

MARKET BULLETIN

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June 18, 2026

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1913



FIRST GOOD GROWER EXCHANGE CELEBRATES UPSTATE FARMERS, CHEFS, AND LOCAL FOOD CHAMPIONS

BY JIM JOHNSON, SC SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

On a warm spring evening at Swamp Rabbit Café and Grocery, farmers, chefs, food entrepreneurs, and local food advocates gathered around a shared table and a shared purpose: strengthening South Carolina's local food economy one relationship at a time.

The inaugural Good Grower Exchange, held May 18 in Greenville, marked the first of eight regional events planned across South Carolina through 2027. Organized by the South Carolina Food Systems Network, the program is funded through a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant administered by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and is designed to connect specialty crop growers with chefs, food entrepreneurs, and food system partners while celebrating those who are leading the way in local food.

The evening also featured the presentation of the inaugural Good Grower Exchange Awards, recognizing outstanding contributions to South Carolina's local food system.

Nathan Vannette of Growing Green Family Farms in Anderson County was recognized as a Good Grower Exchange Upstate Farmer of the Year. Known throughout the Upstate for his high-quality leafy greens, fruits, vegetables, and extensive growing knowledge, Vannette has built a reputation as one of the region's rising agricultural leaders. His products can be found in restaurants, food hubs, and local markets across the Upstate, where chefs and consumers alike value his commitment to quality and consistency.

The second Upstate Farmer of the Year award was presented to Margie Levine of Crescent Farms in Laurens County. Levine has become well known for producing exceptional carrots and a diverse selection of fruits and vegetables supplied to restaurants, food hubs, and local food buyers

throughout the region. Her dedication, perseverance, and decades of agricultural experience have made her a respected figure within South Carolina's farm-to-table community.

Together, Vannette and Levine represent two generations of South Carolina agriculture united by a shared commitment to feeding their communities through locally grown food.

The inaugural Good Grower Exchange Upstate Chef of the Year Award was



Margie Levine of Crescent Farms, one of two Good Grower Exchange Upstate Farmers of the Year, with Jim Johnson.

presented to Stephen Musolf of Oak & Honey in Greenville.

Musolf has earned recognition for building menus that feature locally sourced ingredients and for his support of South Carolina farmers. His commitment extends beyond simply purchasing local products; he actively works with growers to utilize seasonal abundance, often creating menu features that showcase bumper crops and help farmers find markets for their harvests.

The South Carolina Food Systems Network Partner of Distinction Award was presented to Swamp Rabbit Café and Grocery, with recognition given to co-owner Mary Walsh, Food Hub Manager Justin Roller, and the entire Swamp Rabbit team.

For years, Swamp Rabbit Café and Grocery has served as a cornerstone of the Upstate's local food movement. Through its grocery, café, and food hub operations, the organization supports farmers by purchasing, aggregating, marketing, and distributing locally grown products to consumers and institutions throughout the region.

Their work has helped create reliable market opportunities for farmers while making fresh South Carolina-grown food more accessible to communities across the Upstate and beyond.

The Good Grower Exchange was created with a simple idea: strong local food systems begin with strong relationships.

Upcoming regional exchanges will be held in Florence, Columbia, and Charleston, with a second round of events scheduled in each region during the following year.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



HUGH E. WEATHERS

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

HELENE RELIEF GRANT DEADLINE IS SOON

If you suffered agricultural or timber losses during Hurricane Helene, it's time to apply for assistance through the State Disaster Relief Block Grant for Helene administered by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. The application period ends July 11, 2026.

Here are the highlights. This is \$38 million in federal aid set aside for four types of production losses not covered by any 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. The only way to apply is online. You can find a link to do so, and much more information and resources, at agriculture.sc.gov/helene.

I know planting and tending row crops and harvesting summer

produce has South Carolina farmers busy right now, but I want you to mark your calendars for two important upcoming ag expos later this year:

Tri-State Ag Expo — Pendleton, SC

July 15, 10 am–8 pm, and July 16, 8 am–4 pm

tristateagexpo.com

It's the second year for this homegrown agricultural expo featuring exhibitors, equipment, breakout sessions and more. The first year drew more than 1,000 attendees. One of our favorite Upstate farmers, R.D. Morrison, is the organizer of this event.

Sunbelt Ag Expo — Moultrie, GA

October 20–22

sunbelttagexpo.com

Attracting more than 80,000 attendees annually and featuring 1,200+ exhibitors, Sunbelt is a big deal. South Carolina has been selected as the Spotlight State for this year's Expo and will be responsible for the main building and Sunbelt Farmer of the Year Luncheon, providing a centralized hub for showcasing South Carolina agriculture and commodities to tens of thousands of visitors. To discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact Cristina Key at ckey@scda.sc.gov or 803-734-2190.

Hope to see you out there on the back roads of South Carolina soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SC Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting

June 26-27
The meeting will start at 5 pm with a Hamburger Social with side items. Members and guests will be able to experience Hollow Creek's unique flower fields and interact with fellow growers of Christmas tree. Starting at 8 am on Saturday, Mike McCartha will give an overview of the Hollow Creek Tree Farm operation and farm tour with field demonstrations of equipment, pruning techniques, and other culture processes. After lunch, there will be Pesticide Session for Recertification Credit and a panel discussion. No charge for registration for SCCTA members. Non-member farms pay \$50. This fee will be credited toward their 2026 membership dues if the attendee farm chooses to join the association in the first month of attendance.

Hollow Creek Tree Farm
228 Windmill Road, Gilbert
Contact: Steve Penland
slpenland69@gmail.com • 803-366-7605

Newton Blueberry Festival

June 27 • 8 am - 1 pm
A fun-filled day with fresh berries, local vendors, family-friendly activities, and more. \$5 parking per vehicle.

