

MARKET BULLETIN

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NEW CUT FLOWER GUIDE SUPPORTS GROWING SOUTHEAST INDUSTRY

BY DENISE ATTAWAY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

As demand for locally grown flowers rises across the Southeast, the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service has released a new production guide designed to help growers meet that demand with research-based strategies and practical business tools.

The Southeast Outdoor Specialty Cut Flower Production guide is the first major Clemson Extension resource of its kind in more than two decades, offering updated guidance for commercial growers, hobbyists, home gardeners, homesteaders, and diversified farmers looking to add flowers to their operations.

The publication is available as a free online PDF through Clemson Extension Horticulture at clemson.edu/extension/horticulture/index.html. Printed copies can be purchased through the Clemson University Marketplace.

Cut flowers are flower heads, buds, and sometimes stems, foliage, or twigs that have been cut from parent plants for decorative use, such as in vases, bouquets, or wreaths.

“There has been an explosion of new cut flower growers, but almost no modern Extension information to support them,” said Zachary Snipes, Clemson Extension horticulture program assistant team leader. “So much has changed in 26 years. Growers truly needed a new resource.”

The guide walks growers through the basics of cut flower production, including site selection, soil fertility, pest and disease management, and postharvest handling. It also covers business planning and marketing, with worksheets to help growers think through costs and sales.

One chapter focuses entirely on flower varieties, highlighting species and cultivars commonly grown in the Southeast.

“There were simply too many varieties to list, which is why we devoted a full chapter to help growers navigate their options,” Snipes said.

The publication is intended for a wide range of growers, including commercial producers, hobbyists, home gardeners, homesteaders and diversified vegetable farmers seeking to expand their offerings.



Branching Out Flower Co. in Mayesville, SC grows a diverse selection of specialty cut flowers. Photo by Zheng Chia.

While developed with South Carolina growers in mind, much of the information applies broadly across the Southeast.

Snipes emphasized the goal is to help both new and experienced growers succeed in a market that continues to gain momentum.

“Whether someone is starting their first half acre plot or adding flowers to an existing farm, this manual gives them research based, up to date guidance they can trust,” he said.

According to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, the state’s cut flower industry is growing, driven by a surge in new, small-scale and specialized farms joining local programs.

Local flower farming is gaining momentum due to high demand for farm-to-table products and agritourism, bolstered by specialized cooperatives.

The state’s geography and diverse climate are well-suited for production. Flowers can be grown year-round in South Carolina.

“Cut flower farming is a part of the state’s landscaping and horticulture industry, a colorful one at that,” said S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers. “It makes major contributions to agribusiness in the Palmetto State.

“The entire landscaping and horticultural services sector is our second largest ag sector after poultry processing, with a nearly \$1.5 billion direct economic output annually.”

With interest in local flowers continuing to grow, Clemson leaders say the new manual can help more producers build profitable, sustainable businesses across South Carolina and beyond.

The project began in January 2025, when the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service horticulture team secured grant funding from the Association of Cut Flower Growers to update resources for growers in South Carolina and across the Southeast.

The most recent Extension manual available to growers was published in 2000.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



HUGH E. WEATHERS

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

DROUGHT'S LASTING CONSEQUENCES

On April 25, it finally rained.

In many parts of South Carolina, it was practically the first rain in the past two months. As of this writing, Columbia has received just over 6 inches of rain in 2026 – about half of the average rainfall by this point – and only an inch of it fell since March 1.

So, I'm glad we're seeing some more rainfall. We need some significant moisture in the soil and some water in our ponds and aquifers as we head into a hot summer. Let's keep sending up our prayers for rain.

Even if things get back on track now, the early drought likely did some lasting harm to the 2026 season. Some farmers delayed planting corn. Those who did plant had to irrigate quite a bit to get their seed to germinate. Peanut and cotton planting are going on now, and soil moisture levels aren't yet where we want them.

Livestock forages also have had a rough start. Lots of farmers found themselves feeding hay in April, as the usual spring forages were not thriving. That sets folks behind on funds and hay supply for the year.

Acknowledging the long-term consequences of drought, USDA has declared producers in 30

primary counties in the state and 13 contiguous counties eligible for emergency loans as a result of the drought. We'll see if any other assistance is needed.

On the specialty crop side of things, strawberries have been having a bountiful year, but they've also seen some effects of the hot, dry weather. Generally, less rain means sweeter berries – they receive just the right amount of water from irrigation, and no more. But Clemson Extensions agents have been reporting some sun scalded berries during hot spells.

The peach crop outlook is looking positive so far. We got plenty of winter chill hours, only a little damage due to freezing temps earlier this spring, and some warmer temperatures ever since. Growers are having to irrigate due to the dry weather. Here's hoping for a great crop.

As planting continues and the growing season unfolds in earnest, make sure to watch out for equipment on the back roads of South Carolina. Unfortunately, we see some tragic accidents from time to time involving farm machinery. Let's keep our farmers and farmworkers safe, and all get through the year together.

