



PABC Journal

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Fall 2019

Forestry Association of South Carolina Annual Meeting

The Forestry Association of South Carolina's annual meeting will be **November 6 - 8** at the Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms.

Registration deadline is November 1. For more information, contact Julie Leary, Julie@scforestry.org.

SC Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The SC Farm Bureau's 76th Annual Meeting will be **December 5 - 7** at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach.

For more information: scfb.org/annualmeeting

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U.S. Senator Tim Scott was the key note speaker at the August PABC Board meeting. From left, PABC CEO Ronnie Summers discusses issues with Senator Scott after the meeting.

CONNECT AT THE 2020 SC AGRIBIZ & FARM EXPO



Make plans to attend and connect at the 2020 annual SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo, which will be **January 15-16** at the Florence Center in Florence.

The Expo will kick off with a Farmer Appreciation Breakfast at 8:30 am on Wednesday, January 15, followed by an informative general session; educational classes and trade show begin at 10 am. The finest instructors in the southeast will impart their knowledge with many informative educational classes. This year's Expo will focus on various ways of handling challenges as well as numerous means and methods to address diversity in today's farming operation.

The Taste of SC will conclude the Wednesday evening activities, which provides an outstanding opportunity to network and visit with area leaders and agribusiness supporters.

On Thursday, January 16, the SC Commissioner of Agriculture will kick off the day with the annual Commissioner's Breakfast at 8 am. Commissioner Weathers will bring news from around the state and address changes and the future of agriculture in SC.

For the first time, the Expo will include a two-day hemp conference to discuss all facets of this exciting new industry. Hemp topics will include dialogue regarding production, diseases, crop insurance, processing, packaging, marketing and how this new commodity will be regulated and governed.

Make plans to connect with others in the industry and take advantage of this opportunity to see key farmers and leaders during this two day Expo. For more information, visit the Expo website at www.scagribizexpo.com.

Palmetto LEAF Offers Leadership Program for South Carolina Agribusiness Industry

Every impactful industry has influential leaders. Tech or retail, manufacturing or finance, service or hospitality, all require nimble, networked, principled visionaries. These individuals are people at the top of their games, who are passionate about shaping the future of their industries.

Now, Clemson University has created a program to help identify and cultivate leaders for the state's largest economic sector –agribusiness– including forestry and related natural resource industries.



Palmetto Leadership Program for the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, or Palmetto LEAF, is two-year intensive instructional, experiential learning and networking program designed to push agribusiness, forestry and environmental professionals to their ultimate career goals and create a leadership pipeline for the state's \$42 billion agribusiness industry.

Palmetto LEAF is directed by Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) and Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) Division.

Palmetto LEAF Director Kirby Player said other states have had agricultural leadership programs, with the first developed in Michigan in 1965, and the idea for a South Carolina version has been discussed for a few years.

According to Player, Palmetto LEAF participants will gain insights from top leaders and professionals, network with each other and industry influencers, visit and interact with related industries in neighboring states and discover strategies for achieving work-life balance.

The program takes two years to complete and culminates with participants choosing and developing a practicum project designed to make a difference in their sphere of influence.

SC Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers said Palmetto LEAF will be an accelerant to the state's already strong agribusiness industry.

"The primary reason that SCDA was created 140 years ago is still true today. That is to promote and nurture the growth and development of South Carolina's agriculture industry and its related businesses. We see Palmetto LEAF as an important part of ensuring the agriculture industry continues to grow and our farmers continue to prosper," Weathers said.

The program is advised by a board comprised of representatives from the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council, SCDHEC, SCDNR, SC Farm Bureau, SC Forestry Commission, Forestry Association of South Carolina, SC Department of Agriculture and SC State University USDA Liaison.

PABC CEO Ronnie Summers, who serves on the board, said, "Agribusiness, as the number one industry in the state of South Carolina, is excited about Palmetto LEAF. Clemson is to be commended for its role in initiating this targeted "leadership" program for agribusiness."

(cont. on pg. 3, see Palmetto LEAF)

South Carolina Farmers Affected by 2018 Hurricanes Can Apply for Assistance

South Carolina Farmers affected by hurricanes in 2018 can now apply for assistance through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) (<https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus>), administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. More than \$3 billion is available to U.S. farmers through the disaster relief package passed early June.

The following South Carolina counties that were declared disaster areas are eligible to apply for assistance: Aiken, Bamberg, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lancaster, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Richland and Williamsburg. Additionally, farmers in counties that did not receive a primary disaster declaration may still apply, but will be required to provide supporting documentation to establish that the crops were directly affected by a qualifying disaster loss.

Farmers should contact their local USDA Service Center (<https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator>) or visit [farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus](https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus) (<https://www.farmers.gov/recover/whip-plus>) for a complete listing of eligibility requirements and payment limitations.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



SENATOR CAMPBELL AND MCCALL FARMS OWNERS NAMED ADVOCATES OF THE YEAR

The South Carolina Advocates for Agriculture presented awards for Ag Advocates of the Year to Marion and Henry Swink, owners of McCall Farms (a PABC member) and Senator Paul Campbell. Above left, PABC CEO Ronnie Summers, Marion Swink, Commissioner Hugh Weathers and Henry Swink. Above right, Senator Campbell makes remarks after accepting his award.



