



PABC Journal



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SUMMER 2021

ADVOCATES RECOGNITION RECEPTION

The SC Advocates for Agriculture (SCAFA) will hold its Recognition Reception August 17 at 5:30 pm at the T. Ashton Phillips Market Center (SC State Farmers Market). After having to cancel the reception last year due to COVID-19, this year's event will recognize several individuals including Representative Murrell Smith, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee as the public sector Advocate of the Year and Brittney Miller, President of Manchester Farms, as the private sector Advocate of the Year.

FASC ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Forestry Association of South Carolina FASC will be held November 10-12 at the Hyatt Regency, Greenville, SC.

Program speakers will address the theme: Forestry in SC Over the Next Decade. The convention will include presentations for: FASC's Charles H. Flory Distinguished Service Award, FASC's Outstanding Logger of the Year, SC Tree Farmer of the Year and SC PLT Educator of the Year.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS TOUR AGRIBUSINESS FACILITIES

PABC, along with the SC Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau, Forestry Association of South Carolina and the SC Forestry Commission, took staff members from South Carolina Congressional offices on a tour of agribusiness facilities in May. Staffers got a first hand look of facility operations at Vertical Roots, Senn Brothers, Manchester Farms and Millaree (Milliken Forestry). *More photos on page 3.*



From left, Jackie Jones, Don Taylor and David Flynn welcomed staffers for a tour at Vertical Roots.



Zach Senn with Senn Brothers explains the operations of their storage facilities.



Brittney Miller, President, Manchester Farms provided lunch and a tour at their facilities in Hopkins.



At left, Dave Hegler and right, Trip Chavis with Milliken Forestry hosted staffers at their Millaree site. Also, pictured Ronnie Summers, CEO, PABC.

SC Farm Link Offers Assistance to Those Seeking Farmland

SC Farm Link is a statewide farmland transition program administered by the SC Department of Agriculture. The mission of the program is to maintain land in agricultural use by helping beginning and expanding farmers gain access to farmland in South Carolina.

Those eligible to participate include beginning and expanding farmers who are searching for land or a farming opportunity through a sale, lease or other business arrangement. It also includes landowners approaching retirement who wish to see their land stay in agricultural use, but do not have an identified individual to take over their operation. A coordinator with SC Farm Link will facilitate conversations between farm seekers and farm owners. Participating farm seekers will receive direct assistance with locating available farmland and making connections with landowners. Participating landowners will receive direct assistance with meeting farmers who are the right fit for their transition needs.

For more information, contact Kyle Player: farmlink@scda.sc.gov, 803-734-2324.

PABC Announces Additional Contributions to Agribusiness Programs



As part of providing support to agribusiness educational and leadership programs, PABC CEO Ronnie Summers presented checks to: top left photo: SC Ag in the Classroom director Tracy Miskelly and Harry Ott, SC Farm Bureau President; top right photo: Dr. Kirby Player with Palmetto Leadership for the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (PLEAF); bottom left photo: check presented to Julian Nixon, director of Clemson MANNRRS program and Clemson student Erica Wearing who is also a past SC FFA President; and bottom right photo, check for SC 4-H presented to Dr. Tom Dobbins, Clemson Extension.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

PRESTAGE FARMS PLANS NEW FACILITY IN KERSHAW COUNTY

Prestage Farms of South Carolina, LLC, a division of Prestage Farms has announced plans to construct a new processing facility in Kershaw County, South Carolina. The \$150 million investment will create 292 new jobs.

Founded in 1983, Prestage Farms is a family-owned, family-led producer of quality pork and poultry products. With facilities in seven states and more than 2,700 employees, Prestage Farms has operated in South Carolina since 1994.

The new facility, located at the Governor's Hill Industrial Park in Camden, will be the company's second facility in the county. The new operations will process poultry products using state-of-the-art technology and high levels of automation. The facility will utilize technologies that will increase sanitation and the shelf life of products.

The facility is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Hiring is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2022.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development has approved job development credits related to this project. The Council also awarded Kershaw County a \$1.2 million Set-Aside Fund grant to assist with related project costs.

"We are proud and excited to announce the expansion of our operations here in South Carolina where we've been doing business since 1994. We are grateful for the strong state and local support we've received for this project, and we look forward to success with all of our partners for many years to come." -Prestage Farms President Dr. Ron Prestage

"It's an exciting day in Kershaw County as we announce the growth of Prestage Farms in Kershaw County creating nearly 300 high-paying jobs. This project is the county's largest investment announcement since the 1960s. We congratulate them on this momentous occasion and look forward to continuing our partnership with this company for many years to come. Today marks the payoff of four years of investment in our workforce and in our industrial sites to grow and attract new business." -Kershaw County Council Chairman Julian Burns

"Prestage Farms is a family-owned agribusiness with a stellar track record of supporting South Carolina farmers. By expanding and diversifying their operations, they'll be able to provide more jobs and more opportunities for farmers. We're proud to have Prestage as a vital partner as we continue to grow South Carolina's agribusiness sector." -Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers

"Thank you, Prestage Farms of South Carolina, LLC, for your dedication to Kershaw County. Food and jobs help fuel our communities, and investments like today's announcement bring both of those things home. We are excited for the future of Prestage Farms of South Carolina, LLC and celebrate today's win alongside our friends and partners in Kershaw and the state." -Central SC Alliance Chairman W. Keller Kissam

Nephron Donates Van to American Red Cross of South Carolina

Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation has donated a critical mission response vehicle to the American Red Cross of South Carolina. The vehicle will provide disaster response assistance, including delivery of relief items, and be used to collect blood donations.