UPCOMING EVENTS

South Carolina Agricultural Council Spring Tour 2026

May 14 • 7:30 am – 6 pm

Explore the heart of the Olde English District for an exclusive tour across York and Chester counties—featuring three unique farms. The cost of the tour is \$85.

Contact: Stephen Slice

803-360-2845

Tickets: eventbrite.com/e/south-carolina-agricultural-council-spring-tour-2026-tickets-1987787455790?aff=oddtcreator

Oconee County Farm Crawl

May 16

The Farm Crawl is a self-paced tour where the participants drive themselves from farm to farm. You will receive a map and descriptions of each farm when you check in at one of three check in locations throughout Oconee county. Each farm or homestead will have their own activities to offer on the day of the event, which may include farm products for sale, tours, Q&A's, demos and maybe even a hayride or two. For more information and tickets, visit our website.

oconeefarmcrawl.com

Growing Dahlias – On Farm Class 2026

May 16 • 10 am – 12 pm

If you want to add something to your garden that produces an abundance of flowers, consider dahlias. Come learn what is involved in growing them in your own garden or pot during our on-farm dahlia workshop

Purple Tuteur Farm

787 Langford Road, Blythewood

803-413-2573

purpletuteur.com/classes/p/growing-dahlias

Propagation 101 – Green House Tour

May 16 • 9 am – 12 pm

Step inside the heart of Moore Farms Botanical Garden—our greenhouse—for this rare, behind-the-scenes experience! Learn how we propagate our diverse plant collections, discover fascinating horticultural techniques, and see the tools and tricks that keep our garden thriving.

Moore Farms Botanical Garden

100 New Zion Road, Lake City

info@moorefarmsbg.org • 843-210-7582

moorefarmsbg.org

Pressed Flower Kits Creation

May 23 • 9–10 am & 11 am – 12 pm

Learn the delicate art of pressing and preserving botanicals to keep the season's beauty year-round. You will craft a professional-grade Pressed Flower Kit using blooms grown right here on the farm. Tickets: \$35. Ideal for creative beginners and ages 12+.

Agape Farm South

4357 Sagebrush Drive, Dillon

hello@agapefarmsouth.com • 919-721-0782

3 Cheeses In Three Hours

May 23 • 1 – 4 pm

Taste your way through three amazingly simple goat cheeses and learn how to make them in just a few fun hours!

Jeremiah Farm & Goat Dairy

3853 Platt Road, Johns Island

jeremiahfarmsc@aol.com • 843-276-3115

jeremiahfarm.com

Valensole Farm 2026 Opening Day

May 29

Bloom spikes are exploding on the lavender! Valensole Farm, where the romance of the French countryside comes alive in the foothills of South Carolina's Appalachian Mountains. Opening to the public for our inaugural season.

Valensole Farm

30 Holcombe Road, Travelers Rest

valensolesc.com

facebook.com/ValensoleFarm

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.

Moore Farms Botanical Garden

100 New Zion Road, Lake City

info@moorefarmsbg.org • 843-210-7582

moorefarmsbg.org

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

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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803-734-2207

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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

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POLICIES FOR ADVERTISING

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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

MAY 12 • 12:00 PM

SCDA State Farmers Markets

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FARMERS MARKET

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

GREENVILLE STATE FARMERS MARKET

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

PEE DEE STATE FARMERS MARKET

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

VISIT AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV

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

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

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5/7/26

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 incl tack
Joseph Dyches
Allendale
843-812-2138

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

CATTLE

IRISH DEXTER BULL CALF

A2A2, red, homozygous polled, intact, non-PHA, non-Condoro, \$1500
Jonathan Miller
Richland
803-212-8881

BLK ANG BRED HEFERS

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

REG ANG BULL

& SimAng Comm bull, 15 m/o, sire Yon Deep Ridge, \$6000+
Paul Kicidias
Union
864-429-6112

DEXTER HERD

4 cows (1 bred), 1 bull (2 y/o), 1 yrlg bull, \$7500
Curtis Peagler
Berkeley
843-412-2999

REG BRANGUS BULLS

2-19 m/o, BSE, Forage Dev, docile, deep sided, \$3500 ea
Keith Thomas
Laurens
864-449-0079

BFMSTR BULL

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

SMALL ANG HERD

reg bull, 2 bred brood cows, 2 yrlgs, \$10,000
Dargan Etheredge
Calhoun
803-238-2122

REG DEXTER CATTLE

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

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 HRFRD BULLS

12-15 m/o, vac/deworm, \$2250+
Donnie King
Greenville
864-885-2119

REG ANG BULLS

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

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

MF 230

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

HD STUMP GRINDER

3ph, twin hyd cyl, LT 1 y/o, EC, \$2500
Mike Dixon
Chester
803-385-7057

3000 FORD TRACTOR

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

'87 MF 375 2WD TRACTOR

w/Bushhog frt end ldr, 70 hp, \$7400
Carroll King
Lexington
803-242-9859

JD 71 PLNTR SET UP

w/fast hitch for 140 FA, incl plates for beans & peas, \$500
Eddie Beck
Darlington
843-307-7588

