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of the
South Carolina
Farm Bureau
Federation

Winter 2019



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OUR COVER IMAGE

A collage of memories from previous SCFB annual meetings

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to South Carolina Farm Bureau families from the foothills to the sea. Harry and I hope you are well. We hope for a good harvest that is coming to an end with minimal machinery and labor breakdowns, for healthy livestock and for survival in these challenging times.

Many of our farm and ranch families are facing financial strain due to the storms roaring through our fields and pastures, flooding rivers, and decimating our crops and herds. Low commodity prices due to factors beyond our control add to the challenges some face.

In spite of all the negatives, we do, indeed, have much to give thanks for and much to celebrate, for we are farmers and ranchers, people who are inherently optimistic and

forward thinking. As long as humans have put seeds into the ground, the cycles continue—some good years, some great years and some bad years. We keep going, and so will those of you who are suffering now. With strength and courage, you will find a way forward.

A friend recently shared a story that describes the kind of people who make up this organization. Her son had urgent family business, so his boss

offered to cover his responsibilities. She was amazed that the boss was willing to step in and do her son's work. She concluded there are few businesses that would do such and attributed it to the culture that exists at Farm Bureau. That culture is made up of people who care about others, who hurt when others hurt, and who give when others need.

Yes, that is what we call the Farm Bureau "way," and Harry and I see it everywhere members gather. Across the state, you have invited us to meet with you, share a meal, participate in business, and enjoy the company of earnest, hard-working, dependable people. We see humility, honor, integrity, substance, friendliness.

We are people who work the land. We plant seeds. We wait. We care for animals. We marvel at and care for the natural resources we depend on—sun, soil, air, water. We depend on machines and people to help us. We know we cannot do it on our own. We rely on God and His mercies to make our living.

No matter where we go, at every meal, someone steps forward and gives thanks for the people who grew the food, the ones who harvested it and the hands that prepared it. What an amazing testimony to that culture that our organization embodies.

Farm Bureau is a family of people who are grounded in a belief in God—people who cling to hope and who express gratitude for their blessings.

Thank you for collectively working to produce food and fiber for our fellow citizens, for striving to educate our children about where their food comes from, and for ensuring that our government is fair in its policies toward us. Farm Bureau and its members stand for the right to farm our land and raise livestock that provide sustenance to our citizens and to the world. Wow! What a privilege and honor it is to participate in this profession.

—Linda Ott

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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The Benefits Of Cover Crops

Cover crops are different types of plants seeded into fallow fields that provide a benefit to the land and subsequent crops. They are used to slow erosion, improve the soil, enhance water infiltration and conservation, conserve nutrients, reduce fertilizer needs, reduce weeds, help control insects and diseases, increase biodiversity and bring a host of other benefits to your vegetable garden.

Cover crop plants fall into three main groups: grasses, legumes and other broadleaf crops. The cover crops you choose depends on the benefits you're trying to accomplish. Often, cover crops are mixed to provide multiple benefits.

Grasses that are often used include annual ryegrass and cereal rye. These have vigorous, deep root systems that will mine deeply into the soil to bring up nutrients that have moved below the roots of many vegetables. These annual, cool-season grasses are either cut down in the spring



Winter weed population in beds with no cover crops. Right: Buckwheat summer cover crop is also good for pollinators. Below: Annual ryegrass winter cover crop in York County.



to provide a water-conserving and weed-suppressing mulch, or they can be incorporated into the soil as a green manure several weeks prior to planting summer crops in the spring. Their roots also open channels for air and water movement through the soil.

As the cover crops die and break down, the nutrients in the tissues are recycled to the soil and vegetable crops. Other grass cover crops include wheat, oats, barley, Sudangrass and sorghum.

Legumes are members of the bean

family. They are also planted to control soil erosion or to suppress weeds, but the main reason for planting them is to build up soil nitrogen levels for growing your vegetable crops and to reduce fertilizer needs.

Legume roots develop a symbiotic relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria, called rhizobia, which live in nodules located on the roots. These bacteria convert atmospheric nitrogen into the form that is taken up by plant roots. A legume cover crop can add up to 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre, more than enough to grow the majority of your vegetable crops for a season.

The most common legumes used as cover crops are annual clovers, such as crimson clover. To ensure maximum nitrogen fixation, purchase legume seed that has been inoculated with rhizobia. The clover can be cut to the ground shortly after flowering in the spring to use as mulch, or it can be incorporated into the soil as a green manure several weeks prior to planting summer vegetables.

Legumes have an added benefit of attracting pollinators. Clovers are a great nectar source for bees and other beneficial insects. Other legume cover crops include: red clover, white clover, sweet clover, hairy vetch, Austrian peas and cowpeas.

The "other" broadleaf category includes plants that achieve three primary things:





Clockwise Bottom Left: Rhizobia bacterial nodules on clover roots. Daikon radish is used to create holes for water and air infiltration. Crimson clover and cereal rye mis at my office. Crimson clover in spring.

scavenge for nitrogen and accumulate it closer to the soil surface, help bust hard pan or plow pan with an aggressive, deep root system, and open up aeration holes with large diameter roots.

Cover crops in this category include mustards and radish, particularly Daikon radish, a very long Asian variety. Farmers often use these within a mixed cover crop during the fall and winter to assimilate and store nitrogen from manures that are put on the fields in the dormant season. This keeps the nitrogen from moving down through the soil and stores it for release to their cash crop later as the dead cover crops break down. Mustard and radish flowers are also highly attractive to bees and other pollinators.

Other cover crops in this category are canola and buckwheat, which is a summer cover crop.

There have been many research studies around the world that demonstrate how cover crops can increase yield. The yield benefit is often apparent after just one year of

using cover crops, and farmers will start to see other benefits, such as improved soil health, after several years of using them in crop rotation.

In the home garden, cover crops help build the soil in just the same way, but on a smaller scale. Having a living mulch will suppress problematic weeds that would thrive on bare soils. When the cover crop dies, the residues will still serve as mulch that will prevent soil crusting, providing better infiltration of rain and irrigation while slowing the moisture evaporation from the soil and modifying soil temperatures. As the material further breaks down, nutrients that the cover crop mined from the soil will be recycled to the crop from the soil surface.

Having live plant roots in the ground all year also helps to enhance soil biodiversity. Roots of the dead cover crops add tremendous amounts of organic matter back to the soil. Composting is a great way to recycle plant waste, but often we cannot generate enough compost for all of our soil amendment needs. Cover crops can help fill that void.

Two years ago, I experimented with cover crops in some raised beds in our demonstration garden behind the office. These beds were built in 2008, but production had been waning the last few years and weed problems had become huge. In September, I planted a mix of crimson clover to build soil nitrogen, and cereal rye, for its deep roots and to use as mulch for weed suppression. I cut down the cover crops after flowering in late spring but before the seeds matured.

The first year, residues left on top of the ground suppressed a lot of weed growth, and it has made a big difference in the growth and eventual production of the vegetables over the last two growing seasons in the beds where the cover crops had been grown.

For more information about cover crops is available from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) website at www.sare.org. Information about specific cover crops, their use and when to plant can be found there.

THE FARMER'S TABLE

Sugared Pecans or Walnuts

(From SC Ladies & Gents Love to Cook)

1 recipe Orange Liquid Flavor or Spiced Liquid Flavor (see below)

1 1/2 cups sugar

1 teaspoon light corn syrup

1/4 teaspoon salt

2 1/2 cups pecan halves or walnuts

Orange Liquid Flavor:

1/2 cup orange juice

1 1/2 teaspoons finely grated orange rind

Spiced Liquid Flavor:

1/2 cup water

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

In a medium saucepan, combine ingredients of one of the liquid flavors. Add sugar, corn syrup and salt. Mix well. Cook until mixture reaches soft-ball stage on a candy thermometer. Add nuts and stir until mixture is creamy and begins to harden slightly. Quickly turn onto waxed paper and separate coated nuts with a fork. Cool and store in an airtight container.

Sweet Potatoes Supreme

(From SC Ladies & Gents Love to Cook)

3 cups mashed sweet potatoes

1/2 stick butter

2 eggs

1/2 cup milk

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

1 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla

Whole Fried Turkey and Potatoes

(From The Golden Taste of SC)

1 whole wild turkey or frozen turkey, thawed completely.

