



South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

**South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Key Officials**

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South Carolina DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

Agency Mission:

To promote and nurture the growth and development of South Carolina's agriculture industry and its related businesses while assuring the safety and security of the buying public.

Agency Vision:

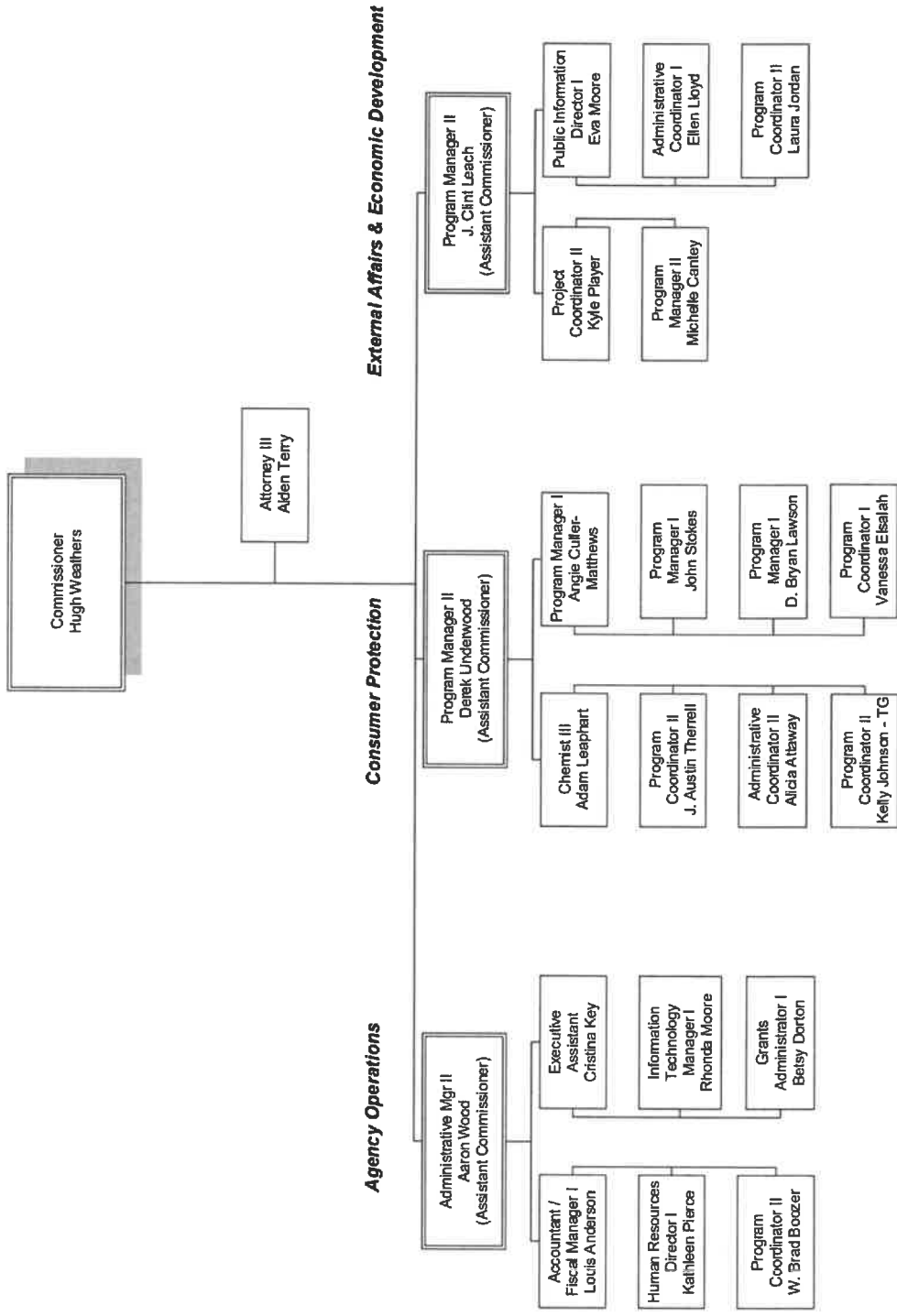
For the State's economy to grow and prosper, providing everyone, producers and consumers, opportunities to enjoy the benefits of agriculture.

Daily Operations / Major Programs:

<u>Agency Operations</u>	<u>Consumer Protection</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administration<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Finance / Budget○ Procurement○ Facilities & Fleet• Commissioner's Office• Grants Administration• Human Resources• Information Technology• State Farmers Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consumer Services<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Weights & Measures○ Metrology Services○ Commodity Warehouse Program○ Dealer and Handler○ Weighmaster• Food Safety & Compliance<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Manufactured Food Standards○ Rapid Response Team• Feed Safety & Compliance<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Animal Feed Standards• Federal State Inspection Service<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Specialty Crop Inspection<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fruit & Vegetable▪ Peanuts○ Market News<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Livestock News○ Poultry & Egg Grading• Hemp Farming Program• Laboratory Services<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Petroleum○ Feed○ Seed○ Chemical○ Residue• Produce Safety• Phillips Market Center
<h3><u>External Affairs and Economic Development</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agribusiness Economic Development• Agricultural Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE)• External Affairs• TEFAP/CSFP• Marketing & Promotions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Brand○ Commodities• Public Information<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Communications○ Market Bulletin	
<h3><u>Legal</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Counsel	