'39 FORD 9N TRACTOR

garage kept, w/updated starter & carb, ERC w/hydrator in ERC w/hyd, \$4000
Mell Patterson
Laurens
864-871-4588

'69 JD 530 TRACTOR

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

5' BHB GROOMING MWR

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

UNIFARM CD 210-DISC MWR

for parts or repair, \$100
Jeff Burkes
Greenwood
864-229-4211

14' KUHN CUTTER 4460

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

8-DISC CUTAWAYS

lrg & heavy, 3pt, adj for more aggressive pitches, \$500
Bobby Arnold
McCormick
864-550-5077

9600 FORD TRACTOR

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

2R SUBSOILER

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

'42 AC TRACTOR

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

PORTABLE FUEL TANK

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

INTL 5100 GRAIN DRILL

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

USED 7*20' EQUIP TRL

w/dove tail & ramps, dual axles, elec brakes, new tires & fenders, \$3650

Nathan Shirey

Lexington
803-315-6109

20*7' ENCL TRL

Tandem axles, loading ramp, new tires, EC, \$5500
Jerry Comeaux
Spartanburg
864-992-3869

4*5 RND BALER

Vermeer 5400 Rebel, twine tie, hay saver whls, bale ramp, shed kept, GC, FR, \$8500
Warren Rutland
Fairfield
803-429-4138

IH 1066 & CAT D7 17A

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

JD 850 TRACTOR

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

4R HI-SPD COLE PLNTRS

on 4r Pittsburg cult, auto row markers, insect appl, gauge whls, gears & plates, GC, \$2000 obo
Harold Brown
Horry
843-397-3618

SIDEWINDER RD-16

3ph PTO ditcher, \$800
Otto Williamson
Williamsburg
843-372-2692

CASE IH 2022 COTTON PKR

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

TURNER PLOW

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

JD HX14 ROTARY CUTTER

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

SIDE MOUNT SQ BALE LDR

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

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

1R CULT

\$250; 20-disc harrow, 3ph, \$1700; 3ph boom pole, \$200; 3ph 6' scrape blade, \$450; all obo
Otis Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

10*60' GRAIN AUGER

\$4000
Tom Fink
Lexington
803-622-4678

NH BC5070 SQR BALER

PIN: YBN106664, VGC, \$10,000, call/text
Bill Shuler
Aiken
803-710-0445

KUBOTA L3130 TRACTOR

1800 hrs, \$14,900; more
Ron Petit
Spartanburg
864-316-6336

6' BUSH HOG

Woods RC72.20, EC, used 6 hrs, \$2500
Larry Baxley
Georgetown
843-325-0900

'75 MF 235

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

KUBOTA L1500

w/disc harrow, box scraper, 5' finish mwr, shelter kept, \$4000
Frank Dixon
Darlington
843-332-0202

JD 4320

\$13,500 obo; new Rainflo ser 1600 veg transplanter, \$6500
Joe Alsbrook
Bamberg
803-662-0950

'06 CHEV 3500 DUMP TRUCK

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

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

VERMEER 504R SIGNATURE BALER

twine & net wrap, new parts LT 100 bales ago, 5942 bales, \$22,500
Jonathon Watkins
Saluda
864-980-6877

JD 459 BALER

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

GOATS / LLAMAS / SHEEP

EAST FRIESIAN X TUNIS CROSS

dairy sheep, lambs, ewe/lamb prs, \$120-500
Darcy Wagner
York
704-806-6464

ND GOATS

bucks & does, \$100 & \$150, lv msg
Deborah Reed
Orangeburg
843-312-5018

6' W AERATOR

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

FORD 2810 TRACTOR

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

TRI-FOLD HARROW

Athens 116 w/22" discs, 25'W, frt discs 50%, \$4500
Chris Chambers
Anderson
864-350-0190

'53 FA CUB

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

3PH CARRYALL

\$250; sq bale ldr for side of truck 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

20 BLADE DISC

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

18' DISC HARROW

\$4200; 4r cult, \$500; set of 4 notill disc, \$500; set of 4r chisel plow, \$1000; all GC
James Linder
Colleton
843-908-3193

HOGS / PIGS

PIGLETS

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

FEEDER PIGS

15 w/o, \$100 ea
Marion Banks
Newberry
803-768-7608

FARM LABOR

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

FORESTRY MULCHING,
land clearing, trails, storm
cleanup, light grading, pasture
reclamation, brush removal
Will Hobart
Spartanburg
864-457-8367

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EQUIP REPAIR & SERVICE
call/text
Bradley Moore
Newberry
803-924-4931

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

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

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

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

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

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

62.7 A LEXINGTON CO
wooded, 2 creeks, big
lumber, exc hunting, pond/
home sites, \$5000/A
Bobby Livingston
Richland
803-518-8702

17+/- A OF CB
Ware Place area, land
locked for \$55,000/A
Stephen Gedosch
Greenville
864-982-4490

