



PABC Journal

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WINTER 2020

CLAYS FOR CAFLS

The 4th Annual Clays for CAFLS will be March 13 at the Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield, SC. This event benefits student and alumni engagement activities. For registration and information, visit: www.clemson.edu/cafls.alumni

LOG A LOAD FOR KIDS

The Forestry Association of SC's Log A Load for Kids Sporting Clays event will be held April 15 at Broxton Bridge Plantation, Ehrhardt, SC. Proceeds benefit the Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital at MUSC. For information, call Lin Houck, 843-908-3641 or linhouck@yahoo.com

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT FOR 2020 EXPO



The SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo had great participation and networking. Some of the speakers included from left, Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers; Amy McFadden, Owner, White Oak Forest Management; Ron Prestage, CEO, Prestage Farms; and Pat Calhoun, CEO, AgSouth Farm Credit.

PABC SETS 2020 LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY PRIORITIES

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Surface Water & Ground Water Withdrawal

Surface and groundwater withdrawal legislation and regulations remain a significant issue for agribusiness. Despite the 2018 DHEC Board approval of additional capacity use areas within the state, PABC continues to believe no changes should be made to water legislation and regulations until the completion of the Statewide Assessment of Water Resources, and all decisions regarding water withdrawal should be based on sound science.

Dams and Reservoirs Standards

The Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee passed S.107 with some minor amendments out of committee during the spring of 2019. The \$50,000 tax credit has been a point of debate and the matter has been committed to the Senate Finance Committee. To date, PABC has been supportive of the bill as amended.

Waters of the U.S. aka "WOTUS" (Federal)

WOTUS has continued to be challenged in several federal district courts within the U.S. Improvement has occurred under the present administration as to this federal regulation. During 2019, a bill has been introduced to scale back federal jurisdiction over water.

TAXES AND FEES

SC Tax Reform – Maintain Agribusiness Sales Tax Exemptions/Property Tax Assessments

As a result of a SC House Tax Policy Review Committee's review of South Carolina's tax code system, including sales tax exemptions and property tax assessments, H.4532 was filed in May of 2019 specifically relating to sales tax exemptions. Tax treatment for agribusiness continues to be an issue to monitor in an effort to assure we maintain all agribusiness sales tax exemptions and ag use property tax assessments.

(Continued on page 2, See Legislative)

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES (continued from page 1)**Agribusiness Trade (State/Federal)**

Several tariffs announced on Chinese products continue to negatively impact agribusiness operations. The China log ban on softwood logs exported from South Carolina continues to have a negative impact on the state's forestry industry. The USMCA proposal to replace NAFTA will impact agribusiness. Each of these trade issues should be monitored closely as to the effects upon SC agribusiness.

Business License Fees

Support a better integrated system of determining business license fees and a cap on the amount local governments can charge.

LEGAL**Nuisance Lawsuit "Safe Harbor" Consideration**

As nuisance lawsuits relating to agribusiness operations in other states continue to negatively impact the agribusiness industry as a whole, a "safe harbor" solution should likely be considered within SC either by strengthening the SC Right to Farm statutory provisions or through other available legislative consideration for SC agriculture and forestry.

Immigration (Federal)

For agribusiness to remain profitable and viable for the long-term, we must have federal immigration reform that allows access to a stable and legal workforce.

Agribusiness Labor (State/Federal)

PABC opposes unionization of agribusiness labor and along with other organizations, will continue to study legislation enacted in North Carolina in 2017.

Regulatory Freedom Act (State)

PABC opposes the addition of new regulations and modification of existing regulations that would burden agribusinesses and potentially lead to the viability of these operations becoming questionable.

TRANSPORTATION**CDL Liability Insurance and Driver Shortage**

PABC and members of the Associated Industries of SC are working with the Governor and two cabinet agencies on CDL issues. The Department of Insurance issued a report identifying what is increasing costs for liability insurance for truck drivers, especially log truck drivers. Insurance premiums have tripled for many logging truck owners. The Associated Industries of SC is examining funding opportunities with the Department of Employment and Workforce to promote careers as CDL drivers, heavy equipment operators and in the construction trade. It will be PABC's intention to monitor and support efforts relating to reducing insurance cost associated with commercial trucking in SC. PABC also supports efforts to attract commercial truck drivers within South Carolina to offset the current shortage that exists.

Highway Infrastructure (State/Federal)

PABC is in support of efforts to secure federal funding for South Carolina's infrastructure and also will be monitoring the progress of the infrastructure funding bill approved in 2017.

Vehicle Weight Limits

Support an effort to increase agriculture and forestry commercial trucking weight limits to compare favorably with the surrounding southeastern states.

AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**Skilled Workforce Development Initiative**

PABC is in support of this initiative led by the SC Trucking Association and others to promote careers in skilled trades for state funding to be allocated to the State's Technical College System to be used to build and deploy a mobile skilled professional jobs promotion workshop. Funding of \$642,000 was approved within the state budget in 2019, but was below the level requested. PABC supports efforts within agribusiness to assist in supplementing state funding toward this initiative.

Rural Utilities and Telecommunications Infrastructure

Access to broadband continues to be an issue in rural areas of South Carolina.

FUNDING

Agency Funding Support funding for the budget requests of the SC Department of Agriculture, SC Forestry Commission and Clemson PSA.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

KATHY COLEMAN RECEIVES PARRIS AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dr. Kathy Coleman, Director of Clemson University's Sandhill Research and Education Center, has been named recipient of the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award by the SC Association of Agricultural Educators. The award was presented by Dr. Tom Dobbins, State Director of the Clemson University Extension Service, during the annual state conference of agricultural educators.

