





South Carolina **FARMER**

The
Magazine
of the
South Carolina
Farm Bureau
Federation

Spring 2019

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*SEED for thought
...and planting*

*A pictorial look at
Spring around SC*



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OUR COVER IMAGE

This Lowcountry portrait of live oaks, azaleas and spanish moss shows spring at its finest. — Photograph by Robert Clark

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is a time for beginnings – a fresh start for many farmers as they put another year's crops in the ground. New life is abundant on the farm in the form of calves and lambs. And our family is growing, as Linda and I welcomed our newest granddaughter, Elizabeth Dare Ott in February.

South Carolina Farm Bureau celebrates its 75th birthday this year, and because we believe you *can* teach an old dog new tricks, you'll see many positive changes for the organization.

The Young Farmers & Ranchers brought on four new families to the state committee. Justin and Kesler Ballew from Lexington County are the new representatives for the Central District. Joe Oswald from Allendale County is serving for the Coastal District. Chris and Alisha Stevens from Horry-Loris represent the Pee Dee District. And from Anderson County, Clay and Emily Alexander are the new representatives for the Piedmont District.

Amanda Croft was elected as chair of the YF&R Committee, making her the first woman to serve in that position. She and her husband Jonathan are active in Bamberg County Farm Bureau and in their community. Amanda is a NRCS Soil Conservationist and Jonathan is a Clemson Extension Agronomy Agent in Orangeburg and Dorchester counties.

The Women's Leadership Committee is also changing, growing from five to eight members and, for the first time, the committee will elect its own chairwoman instead of the position being appointed by me.

The committee added Carolyn Boyd from York County who will represent the Central District, Nikki Seibert Kelley from Charleston County for the Coastal District, Marilyn Easter from Laurens County to represent the Piedmont District and Megan Floyd from Horry-Conway for the Pee Dee District. The committee elected Frances Price as its new chairwoman.

Growth only occurs through change. As we welcome new growth in spring, we also welcome new growth and change in Farm Bureau. The landscape of agriculture is more diverse than ever, and I'm proud to be part of an organization that sees that diversity and embraces it with open arms.

Someone once said: "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

Let us plant our gardens this spring with the hope that the seeds we sow will turn into the healthy crops of tomorrow. I believe in the tomorrow of Farm Bureau, and I believe the future is bright for South Carolina agriculture.



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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How to Attract Bees

Bees are necessary for pollinating roughly 30 percent of our food supply, but they often get a bad rap for their sting. The honeybee, which is a non-native European bee that lives with hundreds of other female workers and the queen, is a social insect that grows large colonies that can last for several years. Even though honeybees are not individually aggressive as they fly about feeding on nectar and gathering pollen, they can and will sting if the colony is threatened.

Aside from honeybees, we have many other bees that are native and can be utilized for the pollination of our vegetables and fruits grown in the home garden. Aside from about five species of bumblebees, the rest of our native bees are not social insects that live in large colonies, but are solitary bees that create nest chambers to raise a very small brood of young they will never see.



Some of these types are called ground bees because they excavate holes in the ground to provide a home for their young. Ground bees are attracted to soils with good drainage and sparse vegetation. The bees are solitary but they do aggregate into communities for reproductive purposes.

Still other solitary bees make their nests

above ground and it is for these insects that we can provide nesting opportunities. These bees include hundreds of species of mason and leaf-cutting bees that live in North America. They do not excavate their brood chambers but take advantage of holes such as hollow dead stems or holes in wood caused by borers, both insect and human types. The female bees are very efficient pollinators due to their wallowing within the flower. They carry pollen on the underside of their hairy abdomen and scrape the pollen off within the nesting hole. The pollen is carried dry on her belly and it falls off easily as she moves among flowers.



Top: Honey bee and blueberry bee, which is a ground-nesting insect that looks like a small bumblebee. Above: The longhorn bee is also a ground-nester. Right: This honeybee is busy gathering pollen for its colony.



Clockwise Top Left: Bee condo. Leafcutter bee. Bamboo house with leaf cutter bees. leafcutter damage. Mason bee.

block supplies on the Internet.

To make your own, use a block of any type of untreated wood. Holes can be drilled into the block that are a minimum of three inches deep. Holes should be spaced 3/4-inch apart. The blocks can be mounted under the eaves on the east side of a house or shed for protection. All species have a preferred hole diameter. Drilling an assortment of hole sizes from 3/16- to 3/8-inch will attract whatever species is nearby, and then you can create more blocks with the proper sizes of the holes that are being occupied.

Drilling holes six or more inches deep will ensure a larger population. Eggs that become females are the deepest ones in the chamber. Males are usually several cells deep from the entrance. If all of your holes are shallow, you will have a larger proportion of males in the brood and a smaller population potential the next year.

If blocks are to be reused each year, you need to utilize paper tubes in the holes so that everything can be pulled out or you need to devise another way to clean out the holes by having a removable back or something in the design that allows you to clean the chambers. Failure to clean out the blocks can lead to a build-up of parasite populations detrimental to the bees. You can also use paper tubes or sections of bamboo stuck in a can for a simple bee house; just replace the tubes each spring as the bees emerge from the older tubes.

Tubes can be purchased online at bee supply companies or you can make your own by rolling up parchment paper or using paper drinking straws, which have made a comeback in recent years as an alternative to plastic.

None of the solitary bee species are aggressive – they have no colony to defend, and usually mom's out getting groceries anyway and nobody is home. They have the ability to sting, but not the inclination to do so.

A female mason bee lays about 35 eggs during her life. Eggs hatch in one to three weeks into larvae that feed on the bee bread. They grow quickly and then form a pupa that lasts through the winter. The adults emerge from the pupa early the next spring to start the process again. In this group, the Blue Orchard bee is a commonly utilized pollinator for apple orchards.

Leaf-cutter bees are also common and easy to attract. They are larger than mason bees, are very hairy and have more of the size and shape of a honeybee. They emerge in late spring and are active into the summer months. You have probably seen perfect semicircles cut away from the edges of leaves of roses or redbuds. These bees have the same habits of mason bees, except that they form the nesting cells from pieces of leaves instead of mud.

You can easily create nesting opportunities for these ingenious little insects or you can find plenty of nesting

Mason bees are so-called because they use mud to build cells within a nesting cavity. Most mason bees are much smaller than a honeybee, dark in color (often blue or black) and slightly hairy. Throughout her brief three-to-six-week lifespan, the female is busy gathering nectar and pollen to create little balls of "bee bread" where she lays an egg, and then seals up the chamber with a plug of mud, more food, an egg, and another plug of mud until the cavity is filled. Male bees live a life of leisure for about two weeks, sipping on nectar and waiting around for a cute female to fly by.