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

WANT LAND TO LEASE
for cows or cut hay
Jackson Jones
Chester
803-899-2514

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

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

FRESH PRODUCE

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

FRESH FARM EGGS
\$3/dz, call after 11am
George Conaway
Kershaw
803-900-0444

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

RAW MILK
Jersey cow milk w/all cream,
\$12/gal
Sam Stevens
Aiken
803-645-5111

FRESH EGGS
Chicken & Quail, \$4/dz;
hatching eggs avail upon
req, \$12+/dz
Derek Drafts
Saluda
803-429-3291

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

EGGS
\$3/dz; Pecans, in shell, \$2/lb,
shelled, \$5/lb
Joe Culbertson
Greenwood
864-229-5254

GARDEN

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

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

PLANTS & FLOWERS

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

AZALEAS
\$6; Gardenia, Boxwoods,
\$7; Tea Olives, \$8; Creep
Myrtles, Hydrangeas, \$20;
Carolina Sapphire, \$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

THUJA GREEN GIANTS
Carolina Sapphires, 3 gal,
3'T, \$15 ea
Lindsey Barksdale
Laurens
864-420-3956

RABBITS

LA COTTONTAILS
PB, 6 m/o, \$12 ea
Bradley Brewington
Laurens
864-923-5804

FLEMISH GIANT
Cottontail, Holland lops, NZ
Wht, Lionhead, \$25-45 ea
Joe Culbertson
Greenwood
864-229-5254

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

HAY & GRAIN

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

**'25 FESCUE & RYEGRASS
MIXED**
4x5 string wrap, barn
stored, no weeds, \$50/bale
Terry Blakely
Greenville
864-483-1920

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

'25 OATS
\$12/bag
Victor Smith
Berkeley
843-870-8522

'25 SQ FESCUE MIX
barn stored, \$5.50, pls text
Waitman Dixon
Laurens
864-684-4641

GRAIN SORGHUM
in 50 lb/\$9, or your 55 gal
drum/\$60 or 15¢/lb in my
bulk bags
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
843-517-0315

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

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

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

'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 HQ CB
net/barn, \$60;SQ, \$9/barn;
4x5 Fescue mix, net, \$35,
all fert
John Snead
Greenwood
864-993-4839

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

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

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

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

'25 MIXED GRASS
4x5 string wrap, fert, \$25 ea,
quant disc
Roy Burkett
Lexington
803-532-5063

'25 4x5 RND CB
net wrap, under shed, well
fert, \$65
Hugh Knight
Orangeburg
803-539-4674

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

4x5 RND BALES
net wrap, CQ, \$45/bale, HQ
\$55/bale, can del for fee, can
load if p-up
Allen Kellett
Greenville
864-607-7444

'25 4x5 RYEGRASS
shed kept, \$40/bale
Steve Kinard
Newberry
803-924-0439

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

4x5 FESCUE
NR, shed kept, \$75
Otis Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

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

4x5 RND MIXED GRASS
goat & cow hay, \$25, can
load at p-up
Ralph Fairrington
Lexington
803-422-8998

'25 4x5 RND MIXED GRASS
CQ, fert Bahai/Bermuda,
net wrap, \$35/bale, call/text
Jason Sandifer
Richland
803-606-3596

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

**TIFTON 44 BERMUDA
GRASS**
baled 9/25, HQ sq, \$8 ea
Thomas Thain
Lexington
803-920-7023

Unsure of an abbreviation?

Find our complete list at
AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/MARKET-BULLETIN/ABBREVIATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

(2) 240-GAL TANKS

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

WORM CASTINGS FERT

100% organic, Certified SC,
no fillers, 30 lb bags, \$20/
bag, \$120 for 10 bags
Maryann Little
Lexington
803-530-9219

PLASTIC NURERY POTS

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

WHT OAK LUMBER

air dried 14+mos, 6"×10', cut
to your req thickness, \$2/bdft
Boyd Caldwell
Kershaw
803-438-3455

TARTER SHEETED TUB

w/2 10' alleyways, 3 sliding
gates, Tarter Cattle Master
squeeze chute, \$10,000 obo
James Sublett
Colleton
843-635-3884

FRT TINE TILLER

10 hp B&S, walk behind,
man trans, 3 spd, forward
low & high hand rev, used
little, GC, \$750
Vernon Bonner
Sumter
803-481-4225

CHICKEN LITTER

25-ton dump trl, \$700/load,
quant discs, spreading avail
Don Bowman
Abbeville
864-617-7253

NURSERY POTS

1 & 5 gal, \$10/100, any size,
lv msg
Susan Queen
Lexington
803-394-8668

2" IRRIG PIPE

+/- 500', 1/2 is alum, 1/2
is galv, misc fittings &
Rainbird heads, \$1000 obo
Trent Porth
Lexington
803-413-8065

CANNING JARS

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

55-GAL FG DRUMS

metal & plastic open top
w/top & rings, \$20+; solid
top 55 gal, \$20 ea; 275-gal
portow tanks, \$60 ea
Philip Poole
Union
864-427-1589

