

MARKET BULLETIN

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May 21, 2026

Est.

1913



PRODUCERS AND FOREST LANDOWNERS CAN NOW APPLY FOR STATE DISASTER RELIEF BLOCK GRANT FOR HELENE

BY SCDA

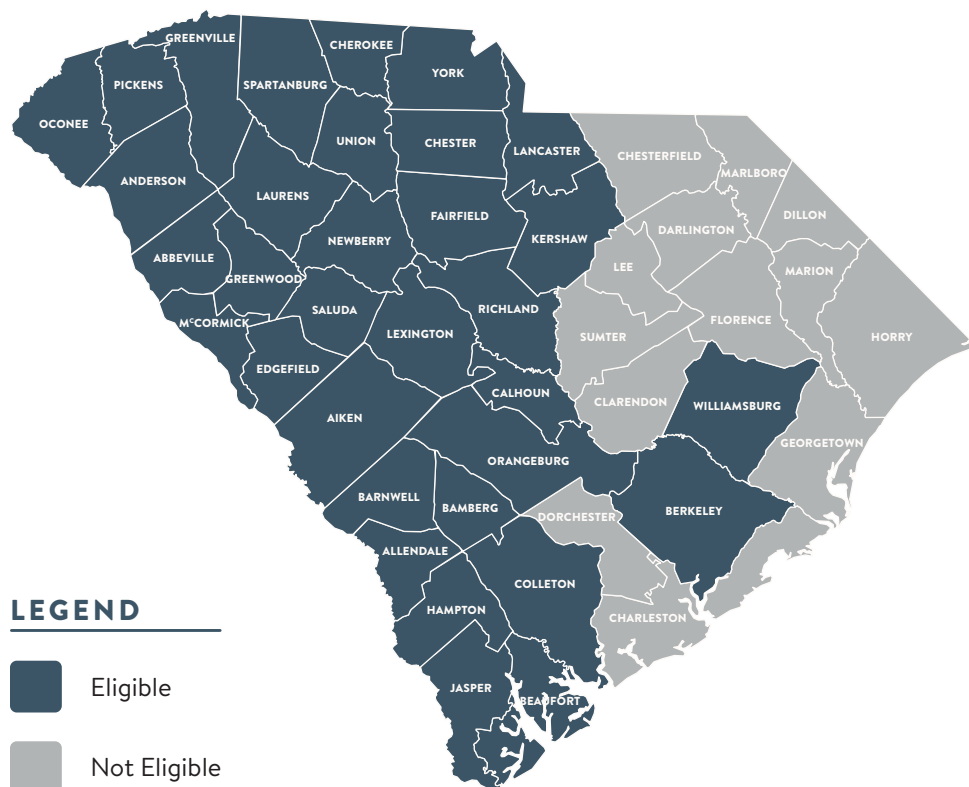
Applications are now open for South Carolina's State Disaster Relief Block Grant for Helene.

The application period runs from 5/12/2026 through 7/11/2026. The only way to apply is online through Euna Grants using the link on the grant webpage, agriculture.sc.gov/helene.

The \$38 million in federal aid is for four types of production losses not covered by other USDA programs or crop insurance:

- **Market Loss** — Covers harvested or unharvested crops that could not be marketed due to Helene
- **Infrastructure Loss** — A loss to permanent infrastructure that is actively used in agricultural production (within the 12 months prior to Helene)
- **Future Economic Loss** — A loss of future revenue on perennial crops that take multiple years to mature
- **Timber Loss** — A loss due to timber damage

Only losses in counties that received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Helene are eligible.



LEGEND

- Eligible
- Not Eligible

- corporation, limited liability corporation, or other farm organizational structure organized under State law consisting solely of citizens or resident aliens of the United States; or
- Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, as defined in section 4(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

TIMBER LOSS ASSISTANCE

Learn more about timber loss verification at scfc.gov/hurricane-helene-timber-block-grant.

For further assistance with timber losses, email blockgrant@scfc.gov.

AGRICULTURAL LOSS ASSISTANCE

Clemson Cooperative Extension offices and Soil & Water Conservation District county offices are the first line of support for direct help with applying for this grant. The staff at these offices are equipped to verify your losses and help with your application.

- Clemson Cooperative Extension county offices: clemson.edu/extension/co/
- Soil & Water Conservation District offices: dnr.sc.gov/conservation/

For further questions about agricultural losses or about the application itself, email disaster@scda.sc.gov.

To be eligible, a producer must be a:

- citizen of the United States;
- resident alien; for purposes of this part, resident alien means "lawful alien" as defined in 7 CFR part 1400;
- partnership consisting solely of citizens or resident aliens of the United States;



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

HUGH E. WEATHERS

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

SCHOOL'S ALMOST OUT

Last week, I was honored to receive the inaugural Friends of the School Nutrition Association of South Carolina award. It must have been recognition of how many times I asked for seconds in the school lunchroom way back when.

I've connected with a lot of people and helped launch a lot of programs during my 22 years in office, and some of the most rewarding ones have involved working with our schools, students, and school nutrition staff.

Our long-running Farm to School program has been an important resource for schools. We've administered great programs like USDA's previous Local Food for Schools program. And in January, we launched the Certified SC Cafeteria program.

Certified SC Cafeteria is off to a great start. We're seeing strong participation and more reimbursement requests from school cafeterias as the spring produce season develops. Fresh strawberries in particular have all the students excited. We're seeing schools reaching out to distributors for local fruits, vegetables, grains and honey, but also schools cultivating one-on-one relationships with farmers.

My job is to find opportunities for South Carolina farmers, and schools remain a major unrealized potential market. I look forward to seeing some year-end analysis of how we can continue improving the program, and I look forward to seeing how the program continues to develop in the next few years. With \$1 million in recurring funding from the General Assembly, it's set up for success. And that makes all the difference in the world for our farmers.

Thank you to the School Nutrition Association of South Carolina for being such an important partner over the years.

