



# PABCJournal

**Celebrating**



**Years**

**1999-2024**



PABC held another successful annual meeting with great speakers and information sharing. Above, PABC Chair Sarah Windham welcomes members and guests. More photos on page 5.



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## CEO MESSAGE

### FROM RONNIE SUMMERS



**As we conclude the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2024**, fall is here and you can actually see the very evident change in season occurring. For several SC ag commodities, harvest is either finishing up or just beginning, but fall is indeed “harvest time” in our state. Also, despite some obvious challenges, riding the SC country-side one can observe significant timber harvests as loggers try to get wood out of specific areas before winter sets in (both thinnings and clearcuts) in many areas. What a special time of the year!

**PABC has been engaged in numerous meetings recently**, and attention is being devoted to establishing our organization’s 2025 priorities. Our LART committee will be meeting mid-October, and this meeting will serve to tee up our proposed legislative and regulatory priorities for the coming year. The results of this meeting will be provided to our Executive Committee and Board on November 12 when our priorities will be considered for approval. Already our SC General Assembly has been holding meetings on some “hot topics” for the next session, and essentially all of us have a Farm Bill on our 2025 wish list (maybe after the elections).

**Fall also kicks off meeting season for many trade groups.** In November, the Forestry Association of SC will be holding its annual meeting, and then in early December, the SC Farm Bureau will do likewise. Both groups are meeting in Myrtle Beach this year and these two valued PABC member entities always do a great job planning these events. PABC is always honored to participate in both of these meetings. Also, as noted earlier in this message, please mark your calendar for our upcoming November 12 quarterly PABC which will set up the conclusion of 2024. Assuming no unexpected conflicts, the new Clemson CAFLS Dean Matt Holt will be our guest speaker. Please make plans to attend.

**Sandy and I were recently discussing the tremendous privilege** we have of working with so many fantastic entities and individuals. Being engaged with the state’s number one industry, AGRIBUSINESS, is just an excellent opportunity. As most are aware, both of us are preparing for retirement over the coming quarters, and we just want you to know what a positive experience it is to work with South Carolina’s “most valuable industry” – SC AGRIBUSINESS. Thank you so much!

## SC State PSA Celebrates One-Year Milestone of Climate-Smart Growth in SC

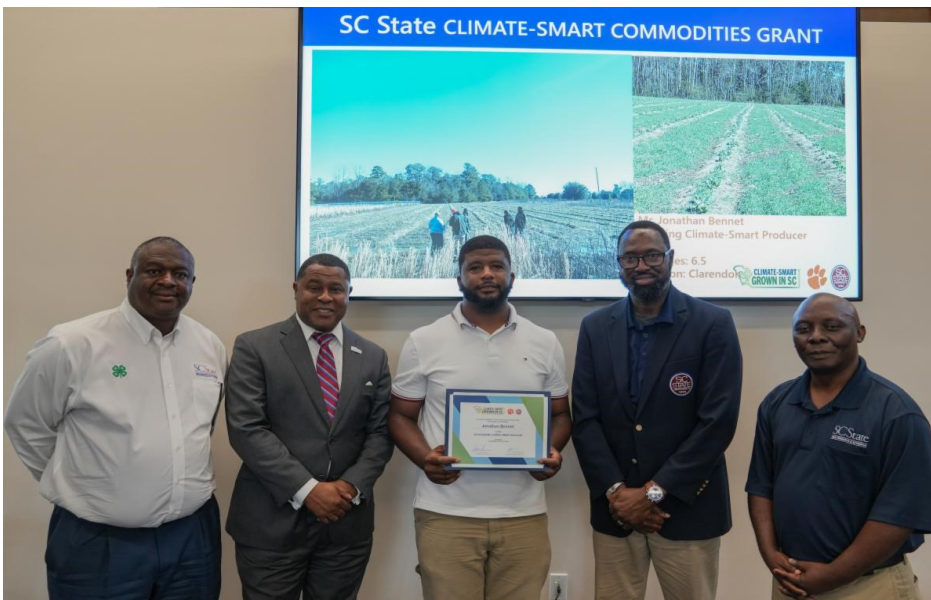
SC State University Public Service & Agriculture (SC State PSA) commemorated its one-year partnership with Climate –Smart Grown in SC, a climate –smart commodities partnership with Clemson University, during a celebratory event for enrolled SCSU farmers this past July at Camp Harry E. Daniels Conference Center in Elloree.

The program recognized and celebrated the SC State University enrolled farmers who have successfully completed the program’s requirements for adopting climate-smart conservation practices, including growing cover crops, practicing prescribed grazing and nutrient management in beef cattle production and adopting no- and reduced-tillage practices , while receiving technical support from SC State 1890 extension ag agents.