Newton Blueberry Farm
7834 Hwy 162, Hollywood
newtonblueberryfarm1968@gmail.com • 843-889-2358
newtonblueberry.com

Bog Gardening & Carnivorous Plants Workshop

June 27 • 9 - 11 am
Join our very own Evan D. Cook for a fascinating dive into the world of bog gardening and carnivorous plants. This engaging class begins with an overview of natural bogs found in South Carolina, exploring the unique ecosystems and diverse plant communities that thrive in these wetland environments. After the lecture, roll up your sleeves for a hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to build your own bog garden to take home.

Moore Farms Botanical Garden
100 New Zion Road, Lake City
info@moorefarmsbg.org • 843-210-7582
www.moorefarmsbg.org

SWAP: Plants

June 27 • 11 am - 12:30 pm
Bring up to 5 plants or cuttings to exchange for new ones! Bring any plant from house plants, perennials, annuals, vegetables, or other garden plants. Please label your plants and ensure that cuttings are rooted.

Richland Library Wheatley
931 Woodrow Street, Columbia
richlandlibrary.com/event/61748/calendar

SC Ag + Art Tour

June 27
Bamberg County
agandarttour.com/bamberg
June 26 & 27
Georgetown County
agandarttour.com/georgetown

Market Bulletin Office

Monday - Friday • 8 AM - 4:30 PM
803-734-2536 • marketbulletin@scda.sc.gov
agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin

EDITOR Eva Moore
ADS & CIRCULATION COORDINATOR Janet Goins
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Stephanie Finnegan

South Carolina Department of Agriculture Contacts

Commissioner's Office
803-734-2190

Certified SC Program 803-734-2207	Metrology Laboratory 803-253-4052
Consumer Protection 803-737-9700	Milk Safety 803-667-1161
Fruit & Vegetable Inspection 803-737-4588	Produce Safety 803-753-7267
Market News—Fruit & Vegetable 803-737-4671	Retail Food Safety 803-896-0640
Market News—Livestock & Grain 803-737-4491	SCATE Card 803-734-2185
Market News Recording 803-737-5900	Wholesale Food Safety 803-737-0147

The South Carolina Market Bulletin

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POLICIES FOR ADVERTISING

For our full policies, please visit:
agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin-policies

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

Ads are published free of charge and in good faith. The *Market Bulletin* reserves the right to edit and verify ads but assumes no responsibility for their content.

Ads cannot be accepted from agents, dealers, or commercial businesses, including real estate. Sealed bids, legal notices, or consignment sales are not accepted.

SUBMITTING ADS

No matter the submission method, submissions must include the advertiser's name, complete address with zip code and county, and phone number with area code. While we don't publish the address, we need this information for our records. Do not use all capital letters.

- **Online:** Go to agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin. Select "Submit Market Bulletin Ad" and complete the form. If you include your email address, you will receive an automated reminder for a renewal.
- **Mail:** SC Market Bulletin, PO Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211. You must use 8.5 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
JUNE 23 • 12:00 PM

PEE DEE STATE FARMERS MARKET'S
WATERMELON FESTIVAL
SATURDAY
**JUNE 27
2026**
10 AM to 3 PM
2513 West Lucas Street • Florence, SC
PEEDEESTATEFARMERSMARKET.COM

ACTIVITIES
Watermelon Tasting
Watermelon Eating Contests (Ages 8-16)
10:30 Ages 8-10
11:00 Ages 11-13
11:30 Ages 14-16
2025 SC Watermelon Queen Appearance
Palmetto Rural Fire Co. Little Red Fire Truck Rides

FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
COMPLIMENTARY EV CHARGING
FOOD ON-SITE:
COFFEE DOC & DELI
THE OYSTER BAR
FIREMEN'S KITCHEN FOOD TRUCK
ALOHA KITCHEN RESTAURANT OPEN 11 AM - 8:30 PM

Fruit & Veggie Festival
July 18 ~ 2026 ~
8 AM to 3 PM
Certified SC Produce Vendors
Food Vendors
Games & Prizes
GREENVILLE State Farmers Market
greenvillestatefarmersmarket.com

SCDA State Farmers Markets

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FARMERS MARKET
3483 Charleston Highway
West Columbia, SC 29172
803-737-4664

GREENVILLE STATE FARMERS MARKET
1354 Rutherford Road
Greenville, SC 29609
864-244-4023

PEE DEE STATE FARMERS MARKET
2513 W. Lucas Street
Florence, SC 29501
843-665-5154

VISIT AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV
Click on the State Farmers Markets button for more information about each location

SC Market Bulletin Subscription & Renewal Form

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

6/18/26

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

STERILE GRASS CARP

\$12/\$18; Bluegill & Shellcracker, 65¢; Redbreast, 75¢; Ch Catfish, 65¢; 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

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

CATTLE

22 POLLED HFRD BULLS

18 m/o, thick muscle, \$3700+; 18 red Baldy steers, 450 lbs, \$5/lb
Norris Fowler
Union
864-219-0182

2 YRLG BULLS

¼ Char, ¾ Blk Ang, from reg stock, \$2800 ea
Debbie Wade
Chester
803-385-8965

2 BLK ANG COWS

(2) 6 w/o calves, \$5500; (11) 700-800 lb calves, \$4/lb if all taken
Dan Coward
Dillon
843-472-8122

BLK ANG BRED HEFRS

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

JERSEY HEFRS

6 m/o, \$1100; cow/hefr calf pr, \$3500; cow, \$2250; all cows exposed to Jersey bull
Robert Turner
Orangeburg
803-596-6463

REG ANG BULLS

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

4 Y/O BA BULL

good docility & fertility, kept rplcmnt hefrs, \$4500
Kaden Schrock
Barnwell
330-663-1010

REG BLK ANG FEMALES

low input, exc feet & utters, cow/calf prs, open hefrs, \$6000+
Dixon Shealy
Newberry
706-590-0451