Agency Head: 1
 Agency FTE Authorized: 138
 Agency FTE Filled: 129
 13 TG
 11 TL

December 9, 2020



**South Carolina Department of Agriculture
FTE Breakdown December 2020**

Personnel Area		Authorized Total FTE
P160	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	138.000

Job Class Code	Number of Employees
AA75	5
AC30	1
AD22	3
AD28	1
AE30	1
AG10	1
AG15	1
AG20	1
AH10	6
AH15	1
AH25	1
AH30	1
AH35	3
AH40	7
AH45	3
AH50	3
AI10	1
AK03	1
AM55	1
AM65	2
BC10	1
BC40	1
BE30	1
BG30	1
ED10	1
ED12	3
ED15	1
ED35	3
ED40	2
JA85	4
JB40	5
JB50	5
KA10	2
KC32	1
KC34	1
KC35	1
LA20	2
LA25	3
LA40	3
LA50	1
LA55	9
LA60	2
LA65	2
LA70	9
LA75	14
LA80	7

Pay Grade	Number of Employees
AHNSC	1
BAND 02	5
BAND 03	12
BAND 04	38
BAND 05	38
BAND 06	25
BAND 07	9
BAND 08	4
Total:	130

UA01	1
Total:	130

FY 2019-20 Performance Update and Accountability Report Executive Summary

Strategic Planning Goals

1. Improve agency operational readiness and workforce development (Government and Citizens).
2. Protect consumers and business entities through physical inspections, laboratory analysis, accuracy and precision calibration of measuring devices, product (food, feed, fuel) sampling, facility and product licensing, and routine, risk-based, or consumer complaint-driven inspections (Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security).
3. Promote, develop, and expand South Carolina's agriculture / agribusiness industry, both domestically and internationally, by providing opportunities to farmers and industry players (Public Infrastructure and Economic Development).

Agency Highlights during Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020

1. **Farmers to Food Banks** – The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA), in partnership with South Carolina Advocates for Agriculture, launched the Farmers to Food Banks (FTFB) Program in June 2020. Farmers to Food Banks is a food box program that uses donated funds to purchase and distribute Certified SC grown produce from across the state to families in need through Feeding America Food Hubs. The goal of the program is to support South Carolina farmers during a time of decreased sales and supply chain disruptions, and provide for people affected by food insecurity, all brought on by Covid-19. \$453,577 was donated and awarded to purchase and distribute 20,959 boxes (355,201 pounds) of food from South Carolina farms to South Carolina families.
2. **Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE)** – ACRE is a multifaceted initiative that capitalizes on opportunities in the fields of agriculture, agricultural research and entrepreneurship. Since 2017, ACRE has: hosted workshops for 650 state residents; provided intensive agribusiness training to 63 entrepreneurs; give grants totaling \$490,000 to 35 entrepreneurs; funded 14 industry-driven research projects; and served people in every South Carolina county.
3. **Agribusiness Economic Development** – For calendar year 2019, approximately 1,024 new jobs and \$434 million of investment were created across the state. Many of these announcements included projects in the food processing, bakery, distribution and forestry industries. The largest agriculture project in the state's history, located in Hampton County, was announced in September 2020. This 1,000-acre project, called the Agriculture Technology Campus, includes greenhouse vegetable production and processing, and will create 1,547 jobs and be a \$314 million investment.
4. **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)** – In FY20, South Carolina was awarded \$594,919, which is the highest amount in five years, to implement projects that increase the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in the state. Over the past year, SCDA Grants Administration Office has improved procedures for the competitive review process to include risk assessment and a two-step selection process. Earlier and better promotion yielded 35 applications (the most in history) and 15 projects selected for funding.

5. **Capital Projects** – Two capital projects have been completed in the last FY: the 2,611 square foot metrology storage building at the metrology laboratory; and the 4,470 square foot, climate-controlled commodity training facility. Both buildings fill needs at the agency, and the commodity training facility, with its state-of-the-art classroom-style setup, can be rented by the public to generate additional revenue for SCDA.
6. **Process Improvements in Business Operations** – Over the last three years, SCDA has focused on process improvement in the Administration area, including accounting, procurement, budget, fleet, and facilities. A big achievement and reflection of these efforts was the report from the Office of State Auditor (OSA) showing only one finding during the FY 2018-2019 Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) Audit. The Human Resources (HR) Department played a role in the success of the OSA AUP Audit, but also had a big win of their own. An audit of delegated transactions performed by the Department of Administration (Admin) Division of State Human Resources for the period of April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019, showed one finding and included no recommendations.
7. **2019 Peanut Season Changes** - SCDA implemented several changes during the 2019 peanut harvest season to provide better customer service to buying points and farmers and increase retention of seasonal temporary peanut inspectors. These included a Monday through Saturday work-week (no Sundays); a 4-hour minimum and 12-hour maximum work day for all shifts; two distinct job classifications (graders and aides) based on experience and education necessary to successfully perform the jobs; increased pay for graders and aides; and more directed marketing of job openings.
8. **Manufactured Foods Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) Compliance** - SCDA is currently in the third year of conformance with the MFRPS grant from the FDA. The purpose of the MFRPS grant is to assist state manufactured food safety programs to strengthen their regulatory activities and reduce foodborne illness. In August 2020, SCDA's MFRPS program had their 60-month FDA audit and was awarded continued full-conformance status with all ten Standards.
9. **Hemp Farming Program** - The 2019 USDA interim rule provided each state the ability to submit a "State Plan" for Hemp Farming, Hemp Handling, and Hemp Processing to allow state officials, not the federal government, to regulate. SCDA's State Plan was approved by USDA on March 30, 2020. SCDA has created a department in Consumer Protection to manage and regulate the South Carolina State Plan and all hemp operations in South Carolina. Currently there are 254 permitted farmers, 13 Processors, and 42 Handlers (includes Brokers, Facilities, Labs, Transporters and Seed Providers). Approximately 5,400 acres and 2.2 million square feet of greenhouse space is used for Hemp Farming in 2020.
10. **Market Development and Direct-to-Consumer Sales** – Although COVID-19 presented farmers with challenges due to supply chain disruptions, changes in consumer behavior, and government lock-downs, SCDA worked quickly to help establish new direct-to-consumer sales channels to displace sales losses due to restaurant and school closures. A statewide list (by county) was created and maintained to show where consumers could purchase produce, dairy, and protein directly from the farmer.

