

The Mission

of SC Farm Bureau

is to promote

agricultural interests

in the state of

South Carolina

and optimize the lives

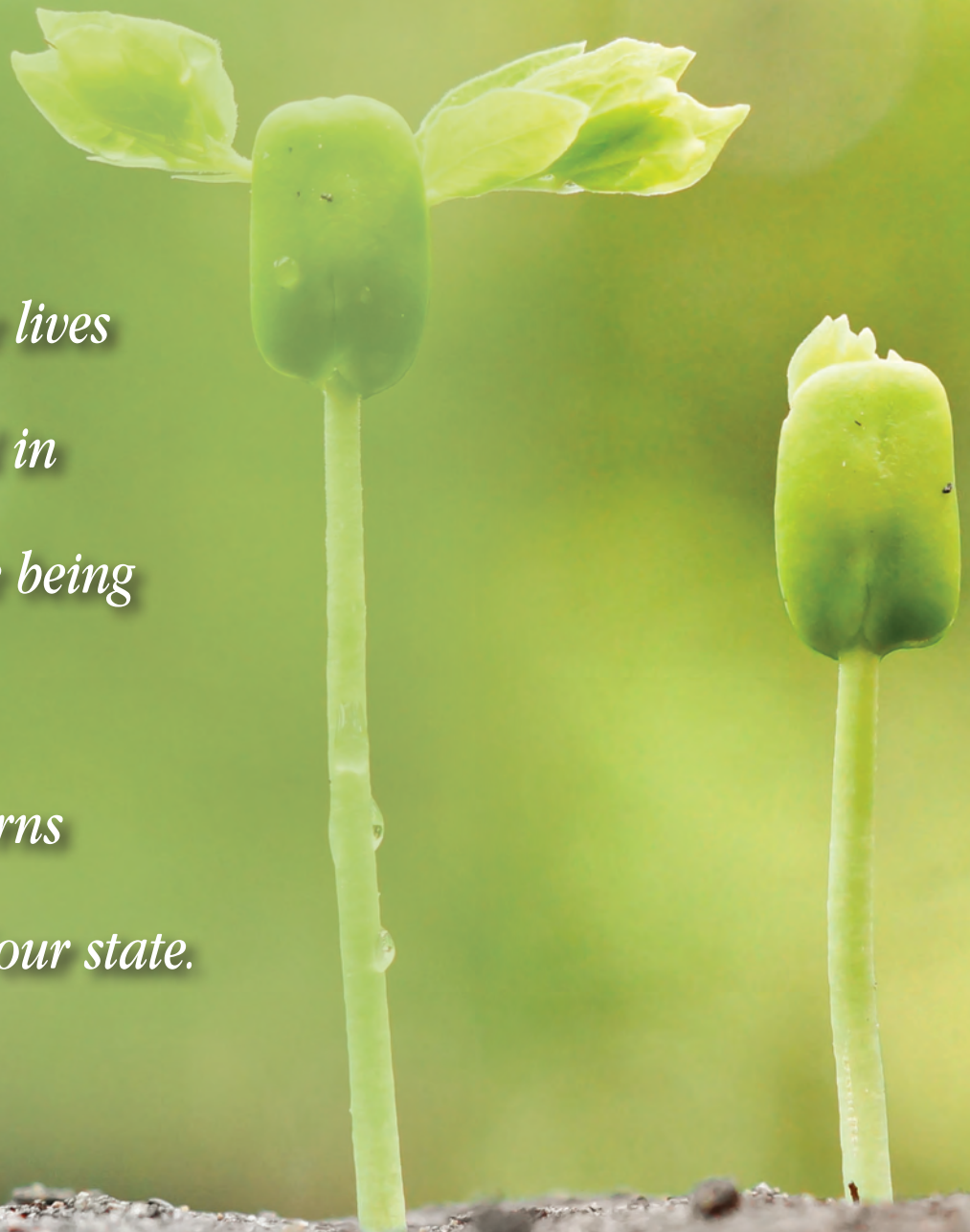
of those involved in

agriculture while being

respectful to the

needs and concerns

of all citizens of our state.



South Carolina FARMER

The
Magazine
of the
South Carolina
Farm Bureau
Federation

Spring 2018



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FOR SOUTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU MEMBERS



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THE LINCOLN
MOTOR COMPANY

6

FEATURES

6 SUSTAINABLE FARMING

By Tom Poland

FINDING INNOVATIVE WAYS TO PROVIDE FOOD, FIBER AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS ASSURES TRUE SUSTAINABILITY FOR AGRICULTURE ITSELF.

20 MAKING IT GROW

By Salley McAden McInerney

AMANDA McNULTY'S LIVE CALL-IN PROGRAM FEATURES ALL THINGS HORTICULTURAL.

COLUMNS

2 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

4 GREEN THUMB GARDENING

DEPARTMENTS

14 NEWS FROM SC FARM BUREAU

16 2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

17 AG EDUCATION

18 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

28 LADIES & GENTS LOVE TO COOK

29 SPRING ALMANAC

30 MEMBER MARKETPLACE

32 MEMBER BENEFITS



20

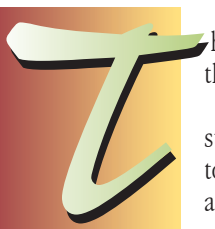


OUR COVER IMAGE

Every drop of water is precious to those who grow our food and fiber.

P R E S I D E N T

Message From The



The start of another year means celebrating the successes of the past year and the new opportunities it brings for improvement and growth.

We celebrated a year of strong yields on farms small and large across the state. After two years filled with challenging growing conditions, from drought to freeze to flood, the break from historically bad weather and natural disaster allowed farmers to recover, exhale and prepare for the next growing season.

We celebrate our successes as the steady, leading voice for agriculture in South Carolina. We celebrate agriculture as a driving force in our state's economy and the lifeblood of rural communities. We celebrate the allied industries surrounding agriculture that we rely on. Working together, agriculture will continue to thrive in South Carolina.

And, we celebrated membership gain in all 47 county offices in 2017. This is a success shared by all as a result of the hard work put in year-round to recruit new members.

Membership is a key element to growth and to being sustainable as an organization. We want to provide you – our members – with all of the tools for membership recruitment. That's why we have included in this issue an Annual Report of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation. The report summarizes the victories of our organization and paves the way for continued growth and success.

Use the annual report as a guide and a tool. It includes facts and figures that paint a picture of our organization as a whole, and the work we did in our communities and statewide. These statistics can provide you with talking points when recruiting new members. SCFB did some pretty amazing things in 2017, and we want you to be proud of those accomplishments. Don't be afraid to boast a little!

The new year will bring challenges beyond the weather and markets; the legislative session, for example, is already shaping up to be a demanding one. While we work hard at the State House every day to make sure farmers' best interests are being kept, there are others with loud voices working outside the State House to stain farmers as environmental poachers determined to destroy our precious natural resources.

We will continue to work hard to uphold the good name of farmers and make sure that regulations are based on science – not science-fiction. Conserving land and resources for generations to come is a priority for sustaining the future of agriculture. Even during hardships, farmers and ranchers continue to do what they do because of their love for the land.

I challenge you to engage in the food and farming conversation in 2018. The collective voice of the entire agricultural industry – not just farmers – is much louder and will be much more effective as we advocate in Columbia.

I challenge you to get involved. Don't be content with the status quo. Find new ways to recruit and involve new members. SCFB offers opportunities to connect through the Young Farmers and Ranchers and Women's Leadership Committees, advisory committees, legislative advocacy, social media and so much more.

Thank you all for helping our organization reach its goals in 2017. Without the dedication from each of our 107,098 members, we could not be successful. Here's to achieving greatness in 2018!



Harry L. Ott, Jr.
President, South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation

South Carolina FARMER

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South Carolina Farmer is the official quarterly publication of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation – a federation of county chapters.

We are a family-oriented, active organization led by volunteer, grassroots farmer members. We represent all farmers and farm landowners. We serve the entire agricultural community through education and a unified voice in government for the benefit of everyone, since agriculture is an integral part of our state and of all our lives.

