 1-3", 65¢; Redbreast, 75¢; Ch Catfish, 3-5", 65¢; Gambusia, 40¢
Clay Chappell
Richland
803-776-4923

BLUEGILL

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

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

CATTLE

REG HRFRDS

bulls & hefrs, 9-12 m/o, \$2000+; 3 y/o bull, proven breeder, AI sired, DNA tested, \$3500, vac/deworm
Donnie King
Greenville
864-885-2119

14 M/O REG ANG BULLS

low BW, good EPDs, sired by Payweight, docile, \$3500
Brent Parnell
Anderson
864-449-7269

REG DEXTER CATTLE

(1) hefr B-8/24, (2) hefrs B-5/25, \$1600 ea; (1) Bull calf B-5/25, \$1400
Stephan Vernet
Spartanburg
864-363-5800

12 RPLCMNT HEFRS

8-13 m/o, extra calm, Ultra Blk & Super Blk Baldy w/ EPDs, \$2600-3300 ea
Heath Hoover
Sumter
803-499-4572

JERSEY COW

w/4 m/o bull calf, bred back, \$3200
Robert Turner
Orangeburg
803-596-6463

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

CORRIENTE/LNGHN STEER

lrg, gentle, \$1800, can del
James A Langston
Pickens
864-859-6794

BUCKING BULLS

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

RED ANG BULLS

2 y/o, CE, BSE & gentle, \$5500+
David Miller
Edgefield
706-840-3709

5 POLLED HRFRD BULLS

15 m/o, Home Towne & Knee's J-45 b'lines, VG & exc markings/color, \$2500
John Gossett
Spartanburg
864-384-2851

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

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

2R TRNSPLNTR

3ph w/2 water barrels, LN, \$7500; NH 273 sq baler, \$1000
Charles Clunan
Anderson
864-245-3803

2 AXLE TRL

w/brake, 30" sides for grain, 2" ball, \$1500
Melvin Barr
Pickens
864-360-5176

70'S FORD TRACTOR

mod 4000, mfg in Germany, \$5000
John Moore
Abbeville
864-321-0300

JD 2010 TRACTOR

w/canopy, new rear tires, w/2r cult & plntrs, in GC, \$7500; more
Jimmy Wilson
Anderson
864-923-2348

S595 BOBCAT SKID STEER

wheeled machine, open station, 2800 hrs, \$23,500; JD 6500 spryr & trl, \$20,000
Drake Kinley
Anderson
864-353-9628

JD 459 BALER \$29

JD 459 baler \$29,500; Kubota 2028 DM, \$10,000; JD 8 whl rake, \$2500; all in GC
Dargan Etheredge
Calhoun
803-238-2122

CARRY-ON LIVESTOCK TRL

6x12 w/rear & side doors, Tandem axles, wood floor, LN, \$5500
Danny Leitner
Fairfield
843-200-0887

OAK TRL

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

IH 140 WAGON

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

DIRT SCOOP

\$275; Disc, \$350; Bush Hog, \$550; Scrape Blade, \$300; Box Blade, \$375; all 1ph
Isaac McCaskill
Kershaw
803-713-8762

'06 CHEV 3500 DUMP TRUCK

Allison trans, Duramax innovative 6.6 dsl, LN, 96,400 mi, \$25,500
John Lyons
Chester
803-899-4308

20'x7' ENCL TRL

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

INTL 5100 GRAIN DRILL

21 dbl disc openers, \$5500
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
843-517-0315

TURNER PLOW

for Super A FA, \$125; 3ph Tiller, \$500; 3ph btm plow, \$125
Mike Echols
Greenville
864-908-8159

NH 7610S TRACTOR

2wd, open station, 4100 hrs, GC, new tires/seat, 540/1000 pto, dual remotes, \$16,500
Bob Lawson
Spartanburg
864-809-5354

JD 510 RND BALER

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

5' BHB GROOMING MWR

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

8N FORD

new tires, wiring, gauges, \$3000; 1r cult, \$200; 6' scrape blade, \$400; 5x8 util trl, \$600; all obo
Otis Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

