



# **PUBLIC SERVICE AND AGRICULTURE**

## **FY 2025-26 BUDGET HEARING**

January 28, 2025

# Clemson University PSA Attendees

**Dr. Matthew “Matt” Holt**

*Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences*

**Mark Cothran**

*Associate Vice President for Governmental Affairs*

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*Senior Vice President for External Affairs*

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*Assistant Vice President for Governmental  
Affairs*

# Agency Information

**Clemson Public Service Activities (PSA)** is part of a national network of land-grant universities that work in concert with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Clemson PSA has state and federal mandates to conduct research, extension and regulatory programs that support economic growth in South Carolina's largest industry – agriculture and forestry, or agribusiness. Clemson PSA is made up of four interrelated units: Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension Service, Livestock-Poultry Health, and Regulatory Services. The overall mission of PSA is to conduct research, extension (knowledge transfer) and regulatory programs that:

- Advance the competitiveness of South Carolina's agriculture and forestry industry
- Enhance the economic potential of rural communities
- Safeguard the food supply
- Preserve natural resources
- Prepare young people for the workforce through 4-H and FFA

## FY25-26 State Budget Requests

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## RECURRING REQUESTS

Food Safety and Nutrition Extension - Personnel and Programmatic Support	\$ 1,500,000	10 FTEs
Regulatory, Cooperative Extension and Experiment Station - Operational and Programmatic Support	\$ 760,000	5 FTEs
Critical Vehicles and Equipment	\$ 1,000,000	

## NONRECURRING REQUESTS

PSA Planned Maintenance and Critical Infrastructure	\$ 7,360,000
Baruch Institute Research Support Building	\$ 9,900,000

# Wrap Up

**CLEMSON PSA PRINCIPLE:** *Ensure efficient use of our resources and the delivery of relevant programs of the highest quality to the people of South Carolina.*

To maintain this principle in our Budget Process, we:

1. Listen to constituents and citizens of South Carolina to identify

- Existing program areas in need of improvement;
- Emerging and relevant areas for research, Extension programming, and regulatory activities.

2. Respond to constituent and citizen input by

- Implementing strategic changes within our existing personnel and budget to address program areas in need of improvement;
- Developing annual budget requests to address expertise and infrastructure needs that cannot be met within our current staffing and program support.



# PUBLIC SERVICE AND AGRICULTURE

**THANK YOU!**

**Matt Holt**

*Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences*



# **PUBLIC SERVICE AND AGRICULTURE**

## **APPENDIX**



## FTE Information

### FTE Summary

	State	Federal	Other	Total
Authorized	617.53	216.87	122.35	956.75
Vacant*	73.14	23.62	10.99	107.75
Filled*	544.39	193.25	111.36	849.00

\* Clemson University PSA FTEs are combined with Clemson University E&G FTEs in the State HR system. PSA takes credit for vacant positions within PSA Departments or PSA funded positions within the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. The PSA vacancy rate is 11.3% of authorized FTEs. Of those 107.75 vacant positions, 34.75 are in active recruitment.

## Financial Update

Budget vs Actuals FY24 and FY25YTD				
Program	FY24 State Budget (Includes \$1M One Time Operating)	FY24 Actual	FY25 State Budget	FY25 YTD 12-31-24
I. Regulatory and Public Services	\$ 1,673,376	\$ 1,653,774	\$ 1,977,755	\$ 595,530
II. Livestock Poultry Health	\$ 4,292,291	\$ 4,631,948	\$ 4,436,771	\$ 1,761,825
III. Agricultural Research	\$ 18,287,503	\$ 19,659,746	\$ 20,813,371	\$ 6,893,806
IV. Cooperative Extension Service	\$ 20,274,326	\$ 22,670,570	\$ 21,329,637	\$ 7,420,579
V. Employee Benefits	\$ 18,486,646	\$ 14,397,999	\$ 18,642,181	\$ 5,831,409
Total	\$ 63,014,142	\$ 63,014,036	\$ 67,199,715	\$ 22,503,149

## Carryforward Information

**Clemson University Public Service Activities' Other Funds consists of revenue from sales and services, and facilities and administrative costs recovered from grants. The balance on June 30, 2024 was \$27,113,108.**

**The carryforward balance is maintained to support needs across the four divisions of PSA primarily for emergency maintenance of PSA owned facilities and to support the continuation of self-sustaining PSA programs**



## **CLEMSON'S PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITMENT**

As a land-grant university, Clemson is part of a national system created by the U.S. Congress to improve the quality of life for citizens in every state through teaching, research and Extension. The University's statewide Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) system conducts research, Extension and regulatory programs that improve and protect economic prosperity and well-being for all South Carolina citizens. Clemson PSA programs develop and deliver impartial science-based information in five areas that align with the national land-grant university system and touch the life of every South Carolinian. The overall mission of PSA is to conduct research, extension (knowledge transfer) and regulatory programs that advance the competitiveness of South Carolina's agriculture and forestry industry; enhance the economic potential of rural communities; safeguard the food supply; preserve natural resources; and prepare young people for the workforce through 4-H and FFA.