The drought isn't in the rear view just yet, but it's rained a little in my part of the state. Cotton and peanut planting are underway. As for specialty crops, blueberry season is in full swing, with U-pick operations going strong and growers large and small picking lots of berries. I got my first peaches last week, and we have a good crop in the making. We'll need a lot more steady rain to really start replenishing ponds and aquifers, and to build up some needed soil moisture.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sweetgrass Workshop

May 29 • 1 pm

Discover the beauty and cultural significance of Sweetgrass Basket weaving in this immersive workshop led by expert Jennifaye Kimberly Wright Singleton. Begin with an engaging lecture exploring Gullah Geechee culture and the rich history and traditions behind sweetgrass weaving. Then, take part in a hands-on experience where you'll learn basic weaving techniques and create your own sweetgrass keychain or ornament. Participants will work with traditional materials including sweetgrass, pine needles, bullrush, and palmetto leaves. This workshop is perfect for anyone interested in history, culture, folk art, or hands-on creative experiences. No prior experience is necessary—just come ready to learn, create, and connect with a meaningful Lowcountry tradition

Moore Farms Botanical Garden

100 New Zion Road, Lake City
info@moorefarmsbg.org • 843-210-7582
moorefarmsbg.org

Valensole Farm 2026 Opening Day

May 29

Bloom spikes are exploding on the lavender! Our family-owned estate is thoughtfully designed as a traditional French farm complex, featuring authentic European-style stone buildings that echo the timeless architecture found in the heart of France. Opening to the public for our inaugural season.

Valensole Farm

30 Holcombe Road, Travelers Rest
valensolesc.com
facebook.com/ValensoleFarm

Tractor Show

May 30 • 10 am – 3 pm

It's that time of year again! The Waccamaw Tractor and Engine Club Tractor Show is coming back to the Market!

Pee Dee State Farmers Market

2513 W Lucas Street, Florence
bsager@scda.sc.gov • 843-665-5154
peedeestatefarmersmarket.com

Birding, Stories, and Supper on the Farm

May 30 • 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Our gathering will begin with a peaceful walk around the farm, where guests will have the opportunity to try a beginner-friendly birdwatching activity and learn how to use popular birding and naturalist apps to identify the birds and wildlife around us. After our time exploring the landscape, we will come together for a short program about J. Drew Lanham and his inspiring book *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*, reflecting on his journey as a birder, naturalist, and storyteller of the land. The evening will conclude with a Gullah Geechee-inspired meal enjoyed around glowing campfires beneath moss-draped oak trees—an opportunity to share conversation, slow down, and savor the beauty of spring on the farm.

Morning Glory Homestead Farm, LLC

42 Robert And Clara Trail, St. Helena Island
morninggloryhomestead@gmail.com • 843-812-0344
morninggloryhomestead.com/event-details/birding-stories-and-supper-on-the-farm
facebook.com/morninggloryhomesteaders



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

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

Address _____ New Renewal

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Check # _____

Phone _____ Renewal ID # _____

Email _____ This is a gift 5/21/26

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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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

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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
MAY 26 • 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; BG/shlckr, 65¢; Redbreast,
75¢; Ch Catfish, 65¢; Tilapia,
\$1.50/\$2.50; LM Bass, \$3
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
\$5000 obo, incl tack
Joseph Dyches
Allendale
843-812-2138

Review our ad policies:

[MARKET-BULLETIN-
POLICIES](http://AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/)

CATTLE

BUCKING BULLS

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

8 M/O HRFRD BULL

PB, polled, \$2500
Billy Gallman
Newberry
803-276-7171

REG BLK ANG BULL

8 m/o, GAR Momentum
b'line, \$4000
Larry Owens
Greenville
864-415-7192

RED ANG YRLG BULLS

ultra-low BW, g-son's of
Sleep Easy, \$3500
Wayne Owens
Greenwood
864-229-4921

REG ANG BULLS

16 m/o, gentle, exc growth
Genetics, SAV B-lines, \$3500
Hugh Knight
Orangeburg
803-539-4674

BFMSTR BULL

blk/wht paint, B-12/21,
proven, \$4500 obro
Cristan Smoak
Orangeburg
803-614-4330

REG DEXTER CATTLE

(1) Bull calf B-5/25, \$1500
Stephan Vernet
Spartanburg
864-363-5800

BLK ANG BRED HEFRS

comm, 15 m/o, bred to Yon
reg bull (On site), \$5000+
Danny Leitner
Fairfield
843-200-0887

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.

JUMBO QUAIL

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

CHICKEN EGGS

farm fresh, \$3/dz
Ron Handley
Georgetown
843-896-0829

FARM FRESH EGGS

\$3/dz
Amy Ridgeway
Lexington
803-629-6131

FRESH EGGS

Chicken & Quail, \$4/dz
Derek Drafts
Saluda
803-429-3291

FARM EQUIPMENT

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

'23 KUBOTA DM2028

9.2' cut disc mwr, GC,
photos avail, \$8500
Jacob Cathcart
Fairfield
803-603-7322

5x7 HARDEE DUMP TRL

all metal, w/add-on ramp
grate, \$500
Otto Williamson
Williamsburg
843-372-2692

BHB 5' ROTARY MWR

\$775 obo
Daniel Verdin
Laurens
864-270-7251

28' GN TRL

GC, \$7000
Bobby Steading
Spartanburg
864-585-0587

JD 825 4R CULT

GC, \$860
David Williams
Darlington
843-332-5204

MF SQ BALER

baled 3000 bales, hyd
controls, shed kept, \$30,000
Ken Hunter
Chester
803-374-0448

14' KUHN CUTTER 4460

\$21,000; Intl 1466 w/canopy
& dual whls, \$18,000
Joseph Henson
York
803-448-5287

JD MAX EMERGE 6R PLNTR

w/row cleaners, \$14,000;
JD 6500 spryr w/60' frt fold
booms, \$24,000
Joe Phillips Jr
Lexington
803-600-2928

PORTABLE FUEL TANK

250 gal, 2" ball, \$750 obo
Debbie Wade
Chester
803-385-8965

SIDE MOUNT SQ BALE LDR

for truck/trl, GC, shed kept, \$300
Steve Kinard
Newberry
803-924-0439

'90 CHEV 2500 TRUCK

4WD, 350 eng, auto trans;
'66 Chev 60, 14' flatbed
dump, \$1000 ea, cash
Ned McGill
Anderson
864-940-0893

3PH CARRYALL

\$250; sq bale ldr for side
of trk or trl, \$475; NH hay
crusher, \$375, all cash only
Randy Orr
Anderson
864-201-5666

'23 BEE 12' STOCK TRL

BP, 7000 lbs cap, \$8000 obo
William Hudson
Sumter
803-305-8616

JD 535 RND BALER

\$4500; Morra hay tedder, \$1500
Michael Crot
Lancaster
803-289-8002

'69 JD 530 TRACTOR

GC, used recently in hay
making, parade ready, \$6500
Will Kraft
Greenville
864-979-7910

