



PAABC Journal



**David Beasley to be
Keynote Speaker at
Sonoco FRESH Summit**

Clemson alumnus David Beasley, Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme, will be the keynote speaker at the inaugural Food, Packaging, Sustainability Summit hosted by Sonoco FRESH at Clemson University. The virtual summit will be **February 24-26**.

The Summits' theme depicts the goal of optimizing the food value chain to protect food and the environment through safe, secure and sustainable solutions. FRESH is pleased to provide a content-rich program that reflects its unique approach to evaluating the entire food chain.

Clemson President Jim Clements and Sonoco President and CEO Howard Coker will kick off the summit with welcoming remarks on Day one.

Registration for the virtual Summit is \$129 for individuals and \$99 per person for groups of 5 or more registering together. Proceeds from the Summit will support future activities of the FRESH initiative at Clemson University.

For more information, visit: www.SonocoFRESHSummit.com

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BILL CREATES GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURE

Governor Henry McMaster held a ceremonial bill signing for S. 613, which creates the Governor's School for Agriculture at John De La Howe in McCormick, South Carolina. The school – the first of its kind in the country – is a public residential high school that provides an agriculture education program for students in grades 10 through 12. The creation of the Governor's School for Agriculture will go a long way in shaping the future of South Carolina's superior agriculture industry," said Governor Henry McMaster. "This investment will not only facilitate unprecedented opportunities for our young people but will provide one of our state's most important industries with a highly skilled workforce for generations to come."

The school sits on 1,310 acres of forest and farmland, allowing students to receive hands-on training in the fields of agribusiness, forestry, equipment operation, land management, food science, and more. The mission of the school is to provide a quality agricultural education that will enable its students to be the state's future leaders in agribusiness, business, and education.

As a live-in learning laboratory, the Governor's School for Agriculture at John De La Howe will nurture students' commitment to agriculture, ensuring a strong future for agribusiness in our state," said Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers. "Agribusiness is South Carolina's No. 1 industry, with a \$46.2 billion annual economic impact. I'm excited to see how the young people at John De La Howe can help push South Carolina forward."

The Governor's School for Agriculture is South Carolina's third Governor's school, joining the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics.

The bill also creates a Development Office for the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, located in Hartsville, S.C. The Development Office will raise support for an endowment fund.



Governor Henry McMaster signs the bill which designated the Governor's School for Agriculture at John De La Howe.

ACRE AWARDS SEVEN AG ENTREPRENEURS STARTUP FUNDING

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture's Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE), in partnership with Clemson Cooperative Extension, has awarded seven beginning entrepreneurs a share of \$30,000 to help propel their agriculture businesses forward.

Sixteen individuals or pairs participated in the ACRE Curriculum, which guides beginning entrepreneurs through developing a business plan, marketing, finance, operational planning, pitching and other business skills. This year's curriculum was conducted entirely online due to COVID-19, including the virtual Pitch Day.

The awardees, as selected by a panel of judges:

- **Sweetgrass Roots** is a learning farm in Colleton County dedicated to preserving folk art crafts such as sweetgrass basketry. Entrepreneur Kisha Kinard will use ACRE funding for a storage structure.
- Tom Knaust operates **Queen & Comb**, a Charleston County business where property owners pay a monthly fee to receive honeybee hives and share 50-50 in the honey harvest. Funding will be used for marketing.
- Elise Ashby's **RobinHood Group** sells vegetable ice cream in flavors like blueberry-okra and cauliflower-butter pecan under the name Farmers Market Flavors. She plans to use ACRE funding to help pay disadvantaged youth to work in her commercial kitchen in Union County.
- Ginger Nichols grows aquaponic lettuce at Spartanburg County's **Naturally Fresh Farms**. She plans to add additional cold storage to expand her market.
- Brittany Arisniega and Brit Hessler play host to events, teach foraging classes and sell merchandise and produce at **Lover Farms** in Pickens County. They will use the funding as seed money.
- Elaine Ryan will hire a vineyard consultant at **Paulownia Vineyards** in Spartanburg County, where she is planting Bordeaux-style wine grapes.
- Greg Brown plans to begin growing ginger and turmeric for the restaurant market at his Hopkins-area **Greenleaf Farms** in Richland County, where he currently grows asparagus and other produce.

