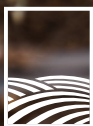


FEDERAL & STATE AGRICULTURE RESOURCE GUIDE



ACRE

Agribusiness Center for
Research & Entrepreneurship

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE





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INTRODUCTION

Resources can be a vital part of starting a farm/agribusiness, creating a business plan, expanding to a new market, applying for a grant, creating a new product, etc. This booklet gives a snapshot of the agriculture resources available to you and where to find more detailed information on all of them. The resources in this booklet are categorized by Federal, State, Community Based Organizations, Funding Opportunities and Private Consultants. We encourage taking advantage of the resources that best fit your agribusiness.



South Carolina Department of Agriculture

agriculture.sc.gov | 803-734-2210

1200 Senate Street, Wade Hampton Bldg 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201



Agribusiness Center for Research & Entrepreneurship

acre-sc.com | 803-734-2324

1200 Senate Street, Wade Hampton Bldg 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201



FEDERAL RESOURCES

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

ARS.USDA.GOV

ARS is an agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency whose job is to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table.

ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS)

APHIS.USDA.GOV

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) protects the health of U.S. agriculture and natural resources against invasive pests and diseases, regulates genetically engineered crops, administers the Animal Welfare Act, and helps people and wildlife coexist. APHIS also certifies the health of U.S. agricultural exports and resolves phytosanitary and sanitary issues to open, expand, and maintain markets for U.S. plant and animal products.

FARM AID BEGINNING FARMER GUIDE

FARMAID.ORG/OUR-WORK/RESOURCES-FOR-FARMERS/FARMER-RESOURCE-GUIDES/BEGINNING-FARMERS-RESOURCE-GUIDE

This guide is provided by Farm Aid that provides a list of other resources and links for beginning farmers.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

FEMA.GOV

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters. FEMA leverages a tremendous capacity to coordinate within the federal government to make sure America is equipped to prepare for and respond to disasters.

NATIONAL AG STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)

NASS.USDA.GOV

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

WEATHER.GOV

The NWS provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States. Their mission is to provide weather, forecasts, warnings, and impact-based decision support services for the protection of life and property and enhancement of the national economy.

SCORE

SCORE.ORG/AGRICULTURE-FARMING-FISHING-HUNTING

SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors, is dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals. For agrobusiness help, contact the Aiken Chapter.

SEA GRANT

SEAGRANT.NOAA.GOV

The Sea Grant was established by Congress in 1966 and works to create and maintain a healthy coastal environment and economy. Sea Grant's vision for the future is to create diverse, thriving communities and ecosystems that are supported by an environmentally literate public and informed decision-makers.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

USDA.GOV

The United States Department of Agriculture, also known as the Agriculture Department, is the federal executive department responsible for developing and executing federal laws related to farming, forestry, rural economic development, and food.

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (USDOL)

DOL.GOV

USDOL's mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

US SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

SBA.GOV

The SBA continues to help small business owners and entrepreneurs pursue the American dream. The SBA is the only cabinet-level federal agency fully dedicated to small business and provides counseling, capital, and contracting expertise as the nation's only go-to resource and voice for small businesses.

USDA AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE (AMS)

AMS.USDA.GOV

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. AMS also provides the agriculture industry with valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country and around the world.

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

FSA.USDA.GOV

Farm Service Agency is equitably serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. For farm help and information, contact your local county FSA office.

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

NRCS.USDA.GOV/CONSERVATION-BASICS/CONSERVATION-BY-STATE/SOUTH-CAROLINA

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. NRCS' locally-based staff works directly with farmers, ranchers, and others, to provide technical and financial conservation assistance.

USDA NEW FARMERS

NEWFARMERS.USDA.GOV

USDA New Farmers provides resources, support and information you need to begin farming. They also provide further help and resources with Women in Ag, Veterans, and for Youth (Ag in School).

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD)

RD.USDA.GOV

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. USDA Rural Development also provides grants, loans and workshops to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure.



STATE RESOURCES

1890 EXTENSION PROGRAM

■ SCSU.EDU/PSA/1890_RESEARCH_AND_EXTENSION.PHP

The 1890 Extension Program offers the majority of outreach programs and services to the citizens of South Carolina on behalf of SC State University. Extension's programs provide life-long learning opportunities that help rural and urban limited-resource clients improve their quality of living. Programs and activities offered to communities include: 4-H and Youth Development; Community and Economic Development; Education, Innovation and Support; Family, Nutrition and Health; and Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Development.