South Carolina Department of Agriculture
 Budget vs Actual For Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 and Carryforward Balances
 December 4, 2020

	Fiscal Year 2020		Cash Carried Forward From FY2020	Fiscal Year 2021	
	Authorization	Expenditures		Authorization	Expenditures Through 12/03/20
General Funds	17,919,894	12,433,400	1,149,874	19,457,656	4,846,884
Earmarked Funds	9,720,559	7,262,395	9,371,406	9,482,935	3,578,950
Restricted Funds	-	-	13,081,114	-	-
Federal Funds	10,716,989	9,469,684	262,076	6,039,515	2,195,830

* Includes budgeted accounts, capital project funds and unbudgeted trust & agency accounts.

**FY 21-22 Prioritized Budget Request Summary
South Carolina Department of Agriculture**

		BUDGET REQUESTS						FUNDING				FTEs			
Priority	Request Type (recurring, non-recurring, capital)	Request Title	Brief Description	General - Recurring	General - Nonrecurring	Other	Federal	Total	State	Other	Federal	Total			
1	Recurring	Operational Costs	To fund operating costs for mandatory programs	850,000				850000				0.00			
2	Recurring	Consumer Protection inspectors	Transfer 8 Consumer Service Inspector positions from earmarked to general to match funding change in gas tax reform					0	8.00		-8.00	0.00			
3	Recurring	Federal Hemp Farming Compliance	Provide resources for a USDA-approved plan that allows SCDA to regulate SC hemp farmers	1,100,000				1100000	5.00			5.00			
4	Non-recurring	Hemp Testing Equipment	Laboratory equipment to ensure grower and processor compliance with state and federal laws		425,000			425000				0.00			
5	Recurring	Agricultural Marketing	Help producers develop new markets by capitalizing on post-Covid consumer driven local purchasing	500,000				500000				0.00			
6	Non-recurring	Back-up Generator	Protect millions of dollars' worth of equipment and allow continuity of service during disaster response and recovery		300,000			300000				0.00			
7	Non-recurring	Farmland Conservation Study	Evaluate and report on ways to guide future farmland conservation initiatives		150,000			150000				0.00			
8	Recurring	Increase Federal Budget Authority	Provide federal budget authority for TEFAP and CSFP Programs that were moved to SCDA from DSS				3,523,300	3523300				0.00			
9								0				0.00			
10								0				0.00			
11								0				0.00			
12								0				0.00			
13								0				0.00			
14								0				0.00			
15								0				0.00			
16								0				0.00			
17								0				0.00			
18								0				0.00			
19								0				0.00			
20								0				0.00			
TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTS				\$ 2,450,000	\$ 875,000	\$ -	\$ 3,523,300	\$ 6,848,300	13.00	0.00	-8.00	5.00			

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44



**Fiscal Year FY 2021-2022
Agency Budget Plan**

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B1)</i>	For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B2)</i>	For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS <i>(FORM C)</i>	For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS <i>(FORM D)</i>	For FY 2021-2022, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Aaron Wood	(803) 734-2182	awood@scda.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Louis Anderson	(803) 734-2195	lhanderson@scda.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2021-2022 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

SIGN/DATE: TYPE/PRINT NAME:	<i>Agency Director</i>	<i>Board or Commission Chair</i>
	 Hugh E. Weathers	

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture
Agency Code:	P160
Section:	44

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Operational Costs	850,000	0	0	0	850,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Consumer Protection Inspectors	0	0	0	0	0	8.00	0.00	-8.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Federal Hemp Farming Compliance	1,100,000	0	0	0	1,100,000	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
4	B2 - Non-Recurring	Hemp Testing Equipment	425,000	0	0	0	425,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Agricultural Marketing	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B2 - Non-Recurring	Back-up Generator	300,000	0	0	0	300,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	B2 - Non-Recurring	Farmland Conservation Study	150,000	0	0	0	150,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	B1 - Recurring	Federal Budget Authority for TEFAP and CSFP Programs	0	3,523,300	0	0	3,523,300	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			3,325,000	3,523,300	0	0	6,848,300	13.00	0.00	-8.00	0.00	5.00

Agency Name:
Agency Code:

Department Of Agriculture
P160

Section:

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

**AGENCY
PRIORITY**

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Operational Costs

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: \$850,000

Federal: \$0

Other: \$0

Total: \$850,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

**FACTORS
ASSOCIATED
WITH THE
REQUEST**

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | IT Technology/Security related |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Consulted DIO during development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # |

**STATEWIDE
ENTERPRISE
STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES**

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Education, Training, and Human Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Healthy and Safe Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Infrastructure and Economic Development |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Government and Citizens |

**ACCOUNTABILITY
OF FUNDS**

1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

These funds will be used to pay for goods and services procured according to state procurement rules. The Department of Administration is one of our primary service contractors. These funds would also be used to pay the salary of one existing

FUNDS

employee, an Attorney III, hired in August 2018.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Over the last several years, South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) has been tasked with expanded regulatory responsibilities, for which direct appropriations have not been made. Some examples of these include the Hemp Farming Act, Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS), Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS), and implementation of the Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA) rules. These programs, which improve consumer safety and producer market access, have added costs for personnel, equipment, workspace, vehicles, insurance, network services, and computing hardware and software. SCDA had to hire an in-house attorney to help navigate the ambiguous state and federal legal parameters. Not only has state law increased food and feed safety inspection activity, federal cooperative agreements require SCDA to have exit strategies of sustainment. This funding is to backfill these additional operating costs.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:
Agency Code:

Department Of Agriculture
P160

Section:

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

**AGENCY
PRIORITY**

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Consumer Protection Inspectors

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: \$0

Federal: \$0

Other: \$0

Total: \$0

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

**FACTORS
ASSOCIATED
WITH THE
REQUEST**

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | IT Technology/Security related |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Consulted DTO during development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Related to a Non-Recurring request -- If so, Priority # |

**STATEWIDE
ENTERPRISE
STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES**

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Education, Training, and Human Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Healthy and Safe Families |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Infrastructure and Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Government and Citizens |

**ACCOUNTABILITY
OF FUNDS**

2.1, 2.2

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

Employees

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

During gas tax reform, SCDA fuel inspection program (Consumer Services) funding was shifted from the 1/10 of 1 cent per gallon of fuel to a recurring general appropriation. With that funding change, Inspectors took General Fund FTE slots, leaving Other FTE slots. Essentially, the funding was changed by the FTE slots were not transferred, so this transfer of positions is now being requested.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:
Agency Code:

Department Of Agriculture
P160

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

**AGENCY
PRIORITY**

3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Federal Hemp Farming Compliance

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: \$1,100,000

Federal: \$0

Other: \$0

Total: \$1,100,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

5.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

**FACTORS
ASSOCIATED
WITH THE
REQUEST**

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | IT Technology/Security related |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Consulted DTO during development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 4 |

**STATEWIDE
ENTERPRISE
STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES**

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Education, Training, and Human Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Healthy and Safe Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public Infrastructure and Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Government and Citizens |

**ACCOUNTABILITY
OF FUNDS**

2.1, 2.2, 3.2

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

Funds recipients would be the Department of Administration (Fleet, DTO, General Services), vendors (equipment and supplies), personnel, and other state and federal agencies.

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

With the 31 October 2019 release of the USDA Industrial Hemp interim rule, there are now certain strict standards to which state agriculture departments must agree and follow (i.e.: mandatory testing, official sample collections, verification inspections, processing and handling requirements, and new response time and logistical mandates) in order to continue managing and regulating the state's hemp farming program. If a state's plan, which must be approved by USDA, doesn't satisfactorily meet the strict standards, the federal government will then become the agency responsible for managing the program in the state, and South Carolinians do not want that. According to the South Carolina state plan that has been approved by USDA, we will need to hire additional staff, including field inspectors, administrative personnel, and laboratory technicians, and meet associated recurring costs like laboratory analyses, inspection software, and network connectivity. We anticipate a total recurring annual program cost of \$1,600,000, with a potential revenue stream of \$483,000 from allowable fees, leaving a \$1,100,000 shortfall. Without this funding, SCDA will not be able to satisfy USDA's requirement for each state to certify that the state has resources and personnel to carry out the practices and procedures established under the Farm Bill.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:

Department Of Agriculture

Agency Code:

P160

Section:

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Agricultural Marketing

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: \$500,000

Federal: \$0

Other: \$0

Total: \$500,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
- Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
- Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
- Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
- Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
- Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
- Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
- IT Technology/Security related
- Consulted DTO during development
- Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- Education, Training, and Human Development
- Healthy and Safe Families
- Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
- Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
- Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

3.1, 3.2

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

Vendors and contractors, through competitive bidding, existing state contracts, or other applicable state procurement regulations, would receive these funds. The state's marketing plan, which is updated regularly, is based on frequent consumer

FUNDS	market research.
--------------	------------------

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Additional funding would give the SC Department of Agriculture a greater ability to market Certified SC Grown agricultural products to the statewide buying public. The funds would specifically be used to promote the program through various medium, as well as further establishing direct-to-consumer sales opportunities (grocery stores, retail outlets, farm stands).

