



# **PUBLIC SERVICE AND AGRICULTURE**

**FY 2026-2027 BUDGET HEARING  
JANUARY 20, 2026**

# Clemson University PSA Attendees

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- **Dr. Matt Holt**  
*Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences; Vice President, Public Service and Agriculture*
- **Dr. Robert H Jones**  
*Interim President*
- **Angie Leidinger**  
*Senior Vice President for External Affairs*
- **Jarrold Bruder**  
*Assistant Vice President for Governmental Affairs*
- **Mark Cothran**  
*Associate Vice President for Governmental Affairs*

# Agency Information

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**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

# FY26-27 STATE BUDGET REQUESTS

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**PUBLIC SERVICE  
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# Recurring State Appropriations Request FY26-27

Request ( <i>In Priority Order</i> )	Amount Requested	FTEs Requested	Description of Request
Natural Resource Utilization and Planning Institute (NRUPI)	\$3,000,000	21 FTEs	Enhance sustainable land and resource management in South Carolina including ag lands while addressing sustainable economic growth and environmental preservation
Protecting South Carolina's Food Sources and Bolstering Agricultural Services	\$2,600,000	1 FTE	Support Livestock and Poultry Health and Regulatory Services, ensuring food safety, economic security, and maintaining low service fees for South Carolinians
PSA Critical Infrastructure Needs	\$4,000,000		Address ongoing maintenance needs at PSA's six Research and Education Centers (RECs) across the state in a strategic, planned approach
Strengthening Statewide Cooperative Extension Programming	\$800,000	10 FTEs	Enhance agricultural productivity and promote high-quality Extension educational programs in South Carolina's communities

# Non-Recurring State Appropriations Request FY26-27

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Request ( <i>In Priority Order</i> )	Amount Requested	Description of Request
Critical Infrastructure and Enhanced Biosecurity and Safety Upgrades	\$18,000,000	Address immediate and critical maintenance needs at PSA's six research and education facilities plus critical biosafety and security enhancements at our RECs

# Recurring State Appropriations Request FY26-27

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## Natural Resource Utilization and Planning Institute, NRUPI - \$3M

- Agribusiness and forestry contribute ~\$52 billion to the economy, supporting around 260,000 jobs
- **SC is a rapidly growing state**, both in its economy and population--over half of our recent GDP growth has come from real estate
- NRUPI will integrate **economic analysis, policy insights**, and **GIS data** to empower policymakers and support stakeholders with essential decision-making tools.
- A collaborative model. Engage Extension agents and specialists to disseminate insights statewide, partnering with organizations such as SCFB, SCDES and SCDNR to promote sustainable growth and development.
- NRUPI will serve all 46 counties, focusing on resilience strategies and developing user-friendly digital tools for transparency

# Recurring State Appropriations Request FY26-27

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## Protecting South Carolina's Food Sources and Bolstering Agricultural Services - \$2.6M

- Additional funding is crucial to maintaining efficient and timely provision of testing and training services for South Carolina citizens, ensuring the economic vitality of our agroforestry economy.
- Investments in pesticide training, inspection, and diagnostic services are vital for protecting public health and ensuring the safety and integrity of South Carolina's food supply.
- The ability to respond promptly to animal health threats ensures a safe and secure food supply for South Carolina.



# Recurring State Appropriations Request FY26-27

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## PSA Critical Infrastructure Needs - \$4M

- A two-year **maintenance need assessment** of critical PSA infrastructure was **completed** by an external firm in **August 2025** (Gordian).
- Identified **\$18 million** in **current maintenance** needs and an additional **\$24 million** required **over the next 10 years**.
- Of the **\$42M total**, **\$13 million** in maintenance needs was **classified as urgent** and an additional **\$9 million** as **high priority**.
- The goal is to plan for and provide **routine, scheduled maintenance and upgrades** of PSA facilities over time.
- The **PSA budget plan** submitted in September contains a **detailed breakdown of current and ongoing needs** by each PSA unit.

# Recurring State Appropriations Request FY26-27

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## Strengthening Statewide Cooperative Extension Programming – \$800K

- **Enhanced Community Impact:** Funding hires **Program Assistants** to improve outreach and access to Extension's educational resources.
- **Workforce Development:** Creates **pathways to become qualified Extension Agents**, building a skilled workforce.
- **Improved Program Efficiency:** Program Assistants let Extension Agents focus on high-impact initiatives for better outcomes.
- **Volunteer Empowerment:** More volunteer training, which expands Extension's reach without overburdening staff.
- **Alignment with State Priorities:** Supports statewide goals in economic growth, workforce development, and environmental stewardship.

# Non-Recurring State Appropriations Request FY26-27

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## Critical Infrastructure and Enhanced Biosecurity & Safety Upgrades – \$18M

- **Biosecurity Enhancements (\$1M):** Need for wash stations at Research and Education Centers (RECs) to prevent pathogen spread and improve compliance with gene editing regulations.
- **Security and IT Upgrades (\$600K):** Enhance security technology and improve communication systems at RECs, aligning them with main campus protocols.
- **Maintenance Needs (\$10M):** Address immediate infrastructure maintenance needs, prioritizing urgent projects.
- **Veterinary Diagnostic Center Equipment (\$400K):** Necessary upgrades at the Clemson Veterinary Diagnostic Center to maintain NAHLN accreditation and improve diagnostic testing capabilities.
- **Project 422 Crossroads (\$6M):** A proposal to fund the construction of a multi-use complex in Orangeburg County that will help serve Extension needs.

# Summary

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**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.

# APPENDIX MATERIAL

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# Financial Update

Budget vs Actuals FY25 and FY26YTD				
Program	FY25 State Budget	FY25 Actual	FY26 State Budget	FY26 YTD 12-31-25
I. Regulatory and Public Services	\$ 1,977,755	\$ 1,942,656	\$ 2,065,753	\$ 887,264
II. Livestock Poultry Health	\$ 4,436,771	\$ 4,700,015	\$ 4,551,060	\$ 2,118,986
III. Agricultural Research	\$20,813,371	\$21,425,843	\$21,551,158	\$ 8,539,453
IV. Cooperative Extension Service	\$21,329,637	\$23,040,848	\$22,827,660	\$ 10,341,997
V. Employee Benefits	\$18,642,181	\$16,090,354	\$19,868,227	\$ 7,976,787
Total	\$67,199,715	\$67,199,715	\$70,863,858	\$ 29,864,486

## Carryforward Information

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**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, 2025 was \$30,889,565.**

**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**

# FTE Information

## FTE Summary

	State	Federal	Other	Total
Authorized	610.45	212.12	120.18	942.75
Vacant*	72.66	21.22	8.12	102.00
Filled*	537.79	190.90	112.06	840.75

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 10.8% of authorized FTEs. Of those 102 vacant positions, 40.25 are in active recruitment



# THANK YOU

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**MATTHEW T. “MATT” HOLT**  
**DEAN, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & LIFE SCIENCES**  
**VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC SERVICE & AGRICULTURE**