AGRABILITY

■ AGRABILITY.ORG

The vision of AgrAbility is to enhance quality of life for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities so that they, their families, and their communities continue to succeed in rural America. AgrAbility does a great good in addressing a wide variety of disabling conditions in agriculture.

AGRIBUSINESS CENTER FOR RESEARCH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

■ ACRE-SC.COM

ACRE seeks out and supports farmers by hosting agribusiness workshops, grant competitions for entrepreneurs, teaching new and beginning farmers the business skills they need to prosper, funding research, and supporting farmland transfer, ACRE works to inspire entrepreneurship and strengthen South Carolina agriculture from the bottom up.

ANNIE'S PROJECT

■ CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/SCWGN/PROGRAMS.HTML

The goal of Annie's Project is to empower women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information. Facilitated by professionals and experts in the field of business and agriculture, Annie's Project takes a hands-on approach to deliver content through lectures and a retreat-style program that takes place over the course of 3.5 days.

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

■ CATAWBACOG.ORG

Catawba Regional Council of Governments (COG) is an association of SC local governments in Chester, Lancaster, Union, and York counties. The COG serves as a forum for intergovernmental cooperation and as a central staffing resource for grantsmanship, land use and transportation planning, community and economic development, workforce investment, GIS mapping, information systems, and project management.

CERTIFIED SC

■ CERTIFIEDSC.COM

The Certified SC program is an exciting cooperative effort among farmers, processors, wholesalers, retailers and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. The Certified SC brand and label help consumers easily identify goods that are grown and harvested or raised right here in the Palmetto State.

CLEMSON AGRIBUSINESS TEAM

■ CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/AGRIBUSINESS/INDEX.HTML

The Extension Agribusiness Team provides information and education on the use of business and economic principles for making decisions involving agriculture, natural resources and communities. Team members consisting of Extension agents, associates and specialists provide targeted educational programming and technical assistance related to agribusiness and promotes the development of economically viable local and regional food systems.

CLEMSON EXTENSION

■ CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION

Clemson Extension helps improve the quality of life of all South Carolinians by providing unbiased, research-based information through an array of public outreach programs in youth development; agribusiness; agriculture; food, nutrition and health; and natural resources. Extension works to help support South Carolina's agriculture and forestry industries; strengthen families and communities; improve stewardship of natural resources and the environment; strengthen

connections between people and their food; and expose South Carolina youth to opportunities in agriculture, science, technology, engineering and math. There are extension offices in all 46 counties.

CLEMSON FOOD2MARKET

[CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/FOOD/FOOD2MARKET](https://clemson.edu/extension/food/food2market)

The Food2Market program is designed to help food entrepreneurs through the many steps of food safety regulations that are necessary to prepare food products for sale. They'll guide, assist, and provide food entrepreneurs with a variety of educational opportunities and connections.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE LABORATORY

[CLEMSON.EDU/PUBLIC/REGULATORY/AG-SRVC-LAB/INDEX.HTML](https://clemson.edu/public/regulatory/ag-srvclab/index.html)

The purpose of the analytical section of the Agricultural Service Laboratory is to provide information and analytical testing for soil, plant tissue, feed and forage, animal waste, irrigation water, and compost samples.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANT INDUSTRY

[CLEMSON.EDU/PUBLIC/REGULATORY/PLANT-INDUSTRY/INDEX.HTML](https://clemson.edu/public/regulatory/plant-industry/index.html)

The Department of Plant Industry houses several programs all with the same goal: Protecting and Serving the Agriculture and Natural Resources Industries of South Carolina. Plant and Honeybee Protection programs protect South Carolina's agricultural resources and natural ecosystems from the introduction and spread of plant and honey bee pests and invasive species.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY LIVESTOCK POULTRY HEALTH

[CLEMSON.EDU/PUBLIC/LPH](https://clemson.edu/public/lph)

The role of Clemson Livestock Poultry Health (LPH) is to protect animal health through control of endemic, foreign, and emerging diseases in livestock and poultry and to protect the health of S.C. consumers by providing a comprehensive inspection service to ensure that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled. LPH

serves as South Carolina's animal health authority, state meat and poultry inspection department, and the state's veterinary diagnostic center in fulfilling its role.

FEEDING INNOVATION

SCCOMMUNITYLOANFUND.ORG/FEEDING-INNOVATION

Feeding Innovation is a comprehensive technical assistance program designed to support entrepreneurs interested in developing or expanding healthy food businesses in food deserts or underserved areas of the state. The goal of the program is to increase access to healthy food while supporting the development of strong, local entrepreneurs and community-based businesses.

