

# PABC Journal



## Hurricane Matthew's Impact on Agribusiness

### Agriculture-

Agriculture officials from the SC Department of Agriculture, Clemson University, SC Farm Bureau, Farm Credit and the USDA are working together to get an estimate of the scope of the agricultural damage left in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Almost on the anniversary of last October's flood, this storm has affected many of the same areas still trying to recover.

*(cont. on pg. 3, see Hurricane)*

### Forestry-

Hurricane Matthew damaged forests and community trees across large portions of South Carolina.

The SC Forestry Commission is conducting damage assessments to the state's forests and timberland. The agency will have information concerning resources when the assessments are completed.

*(cont. on pg. 3 see Hurricane)*

## PABC CHOOSES NEW CEO

Palmetto Agribusiness Council (PABC) has announced the selection of Ronald L. Summers as the new Chief Executive Officer. He will succeed current CEO Cathy Novinger, who is leaving the organization at the end of this year.

Summers, who serves as Ag-South Farm Credit's South Carolina Regional President, will assume the new role January 1, 2017. His background includes extensive agribusiness experience, having been with Farm Credit over 35 years as a loan officer, credit manager, branch manager and commercial lending unit manager.

"It is an honor to be chosen to lead this organization" Sum-

mers commented. "As a Board member and former Chairman, I have seen firsthand the impact PABC has made in helping sustain the economic viability of South Carolina's largest industry - agribusiness. I plan to continue the success and effectiveness this organization has experienced under Cathy's guidance, who has served as PABC's first CEO for 16 years."

A Clemson University graduate with a BS degree in agriculture, Summers is also a graduate of the Georgia Southern Agribusiness School, the University of South Carolina Banking School and a three-year participant in the National Farm



**Ronald L. (Ronnie) Summers**

Credit Leadership Development program.

A native of the Branchville area of South Carolina, Summers grew up on a farm and still resides there. Active in

*(Cont. on pg. 3, See CEO)*

## SC FARM AID AWARDS OVER \$35.5 M TO FLOOD IMPACTED FARMERS

Farmers impacted by the flood last October saw some relief in September as the SC Department of Agriculture dispersed the South Carolina Farm Aid grants of over \$35.5 million.

Last May, the SC General Assembly approved \$40 million in aid to help farms in flood-ravaged communities. Eligible farmers could receive grants covering 20% of their verified crop loss up to \$100,000 maximum. The grant amounts ranged from 88 applicants receiving the maximum award of \$100,000 to the smallest grant of \$164. The average award was \$28,363. Overall, 1,244 farmers were approved for a total award amount of \$35,512,560.

SCDA was assisted by the SC Department of Revenue in reviewing the applications for eligibility. SCDOR set up a mobile office in the SCDA Consumer Protection Division Lab at the State Farmers Market. SCDA contacted every applicant when their application was received and again if any additional documentation was required.

