



PABC Journal



FARMERS TO FOOD BANKS PROGRAM

Certified SC Grown, in partnership with SC Advocates for Agriculture, introduces the Farmers to Food Banks Program. Using the funds from this program, food distributors across the state will purchase products from SC farmers and donate that food to food banks and pantries to bridge the gap of food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. All proceeds go toward food purchases.

To make a donation: Make checks payable to SC Advocates for Agriculture-FTFB. Mail to: 1901 Main St. Ste 1225, Columbia SC 29201



Congratulations to the SC Forestry Commission

on 93 years of service. Established April 26, 1927, the agency had three charges: to protect the forest, to promote the benefits of forest management, and to monitor the forests' condition. At that time, the state's forestland had been heavily cut over and was eroding badly from poor farming practices. Today South Carolina's forests provide the raw material for the state's forest products industry, the largest manufacturing sector in South Carolina in terms of jobs (98,000+).

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PABC OFFICERS RE-ELECTED FOR 2020



Cam Crawford



Harry Ott



Sarah Windham

The PABC Board recently re-elected the current slate of officers for another term: Cam Crawford, President of the Forestry Association of SC was re-elected Chairman; Harry Ott, President of South Carolina Farm Bureau as Vice Chairman and Sarah Windham, Partner, Dixon Hughes Goodman as Secretary/Treasurer.

PABC MEMBERS NAMED TO COVID-19 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Governor Henry McMaster has included several PABC members on his "Accelerate SC" advisory team, which is developing and making recommendations regarding economic revitalization plans in the aftermath of the global COVID-19 pandemic that has closed public and private sector institutions. Included on the team are: Sara Hazard, President & CEO of the SC Manufacturing Alliance; Lou Kennedy, CEO and Owner of Nephron Pharmaceutical; and Henry Swink, Co-owner of McCall Farms. Also included was former PABC Board member Pamela Lackey, who is a current Board member of the SC Ports Authority. Kathy Coleman, Director of Clemson REC, will chair another COVID-19 advisory committee— AccelerateED, which will study reopening South Carolina schools this fall.

Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 to South Carolina's economy, Governor McMaster created AccelerateSC, a coordinated economic revitalization plan involving small and large business leaders, healthcare professionals, local government officials, and education professionals. The plan consists of five components of analysis and effort: Response, Protection, Governance, Resources, and Information.

"I am ready to work with Governor McMaster to get South Carolina moving again," commented Lou Kennedy. "We will strike the right balance between saving lives and saving livelihoods, and serve as a model for our neighbors."

AccelerateEd will study barriers to school operations and student learning during the COVID-19 crisis and provide recommendations on how South Carolina schools can best restart this fall.

SC Chamber of Commerce Spotlight on Agriculture and Forestry



From left, Pat Calhoun, CEO of AgSouth Farm Credit; Brittney and Matt Miller, Owners—Manchester Farms.



From left, Ted Pitts, President—SC Chamber of Commerce; Ben Skelley, AgSouth Farm Credit; and Commissioner Hugh Weathers.



From left, Michael Mancini, AgFirst Farm Credit Bank and Charles Vernon, ArborOne Farm Credit.



From left, Cam Crawford, PABC Chairman and Forestry Association President and Larry McKenzie, SC Farm Bureau.



From left, Boone Peeler, FSA Director; Richard Fordyce, USDA FSA Administrator; Kathy Coleman, Director—Clemson REC and Gary Spires, Farm Bureau Director of Government Affairs.



From left, Joe Mcninch and Gary Prince, Senn Brothers Produce.

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce held their annual Spotlight on Agriculture and Forestry in March providing excellent opportunities for networking within the agribusiness community. Featured speaker was Richard Fordyce, USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator.

SC Ag in the Classroom Recipient of Duke Energy Foundation Grant

South Carolina Ag in the Classroom was selected as a recipient of a Duke Energy Foundation Grant for \$20,000 that supports South Carolina K-12 education programs focused on summer reading loss, STEM and experiential learning. More than \$340,000 in funding was awarded to programs around the state.

The Ag in the Classroom grant will go to fund the use of the Mobile Learning Lab at select schools in the Duke Energy service area. The lab will bring agriculture to the classroom without the challenges of taking an actual field trip.

"I know from my time in the classroom that field trips often create an unnecessary burden on teachers. I am so excited that this grant will help us bring the farm to the school and will give us more opportunities to reach students through hands-on learning experiences in our mobile learning lab," commented Tracy Miskelly, Director of Ag in the Classroom.

Students who visit the lab will learn about important South Carolina commodities and how many of them go from the field to their plate. The lessons are aligned to state learning standards, so students are able to apply math, science, English and social studies principles to agriculture. And students will see first-hand the importance of agriculture in providing food, fuel and fiber.

"South Carolina Farm Bureau and Ag in the Classroom are excited about the possibilities the partnership with Duke Energy brings," said Harry Ott, SCFB President. "This will give our rural communities and schools the ability to experience the mobile learning lab and see first-hand all that South Carolina agriculture encompasses."

The Mobile Learning Lab is set to debut at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. For more information, contact Tracy Miskelly, (mailto://tmiskelly@scfb.org).

SC STATE UNIVERSITY 1890 PROGRAM JOINS PABC BOARD



Dr. Louis Whitesides

PABC welcomes SC State University 1890 Research and Extension Program and Dr. Louis Whitesides as a new Board member.