LADIES ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (LEAD)

CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/SCWGN/PROGRAMS.HTML

The LEAD program coordinates agricultural workshops for women. The goal of LEAD is to provide women with the tools, knowledge and skills to be successful in the agriculture industry, whether it be through a small family farm or a large production operation.

MIDLANDS LOCAL FOOD COLLABORATIVE

CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/MIDLANDSLOCALFOOD

The Midlands Local Food Collaborative is a partnership between local government, academic, and non-profit organizations whose common goal is to promote a vibrant and sustainable local food system in the eight-county region known as the SC Midlands. Members provide education, technical and financial assistance, and community advocacy to promote sustainable agriculture, land stewardship, and equitable food access.

PALMETTO AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL (PABC)

SCAGRIBUSINESS.ORG

Palmetto AgriBusiness Council's mission is to define a common agenda for agribusiness (agriculture and forestry) and to advance that agenda aggressively in support of every component of the diverse agribusiness community.

RESOURCES FOR MINORITY AND WOMEN FARMERS

AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/RESOURCES-FOR-MINORITY-AND-WOMEN-FARMERS

This page offers a guide to programs, loans, grants, information, and other resources for minority and women farmers in South Carolina.

SC AG + ART TOUR

AGANDARTTOUR.COM

The Ag + Art tour is a self guided art tour of local markets and farms. This is a way for consumers to see first hand where their food comes from and the local artisans that make their art and music. The tour is the largest free farm and art tour in the nation. The mission is simply educating the public on the processes behind agriculture processes around the state.

SC AGRIBUSINESS

SCAGRIBUSINESS.COM

Agribusiness is South Carolina's largest economic sector with an impact of 51.8 billion dollars annually. It is vital to our economy, from poultry to agriculture technology, South Carolina is perfectly positioned for new agribusiness opportunities. SC agribusiness supports the existing industries in the state while also encouraging sustainable, continued growth for agribusiness in the state.

SC AGRITOURISM ASSOCIATION

SCAGRITOURISM.ORG

The SC Agritourism Association is the only association dedicated to promoting and marketing South Carolina Agritourism farms through their annual Agritourism Passport program, Ag + Art Tour, and other promotional activities.

SC AGRIWELLNESS

FIRSTSUN-AGRIWELLNESS.COM

First Sun EAP provides services to give farmers and their families a chance at leading a better life through agriculture. The SC AgriWellness program is free to South Carolina farmers and their household members, in order to help them grow personally and professionally.

SC ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SCACED)

SCACED.ORG

SCACED is a coalition of individuals and organizations who support the development of healthy and economically sustainable communities throughout South Carolina. SCACED members receive technical assistance, training and access to capital through funding alerts and relationship-building with local, state and national stakeholders.

SC ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (SCACD)

SCACD.ORG

SCACD represents the state's 46 soil and water Conservation Districts. Its programs and activities are aimed at advancing the resource conservation cause of the Districts and the cooperating landowners, land users and citizens whom they serve in their communities.

SC BOBWHITE INITIATIVE (SCBI)

SCBOBWHITES.ORG

SCBI provides many services and cost share opportunities for landowners interested in having more bobwhites on their property. They provide forest management assistance, prescribed fire training, habitat management planning, and conservation technical assistance.

SC CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

SCCATTLEMEN.WILDAPRICOT.ORG

The Cattlemen's Foundation works to unite cattle producers to advance the economic, political, and social interests of SC's cattle industry. They also sponsor research and educational activities throughout the state that will benefit cattle owners and fund scholarships, youth livestock shows and rewards.

SC CENTER FOR COOPERATIVE AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (SCCCED)

CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/AGRIBUSINESS/SCCCED/INDEX.HTML

The Center and partners provide technical assistance to cooperatives, mutually-owned businesses, and other small business within multiple industries, but with a strong focus on agricultural businesses.

SC COMMISSION FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS

■ CMA.SC.GOV

The Commission identifies and examines emerging issues and trends by providing constructive solutions and approaches to support the policy and socio-economic development of ethnic minority communities through: community engagement and awareness; state recognition of Native Americans; collecting, diagnosing and analyzing collaborative data; acting as a liaison bridging the gap between communities, government agencies and other organizations; and influencing public policy and state services.

SC COMMUNITY LOAN FUND

■ SCCOMMUNITYLOANFUND.ORG

The SC Community Loan Fund is a Community Development Financial Institution providing equitable access to capital and financing projects and small businesses that build healthy, resilient South Carolina communities.

SC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (SCDA)

■ AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture is 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.

