

South Carolina Farm Bureau State Legislative Weekly Update

April 1, 2022



Crossover Deadline Looming SC Grain & Cotton Producers Guaranty Fund Heads to House Ag Committee Agricultural Property Disclosure Agricultural Property Tax Exemptions Candidate Filing Date Closes

Spring is upon us! This week the General Assembly worked feverishly to take appropriate action on priority legislation with one week left until the looming crossover day of April 7.

This week's highlights include activities with the SC Grain and Cotton Guaranty Fund, agricultural property disclosure, agricultural property tax clarification and candidates filing for statewide office are in their races.

Next week we expect very long days and nights so that legislation can beat the crossover deadline. See below for details on this week's highlights!

"To those that work in acres, not in hours – We Thank You"

South Carolina Grain & Cotton Producers Guaranty Fund

Subcommittee [Chairman Scott Talley](#) worked with the Senate Agriculture Committee to pass [Chairman Wes Climer's](#) (Senate District 15 - York County) SC Grain and Cotton Producers Guaranty Fund bill out of the Senate last week and sent it on its way to the House. The bill was assigned to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by [Representative Davey Hiott](#) (House District 4 - Pickens County) for further action. This [bill](#) adds cotton to the state's agricultural commodities list to provide self-assessment insurance against unforeseen issues. It also creates the SC Agricultural Commodities Advisory Commission to assist the Department of Agriculture in the duties and administration of the Grain and Cotton Producers Guaranty Fund.

Agricultural Property Disclosure

Earlier this year, the Post and Courier shared a story where it revealed that South Carolina is currently ranked number 2 in the US for inbound moves in 2021. South Carolina is one of 13 states with more people moving in than out a recent study shows. [Representative Randy Ligon](#) (House District 43 - Chester and York Counties) filed [H.4994](#) earlier this session requiring a disclosure statement be included in real estate property transactions where adjacent properties are used for agricultural purposes.

During the House Ag subcommittee meeting, **Tim Donald**, SC Farm Bureau member and a poultry and beef farmer from Oconee County who has led the fight for agricultural disclosure in his home county for years, testified in support of the legislation. At the conclusion of his testimony, countless members of the subcommittee gave heartfelt thanks to Mr. Donald and all other South Carolina Farmers for their hard work and sacrifice to produce the food to feed our families. The bill was passed unanimously out of subcommittee and subsequently full committee where it will be heard on the House floor next week.

Thank you, Tim, for your leadership and taking time to share your farm story! It made a big difference.



Tim Donald testifying in front of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Subcommittee

Farm Building Property Tax Exemption

Farmers are continually challenged from every direction, especially with tax exemptions. Very often exemptions have to be negotiated with county officials and differences from county to county are prevalent. [Representative Ryan McCabe](#) (House District 96 - Lexington county) filed a [bill that provides uniform clarification and exempts](#) “all farm buildings and agricultural structures owned by a producer in this State used to house livestock, poultry, crops, farm equipment, or farm supplies.” **Adam Keith**, South Carolina Farm Bureau member from York County, was on hand to testify in favor of the bill prior to the subcommittee adjourning. Unfortunately, the subcommittee ran out of time to take formal action on H.5134 before the start of the day’s House session.

Adam was able to share his challenging story individually with several members after the meeting adjourned. Thank you, Adam, for your willingness to testify and your commitment to this hugely impactful topic!

Statewide Election Candidate Filing Period Closes – Get Involved

Filing closed this week for elections scheduled for this November. All 124 seats in the House of Representatives are up this year as well as the Governor, the SC Commissioner of Agriculture, county councils across the state and other elected seats.

Farm Bureau's advocacy network is designed to raise awareness of key issues that impact the agriculture industry. Our grassroots members help fuel the engine that guides South Carolina's number 1 industry: agribusiness. Farm Bureau is successful because of our engaged members that develop and cultivate these connections with elected officials allowing us to share our stories and vision for the future. **THANK YOU to all of the grassroots members who recently energized the members of the General Assembly to take positive actions on our priority agenda!**

Getting involved is as easy as it has ever been, [sign up for alerts, find your officials and follow important legislation](#) so your voice is heard!

Concurrent Resolution Urging Congress to Act Swiftly to Address Rising Agriculture Production Costs Nears Final Passage

House Ag Committee Chairman [Davey Hiott](#) (House District 4 - Pickens) introduced and helped pass [H. 4980](#) out of the House earlier this session. This resolution asks Congress to act immediately to address the rising agricultural production costs to protect South Carolina farms and the rural economy. The resolution was passed by the Senate and returned to the House in full concurrence.

“Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly memorialize Congress to act swiftly to address the multiple market factors impacting rising agricultural production costs to save South Carolina farms and the rural economy.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the members of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation.”