'42 AC TRACTOR

EC, antiq, \$4500 obo
Farha Ali
Greenwood
864-554-0041

IH 140 WAGON

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

MF 230

dsl, PS, good tires, low hrs,
\$6000
Gary Watson
Chester
803-519-6549

5' BHB GROOMING MWR

antiq/vintage '60-64, cuts
well, \$200
Robert White
Spartanburg
864-457-2293

INTL 5100 GRAIN DRILL

21 dbl disc openers, \$5300
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
843-517-0315

JD 459 BALER

5000 bales, \$28,500; Kubota
2028DM, \$9500; JD 8 whl
rake, GC, \$2500
Dargan Etheredge
Calhoun
803-238-2122

MF 231S TRACTOR

dsl, 42 hp, low hrs, good
rubber, canopy, WC, \$8000
Boyd Caldwell
Kershaw
803-438-3455

6' W AERATOR

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

'75 MF 235

2 wd, GC, rarely used,
\$6500; '80 Ford 4600, new
battery & tires, \$5500
Dennis Trammell
Union
864-426-4066

JD 850 TRACTOR

25 hp, 3ph, hi-lo, 1777 hrs,
GC, shed kept, \$3950; 6pt
chisel plow, \$200
Mike Buck
Saluda
864-445-7399

CASE IH 2022 COTTON PKR

John Blue module bldr &
Crust Buster boll buggy,
good shedded equip,
\$12,500
Randell Wilson
Abbeville
864-378-4924

2R SUBSOILER

w/JD 71 plntrs, \$2800 obo
Christopher Johnson
Aiken
803-640-2734

JD HX14 ROTARY CUTTER

3ph, EC, \$7000
Steve McAlhany
Orangeburg
803-682-3834

8N FORD TRACTOR

restored, \$2900; 1r cult,
\$225; 20-disc harrow, \$1500;
6' scrape blade, \$450; all 3ph
& obo
Otis Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

3PT SPRDR

300 lb, \$200; 5' box blade &
\$100 ea
Johnny Childress
Laurens
864-872-9985

FORD 2810 TRACTOR

926 hrs, hyd remote, FR,
\$6900
Roy Burkett
Lexington
803-532-5063

TURNER PLOW

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

'06 CHEV 3500 DUMP TRUCK

Allison trans, Duramax
innovative 6.6 dsl, LN,
96,400 mi, \$24,000
John Lyons
Chester
803-899-4308

1R CULT

3ph, \$200
Harry Carson
Pickens
864-414-8255

IH 1066 & CAT D7 17A

\$16,000 ea; JD 830D,
\$14,000; Cat D4 7U, \$8500
Ronald McGraw
Lancaster
980-255-8584

'53 FA CUB

EC, w/too many
implements to list, photos
avail, \$6500 obo
Derek Drafts
Saluda
803-429-3291

ROSSI RP HAY RAKE

GC, FR, \$2500; JD 790 4x4
tractor, 30 hp, 254 hrs, EC,
\$8500 obo
Edward Rentz
Lexington
803-351-0328

BH 700 DISC MWR

non-working discs, other
parts work fine, new blades,
other parts incl, \$525 obo
Sam Rikard
Lexington
803-892-2630

BALTIC SPREADMASTER

fert & seeder, 3ph, shed
kept, \$500, call after 4pm
Mary Cockrell
Aiken
803-685-5802

MF 33 GRAIN DRILL

in usable cond, \$975
F Rowe
Newberry
803-271-7768

3PH FOR HAY SPEAR

w/hyd-lift cyl, \$250
Kenneth Sprouse
Laurens
864-682-9402

18' DISC HARROW

CG, \$3500
James Linder
Colleton
843-908-3193

4-WAY LOG SPLITTER

HD, PTO, needs new hoses,
\$600; Dearborn 2-disc tiller,
\$500; both 3ph & shed kept
Arthur Johnston
Dorchester
843-636-4083

FORD 3000 TRACTOR

new eng overhaul, gas,
steering column has new
parts, ERC, PS not working,
more, \$4000
Gene Fickling
Barnwell
803-571-6311

FARM LABOR

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

NEED INDIVIDUALS

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

DOZER/TRACKHOE WORK

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

BEAVER TRAPPING

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

MARKET BULLETIN

FORESTRY MULCHING

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

EXCAVATOR WORK

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

LIGHT TRACTOR WORK

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

HERBICIDE/PESTICIDE APPLS

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

FORESTRY MULCHING

clearing/dozer/Deere work,
pond maint, bldg pads,
demo, etc
Phillip Hutchins
Lexington
803-422-1329

LIME SPREADING

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

MOBILE SAWMILLING

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

EXCAVATOR

tractor work, clearing,
grading, irrigation, drainage,
brush cutting, driveways,
fire break, demo, etc
Derek Drafts
Saluda
803-429-3291

PASTURE MGMT SERV

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

DOZER/TRACKHOE WORK

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

HAULING

junk, dirt, crush & run,
rock, stone, etc; also any
type of yard work
Chris Ricard
Lexington
803-609-5902

TREE LIMB TRIMMING

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

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.

WANT LAND TO LEASE

for cows or cut hay
Jackson Jones
Chester
803-899-2514

WANT LAND

to buy in Lex Co
Elmer Fuller
Lexington
803-629-0416

WANT LAND TO LEASE

for hunting, 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

30A TIMBER/PASTURED

w/road frtage, 18 & 12A tracts,
on Dorn Rd, Troy, \$250,000
Farha Ali
Greenwood
864-554-0041

17+/-A OF CB

Ware Place area, land locked
for \$50,000/A
Stephen Gedosch
Greenville
864-982-4490

WANT LAND FOR LEASE

w/in 50 mi of Lex for Deer
hunting, 3-4 resp hunters
Bob Padowicz
Lexington
803-206-5993

GOATS / LLAMAS / SHEEP

SAINT CROIX RAMS

parasite resistant, \$435
Daniel Verdin
Laurens
864-270-7251

ADGA ND DOES

1 y/o, \$300
Ron Handley
Georgetown
843-896-0829

MINI-MANCHA KIDS

B-2/'26, MDGA eligible,
disbudded/CDT, 2 doelings,
\$200 ea; bucklings w/blue
eyes, \$125 ea
Gail Cooley
Anderson
864-947-8880

KATAHDIN RAMS

weanling-matures breeders,
from parasite resistant
flock, \$200+
Wayne Owens
Greenwood
864-229-4921

KATAHDIN SHEEP

ewes & rams, B-'26, gentle,
hand raised, vac & wormed,
\$225+
Tammy Hodge
Sumter
803-983-5041