SC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

■ SCBIZDEV.SCCOMMERCE.COM

Manufacturing companies. Small and mid-sized businesses. Emerging industry. As the Business Services division of the South Carolina Department of Commerce, our job is to connect you with the resources you need to grow.

SC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (SCDES)

■ DES.SC.GOV

SCDES is a South Carolina state cabinet agency established by state law on July 1, 2024, with specific roles and responsibilities for overseeing the protection and preservation of South Carolina's environment and natural resources. We are not just scientists, environmental experts,

permitting engineers and inspectors. We are collaborators, educators, advisors and public servants, who ensure all South Carolinians have a healthy environment. SCDES will focus on efficient and better delivery of services with a commitment to Science, Service and Sustainability.

SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (SCDNR)

DNR.SC.GOV

SCDNR serves as the principal advocate for and steward of South Carolina's natural resources.

SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

DPH.SC.GOV

The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) was created by the state Legislature with the DHEC Restructuring Act of 2023 (Act 60). It is the health component of the agency formerly known as DHEC. The agency officially launched on July 1, 2024. DPH's services include providing vital health care services, coordinating disease control, supporting healthy nutrition, inspecting health care facilities, responding to natural disasters, providing research and statistics on the state's health, and much more.

SC FARM BUREAU

SCFB.ORG

The mission of SC Farm Bureau is to promote agricultural interests in the state of South Carolina and optimize the lives of those involved in agriculture while being respectful to the needs and concerns of all citizens of our state. Contact your local Farm Bureau board for agrobusiness help.

SC FARM TO SCHOOL

SCFARMTOSCHOOL.COM

The South Carolina Farm to Institution seeks to increase the number of farmers providing locally grown products into institutions, such as schools, child care centers, food banks, hospitals, military installations, and other businesses. They provide education to food service staff on procuring and preparing local products, promoting Certified SC

within cafeterias and food service operations, and creating hands-on experiences such as farmers' markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) programs, and institutional gardens.

SC FOOD HUB NETWORK

FOODHUBNETWORKSC.COM

Ensures 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. Works to coordinate efforts to increase efficiency from farm to table through coordinated regional crop planning, logistics, and farmer training.

SC FORAGE AND GRAZING LANDS COALITION

SCFORAGE.ORG

The coalition promotes the health and sustainability of South Carolina grazing lands. Workshops and events cover areas such as soil health for grazing management practices on pastureland, forestland and cropland; prescribed grazing; silvopasture; and wildlife management.

SC FORESTRY COMMISSION (SCFC)

SCFC.GOV

The Forestry Commission aims to enhance public benefits from trees and forests, protect forests from harm, conserve working forests, raise awareness about our forests, and strengthen the commission for the future.

SC NEW AND BEGINNING FARMER PROGRAM (SCNBFP)

CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/NEWFARMER/INDEX.HTML

The SCNBFP is focused on enabling new and beginning farmers to be successful, productive, and innovative members of their local agricultural community by providing them with the tools, knowledge and skills necessary to be successful entrepreneurs; sound business managers; exemplary stewards of SWAPA (soil, water, air, plants, and animals), and successful marketers of the unique products they create. They offer a yearly program for farmers with 10 years or less experience.

SC POULTRY FEDERATION (SCPF)

SCPOULTRY.ORG

The SCPF serves producers and processors of turkey, chicken, quail, squab and egg products, and provides a united voice for the industry with government, media, and the general public.

SC SHEEP INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

SCSHEEP.COM

The SC Sheep Industries Association works to educate, encourage and empower their members to raise, show, market or just enjoy their sheep, lambs and goats. They offer programs to help beginning and existing Sheep (and Goat owners) raise healthy and productive small ruminants.

SC SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)

SCSBDC.COM

The SC SBDC is the gateway and proven provider of small business assistance driving entrepreneurial growth and success. Through free consulting, low-cost seminars and links to resources, the SC SBDC helps jump start startups and makes existing businesses thrive. Contact the SC State University office for specific agribusiness help.

SC SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS ASSOCIATION

SCSPECIALTYCROP.COM

The mission of the SC Specialty Crop Growers Association is to support promotional, research, and educational efforts for improving the marketing and quality of production of fresh fruit, vegetable, and specialty crops grown in South Carolina.

SC SPECIALTY FOOD ASSOCIATION (SCSFA)

SHOPLOCALSC.ORG

SCSFA is the only statewide organization dedicated to promoting the best specialty food products available in the Palmetto state. For over 20 years, SCSFA has helped farmers, producers, and retailers across the state grow their businesses through joint marketing programs, promotional campaigns, and technical assistance.