"The future of agribusiness in South Carolina depends on new ideas," said Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers. "These entrepreneurs will use what they've learned in the ACRE Curriculum program to build successful businesses and develop new markets in food and agriculture."

SCDA founded ACRE in 2018 to help identify and nurture new ideas and businesses in the Palmetto State's agribusiness sector.

In spring 2021, advanced agribusiness entrepreneurs will have the chance to compete for their share of \$125,000 in funding. Information is available at acre-sc.com.

SC Ports Authority Has Strongest December on Record

South Carolina Ports Authority finished 2020 with its strongest December on record, noting impressive volumes with containers, vehicles and inland ports. SC Ports handled 209,606 twenty-foot equivalent container units (TEUs) at Wando Welch and North Charleston container terminals in December, up 11.6% year-over-year. SC Ports has handled more than 1.2 million TEUs thus far in fiscal year 2021, which began July 1.

SC Ports' two rail-served inland ports had a very strong December with a combined 16,463 rail moves. The inland ports expand the Port of Charleston's reach, swiftly moving goods to population centers.

"The pandemic created unprecedented challenges to supply chains around the world," SC Ports Authority President and CEO Jim Newsome said. "I am immensely proud of our port employees and all those working in the maritime and logistics community for showing up every day during a pandemic to keep supply chains fluid. Their dedication ensures that food products, medical supplies, manufacturing parts and retail goods are efficiently delivered. We are grateful to them, and we look forward to a brighter 2021."

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Kathy Heustess



Bryant Sansbury

ArborOne Farm Credit has announced the retirement of President and CEO, **Kathy Heustess** who retired effective December 31, 2020. **Bryant Sansbury** has been named as her successor and assumed the role on January 1, 2021.

Mrs. Heustess served on the PABC Executive Committee and as a PABC Board member. She worked for ArborOne Farm Credit for 31 years and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Francis Marion University and is a certified public accountant in the state of South Carolina. A graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University, Mrs. Heustess's career in the Farm Credit System began in 1989 serving in numerous management roles. She held the positions of Controller, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer prior to making history in 2012 when she became the first female President and Chief Executive Officer in the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank District.

Mr. Sansbury's career in the Farm Credit System began in 2013. He gained experience ranging from business development, management of lending, marketing and crop insurance in his roles as Chief Relationship Manager, Chief Sales & Marketing Officer and Chief Operating Officer. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Georgia and is also a graduate of the Southeastern Agricultural Lending School (SEALS). Prior to joining Farm Credit, Mr. Sansbury acquired over 20 years of commercial banking and real estate experience.

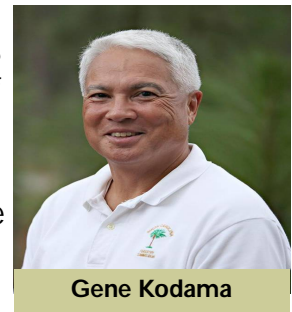
Congratulations to both of these individuals. Mr. Sansbury is now the PABC Board representative for ArborOne and is also serving on the Executive Committee.

GENE KODAMA TO LEAD SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

Henry E. (Gene) Kodama, RF, CF began his one-year term as president of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) January 1, 2021.

A member since 1975, the former South Carolina State Forester and executive director of the SC Forestry Commission has been a long-time champion of SAF and the forestry profession. His outstanding contributions were formally recognized by SAF in 2015 with the Gifford Pinchot Medal and in 2018 by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Kodama will serve on SAF's Board of Directors as immediate past president in 2022.

Retired from the SC Forestry Commission in 2018, Mr. Kodama served as a PABC Board member representing the Commission.



Gene Kodama



Lou Kennedy

LOU KENNEDY NAMED BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

Lou Kennedy, President and Owner of Nephron Pharmaceuticals, was named the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce 2020 Business Leader of the Year.