REG BLK ANG BULLS

exc feet, low input, docile & BSE, \$8000+
Walter Shealy
Newberry
803-924-1000

8 M/O HFRD BULL

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

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

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

TRL

made from long bed Ford p-up, w/HD strings, \$850 cash
Ronald Cooke
Greenville
864-834-4325

20 BLADE DISC

\$1200; (2) 11 cults \$300; 7' boom pole, \$125; call/text
Franklin Brown
Charleston
843-224-4711

MF SQ BALER

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

2R TRNSPLNTR

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

1R BED MAKER

Tuflin, HD 4 disc, 3ph; & undercut bar, Woodward Crossing, 11, 3ph on tool bar, \$900 ea; more
David Long
Richland
803-609-7057

'18 VERMEER 504R

signature baler, net wrap, twine, VGC, 6045 bales, \$16,000
Stan Suchecki
Laurens
864-207-1753

JD 922F GRAIN HDR

FR, \$8500
Drake Kinley
Anderson
864-353-9628

18' DISC HARROW

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

FRONTIER MS1002 SPRDR

for manure, fert, \$1950; MF grain drill 33, \$600
F Rowe
Newberry
803-271-7768

'42 AC TRACTOR

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

'59 JD 530 TRACTOR

GC, used recently in hay making, parade ready, \$5900
Will Kraft
Greenville
864-979-7910

INTL 1466

w/canopy & dual whls, \$18,000 obo
Joseph Henson
York
803-448-5287

MF 230

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

5' ROTARY TILLER

'22 Titan UL60, nvr used, under shed, VGC, \$2200
Lora Baldwin
Lexington
803-318-5635

JD 459 BALER

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

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

NH 450 SILAGE SPECIAL

twine or wrap, 282 bales, shed kept & covered, EC, \$40,000 obo
Jamie Kinard
Dorchester
843-613-4078

CASE IH 2022 COTTON PKR

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

RHINO 2160 BOOM MWR

in GC, \$9500
Jeffrey Gilmore
Chesterfield
843-517-0315

GRAIN BIN

w/24" centrifugal fan, VGC, used little, photo avail, \$1750 cash
Ronald Townsend
Anderson
864-958-0317

5x7 HARDEE DUMP TRL

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

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

NH BC5070 SQ BALER

VGC, photos avail, \$9000, call/text
Bill Shuler
Aiken
803-710-0445

2 HAY TEDDERS

VGC, 2 head, PB, PTO, buyers choice Kuhn or Niemeyer, \$1750
George Mccoy
Chesterfield
843-307-8866

5' BHB GROOMING MWR

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

8N FORD TRACTOR

restored, \$2800; 11 cult, \$225; 20-disc harrow, \$1400; 6' scrape blade, \$400; all 3ph & obo
Otis Hembree
Spartanburg
864-316-1222

73" CARONI FLAIL MWR

GC, \$2800
Thomas Padgett
Hampton
803-943-6374

MF 231S TRACTOR

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

'12 RHINO TW84 ROTARY CUTTER

GC, new blade, \$2000
Stephen Gedosch
Greenville
864-982-4490

IH 1066 & CAT D7 17A

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

STOCK COMBO TRL

Big Valley GN w/tack room, removable dividers & cut gate, swing/slide rear, \$3200 obo
Derek Drafts
Saluda
803-429-3291

JD HX14 ROTARY CUTTER

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

'22 BEE 12' STOCK TRL

BP, 7000 lbs cap, \$6500 firm
William Hudson
Sumter
803-305-8616

JD 5115 M

w/ldr & front hyd, cab heat/air, radio, fully loaded, LN, LT 700 hrs, \$95,000
Ronny Wilson
Anderson
864-356-6959

3PT SCOOP PAN

\$125
Jason Nichols
Saluda
864-992-9292

6' W AERATOR

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

'23 JD 4044M TRACTOR

EC, 114 hrs, canopy, frt end ldr, MFWD, hydro trans, 44 hp, \$26,000
Charles Casey
Anderson
864-617-3656

FARM LABOR

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

LIME SPREADING

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

FORESTRY MULCHING

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

NEED INDIVIDUALS

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

BEAVER TRAPPING

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

MOBILE SAWMILLING

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

FORESTRY MULCHING

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

TREE LIMB TRIMMING

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

HAULING

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

DOZER/TRACKHOE WORK

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

EXCAVATOR WORK

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

EXCAVATOR

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

DOZER/TRACKHOE WORK

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

HERBICIDE/PESTICIDE APPLS

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

LIGHT TRACTOR WORK

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

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.

50A RIDGE SPRING

cultivated, prime agricultural land, \$900,000
Jimmy Forrest
Saluda
803-480-0442

17+/-A OF CB

Ware Place area, land locked for \$45,000/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

WANT LAND

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

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 LEASE

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

FRESH PRODUCE

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

FRESH BLUEBERRIES

\$15/gal bag
Darnell Miller
Aiken
803-507-1926

BLK WALNUTS

\$30 for all
Mary Brooks
Orangeburg
803-614-5397

CHICKEN EGGS

\$3/dz or \$5/2 dz
Barbara Lyles
Lexington
803-360-0114

CHICKEN EGGS

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

JUMBO QUAIL

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

FRESH EGGS

Chicken & Quail, \$2.50/dz
Derek Drafts
Saluda
803-429-3291

FRESH BROWN EGGS

\$3/dz; jumbo Quail eggs,
\$4.50/15 count
Leland Davis
Clarendon
803-468-6963

A2/A2 RAW MILK

all Jersey herd, \$12/gal,
\$6.50/1/2 gal
Brittany Kanagy
Barnwell
803-793-7251

GOATS / LLAMAS / SHEEP

NANNIES

Nubian/NGN cross, 8+ w/o,
\$100 ea
Robert Smith
Calhoun
803-707-3309

15 F KIKO GOATS

\$150+; mature Females, \$300
George Phillips
Williamsburg
843-992-1964

ADGA ND DOES

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

12 KAT X DORPER LAMBS

5 m/o, \$200 ea
Benny Goff
Kershaw
803-269-8189

PB NUBIAN BUCK

2 y/o, \$300
Roger Barnes
Lexington
803-606-3335

ND GOATS

2 M, 5 F, 1-2 y/o, \$10 for all
Jeff Adams
Lexington
803-606-6053

KATAHDIN SHEEP

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

ND HOMESTEAD HERD

3 does, \$200 ea; 2 bucks
& 1 buckling, \$150 ea;
disbudded, utd CDT, gentle,
call/txt, lv msg
Emily Schneider
Charleston
864-633-0642