2R LILLISTON SUBSOILER

w/JD 7100 plntr w/lift assist whl, w/corn, soybean & sorghum cups, \$5200
Allen Wise
Barnwell
803-793-4175
'75 MF 235
2 wd, GC, rarely used, \$6200
Dennis Trammell
Union
864-426-4066

CASE IH 4x5 RND BALER

net or twine, \$9000 obo
John Yoder
Aiken
803-221-1566

PB IPEX DITCHER

PTO driven, cleans out ditches or build new ones, Tandem axle on flotation tires, \$4500
Danny Stevens
Chesterfield
843-337-5325

20 BLADE DISC

\$1200; (2) 1r cults, \$300; 7' boom pole, \$125, call/text
Franklin Brown
Charleston
843-224-4711

24'W BERMUDA KING

w/trl hitch, new digger teeth, barn kept, \$3800
Lisa Hipps
Lexington
803-530-8263

18' AMCO DISC HARROW

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

3000 FORD TRACTOR

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

6' W AERATOR

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

7' SCRAPE BLADE

HD, adj, w/3ph, \$600
John Coker
Calhoun
803-422-9613

14' KUHN CUTTER 4460

\$25,000 obo; Kuhn rake, \$6900; Kuhn tedder 4 basket, \$6800; Intl 1466, dual whls, \$18,000
Joseph Henson
York
803-448-5287

FARM LABOR

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

EXCAVATOR WORK

digging, stump removal, brush clearing, cleaning around fields & fences
Jason Nichols
Saluda
864-992-2753

FORESTRY MULCHING

land clearing, wildlife mgmt, ditches, grading, pond digging
Jay Lowder
Clarendon
803-473-0646

HERBICIDE/PESTICIDE APPLS

by ground or UAV, 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

STUMP GRINDING

light grading, tree & debris removal, driveway repair, more, free est
Johnny Melton
Pickens
864-442-3077

NEED INDIVIDUALS

to prune vineyard, must have own equip & pole trimmers
Ryan Anderson
Greenville
864-234-2918

TREE LIMB TRIMMING

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

LIME SPREADING

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

BEAVER TRAPPING

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

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

DOZER/TRACKHOE WORK

build & repair ponds, demo, tree removal, land clearing, roads, free est
James Hughes
Greenwood
864-227-8257

PASTURE MGMT SERV

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

LIGHT TRACTOR WORK

incl bush hogging, discing, cut up & removal of downed trees, light landscaping
John Tanner
Lexington
803-422-4714

MOBILE SAWMILL SERV

statewide, capable of sawing logs from 8-20'L & 34" dia
Lowell Fralix
Barnwell
803-707-5625

FARM LAND

FARM LAND MUST BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE OWNER, NOT AN AGENT. TRACTS MUST BE AT LEAST 5 ACRES UNDER CULTIVATION, TIMBER, OR PASTURE. OUT-OF-STATE OWNERS—NOT REAL ESTATE AGENTS—MAY SUBMIT ADS FOR LAND IN SC.

20+A IN GILBERT

rent or lease for agriculture use
Karen Clamp
Lexington
803-317-4202

WANT HUNTING LAND

have equip for repair & help w/other needs, surrounding counties
Ray Sealey
Darlington
843-409-1717

80.2A EDGEFIELD CO

timber w/small creek, tax #024-00-00-003-000, \$4200/A
John Rhodes
Hampton
803-346-9473

RAW JERSEY COW MILK

w/all the cream, from local dairy, \$12 gal
Sam Stevens
Aiken
803-645-5111

CHICKEN EGGS

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

JUMBO QUAIL

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

CHICKEN EGGS

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

FRESH PECANS

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

GOATS / LLAMAS / SHEEP

BILLY GOAT

\$200
Thomas Waters
Colleton
843-696-6627

KATAHDIN SHEEP

gentle, hand raised, vac & wormed, \$225+
Tammy Hodge
Sumter
803-983-5041

KATAHDIN LAMBS

8+ m/o, healthy & wormed,
\$250 ea
Rebekah Olson
York
803-351-4994

5 RAM LAMBS

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

HOGS / PIGS

TAMWORTH BOAR

3 m/o, good b'line Best
Bacon breed, \$300
Gene Hunt
Anderson
864-704-6190

3 WAY CROSS PIGS

9 w/o, meat pigs, \$175+
John Moore
Abbeville
864-321-0300

M/F KUNEKUNES

4 m/o-4 y/o, females
exposed to males 1 mo ago,
\$50 ea, regardless of age
Powell Andrews
York
989-425-0467