Dr. Coleman, a native of Hopkins, earned a B.S. and an M.S. at Clemson University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. She is a recipient of the Honorary American Farmer Degree by the 700,000-member National FFA organization.

An employee of Clemson University for 33 years, with more than 29 of those years devoted to governmental affairs, Dr. Coleman was named Director of the Sandhill Research and Education Center in 2015. She continues to assist the Clemson Public Service and Agriculture advocacy team with legislative strategies.



Dr. Kathy Coleman receives the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award from Dr. Tom Dobbins.

South Carolina Forestry Commission Launches Wildfire App

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has released a smartphone app that allows citizens, media and fire departments to view current wildfires and burn notifications, check the latest fire weather, receive push notifications about important news such as burning bans and red flag fire alerts, and much more.

The easy-to-use interface lets users:

- View all the current wildfires in the state. Pinch-zoom, then click, on any fire or notification to see its location, size and containment status;
- See all the current prescribed burns for forestry, wildlife and agriculture around the state;
- Check the day's fire weather in any region of the state;
- Watch the agency's videos on how to conduct legal debris burns, including making notification to the Forestry Commission and taking the proper precautions;
- Report a wildfire, arson, litter or other forest law violation.

"If we have an emergency situation with a wildfire or are issuing a burning ban, this app gives us the ability to immediately send out a notification to the public instead of having to rely on a news release and our social media pages to get that information to those who need it," said SCFC Fire Chief Darryl Jones.

To receive push notifications, users must opt in when first starting the app. Push notifications will alert you about current burning bans, Red Flag fire alerts and other wildfire-related warnings. Notifications will never consist of ads or promotional messages.

The app is also a convenient way for fire departments to view information about the Federal Excess Property and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant programs, both administered by the agency.

To download the app, search "South Carolina Forestry Commission" on either the Apple or Google Play stores. You may also text "SCFCAPP" to 95577 to have the links to download the app sent directly to your phone.

Learn how to install and use the app by watching this short video on the agency's website: <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/scfcwildfireapp.htm>



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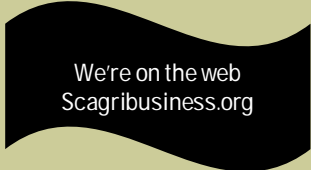
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CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

With the conclusion of 2019, three years are now under the belt for me in my current role with PABC. What a ride! In this short time frame, I have enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to meet and work along with so many who truly respect and value SC agribusiness. Admittedly, I am bias, but . . . frankly, we have one exceptional team here at PABC! PABC consists of individuals and entities which value agriculture, forestry and rural SC and genuinely desire to grow and improve each of these aspects within our state.

What makes this group of members and associates so special is the willingness to work in a collaborative manner to support agribusiness within the state. It is amazing to see those working primarily in agriculture going out of their way to support members of the forestry community, and the forestry community reciprocating by supporting agriculture in an equally strong way. Folks that is the approach to agribusiness which creates a "position of strength" - people and specific industries working closely and in a cooperative manner to become stronger. AGRIBUSINESS is the number one industry in SC, and by continuing to work as a team, AGRIBUSINESS will grow and improve.

A new year, 2020, is here, and with that reality, there is plenty of work to do. Policy issues require attention, additional education as to agribusiness is needed, continued advocacy for our industry remains essential, and teamwork is more critical than ever. With those realities in mind, your PABC staff is prepared to support member causes to the extent possible. Please keep Sandy and I apprised of how we can support your agribusiness as we proceed into this new year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ArborGen, headquartered in Ridgeville, S.C., was formed in February 2000 by combining the extensive biotechnology research and development programs of the leading forest products companies: Westvaco Corporation (later MeadWestvaco), International Paper, and Fletcher Challenge Forests (now Rubicon Limited).

In October 2007, ArborGen acquired the tree improvement, nursery and orchard businesses of International Paper, MeadWestvaco (now WestRock) and Rubicon. This transaction brought together organizations that were recognized industry leaders and represented the very best expertise in breeding, genetics, seedling production, sales and distribution to create a unique, world-class fully integrated, full-service tree improvement company. In combination with ArborGen's existing advanced product portfolio, ArborGen was then able to offer customers products and services targeted for their specific needs and end-use applications across a wide range of growing conditions.

In June 2017, Rubicon (now ArborGen Holdings) purchased both WestRock's and International Paper's interests in ArborGen. Today ArborGen is the largest global supplier of tree seedling products and the leading provider of advanced genetics for the forest industry. Employing state-of-the-art research, ArborGen is developing high-value products that significantly improve the productivity of a given acre of land by enabling our customers



ArborGen Product Containers

to grow trees that yield more wood per acre with greater consistency and quality in a shorter time period. The company now operates in more than 27 locations in the southeastern U.S., Brazil, Australia and New Zealand, producing more than 440 million in annual tree seedling sales.



Zach & Gregg Senn

Senn Brothers Produce, located at the South Carolina State Farmers Market since 1944, offers a full line of fresh fruit, vegetables, herbs, dairy and eggs. Senn Brothers delivers to all of SC, Charlotte area of NC and Augusta/Savannah area of Georgia. They service schools, military bases, prisons, restaurants, grocery stores and other wholesalers. Senn Brothers also offers wholesale pickup service at their warehouse for the general public. Senn Brothers sources throughout North and South America along with buying as much local South Carolina grown product as possible throughout the year. The current owners are Gregg Senn and Gary Prince.