HOGS / PIGS

YORKSHIRE/ HAMPSHIRE PIGS

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

FB BERKSHIRE PIGLETS

M/F, all tails docked, males
cut, \$150 ea
Jason Painter
Spartanburg
864-641-9855

KUNE-POTBELLY MIX

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

PLANTS & FLOWERS

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

3 GAL AZALEAS

\$10; Gardenia, Boxwoods,
\$7; Lemon Grass, Tea
Olives, \$8; Crepe Myrtles,
Hydrangeas, \$20
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

BLUE POND IRIS

hardy & multiplying, you
dig, \$10/10 plants
Sandra Storey
Lexington
803-513-7743

HAY & GRAIN

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

DEER COB CORN

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

'25 4x5 RND HQ CB

limed/fert, 2nd & 3rd cuts,
\$50 ea, del/fee
Dale Blackmon
Lancaster
803-577-9008

'25 CQ COASTAL

4x5 twine, shed stored, \$40;
some w/rain, \$25
Michael F Hallman
Lexington
803-657-5526

DEER CORN

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

'25 COASTAL

limed & fert, shed kept, HQ,
\$75/bale CQ, \$65/bale; sq,
\$9/bale, del avail
Eddie Phillips
Sumter
803-486-0081

'26 4x5 FESCUE MIX

CQ, \$50/bale
Quinton Whitener
Union
803-923-2036

'25 FESCUE/MIXED GRASS

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

HQ SQ CB

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

4x5 FESCUE

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

SHELLED CORN

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

'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 HQ 4x5 RND CB

net wrap, limed & fert, NR,
stored outside on indiv
pallets, \$60 ea
Eddie West
Aiken
803-507-8205

4x5 RND CB

net wrap, HQ, shed kept,
\$80; HQ field kept, \$70; CQ,
\$60/roll, del w/fee, all 2026
Tyler Sanderlin
Barnwell
803-709-2626

FESCUE & RYE GRASS MIX

'25 & '26, HQ, 4x5, string
wrap, barn stored, no
weeds, \$50/bale
Terry Blakely
Greenville
864-483-1920

BERMUDA GRASS

18"x36" sq's, baled 6/5, \$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

4x5 HAY/STRAW MULCH

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

'26 HQ SQ CB

shed kept, \$9, del avail for
addl fee
Nathan Oswald
Lexington
803-317-3090

'25 4x5 RND CB

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

4' TUBE GATE

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

GAME BIRD PEN

6 stall w/trough, older, \$100
David Long
Richland
803-609-7057

5 HP ELEC MOTOR

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

GARDEN TILLER

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

HUSQVARNA FT900 TILLER

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

CHICKEN COMPOST

\$10/Bob Cat scoop; litter,
\$5/scoop, we load
Carol Mosley
Pickens
864-656-3064

NEW RAM PUMP

not elec, 1000 gal/day, \$1200
Glenwood Williams
Aiken
803-663-3909

2H WAGON

restored to NC, \$2400
Harry Isbell
Anderson
864-617-2627

2 SUGAR MILL ROLLERS

in GUC, \$1050
James Linder
Colleton
843-908-3193

PLASTIC NURSERY POTS

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

PURPLE MARTIN GOURD POLES

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

WORM CASTINGS FERT

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

HQ RABBIT MANURE

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

POLY HDR DIVIDER SNOUTS

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

HORSE HAY RING

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

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

GAS IRRIG/TRASH PUMP

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

LUMBER

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

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

2" IRRIG PIPE

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

ALUM BUDD WHLS

11-24.5, \$120 ea; 5 gal
buckets w/lids, \$2.05 ea
F Rowe
Newberry
803-271-7768

POULTRY

BOB WHT QUAIL EGGS

for hatching, \$6/dz, \$50/100
Dwight Gilliland
Saluda
864-941-0958

BANTAMS

Silver Quill, OE, Silver
Sebright, Barbu de
Watermael, \$25/pr
Tim Boozer
Newberry
803-924-3922

GROWN GUINEAS

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

4 FULL LEAPER HATCH ROOS

\$150 ea
Bobby Arnold
McCormick
864-550-5077

CHICKENS

\$5+
Barbara Lyles
Lexington
803-360-0114

SEX-LINK

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

LAYING HENS

domestic & game, \$20 ea
Mike McBride
Anderson
864-980-7832

BABY BOWIE QUAIL CHICKS

\$3.50+; Peachicks, \$75+
Ernie Redmond
Orangeburg
803-535-8038

BOB WHT QUAIL

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

25 RUNT PIGEONS

squab making, \$275;
Narragansett turkey pr, \$175
Thomas Waters
Colleton
843-696-6627

STD BRONZE TURKEY POULTS

(Heritage), \$25 ea; Toulouse
goslings \$50 ea; txt before
calling
Louise Pollans
Orangeburg
803-290-4287

RABBITS

TAMUK

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

FRENCH ANGORAS

4 bucks, 3 does, choc, blk, &
choc agouti, \$75 ea; call/txt,
lv msg
Emily Schneider
Charleston
864-633-0642

MO COTTONTAILS

\$15 ea
Steve Ard
Aiken
803-603-0642

REX

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

WANT-FARM EQUIPMENT

3PH ROTOTILLER

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

5-6" 3PH ROTOR TILLER

12' livestock trl, & 2h trl, w/
no tack room, trls both BP
& in GC
Charlie Doyle
Florence
843-992-6267