Our mission is to promote agricultural interests in the State of South Carolina and to optimize the lives of those involved in agriculture while being respectful to the needs and concerns of all citizens in our state.

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Forty Acre Rock: A Natural Treasure

I cannot nail down exactly when, but I first heard of Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve years ago while watching an episode of *NatureScene*, a SCETV production with naturalist Rudy Mancke.

I have always been excited about big rocks and the plant communities associated with them. When I transferred to York County with my family in the summer of 2004, we had not been there a month before I took my kids to the site.

Forty Acre Rock is a granite outcropping in southern Lancaster County where the South Carolina Piedmont adjoins the Sand Hills region. Where these regions meet is also known as the fall line.

Managed by the SC Department of Natural Resources, Forty Acre Rock is a large granite flatrock (actually just 14 acres), which provides habitat for some unique

plant communities. Designated as a National Natural Landmark, the 2,267-acre preserve has many diverse habitats.

I've visited this heritage preserve on many occasions and at different times of the year. If you tour the preserve between late February and mid-March, you will be in for quite a treat as the woodland wildflowers begin their short floral display for just a few weeks.

My favorite hike begins on the trail at the lower parking area close to Highway 601. The first mile is very moderate hiking; the trail wide and easy to follow. After a quarter-mile, you will spot a large beaver pond, which is home to many kinds of waterfowl. You can go around the pond on a loop trail that joins the main trail farther up. The trail climbs slightly and soon brings you into a mixed hardwood forest and exposed granite boulders. In this area grow Carolina pinks

and green and gold, a ground cover that blooms a little later in April.

Before long, you'll cross a powerline right-of-way and a creek. Here, the loop trail around the beaver pond rejoins the main trail. After crossing the creek, you will bear right and hike upstream along the stream. You'll see many colonies of Jack-in-the-pulpit in low depressions along the trail. In the area you'll also find yellow violets, trout lilies, wild ginger, bloodroot and several species of fern. In the winter months, the different species of moss attract the most attention with their carpets of multiple shades of green shining in the winter sun.

Soon you'll reach the base of the first waterfall and make your way up and around to the right where more granite is exposed and annual bluets grow in the sunnier spots. There, the creek is far below the trail as it



Left: Bluet flowers and mosses crowd this narrow granite crevice at Forty Acre Rock. Right: Colonies of Piedmont azalea decorate the fringes of a forest trail. Below: Bloodroot is one of the most common springtime flowers at Forty Acre Rock, a designated National Natural Landmark. Opposite page: The upper falls.



glides through a narrow granite channel. Decorating the rock face across the creek are several coral bells, or *Heuchera*. As the trail comes back closer to the creek level and shortly before you cross a small footbridge, you'll notice several colonies of Piedmont azalea beside the trail and across the creek. These are tall azaleas, so be sure to look up or you might miss the flowers.

At this point the trail reminds you of

hiking along a mountain stream. Here, you may see Catesby's trillium, Solomon's seal and dwarf crested iris. The trout lilies reappear in abundance, and if you slow down and eye the ground carefully, you can spot the pale blue flowers of liverworts along the banks of the creek. The trail crosses the creek several times and soon you'll arrive at the second and larger waterfall. From here, the trail leaves the creek and quickly ascends the last quarter-mile to the top of the granite formation.

Much of the rock is crowned by an assortment of lichens and mosses. The top levels off and has many vernal pools that collect water and support a whole new palette of plants, among them the endangered pool sprite. Larger depressions at the top of the rock have been filled over time with soil and plant debris that supports trees,

a variety of mosses, and the golden blooms and gray leaves of wooly ragwort. Ancient eastern red cedars, all of them stunted, grow in scattered, lonely cracks in the rock.

Forty Acre Rock is worth visiting at different times of the year. In the spring, things progress rapidly, which is why you need to plan your visits about two weeks apart so you can see all the changes in its floral display.

SCDNR has a webpage that provides information on Forty Acre Rock: www.dnr.sc.gov/land.html. There is also an online photo journal – www.wildlifesouth.com – that offers excellent information and images of the plants and wildlife.

To get there, take US Hwy. 601 north out of Kershaw. You will intersect SC Hwy. 903 about 8 miles out of Kershaw. Continue on 601 North, and after 1½ miles look for Nature Reserve Road just after the bridge over Flat Creek. Turn left and the lower parking area is less than a half-mile on the left.

For a more leisurely stroll to the rock, there is an upper parking area at the end of Conservancy Road that is less than two miles farther up Nature Reserve Road from the lower lot. The walk is about 15 to 20 minutes down a virtually flat dirt road to the top of the rock.

There are no restroom facilities, water, trash bins or any other amenities. Please take out what you take in, and be sensitive to the rare plant communities that inhabit the vernal pools on the rock. Hopefully you can overlook some graffiti that, in places, blemishes an otherwise fantastic natural area.



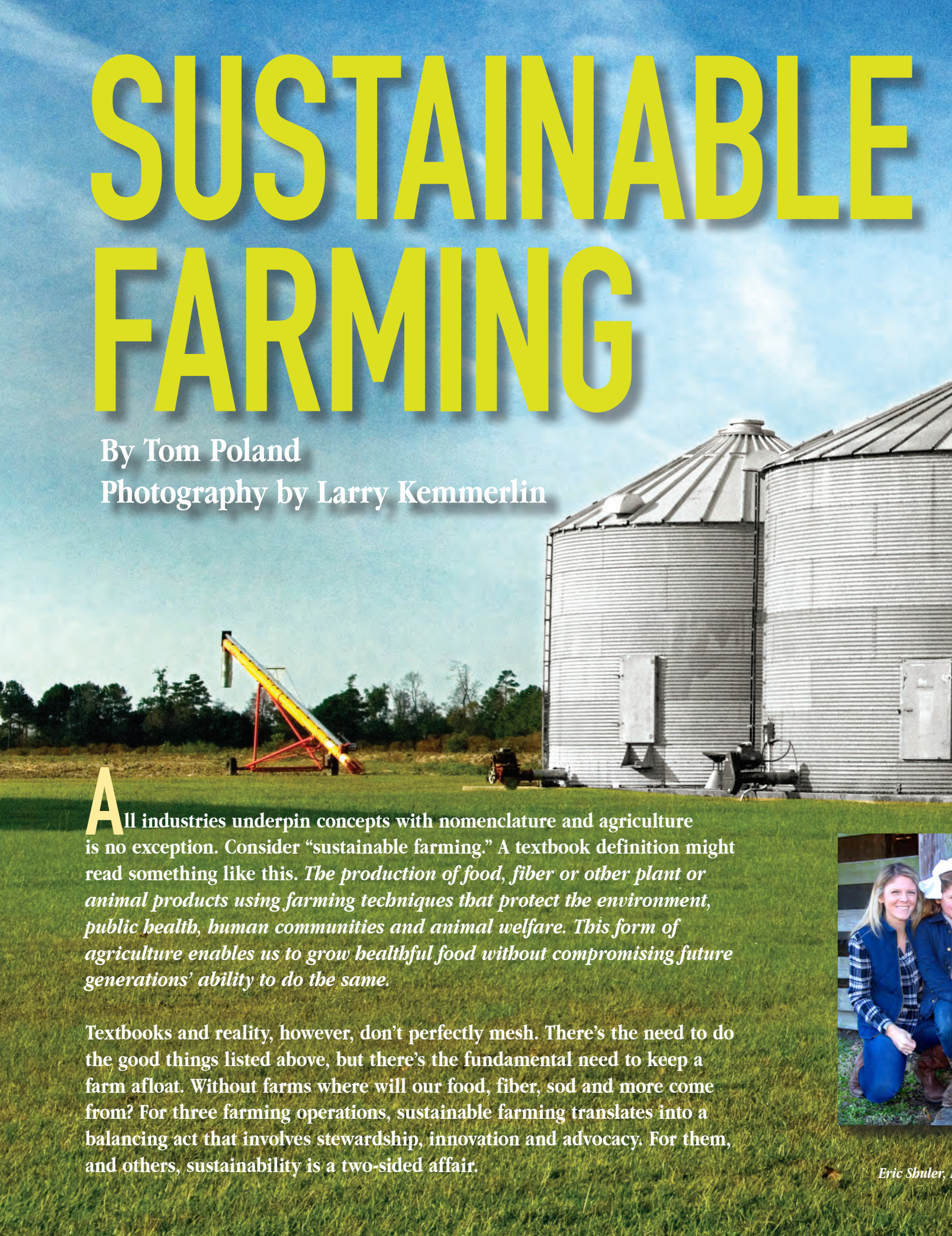
Above: Vernal pools atop Forty Acre Rock support a varied palette of plant types. Upper right: In winter, mosses wearing different shades of green carpet the woodland. Right: A lone trout lily adds a tiny splash of color to the forest floor.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING

By Tom Poland

Photography by Larry Kemmerlin



All industries underpin concepts with nomenclature and agriculture is no exception. Consider “sustainable farming.” A textbook definition might read something like this. *The production of food, fiber or other plant or animal products using farming techniques that protect the environment, public health, human communities and animal welfare. This form of agriculture enables us to grow healthful food without compromising future generations’ ability to do the same.*

Textbooks and reality, however, don’t perfectly mesh. There’s the need to do the good things listed above, but there’s the fundamental need to keep a farm afloat. Without farms where will our food, fiber, sod and more come from? For three farming operations, sustainable farming translates into a balancing act that involves stewardship, innovation and advocacy. For them, and others, sustainability is a two-sided affair.



Eric Shuler, J.

*Finding innovative ways to provide food,
fiber and other essential products assures true
sustainability for agriculture itself.*



*From left: Megan, Lyla and Richard Floyd of Floyd Farms. • Ned, Edwin and James Dargan of Dargan Turf Farm.
Roberto Phillips, Sojo Tripp, Evan Aluise, Adrienne Day, Hannah Shuler, Matt Daniels and Stefanie Swackhammer of Tiger Corner Farms & Vertical Roots.*



Floyd Farms

Over Aynor way near Cool Springs is the farm of Richard and Megan Floyd. The Floyds grow corn, soybeans, tobacco, cotton and wheat – when prices are right. The Floyds recognize that agriculture and farming are changing.

“It’s no longer a strongly supported industry like it once was,” said Megan. “You didn’t have to advocate for agriculture back then like you do now.”

Richard, who began farming before he can remember, believes a lot of people have no idea where food comes from or how hard it is to grow.

To appreciate how food gets to the table, “You have to grow up in it,” said Richard, a fifth-generation farmer.

Megan fell in love with Richard, and she fell in love with the Floyd family farm. They farm full-time and have taken an active role in Farm Bureau for ten years now. To them, sustainable farming means being open to innovation.

“Over the last year we have transitioned into a new agribusiness,” said Megan. “We’re growing, harvesting, grinding and packing our own farm-to-table grits and cornmeal. It’s still very new for us but showing growth. Coastal Grinds is our new focus – truly farm to table.”

The Floyds live just 14 miles from Myrtle Beach, and they see sustainability as “preserving and growing Floyd Farms,” Megan noted. “We live in an area where urban encroachment is an issue. Our version of traditional farming was not going to sustain the future of the farm. With an ever-changing agriculture industry, we’ve had to switch our focus to niche farming. We’ve learned to be diverse. Momma always said, ‘Never put all your eggs in one basket.’”



From top left: Richard and Megan Floyd go over the books, an important part of any business. • Lyla helps her mother bag freshly ground grits. • Lyla tries to keep up with her dad.

The Floyds use updated spreadsheets to see what the potential futures will be. They buy bulk, play markets, cut labor costs, build the equipment they need and select the type of seed that will produce adequate crop.

“One goal was to plant the crop that we could manage with the least amount of labor,” said Megan. “We came out better than having more acreage and more labor.”

Megan, who’s on Farm Bureau’s Strategic Planning Committee, advocates for sustaining not just farming but agriculture.

“We have to understand that to sustain the future of agriculture, we must find common ground and unite. We all have our views and ways to farm, but we all want a sustainable future in agriculture. Your voice is stronger in numbers and with a shrinking number of farmers in the industry, it so much more important to come together.”

She adds: “Being a part of Farm Bureau has meant being mentored by other farmers. They’ve helped us solve farming issues and given us the courage and support to do something different.”

Advocating for agriculture is a labor of love for the Floyds, Megan especially.

“When I started farming with Richard, I never thought I’d be this passionate about it. You love what you work for and invest your life in, but the moment it hit home for me was when Lyla was born, our only child. I not only wanted to advocate for our future but also hers as a woman in agriculture. If we don’t fight for her ability to have a future in farming, who will?”

Edwin Dargan passes some information about row spacing to son Ned, who will one day pass down ownership of the family farm.



Harvesting turf grass is all in a day's work for employees of the Dargan Turf Farm.

Dargan Turf Farm

I met Edwin Dargan at Hobcaw Barony, Bernard M. Baruch’s 16,000-acre retreat. We dined beneath oaks at Bellefield stables on corn-fed Nebraska mallards as Frank Beckham, hunter, fisherman, conservationist and raconteur, regaled geographically diverse folks with stories of the Southland.

Dargan and I, however, talked farming, and he said his family had long held land in Darlington County since before the Revolutionary War. Dargan even plowed with a mule.

The Dargans grow centipede, Bermuda and zoysia. Sod is making up more of his business. “We’re about 60 percent sod and 40 percent rowcrops,” he said. “Rowcrops can be tough going.” It is tough, and sustainable farming doesn’t always make it easier.

“In big cities, ‘sustainable’ means it’s environmentally safe and organic,” said Dargan. “It also means something you can continue to do and make a profit. Farming is a good life, but it’s a tough way to make a living because you depend on the weather.”

Sustainable farming’s long been a focus. Edwin’s father, William Edwin Dargan Sr., farmed the family land for half a century. He served at the local, state and regional levels as commissioner and chairman of conservation committees. He earned a number of honors including Conservation Award of the Year by the State of South Carolina and Outstanding Conservation District Commissioner. He implemented no-till farming, wildlife buffer zones and other conservation measures the family still employs.



And now William “Edwin” Dargan, Dargan’s grandson, makes the seventh generation to practice sustainable ways.

A hydropneumatic watering system reduces pump run time. A coil packer better traps moisture by firming up and sealing seedbeds. Grid sampling lets Dargan’s spreader apply fertilizer precisely.

Dargan knows it’s important to take care of the land; he’s placed 2,000 acres in conservation tillage. After all, that land must take them into the future. In 2007, Dargan put land in the Pee Dee Land Trust (PDLT).

PDLT Executive Director Lyles Cooper Lyles, said, “We proudly partnered with Edwin and Ned Dargan to permanently protect 728 acres on Dargan Farms. Seven generations have worked this land so far, and this conservation agreement ensures that it will remain available for growing and harvesting timber and crops, as well as recreational uses, for generations to come.”

Three years ago Dargan innovated operations and added agritourism to his farm. A children’s playground and a corn maze let kids have fun and see the farming life up close. Come spring, the Easter Bunny joins children in the pick ‘em strawberry patch where they learn that food doesn’t come from the store. (Some strawberries make their way to the table at South of Pearl, a restaurant in Darlington.) The need to expose people to agriculture isn’t limited to children.

“A lot of adults can’t tell soybeans from cotton when they see them growing,” said Dargan.

The farm’s amusements are more than amusements. Think of the “agtiivity” areas as specialized schools. Kids learn what a farm is all about, and they just might hear the word “sustainability.” Some of these kids might grow into adults who can tell cotton from soybeans in the early growth stages. And some might even grow up to be conservation-minded farmers.



Clockwise from left: Signs point the way to nearly everywhere at the Dargan Turf Farm. • Daughters-in-law Betsy and Mandy are integral parts of the agri-tainment part of the farm. • James and Ned Dargan check on the growth of strawberry plants. • Dargan Turf Farm employee David Lee takes care of the chickens.