Brittney Miller, Board Chair of The SC Poultry Federation, a PABC member, presented Dr. Dave Wicker (left) with a Lifetime Achievement Award and Ken Martin (right) with the Outstanding Service Award at the recent SCPF Annual Meeting. Fieldale Farms, the employer of both of these gentlemen, is also a PABC member.

Amplified Ag Expands Vertical Roots Operation to the Farmers Market

Vertical Roots has opened a new facility in West Columbia, leasing three acres at the SC State Farmers Market from wholesaler Senn Brothers. The company, which started in Charleston, grows six varieties of lettuce and is actually one of three vertically integrated companies under parent company, **Amplified Ag** (a PABC member), which handles business development and marketing for all three.

Brian Wheat, director of community engagement, says the company's lettuces not only grow quickly under tightly controlled condition, they reach shelves within 24 hours of harvest, aided by their location. "This is an opportunity to bring another element of agriculture to the Farmers Market site," Wheat said.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SC STATE FAIR— CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!

Palmetto Leaf (cont. from pg. 2)

According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, the average age of farmers has been trending consistently upward for 30 years and South Carolina farmers are part of that trend with an average age of 58.3. Palmetto LEAF is designed in part to help sustain the state's agribusiness industry for future generations and equip leaders in key segments that support the economic engines of agriculture, forestry and the natural resources of SC.

Palmetto LEAF applicants should be SC residents fully engaged in SC agriculture, forestry or natural resources or environmental stewardship. Applicants must be at least 28 years old by January 15, 2020. Applications for Class I (Jan. 2020—Dec. 2022) must be completed and submitted or postmarked no later than Nov. 4, 2019. For online application and to learn more about Palmetto LEAF and applicant eligibility, visit <https://www.clemson.edu/cafs/palmetto-leaf/>.



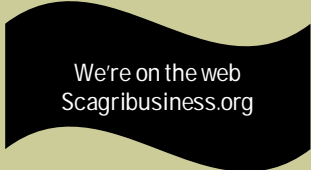
1901 Main St.
Suite 1450
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803-256-9099
Fax: 803-926-3463

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Sandy Boozer, Exec. Assistant



CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

Well, Q3 2019 for PABC is in the books and Q4 has been initiated! At the conclusion of the second quarter, so many issues remain "hot topics" – labor, trade, taxes (in-state), water, infrastructure (highways, dams, technology, etc), weather (drought), etc. Frankly, most of these issues will remain on the table in the fourth quarter and likely throughout 2020. PABC, as *"your support organization"*, continues to monitor the previously noted areas and numerous other concerns in an effort to keep you posted as to the status of the challenges faced and to support solutions to such matters presented our members.

During the latter stages of the third quarter, surveys were completed by our PABC membership to document what our members view as priority concerns for the upcoming year. Early in the fourth quarter, our **Legislative & Regulatory Task Force ("LART")** will convene to determine where your staff and our membership need to focus attention in late 2019 and throughout the next year. At our November quarterly meeting, our **Executive Committee** and **Board** will consider the LART findings and decide precisely where our time and energy will be concentrated for the foreseeable future.

Sandy and I take pride in representing the PABC membership, and your staff is so fortunate to work with a fantastic team of diversified members through which we can engage in open communication relating to ag, forestry and rural SC. The ability to collaborate and determine ways to further strengthen **SC AgriBusiness** is what makes PABC unique. Please keep the information sharing active! Your staff encourages open communication either in *meeting settings* or *one on one* as we genuinely desire to provide your business the support you deserve as a Palmetto AgriBusiness Council member. **Together "WE" will keep SC AgriBusiness strong and the number one industry in our state!!!**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AMERICAN FOREST MANAGEMENT, INC.

Brandon DuRant, Farm Manager, will serve as the representative for new member **American Forest Management, Inc. (AFM)**. Founded in 1966 by Bartow "Bo" Shaw in Sumter, SC, the company has expanded through both organic growth and acquisition of esteemed companies and consultants to become one of the largest land consulting and real estate brokerage firms in the United States. With hundreds of employees across the U.S., AFM provides landowners with individualized local services while leveraging the vast technical resources of a national company. The company offers a full suite of services including all facets of forest and land management including farm management, arboriculture, inventory services and reforestation; real estate services; timber sales, wildlife management; and specialty services including harvest scheduling, appraisals, wood flow and GIS.



Brandon DuRant



DOMTAR PAPER COMPANY

Domtar's Marlboro Mill, located in Bennettsville, SC is one of North America's newest paper manufacturing facilities. The mill produces pulp and paper for a wide product range including copy paper, tablet paper, receipt paper and lottery paper. As the last Greenfield mill built in the U.S., the facility generates enough green power to supply renewable energy to 30,000 homes in South Carolina. Domtar is the largest integrated manufacturer and marketer of uncoated free sheet paper in the U.S., and one of the largest manufacturers of pulp in the world. The company is committed to continuously finding ways to do a better job in developing our products, improving our manufacturing processes and managing natural resources responsibly. **Ken Stuart**, Wood Procurement Manager, will serve as their representative.