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# PABC Journal

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## DAMAGES TO SC AG ESTIMATED AT \$125M DUE TO HURRICANE FLORENCE



**Damaged cotton fields in Dillon County.** (SC Dept. of Agriculture photo)

**According to the National Weather Service**, September's Hurricane Florence brought more than 20 inches of rainfall in some areas, producing the devastating floods that impacted farmers and foresters in Chesterfield,

Dillon, Florence, Horry, Marlboro and Marion counties. Statewide agricultural losses due to the storm are estimated at \$125 million. Governor Henry McMaster is seeking \$540 million in relief for the state, which includes the \$125 million for agriculture.

SC Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers met with farmers in Dillon, Marion and Lake City to survey crop damage. "We had good engagement with upwards of 60 farmers, who verified what we suspected," Commissioner Weathers said. "Cotton was most impacted by high wind, followed by peanuts damaged by drenched soil and soybeans whose pods were blown from the plants."



**Marlboro County floods.** (SC Dept. of Agriculture photo)

"We believe the crop damage from Florence falls between that from the 1000-year flood (\$330 + million) and Hurricane Matthew (mid-50s)," the Commissioner added.

*(cont. on pg. 2, see Hurricane Florence)*

## ADVOCATES FOR AGRICULTURE HONORED AT RECEPTION



**Sen. Brad Hutto**



**Sen. Kent Williams**



**Edgar Woods**

The SC Advocates for Agriculture held its annual reception honoring recipients of the Advocates for Agriculture Award. Senator Brad Hutto and Senator Kent Williams were chosen public sector ag advocates and PABC Board member Edgar Woods, President of Palmetto Grain Brokerage, was named the private sector ag advocate.

## Hurricane Florence (cont. from pg. 1)

### FORESTRY RECOVERY

Forest landowners in certain SC counties who suffered Hurricane Florence-related losses such as washed out roads or damaged stream crossings may be eligible for financial assistance for their immediate recovery needs through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Signup is now available in Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, Horry, Kershaw and contiguous counties. The second signup period will end Nov. 2, 2018.

Please go to your county's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office or visit the following webpage to get started with your application: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

### Dominion Energy Provides Funds For Hurricane Relief

To help with ongoing impacts of Hurricane Florence in South Carolina and neighboring states, Dominion Energy is contributing \$150,000 for relief efforts through four non-profit community partners: One SC Fund/Central Carolina Community Foundation, Harvest Hope Food Bank– Columbia, SC, Salvation Army– Columbia, SC and the American Red Cross.

"Dominion Energy supports the communities we serve by providing philanthropic support, not only during times of crisis, but year round. We are dedicated to supporting South Carolina families through this time of disaster and are committed to helping our communities rebuild for the future," said Kristen Beckham, external affairs representative for Dominion Energy.

### SC Farm Bureau Establishes Fund To Aid Farmers

In the wake of Hurricane Florence, South Carolina farm families and rural communities face estimated damages of \$1.228 billion. In response to this tragedy and the tremendous needs of our farmers and rural communities, South Carolina Farm Bureau has established the "SCFB Agricultural Aid Foundation." Contributions to this fund will be used to help farm families impacted by the flood.

"Farmers in South Carolina are no strangers to hurricanes, flooding and natural disasters, especially after what we've experienced in the last few years," said SCFB President Harry Ott. "They are the backbone of this state and this fund allows us to show them our support in their time of need."

Donations to the fund should be made to the SCFB Agricultural Aid Foundation which is a 501(C)3 charitable non-profit foundation established by South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation. All contributions to this fund are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to:

SCFB Agricultural Aid Foundation  
PO Box 754  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Attn: Ron Quesinberry

### AT&T Contributes Funds to Help Hurricane Florence Victims

AT&T is contributing \$50,000 to the [One SC Fund](#), to help meet the urgent needs of Hurricane Florence victims.

"We know that the recovery from Hurricane Florence is going to be a long process, but it's going to take all of Team South Carolina coming together and committing to help our neighbors that have been affected by the storm," said Gov. Henry McMaster. "Every donation made to the One SC Fund, large or small, will go directly towards helping a South Carolina family get back into their home, and we couldn't be more grateful for AT&T setting an example and showing their dedication to the people of our state."

"In an emergency or disaster, staying connected and working together are vital," said Jane Sosebee, president AT&T South Carolina. "That's why we are building and operating FirstNet, the first nationwide network designed exclusively for first responders. And it is why we are also committed to doing our part to help rebuilding and restoration begin for those whose lives have been turned upside down by the storm. Long before Hurricane Florence reached the coast, we implemented our storm preparedness protocols, which included topping off fuel generators, testing high-capacity back-up batteries at cell sites and protecting physical facilities against flooding."

## ACRE Awards \$175,000 to SC Food Hub Network

The Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE) has awarded \$175,000 to the South Carolina Food Hub Network to improve logistics for the state's five food hubs: GrowFood Carolina in Charleston; Swamp Rabbit Cafe' & Grocery in Greenville; City Roots Farm in Columbia; Catawba Farm & Food Coalition in Chester and Pee Dee Food Hub in Marion.