THE FARMER'S TABLE

Lemon Crinkle Cookies

(From Ladies & Gents)

1/2 cup butter-flavored shortening
1 cup brown sugar
1 egg
1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup sugar

Cream shortening and brown sugar until fluffy. Add egg and lemon rind, beating well. Combine remaining ingredients except 1/4 cup sugar. Stir dry ingredients into creamed mixture. Roll dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in sugar. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Cookies flatten and crinkle while baking.

Yield: 4 dozen

Corned Beef and Cabbage

(From Ladies & Gents)

3-4 slices of bacon (crumbled)
1 large cabbage (shredded)
Salt and pepper to taste
1 12-ounce can corned beef

In a large non-stick skillet, fry the bacon until crispy. Drain on paper towel. Pour off all but 2 tablespoons of grease. Add shredded cabbage, salt, pepper and corned beef. Cook on medium heat, covered. Stir often to keep it from sticking. Ready when cabbage is tender. Stir in crumbled bacon. Serve over white rice.

Note: More cabbage may be added if desired.

Yield: 4 servings

Spinach Balls

(From Ladies & Gents)

1 10-ounce package frozen spinach, cooked, drained and mashed
3/4 stick butter
2 cups herb stuffing mix
1 cup Parmesan cheese
6 beaten eggs
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients. Roll in bite-size balls and place on cookie sheet. Cover and freeze overnight or longer. Bake the frozen balls, uncovered, for 10 to 15 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Serve warm.

Yield: 100 balls

Potato Rolls

(From Golden Taste)

8 to 9 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup vegetable shortening
2 envelopes active dry yeast
1/2 cup warm (105° - 115° water)
3 cups mashed potatoes
2 eggs
1 cup sugar

Combine flour and salt. Cut shortening into flour mixture. Dissolve yeast in warm water and set aside. Mix warm potatoes with eggs, sugar and yeast liquid. Add potato mixture to flour, kneading thoroughly. Place dough in greased bowl, wipe vegetable shortening on surface, cover and chill until 4 hours before baking. With greased hands, shape cup sized pieces of dough into balls and place in greased 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Let rise in slightly warm place for 4 hours. Bake at 400° for 10 - 15 minutes.

Yield: 3 to 3 1/2 dozen

Note: Dough may be stored in refrigerator for up to a week.



From Farm to Label

By Nicole Yon, R.D.

We've all heard of the "incredible, edible egg," but which kind is best? There are many choices (cage-free, free-range/free-roaming and pasture-raised) when it comes to eggs, and it can be hard to know which kind is best. Being knowledgeable about what each label and growing practice means can help you make the best decision for you and your family.

CAGE FREE – Hens are not confined to cages but it doesn't mean they were given outdoor access. This label is USDA regulated.

FREE RANGE/FREE ROAMING – Hens are uncaged and have outdoor access if they choose. This could be a large green pasture or it could just be a small opening in the side of the hen house. This label is USDA regulated.

PASTURE-RAISED – Hens are uncaged and have outdoor access. This label has no legal definition or third-party verification.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC – Cage free or free range hens are raised on certified organic feed. Look for the USDA Organic seal to know that the label claims have been verified.

OMEGA-3 ENRICHED – Laying hens are fed a diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids, resulting in an egg with higher omega-3 level. Labeling increased fatty acid content requires USDA approval.

No matter what the label reads, there is no significant difference in nutrient content based on the color of the eggs or living arrangements of laying hens. And, as a friendly reminder: ALL chickens are free from added hormones and no hormones are given to egg-laying hens in the United States.

In our family, we purchase eggs from conventionally raised hens, which is a choice I feel comfortable making because I am fully educated on the difference between cage-free, free-range/free-roaming and pasture-raised, while taking into consideration cost and nutritional value. Next time you pick up a dozen eggs – or two – you can also make the best choice for you and your family with a little more knowledge.

Additional information is available from The American Egg Board (www.aeb.org) and Egg Nutrition Center (www.enc.org).

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.



Farm Bureau Offers Scholarships for Students in Agricultural Majors

The SC Farm Bureau Foundation has made plans to award six \$3,000 scholarships for college students majoring in agriculture or a related field during the 2019-2020 school year. The scholarships are available to sophomores, juniors or 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.

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

Applications for the scholarship funds can be obtained from county Farm Bureau offices or online at scfb.org. The deadline for entries is April 20, 2019.

The Foundation Leadership Scholarship Award program is designed to provide assistance to young people of farm families

or from farm-oriented backgrounds. In addition, these 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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Betty J. DeWitt Outstanding Educator Award



NOW \$1,000

This award is sponsored by the SCFB Women's Leadership Committee and recognizes an "Outstanding Educator" each year for their integrated efforts to teach students about the importance of agriculture.

Find out more at
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Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

Ag-curate Books Sent Straight to You



Sponsored by the SC Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee, **Book of the Month** is a literacy outreach program for anyone looking for a valid ag-related resource to use in a classroom. Every month a new book will be available for purchase with accompanying activities that are aligned with SC State Learning Standards. Target age groups will vary, however, many of the activities can be adapted for age appropriateness.

Books are available for \$5 each while supplies last. Want to guarantee the receipt of a book each month? Subscribe for the year at only \$60!

Visit scfb.org/Book-of-the-month for more information.



CULTIVATING CONVERSATIONS

Tips and trips for meaningful conversations about food & farming

By Elizabeth Wood, Director of Agricultural Literacy

As we move past the last frost and welcome warmer temperatures, we are thankful for the new life springtime brings. Don't you love driving down a country road and seeing the hopeful green leaves of a new crop peeking through the soil? While this sight offers us promise, the ways farmers protect their crops throughout the season can raise concerns to consumers. Here are some talking points to reassure them that their food is safely grown.

- Farmers protect their crops from insects, weeds, disease and other pests, when necessary, by applying crop protection products. When farmers manage pests with chemicals, they are required to hold the proper licenses, certifications and attend trainings to use them responsibly. Plus, farmers follow label instructions, approved by the EPA, for selection and application of each product.

- Conventional and organic farms are only different in how they can treat diseases or pests. Organic farmers use naturally derived pesticides, while conventional farmers can use synthetic options. Both help grow food that is equally nutritious and safe.