REX

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

TAMUK

var ages & colors, \$20 ea
Courtney Terry
Laurens
814-876-2127

HAY & GRAIN

'25 4x5 RND BALES

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

FESCUE MIXED BALES

string wrap, outside & in
barn, \$35-40
Richard Blighton
Anderson
864-338-5487

'25 HQ 4x5 CB

net wrap, fert & limed, NR,
barn stored, \$75, del avail
for fee
Edward Chavis
Barnwell
803-671-3108

'25 4x5 FESCUE

NR, \$25
Carroll Shealy
Laurens
864-872-4184

'25 4x5 RND CB

NR, barn stored, \$70/bale;
\$8/sq
Mike Cousins
Newberry
803-924-7539

'25 4x5 HQ CB

net/barn, \$90; SQ, \$12/
barn; 4x5 fescue mix, net,
\$45, all fert
John Snead
Greenwood
864-993-4839

4x5 RND HQ CB

in shed, \$80, p-up or del,
disc for lrg qty
Michael Steele
Edgefield
803-645-8939

DEER CORN

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

PREM SQ CB

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

'25 HQ CB

shed kept, \$50; CQ, 4 rolls
for \$100
Bobby Zimmerman
Lexington
803-317-8681

'25 MIXED GRASS

4x5 rnd, net wrap, fert, \$45
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

'25 FESCUE

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

'25 COASTAL

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

'25 MIXED GRASS

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

'25 FESCUE/ORCHARD

HQ, sq, \$10 ea, in cubes of
21 bales
Joseph Henson
York
803-448-5287

'25 OATS

\$12/bag
Victor Smith
Berkeley
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Jeffrey Gilmore
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SQ FESCUE

barn kept, \$7 ea; sq mixed
grass, \$5 ea; both NR
Jerry Butler
Laurens
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'25 HQ CB

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

'25 HQ 4x54 CB

net wrap, shed kept, \$70 ea;
no del
Rickey Meetze
Lexington
803-667-0285

HQ FESCUE MIX

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

4x5 COW HAY

\$35/bale
Paul Kicidis
Union
864-429-6112

'24 4x5 CB

twine, shed stored, \$40, disc
on 10+
Michael Hallman
Lexington
803-917-9044

'25 4x5 RND CB

net wrap, under shed, well
fert, \$70
Hugh Knight
Orangeburg
803-539-4674

BERMUDA GRASS

18"x36" sq, baled 9/17, \$6 ea;
p-up or del avail for bulk for
addl fee
Nicholas Mosher
Marion
912-289-5575

'25 4x5 FESCUE MIX

CQ, net wrap, stored
outside, \$45
Bob Lawson
Spartanburg
864-809-5354

'25 CRAB GRASS HAY

6x6 rnd, string tied, 1200
lb, \$40
Joseph Johnson
Berkeley
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4x5 RND BALES

net wrap, CQ, \$50/bale, HQ
\$60/bale, can del for fee,
can load if p-up
Allen Kellett
Greenville
864-607-7444

4x5 FESCUE

NR, shed kept, \$75
Otis Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

'25 FESCUE MIX

4x4 rnd, stored off ground
on racks, \$30; sq, barn
stored, \$5.50; pls text
Waitman Dixon
Laurens
864-684-4641

'25 SQ FESCUE

fert, NR, fert, at barn, \$7
Don Hall
Greenville
864-525-9701

'25 HQ COASTAL

net wrap, field stored, \$60
David Fulmer
Orangeburg
803-917-0467

'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

HQ SQ CB

no litter used, \$8; rnd, \$60/
field, \$75/barn; CQ, \$40
George McCoy
Chesterfield
843-307-8866

'25 4x5 RND

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

'25 4x5 RYEGRASS

shed kept, \$48/bale
Steve Kinard
Newberry
803-924-0439

4x5 MIXED GRASS

net wrap, stored outside,
vol disc avail, \$25 ea
Michael Strickland
Laurens
864-923-3153