SMALL GRAIN COMBINE

pull type, prefer Intl but
open to others
James Carmichael
Horry
843-907-0635

8-10' FIELD CULT

older model for garden
& in GC
Otto Williamson
Williamsburg
843-372-2692

WANT-MISCELLANEOUS

TRACTOR TIRE

11-2x36
Debbie Wade
Chester
803-385-8965

LRG BENCH VISE

call/text
Brian Rikard
Oconee
706-491-1111

PULPWOOD SAW TIMBER

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

THE ROOTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S PEACH SEASON

HOW CLEMSON RESEARCH HELPED PROTECT ONE OF THE SOUTHEAST'S SIGNATURE CROPS

BY DENISE ATTAWAY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Note: The Clemson University Sandhill Research and Education Center (REC) proudly marks its centennial, celebrating 100 years of advancing agricultural innovation, environmental stewardship and community engagement in South Carolina. Since its founding in 1926, the Sandhill REC has served as a vital hub for research, education and outreach, supporting farmers, landowners and industry partners through science-based solutions and practical expertise.

Peach season is underway in South Carolina. Across the state, roadside stands, farmers' markets and grocery stores are filling with fresh local peaches.

What many consumers don't realize is that just a few decades ago, much of the Southeast's peach industry faced an uncertain future.

Young orchards were dying before growers could recover their investment. Microscopic soil pests weakened trees. Peach Tree Short Life syndrome devastated orchards across the region. By the 1990s, Southeastern peach acreage had declined by more than half.

For growers, the challenge wasn't producing more peaches. It was keeping peach trees alive long enough to remain profitable.

That's why scientists at Clemson University's Sandhill Research and Education Center began searching for a solution.

SOLVING A PROBLEM IN THE SOIL

On the sandy, nematode-infested soils of Sandhill REC near Columbia, researchers had a unique opportunity to study the same conditions growers faced across the Southeast. The center's combination of sandy soils, peach production history and persistent nematode pressure made it an ideal proving ground for new ideas.

When Clemson pomologist Greg Reighard arrived at the Sandhill REC in 1985, addressing Peach Tree Short Life became a priority. Rather than relying solely on greenhouse studies, Reighard and collaborating scientists established long-term field trials at the Sandhill REC and the USDA Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory in Byron, Georgia.

The goal was straightforward: find a rootstock that could help peach trees survive the challenges growers faced every day.

A rootstock forms the lower portion of a grafted tree, including the roots and lower trunk. The fruit-producing variety, known as the scion, is attached above it. Though consumers rarely see it, the rootstock plays a critical role in disease resistance, tree vigor and environmental tolerance.

At the time, growers primarily relied on two rootstocks. Nemaguard resisted root-knot nematodes but was highly susceptible to Peach Tree Short Life. Lovell offered some tolerance to Peach Tree Short Life but remained vulnerable to root-knot nematodes and often struggled on replant sites.

Scientists needed something better.

Their search eventually led them to a breeding line, B594520-9. In field trials, trees from this line consistently survived longer and maintained greater vigor than standard rootstocks under Peach Tree Short Life conditions.

They evaluated seedlings from surviving trees, confirming resistance to root-knot nematodes in greenhouse studies and exceptional survival in field trials.

In one long-term Sandhill REC trial, Guardian® selections achieved survival rates exceeding 90% after eight years, far outperforming traditional rootstocks grown under the same conditions. The scientists also documented reduced bacterial canker, no significant cold injury and vigorous tree growth.

"These traits are critical for young peach orchards to protect against the PTSL syndrome," Reighard said.

From dozens of promising candidates, one tree ultimately emerged with the combination of characteristics sought. That tree became the Guardian® BY520-9 mother tree.

A SOLUTION THAT SPREADS ACROSS THE SOUTHEAST

Guardian® rootstock was released to growers in 1994. Its rapid adoption reflected the confidence growers gained from years of field-tested results under conditions that mirrored those in their own orchards.

Over time, Guardian® became the dominant peach rootstock across much of the region. More than 50 million seeds have been sold, and an estimated 90% of peach trees planted in South Carolina and Georgia are grafted onto Guardian® rootstock.

For growers, the benefits were clear.

Hyder Farms in Landrum, South Carolina, grows much of its 170 acres of peach trees on Guardian® rootstock. Grower Matthew Hyder said the farm has been pleased with the results.

"Trees grown on Guardian rootstock are stronger," Hyder said. "We see a lot of growth and the yields are good."



To protect the integrity of the material, Guardian® BY520-9 received U.S. Plant Variety Protection No. 9400013, the first protection granted to a seed-propagated tree in the United States. Licensed nursery production and

strict labeling requirements helped ensure growers received authentic planting material.

The rootstock's success eventually extended beyond the Southeast, attracting international interest and generating royalties that supported continued research and Cooperative Extension programming.

LASTING IMPACT

More than 30 years after its release, Guardian® remains one of Clemson's most influential contributions to the peach industry.

Sandhill REC centennial logo.

Its success demonstrates the value of long-term field research conducted under real production conditions. The same sandy soils that once exposed some of the region's biggest orchard challenges became the proving ground for a solution that reshaped peach production across the Southeast.

Clemson scientists are now working on the next generation of Guardian®, building on research that began decades ago at Sandhill REC.

This summer, millions of peach trees across the Southeast are growing on Guardian® rootstock. Most consumers will never know its name. Yet every basket of peaches sold at a roadside stand, farmers market or grocery store reflects the lasting impact of research that began decades ago on the sandy soils of Sandhill REC.

CLEMSON SCIENTIST AIMS TO REDEFINE AGRICULTURE

BY DENISE ATTAWAY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

In greenhouses filled with climbing cucumber vines and carefully balanced hydroponic systems, Clemson University scientist Patrick Wechter sees more than a new way to grow vegetables.