'26 JACOBS SHEEP

2 horn ram, \$300; 4 horn
ram, \$350; '25 Jacobs ram, 4
horn cull, \$250; \$750 for all 3
Glenn Murphey
Aiken
864-490-0746

GROWN ND BUCKS

\$100 ea, lv msg
Deborah Reed
Orangeburg
843-312-5018

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

HOGS / PIGS

YORKSHIRE/ HAMPSHIRE PIGS

8 w/o, \$125 ea, lv msg pls
Robert Turner
Orangeburg
803-596-6463

PIGLETS

Kune-potbelly mix, 3
castrated males, \$80 ea
Cameron Brazell
Lexington
803-260-6959

RABBITS

REX

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

PLANTS & FLOWERS

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

3 GAL AZALEAS

\$10; Gardenia, Boxwoods,
\$7; Tea Olives, \$8; Crepe
Myrtles, Hydrangeas, \$20;
Camellias, \$25
Freeman Noles
Barnwell
803-383-4066

MONKEY GRASS

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

SEED

ADS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY
A CURRENT SEED LAB TEST.

SOYBEAN SEED

G-84%, D/H&G-84%,
cleaned in 50 lb bags, Paul
G T variety w/no patent,
\$25/bag
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
843-517-0315

HAY & GRAIN

'25 4x5 CB

net wrap, \$75, fert & lime,
shed kept, NR; '26 Oats,
\$70; both HQ, del aval for fee
Edward Chavis
Barnwell
803-671-3108

'25 4x5 RND CB

well fert, \$55, quant disc poss
Linda McClain
Orangeburg
843-754-2535

'25 4x5 RND MIXED GRASS

CQ, fert, net wrap, \$35/bale,
call/text
Jason Sandifer
Richland
803-606-3596

4x5 OAT-RYEGRASS MIXED

net wrap, shed kept,
14 bales, \$55 ea
Sam Rikard
Lexington
803-892-2630

COB CORN

in totes, weighing 600 lbs,
\$100 ea
Joseph Henson
York
803-448-5287

HQ SQ CB

no litter used, \$8; rnd, \$60/
field, \$40/CQ, \$35/10+
George McCoy
Chesterfield
843-307-8866

TIFTON 44 BERMUDA GRASS

baled 9/'25, HQ sq, \$8 ea
Thomas Thain
Lexington
803-920-7023

BERMUDA GRASS

18"x36" sq's, baled 9/17/25,
\$6 ea; p-up or del avail for
bulk (addl fee)
Nicholas Mosher
Marion
912-289-5575

'25 HQ CB

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

'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, \$40; Grass hay,
\$40; both 4x5
Jason Nichols
Saluda
864-992-2753

'25 4x5 RND CB

net wrap, under shed, well
fert, \$65
Hugh Knight
Orangeburg
803-539-4674

'25 SQ FESCUE MIX

barn stored, \$5.50, pls text
Waitman Dixon
Laurens
864-684-4641

'25 FESCUE & RYEGRASS MIXED

4x5 string wrap, barn
stored, no weeds, \$50/bale
Terry Blakely
Greenville
864-483-1920

'25 COASTAL

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

DEER CORN

\$45 your drum for 5+ drums;
1 drum, \$50; bulk, \$6/bu
Christopher Johnson
Aiken
803-640-2734

DEER CORN

cob \$7/bag
Drake Kinley
Anderson
864-353-9628

'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

'26 MIXED GRASS

net wrap, \$50; '25 mixed grass
hay, \$40; grass straw mix, for
mulch, \$25 ea; both 4x5
Charles Nichols
Saluda
864-992-9292

'25 4x5 RND HQ CB

limed/fert, 2nd & 3rd cuts,
\$70 ea, del/fee
Dale Blackmon
Lancaster
803-577-9008

SHELLED CORN

\$45, your 55-gal drum
Adam Anderson
Newberry
803-924-8466

4x5 HAY/STRAW MULCH

net wrap, 150 bales avail,
\$20 ea
Richard Knight
Kershaw
803-427-6440

SQ FESCUE

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

4x5 FESCUE

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

MISCELLANEOUS

2" IRRIG PIPE

+/- 500', 1/2 is alum, 1/2
is galv, misc fittings &
Rainbird heads, \$750 obo
Trent Porth
Lexington
803-413-8065

RABBIT MANURE

high qual, \$5/5 gal bucket,
bring bucket
Chris Ricard
Lexington
803-609-5902

FUEL TANKS

var sizes, above ground
transfer/storage, 100-500
gal, \$100+, due to size
Phillip Mullis
Lancaster
803-519-7125

55-GAL FG DRUMS

metal & plastic open top
w/top & rings, \$20+; solid
top 55 gal, \$20 ea; 275-gal
portow tanks, \$50 ea
Philip Poole
Union
864-427-1589

4' TUBE GATE

\$45; 7'x3/8" chain, hook on
one end, \$25
Russell Goings
Union
864-426-2309

HDWD LUMBER

incl Hickory, boards
1"x12"x8'L, \$4/bdft, 300 bdft
min/del, will custom cut for
lrg dels
Ryan Anderson
Greenville
864-234-2918

PLASTIC NURSERY POTS

mostly new, 5 gal, \$4 ea;
trade gal, 6" rnd, \$1 ea
Carol Elliott
Richland
803-261-1666

LUMBER

6"x10' Wht Oak, air dried
14+mos, \$3/bdft; 12"x8" Red
Oak, \$2/bdft; cut to your
req thickness
Boyd Caldwell
Kershaw
803-438-3455

(12) 4" I BEAMS

20" L, \$175 ea firm; (2) tires/
rims for Vermeer rnd baler,
\$50; Poulan 3400 chainsaw,
\$200 obo
Kenneth Sprouse
Laurens
864-682-9402

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

5 HP ELEC MOTOR

new, bought for grain
auger, nvr used, \$750
Charles Nichols
Saluda
864-992-9292

RABBIT MANURE

\$30/feed bag size
Amy Ridgeway
Lexington
803-629-6131

POLYHDR DIVIDERSNOUTS

JD 600 or 900, 2 set, \$400/set
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
843-517-0315

PURPLE MARTIN GOURD POLES

winches up/down, \$390-
\$500; gourds, \$4.75 ea
Stacy Shealy
Lexington
803-727-7535

(2) 240-GAL TANKS

w/stands, \$30 ea, both for \$50
William Shealy
Lexington
803-513-3485

WHT OAK TRL FLOORING

up to 21'L, 1", 1 1/2" & 2" thick
x 6" & 8"W, \$2.50/bdft
Lecil Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