Because of COVID-19, many South Carolina farms have struggled to continue operations, due to school and restaurant closings. With that, many are now having to establish new sales channels. With nationwide research now pointing to consumers' demand of purchasing their food and agricultural products from local farmers and producers, it is extremely important to expand visibility of our brand, so that South Carolina farmers are benefiting from these new buying habits.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:
Agency Code:

Department Of Agriculture
P160

Section:

44

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

**AGENCY
PRIORITY**

8

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Federal Budget Authority for TEFAP and CSFP Programs

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: \$0

Federal: \$3,523,300

Other: \$0

Total: \$3,523,300

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

**FACTORS
ASSOCIATED
WITH THE
REQUEST**

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | IT Technology/Security related |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Consulted DTO during development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # |

**STATEWIDE
ENTERPRISE
STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES**

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Education, Training, and Human Development |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Healthy and Safe Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Infrastructure and Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Government and Citizens |

**ACCOUNTABILITY
OF FUNDS**

3.1

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The funds are used to purchase food for citizens, which are distributed through the four food banks that serve South Carolina.

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated - using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Food Assistance Program (CFAP) are food assistance programs funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Governor McMaster designated the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) as the state administering agency for these programs on 3 December 2018. Previously, the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) was the state administering agency. SCDA is requesting federal budget authority for both programs, based on the funding level awarded by USDA to SCDA in fiscal year 2019-20.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Hemp Testing Equipment

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

\$425,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
- Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
- Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
- Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
- Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
- Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
- Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
- IT Technology/Security related
- Consulted DTO during development
- Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
- Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
- Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Federal Hemp Farming Compliance

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- Education, Training, and Human Development
- Healthy and Safe Families
- Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
- Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
- Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

2.1, 2.2

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

These funds would be used to source equipment from vendors on existing state contract, competitive bidding, or other applicable state procurement regulations.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

The following laboratory equipment will be used to support and enforce the State Hemp Farming Program:

- To analyze hemp seed, flower, and finished hemp products for THC and CBD, using a High-Performance Liquid Chromatography with Ultra Violet (HPLC-UV).
- To provide a service type analysis for growers and processors, a Gas Chromatograph with Mass Selective Detector (GC-MS) and an Inductively Coupled Plasmas Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) will be used to analyze hemp and hemp products for residual solvents (adulterants) and heavy metals (toxins).
- Dedicated germinators for hemp are required to ensure there is no cross-contamination with other seeds.
- The purchase of field test kits to allow inspectors to sample hemp in the field for THC level prior to harvest and movement.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:
Agency Code:

Department Of Agriculture
P160

Section:

44

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

**AGENCY
PRIORITY**

6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Back-up Generator

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

\$300,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

**FACTORS
ASSOCIATED
WITH THE
REQUEST**

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | IT Technology/Security related |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Consulted DTO during development |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # |

**STATEWIDE
ENTERPRISE
STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES**

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Education, Training, and Human Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Healthy and Safe Families |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Infrastructure and Economic Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Government and Citizens |

**ACCOUNTABILITY
OF FUNDS**

2.1, 2.2

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

**RECIPIENTS OF
FUNDS**

Equipment will be sourced through vendors on existing state contract, through competitive bidding, or other applicable state procurement regulations.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

A back-up generator is needed to protect and maintain power service to six different laboratories in two buildings during outages (\$300,000). This will protect tens of millions of dollars' worth of equipment from power surges, improper shut-down, and data loss. Keeping laboratories functional will allow SCDA continuity of state state-mandated inspection and testing of food, feed, and fuel during disaster response and recovery.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

7

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Farmland Conservation Study

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

\$150,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2021-2022? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

- Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
- Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
- Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
- Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
- Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
- Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
- Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
- IT Technology/Security related
- Consulted D/O during development
- Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
- Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
- Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

- Education, Training, and Human Development
- Healthy and Safe Families
- Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
- Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
- Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

3.1, 3.2

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

This research would be coordinated and/or performed by the Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE).

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

The national farm economy is at its lowest point in decades. Rapid population growth and urbanization is occurring in South Carolina, and there is growing awareness of environmental sustainability. Production agriculture and forestry is a primary way to conserve natural resources and support rural communities. SCDA will evaluate the details of tools available to conserve working farm and forest land, program participation by landowners, and see what barriers may be limiting usage of existing programs. These include state and federal tax incentives for conservation easements, the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), South Carolina's Conservation Bank, and estate planning options. SCDA will evaluate what other state are doing to conserve farm and forest land, what is working, and what is not working. A report will recommend ways to leverage existing programs and guide future farmland conservation initiatives.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new posittons have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name: Department Of Agriculture
 Agency Code: P160 Section: 44

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE Agency Cost Saving and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan

AMOUNT \$422,439
What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS None
How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT
 III. Marketing Services; A. Marketing & Promotions
 III. Marketing Services; E. Agricultural Center for Research & Entrepreneurship (ACRE)
 III. Marketing Services; F. Infrastructure Grants
What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY
 A 3% reduction in appropriated funds would be absorbed by Marketing and Promotions, ACRE, and Infrastructure Grant awards. The agency would reduce the promotion of the Certified SC branding program, which helps consumers identify agricultural products grown and/or produced in South Carolina and encourages the purchase of those products. This would negatively affect SCDA's ability to drive market demand and brand recognition, and subsequently hurt producers and consumers throughout the state. SCDA would reduce grant funding available for agribusiness research and development projects, and reduce matching grants to counties for recruitment of agribusiness-specific projects.



Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.



N/A (\$50,000 / measure)

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE South Carolina Egg Law Revision; SC Code Title 39, Chapter 39

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS \$2,000

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION 200 small egg producers saving \$10 each.

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES Eliminate license fees for small egg producers and federally licensed processors.

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION SC Egg Law: 39-39-10 to 39-39-40

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY

Proposed changes to the egg law include: exempting USDA-graded processors from having to also obtain a state license; add an exemption for small back-yard producers; allow for the off-farm sale of eggs from small producers direct to consumers; and allow the sale of quail eggs in the state for consumption.



Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?

Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee Proviso Request Summary						
FY 20-21 Proviso #	Renumbered FY 21-22 Proviso #	Proviso Title	Short Summary	FY of Proviso Introduction/ # of years in budget	Recommended Action	Proviso Language
44.1	44.1	Market Bulletin	Outlines how citizens subscribe to the Market Bulletin; allows SCDA to charge a yearly subscription fee; and to use that fee to pay for publishing the Market Bulletin.	Unknown	CODIFY	The Market Bulletin shall be mailed only to those persons who request it in writing and a record of each request shall be maintained by the department. Provided further, that the Department of Agriculture is authorized to charge a yearly subscription fee to each person requesting the bulletin and may charge for classified advertisements printed in the bulletin. The funds collected pursuant to this provision shall be retained by the department to defray the costs of publication and related incidental expenses. A daily subsistence allowance of up to \$30.00 may be allowed for temporarily employed fruits and vegetables inspectors from funds generated by fruits and vegetables inspection fees and budgeted under other funds in Program III. Marketing Services, D. Inspection Services, in lieu of reimbursements for meals and lodging expense.
44.2	44.2	Fruit / Vegetable Inspectors Subistence	Sets daily per diem for fruit and vegetable inspectors	Unknown	NO CHANGE	The Department of Agriculture may retain and expend fifty thousand dollars from the Warehouse Receipts Guaranty Fund established by Section 39-22-150 of the 1976 Code as is necessary for the department to administer the funding of the program.
44.3	44.3	Warehouse Receipts Guaranty Fund	Calls for SCDA to retain and expend \$50,000 from the Warehouse Receipts Guaranty Fund to administer the program (Section 39-22-150)	Unknown	CODIFY	All servicepersons required to be registered with the Department of Agriculture pursuant to the provisions of Section 39-9-65 of the 1976 Code shall pay to the department a registration fee of \$25.00. Revenues generated by this provision shall be for use by the Department of Agriculture to offset expenses incurred in administering this registration program.
44.4	44.4	Weights and Measures Registration	Sets a fee for weighmaster license	Unknown	CODIFY	The department may retain revenues associated with the sale of the property titled to or utilized by the department, except for the State Farmers Market property, and must expend these funds on capital improvements approved by the Joint Bond Review Committee and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority. The department must continue to occupy any property until replacement capital improvements are completed. The Department of Agriculture is allowed to charge up to \$250 for each export certification of agricultural products and to retain revenues to offset expenses incurred in performing certifications.
44.5	44.5	Sale of Property Revenue	Allows retainage of revenues for properties titled to or utilized by SCDA Allows SCDA to charge up to \$250 for export certificates and retain the revenue to pay for expenses incurred in issuing these certificates.	Unknown	CODIFY	
44.6	44.6	Export Certification		Unknown	CODIFY	

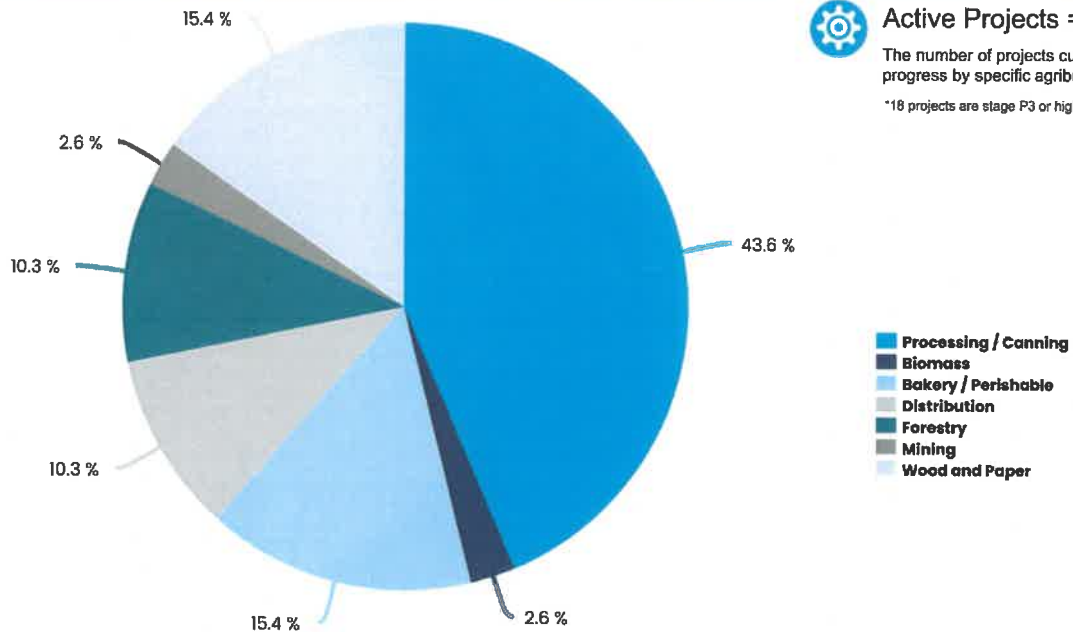
The Department of Agriculture is authorized to require the annual registration of feed labels by manufacturers and to charge a fee of \$15.00 for such registrations. Revenues generated by these fees shall be retained and used by the department to offset expenses incurred in operating the Feed Inspection Program.