- The advancement in technology in agriculture production has improved crop disease protection. The use of biotech crops has reduced the use of herbicides and insecticides by 19 percent. And, thanks to modern sprayer technology, farmers can manage spray down to the square inch, while sensors ensure they don't go over the same area twice.

- Food safety starts on the farm and ends in your kitchen. Proper handling and cleaning of fruits and vegetables, while keeping bacteria off cutting surfaces, can ensure you are completing the cycle of providing safe food for your family.



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Spring at Last



*Every spring is the only spring,
a perpetual astonishment.*

— Ellis Peters

Spring is the season of change, a time of renewal, not only on our farms, but in our wild places. Shy and reclusive, the barred owl haunts dark woodlands, rarely venturing into the light. But during their spring mating season, barred owls often lose their shyness, such as this brown-eyed beauty who stopped to post up on a tree in the photographer's back yard.



PHOTO BY ROBERT CLARK

**“The day the
Lord created
hope was
probably the
same day he
created Spring.”**

— Bernard Williams

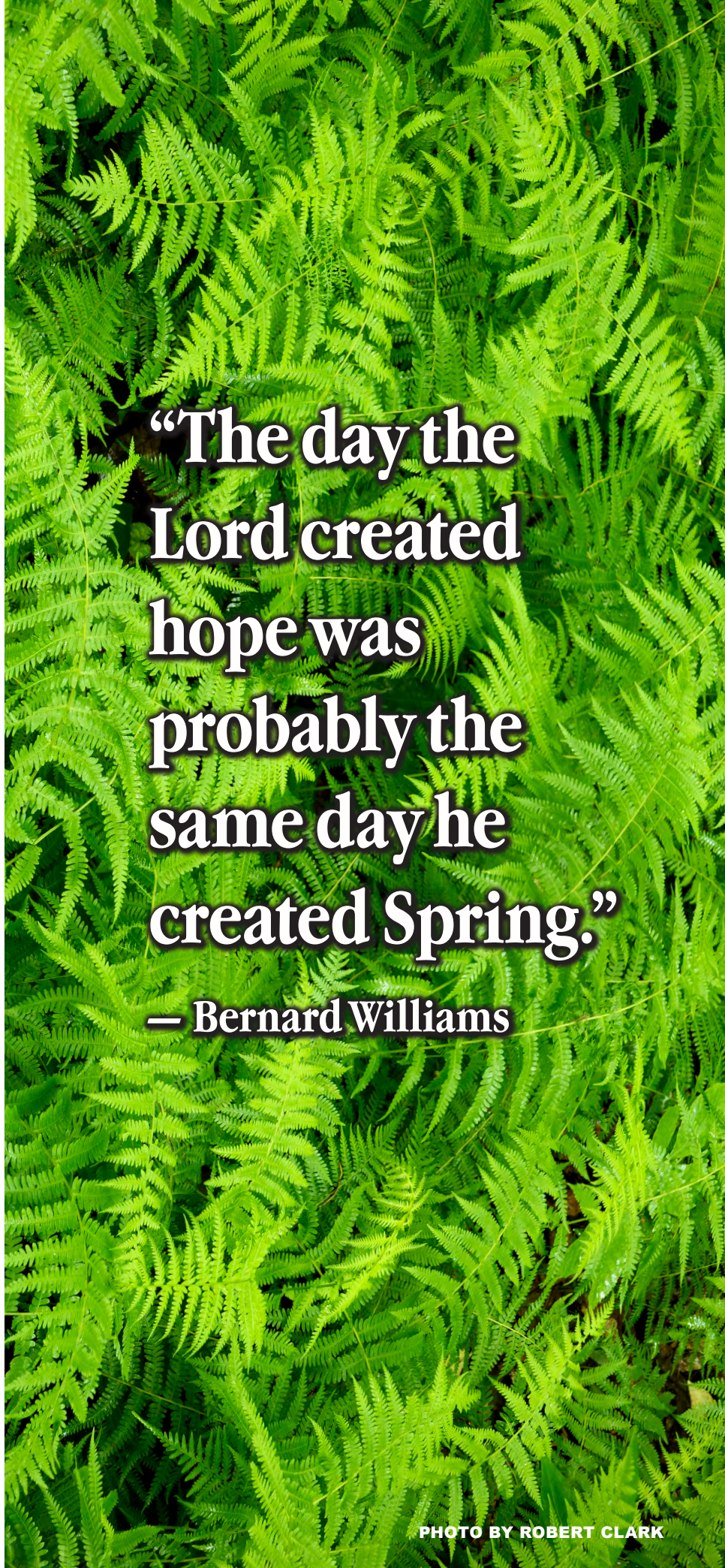


PHOTO BY ROBERT CLARK



PHOTO BY LARRY KEMMERLIN



PHOTO BY LARRY KEMMERLIN

Spring's captivating beauty is rarely more appreciated than on our peach orchards when the trees explode in a dazzling display of pink-and-white blossoms.

Every bit as eye-catching are these blackberries on this farm in Oconee County and opposite, these strawberries at Stewart Farms in Laurens County.

In nature, all things are beautiful . . . if one realizes what has gone into their evolution. The mysteries of how plants live and gain their sustenance, their adaptation to the environment, the infinite interdependence between them and all living things make each one a miracle in itself.