HORSE HAY RING

no rub, safe for lrg bales, \$275
Deborah Worth
Aiken
803-605-4644

CANNING JARS

qtrs & pints, \$7/dz, either size
Nina Shirer
Richland
803-772-8120

AUTO HEAD GATE

\$200; more
Johnny Childress
Laurens
864-872-9985

ALUM BUDD WHLS

11-24.5, \$155 ea; 5 gal buckets
w/lids, \$2.50 ea
F Rowe
Newberry
803-271-7768

CEDAR

7' rnd posts, \$3 ea; poles, 8'/\$6,
10'/\$8, 12'/\$10, 14'/\$12; sq fence
post, 4x4x8', \$8; more
Andy Morris
Newberry
803-924-0433

OLD COMP FARM BELL

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

1H BUGGY/BUCKBOARD

restored to NC, rubber on
whls, \$800
Harry Isbell
Anderson
864-617-2627

COW MANURE

will load in your truck, \$1
John Yoder
Aiken
803-221-1566

GARDEN TILLER

Troy-Bilt Super Bronco, EC,
B&S eng, orig tires hardly
worn, \$700
Layne Simpson
Greenville
864-915-4585

POULTRY

4 FULL LEAPER HATCH ROOS
\$150 ea
Bobby Arnold
McCormick
864-550-5077

GROWN GUINEAS
\$20 ea; yng, \$7+; Cochin bantams, \$10+
Philip Poole
Union
864-427-1589

2 BUCKEYE CROSS ROOS
\$10 ea, lv msg
Deborah Reed
Orangeburg
843-312-5018

SEX-LINK
lavender Orp, Blk Copper Marans & jumbo Coturnix quail chicks, \$2-5 ea
Brian Motley
Kershaw
803-315-7598

TOULOUSE & EMDEN GEES
\$50; BB Red Bantam trios, Buff Cochin bantam trios, \$40; Wht King pigeon, \$15
Benson Ray
Georgetown
843-933-5367

BOB WHT QUAIL
flight & weather cond, \$5 ea
John Reed
Sumter
803-464-5757

BOB WHT QUAIL EGGS
for hatching, \$6/dz; \$50/100
Dwight Gilliland
Saluda
864-941-0958

GUINEA KEETS
all kinds of colors, 1 d/o-1 w/o, \$10 ea; 1-2 w/o, \$11 ea, etc
Mary Jane Vivas
Edgefield
803-480-1574

CHICKEN & QUAIL
hatching eggs, \$12+/dz
Derek Drafts
Saluda
803-429-3291

WHT LEGHORN BANTAMS
Single & Rose Comb, show qual, \$40/prs, \$60/trio
Marc Renwick
Newberry
803-271-8691

4 JERSEY GIANT WHT ROOS
H-6/10/25, \$20 obo, lv msg
Louise Pollans
Orangeburg
803-290-4287

25 RUNT PIGEONS
squab making, \$275;
Cornish Bantams, \$25/pr
Thomas Waters
Colleton
843-696-6627

WANT-FARM EQUIPMENT

3PH ROTOTILLER
6' or 7', in GC
Randy Orr
Anderson
864-201-5666

8-10' FIELD CULT
older model for garden
Otto Williamson
Williamsburg
843-372-2692

5-6" ROTOR TILLER
3ph; 12' livestock trl, & 2h trl, w/no tack room, both BP, both in GC
Charlie Doyle
Florence
843-992-6267

WANT-LIVESTOCK

EACH AD MUST LIST SPECIFIC ANIMALS.

MAMMOTH JACK
to breed w/horse mare
Aaron Shirey
Lexington
803-413-2974

FLEMISH GIANT RABBITS
breeding pr
Paul Manly
Spartanburg
864-918-6174

WANT-MISCELLANEOUS

PARTS MACHINE
gears for JD FB B grain drill
Dale Wilson
Abbeville
864-378-8327

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
R Long
Newberry
803-924-9039

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

SPRING IS HERE, AND WITH IT ARE SOME HUNGRY BEARS

BY CHEYENNE TWILLEY, SCDNR

With spring and warmer weather arriving, black bears are emerging from their wintering locations, becoming more active, and during this time, bears are looking for easy food. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) wants to remind South Carolinians to take down their bird feeders, secure their trash, and remove other accessible food sources if black bears are in the area. The most common human-bear conflicts involve unsecured food. Many South Carolinians live in close proximity to black bears and anywhere in the state could see a rambling bear on the move.

"The mere presence of a black bear does not necessarily represent a problem," said Tammy Waldrop, an SCDNR black bear biologist stationed in Clemson. "Most bears are just passing through, but if there is an easy meal available, they will take advantage of it. The key to dealing with wandering bears is not giving them a reason to hang around. Removing any food source that would attract bears will significantly reduce any bear issues in residential areas. Bears that have access to human-provided foods often become dependent upon people, leading to destructive behavior and may lead to the bear's demise."

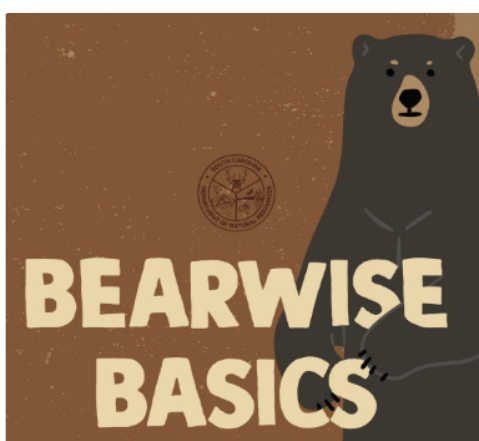
To help South Carolina residents better coexist with bears, SCDNR reminds you of these "Six At-Home BearWise Basics."

- Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Birdseed and grains have lots of calories, so they are attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.
- Secure food, garbage and recycling. Food and food odors attract bears, so do not reward them with easily available food, liquids or garbage.
- Never feed or approach bears. Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach homes and people looking for more.
- Never leave pet food outdoors. Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove bowls afterwards. Store pet food where bears cannot see or smell it.
- Clean and store grills, smokers. Clean grills after each use and make sure that all grease, fat and food particles are removed. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.
- Alert neighbors to bear activity. See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity? Tell your neighbors and share info on how to avoid bear conflicts.

While people may be excited about seeing a bear, SCDNR wants them to remember that bears are wild animals and should be respected. Black bears are usually shy, evasive, and non-aggressive toward people. People and black bears can live in the same area with little conflict by following some basic rules.