Tiger Corner Farms

In Summerville, Flower Town in the Pines, you'll find an unusual farm — an aeroponic farm. At Tiger Corner Farms, sustainability takes place in cargo containers, not fields. Somewhere on a distant sea a cargo ship's containers face a future in aeroponic farming, a high-tech, plant-cultivation technique in which a fine mist delivers nutrients to roots suspended in the air. TCF's goal? To create container farm systems that power healthier, sustainable communities.

The company got its beginnings when Don Taylor, the chief technology officer at Benefitfocus, was in the process of retiring. He wanted to find a way to give back. Taylor's daughter, Stefanie Swackhamer, was a teacher at a Title I high school in North Charleston.

"We collectively decided that food access was a huge issue not only in our area but so many others. The tech aspect of aeroponics appealed to my dad, and so that is how we originally started down the path."

TCF's aeroponic "farms" are housed in recycled shipping containers sourced from a Summerville supplier. They design each farm to the customer's specifications and deliver it. Imagine a restaurant that wants a supply of fresh lettuce for its salad bar. TCF can put one right next to the restaurant or next to a school.

General Manager Stefanie Swackhamer said, "We are able to grow over 4,000 heads of lettuce in thirty to thirty-five days (seed to harvest) in 320 square feet. We need no equipment beyond the farm that we manufacture.

TCF's sustainability begins with a recycled shipping container. They install a customized, cloud-based control system in each one that lets growers monitor plants 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. From seed to sale, growers can adjust any setting from computers, tablets and mobile devices.

"We recently created a position titled Farm Relationship Manager," said Swackhamer. "It's this person's responsibility to act as a resource to our farmers to help them to be sustainable. All our farms operating in the community are GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certified and we help with that process."



From top: Freshly harvested lettuce is ready to be packed and shipped. • Tiger Corner's Evan Aluise harvests lettuce plants from "the wall."



No rose-colored glasses here as Hannah Shuler harvests lettuce at Tiger Corner Farms. The pink hue comes from special high lumen LED grow lamps designed to replicate real sunlight.

Is aeroponics the future?

“While I don’t think our way of farming will be appropriate for every person or situation, there’s a great opportunity to quickly scale a business, as well as to provide produce on a very consistent basis, 365 days per year,” Swackhamer explained.

What’s vital here is proximity.

“Being able to grow as close the point of consumption is a powerful thing,” added Swackhamer. “I envision farms at schools, grocery stores and restaurants, as well as on land to sell to distributors, large grocery store chains, and so much more.

“The exciting thing about this new method of farming is that the sky is the limit. There are so many possible applications. As a former teacher, I am personally very passionate about Farm to School and look forward to continue working on that initiative with strategic community partnerships as well.”

TCF’s website states the case for this innovative approach to sustainable farming.

“A single farm can be grown in any climate, in any location, using 95 percent less water than traditional farming – a healthy, fresh and sustainable approach to achieving bountiful harvests in a small space.”

TCF maintains it’s where “goodness grows inside.” Add sustainability to the mix.

Meeting society’s needs for fiber, food and more, while finding innovative ways to do so in the future, assures true sustainability for agriculture itself. After all, man’s history of farming innovations is a long one, and there’s no reason it can’t continue to do good things for man and the land that feeds him. Sustainable farming? It has room for innovative farms of all sizes, and that’s a very good thing for every one of us.

Tiger Corner Farm’s owner Stefanie Swackhamer inspects lettuce before it is sold. Right: Plants wait to be transferred to the aeroponic “farm.”



“The exciting thing about this new method of farming is that the sky is the limit.”



Ty and Tracy Woodard of Darlington County, shown with SCFB President Harry Ott, were recognized as a top ten national finalist for the 2017 YF&R Achievement Award at the 99th Annual American Farm Bureau Convention. Far left: Nikki Kelley of Charleston County was recognized as a top ten national finalist for the YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award at the convention.

South Carolina Farmers Attend National Convention, Hear from President Trump

More than 100 South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation members attended the American Farm Bureau Federation's 99th Annual Convention in Nashville, January 5-10. State award winners, committee members and voting delegates attended sessions about technology, market outlooks, farm bill, leadership and the future of farming.

The SCFB members also heard from President Donald Trump, who spoke about what is being done in Congress and the White House to aid farmers in providing food and fiber to fuel the world.

"The men and women in this room come from different backgrounds and from all across our land, but each of you carries the same title that's been proudly borne by patriots and pioneers, inventors and entrepreneurs, the title of – very

proudly – American farmer," Trump said.

The SCFB voting delegates took part in approving measures to help assure a prosperous agricultural and rural economy in the coming year and beyond. SCFB voting delegates for the Annual Meeting of Farm Bureau Women also met to approve resolutions that will set the agenda for the grassroots organization in 2018.

"The actions taken at this meeting give us a clear roadmap at a time when farmers are on the verge of their fifth consecutive year of shrinking net farm income," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. "Despite these difficulties, we remain optimistic: Washington feels more like a partner than it did just a short time ago. We have real opportunities to make progress in policy that we have not had in the past."

Winners of the Young Farmers & Ranchers

Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture competitions were also announced during the convention. Young farmers and ranchers from around the country competed for the awards by demonstrating knowledge of and achievement in agriculture, as well as their commitment to promoting the agriculture industry.

Nikki Kelley (Charleston), the SCFB state winner of the Excellence in Agriculture award, was named one of the top ten candidates at the national competition.

Ty and Tracy Woodard (Darlington), SCFB winners of the Achievement Award, placed in the top ten in the nation among other farmer and rancher finalists who competed for the award.

Case Chumley (Spartanburg) also competed at the national level during the AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet Contest.

South Carolina Farm Bureau Holds 74th Annual Meeting

The South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation opened its 74th Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach on December 1, highlighted by a number of awards and a State of Farm Bureau address from SCFB President Harry Ott.

Nearly 1,000 Farm Bureau members from across the state gathered not just to prepare for the year ahead, but also to celebrate accomplishments of volunteers and progress made in the General Assembly. More than 100 individuals were recognized for their

dedication to SCFB at this year's convention.

South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers greeted attendees Thursday night at the Government Relations awards dinner. He spoke on the importance of farmers and agriculture in our state. American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall, a Georgia farmer, updated members on Friday morning about issues Farm Bureau will face in 2018. Glen Ward, an inspirational speaker delivered the opening session keynote address Friday morning.

The annual meeting came to a close after the business meeting of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, where two individuals were re-elected to positions on the organization's Executive Committee, including SCFB Coastal District vice president Landy Weathers (Orangeburg) and SCFB Pee Dee District vice president Ray Galloway (Darlington). Harry Ott was also re-elected as SCFB president.

– By Lauren Prettyman,
SCFB Media Specialist

“Farm=Life” for Young Farmers and Ranchers

A record number of attendees met recently at the annual South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference.

More than 300 young farmers and ranchers from across the state traveled to Greenville to network, become better leaders in their communities and learn how to overcome challenges within the agriculture industry.

Conference attendees listened to a wide variety of speakers on topics addressing all aspects of agriculture – everything from technology and labor to animal agriculture, food safety, honeybees and conservation.

Case Chumley was elected chair of the 2018 SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. Chumley takes on this role following the leadership of last year's chair, Davis Peeler of Anderson County.

“Davis has shown great leadership during his tenure as Young Farmer and Rancher chair,” said SCFB President Harry Ott. “He has been a true leader. Davis is a great decision-maker; he's trustworthy, fully committed to the task and has selflessly sacrificed for the work of this organization during his term as chair. We are thankful for his efforts and look forward to the guidance and knowledge of our

newly elected chair, Case Chumley.”

Zack Snipes, of Charleston County, won the 2018 Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award. The competition consists of a written application and an oral presentation in front of a panel of judges. Snipes won an ATV, helmet and gloves courtesy of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. He will also receive an expense-paid trip to the 2018 American Farm Bureau Federation FUSION conference in Reno, Nevada, and an expense-paid trip to compete at the 2019 AFBF annual meeting in New Orleans.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from an owned agricultural operation, but actively contribute and grow through their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations.