The Chamber's Business Leader of the Year is chosen based on leadership in South Carolina and the embodiment of personal success. Other criteria include a business record based on ethical conduct and corporate responsibility, public service and commitment to creating a positive business environment to improve the state's economy.



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We're on the web
Scagribusiness.org

CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

Hope all our PABC members and close associates enjoyed the recent holiday season, and have been able to kick off 2021 in a positive way. Almost to a person, folks I have communicated with recently indicate this most recent Christmas and New Year's was much different than the past given the pandemic. Frankly, it would be hard to envision that there is anywhere to go but up after all the challenges that surfaced in 2020. But, ... you just never know!

Your PABC staff is off to a busy start in the new year working with several member organizations on varying issues. With both state and federal leaders back at work structuring their governmental bodies and beginning debate on policy, there is a lot to keep up with relative to government relations. Fortunately, PABC has a great, diversified membership in this regard, and through our member base, we are able to approach these matters through continued communication and collaborative efforts. Admittedly, it is more difficult to foresee where both our country and state go from here, but through close observation and monitoring, PABC will attempt to stay abreast of significant areas affecting agriculture, forestry and rural South Carolina. As this takes place, we will try our best to keep each of our member organizations aware of observations during 2021.

Areas already receiving significant attention in early 2021 are – budget matters, COVID related actions, potential state tax reform, regulatory changes, labor policies, conservation practices, private property protection, and much more. Again, as this process unfolds and specific bills gain traction either in Columbia or DC, PABC will make every effort to keep our membership in the loop as to any progress or lack thereof on bills of potential impact.

In closing, I just don't believe you can say "THANKS" too much. Our membership is just fantastic and both Sandy and I appreciate all the valuable, open communication and support each of you provide. With that said, please advise us of ways we can support your business or organization. We stand ready to support you where and when needed!

Please keep telling the story ----- SC AgriBusiness has an annual economic impact of \$46.2 billion dollars, employs almost 247,000 South Carolinians and expends over \$9.6 billion for labor annually. SC AgriBusiness is the largest industry in our state, and AgriBusiness is growing!!!

WELCOME NEW PABC MEMBER

Jim Healey is Vice President, Utility and Industrial Products (UIP) for **Koppers**. He is responsible for advancing Koppers strategy of being a vertically integrated, high-value global supplier of wood-based technologies to infrastructure markets. He will serve as their representative to PABC.

Mr. Healey started his career at Osmose as a Field Foreman and subsequently left to earn a master's degree in wood physics from West Virginia University. In 1985, he joined Koppers, where he spent 22 years in various operations roles – the first half of that time period in the railroad business, followed by 11 years in the utility operations.

Adding to his experience in the utility sector, Mr. Healey joined Cox Industries in 2007, which then became a part of Koppers with the Cox acquisition in April 2018. His most recent role was serving as General Manager – East Region of the UIP business, where he had responsibility for four of seven utility pole treating plants prior to assuming the role as Vice president of the Utility and Industrial Products.

Mr. Healey earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from Iowa State University. He currently serves as Vice President of the American Wood Protection Association (AWPA) and will assume the role of President in April 2021. He remains actively involved in various industry associations, in addition to his current role with the AWPA. He resides in Charleston, SC, with his wife, Karyn, and has two sons, Lain and Blair.

Koppers is an integrated global provider of treated wood products, wood treatment chemicals and carbon compounds. Its products and services are used in a variety of niche applications in a diverse range of end-markets, including the railroad, specialty chemical, utility, residential lumber, agriculture, aluminum, steel, rubber, and construction industries. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pa., the company employs more than 2,100 employees globally and serves its customers through a comprehensive global manufacturing and distribution network throughout North America, South America, Australasia, China and Europe.

Koppers is also firmly committed to advancing a Zero Harm culture that places the care and protection of its people, environment and communities above all else. This focused approach empowers employees to ensure safe and responsible operations through a heightened awareness of process safety, product safety, environmental stewardship and community engagement.



Jim Healey