He sees a future for South Carolina agriculture.

As traditional farming faces increasing pressure from labor shortages, volatile weather, rising input costs and shrinking profit margins, controlled environment agriculture (CEA) could offer growers a new path forward.

CEA involves a variety of systems that take a technology-based approach to farming. Systems range from simple shade structures and hoop houses to greenhouses to full indoor or vertical farms.

Wechter believes South Carolina is uniquely positioned to lead the CEA movement, but he needs growers to support it.

“I need agricultural entrepreneurs,” said Wechter, director of the Clemson Coastal Research and Education Center (REC) near Charleston, South Carolina. “I need people in the state to look at ‘farming’ in a different, 21st-century way. Bottom line is, if people are not willing, ready and excited about being a player in the field of controlled environment agriculture, then the dream stops there.”

REDUCING AMERICA’S DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS

At the Coastal REC, Wechter and his team are developing Asian long cucumbers and Persian-style Beit Alpha cucumbers specifically adapted for high-temperature greenhouse production systems. Beit Alpha cucumbers are premium, Middle Eastern heirloom cucumbers celebrated for their mild, sweet flavor, crisp texture and exceptionally thin, tender skin that requires no peeling.

Other Clemson scientists are using modern plant breeding, genetic engineering and gene-editing tools to develop greenhouse crops that are better suited for controlled environment agriculture.

Using facilities on the University’s main campus, this work focuses on creating plants with the correct shape and growth habits for greenhouse production, while also making them more resistant to diseases such as powdery mildew that can threaten greenhouse crops.

“In collaboration with Dr. Wechter, we have developed a fast and efficient gene-editing system for cucumber,” said Christopher Saski, Clemson systems geneticist. “Think of it as genetic

fine-tuning, or making small, precise tweaks to a plant’s own genes so it can perform better in a specific growing environment, such as a greenhouse. This system allows us to move from an idea to a gene-edited cucumber plant growing in a greenhouse in less than six months.

“Importantly, we can do this using our own proprietary approach that leaves no foreign DNA in the final plant, meaning these plants are not genetically modified organisms.”

The goal is ambitious but practical. The project seeks to reduce America’s dependence on imported greenhouse vegetables while creating profitable opportunities for South Carolina farmers.

SUPPORTING THE SOUTH CAROLINA ECONOMY

Many premium greenhouse cucumbers sold in American grocery stores today come from Canada and Mexico. Wechter believes South Carolina growers could compete in that market and thrive.

“South Carolina has numerous ‘pluses’ associated with entry into CEA,” Wechter explained. “The state has abundant water, a favorable subtropical climate, affordable farmland and an exceptional transportation infrastructure that allows produce to move efficiently up and down the East Coast.”

HYDROPONIC FARMING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil. Instead, the plants are grown in a water-based, nutrient-rich solution.

Unlike conventional agriculture, hydroponic greenhouse systems recycle nutrient-rich water, using up to 80% less water than traditional field production. That efficiency matters in an era where water access is becoming increasingly uncertain in many agricultural regions.

But for South Carolina growers, the opportunity may go even deeper.

“In hydroponic farming, the soil is not what determines production,” Wechter noted. “That creates opportunities for land that might otherwise sit unused or be converted to non-agricultural development.”

Wechter said greenhouse production offers predictability, which is something increasingly difficult to find in agriculture.

“Inside a controlled environment, growers can shield crops from heavy rain, extreme heat,

unexpected cold snaps and many disease pressures that devastate outdoor crops,” he said. “Production can continue year-round, allowing growers to target premium markets and maintain more stable supply chains.”

FARMING REDEFINED

For younger farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs, Wechter believes CEA could redefine what farming looks like.

“CEA is considered a technology-forward, advanced manufacturing form of agriculture,” he said. “It includes engineering, plant science, water science, plant pathology, logistics, sensors and lighting technology.”

The scale of opportunity is already visible across North America and Europe.

More than 1,000 acres of vegetables are currently grown under glass in North America alone. One Canadian company operates roughly 120 acres of greenhouse cucumbers, with most of its production shipped directly into U.S. markets.

The economics are attracting attention.

Greenhouse cucumbers are considered a premium product, often commanding prices significantly higher than those of traditional field-grown slicing cucumbers. Meanwhile, CEA production systems can dramatically increase output.

“CEA production is 20 to 200 times more productive than the same vegetable crop grown on ground,” Wechter said. “For cucumbers specifically, production can increase 20 to 40 times more than conventional systems.”

THE CEA MOVEMENT

The work happening at Clemson is part of a larger national movement.

Researchers at Clemson, South Carolina State University and the USDA U.S. Vegetable Laboratory are investing heavily in controlled environment agriculture research. Federal lawmakers have also identified CEA as a critical part of America’s agricultural future, with recent Farm Bill proposals directing major grant funding toward greenhouse and hydroponic research.

Still, Wechter says research alone will not build the industry.

“What happens next depends on whether South Carolina growers are willing to embrace change,” he said.

DO YOU NEED A WILL?

BY CENTER FOR HEIRS’ PROPERTY

If you own land and you do not have a Will, your land is in danger of becoming heirs’ property.

A Will allows YOU to make the decision about who inherits your land.

If you die without a Will, the State of South Carolina has written a Will for you under Sections 62-2-101, -102 and -103 of the South Carolina Probate Code and it decides who gets your land.

The Center for Heirs’ Property’s Legal Department has been providing Wills to the community since

2005. We consider this a way to prevent the heirs’ property problems we often see with our clients.

If you are a South Carolina resident, and your estate is worth less than \$500,000.00, the Legal Department can help.

There are (3) three ways our Legal Department can provide a Will:

- All current clients of CHP can have a Will prepared for free.
- Any South Carolina resident, with an estate worth less than \$500,000.00, can register for

one of our Free Will Clinics and have a Will prepared (for free) at the clinic.