MIXED GRASS

lrg rnd bales, \$35
Scott Derrick
Edgefield
803-430-0390

4x5 RND MIXED HAY

\$35 in field, \$45 if del
George Roberts
Lee
803-665-4211

'25 FESCUE

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hay, 4x5, in barn, \$60; sq
bales of straw, \$6; crab grass
hay, outside, \$45 ea
Melvin Barr
Pickens
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Florence
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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Ground Nesting Bees
Community Science Project



The **Ground Nesting Bees** Community Science Project needs your help to collect data on native bee populations and nesting sites. Your contributions will help us to better understand the importance of native bees and how to protect them in our local environments.



What to look for:
Many bees nest in large aggregations. Monitor flight activity in the early spring through late summer. Entrances in grass and soil are indicators of bee activity.



We need your help to report nesting aggregations by uploading a photo of a bee entering or exiting its nest to **iNaturalist (GNbee)**
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PROLONGED COLD WEATHER CAUSES WIDESPREAD FORAGE DAMAGE IN SC

COOL SEASON FORAGES ARE SHOWING VARYING LEVELS OF STRESS DUE TO DROUGHT, DELAYED PLANTING, SUBFREEZING TEMPS

BY DENISE ATTAWAY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

CLEMSON, SC — Recent cold temperatures, snow and ice across South Carolina have caused significant winter injury in cool season forage stands. Clemson University forage specialists urge producers to assess their fields carefully in the coming weeks.

Liliane Silva, Clemson Extension forage-livestock systems specialist stationed at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, South Carolina, said cool season forages, including tall fescue, small grains, legumes and brassicas, are showing varying levels of stress due to a combination of prolonged early season drought, delayed planting and extended exposure to subfreezing temperatures.

“This year, we experienced dry conditions followed by lower than normal temperatures beginning in early fall,” Silva said. “That combination delayed establishment and left many stands vulnerable to cold injury.”

Cool season forage growth typically occurs between 65 and 78 degrees. Growth slows sharply below 50 degrees and stops at freezing, leaving many stands unable to recover before the coldest weather arrives. Prolonged freezing can also rupture plant cells, resulting in yellowing, tissue death, leaf rolling and stunted growth.

“Some damage takes several days to show fully,” Silva said. “Producers should walk their fields repeatedly over the next week to understand the extent of injury and determine what to do.”

ASSESSING STANDS, MAKING GRAZING DECISIONS

Silva encourages producers to evaluate stands before grazing. Symptoms such as yellowing,

necrosis and loss of growing points may signal long term injury or winter kill. In heavily damaged fields, limited grazing may be appropriate to use the remaining forage. But don't remove too much leaf area.

“If stands can be grazed, make sure to leave adequate stubble to support recovery,” she said. “Overgrazing now will only increase the risk of continued cold related stress.”

REPLANTING NOT RECOMMENDED UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS

With subfreezing temperatures expected to continue, Silva says replanting cool season annuals is generally not advisable. Late planting dramatically reduces potential forage yield. Seedlings emerging now would likely face additional freeze injury.

“Replanting should be considered only on a case by case basis,” she said. “Most producers would get little return on that investment given the limited growing season left.”

MIXTURES AND TALL FESCUE SHOWING MIXED RESULTS

Tall fescue stands appear to be holding up better than many annuals due to the species' natural cold tolerance and protective waxy leaf surface. However, mixed-species stands containing grasses, legumes and brassicas are showing patchy injury, depending on exposure and species composition.

“In our research plots, brassicas struggled early, but

mixed stands provided microclimates that helped some plants withstand the cold better,” said Silva, noting forage diversity can serve as “insurance” during harsh seasons.

MONITOR WARM-SEASON GRASSES

Dormant bermudagrass and bahiagrass stands may also be affected by recent warm spells that briefly signaled springlike conditions. If early sprouting occurred, plants may have depleted energy reserves before returning to dormancy.

Silva recommends checking warm season pastures for winter loss once spring growth begins.

PLAN FOR RESILIENT FORAGE SYSTEMS

Silva encourages producers to work with local Extension livestock and forage agents for tailored recommendations. Proper nutrient management, sound grazing strategies and selection of cold tolerant varieties are key long term strategies for building more resilient systems.

“Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent,” she said. “It is important that producers plan. Choosing adapted forage varieties, managing nutrients well and protecting stands through using good grazing practices will help producers maintain productivity even in challenging years.”

For information, visit the Clemson Forages Team blog at blogs.clemson.edu/forageslab/ and read *Winter damage and management considerations for forage-livestock systems in South Carolina*.

CLEMSON URGES POULTRY PRODUCERS TO STRENGTHEN BIOSECURITY AMID GA, NC, HPAI DETECTIONS

BY JONATHAN VEIT, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

CLEMSON, SC — The North Carolina Department of Agriculture reported on Jan. 6, 2026, that a backyard flock in Franklin County tested positive for HPAI. In addition, the Georgia Department of Agriculture reported confirmed cases in commercial poultry facilities in January.

“Because this disease is carried by wild birds, poultry owners should take extra care to isolate domestic birds from wild waterfowl and from ponds, lakes, and other water sources that wild birds may use,” said Michael Neault, South Carolina State Veterinarian and director of Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in wild birds across numerous states, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS). While state-by-state wild bird detection numbers fluctuate due to migration patterns, significant detections of the H5N1 strain have continued into early 2026, with thousands of wild birds affected nationwide as of January.

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 HPAI A(H5N1) were identified in the United States, including two cases associated with backyard poultry. Most

reported 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.

Poultry owners are encouraged to review recommended biosecurity practices through the Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health Avian Influenza website and the USDA's Defend the Flock program.

Sick or dead poultry should be reported to Clemson Livestock-Poultry Health by calling 803-788-2260 (Mon-Fri, 8 am-4:30 pm) or by using the online reporting form. Sick or dead wild waterfowl should be reported to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources at 803-734-3886.

WARNING SIGNS OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

Common signs of HPAI in poultry include:

- Sudden, high death loss over a short period of time
- Reduced energy, appetite or activity
- Decreased egg production or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, or wattles
- Purple discoloration of the comb, wattles, or legs
- Difficulty breathing, nasal discharge, or sneezing
- Neurological signs such as twisting of the head or neck, stumbling, falling, tremors, or circling

DNR SURVEYING EAGLES BY AIR

BY SCDNR

During the month of February, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will be conducting annual bald eagle nest surveys across the Lowcountry. These surveys are a critical part of monitoring South Carolina's bald eagle population and tracking the continued success of this conservation effort.

As part of this work, SCDNR biologists and pilots will be flying low-altitude aircraft — sometimes at treetop level — over coastal and inland areas from Charleston south to Savannah and west to Walterboro, primarily on weekdays. These low passes are necessary to allow biologists to safely and accurately count eagle chicks in their nests.

To those on the ground, particularly near waterways, golf courses, and marshes, these flights may appear unusual. Please be assured that these operations are carefully planned, FAA-coordinated, and conducted safely by experienced aircrews. At no time are these flights intended to pose a risk to people or property.

These surveys represent one of South Carolina's greatest wildlife conservation success stories. Thanks to decades of collaborative conservation efforts, the bald eagle, once endangered, has rebounded and is now thriving across much of the state.

We appreciate the public's understanding and support as our teams work to protect and conserve South Carolina's natural heritage.

USDA ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF STERILE FLY DISPERSAL FACILITY IN TEXAS

FACILITY WILL INCREASE RANGE OF STERILE FLY RELEASE AND BOLSTER PREPAREDNESS FOR NEW WORLD SCREWORM

BY USDA

EDINBURG, TX — On February 9, 2026 at Moore Air Base, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins and Governor of Texas Greg Abbott celebrated a significant achievement in the fight against New World Screwworm (NWS) with the completion of a U.S.-based sterile fly dispersal facility in Edinburg, Texas. This facility expands USDA's ability to disperse sterile flies along the border and into the United States, if necessary.

"The Trump Administration continues to bring the full force of the federal government to fight New World Screwworm," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "This sterile fly dispersal facility was a high priority project, and our team delivered it in record time. This new facility is a monumental achievement for our domestic preparedness efforts, but we are also diligently working to stop the spread of screwworm in Mexico, conduct extensive trapping and surveillance along the border, increase U.S. response capacity, and encourage innovative solutions. We will never stop fighting to protect American agriculture. USDA, through a whole-of-government approach, will continue to hold Mexico accountable to mitigating the spread of this dangerous pest."