Davis Peeler, of Anderson County, won the 2017 Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award. Peeler received \$1,000 and a new Ford truck, both courtesy of Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company. He will also receive an expense-paid trip to the FUSION conference and an expense-paid trip to

compete at the 2019 AFBF annual meeting.

The Achievement Award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who derive the majority of their income from an owned agricultural operation and have excelled in their farming or ranching operations while exhibiting superior leadership abilities. Participants are evaluated on a combination of their agricultural operation's growth and financial progress, and their leadership both inside and outside the Farm Bureau.

Horry-Loris County Farm Bureau Chapter received the award for the Largest County Delegation, boasting 23 young farmers and ranchers in attendance at the conference.

“Our Young Farmers and Ranchers program is growing as an increasing number of young people recognize the value of Farm Bureau Federation and its mission to promote agricultural interests in South Carolina,” said Jessica Cabrera, the Young Farmers and Ranchers coordinator and director of Organizational Training and Leadership Development. “We were really excited to host our largest group ever at this year's conference.”

— By Lauren Prettyman,
SCFB Media Specialist



Left: Davis Peeler (center) of Anderson County was awarded the 2017 SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award by President Harry Ott and Susan Merrill, director of marketing for SCFB Casualty Insurance Company. Right: Zack Snipes (center) of Charleston County was awarded the 2018 SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award by Ott and Frank Blossman, director of sales for Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

2017 Annual Convention Highlights



Left: Case Chumley of Spartanburg County was named the winner of the 2017 SCFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet. He also participated in the National Discussion Meet competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 99th Annual Convention. • President Harry Ott presents 2017 Legislator of the Year awards to (above) Representative Bill Hixon (R-Aiken) and (right) Senator Shane Massey (R-Edgefield), for their strong support of agriculture at the State House. The awards were presented during the organization's 74th Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach.



Left: Ashley Bennett (center) of Spartanburg County received the 2017 Betty J. DeWitt Outstanding Educator Award from Betty J. DeWitt (left) and Frances Price (right), SCFB Federation Women's Leadership Committee chair, at the annual meeting. Bennett is an educator at Woodruff Middle School in Woodruff. • Middle: Devin Moore and Katie Martin were selected as the winners of the SCFB Youth Ambassador Scholarship Contest. Martin is from Anderson County and Moore is from Lexington County. • Right: Sophie Ergle (left), daughter of Jonathan and April Ergle of Saluda County, won top honors in the Talent Contest Junior Division. Kursten Long (center) of Newberry County took first runner-up, while Anna Tomlinson (right) of Greenville County was named second runner-up.

Emily Grace Holmes (left) and Josie (second from left), daughters of Chris and Susan Holmes of Horry County, won top honors in the Talent Contest Senior Division. Kylee Whitten (third from left) of Anderson County took first runner-up. The Center Stage Group (right) of Greenville County was named second runner-up.



EDUCATION

Farm Bureau Offers Scholarships for Students in Agricultural Majors

The South Carolina Farm Bureau Foundation will award several scholarships for college students majoring in agriculture or a related field during the 2018-2019 school year. The exact number and dollar amount of scholarships available will depend on donations to the Foundation.

The Foundation Leadership Scholarship Award program honors former SCFB presidents Robert Coker, E.H. Agnew, Harry S. Bell and David M. Winkles, Jr. The program also honors J.W. Wamer, Jr. and C.B. Mitchell, both former members of the SCFB Board or Directors and the Executive Committee.

In addition, a scholarship will be awarded from the Betty J. Dewitt fund. The DeWitt Scholarship Award program, initiated by the

Women's Leadership Committee, honors Betty DeWitt, a faithful volunteer who formerly served as chair of the Women's Committee and was a member of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

The scholarships will be available for sophomores, juniors and seniors pursuing higher education degrees in agriculture or ag-related majors.

All scholarships will be awarded on the basis of character, demonstrated leadership abilities and dedication to agriculture.

More information about the scholarships and applications can be obtained through county Farm Bureau offices or online at scfb.org. The deadline for entries is Friday, April 27.

The SCFB Foundation Leadership Scholarship Award program is designed to provide assistance

to young people of South Carolina farm families or from farm-oriented backgrounds. In addition, the funds are aimed at encouraging young people to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to assume positions of leadership in agriculture, civic affairs and public service.

Individuals or groups are encouraged to participate in funding the Foundation by making tax-deductible contributions to the scholarship fund of their choice.

If a contribution is intended as a memorial, indicate the name of the person for whom the gift is given, and the name and address of the family member designated to receive acknowledgement of the gift.

Contributions can be mailed to SCFB Foundation, P.O. Box 754, Columbia, SC 29202.



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Year in Review: 2017 Legislative Session

Protecting Agricultural Water Use Dams and Reservoirs

On the farm, dams and reservoirs are essential tools. Last session, South Carolina farmers Charles Wingard and Jason Rodgers stressed the importance of just that during a hearing on H. 3218. The bill originates from two natural disasters: the 2015 flood and Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

At the end of the 2017 session, the bill requires dam owners to annually self-inspect structures for signs of problems and submit findings to DHEC. It requires owners of high-hazard and significant-hazard dams to provide an annual emergency action plan. Smaller ponds can be brought into DHEC oversight under the circumstances that, if failed, it may cause serious damage to homes or infrastructure; however, DHEC shall not require any changes to the dam due to reclassification of a dam, unless failure would likely cause loss of life.

H.3218 passed out of the House of Representatives as a much-improved version from its original. The bill now awaits further consideration in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Surface Water

Legislation was again introduced by Senator Chip Campsen (R-Charleston) and Representative James Smith (D-Richland) that would change the 2010 Surface Water Withdrawal Act, specifically focusing on agriculture surface-water users. Both bills would require agricultural surface-water users to obtain a permit. Bill hearings are expected in 2018, and Farm Bureau stands ready to fight against placing new regulatory burdens on farmers.

Finishing the Job on Roads and Bridges

After years of dedication by the General Assembly, a plan was overwhelmingly approved in 2017 to fix our state's crumbling roads and bridges. The end product, much different than when it started, includes a moderate increase in the motor fuel user fee, tax relief and DOT reform. H. 3516 ultimately overcame the governor's veto to provide long-term funding to address our infrastructure needs. Once fully funded, the plan will provide more than \$600 million annually to fix the state's deteriorating roads and bridges.

Helping Poultry Farmers

H. 3929, Agricultural Animal Facilities, was introduced by Chairman Davey Hiott (R-Pickens) and others. It would help poultry farmers by streamlining requirements for the review and appeal process by DHEC. Tim Donald, a member of the SCFB Executive Committee, testified in support of the bill. H.3929 passed the House 77-12, thus moving the bill to the Senate for further consideration in 2018. Farm Bureau would like to recognize Chairman Hiott for his hard work and dedication on this important piece of legislation.

Food Safety

H. 4003, the Produce Safety Act, is a housekeeping bill that assigns authority to the SC Department of Agriculture to enter into agreements with the federal government for the SCDA to inspect and enforce provisions of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

SCDA worked with Farm Bureau, Clemson University, Carolina Farm Stewardship and other stakeholders to protect farmers and allow SCDA, not the Food Drug Administration, to be the regulatory authority.

Nearly 4,000 farms are affected by this federal rule, so it is critical that SCDA be the face of FSMA on our farms. SCDA will provide educational information about the regulatory

process to ensure farmers are successful in becoming compliant with this rule.

Industrial Hemp

H. 3559, Industrial Hemp Cultivation, creates the SC Industrial Hemp Program, allowing farmers to legally grow industrial hemp as a research-based effort authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. The finalized version of the bill allows 20 permits in the first year. In the second year, the permits and acreage will double to 40 permits and 40 acres, and the third year and every year after, the Department of Agriculture, along with institutions of higher learning, will evaluate the program to determine the number of permits to be issued. SCFB Legislative Committee member Tom Garrison and Marion County Farm Bureau Board Member Neal Baxley spoke in favor of the bill and new opportunities for SC farmers.