GAS IRRIG/TRASH PUMP

pipe & fittings, needs tune
up, \$250; oil & skid tanks,
\$225 ea
Randy Orr
Anderson
864-201-5666

LAKELAND SPIN TRIM

CHUTE
w/pads for sheep & goats, used
1x, barn kept, EC, \$3000 firm
Maria Cromer
Greenville
864-505-3450

PURPLE MARTIN GOURD POLES

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

HDWD LUMBER

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

WHT OAK TRL FLOORING

up to 21'L, 1, 1½, 2"
thickness, \$2.50/bdft
Lecil Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

GSI 112 GRAIN DRYER

\$14,500; 3000 bu wet bin,
\$5000
Tom Fink
Lexington
803-622-4678

4' TUBE GATE

\$45; 7'×¾" chain, hook on
one end, \$25
Russell Goings
Union
864-426-2309

COW MANURE

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

SHORT BLOCK

for a JD 2755 eng, \$1200
Robert Hurley
Laurens
864-981-5352

HYUNDAI SOLAR PANELS

(24) 3'×5', \$50 ea, w/Solar
Edge inverter, all for \$1200,
you load & haul
B Dorton
Lexington
803-467-4213

HUSQVARNA FT 900 TILLER

self-propelled, \$350, call/text
Franklin Brown
Charleston
843-224-4711

GALV HEAD GATE

new, for sheep or goats, \$200
Alan Nestico
Darlington
843-307-6033

PEACH BOXES

\$10 ea; hash pot, \$100; 4
wagon whls, \$200
Gary Seay
Spartanburg
864-578-8214

HORSE HAY RING

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

GARDEN TILLER

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

HORSE COMPOST

no shavings or bedding, \$1/5
gal bucket
Mary Stroman
Lexington
803-394-4338

5 HP ELEC MOTOR

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

2H TURN PLOW

\$75, cash
Ronald Cooke
Greenville
864-834-4325

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

2 SADDLES

15" Western, slick seat, older
saddle, \$250; Calvary, w/
covered stirrups, \$175
Marty Littlefield
Greenville
864-580-0378

ALUM SADDLE FUEL TANK

85 gal, on 6×6 pallet to
transport, \$150
Michael Dixon
Chester
803-385-7057

2 FUEL TANKS

w/elec pumps, gal meters
& in EC, 550 gal/\$1250, 250
gal/ \$750
Walter Arnette
Dillon
843-845-8528

2 NURSE TANKS

500 gal poly, \$1200; 6 rolls
blk bedding plastic, 3 rolls
drip tape, \$1500; 200+
seedling trays, \$2000
Joe Alsbrook
Bamberg
803-662-0950

7-8' RND CEDAR POSTS

\$5-9 ea
Joe Culbertson
Greenwood
864-229-5254

RABBIT MANURE

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

300' IRRIG HOSE

GC, \$50; Rainbird
sprinklers, \$15 ea; old hand
corn sheller, \$50
George Schwab
York
803-493-8021

POULTRY

BOB WHT QUAIL

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

SEX-LINK

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

LAYING HENS

\$15 ea
Mike McBride
Anderson
864-980-7832

CHICKS

H-4/3, (4) Barnevelders, (1)
Light Brahma, (16) Lavender
Orp/Barnevelder mix, \$3 ea
Brandon Avant
Pickens
864-313-4918

BOBWHT QUAIL EGGS

\$6/dz; \$45/100
Tom Fink
Lexington
803-622-4678

GROWN GUINEAS

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

TOULOUSE & EMDEN GEESE

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

SPECKLED SUSSEX

Barred Rock, RIR, hens
& roos, \$12 ea; Bantams,
Guineas, Jungle Fowl,
Ducks, \$5-10 ea
Joe Culbertson
Greenwood
864-229-5254

WHT LEGHORN BANTAMS

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

WANT-FARM EQUIPMENT

9976/9986 COTTON PKR PARTS

or whole machine, may
consider light fire damaged
machines also
John Harshaw
York
803-517-5675

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

FRT SUITCASE WTS

for JD 30/40 series tractors
Chris Chambers
Anderson
864-350-0190

3PH ROTOTILLER

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

JD 3020-4020

dsl; JD 158/ldr
Ronnie Judy
Dorchester
843-701-6394

8-10' FIELD CULT

older model for garden
Otto Williamson
Williamsburg
843-372-2692

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[MARKET-BULLETIN-
POLICIES](http://MARKET-BULLETIN-<u>POLICIES</u>)

WANT- LIVESTOCK

EACH AD MUST LIST
SPECIFIC ANIMALS.

MAMMOTH JACK

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

WANT-MISCELLANEOUS

PULPWOOD SAW TIMBER

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

FARM BELLS

any size; blksmith anvils;
cracked bells for parts
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

PARTS MACHINE

gears for JD FB B grain drill
Dale Wilson
Allendale
864-378-8327

HOW SCDNR IS MONITORING MARSHES IN A CHANGING COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

BY SCDNR

With growing awareness of rising sea levels along the coast, researchers are working to better understand how these changes are affecting South Carolina's coastal landscape. One area of focus is intertidal salt marshes – vital ecosystems that protect shorelines, support wildlife, and help buffer coastal communities from storms.