— Sigurd F. Olson





PHOTO BY ROBERT CLARK

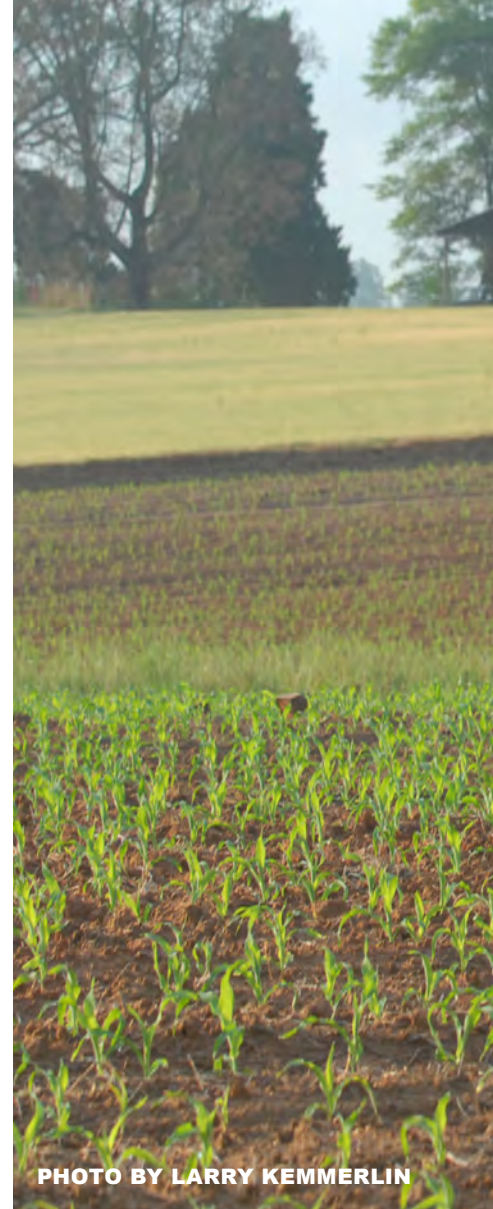


PHOTO BY LARRY KEMMERLIN

A certain sign of spring is the fiddlehead, which in this case is the furled frond of a bracken fern photographed near a Carolina Bay in Sumter County.

Above: These corn plants have sprouted from seeds that are the end result of years of research to create stalks that will ultimately produce a bountiful harvest.

Opposite: The porch is the place to get out and enjoy the first warm days of spring, to observe nature's colorful coming out party. This porch is at Wavering Place in lower Richland County.



PHOTO BY ROBERT CLARK

Seed

for thought ...and planting

By Salley McInerney

Photos by Larry Kemmerlin

*“It ain’t much to show now
but it will be.”*

It’s a mild January afternoon. The sky is a mix of blue light and white clouds. A band of heavy, gray clouds is pushing in from the east. On Highway 1, several miles west of Lexington, South Carolina, hundreds of white Styrofoam cups have fallen from a vehicle; they are rolling across the asphalt, settling in roadside ditches. Fast-food joints, churches, homes and businesses – even the escaped cups – soon give way to rich farmland. Fields stretch for as far as the eye can see. Some are already planted, bearing the bright green color of young bounty. Most others offer meticulous signs of readiness. Ditches cleared. Soil well-turned. Leveled and conditioned. Even small bags of rocks are at the ready, situated along planting rows to secure plastic covers over future new plantings in case of bad weather.

An old white peach stand, called “The Peach Place,” sits empty and boarded up on the left-hand side of the road. A driveway just past it leads to a large, open utility building where every manner of farm equipment is parked and where a steady *clink, clink, clink* can be heard.

“Working on a piece of equipment,” says a kindly fellow in a pair of coveralls.

Clink, clink, clink.





*Lexington County farmer Mike Keisler —
"outstanding in his field" of collards.*

It's more than the sound of working on a piece of equipment. For farmers across the Palmetto State, it's the sound of spring on its way, the sound of readying for a season of planting and producing crops.

"This time of year," says Mike Keisler, who owns James Sease Farms, Inc., "we're taking care of our equipment. We're trying to make as many repairs now as we can versus having something break down in the fields."

Keisler's blue eyes twinkle.

"'Course," he adds, "that still happens."

Keisler grew up on a cattle farm in Gilbert.

"I got started in farming when I was a kid. Working on the land after school and during the holidays. I went to Clemson for one semester and then joined the U.S. Naval Reserve. When I got out in 1972, I came back here and one thing just led to another."

Keisler works about 350 acres, planting collards, kale, mustard, turnips and green onions. He sells his produce to Walter P. Rawl & Sons, which distributes greens and vegetables around the country.

Keisler also grows strawberries — "pick your own and pick 'em up" — but he's out of the peach business, testimony to the closed-up stand by the side of the road.

"Been out of the peach business for four years now. With peaches, you've got a lot of investment and you lose it fast with hail, frost and disease."

Keisler looks to the sky.

"You've always got weather concerns. Hail storms. You can worry about it, but that's all you can do."

Today, Keisler is overseeing the operation of 15,000 young collards being put into the soil by a six-man crew. The plants will be placed in rows protected on either side by lines of rye grass, which provide windbreaks for the growing crop.

A six-man crew operates a shop-made transplanter attached to the back of a red Massey Ferguson tractor.

"They got 'em a lot fancier than this," Keisler says of the transplanter, "but it does the job."

Four men sit on low-slung seats of the contraption that spans the width of four field rows. As the tractor moves along slowly, each man manages a single row — poking holes in the readied soil and pushing in the collard sprigs at 12-inch intervals. An apparatus attached to the back of the transplanter closes the soil around the sprigs.

"Everybody's got their job to do," Keisler says of the transplanter crew.

"I reckon if you're sitting down there planting, you feel like you're going fast, but if you're sitting up there on the tractor, you feel like you're going slow."

Keisler says it takes about 45 minutes for the tractor to make one pass down the field.

It takes a lot longer to ready the farm for spring planting.

"You're always making plans for the season," Keisler says.



This "contraption" pokes holes in the soil and pushes collard sprigs into the ground at Mike Keisler's farm. Below: Freshly planted collards will be ready before you know it. Right: Warren Dixon stands alongside a field that's been in his family for six generations.

"We're taking soil samples of the land to find out what the soil needs to produce a crop. We're planning all the time. You come up with a planting schedule for your crops, so you'll have what you need when you need it. Ordering seed, making sure you have it.

"It can be a deceiving time of the year. For the farmer, you're tempted to think it's the dead of winter and you might let some things go that you shouldn't. The fact is, it's not that many days until spring. With spring around the corner, you've got to get moving. You've got to have your plan in place."

Keisler takes his hat off, rubs his brow, puts his hat back on. The red tractor rumbles along slowly. The crew putting the plants in the ground has the operation down pat. Pick up a shoot from a basket, place it in the ground. Pick up a shoot, place it in the ground. Over and over and over.

Given another half-hour and smooth sailing with the shop-made transplanter, the Massey Ferguson will reach the end of the field and another four rows of collards will be in the ground.

"We're always planning, always working," Keisler says. "It don't just happen and it ain't much to show now, but it will be."



***“Farming is a year-round business.
There’s something to do all the time.”***

English Warren Dixon has been on his family’s farm for as long as he’s been alive.

“Been here sixty-seven years . . . right where I’m staying at,” Dixon says, “I’m the fourth generation on the farm. My son is the fifth; my grandson, the sixth.”