As part of the climate-smart commodities program, enrolled farmers received financial incentives based on the commodity grown, key designated climate-smart practices and the total acreage designated for that commodity and practice. SC State PSA, to date, has provided more than \$850,000 in financial incentive payments to year-one enrolled farmers.

“Our one-year involvement program was a farmer-centered day, celebrating our farmers’ achievements and resilience while reflecting on the past activities and events that took place during the year-one implementation,” said Dr. Chishimba “Nathan” Mowa, climate-smart commodities project director for SC State PSA. “We look forward to the future success of our program as we enroll more farmers throughout South Carolina for year two.”

Over 90 small-scale, under-resourced and minority farmers throughout South Carolina attended the one-year commemoration event, along with SC State Extension ag agents, Clemson University and SC State PSA project management and leadership team. The event featured two panel discussions that involved open and engaging conversations on the challenges farmers experienced during the program implementation and how the program can improve in year two.



One of the farmers recognized was Jonathan Bennet, leafy green producer from Clarendon County, who received the Budding Climate-Smart Producer Award. He was joined by (from left) Ronnie Rhodes, Santee-Wateree region Extension director; Dr. Louis Whitesides, vice president of SC State PSA and executive director of 1890 Research and Extension; Dr. Lamin Drammeh, associate vice president of SC State PSA and Dr. Chishimba “Nathan” Mowa, climate-smart commodities project director.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Oct. 6-9** **2024 COSDA** **Annual Meeting**

Hyatt Place  
Columbia, SC  
[www.nasda.org](http://www.nasda.org)

### **Nov. 5-8** **Forestry** **Association of SC** **Annual Meeting**

Marriott Grande Dunes  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
[www.scforestry.org](http://www.scforestry.org)

### **Nov. 12** **PABC Board** **Meeting**

Columbia, SC

### **Nov. 14** **SC Poultry** **Federation** **Friends of the Flock**

City Roots Farm  
1005 Airport Road  
Columbia, SC  
[www.scpoultry.org](http://www.scpoultry.org)

## ***SCRA Provides Grants to South Carolina Universities***

The SC Research Authority (SCRA) continues to provide funding to accelerate South Carolina's academic institutions. The three-year grant program, SACT, (SCRA– Academic Collaboration Team), awarded \$3,860,000 to Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, the College of Charleston, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina.

SACT is divided into two tracks. Track One: Lab to Market, to bring academic-owned technologies to market, and Track Two: Capacity Building, to improve the institution's ability to advance innovation. Clemson, MUSC, and USC received Track One funding \$860,000 each, and the College of Charleston and Coastal Carolina received Track Two funding, \$640,000 each. The institutions also contribute matching funds to increase project funding totals.

SCRA Chief Program Officer Russell Cook said, "Our mission is to fuel South Carolina's innovation economy. These academic institutions are crucial in creating innovation through use-inspired research and development, solving real world problems, and accelerating economic development."

## **SC Governor's School for Agriculture Support Opportunity**

Students at the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe will have an opportunity to travel to France/Italy in the Spring of 2025. The trip will focus on sustainability practices abroad. Currently, there are 28 students who have expressed an interest in traveling. The John de la Howe School Foundation, Inc. is currently only able to offer three scholarships at about 50 percent each to assist students and their families. The application for scholarships is handled by a school staff committee and is focused on the work ethic of the students. Students write an essay about why they feel they would benefit from the opportunity.

The Foundation is seeking support to help fund this trip for students. If you are interested in providing support, contact Stacie Smith at the Foundation: [Stacie.smith@delahowe.sc.gov](mailto:Stacie.smith@delahowe.sc.gov)

## **Pesticide Applicator License Renewal Due by December 31**

The Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is reminding private pesticide applicators to renew their licenses by Dec. 31, 2024. The Department is offering applicators an [online option](#) for renewal that includes the option to receive licenses by email.

But before applicators can take advantage of the online renewal process, DPR is asking them to [validate their email address](#).

"We're excited to offer this option to applicators, but email address validation is an essential part of the process. Applicators who choose the email option will receive their licenses faster but will also receive a hardcopy," said Ryan Okey, assistant director of DPR.

Applicators will continue to have the option to renew their licenses the old-fashioned way – by mailing a check with their renewal application.

### **Private pesticide applicator renewal details**

- The current five-year private applicator block ends on December 31, 2024.
- The next private applicator block will run from 2025 to 2029.
- All private applicators must earn five continuing certification units (CCUs) during the five-year block to be eligible for a renewal.
- Renewals will be sent to all eligible private applicators in early September. The fee to renew a private applicator license is \$10.