A key question scientists are asking is: can marshes keep pace with rising seas? And just as importantly, does sea level rise occur at the same rate everywhere, or do local differences affect marshes differently from place to place?

To help answer these questions, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Geological Survey has been monitoring marsh elevation across the coast since 1998. This long-term effort uses a network of tools called Surface Elevation Tables, or SETs, installed in marshes from North Carolina to Georgia.

SETs allow scientists to measure extremely small changes—down to the millimeter—in the height of the marsh surface over time. Each SET is anchored deep into the ground, creating a stable reference point. Researchers then return several times a year to measure how the marsh surface has risen or fallen relative to that fixed point.

In addition to these surface measurements, scientists also use high-precision GPS technology to determine whether the land itself is shifting. In some areas, the ground may be slowly sinking (a process called subsidence), while in others it may remain stable or even rise slightly.

By combining these measurements, researchers can better understand how marsh elevation is changing in relation to local sea level trends. This information provides valuable insight into where marshes may be keeping up—and where they may be at risk.

CLEMSON WELCOMES TURFGRASS AGRONOMIST FOCUSED ON RESEARCH, SUSTAINABILITY, INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

BY DENISE ATTAWAY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

CLEMSON, S.C. — Idalia “Alejandra” Sierra is the new assistant professor of turfgrass agronomy at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center (REC), near Florence, South Carolina.

She brings expertise in turfgrass science, sustainable management and stakeholder engagement to Clemson’s land-grant research and Extension programs in South Carolina.

Sierra joins Clemson from the University of Florida, where she earned a doctorate in horticultural sciences. Her research focuses on nutrient management, water conservation, herbicide evaluations and the performance of warm-season grasses.

A NATURAL FIT FOR CLEMSON’S LAND-GRANT MISSION

At Clemson, Sierra’s position combines research with Cooperative Extension outreach, a role she said aligns with her professional goals. Clemson’s commitment to translating research into practical solutions drew her to the University.

“Clemson’s land-grant mission really resonates with me,” she said. “This is a place where research isn’t limited to publications. It’s meant to make a difference for the people managing turfgrass every day.”

The Pee Dee REC’s facilities will allow her to design experiments that address real-world challenges faced by turf managers.

“The infrastructure at the Pee Dee Center is outstanding,” she said. “It gives me the chance to conduct research that is scientifically sound and highly applicable for golf courses and other athletic fields, as well as sod producers and homeowners across the state.”

Sierra’s position is part of the Clemson Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

“Dr. Sierra brings an exceptional blend of scientific expertise and practical experience to our turfgrass program,” said Jim Faust, Clemson plant and

environmental sciences acting department head. “Her commitment to stakeholder-driven research and her passion for sustainable turf management align perfectly with Clemson’s land-grant mission. We welcome her to the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences and look forward to the positive impact her work will have across South Carolina’s turfgrass industry.”

EARLY RESEARCH FOCUS: WEED MANAGEMENT



One of Sierra’s first research priorities will be addressing weed challenges on South Carolina athletic fields, including golf courses. She plans to evaluate both chemical and nonchemical strategies with an emphasis on long-term, sustainable solutions.

“My goal is not only to test an herbicide,” she said. “I want us to understand why the weed is there in the first place. When we understand the causes, we can help managers solve problems instead of just

treating symptoms.”

In addition to golf courses and other athletic fields, Sierra noted the state’s sod farms and home lawns also present vital opportunities for improved turf management. She aims to develop a program that supports all stakeholders, ensuring that science-based solutions are accessible at every level of the industry.

LISTENING FIRST

Before launching full-scale research projects, Sierra plans to meet with Clemson Extension agents, golf course and athletic field superintendents, sod producers and other industry stakeholders to identify priority issues.

“I want my program to be shaped by the people who rely on it,” she said. “Listening to stakeholders helps ensure that our research is relevant and that the solutions we develop actually work in the field.”

Extension outreach and communication will remain central to her work. Sierra, who speaks both English and Spanish, said she hopes to support

the diverse workforce that makes up much of the turfgrass industry.

“Being bilingual allows me to connect with more people,” she said. “I want every stakeholder, regardless of language or background, to be able to access and use the information we produce.”

COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS AND EDUCATION

Although her position focuses on research and Extension, Sierra said she hopes to remain engaged with Clemson students through mentoring, collaboration and training opportunities.

“I’ve always loved working with students,” she said. “Even if I’m not in the classroom, I want to be someone they can reach out to for research experience or career guidance.”

Sierra previously spent more than a decade teaching at Zamorano University in Honduras, where she instructed undergraduate students in plant production, organic agriculture and agricultural systems.

At the University of Florida, she also served as a teaching assistant for advanced turfgrass management and nutrient management courses.

BUILDING A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM

As she begins her work at the Pee Dee REC, Sierra said her focus will be on building partnerships and developing research programs grounded in collaboration.

