



4-H SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

June 1, 2018

NWTF Palmetto
Shooting Complex,
Edgefield

Registration and sponsorships available. Deadline is **May 21**.

Proceeds go to support the SC 4-H Youth Development Programs.

For more information, call Lori Frager, 864-656-3848 or email: Lfrager@clermson.edu

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PABCJournal

Volume 16, Issue 2

Spring 2018

POULTRY BILL PASSES GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Governor Henry McMaster signs H. 3929 into law with from left, Rep. David Hiott, Brittny Miller, Manchester Farms; Sen. Brad Hutto, Commissioner Hugh Weathers, Sen. Danny Verdin, and Sen. Kent Williams.

The Poultry bill (H.3929) was approved by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Henry McMaster. This legislation was one of PABC's legislative priorities and is an important part of keeping the poultry industry in South Carolina competitive with other states. PABC worked with the SC Department of Agriculture, SC Farm Bureau and the SC Poultry Federation to promote passage of the bill. PABC CEO Ronnie Summers recognized legislators for their support of the bill. "We are thankful for lawmakers who understand the importance of South Carolina's agribusiness and the economic impact it provides to our state's economy," he said.

Automatic Stay Bill Passes

Another PABC legislative priority passed by the General Assembly was S. 105, the Automatic Stay bill. This legislation reforms the issuance of an automatic stay in contested cases by allowing after 90 days a party to move to have the stay lifted. Under previous law, a plaintiff could receive an automatic stay for an indefinite period of time when contesting a permit without offering any evidence that a permit should not be issued. This had led to unnecessary delays and costs with important projects.

Clemson To Lead Statewide Ag Water Use Survey

Clemson Cooperative Extension agents are visiting farm operations throughout the state, meeting with producers to understand their agricultural water usage.

The South Carolina Agricultural Water Use and Irrigation Survey will collect scientific data that will be used to aid state agencies, policymakers and others in making informed management decisions about water resources.

"The purpose of this applied research is to comprehensively quantify the full scope of large and small agricultural groundwater and surface water to obtain critical data and develop tools that will support the preservation and protection of South Carolina's water resources into the future," said Calvin Sawyer, associate professor in Clemson's agricultural sciences department and Extension water resources specialist.

As the state's primary land-grant institution, Clemson University has a distinct mission—teaching, research and extension—and is now working with the SC Department of Natural Resources and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control to update the State Water Plan.

Clemson currently has an array of water programs statewide that address a broad range of agriculture, natural resources and water quality-related issues, but officials hope to expand its expertise to better address emerging issues in resource management and future demand forecasting.

Clemson Cooperative Extension Director Tom Dobbins said the survey is a critical step in the direction of informing state agencies and policymakers with facts.

"Serving as the primary public service arm of the university, our Extension agents have developed close, working relationships with producers in every county of our state and the trust they have earned from these farmers make Clemson Extension ideally suited to gather this important data," Dobbins said.

This will be an unbiased, sound science-based report that will allow South Carolina's policymakers to have the most accurate data at their disposal as they tackle future water decisions."

The increase of extreme weather events over the past decade has raised concerns about the current level of understanding regarding a comprehensive water plan. Government agencies and policymakers required a deeper understanding of surface water in the state's major basins, as well as groundwater in near-surface and deep aquifers.

Concerns over the impact of large surface water and groundwater withdrawals made it clear that a reliable data-driven process for assessing capacity of rivers and aquifers and the impact of current and proposed uses is needed.

To gather the data needed for analysis on agricultural water use and irrigation in the state, the research team will implement a quantitative survey tool.

survey has been designed by experts in their respective fields regarding water management and policy, agricultural water use, irrigation and agribusiness.

"Clemson is poised with its breadth of water resources researchers, as well as skilled Extension agents to undertake this much-needed Ag Water Use Survey," said Jeff Allen, director of Clemson's South Carolina Water Resources Center. "The information derived from the survey will be critical to statewide water planning and will assist producers, natural resource managers and stakeholders across South Carolina in important decision-making situations to preserve our state's vital water resources."

NOTE: House members voted to adjourn debate on H.3890, the Surface Water Withdrawal bill at a recent subcommittee hearing. PABC, along with W.P. Rawl, SC Department of Agriculture and SC Farm Bureau, presented testimony opposing the bill.

SCFC Unites With ArborGen on Tree Nursery

The SC Forestry Commission has entered into a partnership with commercial forestry seedling provider ArborGen, which will provide management services to operate the agency's 60-year-old tree nursery in Edgefield County.

The collaboration represents a unique public-private partnership in which ArborGen will use Taylor Nursery as a production facility for its portfolio of seedling genetics while the Commission will retain ownership of the property. As part of the arrangement, ArborGen will also make a substantial investment in modernizing the nursery's equipment and infrastructure, including irrigation systems, storage coolers and seeding and harvesting equipment.

The facility and its seedlings will undergo a co-branding effort as part of the deal, and the Forestry Commission will determine seedling production goals—up to 5 million—for South Carolina landowners, who are eligible to receive discounts on orders up to 100,000 seedlings.