The Dixon farm spreads out over some 150 acres in Horry County in the far eastern corner of South Carolina. He also works about 200 acres of rented farmland.

“We’re over here in Aynor,” he says.

Aynor is a small burgh. It’s just down the road from a place called Galivants Ferry, home to one of the country’s most famous and long-standing political stump meetings. By most accounts, the community was established by a farmer named John Eyenner.

History aside, farming is a Horry County tradition, and with spring approaching, Dixon is preparing his sweet potatoes for planting.

"I do love farming," Dixon says. "We raise tobacco, corn, soybeans and sweet potatoes."

Dixon grows about 100 acres of sweet potatoes. Field planting will begin in middle May and matured sweet potatoes will be pulled out of the ground in October and November.

In the meantime, Dixon's looking after his "seed" potatoes. Sweet potatoes are not grown from seed planted in the fields. Instead, they are grown from "slips," which are shoots grown from mature "seed" potatoes.

It's those "seed" potatoes that Dixon is caring for now.

"We've got a metal building where we keep our seed potatoes in bins," he says.

"These are the potatoes that you cut and set into the fields to get them sprouting. Right now, we have to keep checking on them every day. We've got to keep the temperature right – about 50 to 60 degrees – to keep them from rotting and we've got to keep the rats out."

Rotting and rats aside, Dixon says his crew is also repairing farm buildings damaged by last year's Hurricane Florence and "working on equipment and preparing our greenhouses."

Dixon's tobacco harvest begins in greenhouses with seeds started in trays.

"We've got to clean out and sanitize the trays."

Tobacco seeds will be planted in those trays in the greenhouses around the middle of February, and once that happens, Dixon stays put.

"You can't just leave home when you're running a greenhouse. Farming is a year-round business. There's something to do all the time."

Three generations of Dixons selling sweet potatoes.

From left: Warren Dixon, his son, Corey, and grandson, Markel.



Foundation seed is kind of the beginning – the beginning of the seed process.

Seeds. Farmers around the world – farmers like South Carolina's Keisler and Dixon – rely upon them.

At Clemson University, the South Carolina Crop Improvement Association is all about developing "pure" seeds, called "foundation seeds," for individual farmers and large farming companies.

"Foundation seed is guaranteed to be what it says it is," says Brad Stancil, who directs the crop improvement association.

"A foundation seed is about as pure a seed as you can buy. It adheres to the variety description. Typically, foundation seeds have better germination rates. Less weeds. No noxious weed seed in it. If you plant foundation seed, it is guaranteed to be that variety."

Stancil says the crop improvement association maintains foundation seeds – like soybean seeds – for private companies and Clemson varieties.

Brad Stancil, director of Clemson's crop improvement association, poses with a container of peach "seeds."

“Depending on the terms of the contract, SCCIA may maintain foundation seed for the companies that purchase a release,” Stancil explains. “We are currently maintaining foundation seed for five soybean varieties for private companies. We also maintain and sell foundation seed for four varieties of Clemson-owned public soybean and one variety of Clemson-owned public oats. Maintenance of these varieties includes planting seed, growing a crop, removing off-types (not true to variety) to maintain purity, harvesting the crop and conditioning the seed with various types of equipment. Seed conditioning is the removal of chaff, weed and broken seed.

“We go through extensive cleaning protocols for planting, harvesting and conditioning equipment. We also walk the fields, pulling any off-types. We are inspected by Clemson University’s Department of Plant Industry to insure our crop is clean and within the South Carolina certified seed standards. Then our seed must be examined by the South Carolina Seed Lab and meet standards as well.

“It is important to maintain foundation seed to insure the purity of the variety,” he notes. “The whole reason for the creation of the certified seed program hinges on the fact that breeders were developing varieties and growers were losing those varieties due to poor seed-growing techniques. Due to this problem, foundation seed organizations (like SCIAA) were created to grow pure seed and get it to the farmers. We have many protocols in place to make sure the seed is pure at planting, during the growing season and at harvest.”

The SCCIA also maintains Guardian peach rootstock developed at Clemson in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture.

“All peach trees are grown from rootstock,” Stancil says.

“Guardian rootstock is resistant to peach tree short life, a soil-borne disease that affects the roots of the young tree. We have been selling it for twenty years. Most peach trees in the Southeast are grown on Guardian rootstock.”

“A foundation seed is guaranteed to be what it says it is . . . about as pure a seed as you can buy.”

From top: A handful of “foundation soybean seed.” • Separating the soybeans from the husks and other debris. • Zach Dantzler filling a bag with South Carolina Certified Soybeans.



In addition to its foundation seeds, Guardian rootstock and the like, the SCCIA maintains a large heirloom seed collection established by now-retired Clemson University Professor of Horticulture Dr. David Bradshaw.

“Dr. Bradshaw left the collection to us to maintain,” Stancil says.

The heirloom collection carries with it history lessons, humor, stories of family and the fertile land.

Take Shantyboat Butterbeans.

According to the university’s heirloom seed website page (www.clemson.edu/public/seed/heirloom.html), Shantyboat Butterbeans get their name “from the fact that it was grown near riverbanks by people living on shanty boats during the Great Depression.”

The heirloom Piggott Pea is “a variety of southern field peas (that) dates back to the 1850s in Washington Parish, Louisiana. For many years, it was guarded by the Piggott family who would not allow anyone to have seeds of what they considered the best tasting field pea.”

Choppee Okra was “maintained by the (Anne Diedre) Jacobs family of Georgetown, South Carolina since the mid-1800s. This area (Choppee) is named after Native Americans indigenous to the area.”

John Haulk Corn “has been grown in the foothills of South Carolina for over 100 years.”

Luffa Sponge Gourd “has been grown for many generations to provide natural, sponge-like scouring pads suitable for scrubbing floors, automobiles and are even used as shower sponges and for facials.”