"America is going to take care of ourselves, including dealing with the approach of screwworm as it gets closer to our border," said Governor Abbott. "We put together the resources necessary for Texas to provide a Texas-size response to this. We thank Secretary Rollins and President Trump for stepping forward to provide the stop gap effort essential to protecting our ranchers and our wildlife."

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION NWS RESPONSE

In June 2025, Secretary Rollins announced a sweeping five-pronged plan (PDF, 1005 KB) to enhance USDA's already robust ability to detect, control, and eliminate NWS. As part of that announcement, she also shared plans to build this sterile NWS fly dispersal facility in South Texas.

The completion of the facility further expands the network of dispersal facilities through Central America and Mexico and solidifies the increased preparedness offered by having a U.S.-based facility.

On January 30, USDA announced a shift in its 100 million per week sterile fly dispersal efforts to reinforce coverage along the U.S.-Mexico border. While the sterile flies for this effort will initially be dispersed from the Tampico, Mexico facility, USDA is prepared to quickly and strategically shift operations to the new Texas facility should there be a change in the location or new concentration of NWS cases in northern Mexico.

ABOUT STERILE FLY

Sterile insect technique, when paired with surveillance, animal movement restrictions, and education and outreach, is a proven and effective tool for controlling and eradicating NWS. Female NWS flies only mate once in their lives, so if they mate with a sterile male, they lay unfertilized eggs that don't hatch. Releasing sterile flies just outside of affected areas helps ensure flies traveling to new areas will only encounter sterile mates and will not be able to reproduce.

Sterile insects are dispersed through aerial dispersal or ground release. Aerial operations are preferred because they allow for dispersal at a steady rate through a large area and also because sterile insects may be dispersed in areas that are unreachable from the ground. Ground release is used when there is a need to quickly deploy sterile insects outside of the dispersal facility range. Mass production and targeted dispersal of sterile flies remain critical components of an effective response.

USDA currently produces sterile flies for dispersal at the COPEG facility in Panama. USDA is also investing \$21 million to support Mexico's renovation of an existing fruit fly facility in Metapa—which will double NWS production capacity once complete. With ongoing support

from technical experts in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Mexico anticipates this sterile fly production to begin as soon as summer 2026.

To continue to expand USDA's domestic response capacity, the Department is building a sterile fly production facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, Texas, with a targeted maximum capacity of 300 million sterile flies per week. USDA expects to break ground on that facility later this spring. With existing and planned production facilities fully operational, USDA will have up to 500 million sterile flies per week in its arsenal to fight this pest all the way back to the Darién Gap. The international network of facilities will produce 100 million sterile flies per week at COPEG in Panama, 100 million at Metapa in Mexico, and 300 million at Moore Air Base.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Even though there have been no detections of NWS inside the U.S. and the northernmost active case of NWS is still about 200 miles away from the border, USDA is asking Americans to continue to remain vigilant by checking their livestock and pets for signs of NWS. Look for draining or enlarging wounds and signs of discomfort. Also look for NWS larvae (maggots) and eggs in or around body openings, such as the nose, ears, and genitalia or the navel of newborn animals. If you suspect your animal is infested with NWS, immediately report it to your state animal health official or USDA area veterinarian in charge.

NWS maggots can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people. They most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal's living flesh. While not common in people, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted NWS, seek immediate medical attention.

Learn more about NWS and USDA's efforts, visit [Screwworm.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/screwworm).

CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH FSA ONLINE

BY USDA

For your convenience, FSA is modernizing and expanding our digital services. To conduct business with FSA online, producers will need a [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account.

ABOUT LOGIN.GOV

[Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) is the public's one account for government. Producers can use one account and password for secure, private access to participating government agencies, including FSA.

Creating a [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account is the first step to working with FSA online through the [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) portal.

Visit [farmers.gov/account](https://www.farmers.gov/account) to create your [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account. If you already have a [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account, you can work with FSA using your existing account.