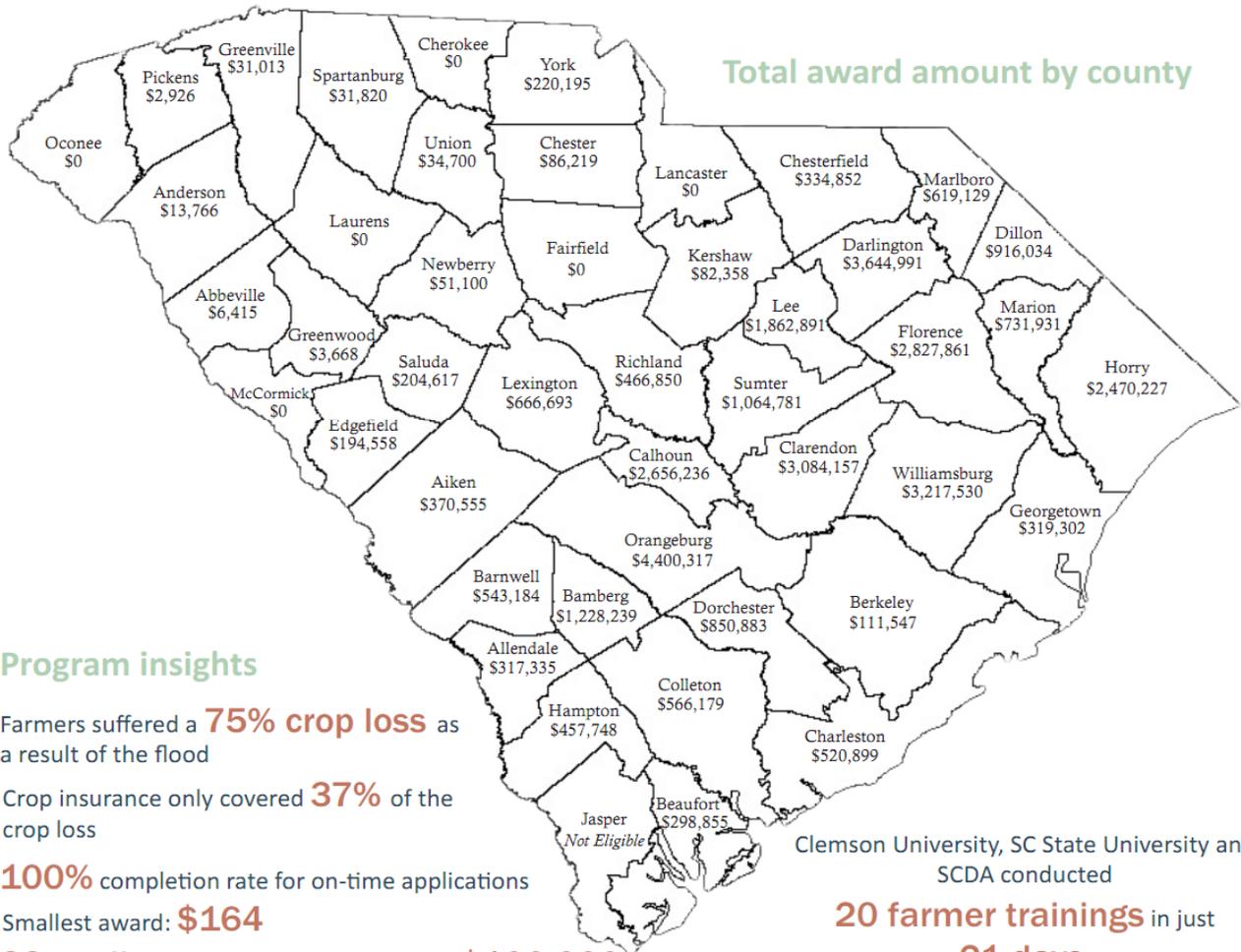
Clemson Extension personnel coordinated very effective training sessions that thoroughly prepared farmers to submit their applications.

*(Cont. on pages 2 & 3, See Farm Aid)*

# South Carolina Farm Aid

## By the numbers

**1244** farmers were approved for a total award amount of **\$35,512,560**



### Program insights

Farmers suffered a **75% crop loss** as a result of the flood

Crop insurance only covered **37%** of the crop loss

**100%** completion rate for on-time applications

Smallest award: **\$164**

**88 applicants** awarded maximum of **\$100,000**

Average award: **\$28,365**

Only **8** ineligible applications

Clemson University, SC State University and SCDA conducted

**20 farmer trainings** in just **21 days.**



Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner  
 South Carolina Department of Agriculture • 1200 Senate Street • Columbia, SC • 29201  
[agriculture.sc.gov](http://agriculture.sc.gov)

## TIMBER TAX POLICIES IMPACT SUCCESS OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY

By Cam Crawford, President  
South Carolina Forestry Association

The 13 million acres of South Carolina's forests and timberlands improve the quality of our lives and are the cultural and economic foundation in rural communities. They contribute more than 90,000 jobs and add \$18.6 billion to our state's economy and save the government millions of dollars by helping to clean our air and drinking water and provide wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational opportunities.

These forests, 88 percent of which are privately owned, are planted and replanted to produce the raw materials for products we use every day. Because timberland owners make long-term commitments to manage their forests sustainably and replant after harvesting, our state's forested land has increased by more than 2 million acres since the 1930's. Today, trees help offset 13 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions annually.

More attention is being paid to how buildings and building materials impact the environment, and wood is the perfect green building material, because it is renewable, stores carbon that reduces greenhouse gases and is energy efficient.

Our forests are thriving, but their growth is contingent on strong markets for forest products—from framing for our houses and the paper we use in communications to packaging for our goods and tissue products for our hygiene and the screens on our cell phones. Strong sales allow timberland owners to reinvest the money from harvesting trees to planting more trees and keeping their forests healthy. This benefits all our state's citizens.

A healthy and vital forestry economy is essential to SC and the nation. The success of the industry is due in part to federal and state timber tax policies that promote healthy forests. With all the talk in Washington and Columbia about "tax reform," we urge our elected officials to remember that the current

tax laws have worked well for the forest-products industry—and to continue to support those policies.