SC STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

■ SCSTATEBEEKEEPERS.COM

The SC Beekeepers Association strives to provide individuals, and public and private organizations with factual and up to date information about the honey bee, beekeeping, and its importance to our food supply. They have 23 local beekeeping associations in South Carolina with members who are ready willing and able to talk about beekeeping in SC.

SC WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL NETWORK (SC WAGN)

■ CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/SCWGN/INDEX.HTML

SC WAgN has an overarching goal to provide all women in agriculture the tools they need to grow their success, feel confident in their roles and provide a network for women in agriculture in our state.

SCDA CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

■ AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/CONSUMER-PROTECTION

The Consumer Protection Division (CPD) is comprised of seven (7) main departments: Produce Safety Department, Laboratory Services Department, Consumer Services Department, Metrology Services Department, Feed/Food Safety & Compliance Department, Grading and Inspection Department, and the new Hemp Program.

SCDA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

■ AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/EXTERNAL-AFFAIRS-ECONOMIC-DEVELOPMENT

Serves the agricultural industry to promote and advocate for the growth of existing and new agribusiness opportunities throughout the state. This is done by working with elected officials and business/state leaders at all levels to push for an efficient policy and economic development environment.

SCDA MARKET DEVELOPMENT

■ AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/MARKET-DEVELOPMENT

The Market Development team develops innovative marketing and merchandising plans to promote South Carolina product sales through Retail, Wholesale, and Food Service channels. They offer product sourcing, marketing, and merchandising support to food

buyers throughout the Southeast and beyond. The team prepares SC growers and producers for new markets by exploring trends, grant opportunities, hosting networking events, and representing SC producers at industry trade shows.

SCDA SEED LAB

■ [AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/LAB-SERVICES](https://agriculture.sc.gov/lab-services)

The Seed Lab conducts germination and purity testing for farmers, businesses, citizens, and wholesalers as prescribed by the South Carolina Seed Law, Seed Regulations, and Noxious Weed Act.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

■ [DNR.SC.GOV/CONSERVATION/INDEX.HTML](https://dnr.sc.gov/conservation/index.html)

South Carolina's 46 soil and water conservation districts, which correspond to county boundaries, receive staff, funding and guidance from the division. Division staff work through the districts' network to provide technical assistance and other programs to facilitate the protection, wise use and enhancement of the state's soil and water resources.

WOMEN OWNING WOODLANDS (WOW)

■ [CLEMSON.EDU/EXTENSION/SCWGN/PROGRAMS.HTML](https://clemson.edu/extension/scwgn/programs.html)

The WOW program is a statewide educational program designed to prepare family forest matriarchs for the reality that they could someday be left to make management decisions about their forestland.



COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

AGSOUTH FARM CREDIT

AGSOUTHFC.COM

AgSouth Farm Credit is a leader in providing financing for rural South Carolina and Georgia. AgSouth provides financing for Agriculture, Real Estate, Rural Homes and many other types of loans that support and promote the rural life style.

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

FORESTFOUNDATION.ORG

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a national conservation organization that empowers family forest owners to make a meaningful conservation impact around wildlife habitat, clean water, carbon sequestration and storage and sustainable wood supplies.

ARBORONE FARM CREDIT

ARBORONE.COM

The Farm Credit mission is to provide a reliable source of credit for American agriculture by making loans to qualified borrowers at competitive rates and providing insurance and related services.

BLACK FAMILY LAND TRUST (BFLT)

BFLT.ORG

Black Family Land Trust is dedicated to the preservation and protection of African American and other historically underserved population's land assets utilizing the core principles of community based economic development.

CAROLINA FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION (CFSA)

CAROLINAFARMSTEWARDS.ORG

The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) is a farmer-driven, membership-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps people in the Carolinas grow and eat local, organic food by advocating for fair farm and food policies, building systems that family farms need to thrive, and educating communities about local, organic agriculture.

CENTER FOR HEIRS' PROPERTY PRESERVATION

HEIRSPROPERTY.ORG

The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that protects heirs' property and promotes its sustainable use to provide increased economic benefit to historically under-served families.

COASTAL CONSERVATION LEAGUE (CCL)

COASTALCONSERVATIONLEAGUE.ORG

The mission of the Coastal Conservation League is to protect the threatened resources of the South Carolina coastal plain – its natural landscapes, abundant wildlife, clean water, and quality of life – by working with citizens and government on proactive, comprehensive solutions to environmental challenges.

FARMER VETERAN COALITION (FVC) SC CHAPTER

FARMVETCO.ORG

FVC is the nation's largest nonprofit organization assisting veterans—and currently serving members—of the Armed Forces to embark on careers in agriculture. Contact the South Carolina Chapter for agrobusiness help.