Nephron, headquartered in West Columbia, partnered with Dominion Energy to establish a drive-through vaccination site near its Saxe-Gotha Industrial Park Campus earlier this year. The company has also donated hand sanitizer made in-house to the University of South Carolina and to the Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center and partnered with Clemson University to develop rapid robotic drug processing.



Congressional Staff Tour (continued from page 1) Above photo- participants gathered to kick off the Congressional Staff tour at the Phillips Market Center (SC State Farmers Market). Right photo- State Forester Scott Phillips discusses forestry issues at Millaree.





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We're on the web
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CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

You don't realize how blessed you are as to reasonable health until you experience an extended health issue personally or with a family member. I want to express my gratitude to all the PABC members and associates who were so caring and supportive as Lane and I faced her health complications recently while in West Virginia. The complications are not fully behind us, but it is evident that progress is being made. **THANK YOU!**

With Governor McMaster's lifting of the emergency order here in SC about a month ago, it now seems things are getting back more to the old norm. Not sure we will ever get fully back, but it sure is good to be able to meet "face to face" albeit with some discipline. Considering the recent positive trends relative to COVID, PABC is planning an "in person" meeting for August 3 with a "call-in option" available (audible only). Planning along these lines, we will be focused on the more traditional meeting outline of – Executive Committee meeting followed by the Board meeting and an Open Session. Sandy recently provided details regarding the upcoming meeting.

There have been so many ups and downs over the past year battling the pandemic. But, fortunately, our state's leaders have not lacked focus relative to the business community and many pro-business positions have been taken by our South Carolina leadership in the Governor's office, General Assembly and Congress. Considering the positions taken, SC is now poised to come out of the pandemic strong. Recently, the forestry industry has enjoyed a positive run, and early in 2021, agriculture has noted much improved commodity prices creating opportunities. Recent challenges have exposed the need for improved infrastructure within our state to include broadband access for all citizens, improved roads and bridges and much more. SC agribusiness is the number industry in our state, and with recent investment activities, should remain so for years to come.

Despite the successes of SC agribusiness even during tough times including the pandemic, our organization and our PABC member entities need to remain mindful as to potential regulatory changes, increased taxes, labor issues and other possible actions which could slow any economic success. It is very hard to comprehend, but shortly PABC will be considering its Legislative & Regulatory Priorities for 2022. Please be thinking as to where our attention should be devoted as this important process starts to unfold in August and September.

In closing, the support of our member organizations remains tantamount to our ability to succeed. Thank you for your support and please advise where your staff can be of assistance or support!

PABC WELCOMES NEW MEMBER GREENGASUSA

Marc Fettes is the Founder and CEO of GreenGasUSA. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Management from the University of Applied Sciences in Essen, Germany and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Bradford in England. Marc started his career at Bayer AG in Germany and held positions in Finance and Mergers and Acquisitions in Asia, Europe and North America. During his corporate career, Marc managed several turnarounds and was CFO of a large energy equipment manufacturer now owned by Caterpillar.

Since 2009, Marc has founded and exited several start up companies in the agricultural and energy sectors. Most recently he owned and operated Cooper River Partners, a large utility platform, which provided critical utilities and infrastructure services to large manufacturers at the Bushy Park Industrial Complex. After divesting CRP to a family office in 2019, Marc acquired NEOgas North America and has successfully transformed a traditional CNG transportation platform into a fully integrated renewable natural gas (RNG) developer that offers decarbonization solutions to its clients – GreenGasUSA.

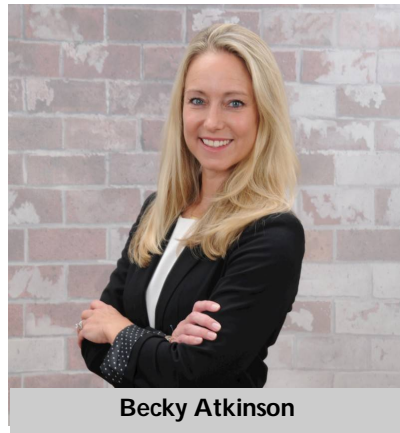
Marc has chaired a number of Boards including the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, Dee Norton Children's Center, Lowcountry Land Trust and the Trident CEO Council. Marc also teaches Entrepreneurship and Sustainability as an Adjunct Professor at the College of Charleston.



Marc Fettes

Becky Atkinson has served as the President of GreenGas since early 2021. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of South Carolina and has 15 years of experience in environmental consulting and air permitting through Environmental Resource Management (ERM). Prior to joining GreenGasUSA, she led Volvo Cars US Operation's environmental program and sustainability strategy for Volvo's first plant built and operated in North America. With a focus on climate neutral operations from renewable energy, she understands the needs of industries and companies for RNG and the value to the farmer and environment of capturing methane and improving wastewater processes.

GreenGasUSA based in Charleston, South Carolina partners with agricultural businesses to develop renewable natural gas projects from their organic waste. This provides additional income streams to farmers and GreenGasUSA provides all capital required to install equipment along with staffing to operate and maintain systems. GreenGasUSA provides a holistic solution from wastewater handling including pond and lagoon design and sells the gas to long term customers such as Duke University and Berkshire Hathaway. These customers use renewable gas to improve their carbon footprint and achieve sustainability goals.



Becky Atkinson