In the current fiscal year, the provisions of the Consolidated Procurement Code related to a commodity boards expenditure of assessments collected from producers, as those terms are defined in Section 46-17-40 of the 1976 Code, are suspended. The Department of Agriculture is authorized to carry forward any revenues, accrued interest, and unexpended Agribusiness Infrastructure funds from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purpose.

44.7	44.7 Feed Label Registration	Authorizes annual feed label registration and establishes fees	Unknown	CODIFY
44.8	44.8 Commodity Boards	Exempts commodity boards from the state procurement cods	FY 17-18 Appropriations Act	CODIFY
44.9	44.9 Carry Forward Agribusiness Infrastructure	Provides carry-forward authority for agribusiness infrastructure funding	FY 18-19 Appropriations Act	CODIFY

Economic Development Agribusiness Report

November 2020



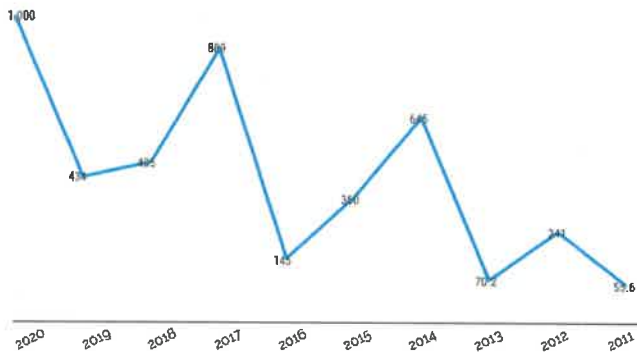
Active Projects = 39

The number of projects currently in progress by specific agribusiness industry.

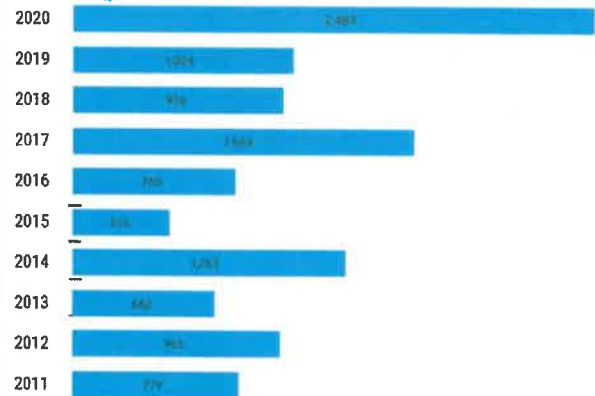
*18 projects are stage P3 or higher.

- Processing / Canning
- Biomass
- Bakery / Perishable
- Distribution
- Forestry
- Mining
- Wood and Paper

Total Announced Investment since 2011



Total Announced Jobs since 2011



Food and Beverage

Announce Date	Company Name	County	Investment	Jobs
11/10/20	Mark Anthony Brewing	Richland	\$400,000,000	300
10/20/20	Pure Blue Fish	Orangeburg	\$28,100,000	82
9/8/20	Lineage Logistics Services, LLC	Charleston	\$34,000,000	36

Recent Agribusiness Announcements

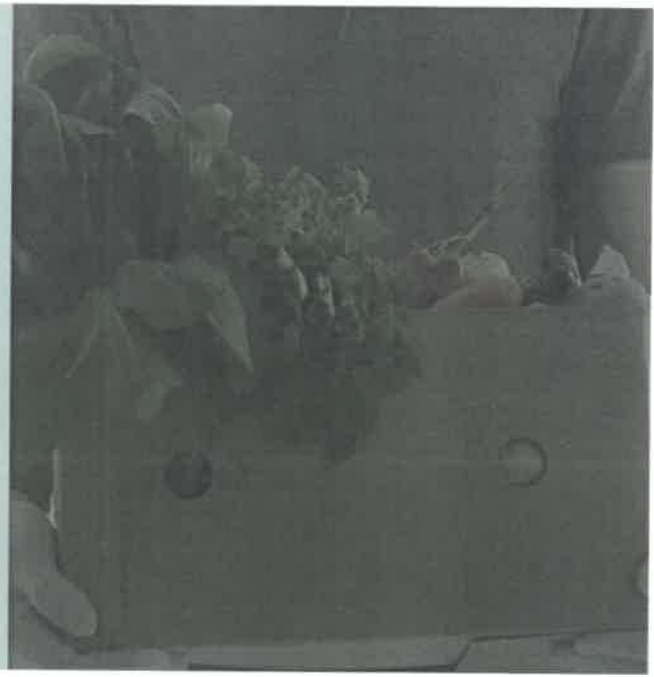


Wood and Paper Products

Announce Date	Company Name	County	Investment	Jobs
11/12/20	Setterstix Corporation (SC)	Laurens	\$11,700,000	80
9/22/20	Maxwood Furniture, Inc.	Marion	\$5,800,000	30
8/20/20	Effingham Pellets	Florence	\$5,400,000	10