ORGANIC GROWERS SCHOOL

ORGANICGROWERSCHOOL.ORG

Organic Growers School is the premiere provider of practical and affordable organic education in the Southern Appalachians, building a vibrant food & farming community by boosting the success of organic home growers and farmers in our region.

PICK42 FOUNDATION

NHN4KIDS.ORG

The pick42 Foundation works to bring fresh, nutritious food grown by South Carolina farmers directly to people in communities that lack food access, while also working to create generational change in eating habits.

SC BLACK FARMERS COALITION

SCBLACKFARMERS.COM

The main goal of SC black farmers is to cultivate equality within agricultural practices all over the state. They aim to train, equip, support, and advocate for existing, returning, and budding generations of black farmers in SC. Black farmers of all sizes should be able to be competitive and thrive across the state.

THE FARMASIS

THEFARMASIS.COM

FarmASis was formed in 2016 by Bonita Clemons. She wanted to share farming knowledge and to grow together as a like-minded group of women. For all these women, farming is a side gig. With this they have goals. They want to work together as black women, to focus on health and wellness, and intentionally get back to nature while having economic growth.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (TNC)

TNC.ORG

The Nature Conservancy is urgently taking on the dual threats of biodiversity loss and the climate crisis, maximizing resilience and benefits for communities.

A young green leafy vegetable plant, possibly a type of chard or spinach, is the central focus of the image. It is growing out of dark, rich soil. The leaves are vibrant green and have several small, clear water droplets resting on their surfaces. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the same plants in a field, creating a sense of depth and a natural, agricultural setting.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**Some fundings are limited and operate on temporary basis. If interested, please check specific requirements and guidelines for due dates and further details.*

ACRE ADVANCED ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM (SPRING)

■ [ACRE-SC.COM/PROGRAMS](https://www.acre-sc.com/programs)

Our advanced entrepreneurship program, held each year in the late spring, is ACRE's flagship program that seeks to invest in agricultural entrepreneurship in South Carolina. This competitive program is suited towards agribusinesses of all types that seek funding and mentorship in order to grow or expand their market.

ACRE CURRICULUM PROGRAM (FALL)

■ [ACRE-SC.COM/PROGRAMS](https://www.acre-sc.com/programs)

ACRE's fall agribusiness planning curriculum is open to a variety of people: new farmers who are having business issues, existing farmers who need help on the business side of their operation, farmers looking to expand or grow their business, and prospective agricultural entrepreneurs who don't know where to start.

BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS LOANS

■ [FSA.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS-AND-SERVICES/FARM-LOAN-PROGRAMS/BEGINNING-FARMERS-AND-RANCHERS-LOANS/INDEX](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans/index)

The Farm Service Agency Loans for Beginner Farmers and Ranchers are aimed to help those who have not been operating for less than 10 years and owns an operation that is 30% of the typical size in America. The "Farm Ownership loans can provide access to land and capital. Operating loans can assist beginning farmers in become prosperous and competitive by helping to pay normal operating or family living expenses; open doors to new markets and marketing opportunities; assist with diversifying operations; and so much more.

COOL STORAGE COST SHARE APPLICATION*

AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/GRANTS

Through funding from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, farmers can get reimbursed up to \$750 for installing a Cool-Bot cooler system. Farmers can receive reimbursements for purchasing and installing up to two (2) Cool-Bot cooler systems.

DOMINION ENERGY AGRICULTURE INCENTIVES

DOMINIONENERGY.COM/SOUTH-CAROLINA/SAVE-ENERGY/AGRICULTURAL-INCENTIVES

Dominion Energy gives out incentives for whoever upgrades to high-efficiency agricultural service equipment. The incentive is capped at 75% of the total project cost for retrofit projects and 75% of the project incremental cost of new construction projects.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN

FSA.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS-AND-SERVICES/PRICE-SUPPORT/FACILITY-LOANS/FARM-STORAGE

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, maple sap, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, meat/poultry (unprocessed), rye and aquaculture. Eligible facility types include grain bins, hay barns, bulk tanks, and facilities for cold storage. Drying and handling and storage equipment is also eligible, including storage and handling trucks. Eligible facilities and equipment may be new or used, permanently affixed or portable.

FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM: SUPPORT SERVICE GRANTS

FNS.USDA.GOV/CFS/RESOURCES-FARM-SCHOOL-GRANT-PROGRAM-APPLICANTS

Support Service Grants through the Farm to School Program are intended for State and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers or producer groups, and nonprofit entities working with schools or districts to further develop existing farm to school initiatives and to provide broad-reaching support services to farm to school initiatives.