As one of the premier resources in South Carolina, the SC State University 1890 Research & Extension Program conducts problem-solving research and provides quality outreach services and programs to rural and urban limited resource families and communities. The 1890 Research & Extension Program is located in seven regional areas with nearly a statewide impact, serving 32 of South Carolina's 46 counties.

Under the leadership of Dr. Whitesides, who assumed his appointment as executive director in September 2019, the 1890 Research & Extension Program is pivoting towards a trajectory of exponential growth. In recent months, the program's management team has expanded to include its first chief financial officer, human resources director and director for strategic initiatives, evaluation and external affairs, as well as director of marketing and communications. The program anticipates hiring some 40 Extension regional directors and extension agents, who will undoubtedly enhance the organization's mission through offering relevant and life-changing educational programs and services.

The 1890 Research & Extension Program is set to make its mark throughout the state with the addition of new facilities in Orangeburg, Charleston, Richland, Florence and Sumter counties, a demonstration and agricultural research farm, and newly renovated 4-H camp and leadership site.

As 1890 pushes toward an aggressive plan to redefine agricultural research and cooperative extension, national and state leaders in agriculture have taken notice. This previous October, SC State and 1890 Research & Extension welcomed for the first time a sitting U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, when Sonny Perdue visited the Orangeburg campus. Acknowledgement of 1890's anticipated progress has also paved the way for expanding its collaborations with existing partners such as the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and Orangeburg County Young Farmers, and a new relationship with the Palmetto Agribusiness Council.



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OFFICERS

Cam Crawford, Chairman
Randy Brown, Past Chairman
Harry Ott, Jr., Vice Chairman
Sarah Windham, Sec./Treas.

STAFF

Ronnie Summers, CEO
Sandy Boozer, Exec. Assistant

We're on the web
Scagribusiness.org

CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

The "Corona Virus", "COVID-19" - who would have thought these terms or references would make such a major impact on our lives and business affairs? But, they most certainly have impacted each of us. In that regard and foremost, let's don't forget the lives that have been lost during this awful crisis, and there is nothing more precious than human life. Sandy and I both hope and pray that none of our PABC membership have loss any team members or family members, but ... if this has occurred, please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

As we so often state, PABC consists of agribusinesses and other entities which support agriculture, forestry and rural SC. For virtually every entity engaged in PABC, there will be changes on the farms, in the woods and throughout the communities of SC as a result of this pandemic. No, our organization cannot offer anything miraculous to offset the impact of this crisis. But, your PABC staff can certainly try to keep our members and associates informed, and we can continue to strongly advocate, promote and educate as to what is needed on a national, state and even local level that will provide for the best opportunity for our members, associates and their respective customer bases to survive this crisis and ultimately grow and prosper.

When our Mission Statement was being initially crafted and then modified in the past, likely no one involved in that process would have been thinking about the possibility of a global pandemic and how that might affect our views as to what PABC represents. However, we are now faced with dealing with working our way out of the pandemic and facing the post Corona virus period. Given this dynamic situation, our membership will need to modify many approaches, and PABC will be there to support these efforts. As is often stated, PABC is here to support you and your organization where and when possible, so please advise if Sandy or I can be of assistance in anyway. WE genuinely care about SC AgriBusiness and value what each of your member organizations provide our state in the form or products and services. Together we can assure that SC AgriBusiness remains the largest and strongest industry in our state!

WELCOME NEW PABC MEMBERS

Milliken Forestry Company has been involved in the forest industry for over 70 years. The company started by William F. Milliken has served timberland owners with advice on timberland assets, real estate services, environmental services, and technical forestry. The company has solid relationships with the forest industry, providing wood supply and specialized technical services. The company currently employs 40 dedicated professionals in 4 offices in South Carolina and Western North Carolina and manages nearly 1 million acres, over \$2 billion in real assets. Dave Hegler serves as their Chairman.



Dave Hegler, Chairman of Milliken Forestry Company

Milliken's Real Estate Services Division, Rural Land Investments, typically handles over \$50 million in annual dispositions and acquisitions. One of the more recent company objectives is to focus on helping land-owners capitalize on values provided by their property that are not entirely focused on forestry like Forest Carbon, Wetlands Restoration, and Solar Projects.

Milliken Forestry appreciates the opportunity to be part of the Palmetto Agribusiness Council and looks forward to serving the council in its best capacity.



Jason Eargle, Founding Partner and Principal Advisor of Hempgrid

Jason Eargle is the Founding Partner and Principal Advisor of **Hempgrid**, located in Charleston, South Carolina.

Jason applies his experience as an entrepreneur, a decade at the SC Research Authority and Department of Defense, and interest in agri-business to Hempgrid, a Charleston-based start-up. Hempgrid has harnessed seasoned, passionate strategists from industry, finance, technology, medicine, agriculture and other fields to work together to build hemp's future in fiber, fuel, food and more.

He has long been a leader and advocate in the industry, helping to drive legislation to allow hemp's growth here. Jason has served as CEO of Brackish Solutions, an integrated hemp company with more than 150 cultivated acres. He also was a partner in Cannetics, a hemp genetics company based in Columbia, SC. Jason earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance and an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Clemson University.