Agribusiness Tax Credits

This bill would allow an agribusiness operation or an agricultural packaging operation that increases its purchases of products that have been certified as South Carolina grown, to become eligible to claim an income tax credit or a credit against employee withholding in an amount determined by the SC Coordinating Council for Economic Development.

S.404 has passed the Senate and at the end of the 2017 session awaits approval in the House Ways and Means Committee.

State Budget

The SC Department of Agriculture, Clemson PSA, SC DNR and the SC Forestry Commission play key roles in the continued success of the state's Agribusiness sector, and without adequate funding these agencies will suffer. All of these state agencies fared well this year, and the important services they provide to our farmers will remain in place for 2018.



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from your County Farm Bureau

Go to www.scfb.org

Click on
"Farmer's Corner,"
then "County News"



Shaking it Grow

By Salley M. McInerney
Photography by Larry Kemmerlin

*Amanda McNulty's live call-in program
features all things horticultural.*



In Calhoun County, a state highway patrolman new to his post mentioned to an older patrolman that he kept seeing a woman climbing in and out of roadside ditches in the St. Matthews area.

"I don't know who she is or what to do about it," the younger patrolman said to his fellow officer. Amanda McNulty, the unconventional host of *Making It Grow*, a gardening program produced by South Carolina Educational Television and Clemson Cooperative Extension, laughed and recalled the rest of the story.

"The older patrolman said, 'I don't know who she is either, but you better just leave her alone.' "

"She," of course, is none other than McNulty herself, who scours the South Carolina countryside – yes, climbing in and out of roadside ditches – to gather materials for the homemade hats she wears during her weekly television show.

Describing McNulty is not for the faint-hearted. She is a small person with curly, flaxen hair. Her blue eyes twinkle through classic horn-rimmed glasses. Her hands are always busy, helping to explain how to dig a proper hole or nurture a particular plant. She moves purposefully through her downtown Sumter office, asking co-workers about their health, their children, whatever it may be.



When she laughs, she throws her head back. When she answers a question, she leans in with an intensity that typifies her vast knowledge of all things horticultural.

Genuine. Spontaneous. Delightfully unfiltered. Pick one. Or all.

"I am particularly open about who I am," admits the 67-year-old McNulty. "I'm not very filtered, and I think people just like a person who is being herself."

From top: McNulty and guests during a live episode of Making It Grow • McNulty wears one of her now-famous hats. • McNulty during a taping of her daily radio program.

The eldest of three children,

McNulty was born and raised in Columbia, where her mother was a reference librarian; her father, a businessman.

She grew up in an area of Columbia called Forest Acres. It's a highly populated part of town these days, but at the time — the '50s and '60s — it was far less developed, fostering McNulty's love of nature.

"I remember being outdoors . . . surrounded by woods and streams," she recalled. "My mother would send us outside in the morning, and we wouldn't come home until suppertime. Then, we'd go back out and play until 10 p.m. My parents just let us do. They were so tolerant.

"We would find baby birds and bring them home. We raised pet squirrels and we always had a snake or two. They just let us do anything we wanted. It certainly made me love being outside, paying attention to things."

McNulty described her teenage years as "finding my way."

She attended a prestigious woman's college in Virginia for one year before returning to the University of South Carolina where, she noted gleefully, "I flunked out, thank goodness!"

She was majoring in international studies, "but I just didn't go to class.

"I just didn't care that much about school. I guess that's because I hadn't found what I loved. I really liked science — my parents gave me a microscope one Christmas — and that's what I should've done in the first place."

Instead, McNulty got a job as a secretary in a Columbia stockbroker's office and married Edward Wimberly, an artist, and at the time, a stockholder in one of Columbia's most hip shops, the Joyful Alternative in Five Points.

McNulty and her husband would make a move to Atlanta, where Wimberly went to art school, before landing in Pendleton,

South Carolina, where McNulty discovered her future's path by taking a horticulture class at Clemson University.

McNulty and Wimberly eventually moved to St. Matthews where they raised three children in a rambling old home near downtown. She worked as a private gardener and helped decorate for elaborate weddings.

"My thing was to gather material off the side of the roads," she said, eyes twinkling. "You know, that's what gives things character."

McNulty also earned a graduate degree in teaching — secondary science, her specialty — at South Carolina State University, eventually taking a job with Clemson University's Cooperative Extension teaching horticulture to adults. And that, it's fair to say, led to McNulty's association with Making It Grow.

She started as a panelist on the program. Then, a permanent panelist who was such a natural fit that she began filling in for the show's host, Rowland Alston, who was approaching retirement. In 2012, McNulty became the full-time host of Making It Grow, a program that continues to increase in popularity.

Last year, Making It Grow saw a 119 percent increase in viewership compared to 2016, according to Sean Flynn, the program's producer.

Besides the show, McNulty has other responsibilities. She creates spots for South Carolina Public Radio, garnering almost 99,000 listeners each week. She writes articles for South Carolina Wildlife magazine. She's been the horticultural agent for Sumter County since 2002 and teaches a Master Gardener course each year.

But arguably, Making It Grow is McNulty's signature work.

"We have so much fun with it. I love to think somebody got excited about a plant because I talked about it."



McNulty finds a quiet corner in preparation for going "on the air."

"I am particularly open about who I am. I'm not very filtered, and I think people just like a person who is being herself."



It's almost showtime. McNulty and company get ready for a live episode of Making It Grow.

Left: McNulty applies makeup before the show to make sure her eyebrows don't "disappear."

On a Tuesday afternoon, several hours before *Making It Grow* was set to air at 7 p.m., McNulty, her staff and several guests who will be on the program gathered in an unremarkable room at the Sumter SCETV studio where they had supper together – eating sub sandwiches.

There was talk about the evening's program and chatter about how to pronounce "pecan."

"Well, I say pee-can," McNulty noted.

After the meal, everyone gathered in the studio for a practice run-through of the night's program.

Practice, however, has never made perfect and the live program has had its share of unscripted moments. Show producer Flynn has witnessed some of them.

"For the live studio portions of the show, we give everyone glasses of water. One time, during one of Amanda's explanations to a viewer, she was getting extra talkative with her hands and all of a sudden she knocked over a glass of water. Amanda didn't skip a beat. She wiped the spilt water off the desk – toward the camera. It must've looked like a tidal wave to viewers at home, but Amanda just kept talking to the viewers."

McNulty's relationship with her viewers may best be described as sincere.

"I love people who love the soil," she said.

And what do viewers appreciate about her?

"Well, I think people just like someone who is being herself."

Opening her show after a bitter cold spell, McNulty leaned into the camera: "Well, it's certainly been a trying week. I used to live in South Carolina, but last week, I can't tell you where I was living . . .

A warm good evening to you all."

McNulty connects easily with viewers who call in their questions.

When Brook, from Savannah, came on the line, McNulty began the conversation with a compliment: "I just don't think any other place has trees as pretty as Savannah. So, Brook, what's happening that we can help you with?"

Viewers typically get the help they need from McNulty or one of her knowledgeable guests.

When a caller tuned in, concerned about the cold and his collards, show guest Tony Melton, a fruit and vegetable specialist, was reassuring. "Your collards are gonna get really ugly, but they're still good to eat."



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"I love having guests on my show," McNulty said. "Everything we do and talk about is based upon research. We like to give people a reason for doing something, not just tell them to do it. We enjoy helping people who have a problem, knowing our solutions are the truth and research based.

"One thing we try to stress is you should always follow the directions. For instance, not over-apply pesticides. If you can, pick (a pesticide) that's not the heaviest gun in the arsenal."

McNulty's Number One piece of gardening advice is about digging holes for planting.

"Digging the hole for a plant is critical. You want the hole to be

no deeper than the root ball because plant roots get oxygen from pore spaces in the soil; the closer to the surface, the more ambient air can move into those spaces. Make the hole wide so the soil is loose and easy for new roots to expand to. Don't put any amendments in the planting hole. Do mulch, but no volcano mulching, please!"

McNulty smiled. "So, isn't that nice that you don't have to dig a deep hole?"

Nice, yes, and classic McNulty.

Other classics?