- Any South Carolina resident, with an estate worth less than \$500,000.00, can call our office and schedule an appointment to have a Will drafted for \$50.00 or if over the age of 80, the Will is free.

For more information, call the Center for Heirs’ Property at 843-745-7055 or visit heirsproperty.org.

WATERMELON BOARD LAUNCHES RETAIL MERCHANDISING CONTEST

BY NATIONAL WATERMELON PROMOTION BOARD

The National Watermelon Promotion Board (NWPB) is proud to announce the launch of the 18th Annual Retail Merchandising Contest, inviting retailers from across the country to showcase their creativity and merchandising excellence for a chance to win top prizes, including a \$5,000 grand prize.

This year's contest introduces a partnership with Tajín®, encouraging retailers to incorporate the iconic chili-lime seasoning into their watermelon displays. To celebrate this collaboration, the first 100 qualifying entries that feature Tajín® in their merchandising will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card. In addition, the first 25 entrants will receive a \$20 digital gift card just for participating.

Retailers are encouraged to highlight watermelon's key attributes including health, happiness, value, and versatility, through innovative in-store and digital merchandising efforts. Eligible displays may feature any type of watermelon, including whole, fresh-cut, mini, yellow, red, or any mixed thereof.

Judging will be based on several criteria, including:

- Category visibility
- Visual merchandising creativity
- Effective use of materials
- Communication of nutritional benefits
- Inclusion of recipes or selection education
- Integration across print, online, and digital platforms

Prize Structure:

- 1st Place: \$5,000
- 2nd Place: \$2,500
- 3rd Place: \$1,000
- Honorable Mentions (3): \$500 each

"All year long, retailers play a vital role in connecting shoppers with fresh, nutritious foods," said Juliemar Rosado. "This contest is a celebration of their creativity and dedication. We're especially excited to partner with Tajín this year to inspire bold, flavorful displays that highlight watermelon in fun and unexpected ways."

"We've proudly partnered with NWPB for several years," said Eric Patrick, Tajín® fresh produce alliances. "Consumers love this flavor combination, and we look forward to seeing the innovative merchandising and marketing strategies retailers create. Together, watermelon and Tajín generate strong interest and engagement at retail."

The contest officially begins June 8, 2026, and runs through August 31, 2026. Merchandising efforts must take place a minimum of one week throughout the months of June, July or August. For more information, including Official Rules and an Online Entry Form, visit watermelon.org/audiences/retailers/retail-contest/. Entries, including entry forms and photos, can also be submitted via email to retail@watermelon.org. All submissions must be received by midnight EST on September 14, 2026.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL WATERMELON PROMOTION BOARD

The National Watermelon Promotion Board (NWPB), based in Winter Springs, Florida, was established in 1989 as an agricultural promotion group to promote watermelon in the United States and in various markets abroad. Funded through a self-mandated industry assessment paid by more

than 700 watermelon producers, handlers and importers, NWPB mission is to increase consumer demand for watermelon through promotion, research and education programs. A serving of nutrient-dense watermelon provides an excellent source of Vitamin C (25% DV), a source of Vitamin B6 (8% DV), and a delicious way to stay hydrated (92% water), with only 80 calories per 2-cup serving. Watermelon consumption per capita in the United States was roughly 15.4 pounds in 2025. Watermelon consumption in the United States approximated 5.3 billion pounds in 2025. Additionally, the United States exported 363 million pounds of watermelon. For additional information, visit watermelon.org.

ABOUT TAJÍN®

Industrias Tajín® is a market leader in both Mexico and the United States in chile products, in addition to being one of the most important brands in producing and commercializing products derived from chile worldwide. Today, it has a presence in more than 65 countries around the world. Tajín was founded in 1985, surprising consumers with the perfect blend of mild chile peppers, lime, and sea salt. In 1993, Tajín made its first export to the United States, and Tajín International Corporation was established in Houston, TX, from where all commercial activity of the brand in the U.S. is managed. The brand arrived in Central American and European markets in 2006. For more information visit tajin.com.

DPH ENCOURAGES SAFE SWIMMING, WATER SAFETY PRACTICES AHEAD OF SUMMER

BY SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

As temperatures rise and South Carolinians spend more time enjoying private or public pools, lakes, rivers, oceans, hot tubs, and splashpads, the South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) reminds residents of the importance of practicing water and swimming safety.

Each year, more than 4,000 unintentional drowning deaths occur in the United States. In 2024, 85 South Carolinians died because of unintentional drowning, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. From 2020-2024, children aged 1 to 4 years old had the highest rate of drowning deaths.

"Summer offers valuable opportunities for recreation, but it is important to remember that water activities carry inherent risks," said Heather Kirlough, DPH Core State Injury Prevention Program Coordinator. "By remaining vigilant and prioritizing safe practices, South Carolinians can enjoy the summer months while remaining safe and healthy."

Parents should always check for hazards and signs around designated swimming areas, and children should not swim alone or unattended. Enlist a trusted adult to act as the "Water Watcher," especially when children are at play near a pool, beach or open body of water.

Four-sided fences, barriers, covers and alarms should be installed around home pools.

DPH encourages all South Carolinians to take swimming lessons and learn more about water

safety. The American Red Cross offers classes for all age groups, from infants to adults.

FRESHWATER SAFETY

Additional precautions should be taken when swimming in freshwater bodies during the summer months. Natural waterbodies aren't chemically treated like swimming pools, so there is always a risk of coming into contact with potentially harmful bacteria, viruses, other organisms, or contaminants.

Naegleria fowleri is a naturally occurring amoeba in warm freshwater. Infection with *Naegleria fowleri* causes brain inflammation and damage that is very serious and almost always fatal.

Recreational water users should assume that *Naegleria fowleri* is present in any warm freshwater; however, the risk of infection is very low. Activities that can forcefully introduce the organism up the nose like diving, tubing, or skiing in warm freshwater areas such as lakes and rivers may increase risk of exposure and infection.