25-  
26





**\$1,500,000**

## **FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION EXTENSION PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT**

Clemson Extension agents, associates and specialists with Food Systems and Safety responsibilities provide expertise in food safety related to the food system. This includes growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, distribution (wholesale, retail and home-based) and consumption to improve the safety of foods produced in South Carolina and reduce the number of foodborne illness outbreaks. We partner with other state and federal agencies, land-grant institutions and associations to meet the needs of our stakeholders and provide them with the most up-to-date science-based resources and education.

### **Goals**

- Expand programming to support food producers, preservers and entrepreneurs, and increase food nutrition statewide.
- Hire critical Extension personnel to promote a reliable, safe and nutritious food supply.

25-  
26

## Current State

- According to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, our state is home to nearly 25,000 farms and 4.8M acres of farmland. Agribusiness (agriculture and forestry) is the state's No. 1 industry, accounting for 259,215 jobs and \$51.8B in annual economic impact.
- South Carolinians are increasingly producing more of their own food. Additionally, farm-to-table restaurants are growing in popularity. As such, there is an increased need to ensure a safe food supply from farm to fork.
- With the recent outbreaks of foodborne illness caused by bacterial pathogens, South Carolina needs to increase its educational programming for industry and the public.
- Clemson currently has limited capacity to provide food analysis, food manufacturing training, food safety and food preservation training.

## What will this \$1.5M do?

- Enable our Food Systems and Safety program to expand statewide.
- Allow Clemson PSA to hire critical Extension personnel to provide training and technical assistance to South Carolina's farms, small businesses and the public.
- Not only will this investment enhance public health by protecting against foodborne illnesses, but it will also increase nutrition, ensure a safe food supply for our state, and spur economic development by providing vital support to South Carolina's farms and small businesses.



## BUDGET REQUESTS 2025-2026

REGULATORY, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
AND EXPERIMENT STATION OPERATIONAL  
AND PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT

**RECURRING**

A photograph of four people (three men and one woman) standing in a grassy field with cows in the background. They are all looking at a tablet held by one of the men. The man on the far right is wearing a blue polo shirt with a logo. The woman is wearing a grey vest over a dark shirt. The man next to her is wearing a brown vest over a light shirt. The man on the far left is wearing a dark jacket. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

**\$760,000**

## REGULATORY, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND EXPERIMENT STATION OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT

As a land-grant university, Clemson is part of a national system created by the U.S. Congress to improve the quality of life for citizens in every state. Clemson's Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) network conducts research, Extension and regulatory programs to improve and protect economic prosperity and well-being for all South Carolina residents.

### Goals

- Keep South Carolina farmers competitive through research that is critical to maintaining economically viable production.
- Hire essential personnel within the Regulatory Services division to further ensure the safety and well-being of the agriculture industry in South Carolina.

25-  
26

## **Current State**

- Clemson's Research and Education Centers (RECs) provide regional connectivity to our farmers for applied research and education programs in support of the state's agricultural industry.
- The Cooperative Extension Service provides technology transfer to commercial agriculture and homeowners through county-based outreach.
- Clemson RECs and Cooperative Extension have identified three specific areas in agribusiness that could be significantly enhanced with targeted research and technical assistance.
- Regulatory Services provides essential services to the plant industry and the public through its inspection, pesticide label oversight, agriculture services laboratory analytical work and pesticide applicator licensing.
- South Carolina law requires the inspection of live plant materials sold in South Carolina. Plant nurseries are inspected by Clemson University's Department of Plant Industry. These inspections help ensure that nursery plants are free from diseases, insect pests and invasive weedy plants that could impact South Carolina's agricultural industry and/or the environment. Since 2013, the South Carolina nursery dealer industry has grown by nearly 65 percent.



**What will this \$760,000 do?**

- Hire Extension specialists to serve as a turf specialist; a specialty crops, sensor and robotics engineer; and a beef specialist.
  - The turf specialist will maintain and grow industry partnerships within the athletic activities and tourism industry, work with stakeholders to develop turf management techniques appropriate for South Carolina, and attract additional investments and funding.
  - The specialty crops, sensor and robotics engineer will lead a team of investigators who will work to identify solutions to state needs, including addressing labor challenges in the agricultural industry by utilizing sensors, robotics and artificial intelligence.
  - The beef specialist will collaborate with the forage specialists that the state recently invested in to meet the increasing needs of the growing cattle industry in South Carolina.
- Hire critical regulatory personnel to serve as a nursery inspector and a pesticide training program manager, which will allow us to meet the needs of the growing nursery industry and bolster economic development.