Follow the steps below to create your [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account and tie it to your FSA customer record:

1. Create your [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) Account
2. Complete Identity Verification

3. Link your FSA Customer Record

LINKING YOUR FSA CUSTOMER RECORD

If you have worked with FSA in the past and have an FSA customer record, the system will attempt to automatically link your [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account to your existing FSA Customer Record and send you directly to the [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) portal.

If you are new to working with USDA, you will need to create an FSA Customer Record. This record is sometimes called a Business Partner ID, BPID, or Business Partner Customer Record. After you verify your identity online, you will be taken to a page to fill out and submit a form to begin that process.

WORK WITH FSA ONLINE

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- View applications
- Certify and submit applications
- Track application and payment status

To learn more about what FSA-related business can be conducted online, view the Your [Farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) Account Fact Sheet.

For assistance creating your [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account, visit [login.gov/help/](https://www.login.gov/help/).



WATERMELON RESEARCHER AWARDED HIGHEST SC HONOR

BY BLAKELY ATKINSON, SOUTH CAROLINA WATERMELON ASSOCIATION

On January 18, 2026, Dr. Gilbert Miller was awarded the highest civilian honor for a resident of South Carolina: the Order of the Palmetto.

Miller, a resident of Bamberg, South Carolina, was given the award at the 54th Annual South Carolina Watermelon Association Convention in Hilton Head, SC.

The Order of the Palmetto is conferred by the governor and recognizes residents of South Carolina who have a lifetime of extraordinary service and achievements.

In 1978, Miller moved from his home state of Mississippi to South Carolina, where he received his master's degree from Clemson University and met his wife of 43 years, Minnie. They have four children who have all grown up in Bamberg.

Miller started work as a Bamberg County Extension Agent for Clemson Cooperative Extension in 1980.

In 2002, he relocated to Clemson's Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville as an Area Vegetable Specialist for the counties of Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Orangeburg, Colleton, Clarendon, and Calhoun. His studies and work at EREC have been recognized worldwide, but more importantly, his work and dedication have helped South Carolina farmers succeed. He has researched multiple crops that are of economic importance in South Carolina: watermelons, cantaloupe, squash, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and wildflowers to attract pollinators, just to name a few.

His specialty is watermelons, though, as for the past 24 years he has organized the annual "Watermelon Field Day" which attracts hundreds of commercial growers, home gardeners, and industry representatives from across the country, and even internationally. He served as the South Carolina Watermelon Association President for two years. He has received numerous awards which include

South Carolina's Certified Crop Advisor of the Year (2001), Friend of Ag Award (2011), Extension Agent of the Year, Bamberg County Citizen of the Year (1991), Distinguished County Agent, and the Distinguished Service Award (2000). He has also been/is involved with the Colleton-Bamberg Young Farmers Group where he served as their Secretary, and the Clemson University Horticulture Team.

Throughout his career, Miller has also volunteered with youth in his community through 4-H, coaching, Arbor Day, National Gardening Week, and county-wide beautification projects. Miller also has organized the Wild Game Banquet, the Edisto Beekeepers, and has served on numerous other boards and councils.

Miller described himself as "extremely grateful and humbled" to receive the award.



SCATE CORNER

SOUTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL TAX EXEMPTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



To claim agriculture sales tax exemptions in South Carolina, you must have a South Carolina Agricultural Tax Exemption (SCATE) card.

Farmers who participate in the agriculture industry for business purposes and purchase eligible products in South Carolina are eligible for a SCATE card.

Before applying and making any purchases, please review the most current SC Department of Revenue Ruling regarding eligible and taxable items. It is linked from dor.sc.gov/farmers.

Apply, renew, verify, and learn more at scatecard.com

Who is eligible for a SCATE card?

Farmers who participate in the agriculture industry for business purposes and purchase eligible products in South Carolina are eligible for a SCATE card.

State law does not require producers to generate a certain level of income from agriculture or minimum acreage to qualify for SCATE sales tax exemptions.

A hobby farmer who does not participate in the agriculture industry for business purposes is not eligible for the agriculture sales tax exemptions, nor would a hobby farmer qualify for a SCATE card.

For all eligibility, exemption, tax, or retailer questions relating to SCATE, please email SCDOR at FarmExemption@dor.sc.gov.

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