Salt, black pepper and red pepper to taste

3 large onions, peeled

1 16-ounce bottle Italian dressing

3 tablespoons hot pepper sauce

3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

Peanut oil

1 5-pound bag red potatoes

Wash turkey and sprinkle with salt, black pepper and red pepper. Stuff whole onions into turkey cavity. Place turkey in a large plastic bag or in heavy aluminum foil. Mix dressing, hot pepper sauce and Worcestershire sauce together and pour over turkey. Seal bag or foil around turkey with marinade sauce. Refrigerate overnight. Remove turkey from marinade and save juice to marinate potatoes. Deep fry whole turkey in a large pot with enough peanut oil to cover completely. Fry for 3 minutes per pound and add an additional 5 minutes to cooking time. Remove fried onions from cavity and cut in quarters to serve. Wash and cut potatoes in French fry size pieces and place in turkey marinade while turkey is cooking. When turkey is cooked, drain juice from potatoes and deep fry in same oil until done. Drain on paper towels and sprinkle with salt.

Topping:

1/2 stick margarine

1 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup flour

1 cup chopped nuts

Mix ingredients (except topping ingredients) in large mixer bowl. Put into an 8-inch baking dish or round casserole dish. Cut together topping ingredients and put on top of potato mixture. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes.

Yield: 6 servings



From Farm to Label

By Nicole Yon, R.D.



The holidays can be a tricky time to stay on track with health and wellness goals, especially with so many parties and get-togethers, all with plentiful spreads of sumptuous and sweet treats. Taking part in holiday traditions can sometimes mean indulging in an extra slice of Grandma's pecan pie, enjoying a mug of eggnog while watching holiday movies, and sneaking a few licks of frosting while making Christmas cookies. Keep the following tips in mind to stay merry and bright (and healthy) all winter long!

If you're heading to a holiday gathering, offer to bring a healthy dish such as fruit salad and yogurt dip, a vegetable tray with hummus, or roasted nuts. This way, there will be at least one item in the spread that can help you stay on track.

Take a pass by the serving table to observe all of the options available and make a plan for your plate. Keep portions in check by using the plate method: Fill half of your plate with fruits and vegetables, and leave the other half for grains and proteins.

When you've finished your meal and feel satisfied, consider chewing gum or mints to limit your temptation to graze mindlessly.

Alternate festive calorie-laden drinks such as eggnog, champagne or mulled ciders with water to limit consumption and stay hydrated.

Find ways to incorporate movement into your holiday celebrations. Consider grabbing friends and family for a neighborhood walk or flag football game after that Thanksgiving meal or turn up the tunes for a true "Rockin' around the Christmas tree" dance party!

Nicole Yon is a registered dietitian and farmer's wife helping to bridge the gap between farmers and consumers. Follow along at www.fromfarmtolabel.com or on Instagram @fromfarmtolabel.



SCFB Celebrates Farm Bureau Day and Awards Youth Scholarships at State Fair

Farm Bureau members were treated to free admission to the SC State Fair on Tuesday, October 16, a day the SC State Fair had designated as Farm Bureau Day. On this day, over 700 SCFB members received free admission for two persons with their valid membership card.

"The partnership between the Farm Bureau and the State Fair is vital for preserving agriculture in SC," said Harry Ott, SCFB President. "It is very important for Farm Bureau to participate in the State Fair because the State Fair brings people from all walks of life together. At the State Fair, Farm Bureau gets the opportunity to share with a broad spectrum of people what agriculture is all about and the role that Farm Bureau plays

in advocating for agriculture."

SC Farm Bureau also presented a total of \$11,500 in agricultural scholarships to six livestock competition winners during the state fair. The purpose of the scholarships is to prepare youths to become part of the leadership in agriculture, a key industry in South Carolina. The winners were:

- Beef: Kaitlyn Christenbury, Anderson County; Hannah Wooten, Anderson County
- Dairy: Blakelee Wisher, York County
- Swine: Hayes Ulmer, Orangeburg County
- Meat goat: Savanna Hill, Florence
- Equine: Hailey Nicole Williamson, Lexington County

"The scholarships are important because the program gets young people involved in

livestock production in an early age that we hope will carry over into their adult life," said Ott.

To be eligible for the scholarships, participants must be South Carolina youths in grades 10-12, or presently enrolled in a SC college or university four-year program, who have not passed their 20th birthday as of the date of the show.

Entrants can compete for the agricultural scholarships by entering their livestock in the appropriate competition and submitting a scholarship application.

Entry forms and scholarship applications for the 2019 SC State Fair Livestock Competition will be available online at www.scstatefair.org beginning July 1, 2019.

— By Lauren Prettyman
SCFB Digital Media Director



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CULTIVATING CONVERSATIONS

*Tips and trips for meaningful
 conversations about food & farming*

By Elizabeth Wood, Director of Agricultural Literacy

A holiday spread isn't complete without a Thanksgiving turkey or a Christmas ham, and time around the table with family and friends can often spark conversations about how our favorite proteins are raised. Consumer concerns about animal welfare are real, which is why it is important for farmers to share why an animal's well-being is their top priority. As you slice into a turkey or ham over the holidays, make sure you have these talking points in your back pocket to share with dinner guests.

• **HORMONES:** Growth hormones are not approved for use in any poultry or pork production. Farmers use selective breeding to capture the most desirable traits to yield the best finished product for the consumer.

• **ANTIBIOTICS:** If an animal gets sick, farmers work closely with their veterinarian to administer medication only as necessary. Any animal that is treated with an antibiotic must undergo a withdrawal period before it can enter the food supply and is tested to ensure there is no residual medicine.

• **ORGANIC vs. CONVENTIONAL:** Organic farming is reflective of a production method, not nutritional value. Meat, organic or conventional, is a nutritious and necessary part of your diet, regardless of how it was produced.

• **ANIMAL WELFARE:** Animal care is an hourly concern on farms and ranches. Housing is used to protect animals, and your food, from other animals and the elements. Modern housing is clean, well-lit and climate controlled for maximum comfort of the animals.



Happy holidays and don't forget to go back for seconds on the turkey and ham!



ANNUAL MEETINGS

A Walk Down Memory Lane

Three Difference Makers
Remember Key Accomplishments



by Tom Poland
Photography by Larry Kemmerlin

A great convening takes place each year. Agricultural leaders from 47 County Farm Bureau chapters gather in Myrtle Beach. The latest occasion? The 75th Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, November 29 through December 1, a slow time in farming but a good time to meet.

Meeting time will be a busy time at Kingston Resorts Embassy Suites Hotel. A silent auction benefits the Education in AG-tion programs. The Dairy Bar will provide ice cream treats. A junior and senior talent contest will take place at the Marriott Grande Dunes. The Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award finalists will be announced as will the Betty J. DeWitt Outstanding Educator Award.

In between program activities, old friends will reminisce. In the spirit of recollection, three long-time Farm Bureau members recall career highlights and meetings. What comes through is their deep appreciation for the Farm Bureau family, that, and education, grassroots, un-met goals, home cooking, and more.

Harry Bell—A Record-Setting President

Harry Bell's roots run deep and strong along Highway 23 over in Peach Country. He grew up in Ward, where early on he attended Spann Methodist Church, not far from where a red caboose sits in a field. Today, Harry lives with wife, Jean, near his grandparent's home, the Satcher family, and his homeplace.

Like many colleagues, farming is in his blood. He and son, William, represent the fourth generation to operate Bell Farms. Harry's resume includes row crops, cattle and timber. Add military man as well. Shortly after graduating from the University of South Carolina, Bell accepted a reserve commission in the US Air Corps on June 19, 1950. Six days later, North Korea crossed the 38th parallel and, in 1951, Harry found himself in the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing in Korea. He retired as a Lt. Colonel.

Harry set an unusual record in his ascent to the presidency. "I was elected by the state board on July 15, 1971. That was the first and only time that's been done. I served 26 years, a few months and days."

Harry served on the boards of the casualty company, life company and American Farm Bureau Federation.

"I was elected president of the life company, Southern Farm Bureau and vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation."

He remembers his more significant successes, like the building of an outstanding staff, passage of South Carolina Act 208—"It kept taxes in line on timber and crop land and kept the state and counties from taxing farmers off the land"—and the significant growth of SC Farm Bureau membership.

"I had the privilege of serving a membership that was the finest," he said.

It didn't start off easy. "Farm Bureau was in tough straits back then. The Marketing Association went into bankruptcy because the markets had gone against us, but by having everyone pitch in—the insurance companies and others—we got it out of bankruptcy. That was big. I remember the serious matters more than the funny ones."

Lighter times, however, hold a place in his memories. A smile appeared as he told of sharing the stage with Vice President Dan Quayle.

"He gave me a photo of him on which he wrote, 'We vice presidents have to stand together.'"

Quayle wasn't his only contact with national leaders.