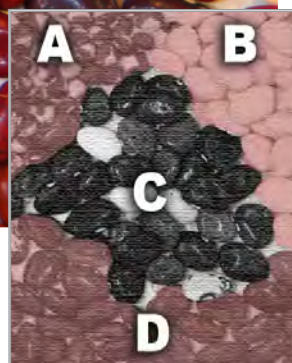
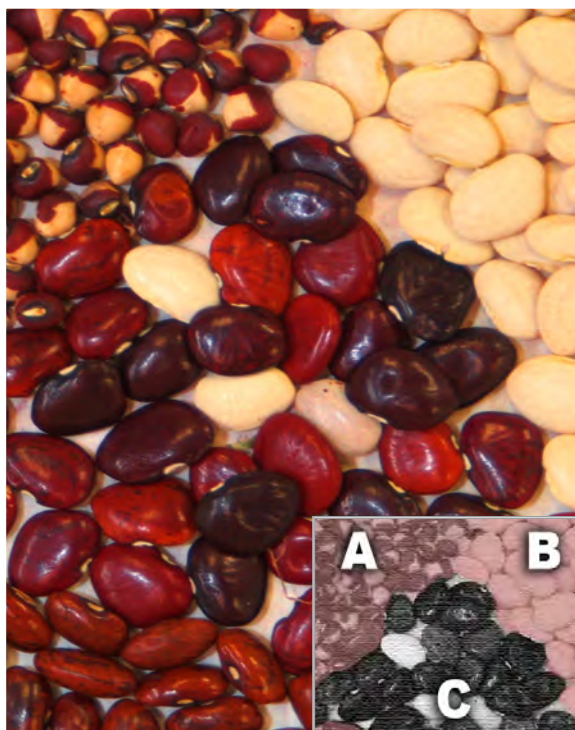
Stancil said maintenance of the heirloom seed collection “mostly has to be done by hand. It’s sort of a boutique business for us.”

It’s also a popular one.

Quantities of heirloom seed are limited.

“When we reach having only a pound of a certain seed, we stop selling,” Stancil says.

“We sell them to anybody who wants them. People like heirloom seeds a lot. They enjoy buying them, growing them and talking about them.”



Left: A sampling of the heirloom seeds maintained by the SCCIA.

Inset: Key to Clemson's varieties of heirloom beans and peas:

A - Tonis Redfield Peas

B - Willowleaf Butterbeans

C - Rattlesnake Beans

D - Colored Willowleaf Butterbeans

Below: Proper field preparation is essential for a good crop.



Clink, clink, clink . . .

Back at the Keisler farm in Lexington, the gray clouds have progressed westward, filling the January sky.

Keisler smiles. He welcomes the rain that will nourish his young collard plants. “Keeps me from having to irrigate,” he says.

The red Massey Ferguson tractor and the transplanter have nearly

reached the end of another set of four rows, and in the utility barn, work continues on the piece of equipment.

Clink, clink, clink.

It’s the work of spring. The work of preparation. The work of farmers across the Palmetto State readying for another growing season.

American Farm Bureau Celebrates 100 years



South Carolina voting delegates had their voices heard on key agricultural issues that will shape AFBF policy in the upcoming legislative session. Below: Zack Snipes of Charleston (far left) finished as a top four finalist in the 2019 Excellence in Agriculture Award. Zack took home a Case IH gift card worth \$500 and other prizes.



More than 100 South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation members attended the American Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Convention in New Orleans, Jan. 11-16.

State award winners, committee members and voting delegates attended sessions about technology, market outlooks, Farm Bill, leadership and the future of farming. Attendees 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.

"For 100 years, this organization has faithfully represented the men and women who are the backbone of our country," Trump said. "On this special anniversary, we gather to celebrate America's proud farming heritage. Through your sweat, through all of your work, the strength of your hands and the

faith in your hearts, the American farmer feeds and fuels and sustains our nation."

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 2019.

"As our organization has done for the last one hundred years, grassroots delegates from across the nation came together to express a unified voice on issues vital to the success of our farms, ranches and rural communities," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. "It was fitting to have President Trump and numerous members of Congress among our attendees as we kicked off our centennial celebration. We continue to face a challenging farm economy, and we stand ready to work with Congress and the Trump administration to address the issues important to our farm and ranch families."

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.

Davis Peeler (Anderson), the SCFB winner of the Achievement Award, was named runner-up among other farmers and ranchers who competed for the award from around the nation. The Achievement Award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who have excelled in farming or ranching operations and exhibited superior leadership abilities. Participants are evaluated on a combination of their agricultural operation's growth and financial progress, Farm Bureau leadership and leadership outside of Farm Bureau.

Zack Snipes (Charleston), the SCFB state winner of the Excellence in Agriculture award, was named one of the top four finalists in the national competition. The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from an agricultural operation, but who actively contribute and grow through their involvement in agriculture, their leadership ability and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations.

Jimmie Lee Shaw (Newberry) also competed at the national level on behalf of SCFB during the AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet Contest.



Davis Peeler (far left) of Anderson was selected as runner-up in the 2019 Achievement Award. He was presented with the keys to a Case IH tractor for his accomplishments.

South Carolina Farm Bureau Holds 75th Annual Meeting

The South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation opened its 75th Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach on November 30, 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.

The convention began on Thursday morning with the 16th Annual SCFB Ag in the Classroom Golf Benefit at the Arcadian Shores Golf Club. This year's tournament, hosted by the Young Farmers & Ranchers raised over \$14,000 for the AITC fund.

Additionally, the Women's Leadership Committee and Young Farmers & Ranchers raised over \$12,700 to support purpose activities through the Country Store and Silent Auction.

David Wasserman of *The Cook Political Report* delivered the opening session keynote address Friday morning. American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duval, a Georgia farmer, updated members on Saturday morning about issues Farm Bureau will face this year.

United States Senator Lindsey Graham made a special visit to the Annual Meeting and spoke to attendees during lunch on Friday. Senator Graham brought updates from Washington, D.C. and gave insight into the 2019 session.

Volunteer leaders Harry DuPree (Berkeley), Marilyn Easter (Laurens), Paul Sommerville (Beaufort), Dale Wilson (Abbeville), Gary Youmans (Hampton), Lewis Hicks and Beth White (both York) were named SCFB 2018 Government Relations All-Stars. The awards are given annually as a



means of recognizing member volunteers who go above and beyond to advance SCFB's priority issues in the General Assembly.

The meeting closed after the business session of the SC Farm Bureau Federation. Two individuals were re-elected to positions on the organization's Executive Committee, including Central District Vice President William Coleman (Fairfield) and Piedmont District Vice President Doug Stewart (Laurens).



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LENDER

President Harry Ott presents 2018 Legislator of the Year awards to Senator Kent Williams (D-Marion) and at far left, Representative Dennis Moss (R-Cherokee). Sen. Williams



and Rep. Moss are strong advocates for agriculture and rural communities in South Carolina. They embody the core principle of our grassroots organization by working with SCFB members to ensure agriculture remains the state's top industry.