The money will be used to expand hub activity and coordination.

"ACRE is pleased to support the

South Carolina Food Hub Network, and we hope this grant will allow it to reach more farmers throughout the state," said South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers. "With the many logistic obstacles between local food and the marketplace, the Food Hub Network provides essential coordination among the five food hubs in South Carolina."

The mission of the SC Food Hub Network is to ensure food hubs in the state have the capacity, network and support to advance the visibility and viability of local farms

by connecting local foods to local markets. "A coordinated and collaborative statewide food hub network, with vibrant marketing and distribution efforts, will create a measurable, positive impact for South Carolina's small farmers," said Sara Clow, General Manager of GrowFood Carolina.

ACRE, an initiative of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA), is an umbrella organization that capitalizes on opportunities in the fields of agriculture, agricultural research and entrepreneurship.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



**Erik Marechal**

### McLean Marechal Insurance Receives National Awards

McLean Marechal Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. received two national awards at the Nationwide® Insurance Premier Presidents Conference. **Erik Marechal** is the Agency Owner.

2017 FAST Track Farm Insurance Sales, Top 20 in the United States.

2017 ALL STAR Agent, ranking #5 in the United States for annual production of personal, commercial, life and financial services.

McLean Marechal Insurance has served the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina since 1970. The agency has 15 licensed associates, with offices in Florence, Darlington, Sumter, and Statesboro, GA. Mr. Marechal expressed appreciation to the dedicated staff and loyal cus-

tomers of the agency. "It is an honor to serve our clients and to provide insurance protection and peace of mind," he said.

### Lou Kennedy Elected Chairman of SC Chamber of Commerce

**Lou Kennedy**, President and CEO of Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation, has been chosen Chairman of the SC Chamber of Commerce. She joined Nephron Pharmaceuticals in 2001 and became President and CEO in September 2007.



**Lou Kennedy**



**Reg Williams**

### Log Creek Timber Named 2018 Logging Business of the Year

Log Creek Timber in Johnston, SC was selected as the 2018 Timber Harvesting Logging Business of the Year.

**Reg Williams** serves as President of the business and is past chairman of the Forestry Association of SC.





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We're on the web  
[Scagribusiness.com](http://Scagribusiness.com)

### CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

Another fantastic quarter for our "**SC agribusiness, advocating**" nonprofit! Through three quarters of 2018, several new PABC members have been added bringing our organization to 83 members (total of 64 as of 12-31-16). PABC has always retained a quality group of members, but it is so rewarding to add even more well respected, high quality groups to the membership and project overall growth.

Your SC AgriBusiness team has remained very successful during 2018 in supporting "pro-agribusiness/business statutory changes" within our state, which ultimately benefit our member businesses in a significant way. Please do not take the word "TEAM" lightly as your PABC staff wants to assure you we have a tremendous team (staff and PABC members) working collectively for agribusiness in our state. Whether you and/or your staff are working hard at the Statehouse; speaking to groups about agriculture, forestry or rural improvements; engaging your PABC staff in events and supportive efforts; or providing financial support, you are very much a part of an outstanding TEAM. Thank You for the role you serve at PABC!!!

But, ... there is still so much for us to accomplish. Recently, over 20 PABC member representatives joined together to serve on our Legislative & Regulatory Task Force. Utilizing survey information provided by our members, the LART Committee discussed and laid-out our organizational priorities for the coming year. The list of areas to be emphasized remains quite lengthy. At our next quarterly meeting, the Executive Committee and our Board will consider these priorities further and approve our 2019 plan. So, ... much work remains as we advocate for and promote agriculture, forestry and rural SC.

Your PABC staff remains grateful for the strong support provided by each of our members and with your continued support we are confident another successful year is in the works!

### PABC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

**Daniel Beckham** will be the representative for new member **Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.** He serves as their General Manager in the Bethune, SC facility.

**Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.** is primarily engaged in the production, grading, packing and sale of fresh shell eggs, including conventional, cage-free, organic and nutritionally enhanced eggs. The Company, which is headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest producer and distributor of fresh shell eggs in the United States and sells the majority of its shell eggs in states across the southwestern, southeastern, mid-western and mid-Atlantic regions of the United States.

**CEO Don Taylor** will represent new member **AmplifiedAg**. The company's mission is to create a global shift in the production, distribution and consumption of leafy greens by innovating a more powerful and efficient way of farming through state-of-the-art technologies. In doing this, they are engaging a new generation of farmers and providing them with sustainable jobs.



Plants growing in an aeroponic container at Tiger Corner Farms.

**AmplifiedAg** is comprised of three companies: Tiger Corner Farms, Boxcar Central and Vertical Roots. Tiger Corner Farms is an indoor aeroponic container farm manufacturer dedicated to building high quality, efficient indoor farms in order to create more opportunities for farmers. Boxcar Central is a technology company that provides the controls and the software to integrate, automate and monitor all aspects of an enterprise farming environment from seed to sale. Vertical Roots is a farming operation that currently services over 50 restaurants, four grocery store chains and 25 local public schools using the technology.



Daniel Beckham with wife, Kayla and daughters Penelope and Charlotte.