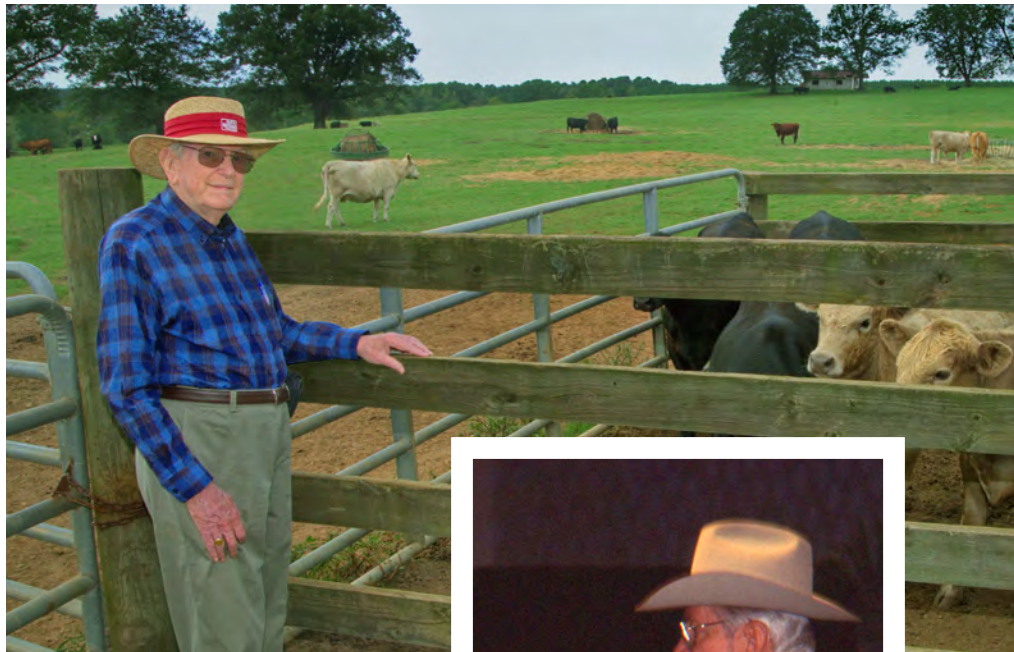
"As vice president of the American Farm Bureau, I had the pleasure to meet Presidents Ford, Reagan, both Bushes and Clinton."

Like the presidents he met, giving speeches came with the territory. When I first started giving speeches, you could have played cymbals between my knees," he said.

Harry remembers, too, a board meeting in which the power went off, plunging the board into darkness. A few moments later the lights came back on. He asked his fellow board members, "Is there anything else I can do for you?"

"I must have done something right," said Harry. "I was unopposed for 13 terms, so I decided to step down at 70, but now I'm 90 and I wish I had stayed a couple more years."

He did more than a few things right. In 2000, the State of South Carolina selected Harry as one of three outstanding men in Agriculture of the 20th Century for his work in the boll weevil's eradication. Not only was he the state's longest-serving president of Farm Bureau, his was the longest tenure of any state Farm Bureau president in the United States.



Former SCFB president Harry Bell produces beef cattle on his Saluda County farm.

Right: Bell presides over a meeting during his Farm Bureau days.



Frances Price—Boots On The Ground

Frances Price has always lived on the farm. “My father was on the organizing board of Lexington County Farm Bureau and my mother was the first county secretary for Lexington County Farm Bureau. Family members have always served on the county board.”

Frances serves on the SCFB Board of Directors, chairs the State

great program for rising juniors and seniors in high school. They learn about agriculture, legislative issues, team building and leadership skills.”

The Women’s Program began February 16, 1950. Frances recalls a meeting to organize the Associated Women of SCFB at the Wade Hampton Hotel in Columbia.

“Women came from all over the state. One goal was to have an active chapter in every county. Sixty-eight years later we still have that as a goal. Though our name has changed, our goals remain the same: supporting women across the state so we can make a difference in all citizens’ lives. We Farm Bureau Women are ‘the boots on the ground,’ and last year we logged about 32,000 volunteer hours supporting and promoting Farm Bureau and agriculture.”

Frances sees it as an honor to chair the SCFB Women’s Leadership Committee. “The first chair in 1950 was Mrs. Joe Frank Jones from Starr. The second chair was Sallie Bennett followed by Odessa Price Richardson of Marion. The fourth chair was Mittie Parr from Newberry followed by Betty

Women’s Leadership Committee and remembers much about the annual meetings.

“The Country Store began in 1990 and this year will be 29 years of success. The first year we took in over \$1,700. Over the years we’ve taken in over \$140,000 for agricultural education projects and materials. It gives every volunteer an opportunity to donate and to purchase. Even the hotel staff buys items every year.”

The Silent Auction, she said, “was a joint effort of the Women’s Leadership Committee and Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. It began in 2001. So far, the auction has netted more than \$76,000, all of which goes for agricultural education.”

The Queen’s Contest began at the November 1954 annual meeting. The winner received a \$200 scholarship.

“Our last Queen’s Contest was 50 years later in December 2004, but it was for females only. So, in December 2005, we held our first Youth Ambassador Contest. These ambassadors have done a great job representing Farm Bureau,” said Frances. “Some female winners are now County Women’s chairs. Each year the ambassadors receive a \$2,000 scholarship.”

The following year, the Talent Contest was added. “Every county has the opportunity to send a contestant for the Junior and Senior divisions. Some go on to perform professionally.”

In 1983, the Women’s Leadership Committee sponsored the first Youth Leadership Conference at Clemson University.

“We held our 36th conference this summer,” she said. “This is a

DeWitt from Darlington. Like her, I served on the Women’s Leadership Committee from 2002 to 2012.

“Being a volunteer has been wonderful and afforded many opportunities I would never have imagined. Working with members of the Women’s Leadership Committee and volunteers across the state has been a blessing. All staff work hard every day to help make this organization better.”

For Frances, one honor stands out. “On December 1, 2006, I was awarded the Distinguished Service Award” That’s the highest honor in SCFB. “That was very humbling, but I received it not only for me, but for all the volunteers and others that helped make all the accomplishments possible.”



Frances Price receives an award from Senator Strom Thurmond. Right: A group of SC Farm Bureau women from days past (Frances is in the red jacket). Top: Frances has been raising goats on her family farm for many years.

Benjie Rhoad—Service Through Volunteering

For Benjie Rhoad, the journey to Farm Bureau memories began in high school.

“The most influential person in my education, my high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, guided me to excel in everything I did,” he said.

Benjie followed in his footsteps and received his B.S. degree in agricultural education from Clemson and taught agriculture at Gilbert High School, 1963 to '65.

“FFA let me meet some of the leaders in South Carolina agriculture, which led to my employment as a district field representative for South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation August 1, 1965.”

His public school years helped prepare him for the opportunity to develop leadership skills instrumental to success throughout his Farm Bureau career and retirement.

The seeds of his career were sown long before school.

“I grew up on a small family farm in Bamberg County, where many life lessons prepared me for the challenges we face during our journey on Earth.”

That farm upbringing proved valuable as assistant to President Harry Bell. “I came to see challenges as opportunities to be fulfilled.”

One such challenge was developing a team of volunteers to work with Farm Bureau at the county level. “We brought on talented staff to work with volunteers and encouraged them to use their ideas to develop programs and services based on members’ needs.”

Working with county voluntary leaders meant invitations to some wonderful home cooking during his farm visits, and knowing that a helping hand was never far away. “I often told staff that as I traveled across South Carolina, if I needed help, I could call the county Farm Bureau office or a volunteer leader and get immediate help. A blessing better than roadside assistance.”

In Farm Bureau, Benjie found the organization he wanted to serve.

“Having roots in agriculture, I wanted to spend my career working with South Carolina’s farming segment. I quickly learned I was part of yet another family who cared for each other and worked together as a team. What appealed to me was that the organizational flow chart of Farm Bureau begins at the local level—the grassroots. My job was to work with voluntary leaders on the county level, learn their concerns, issues, problems, and encourage them to recommend solutions by working together.