“Great research happens when we combine scientific rigor with the knowledge of the people who work with turfgrass every day,” she said. “I’m excited to learn from them, work with them and build a program that serves South Carolina.”

Sierra will begin meeting with stakeholders this season through field visits, Extension programs and the launch of preliminary research trials.

To contact Sierra, call the Pee Dee REC at 843-662-3526 or e-mail her at isierra@clemson.edu.

USDA DESIGNATES 30 PRIMARY COUNTIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA AS PRIMARY NATURAL DISASTER AREA

13 CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES IN SC ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE

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: 12/10/2026

Primary Counties Eligible: Abbeville, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Beaufort, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Lancaster, Laurens, McCormick, Marlboro, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union and York.

Contiguous Counties Also Eligible: Aiken, Barnwell, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Florence, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Marion and Richland.

MORE RESOURCES

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 SCIENTISTS HELP ADVANCE EFFORT TO RESTORE THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT

BY DENISE ATTAWAY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Scientists at Clemson University are part of a multi-institution effort using advanced genomic tools to accelerate restoration of the American chestnut.

This once-dominant tree started disappearing from Eastern U.S. forests more than a century ago and was nearly eliminated by the 1950s.

Researchers from Clemson, Virginia Tech and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) are using genomic selection to shorten breeding cycles and speed the development of trees capable of surviving chestnut blight and *Phytophthora* root rot.

Genomic selection is a method that predicts disease resistance using DNA.

In previous years, TACF used the traditional backcross breeding method to develop blight-resistant trees. That method proved unsuccessful because the scientists learned that many genes were involved in blight resistance.

“Backcross breeding works best when there are only a few genes involved,” said Steve Jeffers, Clemson plant pathologist in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

Instead of traditional breeding, the new method uses genetic data to guide decisions. Scientists repeatedly analyze DNA to find the exact genes linked to resistance. They use that information to breed individual trees with those helpful genes.

Scientists say this approach could also serve as a model for restoring other threatened tree species worldwide.

THE FALL OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT

The American chestnut was once a dominant tree in Eastern forests, extending from Maine into Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. In South Carolina, it was prevalent in the mountains and also grew in some areas of the Piedmont Region.

The towering trees were a major source of food and income for wildlife and people in the Appalachian Mountains and South Carolina Upstate. People living in the area used the trees’ rot-resistant wood for lumber, fencing and furniture.

By the 1950s, blight and root rot had eliminated most mature trees, leaving a lasting ecological gap. Both diseases are caused by introduced exotic microorganisms. Chestnut blight is caused by a fungus with airborne spores that attacks the above-ground portion of the tree.

Root rot is caused by a fungus-like oomycete, or microorganism, that lives in soil and attacks chestnut tree roots. These plant pathogens have become established in many eastern forests.

This new research shows that genomic tools can identify blight-resistant trees without waiting years for field testing.

Scientists analyzing DNA from thousands of hybrid chestnut trees found that future generations could double current levels of blight resistance while retaining roughly 75% of American chestnut ancestry. This is an important factor in preserving the tree’s natural characteristics.

“These trees are expected to begin producing large quantities of seed for restoration within the next decade,” said Jared Westbrook, TACF director of science.

Recurrent genomic selection is at the center of this research. This method has driven dramatic gains in crops, livestock and forestry in terms of disease resistance, productivity, growth rates and even taste.

It involves using a computer model to associate a tree’s DNA profile with field-measured responses to disease, such as canker formation by the blight fungus. This allows scientists to predict a tree’s resistance using DNA profiles accurately, provided the tree is related to those already evaluated in the field.

“Recurrent genomic selection lets us predict which trees will perform best before they reach maturity,” Westbrook said. “That shortens breeding cycles and increases precision. It’s a method proven in agriculture and forestry. Applying it to conservation allows restoration to operate at a scale and efficiency we’ve never had before.”

CLEMSON’S ROLE

Jeffers has played a key role in studying *Phytophthora* root rot, particularly through long-term testing of hybrid chestnut seedlings in South Carolina. Since 2004, he and TACF

researchers, along with Seneca, South Carolina, resident Dr. Joe James, have been evaluating hybrid seedlings for root rot resistance.



A fourth-generation American-Chinese hybrid chestnut tree grows in an orchard at Chestnut Return Farms in Seneca, South Carolina. Scientists are studying the trees to better understand how to combat chestnut blight and *Phytophthora* root rot and restore American chestnut trees to forests in the Eastern U.S.

“This type of breeding effort has been a collaboration among many institutions over many years,” Jeffers said. “Different research teams each contribute their own expertise. Clemson has primarily advanced the root rot side of the work.”

Eventually, trees from local American chestnut populations will be bred with resistant trees to help them better adapt to local conditions.

Scientists say the Upstate mountain region, where

chestnuts have historically thrived, is expected to be a priority area for future restoration plantings once resistant trees are ready. Conservation groups are collecting seeds from surviving wild chestnut trees in the Southeast to preserve regional genetics for future breeding.

NOT A QUICK FIX

Researchers caution that the restoration will take time because disease resistance involves multiple genes and must be strengthened across generations.

