



South Carolina Food Hub Network

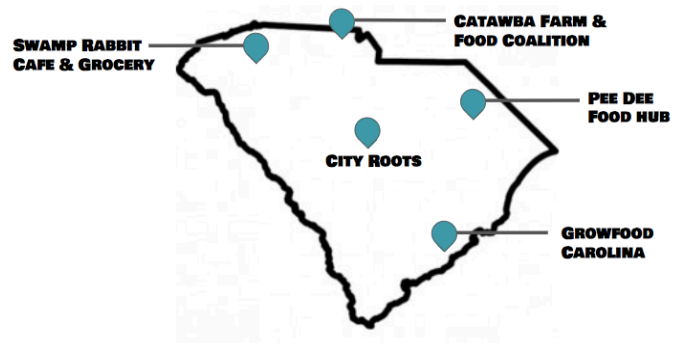
Local Food to Local Markets

The SC Food Hub Network is a group of established food hubs in South Carolina passionate about cultivating a relationship-based food system that provides local farmers with personalized resources and markets while ensuring customers are able to secure source-identified food traced from harvest to market. Our vision is a thriving local food system for South Carolina and the region.

Our mission is to ensure food hubs of South Carolina have the capacity, network, and support to advance the visibility and viability of local farms by connecting local foods to local markets. We achieve our mission by working together as a network to coordinate efforts to increase efficiency from farm to table through coordinated regional crop planning, logistics, and farmer training. Network members work with local farmers from planning and harvest to sales and delivery, ensuring farmers at any scale can participate in the market. We are not a separate buying or selling organization but rather increase the capacity of the work being conducted within the existing organizations.

PARTICIPATING HUBS

- Catawba Farm and Food Coalition (York, SC)
- City Roots (Columbia, SC)
- GrowFood Carolina (Charleston, SC)
- Pee Dee Food Hub (Marion, SC)
- Swamp Rabbit Cafe and Grocery (Greenville, SC)



TIMELINE

2016: A group of hubs and leaders gathered to explore the hub network opportunities presented in the *Small Farms Mean Big Business* report.

2017: With support from USDA Specialty Crop Block funds, the group of established food hubs begins an exploration into the development of a food hub network facilitated by two consultants.

2017: After a year of interviews, surveys, meetings, and tours the group agrees to move forward as a network and establishes their vision, mission, and goals.

2017 – 2018: SC Hub Network (GrowFood Carolina acting as fiscal sponsor) receives USDA Specialty Crop Block funds for a pilot year to determine the capacity, logistics, and operations of the food hub network based upon the vision, mission, and goals outlined by the group.

FAQ

Q: What is a food hub?

A: As defined by the USDA, a food hub is “a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products.”

Q: How do I get involved?

A: If you are a **farmer**, get in touch with your local area food hub about opportunities about partnering. If you are a **buyer**, continue to work with your local area food hub and place an order. If you are a **customer**, you can support those businesses buying local.

Q: What were the criteria for the inaugural group?

- Must meet the USDA Definition of food hub
- Located in South Carolina
- Operational 2+ years
- Sells to wholesale channels
- Local and Source Identified Product

CONTACT INFORMATION

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