Report a black bear sighting online at dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/bear/sightingform.html.

For black bear emergencies, call 1-800-922-5431 or 911.



RABID ANIMALS CONFIRMED IN AIKEN, LANCASTER, AND LEXINGTON COUNTIES; ONE PERSON AND FOUR PETS EXPOSED

BY SCDPH

COLUMBIA, SC — The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) confirmed that two raccoons and one skunk from different counties have tested positive for rabies.

- A raccoon from Aiken County was found near Archie Ware Road and Dessert Palm Lane in Ridge Spring, S.C. One person was exposed and has been referred to their health care provider.
- A raccoon from Lancaster County was found near Major Evans and JB Denton roads in Lancaster, S.C. No people are known to have been exposed at this time. Three dogs were exposed and will be quarantined per the Rabies Control Act.
- A skunk from Lexington County was found near Evans Addy Road and Peach Place Court in Gilbert, S.C. No people are known to have been exposed at this time. One dog was exposed and will be quarantine per the Rabies Control Act.

The three animals were submitted to DPH's laboratory for testing April 30, 2026, and were confirmed to have rabies May 1, 2026. If you believe you, someone you know, or your pets have come in contact with either raccoon, this skunk, or another animal that potentially has rabies, please call DPH's Columbia office at (803) 896-4680 during normal business hours (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday) or after hours and on holidays at (888) 847-0902 (Select Option 2).

"To reduce the risk of getting rabies, always give wild and stray animals plenty of space," said Terri McCollister, Rabies Program manager. "If you see an animal in need, avoid touching it and contact someone trained in handling animals, such as your local animal control officer, wildlife control operator, or wildlife rehabilitator."

An exposure is defined as direct contact (such as through broken skin or mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, or mouth) with saliva or brain/nervous system tissue from an infected animal. If your pet is found with wounds of unknown origin, please consider that your pet may have been exposed to rabies.

It is important to keep pets up to date on their rabies vaccination, as this is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect people and pets against the disease. In 2026, the Aiken County raccoon and Lexington County skunk are the third animals to test positive for rabies in those counties. The Lancaster raccoon is the second animal to test positive for rabies in that county. There have been 30 cases of rabid animals statewide this year. Since 2002, South Carolina has averaged approximately 136 positive cases a year. In 2025, three of the 101 confirmed rabies cases in South Carolina were in Aiken County, one was in Lancaster, and three were in Lexington County.

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

PREMIUM PEANUT CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF NEW SHELLING PLANT IN SANTEE, SOUTH CAROLINA

BY RACHEL SANTOS, PREMIUM PEANUT

SANTEE, SC — Premium Peanut is pleased to announce the grand opening of North America’s newest and most innovative peanut shelling facility, located in Santee, South Carolina. After beginning the expansion process in 2021, the company proudly celebrates the official ribbon cutting of this state-of-the-art facility, marking a significant milestone for Premium Peanut and its grower-owners.

The new shelling facility sets a new standard for innovation in the industry, expanding the company’s capacity while enhancing operational efficiency. In addition to strengthening Premium Peanut’s processing capabilities, the facility will create quality jobs and contribute to the continued growth of the Santee community.

“It is an exciting day for Premium Peanut as we celebrate the grand opening of our new shelling facility in Santee,” said Clay Garnto, President and CEO of Premium Peanut. “This achievement would not have been possible without the support of so many partners. We extend our sincere thanks to Governor McMaster and the State of South Carolina; Secretary Lightsey and the South Carolina Department of Commerce; Commissioner Weathers and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture; the Orangeburg County Development Commission; the Orangeburg County Council; the South Carolina Power Team; the Town of Santee; Truist Bank; numerous Community Development Entities; and many others.”

Garnto added, “At Premium Peanut, our grower-owned model drives everything we do. We are dedicated to delivering greater value back to our growers, and this investment represents our commitment to fulfilling that mission.”

“Premium Peanut’s new facility is the first peanut shelling operation in the state of South Carolina, which is a significant step forward for

South Carolina’s peanut industry,” said South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers. “This facility means new value-added opportunities for South Carolina peanut growers and is an important addition to our agribusiness community.”

“Today’s ribbon cutting marks an important milestone for Orangeburg County as we celebrate Premium Peanut’s shelling facility now in operation,” said Kenneth Middleton, chairman of the Orangeburg County Development Commission. “Their expansion into South Carolina strengthens our agribusiness sector and

creates new opportunities for our workforce. We’re proud to have Premium Peanut operating in our community and look forward to their continued success.”

Premium Peanut is an innovative, grower-owned peanut shelling company, headquartered in Douglas, Georgia. The company started shelling peanuts in January 2016, and has since expanded to also produce peanut oil, peanut meal, peanut hulls, and peanut seed. With more than 475 grower-owners spread across Georgia and South Carolina, Premium Peanut has given peanut farmers an opportunity to retain more value from the peanuts that they grow. Over the life of the company, Premium Peanut has remained true to its profit-sharing model and has paid over \$120 million to its grower-owners in dividends.

For more information about Premium Peanut please visit premiumpeanut.com.

Founded in Georgia in 2014, Premium Peanut is a grower-owned peanut shelling company consisting of more than 475 grower-owners. The company also produces peanut oil, peanut meal, peanut hulls, and peanut seed. Premium Peanut’s customers consist of major domestic snack, candy, and peanut butter manufacturers, as well as customers in more than 30 countries around the world.



FUNDING SUPPORTS REDUCING DIESEL EMISSIONS

BY SCDES

COLUMBIA, SC — The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) announces the availability of grant funding aimed at reducing diesel emissions and improving air quality throughout the state. Diesel emissions make up a significant portion of the mobile source air pollution in South Carolina. The DERA grant from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 is now open. SCDES was awarded approximately \$408,000 to be used for the replacement or upgrade of older diesel vehicles, engines, and equipment. The funds are provided through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program.

“Diesel engines last a long time, and many older-model diesel engines are still in use throughout our state. Older engines have significantly higher emissions than similar, newer engines,” said Rhonda Thompson, Chief of SCDES’s Bureau of Air Quality. Thompson believes the “funded projects will provide reduced diesel emissions and improvements to South Carolina’s public health and environment.”

DERA funding is intended for county, city, or other local government entities, private businesses, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations. DERA grants are awarded to eligible applicants for the implementation of diesel emissions reduction projects which will positively impact air quality and public health. Projects should be cost-effective, easily feasible, and reduce emissions through engine repowers, equipment and exhaust retrofits, or equipment replacements. DERA grants typically cover 25% of eligible costs; however, the award can be more dependent on the type of project. The applicant is responsible for the remaining costs.