On the Tuesday show, she talked about a plant getting the "up and dying disease." She noted that a "four feet by four feet plant is a nicely behaved plant." She characterized a particularly small variety of tea olive as one that was "not the normal tea olive people plant next to their house. Lord, next thing you know it's coming through the dining room window!"

And then there are McNulty's homemade hats.

Each week, prior to the show, she scours the countryside for material for a hat. Wildflowers, Smilax, you name it. Sometimes her hats are even made out of edibles. McNulty is particularly fond of her self-styled watermelon hat, because, she explains, it must stay in the refrigerator until show time, and under the hot lights of the studio set, it offers a



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cool respite for her head. But why homemade hats?

"Well, I can at least have flowers on my head, because I sure don't know all the things my guests on the show know." McNulty once wore her hats for the entire program, but was told that perhaps she should rethink that given the serious nature of some of the segments of the show.

Thus, she dons them for the second half of the program.

When asked what's her greatest worry about the show, McNulty responded quickly. "What's going to be in my hat, of course!"

McNulty's eyes twinkled when asked if she planned to retire.

"I'd like to stay on; I'm having a wonderful time."

And it's a darn good bet her viewers are too.



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Trim fat from roast; add salt and pepper. Brown roast on both sides in a large skillet. While roast is browning, pour broth in slow cooker. Reserve 2 tablespoons of broth and mix with cornstarch. Pour wine and broth/cornstarch mixture into slow cooker and stir well. Add browned roast. Cook 7 to 8 hours on low. Use gravy over rice or potatoes. Also makes great beef sandwiches.

Delicious Lemony Green Beans

3 pounds fresh green beans
3 cups water
1½ teaspoons salt
3 small onions sliced in rings
½ cup butter
⅓ cup lemon juice
1 tablespoon brown sugar

Cook beans in water with salt until tender. While beans cook, sauté onions in butter until soft. Add lemon juice and brown sugar to onions and heat thoroughly. Drain beans and place in serving dish. Pour onion mixture over beans

Yield: 10 to 12 servings

From Dori Sanders' *Country Cooking Recipes & Stories from the Family Farm Stand* © 1995

Baked Sweet Potatoes with Onions and Peppers

2 medium sweet potatoes
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
1 medium red, yellow, or green bell pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
⅛ teaspoon salt, or to taste
⅛ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or to taste
3 tablespoons clotted or sour cream
1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives or scallion tops

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Wash and dry the potatoes and pierce them several times with a fork. Place them in a small, shallow baking pan and bake for 40 to 45 minutes or until they are easily pierced with a fork but still offer some resistance.

Meanwhile, in a medium-size heavy skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat until hot but not smoking. Add the onions and peppers and sauté, stirring occasionally, until tender; about 8 to 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Remove the potatoes from the oven and cut in half. Transfer the potatoes to a serving plate, spoon the onions and peppers on top, and serve hot, accompanied by sour cream and chives.

For Recipe — Step-by-step video instructions for how to make Baked Sweet Potatoes with Onions and Peppers can be found on South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation's Facebook page.



Spring ALMANAC

For more agricultural events,
go to <http://www.scca.state.sc.us/calendar.htm>

MARCH 20

Women's Legislative Appreciation Day at the State House Columbia

In celebration of National Ag Week, Farm Bureau women from across South Carolina will gather at the State House in Columbia.

Before visiting the State House, the women will receive a legislative briefing at the SCFB State Office by the Government Relations team. During their visit, they will also be introduced in both the House and Senate chambers and have an opportunity to speak with their respective members of the General Assembly.

MARCH 20

National Ag Day

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host National Ag Day on March 20. This will mark the 45th anniversary of National Ag Day, which is celebrated in classrooms and communities across the nation. The 2018 theme is "Agriculture: Food for Life."

National Ag Day is about recognizing and celebrating the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to understand how food and fiber products are produced, to value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy and to appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

APRIL 5-6

SC Cattlemen's Association Annual Conference Clemson

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association will feature a keynote session and cattle-handling demonstration by Dr. Temple Grandin. Dr. Don Bal and Dr. Garry Lacefield will also present forage opportunities.

Registration includes entrance into the trade show, live demonstrations and educational seminars as well as the social and annual meeting lunch. For more information, contact (803) 917-1119 or scca@scca.sc.gov.

JUNE 18-22

Ag in the Classroom Teacher Institute Florence

The week-long program serves as a teacher in-service where teachers can earn three hours of graduate credit for recertification, courtesy of SCFB's Ag in the Classroom Fund.

Ag in the Classroom Institute participants receive lesson plans aligned to the state curriculum standards to use in their own classroom and resources they can use to teach students about agriculture and the benefits farmers add to the economy, the environment and the community.

For more information, contact mmoulder@scfb.org.

If you have an agricultural event of interest to publish in the Almanac, please send to Lauren Prettyman at lppretty@scfb.org. Include your name and telephone number. Deadline for inclusion in the Summer issue of South Carolina Farmer is April 3.

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LAKE MURRAY – 3 bedroom, 2 bath, with dock. Completely furnished with all appliances, linens and cooking utensils. Weekend, weekly or monthly rentals available. Call (803) 413-2677.

MOUNTAIN GETAWAY – 3 bedroom, 2 bath log cabin with screened porch in Westminster, SC. Enjoy hiking and whitewater rafting. Look us up on www.keoweecationrentals.com (Brasstown Road) or call (864) 888-7104.

GARDEN CITY CONDO – Across street from beach. 1 bedroom, sleeps 4. No pets. June – August \$600 per week. May and September \$500 per week. Call (864) 296-5436, (864) 314-3762, (864) 226-2396 or go to www.escapetogardencity.com.

OCEAN LAKES CAMP GROUND – 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sleeps 8, N section, close to store and waterpark. Call (803) 804-1843 or email sherryt@windstream.net.

CHAUGA RIVER CABIN – 2 bedroom cabin with sleeping loft overlooking river. Located in Westminster, SC, one hour from Greenville. Pictures/details on VRBO listing #243574 or call (864) 444-4693.

EDISTO BEACH – 2 bedroom, 1 bath ocean view apartment, \$800 per week or \$150 per night. Make family memories on beautiful Edisto Beach. For more info, call (757) 817-7343 or email mcilhent@aol.com

GARDEN CITY BEACH – Across street from beach, covered porch with rocking chairs and good ocean views. Living room, dining room, 5 bedrooms, 2 baths. Deck on back of house, plenty of parking, play area underneath house. Call Patsy R. Williams (843) 558-2809 or email jrtyler9@gmail.com.

EDISTO BEACH – 3 bedroom cottage on front of beach for rent; sleeps 6 people. Available all year. Call (843) 830-7401 or search for VRBO listing #32109 for information and owner email.

LAKE MURRAY – House on waterfront with dock. One bedroom, sleeps four, fully furnished. Call (803) 663-1455 or (803) 645-3949.

LAKE MURRAY – 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with a dock and paddle boat for \$645 to \$795 per week. Pictures available at www.lakemurrayrentalhome.com. Call (803) 414-4488 for more information.

CHAUGA RIVER CABIN – 4 bedroom cabin with 2 bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. Large living room with fireplace, TV, VCR. Screened porch overlooking Chauga River. Located north of Walhalla, SC, one hour from Greenville/Spartanburg area or two hours from Asheville. Call (864) 472-2591 or (864) 415-2782.

EDISTO BEACH – Oceanside one bedroom apartment for rent, sleeps two people. Call (843) 549-7312 or search for VRBO listing #28954 for more information.

TYBEE ISLAND – Two bedroom, two bath villa for rent. 270 degree view of ocean on Lighthouse Point; sleeps 6; fully furnished with kitchen, cable and AC. Call (864) 878-8457 or email sltraveler@aol.com.

HILTON HEAD – Fully furnished, one bedroom condo, South Forest Beach. Pool, security. \$575 per week. For more information, call (843) 838-0974 or email bettyj0614@yahoo.com.

CATAWBA FARM LAND – Farmland for rent in Catawba, SC. Suitable for growing milo, soybeans corn, sugar cane, vegetables. Contact Mary Barber at (803) 324-0045.