**\$1,000,000**

## **CRITICAL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

As a land-grant university, Clemson's Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) network conducts research, Extension and regulatory programs to improve and protect economic prosperity and well-being for all South Carolina residents. Clemson PSA faculty and staff can only complete their mission if they can access safe, reliable transportation and equipment.

### **Goals**

- Provide safe, reliable service vehicles and equipment for the faculty and staff within Clemson's Research and Education Centers, Extension county offices, the Livestock-Poultry Health Unit and Regulatory Services Unit.

25-  
26

## Current State

- Service vehicles and major farm equipment at Clemson's RECs, Extension county offices, and the Livestock-Poultry Health and Regulatory Services units need to be replaced periodically to ensure the safety of Clemson employees. State and federal surplus vehicles are used when available and when they meet the work requirements of the units; however, when surplus vehicles are not available, replacements are purchased through the state purchasing system.
- The Cooperative Extension Service's fleet has more than 240 vehicles with an average age of 12 1/2 years, and those vehicles were driven nearly 1.3M miles in FY24.
- After the COVID-19 pandemic, federal surplus vehicles have been in short supply. As such, our cost of replacing critical vehicles has increased significantly. We expect this trend to continue for the foreseeable future, which is why our request for critical vehicles and equipment has moved from a larger, nonrecurring expense to a smaller, recurring expense.

## What will this \$1M do?

- Address immediate needs for safe, reliable vehicles and farming equipment. Travel is essential to our mission, especially as it relates to Cooperative Extension and serving constituents in each of South Carolina's 46 counties.
- Recurring funding will not only address immediate needs but will also allow PSA leadership to implement a long-term vehicle and equipment replacement plan that will result in greater efficiencies and ensure the best use of state dollars.



**PUBLIC SERVICE  
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**BUDGET REQUESTS 2025-2026**

PSA PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND  
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**NONRECURRING / CAPITAL REQUESTS**

**\$7,360,000**

## **PSA PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Clemson PSA has a multiyear preventative maintenance schedule for all statewide facilities to address aging infrastructure, changes in research technology and service responsibilities.

### **Goals**

- Upgrade facilities to current industry standards for operations and research needs.

25-  
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## **Current State**

- Facilities upgrades and renovations at Clemson RECs and Extension facilities near campus are needed to provide safe and functional workspaces for staff and faculty. These funds would be used to upgrade vegetable research infrastructure at Coastal REC, Fisheries Research Facility at Piedmont REC, and crop research and greenhouse facilities at Edisto REC.
- Clemson PSA has developed a multiyear preventative maintenance schedule for all facilities statewide to address issues associated with aging infrastructure, adapting to changing technology to support our research, Extension and service responsibilities, and to ensure a safe, functional working environment. The requested funds will address the most immediate needs among all PSA-related facilities.

## **What will \$7.36M do?**

- Address top-priority PSA planned maintenance.
- Address critical infrastructure needs.



**PUBLIC SERVICE  
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**BUDGET REQUESTS 2025-2026**

**BARUCH INSTITUTE RESEARCH  
SUPPORT FACILITY**

**NONRECURRING / CAPITAL REQUESTS**

**\$9,900,000**

## **BARUCH INSTITUTE RESEARCH SUPPORT FACILITY**

The Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science (BICEFS) aims to be a globally recognized research, educational and Extension center dedicated to understanding coasts, forests, watersheds and their biodiversity — all research essential to the state of South Carolina.

### **Goals**

- Construct an approximately 5,000-square-foot research facility for the Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science (BICEFS) in Georgetown, South Carolina.

25-  
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## **Current State**

- The work done at BICEFS positions Clemson to inform policy and provide high-impact applied solutions for a resilient environment, sustainable economies and a high quality of life.
- The Institute has doubled the size of its faculty and staff in the last five years and increased the number of graduate and undergraduate research programs at the site. With the investment in new faculty and the demand for expanded research, specialized research space is required.
- Current faculty have only about 40 percent of the space needed to conduct viable research.

## **What will \$9.9M do?**

- Construct a new, specialized research facility to accommodate current – and future – student and faculty needs.
- Allow existing instrumentation to be moved into the new facility and repurpose existing space for teaching, graduate student space and flexible project use.