

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 99-58

---

**WHEREAS**, changing state and world conditions, disrupted markets, extremely low commodity prices and drought conditions have created a financial crisis in the agricultural industry in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the agricultural financial crisis is resulting in farmers and associated businesses being forced to close their doors; and

**WHEREAS**, many small minority-owned and family farms are having difficulty finding an appropriate market niche; and

**WHEREAS**, the difficulties faced by large and small farms and the businesses associated with them are having an extremely deleterious effect on rural South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, a financial crisis in agriculture, one of the largest and most important industries in the state, will adversely affect the well being of the entire state; and

**WHEREAS**, an effective Farmers Market in Columbia could provide some economic relief to this struggling industry by providing a reliable outlet for alternative crops to the more traditional corn, cotton, soybeans, wheat and tobacco.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I hereby establish a Study Committee to *Redefine the State's Objectives in Having a State Farmers Market*. The Study Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Identify the state's purpose in having a State Farmers Market in Columbia;
- Identify who the Market should serve;
- Identify who will benefit from the Market;
- Identify what components would be necessary for the efficient and effective operation of a Market and where it should be located;
- Identify how capital improvements and operation of the Market should be financed;
- Identify how the Market should be managed;

**FURTHER**, the Study Committee shall have the following members who shall be appointed by the undersigned, unless otherwise indicated:

1. the Governor, or his designee;
2. the Commissioner of Agriculture, or his designee;
3. the Chairman of the Agriculture Commission of South Carolina, or his designee;
4. the Secretary of Commerce, or his designee;
5. the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, or his designee;
6. the Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, or his designee;
7. the President of the South Carolina Farm Bureau, or his designee;
8. two representatives of the seasonal food industry;
9. three vegetable producers;
10. two wholesale brokers;
11. a horticultural producer;
12. a representative from higher education with expertise in farmers markets; and
13. two members of the public, at least one of whom will represent consumer interests.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 13th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1999.**

**JIM HODGES  
GOVERNOR**

Last Updated: Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at 11:20 A.M.