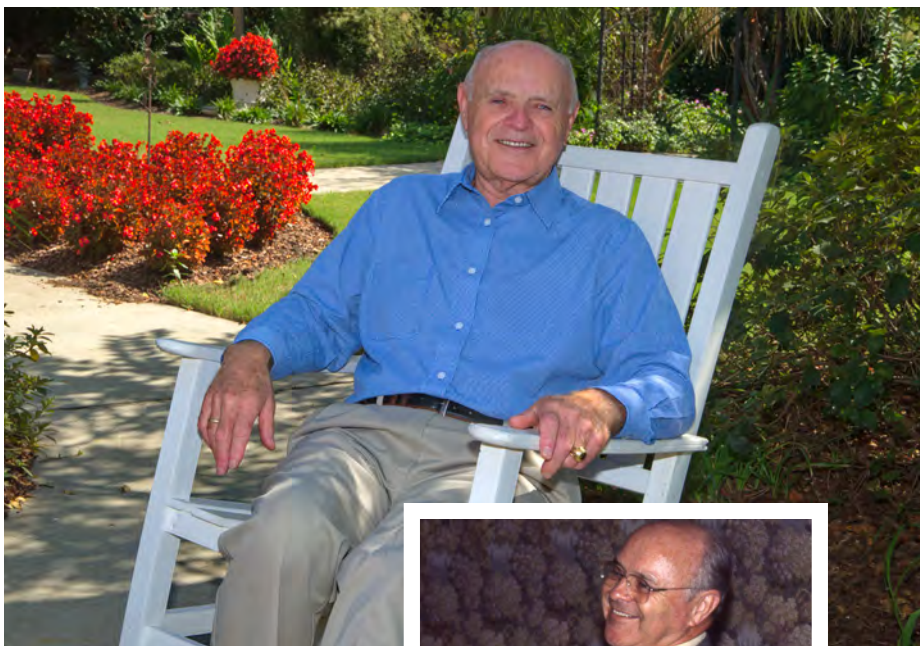
“It was always refreshing to witness how Farm Bureau leaders on county, state and national levels came together and resolved the problem or issue. That Farm Bureau spirit builds character,” he said, adding, “Farm Bureau is a unique organization I’m privileged to be

part of. To work in the organization’s Field Service/Organization Division and Administration Division as assistant to the president was certainly a culmination of my desire to work with the best: farm families.”

Benjie said he learned from the very best. “After our challenges in 1969-70, I witnessed, yet again, the character of Farm Bureau leaders and members as the organization turned challenges into opportunities. President Bell and his assistant, Tom Warren, provided outstanding advice and leadership to the Board of Directors. They led by example, and our Farm Bureau family—those in leadership and staff positions of affiliate companies—bonded closer than ever.”

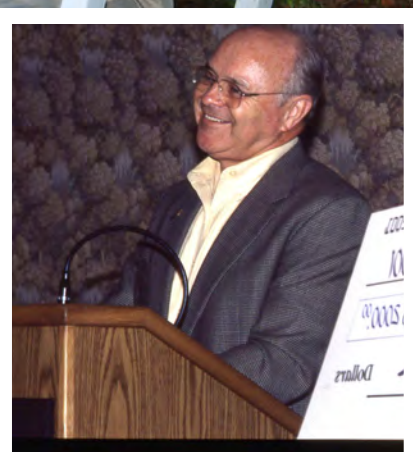
Today, Benjie applies his farming discipline to his immaculate yard and life’s challenges. He’s a 10-year cancer survivor who volunteers at church and works “part-time” for a funeral home.

“My wife, Jeanette passed away in 2010, leaving me with a cat, a son and daughter-in-law, a daughter and son-in-law, four granddaughters, one grandson-in-law, and two great grandsons.”



Benjie Rhoad takes a minute to relax in his beautiful back yard.

Right: A glimpse of his days at Farm Bureau.



Thanks to leaders like these, South Carolina Farm Bureau has been the voice of agriculture in the Palmetto State for the last 75 years. Through strong grassroots efforts, Farm Bureau will continue as the leading voice for the next 75 years and beyond.



The Homegrown

Holiday Table

By Salley McInerney

Photography by Larry Kemmerlin



When it comes to the holidays in the Palmetto State, it's a good bet dining tables will be groaning under the weight of sumptuous South Carolina commodities.



It's an even better bet that whether you're talking turkey, collards, sweet potatoes or pecans, a conversation with cultivators of these products is bound to be entertaining.





Charles Wingard takes a closer look at collards growing at the Walter P. Rawl farm in Pelion.

Below: Wingard double-checks for quality as freshly cut collards move down the conveyer belt on the way to be packaged.



Collards

Lexington County's Charles Wingard drives a GMC pickup truck with a personalized license plate that says, "COLLARD." "Some of my friends call me Col. Lard," he laughed.



Wingard is the vice president of field operations for a family farm that was established in the early 1920s by the late Walter and Ernestine Rawl. The farming operation, based in Pelion, has since grown to include more than 400 employees growing, processing, packing and shipping a variety of vegetables including collards across the country.

"I'm the third generation on this farm," Wingard said. "I grew up messing with collards. As a kid, I was either cutting collards, washing and packing them, or loading 'em on a truck at the packing shed. Especially during the holidays. I never knew what it was like to get two weeks off (from school) at Christmas. I was working collards."

When Wingard graduated from high school, he dreamed of being an athletic trainer.

With the collard patch in the rearview mirror, he headed upstate, to Clemson University. There, Wingard worked on his dream. He was a student athletic trainer until he graduated in May, 1987.

"But I started missing the farm. With all that it was like being an athletic trainer at Clemson—the ACC Championship and everything else—there was still something about farming that was more special to me. When you take natural resources—sunlight, air, soil, rain—and you work with it and you're able to produce something, harvest something, well, that's real special."

The Rawl farm produces about 700 acres of collards each year. That's a lot of luck, if you believe that the holiday staple brings good fortune to those who eat them at the beginning of the new year.

"Collards sure bring me luck," Wingard laughed. "The more you eat, the more money I make."

Bounty from the Walter P. Rawl & Sons farming operation can be found on grocery stores shelves under the name of "Nature's Greens."

"We have a market impact in 25 to 30 states. Retail, grocery store chains, food service outfits."

As for collards, Wingard said, "Growing a good collard is like raising a baby. You want to put them to bed at night dry."

Wingard has a favorite way to prepare his collards.

"The truth is, I love collards any kind of way and I love people who love collards, but I really like to get some lean bacon, cut the fat out of it and put it in a pan with minced garlic, some diced onions and some olive oil. I add a couple of teaspoons of chicken broth and sautee all that. Then I put my collards over the sautee, on medium heat, and just let the collards wilt down."



Sweet Potatoes

Mark Beard Jr. was “born and raised” on a farm in a Clarendon County community called Barrineau. “We’re tucked in the very corner of Clarendon County,” Beard said. “You can throw a rock into Florence County. We’re basically a crossroads. We’ve got a big church.”

And at Mark A. Beard & Sons Farm, three generations of Beards working the land.

“We’ve got my father, the senior Beard. I’m junior and then we’ve got my son, Trip. He’s the third. So, there’s three of us, he explained.” And, 1,700 acres planted with soybeans, corn, wheat and sweet potatoes.

“We’re known for our sweet potatoes,” Beard said. “People come from all over the place to get them . . . New York, New Jersey. They come through, traveling back and forth, and they always stop and get some sweet potatoes. I guess word gets around. People bragging on them.”

Beard said some folks show up at the farm shed not so sure how sweet potatoes are grown.

“Believe it or not, I’ve got people who come into my shed and look at my potatoes and ask, ‘Why’s there so much dirt on them?’ I say, ‘Well, they come out of the ground.’ ”



From top: Collards and ham-ocks make for good eating. • Mark Beard Sr. and Mark Beard Jr. pack sweet potatoes for shipping. • Mark Beard III (“Trip”) takes a ride on the family’s antique Farmall tractor.

Mark Beard Jr. poses with 83-year-old identical twins Mary (left) and Martha, longtime employees of his family's farm



“We try to grow potatoes that have a higher sugar content. Ours are a red meat potato. The main variety is called Hernandez. That’s a Clemson (University) breed. It’s very sweet.”

Beard is not sure how many potatoes are produced on the farm.

“Oh gosh, you’ll have to let me think on that. I’ll tell you this much, I’ve already ordered 5,000 sweet potato boxes and I know I’m gonna fill ‘em. A hundred a box would be a good number for No. 1’s. Now your Jumbos? You might not have but 40 in a box.”

No. 1’s? Jumbos? What is this about?

“There’re basically three grades of potatoes,” Beard explained. “There’re your Jumbos, which can weigh up to three and four pounds. A No. 1 potato should be six to seven inches long and about three inches in diameter. A No. 2 potato is anything a little smaller or a little bigger. When buyers want No. 2’s, they’re telling you that they don’t want the cream of the crop. They’ll take anything a tad bigger or a little smaller.”

The sweet potato season begins in January.

