



## PALMETTO PALATE 2019

South Carolina Farm Bureau's 12th annual Palmetto Palate will be July 18 at 6 pm at the SC State Museum in Columbia. Restaurants from around the Midlands will team up with SC farmers to prepare tapas-sized dishes for attendees to try. A panel of judges will determine which chef will take the prize of Top Chef.

There will also be a Silent Auction with items from around South Carolina donated by local county Farm Bureaus. Proceeds from the event will go toward SCFB's Education Foundation to provide scholarships. Learn more: [scfb.org/palate19](http://scfb.org/palate19)

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# PAABC Journal

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## Congressional Staffers Tour Agribusiness Facilities



Palmetto AgriBusiness Council, along with the SC Department of Agriculture, hosted a tour of agribusiness operations in the Pee Dee region for SC Congressional staffers. Counter clockwise from top: Kathy Heustess, ArborOne CEO, and Charles Vernon, VP, kicked off the tour with a welcome coffee and doughnuts at their office in Florence.



Woody Swink, Co-President and Henry Swink, Owner welcomed the group to McCall Farms before taking them on a tour of the facilities.



Staffers prepare to tour the Perdue Farms facility in Dillon. Randy Brown, Plant Manager of Perdue Farms, hosted lunch for participants, including Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers.

Michael Elmore, Terminal Manager, with the SC Ports Authority gave an overview and tour of the Dillon Inland Port facilities.

## Funds Approved for Be Pro Be Proud Program

The Forestry Association of SC (FASC) partnered with PABC, the SC Trucking Association, Carolinas AGC, the SC Timber Producers Association, and the SC Chamber of Commerce on addressing the need for additional skilled labor including CDL and heavy equipment operators. A program was developed based upon a successful program in Arkansas called Be Pro Be Proud which encourages high school students to seek skilled trade jobs. Governor Henry McMaster provided \$950,000 in his Executive Budget for the Be Pro Be Proud program. The House failed to fund the Be Pro Be Proud program. The Senate provided \$950,000 for the program. A Budget conference committee reached a compromise, funding the Be Pro Be Proud Program with \$642,500.

"After three years, the General Assembly finally realized the value of a program targeting high school students to consider skilled trade jobs. We hope the program expands the pool of eligible CDL and heavy equipment operators for the forest industry," Cam Crawford FASC President and PABC Chairman said. "It is time to educate students, parents, guidance counselors, and teachers that many of our young people have a better chance of making a good living by gaining a skilled trade than going to college. In addition, the young person doesn't have student debt as they enter the work force."

### **AGRIBUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS AWARDED FUNDING THROUGH ACRE PROGRAM**

Seven ACRE entrepreneurs are one step closer to taking their agribusinesses to the next level, thanks to a competitive application and pitch process offered by the Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurships (ACRE).

The ACRE Entrepreneurship Program will provide business mentoring and a total of \$125,000 in grants of varying amounts to the entrepreneurs, who represent regions across South Carolina, including: Debbie Webster of Whispering Pines Farm (Pickens County), Jared Jester of Heritage Peanut Co. (Beaufort County), Jason Thomas of Sow, Inc. (Richland County), Matthew and Tracy Woodard of Covered in Cotton (Darlington County), Josh Eboch of Barrier Island Oyster Co. (Charleston County), Steve Lorch of Table Rock Tea Co. (Pickens County), and Brian Wheat of Common Joy (Charleston County).

"By offering targeted funding to these seven entrepreneurs, ACRE is helping to nurture innovation in South Carolina agriculture," said Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers. "Whether by growing new industries or finding new approaches to existing industries, they all have the potential to spur economic development in our state."

Through seeking out and supporting qualified businesses like these, ACRE hopes to encourage, diversify, and strengthen South Carolina's agricultural industry from the bottom up. For more information on the Entrepreneurship Center and other ACRE Initiatives, please contact Kyle Player, ACRE Executive Director, at 803-734-2324.

### **Clemson Names New Chair of CAFLS Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department**

A seasoned educator and Cooperative Extension Service professional has been tapped to lead Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Science's Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department.

Charles F. Rosenkrans, Jr. comes to Clemson from the University of Arkansas. He starts August 15. As department chair, Rosenkrans said he plans to work with CAFLS students, faculty, staff and Clemson Extension agents to continue advancing the department and programs.

"I plan to get to know the students, faculty and staff right off the bat," Rosenkrans said. "I have deep respect for people at Clemson and I want to work with them to improve the already excellent programs in the department."

"I'm excited to have a person of Dr. Rosenkrans' talent, skills and experience to be our next chair of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences," said Keith Belli, dean and associate vice president of CAFLS and Public Service and Agriculture. "He brings a great deal of enthusiasm and great ideas to help AVS achieve its goals as one of our critical departments in CAFLS."



Dr. Charles F. Rosenkrans, Jr.

*(cont. on pg. 4, See New Clemson Department Chair)*

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Wayne Vermullen

**Dominion Energy** has announced that **Tommy "Wayne" Vermullen** has been named General Manager of the company's South Carolina subsidiary Dominion Energy Carolina Gas Transmission (DECGT).