The only certain way to prevent a *Naegleria fowleri* infection is to refrain from getting warm, untreated or poorly treated, freshwater up your nose during water activities or when rinsing your nasal passages or sinuses. To reduce your risk:

- Avoid water-related activities in warm freshwater during periods of high water temperature and low water levels.
- Hold your nose shut, use nose clips or keep your

head above water when taking part in water-related activities.

- Avoid digging in or stirring up sediment surrounding warm, fresh water.
- Only rinse your nasal passages or sinuses with store-bought distilled or sterilized water, or with boiled then cooled tap water.

WATER MONITORING

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) monitors lakes, ponds, and rivers in South Carolina for harmful algal blooms (HAB), which can impact the health of people, animals, and the environment.

SCDES monitors for HABs to help keep people informed of any recommended precautions if and when a HAB is identified. SCDES's Algal Bloom Monitoring Map shows where current advisories and watches are in effect.

Additionally, SCDES routinely collects water samples at more than 120 locations along South Carolina's beaches. If high numbers of bacteria are found, an advisory is issued for that portion of the beach, advising people not to swim in those areas.

Visit the S.C. Beach Access Guide and zoom in or select a beach to look for swim advisory spots in that area.

For more important recommendations for staying safe when recreating in lakes and rivers, visit des.sc.gov/safeswimming.

USDA ANNOUNCES ENROLLMENT PERIOD AND PAYMENT RATES FOR SPECIALTY CROP FARMERS

BY USDA

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced payment rates and the enrollment period for the Assistance for Specialty Crops Farmers (ASCF) program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will issue \$1.625 billion in payments to eligible specialty crop producers in response to elevated input costs and market disruptions resulting from foreign competitors engaging in unfair trade practices that impeded specialty crop exports. Producers who have a Login.gov account can access and submit their pre-filled application starting June 1, 2026. Producers who do not have a Login.gov account or prefer to enroll in person at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office can request their pre-filled application beginning June 8, 2026. The ASCF enrollment period closes on Aug. 7, 2026.

“The Trump administration continues to put Farmers First and is committed to ensuring the economic strength of our specialty crop operations as we continue opening new markets abroad and strengthening demand domestically for American produce,” said Secretary Rollins. “Building on the success of the Farmer Bridge Assistance program, we are using an expedited program application and payment process through the One Farmer, One File system to ensure specialty crop producers also receive the necessary financial assistance as quickly as possible, while we work to build a more robust market with lower input costs and more opportunities.

These payments are authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Specialty crop payments are intended to provide financial support to allow producers to pay for production and marketing inputs in the face of significant market disruptions during the 2025 growing season.

HOW TO APPLY

Pre-filled applications will be available online to producers with a [Login.gov](#) account who timely

filed their 2025 crop acreage report for eligible specialty crops. Starting on June 1, 2026, producers who have a Login.gov account can access and submit their pre-filled application from [fsa.usda.gov/ascf](#). Beginning June 8, 2026, producers can request their pre-filled ASCF application from their FSA county office.

The deadline to submit completed ASCF applications is Aug. 7, 2026. Producers can complete their applications online or submit them to their FSA county office.

Payments will be issued as applications are submitted and approved, beginning as early as the first week of signup.

LOGIN.GOV

[Login.gov](#) is the public’s one account for government. Producers can use one account and password for secure, private access to participating government agencies, including FSA.

To apply for ASCF online, producers can start by visiting [fsa.usda.gov/ascf](#) to create their Login.gov account. Producers who have an existing Login.gov account can work with FSA using their existing account.

With a secure Login.gov account, producers can be amongst the first to apply for ASCF, allowing them to view, complete, certify, and submit their application as well as track their application and payment status.

For assistance creating a [Login.gov](#) account, visit [login.gov/help](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Specialty crop acres of eligible crops reported to FSA as an initial, double crop, repeat crop, or subsequent crop by April 24, 2026, will be used to determine ASCF program payments. Acreage that is reported as a cover crop, prevented planted,

or with an intended use of grazing, left standing, green manure, silage, forage, volunteer, or experimental will not be used to determine ASCF program payments.

For a list of eligible specialty crops visit [fsa.usda.gov/ascf](#). Specialty crops grown in a controlled environment are not eligible, except for mushrooms.

Crop insurance linkage is not required; however, USDA strongly urges producers to take advantage of the new risk management tools provided in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, to best protect against future price risk and volatility.

PAYMENT CALCULATION

FSA used national average revenue per crop as a metric for developing the ASCF program payment categories and payment rates listed below. For a full list of eligible crops under each category, visit [fsa.usda.gov/ascf](#).

- Tier 1 — \$650 per acre
Includes eligible specialty crops with an average annual revenue of more than \$10,000 per acre.
- Tier 2 — \$225 per acre
Includes eligible specialty crops with an average annual revenue of more than \$2,300 per acre and up to \$10,000 per acre.
- Tier 3 — \$65 per acre
Includes eligible specialty crops with an average annual revenue of up to \$2,300 per acre.
- Beans and Peas — \$25 per acre
Includes all types of beans and peas that were not eligible for the FBA program.

For more information on how revenue per acre was calculated, visit [fsa.usda.gov/ascf](#).

The ASCF payment limitation is \$250,000.

More information on ASCF is available online at [fsa.usda.gov/ascf](#). Producers can also contact their local FSA county office.

From the Field

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SCATE CORNER

SOUTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL TAX EXEMPTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How do I find out what agricultural products are exempt from sales tax?

The SCATE Statute is the South Carolina law that defines and regulates the agricultural tax exemption. The SC Department of Revenue provides guidance on interpreting the law.

SCDOR’s 16-page Revenue Ruling is the most up-to-date source of information on what purchases are exempt from sales tax for SCATE cardholders and which are not.

Visit [dor.sc.gov/farmers](#) to find the Revenue Ruling and other information.

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

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](#)

Have you read our 2026 Grown in SC magazine yet?

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