“We plant little small potatoes—people call them ‘slips’. You lay them on top of the dirt and then cover them with a light layer of dirt. Sprout will come in the first of April. We’ll pull them, transplant them, spreading them out. We’re usually finished digging potatoes in October and we’re usually sold out by Thanksgiving.”

But who's "we?"

In the case of the Beard farm, "we" includes family and a set of 83-year-old identical twins, Mary Wheildon and Martha McElveen.

"They've been helping us for 15, 20 years. They do most of the boxing, the grading (separating by size), and they also help with the digging. We have a machine that digs. It throws the potatoes out of the ground. It's pulled by a tractor."

Beard recalled being on that tractor one late Wednesday afternoon, working with the twins, digging potatoes.

"Now Wednesday is considered prayer meeting night around here. We were digging potatoes. One of the twins had

her hair up in rollers. I was sitting on the tractor and I said, 'It's prayer meeting night. I reckon we've got to knock off.' Mary looked at me and said, 'You get back on that tractor and get those potatoes out of the ground. Prayer meeting is between me and the good Lord.'

"It's hard work, it really is. It's hot and dusty when the potatoes are coming out of the dirt and lately the mosquitoes have been eating us up. It's hard to survive in this business, but honestly, I can't quit. You rarely see a farmer quit. It's in your blood. You just can't help it."



Pecans

Make no mistake about it when locating Yon Family Farms. "We're in Ridge Spring," Corbin Yon said. "Only one spring. Not springs."

But plenty of pecan trees.

"We've got a 160 acres of pecan trees," Yon said. "Our family mainly raises purebred Angus cattle, but a couple of years ago, our 93-year-old neighbor, Joe Cal Watson, offered to sell us his entire (pecan) business, including the orchard and the store in town."

"The store in town" is The Nut House & Country Market.

The Nut House?

Nicole Yon laughed. She manages the store and is Corbin's sister-in-law. Over the front door of the store is a simple sign that says "The Nut House."

"Yeah, people like to take pictures in front of it," she said.



From top: The Yon family's pecan grove in Ridge Spring • The family's retail outlet, "The Nut House." • Corbin Yon and Nicole Yon pose with some of the goodies they offer for sale.

"We have a small kitchen staff on site that makes batches of everything each week. We've got pecans roasted with butter and salt. Spiced with cinnamon and sugar. Chocolate and white chocolate-covered pecans. Pecan pralines, brittle and pecan-stuffed dates. People come from all over to buy our pecans. One woman drives from Charleston to buy her pecans here. Online, we get orders from all over the United States.

At Christmas time, we send pecans to France, England and Japan."

Mrs. Yon and her team also make pecan pies, and customers bring their own pecans to the store to be cracked.

"We've got a separate cracking machine for customers. People pick them up in their yard and bring them to us. We crack them and then the customer takes them back home. When the pecans come out of the cracker, the shells have been cracked, but there's still a lot more cleaning to do."



Back in the orchard, the Yon family cares for six varieties of pecan trees which produce different sizes and quality of nuts.

"Most of our pecan trees are 30 to 40 years old," Yon said. "Our oldest trees are 90 years old. They can live to be well over 100 years and still produce nuts."

The Yon orchard produces about 140,000 pounds of pecans annually. About 10 percent are used in the store and the rest are sold wholesale.

"Our trees start to bud out in April," Yon said. "We harvest October through December. The most difficult part is combating disease and insects. For us, the process of growing them, taking care of them, harvesting them—it's all a learning process."

Fortunately for the Yons, they have a good teacher—Mr. Watson, the elderly neighbor who sold the orchard to the Yons.

"Mr. Watson actually still lives out here in the orchard," Yon said. "He offers his advice pretty regularly. He can't drive anymore, but he has a golf cart he rides around in."

PHOTO BY LAUREN PRETTYMAN



Turkeys

Talking turkey” is an expression most thought to come from American colonists and Indians bartering over wild turkeys back in the day.

These days, talking turkey with Jimmie Lee Shaw, who raises the big birds in Newberry, is about two things—“cash flow and fertilizer.”

“It means a check in the mail and it means fertilizer. That’s the main reasons we’re in the business.”

Shaw grew up farming.

“I’ve always been on a farm. I’m 33 years old. My dad worked on a farm and when I was a kid, I worked with him every chance I got. The biggest thing I liked about farming when I was a kid was the beef calves and riding on the big farm equipment. Once you do that enough, it gets in your blood.”

Shaw and his father, Lee, manage Overbridge Farm in partnership with John Long. They grow row crops including corn and cotton, and they raise turkeys on a contractual basis.

“We own our equipment and we own our houses, but we don’t own the turkeys or the feed. We just contract with a company to raise them. We get the turkeys when they are about five weeks old. We grow ’em up to 18 or 20 weeks old. Then they go to the processing plant. It’s always a good day when the turkeys go. Generally, we have about three flocks a year in a four-house farm. So, there’s your cash flow, a check every three months or four months.”

The houses are cleaned after each flock leaves and a deeper cleaning takes place once a year. That’s where the fertilizer comes in.

“We clean those houses completely out once a year and then spread the fertilizer on the fields.”

Shaw and his father got into the turkey business in 2008.

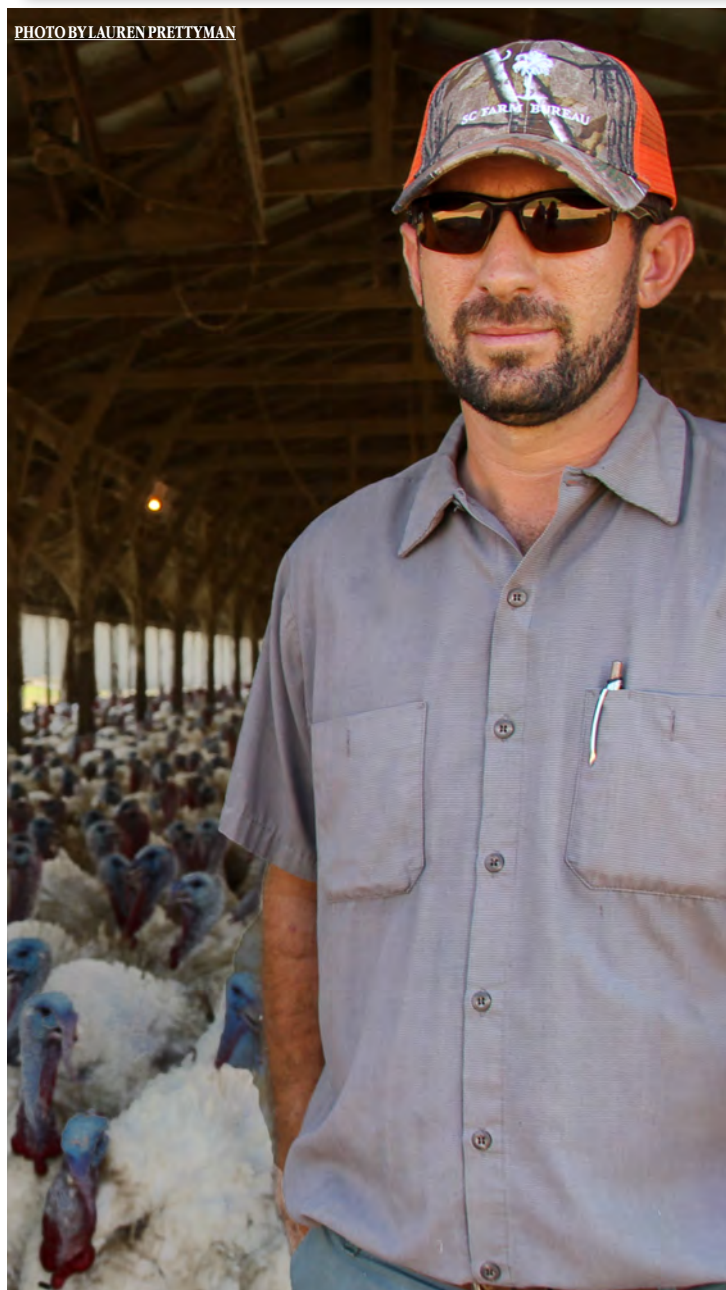
“The hardest part of the business is being on call. When you’ve got turkeys, it’s a seven-day-a-week job. You have to be there.”

While you won’t find one of Jimmie Lee’s turkeys on a Thanksgiving plate (they are mostly used for lunch meat), he’ll still be eating turkey on Thanksgiving Day. And, if you ask him the best way to eat turkey, he’ll say, “I’m gonna tell you fried.”

This holiday season, be sure to look for locally grown ingredients to craft your delectable dishes; after all, what better way to support South Carolina farmers than to feature their harvest at your holiday gathering.