Previous DERA grant funding has been used to support a variety of different types of emissions reduction projects statewide. Examples include replacing concrete trucks, repowering a marine vessel, and retrofitting school buses.

The FFY2024 SC State DERA Request for Proposals (RFP) contains detailed eligibility criteria and application instructions. Applications for the FFY2024 SC State DERA grant cycle are due by Friday, June 12, 2026.

The RFP and a complete list of past projects funded by DERA grants in South Carolina can be found on the SCDES DERA webpage. Please email dera@des.sc.gov with any questions related to the RFP or DERA grants in South Carolina.

**Help improve air quality!
Apply for DERA grant funding.**

» Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grants support projects that help reduce harmful diesel emissions. Learn more and apply today.

SC DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Learn more at des.sc.gov/DERA

USDA DESIGNATES MARION COUNTY IN SC AS PRIMARY NATURAL DISASTER AREA

5 CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES IN SC ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE

BY USDA

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through Emergency Loans. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Impacted Area: South Carolina
Triggering Disaster: Drought
Application Deadline: 12/21/2026
Primary Counties Eligible: Marion
Contiguous Counties Also Eligible: Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg

On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Loan Assistance Tool can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

CLEMSON EXTENSION OFFERS ADVICE FOR HARVESTING TALL FESCUE DURING DROUGHT

SCIENTISTS SAY GROWERS SHOULD ADJUST THEIR HARVEST STRATEGIES FOR THE DRY CONDITIONS

BY DENISE ATTAWAY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

South Carolina springtime is typically marked by rain, storms and other severe weather. This year, however, conditions are much drier.

The lack of rainfall is affecting the state's fescue industry.

Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show South Carolina has received 1.24 inches of rain this month. That is 3.04 inches below normal, making it the third-driest March since 1895.

Tall fescue, a common forage crop in the state, is now entering harvest season. Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service scientists say growers should adjust their strategies for the dry conditions.

Liliane Silva, a Clemson Extension forage-livestock systems specialist based at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, and Christopher LeMaster, a Clemson area livestock and forages agent in Gaffney, said growers can take several steps to manage the situation.

“For a cool-season grass like tall fescue, which relies on spring moisture for the bulk of its annual forage production, that rainfall deficit is a primary concern for the upcoming hay season,” Silva said.

The South Carolina hay season typically runs from late April or early May through October, depending on the forage crop used. Early fescue hay cutting, in mid- to late April, is important because higher temperatures and late-spring maturity reduce forage quality and digestibility.

Tall fescue is the predominant forage crop used for grazing and hay in the Upstate and Piedmont regions. It is valued for its durability, its ability to grow in lower-fertility soils, and its capacity to recover after summer dry periods.

In addition to drought conditions, producers are facing a 50% increase in fertilizer and fuel costs.

“When input prices are high and projected yields are low due to weather-related challenges, management strategies must be adjusted to focus on efficiency and stand persistence,” LeMaster said.

HARVESTING AND CLIPPING STRATEGIES

In a dry spring, there is rarely a single correct answer for when to harvest. Silva and LeMaster suggest two strategies based on timely rainfall and well-managed hayfields.

One option is early harvesting. LeMaster said many producers are choosing to harvest fescue now, even with lower yields.

“This effort aims to capture the nutritional quality of the forage before it becomes overly mature,” he said. “Recent high temperatures have pushed much of the state's cool-season grass into the reproductive stage, producing seedheads, which decrease hay quality by increasing lignin in plants.”

Lignin is a compound that makes plant cells hard and woody.

Another strategy is mowing or clipping hayfields. This process returns plants to a vegetative state, allowing for some regrowth before summer heat intensifies. It can also help recycle nutrients and build organic matter, but growers should monitor how much material is left behind.

“Depending on current growth, heavy residue lying over the cut plants could shade the crown and hinder regrowth once we start getting rain,” Silva said.

Both strategies rely heavily on timely rain. Growers should not harvest or clip if the fescue is drought-stressed and there's no rain in the forecast. This could cause the plant to draw on its energy reserves from its roots, compromising the stand's persistence. In extreme heat and drought conditions, the best answer may be to do nothing.

CUTTING HEIGHT AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Harvest height is even more critical during these drought conditions, and herbicide application should be held off until appropriate rainfall is received.

Mowers should be set to maintain adequate leaf area, so plants retain sufficient leaf area and do not deplete their energy reserves. When harvesting, growers should avoid cutting below the recommended 4-inch stubble height for fescue.

For clipping pastures, mowers should be set high enough to remove stems while leaving most leaves intact, if the goal is to control seedhead occurrence.

“The leaves are the ‘plant factory,’ producing energy to support plant recovery and growth after defoliation,” Silva said.

Many producers are delaying herbicide applications due to dry conditions, which can reduce effectiveness.

“Given current prices, waiting for better growing conditions may be the most cost-effective choice,” she added.

Growers should evaluate weed pressure, species and herbicide options on a case-by-case basis and consult their local Extension agent for guidance.

THE ECONOMIC REALITY

Production costs are rising as input prices increase and yields decline due to weather conditions. Growers should calculate the cost per bale and determine appropriate pricing.

Local hay prices are reflecting higher fertilizer and fuel costs, as well as lower-than-average yields across the region.

Clemson Extension encourages growers to contact their local agents for help evaluating their individual operations.

DIG IN, DO GOOD: CAREERS IN AGRONOMY, CROP, AND SOIL SCIENCES

CAMPAIGN AIMS TO ENGAGE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS

BY ALLIANCE OF CROP, SOIL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SOCIETIES

MADISON, WI — The American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), collectively known as the Societies, have launched the Dig In, Do Good workforce development campaign to increase enrollment in agronomy, crop, and soil science programs at post-secondary institutions across the United States.

The initiative provides resources to help college-bound high school students, as well as undecided first- and second-year college students, explore meaningful, purpose-driven career opportunities. Demand for agricultural scientists is projected to grow by 6 percent from 2024 to 2034¹, yet only 16 percent of high school seniors express interest in pursuing a STEM career² — highlighting a critical gap the campaign aims to address.

“Strengthening the future of the agricultural and natural resource sciences starts with building a skilled and passionate workforce,” said Jim Cudahy, CEO of the Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS). “The

Dig In, Do Good initiative is an investment in that future—connecting students to purpose-driven careers that feed communities, protect our natural resources and shape a more sustainable future.”

