

South Carolina Department of Agriculture ARPA Funding Request



Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

COVID-19 Impacts on SC Agriculture

Demand for Local Food:

- When COVID-19 shutdowns and supply chain disruptions hit, we created a resource for consumers to find local food direct from farmers, which became the No. 1 most trafficked page on SCDA's website for April and May 2020.
- Now more than ever, consumers want to know where their food comes from, who grew it and how it was grown to ensure quality, safety and local support.

Supply Chain Disruptions:

- Food processing
- Transportation
- Grocery stores

Loss of Distribution Outlets for Farmers:

- With the closure of many schools, restaurants and businesses, farmers struggled to find wholesale outlets. SCDA created the Farmers to Food Banks program to buy product from farmers and distribute it to underserved communities through local food banks.

Agriculture as Essential Business:

- In March 2020, the US Department of Homeland Security released a list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" that included food, agriculture and transportation workers. SCDA supplied more than 100 Essential Business letters to agribusinesses to continue operations without interruption.



Local Food Supply Chain

\$20,000,000

Rural matching grant program

Processing:

- Most (59.7%) livestock producers said a lack of local processing capacity was the most significant barrier to expanding their businesses.
- Local meat producers lack cold transportation (88%) and adequate cooler/freezer storage (69%)
- Processor interviews show that capacities could be raised for beef (+4250/yr), pork (+13,000/yr), small ruminants (+3000/yr), and chickens (+300,000/yr) for an investment of \$3 million (est.)
- Fruit and Vegetable, Specialty Foods Processing
- Food Hubs / Food Deserts
- Value-Added Farm Product Processing
- Beverage Processing
- Agricultural Infrastructure



Local Food Supply Chain

SECTION MENU

FIND LOCAL FARM-FRESH FOOD DURING COVID-19

FIND LOCAL FARM-FRESH FOOD DURING COVID-19

South Carolina farms and businesses offering delivery, on-farm pickup, CSAs, and other options during social distancing

*To be added to this list, please email LauraKate McAllister at landerson@scda.sc.gov.
You can also find local food at South Carolina's roadside markets, Community-Supported Agriculture programs, and farmers markets, and through the Certified South Carolina program.*

Click on the links below to go directly to a particular region or county.

UPSTATE
Abbeville County • Anderson County • Cherokee County • Greenville County • Greenwood County • Laurens County • Oconee County • Pickens County • Spartanburg County • Union County

MIDLANDS
Aiken County • Chester County • Edgefield County • Fairfield County • Kershaw County • Lexington County • Newberry County • Richland County • Saluda County • York County

Follow SCDA

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

Find What's in Season in SC



CLICK HERE FOR A FULL LIST

Certified South Carolina Grown

Finding Local Food:

- Many South Carolinians experienced a shortage of stock in grocery stores for the first time during the pandemic. SCDA created a webpage to help consumers find local food at local stores and farms, as well as through delivery services.

125+ farms

37 counties

32,000+ web visitors



Another House of Raeford Community Chicken Sale expected to draw long lines, 300K pounds of chicken available



By Emily Scarlett
Published: Apr. 21, 2020 at 6:59 AM EDT

COLUMBIA, S.C. (WIS) - A company known for its local chicken production is serving the community in a different way, recently, in response to changes in business brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

In early April, House of Raeford Farms began hosting community chicken sales and they're already gaining a reputation for drawing long lines of vehicles waiting to be served fresh chicken.

Tuesday, April 21 at 9 a.m., they'll be at the South Carolina State Farmers Market for what's essentially a fresh chicken drive-thru for families wanting to buy in bulk.

Pee Dee chicken sale offers 40-pound cases at deep discounts to help community



Posted: Apr 20, 2020 / 10:02 AM EDT / Updated: Apr 20, 2020 / 05:38 PM EDT

FLORENCE, SC (WBTW) - The Pee Dee State Farmer's Market will host a chicken sale and dinner donation with House of Raeford Farms.

The chicken sale and dinner donation will help to serve community needs during the COVID-19 crisis. Free dinners will be delivered to health care workers and law enforcement that evening.

House of Raeford holding another cheap chicken sale for people who pre-order online

POSTED AUG 14, 2020



File image of a House of Raeford Chicken sale.



SPARTANBURG, SC (FOX Carolina) - House of Raeford announced Friday they will have another pre-order Community Chicken Sale with pickup on Sat. Aug. 29 at the Upwards Sports Headquarters in Spartanburg.

Chicken can be purchased at this link - <https://houseofraeford.store/collections/spartanburg-sc>.

Only people who pre-order can pickup their chicken on Aug. 29 at 198 White Star Point, Spartanburg.

House of Raeford said a more details can also be found here -

State Farmers Market Infrastructure

\$2,750,000

Increase in Farmers Market Visitation:

- During the pandemic, consumers recognized farmers markets as a reliable and safe way to buy food. Connections with local farmers, ability to social distance, and open-air spaces resulted in an increase in traffic to all State Farmers Markets.
- With many families staying home and businesses closed to the public, the opportunity for safe and engaging activities could be found at the markets. The annual Plant and Flower Festivals had record attendance numbers:
 - Columbia: 52,600
 - Greenville: 14,919
 - Pee Dee: 33,767
- State Farmers Markets are used as centralized disaster response staging sites, especially in hurricanes. Additions and improvements would allow for more space and necessary shelter areas.





