



Inaugural Address

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## General Assembly Convenes Regular Legislative Session

On Tuesday, January 10, the SC General Assembly officially launched the 2023 Legislative Session. This is the first year of a two-year session for the 125th South Carolina General Assembly.

Keep an eye out every week for the *SCFB Legislative Update* keeping you informed of our work at the State House and providing vital information as the Legislature gets underway.

## Governor McMaster Inauguration



Governor Henry McMaster

On Wednesday, Governor Henry McMaster was sworn in for his second full term as governor. McMaster first assumed the role in January 2017 following then-Governor Nikki Haley's appointment as Ambassador to the United Nations. He was elected to a full term as governor in November 2018 and recently re-elected in November 2022.

## **Governor Announces FY 2023-2024 Executive Budget**

Governor McMaster has announced his Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Executive Budget where he is prioritizing fiscal responsibility and investments in education, infrastructure, public safety, and provides tax relief for South Carolinians.

### ***Agricultural Excerpt from the Executive Budget:***

*The Department of Agriculture has identified a lack of food processing and packaging capacity. Currently, 68 percent of the state's agribusiness products bought in South Carolina come from elsewhere. To counter this, the Executive Budget proposes a \$75 million Agribusiness Fund Matching Grant Program to increase food processing and packaging capacity. With this increased capacity also comes a need for additional cold-storage capacity, and the intent with this funding is to incentivize small, family-owned businesses to expand especially in Tier III and Tier IV counties. Through an aggressive communications strategy with agricultural business leaders, SCDA estimates the potential investment value of this economic development strategy is approximately \$860 million, while creating nearly 1,500 new jobs. This matching reimbursable grant program will follow similar processes to that of our neighboring states, who've already seen success with similar programs. With increased processing capacity comes additional opportunities for livestock and feed. According to a Clemson University survey, this investment could increase beef cattle processed in state by 4,250 cattle per year and 300,000 chicken, turkeys per year. And according to Dr. Von Nessen with USC's Moore School of Business, if just 25 percent of the current unmet demand for processing were captured by South Carolina farms and processors, there would be an increase of \$511 million annually to the state's rural economy.*

### **South Carolina Department of Agriculture**

- \$75 million non-recurring funds to recruit agribusiness to South Carolina via an economic development matching grant program;
- \$2.375 million non-recurring funds to renovate the Greenville State Farmers Market facilities;
- \$1.122 million non-recurring funds to provide more advanced and efficient tools for fueling location inspectors, thereby reducing inspection times while providing a less labor-intensive inspection that reduces the likelihood of a workplace injury and workers' compensation claim;
- \$1 million non-recurring funds to support the strategic marketing initiative of the "Certified SC" brand.

### **Clemson University – Public Service Activities (PSA)**

- \$2 million non-recurring funds to support Poultry Science Research Facility;
  - \$2.3 million to support employee retention and recruitment.

### **South Carolina State University – Public Service Activities (PSA)**

- \$2 million non-recurring funds to support small agribusiness expansion and reach new markets.

# AFBF Signs Right-to-Repair Memorandum of Understanding with John Deere

AFBF President Zippy Duvall shared the exciting announcement at the AFBF Annual Convention this week that AFBF has agreed to a memorandum of understanding with John Deere that ensures farmers' and ranchers' right to repair their own farm equipment. The MOU is the culmination of several years of negotiations between AFBF and John Deere.

The agreement formalizes farmers' access to diagnostic and repair codes, as well as manuals (operator, parts and service) and product guides. It also ensures farmers will be able to purchase diagnostic tools directly from John Deere and receive assistance from the manufacturer when ordering parts and products. More information on the MOU is available [here](#).

## Congratulations!

A BIG congratulations to SCFB Young Farmer & Rancher members **Cadie Bergan**, **Rachael Sharp** and **Sally Yon Harrison** for their outstanding performances at the AFBF Annual Meeting this week in Puerto Rico!

Rachael, placed 4th in the AFBF Achievement Award competition. Cadie represented South Carolina in the Excellence Award contest, and Sally participated in the Discussion Meet. These fierce competitors represented South Carolina well and SCFB couldn't be prouder.