**(continued on page 8, see Pesticide Applicator License)**



# PABC Annual Meeting Highlights



Secretary of Transportation Justin Powell gave an update on SCDOT projects.



Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers was the lunch speaker reviewing the history of collaborations between SCDA and PABC.



SC Department of Employment & Workforce Executive Director William Floyd made a presentation on current labor trends and issues.



SC Governor's School for Agriculture President Tim Keown provided an update on the school's projects and activities.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



**AgSouth Farm Credit President and CEO Vance Dalton** received the 2024 Outstanding NC State Alumnus Award from the CALS Department of Animal Science.



**Brandon DuRant, American Forest Management, Inc. Farm Manager**, was awarded the Accredited Farm Manager (AFM) designation from the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ASFMRA).

Brandon earned the AFM designation by meeting stringent experience and education requirements, passing a rigorous written examination and abiding by the American Society's Code of Ethics.

Brandon joins a select 43 percent of the ASFMRA membership who received the accredited status and currently maintain it through the ASFMRA continuing education program.

## Premium Peanut Receives \$10 Million for New South Carolina Facility



Premium Peanut, based out of Douglas, Ga., received \$10 million of tax credit financing to build a new shelling facility in Santee.

New Market Tax Credit granted the finances to CEI Capital Management LLC, the owner of Premium Peanut, according to a news release from Premium Peanut.

"This financing supports a project that allows our company to continue to build on our grower-owned model for producers in both South Carolina and Georgia, expanding our capacity and efficiency, while creating quality jobs in Santee," Clay Garnto, president and CEO of Premium Peanut, said in the release. "We are excited for the future of our company and are looking forward to beginning the next phase of construction of the new shelling facility."

The new facility for the 10-year-old shelling company will create about 62 new full-time jobs and aimed to pay "more than the MIT living wage threshold for one adult with no children in the region", according to the release. Employees will also have access to overtime pay and "profit-sharing/annual bonuses" based on performance.

"Premium Peanut presents that opportunity for folks to be able to really stay and live and raise their families in Orangeburg County," Walt Tobin, president of Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, said.

Since 2014, Premium Peanut has been a grower-owned peanut shelling company, shelling since 2016 and gradually expanded to produce peanut oil, peanut meal, peanut hulls and peanut seed, the release said.

## PABC Members Featured on Conservation Panel Discussion

Sustain SC will hold its 3rd Annual Symposium featuring a "Conservation in South Carolina" panel, October 24 at Central Energy, 2030 Gregg Street in Columbia. The discussion will focus on the future of conservation in South Carolina and specifically the role of state agencies in conservation.

SC State Forester Scott Phillips will join Ben Duncan, SC Chief Resilience Officer and Robert Boyles, Director of the SC Department of Natural Resources on the panel, which will be moderated by Dale Threat-Taylor, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy SC.

To purchase tickets: [www.sustainsouthcarolina.org](http://www.sustainsouthcarolina.org)





The SC Advocates for Agriculture (SCAFA) recognized two Advocates for Agriculture of the Year at the annual reception. From right, Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers presented the awards to Jeff Wilson, owner of Cotton Hills Farm and Dr. George Askew, retiring Vice President of Clemson PSA, with SCAFA President Ronnie Summers.

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## **PABC Member Companies Chosen as SC Best Places to Work**

SC BIZ News announced their annual South Carolina Best Places to Work. Congratulations to PABC member companies making the list including **Central Electric Power Cooperative, McCrory Construction, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative and SC Research Authority.**

SC Biz News partners with Best Companies Group to determine winners for Best Places to Work. Honorees must have a minimum 80% average positive response to an employee survey, which accounts for 75 percent of the score. Best Companies Group also evaluates each company's workplace policies, practices and demographics through an employer questionnaire which accounts for 25 % of the score.

Palmetto AgriBusiness Council

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Bryant Sansbury, Vice Chairman  
Lori Anne Carr, Secretary/Treasurer

STAFF:

Ronnie Summers, CEO  
Sandy Boozer, Executive Assistant

**Pesticide Applicator License (continued from page 4)**

- Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) are eligible to renew without earning CCUs but are required to show proof of their CCA status.
- Private applicators are asked to validate their email addresses at: <https://regfocus.clemson.edu/dpr/VerifyEmails.html>
- Applicators who validate an email can receive a renewal and license by email.
- Any applicator choosing to receive a paper renewal can do so.
- DPR has set up a new payment site that will allow private applicator renewals to be processed more quickly.
- Applicators can still mail in a check with their renewal.
- A hardcopy license will be mailed out to all applicators, even those who receive a license by email.

Applicators with questions can visit <https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/pesticide-regulation/index.html>

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