TRACK-SIDE PLACE – Kershaw. Cute studio with full kitchen and bath on 7 acres. One mile from Carolina Motor Sports Park. Near historic Camden and Lake Wateree. \$600 per week. VRBO #1016241 or 803-417-7343.

N.C. MOUNTAINS – House in gated community. 14 miles from Boone, N.C. Large private lot with gorgeous views. Sleeps 6, fully furnished, with reasonable rates. VRBO #966824 or call 803-381-3934.

FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES HOUSE – For rent 20 miles from Games. 3bdm/2bath 2,200 square ft. log home with mountain views. Sleeps six. \$550/night, four night minimum. Available September 9th - 24th, 2018. For more information, please email jkcmahoney@yahoo.com or call 828-335-7889.

LAKE MURRAY WATERFRONT – Prosperity, dock, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished. Stocked kitchen, linens, cable. Nightly, weekly, monthly. \$125/night. Discounted in off season. Contact floydpm1@gmail.com.

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TWO CEMETERY PLOTS – Located at Forest Lawn in Camden, SC. \$1000 for both. Granite for bronze marker is installed free. Call (803) 432-2143.

BELTON, SC – 86.7 acres on Wright School Road. \$4,500 per acre. 44.4 acres on Canfield Road. \$5,000 per acres. Call (864) 338-7559 or (864) 847-7691.

GEO METRO – Two-door hatchback, running & drivable. Make good offer. Call (704) 220-7707.

MEMORIAL GARDENS – 9301 Wilson Boulevard, Columbia, SC. Two Mausoleum Crypts, numbers 233 and 234. \$3,000 for both. Call (864) 940-3821 if serious about buying.

FARMALL H MODELS – Two tractors with 5-foot bush hogs. One has front-end loader also. Make realistic offer for one or both. Call (803) 684-2517 for more information.

SIX CEMETERY PLOTS – Located at Newberry Memorial Gardens in Newberry, SC in the Garden of Prayer Section. Valued at \$950 each, asking \$800 each. Call (803) 276-7171. All six are located together.

HOUSE FOR SALE – 33 miles from Disneyworld in Lakeland, FL. 55+ golf community. \$33,000. Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Lot rent 2017 is \$416 monthly. Call (863) 397-4139.

CONDO FOR SALE – 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo. Approximately 1250 square feet with ample storage and 24-hour security. Located south of Myrtle Beach city limits, 6 miles west of the Surfside pier. Call (843) 685-7997 for more information.

SKY VALLEY, GA – Golf resort. Stand-alone timeshare condo has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms; sleeps 6. Week 39. Call (843) 835-5532. All offers considered.

GRAND STRAND PROPERTIES – Garden City, 5 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath, oceanfront house. 6 unit townhome building in Myrtle Beach. For sale by owner. Please call (843) 692-7070.

TWO CEMETERY PLOTS – In the newer section of Methodist Rehobeth Church. \$2000. Call (843) 503-0798.

YORK SC – Two cemetery plots in Lakeview Cemetery. Call (843) 689-5858.

EDISTO ISLAND – Wooded corner lot. 0.7 acre. Restricted neighborhood with underground utilities.

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3 miles to beach. Close to Charleston, Savannah and Beaufort. \$32,000. Call (803) 335-9333.

CEMETERY PLOT – Crescent Hill Memorial Gardens, Section B, Lot 8D, single plot, easy access, flat lot, \$400. Please call (803) 794-7390.

EDISTO ISLAND LOT – Wooded, corner lot, .7 acre, restricted neighborhood, underground utilities, 3 miles to beach. \$32,000. Call (803) 643-7565 or (803) 335-9333.

SAINT HELENA ISLAND VACATION HOME – 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, fully furnished. Appliances, no washer/dryer. Walking distance to beach and creek. \$169,000. Call (229) 347-3760 or (843) 812-8014.

Miscellaneous

NORDQUIST HAULING – We have topsoil; deliver or pick up in Laurens County. Fair price. Also do lawn mowing, gravel driveways – repair and new. For more information, call (864) 444-4990.

INSHORE FISHING – Georgetown, Pawley's Island, SC. Winyah Bay area. Safe, comfortable 24 ft. bay boat. Perfect for adults or families with children. Call (843) 520-4812 for details.

YOGA RETREAT AT THE POND – Yoga classes. Spiritual mentoring. Overnight accommodations. 53 acres where you can just be. Near Ninety Six, SC. Call (864) 506-4063 or email jhymnd@clermont.edu.

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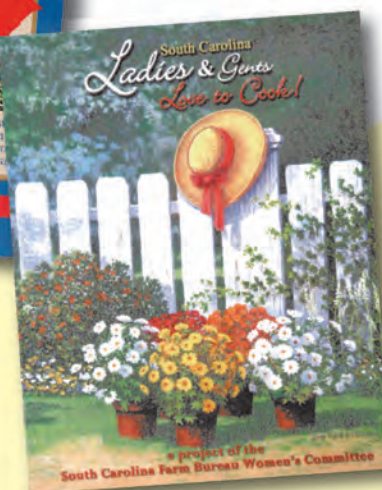
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BENEFITS

By Susan Merrill, Director of Marketing
South Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company



Clockwise from far left: Duane Brown, Sumter County agency manager; Major Robbie Robbins, commanding officer, Sumter Branch of the Salvation Army; and Joye Davis, Sumter County Farm Bureau women's chair. • Peter Clark, agent; Marty Sauls, Beaufort County agency manager, Tanner Russell, agent; and Kimberly Hall, Bluffton Self Help executive director. • Ben Davis, Calhoun County agency manager and Reta Westbury of Calhoun Cares. • Bobby Yoder, Lancaster County Farm Bureau board president; Bekah Clawson, HOPE in Lancaster Inc.; and Carter Dobson, agent. • Below: Charlotte Livingston of Winwood Farm Home for Children; Robert Bozard, Charleston County agency manager; Russell Henderson, agent; and Mason Studer, agent.

Caring for Community through Farm Bureau Cares

Last December marked the third anniversary of Farm Bureau Cares, a holiday outreach program intended to make the Christmas season a little brighter for those facing financial, medical or other hardships. Since its inception, nearly \$100,000 has been donated and distributed statewide to local charities and countless individuals in need. Last year marked the biggest year yet for the program with donations totaling more than \$38,000.

Farm Bureau Cares was first started in 2015 by Bill Courtney, CEO of South Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, with the support of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation. Courtney pledged to each local office that the insurance company would match up to \$500 in donations made by each local office to assist a local charity or individual in need over the holidays. Each local office decides how to best put their Farm Bureau Cares donation to work in their own community. With firsthand knowledge of personal situations and needs in their communities, agents and employees in the local offices have generously given to the program over the last three years.

"If I had to describe the Farm Bureau Cares program in two words, those words would be: a blessing," Wayne McKenzie, Clarendon County Agency Manager, said. In

December, McKenzie presented local Farm Bureau Cares donations to two families dealing with medical hardships. A \$500 check was given to a local woman and Farm Bureau member battling cancer. Another \$500 check was offered to the family of a young boy in need of a liver transplant.

"When we presented the check to one of our members battling Stage IV breast cancer, she said, 'You have no idea how much of a blessing you and the Farm Bureau organization are to our family.'"

She went on to tell me how she had only been able to purchase one gift for Christmas. When I listened to her story about all that she had suffered through, it quickly made me realize how blessed we are. Farm Bureau does care about members, and I am proud to

be a small part of the Farm Bureau Cares program each year," McKenzie said.

While many Farm Bureau Insurance offices selected an individual or family to assist with their 2017 Farm Bureau Cares donations, other offices elected to assist local charities. Charities that received a 2017 donation included Lee County Cooperative Ministries, the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Family Program in Sumter, Food for the Soul and Sacks of Love in Kershaw County, Lakeview Assisted Living Facility in Oconee County, Windwood Farms for boys in Charleston County, Shop with Santa's Heroes Program in Jasper County, along with many more.

Farm Bureau Insurance was proud to support Farm Bureau Cares in 2017, and we would like to thank all of the offices that participated in this holiday outreach program!





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