As General Manager, Vermullen will be responsible for managing the operations of the natural gas transmission system across DECGT's service territory. His responsibilities will include a continued focus on safety, reliability, efficiency, cost management, and innovation. In Vermullen's role, he also will ensure customer needs are met and compliance is maintained for all local, state and federal regulatory requirements.

Vermullen moves into his new role after a more than 20-year career. He joined SCANA in 1994 and held several positions at South Carolina Pipeline Corp., including Manager-Engineering and, later, General Manager-Operations at Carolina Gas Transmission.

Vermullen joined Dominion Energy when the company acquired Carolina Gas Transmission in 2015. Since that time, he has served as Director-Gas Operations. He also has served as Incident Commander on numerous hurricanes and weather events and as DECGT lead on Environmental and Safety Integration.

Vermullen, a lifelong South Carolinian, holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina. He is actively involved in the Palmetto Agribusiness Council board, the Junior Achievement of Greater SC general and executive boards, and the University of South Carolina's College of Engineering and Computing Alumni Association board.

## AG ADVOCATES TO BE HONORED AT ANNUAL RECEPTION

The SC Advocates for Agriculture will hold its annual reception August 8 at the Phillips Market Center, SC Farmers Market to recognize recipients of the Advocates for Agriculture Award. From the private sector, **Henry and Marion Swink, owners of McCall Farms**, will be recognized for their commitment and contributions to the agribusiness industry in the state. From the public sector, **Senator Paul Campbell** will be honored for his outstanding support of South Carolina agribusiness.

## WELLS FARGO DONATES \$75,000 FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY EFFORTS

Wells Fargo presented United Way of the Midlands with a corporate gift of \$75,000 to support local early childhood literacy efforts.

United Way's Midlands Reading Consortium (MRC) focuses on increasing language development, reading proficiency and encouraging a child's love for reading. MRC offers a library of services including a one-to-one tutoring program, parent engagement events, guest reading opportunities for both individuals and companies and summer reading camp opportunities. Last year, more than 600 children were tutored through the MRC program.

"We are proud to support United Way of the Midlands and the work they do to promote academic achievement for students in need," said Holt Chetwood, Wells Fargo Senior VP and Midlands Market President. "The success of our young students keeps our communities strong. When they succeed, so do we."

**Charles Wingard, Vice President of Field Operations for WP Rawl**, was recognized recently at the United Fresh Produce Association Convention and Expo in Chicago for his outstanding contributions to the fresh produce industry.



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

### CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

The second quarter of 2019 is complete. Another session of the SC General Assembly is wrapped up, and now PABC moves on to focusing on state policy matters in the second year of a two-year session. Many thanks to our legislators for providing disaster relief to those affected by hurricanes Florence and Michael. Numerous other PABC state priorities are teed up for the remainder of '19 and the '20 session such as Dams and Reservoirs, Taxes, CDL issues, and many more challenges.

On a federal level, Disaster Aid was finally approved with the President's signature making it law. This is welcomed relief and should essentially offset the state funding approved during the spring session. For many SC farmers and those in our state's rural areas, this support might represent the difference in surviving or not. Labor, trade, regulatory matters and other national/global concerns remain on the table in DC, and let's hope Congress and the President find ways to focus on solutions to these critical matters.

PABC truly is a melting pot of entities desiring the very best for SC agriculture, forestry and our rural communities. Our diversified membership was quite evident over the past two quarters as we worked together on many major state and federal legislative/regulatory matters. Many thanks to all who worked so diligently to support the PABC initiatives and priorities thus far in 2019! Beyond policy considerations, PABC has remained very active in other ways. The 2019 Congressional Staff Tour was completed in the Pee Dee area during May. Great visits took place at ArborOne, McCall Farms, Perdue and the SCPA Dillon Inland Port. Feedback from the staffers was excellent as to the tour. Steps are being taken to integrate into a more active role with the SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo, and several meetings and visits have occurred in this regard during the second quarter. Efforts to date have been positive regarding the Expo. Due to our member's feedback and referrals, PABC has been very engaged in speaking opportunities all over the state advocating, promoting and educating groups as to **SC AgriBusiness**. Please keep these opportunities coming!

Thank you so much for your continued support of "your organization", and please let Sandy and I know how we can further support your entity or business. Together our members make **SC AGRI-BUSINESS** stronger!!!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Jody Martin

Jody Martin, will serve as the representative for new Board member the **SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo**. Martin is the Executive Director of the Expo, which serves as an umbrella event for all aspects of agribusiness. Designed to incorporate the industry's deep traditional roots along with today's thriving innovations, the Expo streamlines the promotion and the expansion of the business of agriculture and forestry in South Carolina and beyond.

The Expo includes a farm show with a wide variety of equipment, farm products and educational components. The SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo is the only event representing all aspects of agribusiness both large and small. It features innovations in agribusiness: equipment, education, commodity spotlights, feedstocks, special guest speakers, economic developers, producers, value-added enterprises, youth development, and much more!



### New Clemson Department Chair (cont. from pg. 2)

While at the University of Arkansas, Rosenkrans was director and dean's fellow of the Bumpers College Honors Program, as well as graduate program coordinator and professor in the Department of Animal Sciences. He graduated from Kansas State University with a doctorate in animal science. He earned master's and bachelor's degrees in animal science from the University of Missouri.