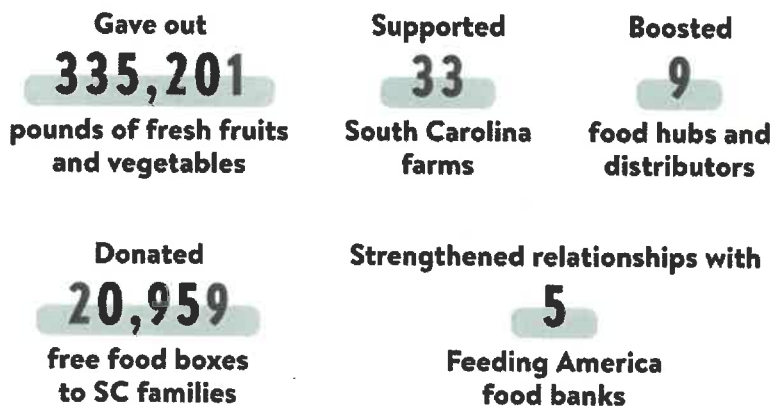
FARMERS TO FOOD BANKS

BY THE NUMBERS



Seeking a way to help farmers and needy families during the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and SC Advocates for Agriculture teamed up to create the Farmers to Food Banks program in June 2020. This food box program used donated funds to purchase and distribute South Carolina produce to Feeding America food banks across the state. A review committee selected nine distributors to buy produce from South Carolina farms and prepare and deliver food boxes.

The Farmers to Food Banks program:



Our Distributors

Ace Basin Food Hub · Axiom Farms Food Hub · Francis Produce
 FreshList · Growfood Carolina · Limehouse Produce
 Senn Brothers · Titan Farms · Watsonia

THANK YOU

We can't say thank you enough to the donors who made this possible

- IAG Capital Partners
- SC Physicians Care Charity
- Zeus
- SC Advocates for Agriculture
- AgFirst Farm Credit Bank
- AT&T
- Duke Energy
- First Citizens
- Dominion
- Walmart
- NextEra Energy
- Sonoco
- South State Bank
- AgSouth Farm Credit
- Co Bank
- Pinnacle Financial Partners
- SC Farm Bureau Federation
- Horry Electric Cooperative
- Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- GrandSouth Bank
- Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- ArborOne Farm Credit
- Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation
- Santee Cooper
- And others



What is the Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship?

The Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE), an initiative of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, is an umbrella program that capitalizes on opportunities in the fields of agriculture, research, and entrepreneurship. Overall, ACRE seeks to provide additional economic prosperity for South Carolina agribusiness both from within the state and from across the globe. ACRE houses a unique research program devoted to addressing specific challenges for industries that can provide more market opportunities to South Carolina agribusinesses and farmers. The research component combined with an entrepreneurship initiative is designed to help drive new ideas, technologies and solutions into the market to increase jobs and economic development in the South Carolina agricultural sector.

How will ACRE work?

ACRE has six areas of emphasis:

- Research initiatives
- Entrepreneurship center
- Agribusiness development grants
- SC Farm Link
- Policy
- Local food/food hub logistics

ACRE-SC.COM

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kyle Player
Executive Director
803-734-2324
kplayer@sceda.sc.gov

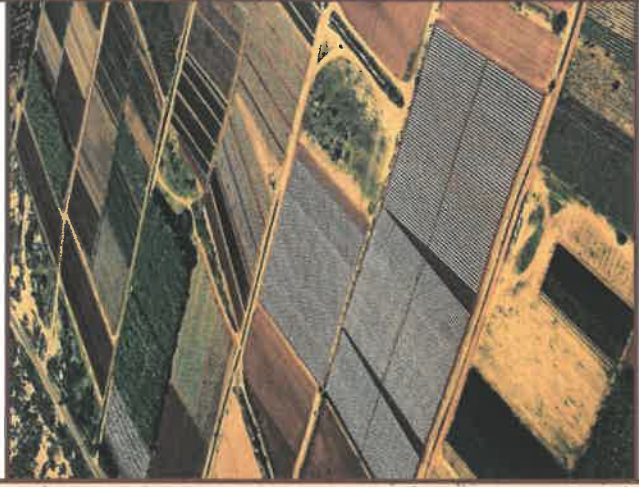


South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner
agriculture.sc.gov

ACRE

Agribusiness Center for
Research & Entrepreneurship

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CENTER



ACRE

Agribusiness Center for Research & Entrepreneurship

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Entrepreneurship Center

South Carolina is ripe with budding entrepreneurs who have new and innovative ideas in specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops), meat products, aquaculture, timber, agritourism, industrial hemp, hydroponics or aquaponics, container or indoor farming, mechanical harvesting, agribusiness technology, and any other innovative agriculture practices.

The ACRE Entrepreneurship Center will serve this audience with two tracks:

Track 1 is for agribusiness entrepreneurs who are ready to launch their product or branch out into new fields but need business mentors and/or funding. Through this program, ACRE will connect entrepreneurs to successful business mentors to help open doors, fuel potential, and provide guidance in furthering their enterprises.

Applications for Track 1 will be open March 18, 2020.

Applicants selected to participate in the EC Program could receive up to \$25,000 for their company or product and/or access to a network of business mentors and grant writing consultants.

Track 2 curriculum program is a partnership between ACRE and Clemson Cooperative Extension. This program is for beginning innovators who have a great idea or prototype for a new product or process and would benefit from a business curriculum program. Participants will learn key principles for developing business and marketing plans, as well as understanding market trends and prospective customers. The curriculum program culminates in an opportunity for each participant to pitch an idea to an agribusiness panel for the chance to win substantial funding. Upon completion of the curriculum

program, participants may choose to apply for Track 1.

Applications for Track 2 will be open in late 2020.