

# PABC Journal

## EXTRA EDITION



The 2016 SC AgriBiz and Farm Expo will be held at the Florence Civic Center in Florence on Wednesday, January 13th, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Thursday, January 14th, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The expo includes a farm show with a wide variety of equipment, farm products and educational components. Events will include production agriculture sessions, a Small Farmer Symposium, a Taste of South Carolina on Wednesday and a Commissioners Breakfast on Thursday.

To register or for more information, please visit [scagribizexpo.com](http://scagribizexpo.com)

## SURVEY FINDS VOTERS SUPPORT EXPLORATION OFF SC'S COAST

Palmetto AgriBusiness Council (PABC) has released results of a statewide survey of registered voters in South Carolina, which gauged support and opposition to the issue of offshore drilling and exploration.

PABC has not taken a position on offshore drilling, but supports studies to identify resources off the coast of South Carolina as an economic development initiative. PABC's mission is to sustain the economic viability of South Carolina's largest indus-

try- agribusiness, which contributes **\$41.7 billion** to the state's economy and provides **212,000** jobs. The agribusiness community continues to develop strategies to increase its economic impact, especially in South Carolina's rural communities. One of those strategies is to explore ways to maintain an affordable and stable energy supply, which plays a pivotal role in the production and transportation of agribusiness products.

The survey, which was

completed by Benchmark Research, interestingly showed an overwhelming majority of voters support drilling and exploration for oil and gas off the coast of South Carolina. Survey results indicate that **64%** of the statewide sample support, while **28%** oppose. According to the survey, even in the two coastal Congressional districts in South Carolina support is strong: CD 7- (58% support, 31% oppose) and CD 1- (58% support, 34% oppose).

These findings are consistent with several other polls made public over the past few years. One of the reasons support may be strong is that the current debate over offshore drilling seems to intermingle components of all the "most important concerns" shared by a vast majority of South Carolinians, namely: jobs, economic issues and national security issues.

### PABC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES SCFOR AWARD FOR ROAD FUNDING ADVOCACY

Cathy Novinger, PABC's Executive Director, was recognized at a recent SC Fix Our Roads Alliance (SCFOR) Board meeting for her work and PABC's involvement in supporting infrastructure funding to fix South Carolina's roads and bridges.

Mrs. Novinger leads a collaborative effort of organizations on infrastructure funding for PABC, which includes SCFOR, SC Farm Bureau, Carolinas AGC, SC Chamber of Commerce, SC Forestry Association, SC Manufacturers Association, and the SC Trucking Association. She was presented with a plaque for her leadership and advocacy of a safe and efficient South Carolina highway system.