“Chestnut restoration is a long-term compounding process,” said Michael Goergen, TACF president and chief executive officer. “Each generation becomes stronger and better adapted.”

James said restoring the species will benefit both ecosystems and communities.

“It’s about improving the ecology of our planet,” he said. “At one time, chestnuts were an important food source for people and wildlife. All forms of wildlife eat chestnuts. People in Appalachia depended on chestnuts as a big cash crop. When blight hit, they had to leave the mountains and find jobs elsewhere.

“The chestnut is a magnificent tree. Much greater than any tree we’ve ever had. We need to do what we can to restore it.”

The scientists said this work offers a model not only for the American chestnut but for threatened tree species worldwide.

For more information, read *Genomic approaches to accelerate American chestnut restoration in the journal Science*.



Clemson plant pathologist Steve Jeffers and Dr. Joe James inspect chestnut trees for signs of blight at James’s Chestnut Return Farms near Seneca, South Carolina.

USDA HIGHLIGHTS EPA EMERGENCY EXEMPTION OF PRODUCT TO TREAT NEW WORLD SCREWORM

BY USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently submitted an Emergency Exemption request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to allow the importation and use of Elanco's product, Tanidil, a topical powder used to treat or prevent New World screwworm (NWS). Today, EPA granted USDA's request and issued the Emergency Exemption under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

This authorization will support APHIS and State animal health officials in preparing for possible cases of NWS in livestock and other animals in the United States.

PRODUCT AVAILABILITY AND IMPORT TIMELINE

Tanidil is manufactured in Brazil and is not currently available in the United States, so it must be imported. With the EPA authorization finalized, APHIS will now begin the process of ordering and importing the product. Importation and relabeling are expected to take approximately 90 to 100 days from the time the official order is placed.

Some States also require State-level Tanidil registration, so APHIS will notify individual States of the emergency exemption and request registration in those States. As a result, Tanidil may not be available in certain States.

DISTRIBUTION AND USE

Tanidil will be available only through APHIS via the National Veterinary Stockpile and will be distributed in coordination with State animal health officials and federally recognized tribal agencies. If there is an NWS incursion in the United States, the product may be used only by Federal, State, local agencies, and federally recognized tribal agencies, and persons working under their supervision, including:

- personnel at quarantine stations and areas;
- veterinarians;
- certified applicators at livestock and game facilities, zoos, wildlife facilities, animal rehabilitation centers; and
- wildlife professionals.

This differs from typical processes, as the National Veterinary Stockpile does not usually distribute countermeasures directly to private entities.

Tanidil is authorized for use across multiple species, including livestock, captive and temporarily captured wildlife, and some species of zoo animals. It is not for use in domestic pets or birds. State officials or others using it should refer to and follow specific labelled instructions and product factsheet prior to use.

Once the product is imported, APHIS will share additional information about the requirements for use, including tracking and reporting requirements and required safety and personal protective equipment for use.

Tanidil is similar to the product Negasunt—which contains an added antibiotic and is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rather than EPA. The two products have different distribution requirements and regulatory pathways, but both will only be available in the United States through the National Veterinary Stockpile. FDA granted an emergency use authorization for Negasunt earlier this afternoon.

Additional information will be shared at screwworm.gov as it is available.

SOUTH CAROLINA REQUESTING INPUT ON OPPORTUNITY ZONE NOMINATIONS

PROGRAM ENCOURAGES PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES

BY SC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Department of Commerce (S.C. Commerce), on behalf of the state of South Carolina, is requesting input to guide the nomination of eligible census tracts for designation under the federal Opportunity Zone program, a federal initiative designed to encourage economic development and job creation through long-term private investment in designated low-income urban and rural communities.

Originally enacted as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the program provides federal tax incentives for taxpayers who reinvest realized capital gains into Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOF), which in turn invest in designated Opportunity Zones. The program was recently made permanent and updated through the One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law on July 4, 2025. These updates modernize the program to

support sustained, targeted investment, including revised eligibility criteria and enhanced benefits tied to the length of investment. Investors may qualify for capital gains deferral and other tax advantages, further incentivizing long-term economic activity in underserved communities.

Under the revised program, Governor Henry McMaster may nominate up to 25% of South Carolina's eligible census tracts for Opportunity Zone designation.

While some currently designated Opportunity Zones may be eligible for redesignation, others may not meet the updated criteria. To ensure a comprehensive and inclusive nomination process, S.C. Commerce invites stakeholders, community leaders and the public to submit recommendations for census tracts within their communities.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All recommendations must be submitted no later than June 1, 2026, via email to OpportunityZones@scommerce.com.

For additional information or to submit a census tract for consideration, visit scommerce.com/opportunity-zone. This webpage will be updated as further federal guidance becomes available.

PROGRAM CONTACT

For questions or more information, email OpportunityZones@scommerce.com.



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.

Our 6th annual *Grown in SC* magazine is available now!

Read it online at agriculture.sc.gov/magazine or grab a printed copy at upcoming SCDA events this year.