PHOTO BY LAUREN PRETTYMAN



From top: Turkey and all the trimmings is a Thanksgiving Day staple.

• Jimmie Lee Shaw “talks turkey” at Overbridge Farm in Newberry.

Opposite: Roasted pecans from The Nut House ready for snacking.

• Turkeys as far as the eyes can see.



75th Annual Meeting Schedule

Thursday, November 29, 2018

10:00 am	Ag in the Classroom Golf Tournament Registration	<i>Arcadian Shores</i>
11:00 am	Ag in the Classroom Golf Tournament	<i>Arcadian Shores</i>
1:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Receiving Items for Country Store	<i>Embassy Suites —Hampton</i>
1:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Receiving Items for Silent Auction	<i>Embassy Suites —Hampton</i>
2:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Convention/Voting Delegate Registration	<i>Embassy Suites —Cambridge Hall</i>
6:30 pm	Welcome Dinner	<i>Marriott Resort—Atlantic Ballroom</i>
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Country Store	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor BC</i>
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Silent Auction	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor A</i>
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Big Farm Show	<i>Embassy Suites – Lakeside Pavilion</i>

Friday, December 30, 2018

8:00 am – noon	Convention/Voting Delegate Registration	<i>Embassy Suites—Cambridge Hall</i>
7:15 am – 8:15 am	YF&R Breakfast	<i>Embassy Suites – Kensington C</i>
7:15 am – 8:15 am	Continental Breakfast	<i>Embassy Suites – Kensington AB</i>
9:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Big Farm Show	<i>Embassy Suites – Lakeside Pavilion</i>
8:30 am – 10:30 am	General Session Keynote Speaker – David Wasserman with The Cook Report Engagement Panel	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington DEFG</i>
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Cooking Demonstration	<i>Big Farm Show – Lakeside Pavilion</i>
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Country Store	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor BC</i>
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Silent Auction	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor A</i>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Raising Ag Safety Awareness	<i>Embassy Suites – Kensington DEFG</i>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Clemson Research Update	<i>Embassy Suites – Pembroke</i>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	CAMM Training (1-hour credit - \$15)	<i>Embassy Suites – Winchester</i>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	YF&R Alumni Lunch	<i>Embassy Suites – Kensington C</i>
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Women's Luncheon (Ticket required)	<i>Marriott Resort—Atlantic Ballroom</i>
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Wild Hog Demo	<i>Big Farm Show – Lakeside Pavilion</i>
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Water (NOT) Under the Bridge	<i>Embassy Suites – Pembroke</i>
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Pesticide Applicator Training	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington DEFG</i>
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	SCFB Marketing Assn, LLC Annual Meeting	<i>Embassy Suites —Winchester</i>



Friday, December 30, 2018

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Presentations	<i>Embassy Suites —Eton</i>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Pesticide Applicator Training	<i>Embassy Suites — Kensington DEFG</i>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Go Team: Preparing for the 2019 Legislative Session	<i>Embassy Suites —Winchester</i>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Drone Demonstration	<i>Big Farm Show – Lakeside Pavilion</i>
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	County FB Investment Board, LLC	<i>Embassy Suites - Oxford</i>
4:00 pm	YF&R Discussion Meet (Semi-Finals)	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington A & B</i>
5:15 pm	YF&R Discussion Meet (Finals)	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington A</i>
6:00 pm – 7:15 pm	Country Store	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor BC</i>
6:00 pm – 7:15 pm	Silent Auction	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor A</i>
6:00 pm – 7:15 pm	Convention/Voting Delegate Registration	<i>Embassy Suites —Cambridge Hall</i>
7:15 pm	Silent Auction bidding ends	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor A</i>
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Awards & Recognition Program Reception	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington DEFG</i> <i>Kensington ABC</i>
8:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Country Store	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor BC</i>
8:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Silent Auction item pick-up	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor A</i>

Saturday, December 1, 2018

7:30 am – 11:00 am	Convention/Voting Delegate Registration	<i>Embassy Suites —Cambridge Hall</i>
8:30 am – until adjournment	Voting Delegate Session Election of officers Organizational Meeting of the 2019 SCFB Board of Directors	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington DEFG</i>
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Country Store	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor BC</i>
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Country Store closed; Counties pick up unsold items. Any items not picked up by 11:30 am will be donated to a local charity	<i>Embassy Suites —Windsor BC</i>
To be determined	Pee Dee District Caucus	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington A</i>
To be determined	Piedmont District Caucus	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington B</i>
To be determined	Central District Caucus	<i>Embassy Suites —Kensington C</i>
To be determined	Coastal District Caucus	<i>Embassy Suites —Eton</i>
Following adjournment of State Board meeting	Annual and/or Board meetings of Affiliate Companies: SC Ag-in-the-Classroom Fund Board SCFB Foundation SCFB Holding Co. Pro-Ag, LLC SCFB Management, LLC	<i>Embassy Suites —Winchester</i> <i>Embassy Suites —Winchester</i> <i>Embassy Suites —Winchester</i> <i>Embassy Suites —Winchester</i> <i>Embassy Suites —Winchester</i>
10:00 am – 10:45 am	Talent Registration	<i>Marriott Resort—East Hall</i>
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Talent Rehearsal	<i>Marriott Resort—Atlantic Ballroom</i>
1:30 pm	SCFB Financial Services, LLC	<i>Embassy Suites —Eton</i>
2:00 pm	Talent Contest	<i>Marriott Resort—Atlantic Ballroom</i>





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You (or your county secretary) must complete the **online registration** process if you and/or any of your family members 18 years or older plan on attending



SC Farm Bureau's 75th Annual Meeting

November 29 – December 1, 2018

Myrtle Beach, SC

Register Online at
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ALMANAC

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

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 1

SC Farm Bureau's 75th Annual Meeting

Myrtle Beach

County Farm Bureau leaders from across the state are invited to participate in educational seminars, resolution and policy discussions, and election of officers.

Other highlights include the Ag in the Classroom Golf Benefit, Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet Contest, Talent Contest, SCFB Women's Luncheon and the Distinguished Service Award presentation.

The headquarters hotel will be Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation with some events, including the Thursday evening dinner, the Women's Luncheon and the Talent Contest, to be held at the Marriott Grande Dunes on 82nd Avenue.

JANUARY 11-16

AFBF's 100th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show

New Orleans

Join the American Farm Bureau Federation as we celebrate our centennial! Participate in educational workshops to expand your leadership skills, business expertise, impactful policy discussions and more.

Celebrate the accomplishments of leaders in agriculture, witness powerful keynote speakers in the general sessions, AFBF women's meeting, a trade show and numerous commodity and issue-specific seminars.

Young Farmers & Ranchers activities include the AFBF Discussion Meet, AFBF Excellence in Agriculture Contest and AFBF Achievement Award Contest.

JANUARY 23-24

SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo

Florence Civic Center, Florence

The 7th Annual SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo is a great opportunity to interact with top agricultural companies, get updates on the latest innovations and learn from educational sessions and exhibitor demonstrations.

The two-day event will be held at the Florence Civic Center on Wednesday, January 23 and Thursday, January 24. The SCFB Federation is again participating as a title sponsor. For more information, visit www.SCAgriBizExpo.com.

JANUARY 25-26

SCFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference

Columbia

The annual SCFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference features educational workshops and speakers. Farmers, ranchers, agribusiness professionals and ag enthusiasts between the age of 18-35 are encouraged to attend. Visit www.scfb.org/YFR for more information.

If you have an agricultural event of interest to publish in the Almanac, send it to Lauren Prettyman at lpretty@scfb.org. Include your name and telephone number. Deadline for inclusion in the Winter issue of South Carolina Farmer is October 15.

75th South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting Set for Nov. 29-Dec 1

Agricultural leaders from 47 County Farm Bureau chapters across the state will gather in Myrtle Beach Thursday, November 29 until Saturday, December 1, for the 75th Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

Headquarters for most of the convention activities will be the Embassy Suites Hotel in Kingston Plantation.

The event will kick off with the SCFB Ag in the Classroom Golf Benefit, sponsored by the SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers committee. It will be held at Arcadian Shores Golf Club on Thursday morning.

On Thursday evening, an estimated crowd of 1,000 Farm Bureau members will gather at Marriott Grande Dunes Hotel on

82nd Avenue for peel-n-eat shrimp and fried chicken. At that time, the members will hear from SCFB President Harry Ott, who will also present the Legislator of the Year awards and the Grassroots Legislative All-Star awards.