Consumer Advertising for Sourcing of SC Agricultural Products

\$4,000,000

- South Carolinians purchased \$176.3 million more from South Carolina farmers in 2018 than they did in 2010 across all Certified South Carolina food categories. That accounts for an additional \$273.5 million in economic activity, 1,615 jobs and \$51.2 million in labor income for South Carolinians each year.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled consumer demand for a transformative approach to local food supply.



Farmers to Food Banks

\$3,000,000

- Seeking a way to help farmers and needy families during the pandemic, SCDA and the SC Advocates for Agriculture created the Farmers to Food Banks program in June of 2020.
- This food box program used donated funds to purchase and distribute South Carolina produce to Feeding America food banks across the state over the course of 2 months.
- However, we were unable to meet distributors' requests by over 45,000 pounds due to limited funds.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Farmers to Food Banks program:

Gave out
335,201
pounds of fresh fruits
and vegetables

Supported
33
South Carolina
farms

Boosted
9
food hubs and
distributors

Donated
20,959
free food boxes
to SC families

Strengthened relationships with
5
Feeding America
food banks

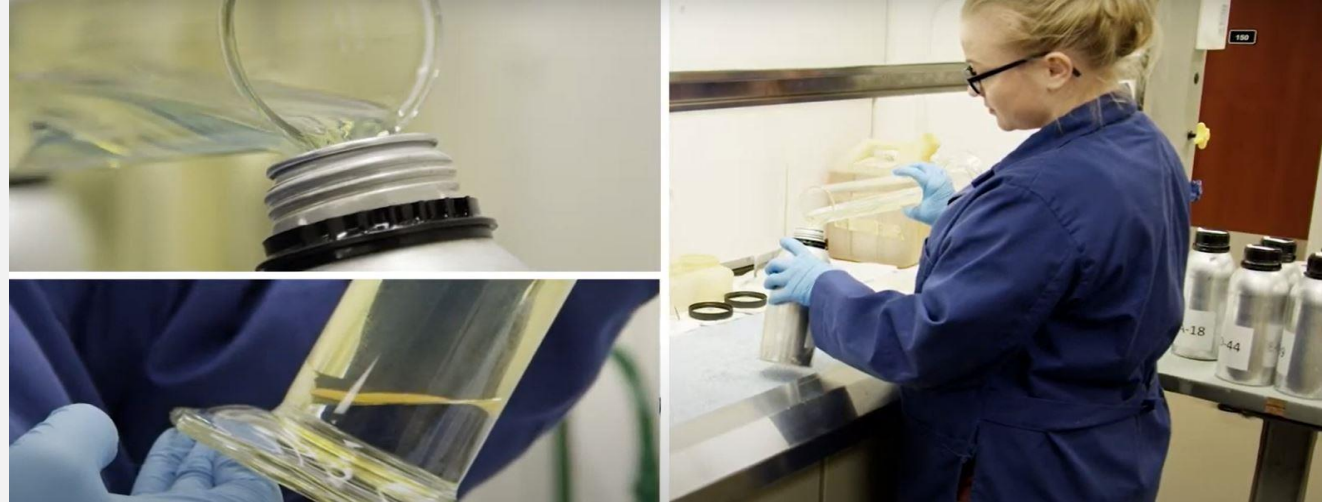




Food/ Consumer Safety

\$602,000

- Metrology Lab
- Phillips Market Center
- Seed sample analyses
- Remote food/feed registrations
- Inspections mandated by FDA/USDA



Commodity Producer Mitigation

\$20,000,000

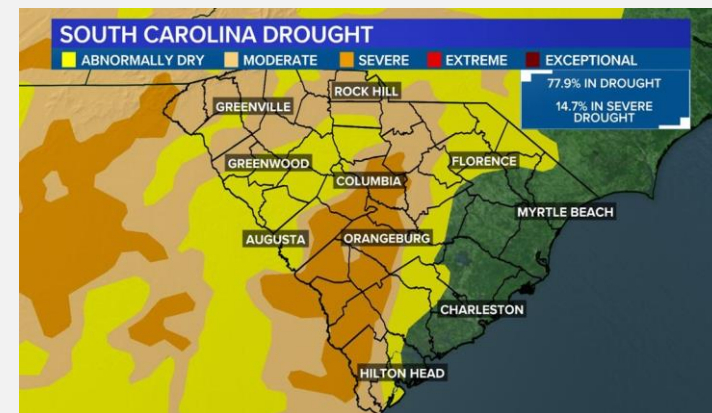
- 2021 cotton and grain claims have depleted funds, leaving farmers vulnerable.
- No current coverage for fruit and vegetable.
- Commodity markets were significantly disrupted and distorted during the pandemic. This has reinforced an already existing need for loss coverage.



South Carolina Farm Aid Program

\$40,000,000

- Market instability and disruptions caused by the pandemic have amplified the need for a structured framework and funding for an agricultural resilience fund to assist farmers with financial recovery of losses/expenses not covered by existing programs.
- This would follow the framework and structure of the 2016 Farm Aid Program, which assisted 1245 farmers with agricultural losses from the historic flood.
- The fund would cover against natural disasters including floods, hurricanes, droughts, frosts, etc. There are no standing programs at the federal level that cover these types of losses without ad-hoc congressional appropriations.



Total Request:

*Departmental:
Support for Key
Economic Drivers
\$50,352,000*

*Industry :
Infrastructure Resiliency
\$40,000,000*

***Total:
\$90,352,000***