

South Carolina Farm Bureau State Legislative Weekly Update

February 25, 2022



Tax Changes Coming?

[House Bill 4880](#), sponsored by [Gary Simrill](#) (House District 46 – York County) and others, moved swiftly through the House this week with a final vote of 112-0 on the floor. The bill was sent to the Senate and immediately assigned to Senate Finance. The bill would create a two-rate plan that would eliminate the current six bracket tax framework and create two main tax brackets, 6.5% and 3%. This reform would be phased in over a five year period and tied to continued revenue growth to offset the realized reduction in tax collections.

South Carolina Agriculture Tax Exemption (SCATE) Bill on House Floor for Debate

The [South Carolina Agriculture Tax exemption \(SCATE\)](#) bill sponsored by [Representative Patrick Haddon](#) (House District 19 – Greenville County) continues to be debated on the floor of the House. The SCATE bill would extend the period of time to file for and obtain the SCATE card, redefine timeframe expiration of the card and limit requested information to obtain the card.

Government Restructuring – S.2

Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee [Chairman Harvey Peeler](#) (Senate District 14 including Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union and York Counties counties) chaired a committee meeting on Senate Bill 2 this week. The bill focuses on DHEC reform and increasing government efficiency while creating separate health and environmental state agencies, including moving all statewide water into one agency. The bill received overwhelming support with a unanimous vote of 5-0 to move the bill into full committee for consideration.

Full House Budget Deliberations Soon

House Ways and Means [Chairman Murrell Smith, Jr.](#) (House District 67 – Sumter county), along with all committee members, have worked diligently to create the state's budget for FY2023. House Bill 5150 will soon occupy the House calendar for debate, before being sent to the Senate for consideration.

SC Farm Bureau staff will continue to advocate for agriculture and monitor these developing initiatives while providing updates to our members.

Farmers of the Week Heather and Travis Collins – Famoda Farms



Heather and Travis Collins with Representative Mike Burns (District 17 – Greenville County) speaking to the Travelers Rest and Blue Ridge High School FFA Contingent at the Statehouse for FFA Day

SC Farm Bureau's Farmers of the Week are Heather and Travis Collins, owner and operators of Famoda Farm in Taylors, SC. What began as a small family business in 1945 as a packing plant grew into a booming farm in northern Greenville County known as Famoda Farms, which stands for Father, Mother, Daughter.

Today, the Collins' have grown Famoda Farm into a destination in the Upstate by sharing their beautiful property with the public for weddings and private events, and their Farm-to-Table shop named Grazers, where they offer their own grass-fed certified angus beef and Berkshire Pork with the community, as well as farm-fresh eggs, milk, fruits and more.

FFA Day at the Statehouse

The FFA organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of its members by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. The FFA is a national organization of over five hundred and fifty thousand students of agricultural education in secondary schools, technical colleges, and universities with chapters in all fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Members of FFA across the state descended on the Capitol this week to be recognized for their quality agricultural training, leadership abilities, academic achievements, and community service.