Friday's events will include the opening General Session and various afternoon educational sessions, including workshops providing credits for pesticide applicators and CAMM certification. Other sessions will feature legislative updates, a report on the second year of the industrial hemp project, results from the Clemson irrigation survey and a workshop on farm safety. Again this year, members can visit the Big Farm Show for interactive cooking and wild hog demonstrations.

The Voting Delegate session on Saturday will be the main business part of the convention. Offices up for election include vice president of the Central District and vice president of the Piedmont District.

Delegates will also consider resolutions and recommendations to be adopted as official SCFB policy for the coming year.

The Big Farm Show will be back again outside the Embassy Suites Hotel in the Lakeside Pavilion under the "big tent." The show will feature various agricultural vendors, as well as an array of member benefit displays.

Other convention highlights include:

- Country Store, sponsored by the SCFB Women's Leadership Program, with all proceeds and donations being used for the Ag in the Classroom Fund, the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and Education in AG-tion! programs.
- Silent Auction, co-sponsored by the Women's Leadership Committee and Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, with proceeds to benefit the Education in AG-tion programs.
- Dairy Bar, with self-serve ice cream treats, staffed by volunteers from the Piedmont District.
- Junior and Senior Talent Contest on Saturday afternoon at the Marriott Grande Dunes.
- Announcement of Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award finalists.
- SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet.
- SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture presentations.
- Presentation of the Betty J. DeWitt Outstanding Educator Award.

THE BIG FARM SHOW

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Award guidelines & forms are online at clemson.edu/cafls/alumni/alumni_awards.html

Nominations are due December 1



L-r: Corbin, Kevin, Lydia, Drake and Sally Yon. Photo credit: Certified Angus

Kevin Yon named 2018 Southeastern Farmer of the Year

From Sunbelt Ag Expo

Kevin Yon, a highly successful purebred Angus beef cattle producer and a leader in beef cattle and Angus breed organizations, has been selected as the overall winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for 2018.

Yon received the prestigious honor at the Willie B. Withers Luncheon held during opening day of the 2018 Sunbelt Ag Expo farm show. He was chosen over nine other state winners who were finalists for the award.

His farm encompasses 4,258 acres, with 2,515 acres of rented land and 1,743 acres of family owned land.

Each year, the Yons sell about 375 bulls and 150 females in two on-farm sales. They also sell cattle in private treaty sales. Their herd includes 1,200 registered breeding-age females, 590 commercial breeding-age females and 90 steers and heifers that are fed out.

The Yons retain ownership on calves not sold for breeding, and keep most of them in a Kansas feedlot. They also feed out calves on their farm that are marketed through a processing facility in Augusta, Georgia.

work on the farm as young adults along with two of their spouses.

The Yons also own a retail store in Ridge Spring where they sell pecans and beef from their farm, along with other South Carolina-grown products.

This is the 29th year for the Farmer of the Year award, which recognizes excellence in agricultural production and farm management, along with leadership in farm and community organizations. The award also honors family contributions in producing safe and abundant supplies of food, fiber and shelter products.

Yon expressed his thanks to Swisher and the other sponsors of the award. He said his family and his employees deserve credit for the award.

"We are humbled to receive this recognition," he said. "Our family goal is to leave a legacy, by taking care of the land, our cattle and our people. Our farm supports our two sons and our daughter and their families, and our ten employees and their families."

As the Southeastern Farmer of the Year, Yon will receive a \$15,000 cash award plus \$2,500 as a state winner from Swisher International. He will also receive the use of a Massey Ferguson tractor for a year from Massey Ferguson North America, a \$500 gift certificate from the Southern States cooperative, a Columbia jacket from Ivey's Outdoor and Farm Supply, a smoker-grill from Hays LTI, and a Henry Golden Boy "American Farmer" Tribute Edition rifle from Reinke Irrigation.

Forages are among the most extensive plantings on Yon's farm. He has successfully grown alfalfa and has become a new grower of soybeans and pecans.

Family involvement is a key to the success of Yon Family Farms. His wife, Lydia, is a full partner with Kevin, and all three of their children have returned to

NEWS

from your County Farm Bureau

Go to www.scfb.org

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

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Women's Leadership Conference

Nearly 80 women from 21 counties across the state gathered in Aiken on October 1-2 for the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation's annual Women's Leadership Conference.

The group of women learned what makes South Carolina agriculture "sparkle" during the two-day meeting. They participated in workshops that showcased local agriculture, offered personal development and provided tools to promote agriculture in their counties.

Farm Bureau Women at county, state and national levels coordinate agricultural education and promotional activities. Their work includes supporting important family and agricultural legislation, youth programs, educational activities, leadership development and commodity promotions.



Linda Smith from Anderson and Marilyn Easter from Laurens lit up the night in their sequins at the Women's Leadership Conference.

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Dates Set For 7th Annual SC AgriBiz Expo

Join us for the 7th Annual SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo with two days of non-stop action. Mark your calendar for January 23-24 to visit the annual Expo at the newly updated Florence Center in Florence. With expanded space to offer additional educational classes and increased vendor spaces, the Expo continues to grow and offer opportunities for all types of farmers and farm-related enterprises.

At the 2019 Expo, come listen and learn more from keynote speaker Michele Payn of Cause Matters Corporation. A champion of agriculture, Michele will celebrate agriculture as well as help each farmer—large or small—become advocates of agriculture. She will help us connect with others to have those difficult conversations relative to animal welfare, sustainability, chemicals and GMOs. You do not want to miss Michele's presentations on how to become a community catalyst who can have a personal, positive effect in your farming community.

On the tradeshow floor will be many vendors showcasing their products, all excited to help farmers address their challenges in the field.

Mark your calendar. There is something for everyone at the 2019 Expo.

Clyde and Betty Jackson named SC Farm Bureau 2018 Distinguished Service Award Recipients



Clyde and Betty Jackson

One of the highlights of the SCFB Annual Meeting is the presentation of the **Distinguished Service Award**. Join us on Friday evening, November 30, for the Awards and Recognition Program in the Kensington Ballroom at the Embassy Suites Hotel when we will honor Clyde and Betty Jackson for their outstanding service to the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation and agriculture.

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NOTICE

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 5, (Notice to Seek Elective Office) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation (as amended and restated December 5, 2015), those persons who have filed written intent to seek elective office (Vice Presidents) on Saturday, December 1, 2018, during the Voting Delegate Session of the annual meeting of the South Carolina Farm Bureau are listed below:

- ❑ William Coleman, Central District Vice President
- ❑ Doug Stewart, Piedmont District Vice President

For Rent

N. MYRTLE BEACH – Ocean-front condos – studio, 1, 2 & 3 bedroom. Please call (843) 319-9143 for more information or check at vrbo.com #233950 and see other listings for the same property owner.

SANTEE – Lake Marion vacation rental. On sandy 200-foot beach with 20 mile water view. Three bedrooms, sleeps six, fishing pier, good local golf and birdwatching. For more information, call (803) 492-3074.

SURFSIDE BEACH – 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 2 enclosed outside showers, screened front porch, sleeps 10, one block to beach, approximately 1.5 miles to Garden City Pier. Call (803) 804-1843 or email sherryt@windstream.net.

MINI SUITE – Furnished near Greenville/Spartanburg airport and BMW. All private. Month-to-month, no lease or deposit required. \$800 per month. Call (864) 313-9039.

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.keoweewacationrentals.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.

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.

EDISTO BEACH – 3 bedroom cottage on front of beach for rent; sleeps 6 people. Available all year. Search for VRBO listing #32109 for information and owner email.

CHAUGA RIVER CABIN – 4 bedrooms. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom upstairs. Large living room, fireplace, TV, VCR. Screened porch overlooking Chauga River. North of Walhalla, SC, 1 hour from Greenville/Spartanburg, 2 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.

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

HILTON HEAD – Fully furnished, one bedroom condo, South Forest Beach. Pool, security. \$575 per week. For more information, call (843) 838-0974 or email bettyjo614@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.

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.

HILTON HEAD – Seascape Villas #3004. Near Coligny. 1 bedroom condo, sleeps 4. Pool. No smoking. Pictures/details at Vacation Time Hilton Head. Call (843) 785-5151.

For Sale

HORRY COUNTY – 38+ acres approximately 33 miles from N. Myrtle Beach. Highway frontage 421' and rear of property 1,340' that adjoins local airport. Please call (843) 331-4978 for more information.

HORRY COUNTY – 479 acres with 26.41 cleared. Approximately 35 miles from N. Myrtle Beach. Please call (843) 409-5751 after 5 p.m. for more information.