FARMER VETERAN FELLOWSHIP FUND*

FARMVETCO.ORG/FVFELLOWSHIP

The Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund is a small grant program that provides direct assistance to veterans who are in their beginning years of farming or ranching. The Fellowship Fund does not give money directly to the veteran, but rather to third-party vendors for items the veteran has identified will make a crucial difference in the launch of their farm business. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000, and nearly \$3 million has been awarded to veterans since 2011.

FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM (FMPP)

AMS.USDA.GOV/SERVICES/GRANTS/FMPP

The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities.

FSA FARM OPERATING LOANS

FSA.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS-AND-SERVICES/FARM-LOAN-PROGRAMS/FARM-OPERATING-LOANS/INDEX

FSA's Direct Farm Operating Loans are a valuable resource to start, maintain and strengthen a farm or ranch. For new agricultural producers, FSA's Direct Farm Operating Loans provide an essential gateway into agricultural production by financing the cost of operating a farm. With a maximum loan amount of \$400,000, all FSA Direct Operating Loans are financed and serviced by the Agency through local Farm Loan Officers and Farm Loan Managers.

FSA FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

FSA.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS-AND-SERVICES/FARM-LOAN-PROGRAMS/FARM-OWNERSHIP-LOANS/INDEX

Farm Ownership Loans offer up to 100 percent financing and are a valuable resource to help farmers and ranchers purchase or enlarge family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations. With a maximum loan amount of \$600,000 (\$300,150 for Beginning Farmer Down Payment), all FSA Direct Farm Ownership Loans are financed and serviced by the Agency through local Farm Loan Officers and Farm Loan Managers.

FUND-A-FARMER GRANTS

FUNDAFARMER.ORG

Grants of up to \$2,500 are available to help livestock and poultry farmers achieve a variety of projects this year. This program provides micro-grants to help farmers pursue animal welfare certifications, build the capacity for farms with animal welfare certifications, and help farmers improve or expand pasture for their animals.

GAP COST SHARE APPLICATION*

AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/GRANTS

Through funding from the USDA AMS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, South Carolina growers can now get reimbursed for up to \$500 on-farm improvement costs related to obtaining GAP certification. Please note that this cost share reimbursement is not to be confused or combined with the GAP Audit Certification cost share that is currently available to assist growers that have completed the GAP certification process.

LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM (LFPP)

AMS.USDA.GOV/SERVICES/GRANTS/LFPP

The Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. Grants can be used for the planning

stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise or to improve or expand a food business that supports locally and regionally produced agricultural products and food system infrastructure by performing feasibility studies, market research, training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT TRADE SHOW AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE COST SHARE

SCSPECIALTYCROP.COM/GRANTS

Funded through the Specialty Crop Block Grant, this cost share program provides 50% discount for attending or exhibiting at pre-approved regional trade shows and conferences such as Carolina Farm Stewardship's Sustainable Agriculture Conference, Southeast Produce Council's Southern Exposure, Southeast Fruit and Veg Conference, and more. Growers may be reimbursed via application approval and contract award process. Applications are released each spring-contact the SCDA Market Development team for more details.

NIFA SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM

NIFA.USDA.GOV/PROGRAM/SMALL-BUSINESS-INNOVATION-RESEARCH-PROGRAM-SBIR

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefits. The program stimulates technological innovations in the private sector and strengthens the role of federal research and development in support of small businesses. The SBIR program also fosters and encourages participation by women-owned and socially or economically disadvantaged small businesses.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE APPLICATION*

■ [AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/DIVISIONS/AGENCY-OPERATIONS/GRANTS](https://agriculture.sc.gov/divisions/agency-operations/grants)

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) has been awarded funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency for the FY20 National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP). The purpose of the NOCCSP is to defray the costs of receiving and maintaining organic certification. SCDA is authorized to provide reimbursements to certified organic operators for up to 50% of the operation's total allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500 per certification scope: crops, livestock, wild crops, and handling (i.e., processing).

ORGANIC FARMING RESEARCH FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

■ [OFRF.ORG/RESEARCH/GRANT-AWARDS/APPLY-FOR-FUNDING](https://ofrf.org/research/grant-awards/apply-for-funding)

OFRF offers funding for research on organic production systems and the dissemination of these research results to organic farmers and agricultural and research communities. Proposals must be farmer-led or meaningfully involve farmers or ranchers in project design and implementation. Projects must also take place on certified organic land, ideally on working organic farms or ranches. OFRF will fund projects up to \$20,000. Most projects span one year; multi-year projects will only receive funding for the first year.