(cont. on pg. 3, see ArborGen)

SCDA Launches Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Center

Are you an agribusiness entrepreneur who would benefit from mentoring, funding and access to investors? The Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE), a new initiative of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) is looking for you.

Applications for the ACRE Entrepreneurship Program are open to South Carolina residents who have an agribusiness product and /or company related to one or more of the following categories:

- Specialty crops (fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, nursery crops)
- Protein
- Other foods (honey,

cheese, milk, eggs, etc.)

- Row crops
- Aquaculture
- Timber
- Mechanical harvesting
- Agribusiness technology

"We're seeking the most innovative and forward thinkers in South Carolina agribusiness," said Jack Shuler, ACRE Executive Director. "The Entrepreneurship Program will help position companies and products in the marketplace through collaboration, networking and funding."

The ACRE Entrepreneurship Program is for agribusiness entrepreneurs who, with the assistance of mentors and/or investors, are ready to take their products or processes to the

market.

"Ultimately the ACRE Entrepreneurship Center is about South Carolina's economic prosperity and specifically, growing the economic impact of the state's largest industry—agribusiness," said SC Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers. "ACRE will link farming, agribusiness, research and entrepreneurship and will help us achieve our 50 by 20 goal."

South Carolina agribusiness has an annual economic impact of \$42 billion. SCDA hopes to increase that impact to \$50 billion by 2020.

The Entrepreneurship Program
(cont. on pg. 4, see ACRE)

CHAIRMAN APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Randy Brown has appointed two new members to the Executive Committee: Travis Avant, Principal with Compass South and Baynard Connelly, CEO with Farmers Grain & Supply.

PABC CEO Ronnie Summers recognized outgoing Executive Committee members, Tim Amerson, CEO, AgFirst FCB and Henry Barton, Director of Governmental Affairs, SCANA. "We appreciate Tim and Henry's outstanding service to our Executive Committee and look forward to their continued participation on our Board."



Travis Avant



Baynard Connelly

ArBorGen (continued from pg. 2)

"We're very excited about this association with ArborGen, which is known globally as a leader in the research, development and delivery of advanced genetic seedlings," said SCFC Resource Development Director Tim Adams. "In addition to expanding seedling production through capital improvements, this partnership will also strengthen service delivery and long-term viability of the Forestry Commission's nursery and tree improvement program."



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We're on the web
Scagribusiness.com

CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

Several months back during a discussion with a PABC board member, this individual emphasized that members of the agriculture and forestry community really need to project how proud they are to be part of SC AgriBusiness. Your PABC staff wholeheartedly agrees! A specific point noted by this board member was that every opportunity needs to be taken to make certain the message of SC AgriBusiness representing our state's largest industry is repeatedly communicated.

Evidence exists that our message has hit home, but more can be done! Members of the SC AgriBusiness community should be aware that our message clearly has traction as members of the General Assembly and others of influence outside of agriculture and forestry are now citing the fact that SC AgriBusiness is our largest industry.

The PABC staff remains ready and able to assist in conveying the SC AgriBusiness story. Since coming on board at PABC, I have been allowed some excellent opportunities to share our message with civic clubs, schools, and other organizations. Should an opportunity surface for PABC to share additional presentations with your associates or affiliations, please contact us without hesitation.

Sandy and I are so proud to be a part of SC AgriBusiness! Please let us know where we can assist in advancing our industry and promoting our message.

McCall Farms Joins PABC Board

PABC welcomes new member **McCall Farms**. Owner **Henry Swink** will serve as their Board representative. Established in 1838, McCall Farms began with a 2,000 acre farm in Effingham, SC. The primary crop grown was cotton. Since that time, McCall Farms has built a flourishing canning and freezing operation, acquiring a number of national brands including Margaret Holmes, Peanut Patch Boiled Peanuts, Glory Foods and Bruce's Yams. McCall Farms today employs over 1,000 people in its 1.1 million square foot manufacturing facility.



Henry Swink

Sara Hazzard Named New SCMA CEO



Sara H. Hazzard has been named the President & CEO of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance (SCMA). She will be SCMA's new representative for PABC.

Mrs. Hazzard handles all of the lobbying efforts for SCMA. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Presbyterian College, where she also minored in Business Administration and History. She is the chair for the Palmetto Center for Women and is an active member of the South Carolina Economic Development Association.

**PABC Welcomes New
Board Member
Todd Berrian**
Manager of Property
and Right of Way
**Central Electric Power
Cooperative, Inc.**

ACRE (cont. from pg. 3)

application requires a business plan and a prototype or sales history for the applicant's company or product. Applicants selected to participate in the Entrepreneurship Program could receive up to \$25,000 for their company or product and/or access to a network of mentors, grant writing consultants and investors.

ACRE will add a second Entrepreneurship Program track in late 2018 for beginning innovators who have an innovative agribusiness idea but do not have experience in business. This track will offer participants a curriculum in business plan and marketing plan development. For more information on the Entrepreneurship Center and other ACRE initiatives, contact Kyle Player, ACRE Project Coordinator, 803-734-2324 or kplayer@scda.sc.gov.