Jeff Murrie of Florence receives the 2018 Betty J. DeWitt Outstanding Educator Award from Betty J. DeWitt (left) and Frances Price, SCFB Women's Leadership Committee Chair. An educator at Briggs Elementary School, Murrie received a \$500 cash award compliments of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company in recognition of his efforts. Murrie started an agricultural education class in his elementary school where students have the opportunity to learn hands-on about everything from how plants grow to how bees pollinate.



L-R: Brooke Spence of Greenville won the SCFB Senior II Talent Contest division. Mikbail Moss-Jenkins of Newberry won the Senior I contest. Mia King of Greenville won the Junior II Division. Ansley Fricks of Anderson won the Junior I Division.



Katie Tuten and Hunter Dove were selected as the winners of the SCFB Youth Ambassador Scholarship Contest. Tuten is from Greenville and Dove is from Anderson.

President Ott presents the 2018 SCFB YF&R Discussion Meet award to Jimmie Lee Shaw of Newberry. Shaw also represented South Carolina at the National Discussion Meet competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Convention in New Orleans.



Young Farmers and Ranchers showcased their creative side in the annual photo contest held at the YF&R Conference. Winners in the four categories included, clockwise from top: People's Choice and People on the Farm – Meg Ladd, Fairfield; Farm Animals – Olivia Gaster, Florence; Farm Scenes – Bobbi Jo Padgett, Calhoun. Read more on page 26.

SC Young Farmers & Ranchers Tell Their Story at Annual Conference

More than 300 young farmers and ranchers met in Columbia recently for the annual South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference.

Their objective was to network, to become better leaders in their communities, and to learn how to tell the story of agriculture so consumers know where their food and fiber comes from.

Conference attendees heard from a wide variety of speakers on topics addressing all aspects of agriculture—everything from technology and market opportunities to hemp, food safety, animal agriculture and sustainability.

Amanda Croft was elected as chair of the 2019 SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference. A farmer in Bamberg County, Croft takes on this role following the leadership of last year's chair, Case Chumley, of Greenville County.

"Case has shown great leadership during his tenure as Young Farmer and Ranchers chair," said SCFB President Harry Ott. "He has been a true leader and a great voice for agriculture. He has selflessly put in many volunteer hours 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, Amanda Croft."

Chris and Alisha Stevens of Horry-Loris won the 2019 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.

The couple won a new ATV, helmet and gloves, courtesy of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. They will also represent SCFB at the 2019 American Farm Bureau Federation FUSION conference in Milwaukee,



Wisconsin, and will compete at the 2020 AFBF Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Dean and Sara Hutto of Orangeburg County Farm Bureau won the 2019 Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award. The couple was awarded \$33,750 toward the purchase of a new Ford truck, courtesy of Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company. They will also represent SCFB at the 2019 American Farm Bureau Federation FUSION conference and will compete at the 2020 AFBF Annual Meeting.

The Darlington Farm Bureau Chapter received the award for the Largest County Delegation, boasting 19 young farmers and ranchers in attendance at the conference.

The Harvest for All winners were also announced. Charleston took top honors, donating 6,700 pounds of fresh produce to Low Country Food Bank. Anderson was named runner-up and Darlington received the award for most innovative.

"Our Young Farmers and Ranchers program continues to grow as an increasing number of young people are becoming interested in agriculture," said Jessica Cabrera, the SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers coordinator and director of Member Engagement and Leadership Development. "Our goal is to have attendees really recognize the value of Farm Bureau Federation and its mission to promote agricultural interests in South Carolina."

The SCFB Young Farmers and Ranchers program is one of many purpose activities sponsored by the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation. For more information, please visit www.scfb.org.

South Carolina Farm Bureau Accepting Applications for Ag Aid Foundation

As a result of recent weather-related disasters and in response to the catastrophic flooding caused by hurricanes Florence and Michael, the South Carolina

Farm Bureau Federation created the SCFB Agricultural Aid Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to assist farmers in recovery from natural disasters.

"Farmers in South Carolina are no strangers to hurricanes, flooding and natural disasters, especially after what we've experienced in the last few years," said SCFB President Harry Ott. "Farmers are the backbone of this state and this fund allows us to show them our support in their time of need."

To be eligible, farmers should complete the application, farm in one of the affected primary or contiguous counties as designated by the USDA and provide documentation of loss. Anyone interested in applying must submit the application by April 5, 2019.

The funds are available to all farmers, whether they are members of SCFB or not. Awards are capped at \$500 and are subject to availability of funds.

Contributions to the foundation are also currently being collected. Contributions are tax-deductible and can be made by check or online. For more information, visit scfb.org/AAF.





SCFB President Harry Ott presents Sara and Dean Hutto of Orangeburg with a "key" worth \$33,750 toward the purchase of a new Ford pickup for taking home the 2019 Achievement Award.

Far Left: Ott and Rebecca Wingard of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company present Alisha and Chris Stevens of Horry-Loris with a helmet for their new ATV after they were named 2019 Excellence in Ag Award winners.



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SPRING ALMANAC

MARCH 14-15

SC Cattlemen's Association Annual Conference *Clemson*

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association will be held March 14-15 at the T. Ed Garrison Livestock Arena in Clemson.

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 scga@scda.sc.gov.

MARCH 14

National Ag Day

The Agriculture Council of America will host National Ag Day on March 14 with celebrations in classrooms and communities across the nation. The 2019 theme is "Agriculture: Food for Life."

National Ag Day recognizes and celebrates the contributions 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.

MARCH 26

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.

The women will receive a legislative briefing at the Hall at Senate's End 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.

JUNE 10-14

Ag in the Classroom Teacher Institute *Columbia*

The weeklong program serves as a teacher in-service in which 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 state curriculum standards to use in their own classroom in addition to 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 tmiskelly@scfb.org.

JUNE 23-27

Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference *Camp Long, Aiken*

The five-day conference, open to rising high school juniors and seniors, provides workshops on leadership training, team building and agricultural and environmental issues. The conference will be held at Camp Long in Aiken. For more information on registering, contact your county Farm Bureau office, or call (803) 936-4409.