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM (REAP)

■ [RD.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS-SERVICES/RURAL-ENERGY-AMERICA-PROGRAM-RENEWABLE-ENERGY-SYSTEMS-ENERGY-EFFICIENCY](https://rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency)

The Rural Energy for America Program helps provide agricultural producers and rural businesses with loan and grant options to help fund their eligible bio-energy projects.

SARE ON-FARM RESEARCH GRANTS

■ [SOUTHERN.SARE.ORG/GRANTS](https://southern.sare.org/grants)

Agricultural professionals who currently and regularly work with farmers and ranchers are eligible to apply for On-Farm Research Grants. These can be extension specialists; university researchers; government agencies, such as NRCS; NGOs; community organizations;

or other groups or individuals, such as ag consultants. On-Farm Research Grant Calls for Proposals open September and grants are awarded in February the following calendar year. On-Farm Research Grant project maximums are \$20,000 for two-year projects. SSARE recommends two-year projects; it is difficult to extrapolate useable, replicable, practicable data from one-year research.

SARE PRODUCER GRANTS

SOUTHERN.SARE.ORG/GRANTS/APPLY-FOR-A-GRANT/PRODUCER-GRANTS

Producer Grants enable farmers and ranchers to test a sustainable agriculture idea using a field trial, on-farm demonstration, marketing initiative, or other technique. Producer Grant Calls for Proposals open in September and grants are awarded February the following year. Producer Grant project maximums are \$15,000 for an individual farmer or rancher, and \$20,000 for a farmer organization. One or two-year projects may be submitted. SSARE encourages two-year projects; it is difficult to extrapolate useable, practicable data from one-year projects.

SBA DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE

SBA.GOV/FUNDING-PROGRAMS/DISASTER-ASSISTANCE

The SBA offers disaster assistance in the form of low interest loans to businesses, nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters located in regions affected by declared disasters. SBA also provides eligible small businesses and nonprofit organizations with working capital to help overcome the economic injury of a declared disaster

SBA MICROLOAN PROGRAM

SBA.GOV/FUNDING-PROGRAMS/LOANS

The SBA Microloan program provides loans to help small businesses cover start-up and expansion fees. These loans can be used as working capital and for things like equipment, fixtures, inventory, and supplies.

SC AGRIBUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE INCENTIVE

SCAGRIBUSINESS.COM/INFRASTRUCTURE-INCENTIVES

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) will provide cash reimbursement grants as an incentive to companies to establish or expand agribusiness projects in the state of South Carolina. On the website, it tells us the eligibility a company must meet, who can apply, and the criteria behind the grant.

SC AGRIBUSINESS TAX CREDIT

SCAGRIBUSINESS.COM/AGRICULTURAL-TAX-CREDIT

South Carolina provides a possible income tax credit or withholding tax credit to agribusiness or agricultural packaging operations that increase their purchases of products that are grown in South Carolina. Further eligibility and criteria are included on the website, and how to apply.

SCDA GRANTS PAGE

AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/GRANTS

The SCDA administer many federal grants through its various departments. It is important to know that government grants tend to fund projects and research, not people or small businesses which includes farms.

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (SCBGP)

AMS.USDA.GOV/SERVICES/GRANTS/SCBGP

The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).”

USDA VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS (VAPG)*

RD.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS-SERVICES/VALUE-ADDED-PRODUCER-GRANTS

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income.

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS COST SHARE APPLICATION***■ AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/GRANTS**

Through funding from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant, farmers can receive reimbursements up to \$1,000 per year, per farm for analysis of on farm water inputs for generic E Coli and General Coliform on South Carolina farms. This program is designed to encourage water testing for specialty crop growers in South Carolina, especially those pursuing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and those who must comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule. However, it is open to ALL South Carolina specialty crop farmers.

PRIVATE CONSULTANTS

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small strawberry plant with its root system and soil. The plant has several green, serrated leaves. In the background, other similar plants are visible in a field or greenhouse setting, slightly out of focus.

MATSON CONSULTING

■ **MATSONCONSULT.COM**

Matson Consulting's mission is to offer business expertise that enables rural businesses to succeed in their ventures. Matson Consulting offers strategic planning, grant consulting, feasibility studies and business plan assistance.

WIT MEETS GRIT

■ **WITMEETSGRIT.COM**

Wit Meets Grit's mission is to empower nonprofits and businesses to reach their goals by providing guidance on organizational management, project development, community engagement, marketing, and funding.





SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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