TWO CEMETERY PLOTS – Located at Greenwood Memorial Gardens in Greenwood, SC. Currently sell for \$1,850 each. Will take \$1,850 for both. Please call (843) 338-1087.

SOUTHLAND MEMORIAL GARDENS – West Columbia, SC. Prime location: Garden of Resurrection, Section A, plot #4. Valued at \$3,495, asking \$3,200. Owner pays transfer fee. Call (803) 796-3170.

CHESTER, SC – 2 cemetery spaces in prime location. Prayer section. Chester Memorial Garden. \$1,000 each. Call (864) 260-9965.

GREENVILLE MEMORIAL GARDENS – Garden of Gethsemane, prime location. 2 crypts with vaults and 16x24 marble headstone with vase, double depth, \$10K value, negotiable. Call/text (864) 325-0093.

LAKE HARTWELL – Lot at Foxwood Hills subdivision in Westminster, SC. 611 Mulberry Court at Sherando Estates. A little over 1/2 acre in a cove. Never been cleared. \$7,000. Contact (864) 269-5067.

LAURAWOOD CEMETERY – 2 grave sites for sale at Laurawood Cemetery in Rock Hill, SC. Call (803) 366-3829.

SANTEE – Nice, high lot. Cleared. Call (843) 687-7062.

FRIPP ISLAND – Large, level golf course lot on Ocean Point fairway hole #5. Mature live oak trees and great central location. \$64,000. Call (206) 356-6234.

TWO CEMETERY PLOTS – Bush River Memorial Gardens, lots 1 & 2, Garden of the Good Shepherd, Columbia, SC. Valued at \$4,500, asking \$3,500. Call (803) 622-4145.

FARM SALE – 34.4 acres, off of Tobaccoland Road, Dillon, SC, with prime farming, hardwoods, creek, duck and deer. For information and bid process, call (864) 980-7557.

EDISTO ISLAND – Wooded corner lot in nice neighborhood, 3 miles to beach. 0.7 acre, paved road, underground utilities. 1,400 sq. ft. home minimum. No mobile homes. \$32,000. Call (803) 335-9333.

BERKELEY COUNTY – Honey Extracting Wax Uncapper. Used 3 times only. "Sideliner" Uncapper (Brushy Mountain Bee Farm SKU #795). Retails \$1,650, asking \$800. Call Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District (843) 719-4146.

PICKENS – Side-by-side cemetery plots in Hillcrest Memorial Park, Pickens, SC. \$2,200 for both. Leave message at (864) 508-0133.

LAKE MURRAY – Two lakeview lots with dock access in residential area of Edgewater Shore in Newberry County. Call (803) 684-5574.

EFFINGHAM – 27+ beautiful acres with large Palm Harbor double wide. Frontage on Olanta Highway, not in flood zone and no restrictions. \$145,000. Call DeAnn (843) 664-1165.

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.

YOGAMINDFULNESS RETREATS – Yoga For Any Body classes. Overnight accommodations. Near Ninety Six, SC. Call (864) 506-4063 or email yogatorium@gmail.com.

FREEWILD HOG REMOVAL – Protect your land, crops and livestock. Apex Hog Removal, LLC. Please call (843) 696-7022.

BLYTHEWOOD HORSE BOARDING – Up to 3 horses. Two stalls, dry hay storage area, wash area, weather protection, electricity, new well, private, secure, owner on site and access 24/7. No annual lease. Five miles from Blythewood and two feed stores. For more information, please call (803) 429-3911.

ART CLASSES – Available in your home or my studio. Four one-hour classes for \$200. Great for home-bound or seniors. Call Sharon Funderburk at (803) 690-4425 or email SharonFunderburk@yahoo.com.

POND STOCKING – Bream, largemouth bass, catfish, sterile grass carp, crappie, hybrid striped bass, fathead minnows and threadfin shad. We deliver. 10% discount to Farm Bureau members. Call (803) 276-2070.

GRASSBUSTERS – Lawn maintenance, pest, termite control, Sumter, SC. Licensed and insured. Free estimates. Discounts for Farm Bureau members. Call (803) 983-4539.

LICENSED GENERAL CONTRACTOR – Land clearing/excavation, demolition, site work and concrete services, including stamped concrete. Call (803) 837-3715 or email aprejohn1@outlook.com.

RAT SNIPER – Avid air gun rat sniper for hire. No damage to buildings or livestock. Very quiet and accurate. No poison left behind to endanger friendlies. Call Robert at (843) 343-1507.

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A project of the SC Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee

State Tax Incentives All Homeowners Should Consider

Mother Nature is not always kind to the Palmetto State and 2018 was no exception. Images of

flooded homes after Hurricane Florence are still very fresh on many minds.

Hurricanes are a constant threat each fall, but South Carolina is vulnerable to a long list of potentially catastrophic weather related events throughout the year.

Unexpected disasters can hit anytime and anywhere in our state. You can't control if or when disaster strikes, but you can take steps to better protect your home and guard against financial loss. South Carolina offers several tax breaks to encourage homeowners to fortify their home and to help manage out-of-pocket insurance costs. With tax season just around the corner, this is a good time to review tax incentives that are available to all South Carolina residents.

Residential Retrofit Income Tax Credits

The South Carolina Department of Revenue offers two tax credits that may be claimed by homeowners who make their home more disaster resistant to hurricanes, rising floodwaters, or other catastrophic windstorm events. The "Residential Retrofit Credit" offsets costs for qualified fortification projects that focus on making a home's roof and openings, like the windows and doors, more disaster resistant. Most homeowners will pay to replace a roof during the course of ownership, and the retrofit tax credit can be used to offset that expense while making the roof as strong as possible.

The maximum credit in any taxable year is 25 percent of the total costs or \$1,000, whichever is less. An additional "Tax Credit for Retrofit Supplies" allows for another credit of up to \$1,500 against the state sales tax or use taxes paid on materials used as part of an eligible fortification project. Both credits can be claimed on the homeowner's individual income tax return using the

South Carolina Schedule TC43 form. For a copy of the form, go to www.dor.sc.gov and type in "TC43" in the search bar.

For more details on specific fortification requirements, visit the South Carolina Department of Insurance website, www.doi.sc.gov and search for "Tax Credits for Fortification Measures."

Catastrophe Savings Account (CSA)

With a CSA, you can put aside money that is state income tax-free and use it in the future after a catastrophic event for qualified expenses, including paying your insurance policy deductible. Qualified catastrophic costs can result from a hurricane, flood or windstorm that has been declared by the governor as an emergency. Contribution limits depend on your insurance deductible: If your policy's deductible is less than or equal to \$1,000, you can contribute up to \$2,000; If your deductible is more than \$1,000, you can contribute the lesser of \$15,000 or twice the deductible amount; and If you self-insure, you can contribute up to a maximum of \$250,000, but the amount may not exceed the value of your home.

All state or federally chartered banks can establish a CSA. The account must be separate from all other accounts; it must be held in an interest bearing account and must be labeled a CSA. The money that is deposited and the interest earned is not subject to state income tax as long as it is left untouched, or as long as it is only used for qualified catastrophe expenses. If money is withdrawn for an unqualified reason, state income taxes must be paid as well as a 2.5 percent penalty. There are some exemptions that allow withdrawals without paying any state income taxes and certain exemptions that allow withdrawals where the taxpayer is taxed at the regular state income tax rate, but not the 2.5 percent penalty.



Excess Insurance Premium Tax Credit

The "Excess Insurance Premium Tax Credit" is available for homeowners who pay more than 5% of their adjusted gross income for insuring their private residence. For those who qualify, the state will allow for a credit up to the \$1,250 maximum. An example – if your adjusted gross income is \$50,000, 5% of the AGI would be \$2,500. If you are paying \$3,000 in homeowner's insurance premiums (which is \$500 higher than 5% of the \$50,000 AGI), you could receive \$500 as a tax credit. This tax credit is non-refundable and is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your tax bill. Homeowner's insurance premiums, wind and hail insurance premiums, and flood insurance premiums all count toward the credit.

The excess premium tax credit can be claimed on South Carolina returns using the TC44 form. If you were unaware of the tax credit and would have qualified in the past for the credit, you can file amended returns to claim past tax credits for up to three years. For a copy of the form, go to www.dor.sc.gov and type in "TC44" in the search bar.

Here to Help

Farm Bureau Insurance® has been in the business of protecting South Carolina homes since 1955. Your Farm Bureau Insurance agent can help you understand available coverage options. Find a local agent near you or request a quote online at SCFBIns.com, or you may reach a customer service representative at 1-800-799-7500.

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