(Reprinted from *The State*, Oct. 20, 2016)

### Farm Aid (cont. from page 1)

Information gathered from the applications confirmed earlier SCDA estimates of 75% crop loss as a result of the flood. The US Department of Agriculture estimated direct crop loss at \$376 million. Only 37% of those losses were covered by crop insurance.

Commissioner Hugh Weathers commented, "This legislation was well crafted and the grants provide a life-line for farmers, not a bail-out. It has been a challenging and rewarding experience to complete this program so timely to help our farmers."

PABC CEO Cathy Novinger commended SCDA and others for their administration of the program and getting funds to the farmers quickly. "SCDA did a great job with SCDOR and Clemson to administer this program efficiently. And SC Farm Bureau's leadership and efforts at the State House were essential in making sure funding became available to farmers whose crops were devastated by the flood," she said.

## Hurricane (cont. from page 1)

### Agriculture Impact (cont. from pg. 1)

Early estimates indicate a significant loss of the cotton crop and moderate loss of soybeans. Many farmers were trying to harvest peanuts before the storm hit, but loss of power could impact storage. High-value fall fruits and vegetables saw an initial harvest, but subsequent harvests will be impacted. The poultry sector has reported mortality of approximately 203,000 birds. Many farms lost electricity

and had to rely on generators to power the chicken houses.

"Farmers are facing very similar challenges to last October's flooding and this natural disaster will be another significant setback to our state's #1 industry," said Ag Commissioner Hugh Weathers.

Farmers are encouraged to complete Clemson's online damage assessment form to aid officials in determining the full impact of the hurricane online at [Clemson.edu/public/emergency](http://Clemson.edu/public/emergency).

### Forestry Impact (cont. from pg. 1)

A statewide burning ban has been lifted by State Forester Kodama that was issued earlier because of the limited availability of statewide firefighting resources and personnel, many of whom had been deployed to eastern counties for hurricane evacuation, response, assessment and/or cleanup. SC Forestry Commission officials still urge vigilance when burning outdoors.

The hurricane did not postpone the 2016 Southern Forest Products Conference in Charleston, which was hosted by the SC Forestry Commission October 17-18. The export conference kicked off National Forest Products Week.

The Forestry Commission agreed to host the conference this year in the historic City, a fitting locale as forest products are the state's largest export commodity from the Port of Charleston.

## NEW CEO (cont. from pg. 1)

Active in agribusiness associations and his community, Summers has served in numerous leadership roles including, Chairman and board member of PABC and President of SC Advocates for Agriculture. He also serves on the board of the Clemson Timberland Legacy Program, the SC 4H Foundation and the SC State University Business School.

Outgoing CEO Novinger said she is confident that Summers will be an asset as CEO. "With his financial background and work with various farm and forestry organizations, Ronnie understands this industry and its issues" she said. "I know that with his leadership, PABC will continue to make a positive impact on the agribusiness industry."



Cathy Novinger

# PABC Journal



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602 Meeting Street, Suite B  
West Columbia, SC 29169

PH: 803-926-3462

FAX: 803-926-3463

EMAIL: [cathy@novingerqtr.com](mailto:cathy@novingerqtr.com)

[www.scagribusiness.org](http://www.scagribusiness.org)

## PABC OFFICERS

Randy Brown, Chairman  
Fred West, Secretary/Treasurer

## STAFF

Cathy Novinger, CEO

For more information on joining PABC, please  
contact Cathy Novinger, 803-926-3462.

## MEMBER NEWS.....

**Mikee Johnson**, CEO of Cox Industries, was selected as the South Carolina Chamber's Business Leader of the Year.

**Fisher Phillips** is a finalist for the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Workplace Diversity Award.

**W.P. Rawl**, known as a premier grower, processor and shipper of leafy greens, has announced an expansion to its Nature's Greens ® brand with its Seasoned Sautes TM. This innovative hot meal entrée item is packed with plant protein and offers convenience, nutrition and excellent tastes all in one.

## CALENDAR.....

### SC Ag Outlook November 22, 2016

Join the Clemson Extension Agribusiness Team on November 22 at the Phillips Market Center, SC State Farmers Market in West Columbia for discussions on the outlook for agriculture in 2017. Register by November 17 at: [www.clemson.edu/extension/agribusiness/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agribusiness/)

### SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo January 11-12, 2017

Make plans now to attend the SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo January 11-12, 2017 at the Florence Civic Center in Florence. This event represents all aspects of agriculture both large and small. It features innovations in agricultural equipment, education, commodity spotlights, feed stocks, special guest speakers, economic developers, value-added enterprises, and related exhibits. For info: visit [scagribizexpo.com](http://scagribizexpo.com)



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