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

For more agricultural events, go to agriculture.sc.gov/calendar-of-events



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2019 Legislative Priority Issues

Each year, grassroots leaders meet to determine the priority issues for the upcoming legislative session. This year, the SCFB State Board of Directors held as top priority the task of protecting our farms and farmland from the effects of urban sprawl, including nonreciprocal setbacks, burdensome regulations and reactionary economic policies. This idea will influence all other legislative efforts of SCFB. Additionally, the Board set forth the following policies as priorities:

Local Government: All Farm Bureau members should become involved in county and local government and share their involvement and activities with the membership of other county Farm Bureaus and the state Farm Bureau office.

State Government: The Board recommends the ongoing work of water

inventories, water planning and legislation pertaining to water and dams and reservoirs be given high priority.

National Government: Congressional priorities for 2019 should include Farm Bill implementation; hurricane relief funding; ag labor including improving access to legal labor and/or an adjustment of status for current workers; making permanent an agriculture tax incentive program.

DHEC Creates Western Capacity Use Area

In November, the SC DHEC Board of Directors adopted the recommendation to create the Western Capacity Use Area. This is a designated area where groundwater withdrawal permits are required if the

withdrawal amount is equal to, or greater than, three million gallons in any month.

The Western Capacity Use Area is the fifth of its kind to be designated. It will affect groundwater users in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Lexington and Orangeburg counties.

DHEC will form a stakeholder group to develop a management plan. Once the plan is approved by the DHEC Board, DHEC will contact users about applying for a permit.

For now, groundwater users in these seven counties do not have to make any changes or report additional information to DHEC regarding their water use. Well owners should register their existing wells with DHEC and continue to report groundwater usage since that data will likely be used to determine initial permit limits.

More information about the Western Capacity Use Area can be found on DHEC's website. SCFB will remain involved with this ongoing process to protect agricultural water users and assure that farmers have access to the water they need.



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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, 15 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.

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MOUNTAIN GETAWAY — 3 bedroom, 2 bath log cabin w/ screened porch in Westminster, SC. Enjoy hiking and whitewater rafting. Look us up on keoweecationrentals.com (Brasstown Rd) 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.

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.

FEIWORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES HOUSE — For rent 20 miles from Games. 3bdrm/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.

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.

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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.

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BERKELEY COUNTY — Honey Extracting Wax Uncapper. Used 3 times only. "Sideliner" Uncapper (Brushy Mountain Bee Farm SKU #795). Retail \$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.

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CEMETERY PLOT — Crescent Hill Memorial Gardens, Section B, Lot 8D. Level lot. \$800 or best offer. Please call (803) 794-7390.

TRANSIT LEVEL — CST/Berger N series SAL 24x automatic level. Like new, used only for 5 days. \$200. Call (843) 318-6031 for information.

SOUTHLAND MEMORIAL GARDENS — West Columbia, SC. Location: Garden of Prayer, Lot 71 - 2 spaces. Valued at \$3,195 asking \$2,500 each for total sale \$5,000. Seller pays transfer fee. Call (803) 605-1325.

GREENVILLE MEMORIAL GARDENS — Garden of Jesus in the Temple. Three burial plots, one opening/closing. \$7,000. Call or text (864) 616-8673.

LAKEFRONT PROPERTY — Three acres on Lake Hartwell. 300 ft. waterfrontage near Big Water Marina. Dock permit. For sale or lease; possible owner financing. Ideal for mini-farm or campground. Contact hatlo@aol.com or (864) 268-0567.

SALUDA COUNTY – 100.85 acres. 1 barn, 56 ft. X 40 ft. 1 pond, 1 acre. 34 acres of set out pines, 19 years old. Call (864) 445-2220.

Miscellaneous

MARK GOSS HORSEMANSHIP – Take the fear out of riding. Learn gentle, effective communications. References. Near Camden but travel the state. On Facebook. Call Mark at (406) 360-6355.

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Pesticide Safety = Limiting Unintended Exposure and Harm

Soon, warmer temperatures and longer days will signal the much anticipated arrival of spring.

Whether you are making plans to grow a prized backyard garden or acres of row crops, chances are you'll need some help fighting off invasive weeds, hungry insects and pesky diseases. Before turning to pesticides to protect your farm or lawn and garden, this is a good time to review how to safely use these chemicals to minimize their risk to you, your family and your neighbors.

Pesticides should be used as a last resort. Correctly identifying the pest causing the problem is key to selecting the most appropriate and least toxic pesticide to do the job. If you are unsure of what is causing the problem, your local Clemson Cooperative Extension office may be able to help.

When purchasing pesticides, look for products with "CAUTION" on the label which is a way to identify pesticides with the least toxic ingredients. A label with "WARNING" indicates medium toxicity and "DANGER" represents highly hazardous products. Other things to look for and to follow exactly as directed on the label include the following: where the pesticide

may be used; the pest you wish to control; equipment and protective clothing needed; what to do in case of accidental poisoning or contact; and how to properly dispose of or store any unused product.

Not all pesticides are intended for use by homeowners. Such "Restricted Use Pesticides" can only be purchased and used by a certified and licensed pesticide applicator.

For agriculture operations using pesticides, controlling spray drift has become a growing concern. Applicators may be responsible for sprays drifting off-target which can cause significant damage to both crops, animals and human health. The first safety step to pesticide application is confirming you and any third parties spraying on your behalf are adequately insured. Farm Bureau Insurance® offers several options to limit the risks associated with pesticide application. The endorsement Coverage M-Agriculture Drift Liability Coverage can be added to farm liability policies. A separate Farm Environmental Liability Policy is also available and offers broader coverage.

To limit the risk of spray drift, here are other risk management recommendations to consider:



- **Alert your neighbors.** Take it a step further by reminding your neighbors to stay indoors during the spray if possible, in addition to closing their windows, covering outdoor grills and taking clothing off nearby clotheslines.

- **Watch for temperature inversion.**

Past pesticide tips suggested spraying on windless days, but a recent study by the University of Missouri found the worst time to spray is clear, windless evenings because of temperature inversion. Temperature inversion occurs when warm air rises and cool air settles near the ground. Typically, temperature inversions start at dusk and break up with the sunrise because of vertical air mixing. Spraying during an inversion is not recommended. More information about the study can be found at <http://bit.ly/TemperatureInversionStudy>.

- **Have a spotter.** Always have someone watching to check for people, animals and cars when spraying.

For more information about pesticide safety, visit our website at www.SCFBIns.com. The Clemson Cooperative Extension also offers a library of valuable information on pesticide safety which can be found at www.clemson.edu/extension/publications.

Here to Help

Your Farm Bureau Insurance agent can help you understand available coverage options to protect your home and farm. 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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