At the center of the campaign is a mobile-first website offering helpful career resources for students, school counselors and teachers.

Resources include:

- Career profiles detailing real-world roles, including job outlook, salary insights and more, to help students connect pathways to future possibilities.
- Interactive career quiz that matches users' interests and strengths with potential roles to guide conversations and planning.
- College database linking students with strong agronomic-related programs aligned with their career goals.
- Resources page for teachers and counselors to enhance classroom learning and support students exploring potential career opportunities.

“Encouraging students to explore careers in agronomy, crop and soil science is critical to tackling

global challenges,” said Dr. Wade Thomason, President of ASA. “The Dig In, Do Good campaign provides the real-world knowledge students need to guide them to impactful career pathways.”

Visit digindogood.com to learn more about the campaign.

The Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing management and administrative support services to its founding members: the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). The headquarters office for these international Societies is based in Madison, WI. The Dig In, Do Good workforce development campaign, a collaboration of ACSESS, is designed to increase enrollment in agronomy, crop, and soil science programs at postsecondary institutions across the United States while raising awareness of these fields as dynamic and rewarding careers.

¹Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Agricultural and Food Scientists, 2025

²CodeWizardHQ, The Ultimate List of STEM Statistics 2025, 2025

SOUTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU GRAIN ELEVATOR CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF EXPANDED FACILITIES

BY SC FARM BUREAU

ANDERSON, SC — The South Carolina Farm Bureau Marketing Association Grain Elevator has officially completed a multimillion-dollar expansion that nearly doubled its grain storage capacity and added new office and warehouse space. The project is a partnership through the Growing Agribusiness Fund administered by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

“South Carolina farmers are experiencing very difficult financial times, so it is more important than ever that we continue to find ways to support them,” said SCFB President Harry Ott. “With the uncertainty of international markets and the recent closure of the only soybean processing facility in the state, the Anderson Grain Elevator is critical to helping provide sustainability to our state’s grain farmers. We are thankful for the partnership with SCDA through the Growing Agribusiness Fund, and we hope to continue to serve the farmers of South Carolina for many years to come.”

The project included: three- 90,000-bushel grain bins; 2,000-bushel grain dryer; 25,000-bushel wet tank; an unloading pit; two load-out bins; and the construction of a nearly 12,000- sq. foot building to be used as an office, warehouse and retail store. The elevator now has a 610,000-bushel storage capacity.

“Expanding market access and creating more flexibility for South Carolina farmers are essential to the future of farming in our state. We’re proud to be a partner in this expansion through the Growing Agribusiness Fund,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers.

The only grain elevator in a 100-mile radius, the SCFB elevator is an important resource for area farmers.

Previously, the elevator served farmers in 13 upstate counties. Now that construction is complete, the elevator has the capacity to serve up to an additional nine counties across the state.

Originally constructed in 1950, the grain elevator was purchased by the South

Carolina Farm Bureau Marketing Association in 1967. A subsidiary of South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, the Marketing Association was officially chartered on December 12, 1961 as an added benefit to members in connection with the production, marketing or selling of agricultural products.

South Carolina Farm Bureau is a grassroots, non-profit organization that celebrates and supports family farmers, locally grown food and our rural lands through legislative advocacy, education and community outreach. The organization, founded in 1944, serves nearly 90,000 member families in 47 chapters. For more information, please visit scfb.org.



(L to R) Glenn Davis, Anderson County Council; Tommy Dunn, Anderson County Council Chairman; Harry Ott, SCFB President; Anna Artman, Anderson County Principal Finance Analyst; and Chris Sullivan, Anderson County Council prepare to cut the ribbon to officially commemorate the grand opening of the newly expanded South Carolina Farm Bureau Grain Elevator in Anderson.

NRCS ANNOUNCES 2ND APPLICATION SIGN-UPS FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS

BY USDA NRCS

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is establishing a second national deadline for agricultural producers and landowners to apply for fiscal year 2026 assistance in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The new deadline for entities to apply is May 29, 2026. NRCS is providing up to \$200 million in funding for the application period for agricultural land easements.

“At NRCS, we are putting Farmers First by actively working to preserve and protect America’s agricultural land for future generations,” said NRCS Chief Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt. “Through voluntary conservation easements, and strategic partnerships, we are committed to slowing the loss of productive farmland and keeping working lands in the hands of farmers and ranchers.”

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed by President Trump on July 4, 2025, delivers the largest long-term investment in NRCS conservation programs in decades, delivering over \$4 billion in ACEP funding. NRCS began implementation this year.

While NRCS accepts applications on a continuous basis, NRCS uses application cutoff periods to assess and rank applications based on their potential conservation impact. NRCS is offering a second national application period for ACEP Agricultural Land Easements with a May 29, 2026, application deadline. A complete Agricultural Land Easement application only requires the following:

1. Completed form NRCS-CPA-41A, “Parcel Sheet for Entity Application for an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Agreement”,
2. Proof of ownership,
3. Written pending offer,
4. Map or geospatial boundary of proposed easement (NRCS provides an online tool to help you create this map with a geospatial boundary), and
5. Documented access to the easement.

Landowners are encouraged to complete eligibility paperwork with their local Farm Service Agency county office as soon as possible.

Through conservation programs, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help producers and landowners make conservation improvements on their land that benefit natural resources, build resiliency, and contribute to the nation’s broader effort to improve natural resource conditions on America’s private lands.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP)

ACEP helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands; protect the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses of that land that negatively affect the agriculture and conservation values; and protect grazing and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible land.

Agricultural land easements provide cost-share assistance to eligible entities to acquire easements from qualifying landowners, preserving agricultural use, including grazing, and protecting associated conservation values on eligible land.

From the Field

UPDATES FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sign Up for our Newsletter

Scan the QR code or visit agriculture.sc.gov/newsletter



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

I don’t use a computer or laptop. What are my options?

A computer or laptop is the only way to access scatecard.com to apply, renew, request replacement cards, and more.

If you do not have access to a computer/laptop, you can:

- Ask a trusted family member or friend to assist you
- Go to a library to use their computers
- Call to make an appointment at one of SCDA’s three State Farmers Markets and they will confirm an appointment time and which building to go to. For your appointment, you will need to bring:
 - » your SCATE card number,
 - » password, and
 - » a credit/debit card or bank account and routing information to pay the \$24 renewal cost.
 - ▶ SC State Farmers Market, West Columbia—803-737-4614
 - ▶ Pee Dee State Farmers Market, Florence—843-665-5154
 - ▶ Greenville State Farmers Market, Greenville—864-244-4023