

## South Carolina Agriculture

For centuries agriculture has been an integral part of South Carolina's fabric.

At the farm level, agriculture generates over two billion dollars a year. The impact on the state's economy goes far beyond the farm gate.

For 130 years the South Carolina Department of Agriculture has supported efforts to promote the commerce of agriculture while ensuring a fair marketplace for consumers. The Department is proud to fulfill its commitment to the people of this state to promote, protect, and preserve agribusiness.

Our vision is for the state's economy to continue to grow and prosper providing everyone the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of agriculture.

The scope of our programs and services goes beyond the field and the forest. They affect every man, woman, and child in the state.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture is focused on the future while working for the state's citizens today.

*Agriculture is SC's growth industry!*



[www.agriculture.sc.gov](http://www.agriculture.sc.gov)

## South Carolina Department of Agriculture Directory

Administration .....	803-734-2206
Agency Services .....	803-734-2204
Agricultural Services .....	803-734-2191
Columbia State Farmers Market .....	803-737-4664
Commissioner's Office .....	803-734-2210
Consumer Protection .....	803-737-9690
Farmers Market Nutrition Programs .....	803-734-2224
Finance .....	803-734-2195
Fruits & Vegetables Inspection .....	803-737-4588
Fruits & Vegetables News .....	803-737-4497
Fruits & Vegetables (Recording) .....	803-737-5900
Grain Grading .....	843-296-7522
Greenville State Farmers Market .....	864-244-4023
Human Resources .....	803-734-2505
Information Technology .....	803-734-6438
International Market Development .....	803-734-2200
Laboratory Services .....	803-737-9700
Legal Affairs .....	803-734-2193
Livestock Market News .....	803-737-4491
Livestock & Grain Prices .....	803-737-4491
<i>Market Bulletin</i> .....	803-734-2536
Marketing .....	803-734-2200
Pee Dee State Farmers Market .....	843-665-5154
Pesticide Residue Laboratory .....	803-737-9700
Petroleum Inspection and Analysis .....	803-737-9700
Poultry & Egg Grading Inspection .....	803-737-4834
Public Information .....	803-734-2182
SC Certified Roadside Markets .....	803-734-2207
Small Farms Program .....	803-734-2224
Specialty Foods .....	803-734-2144
Warehouse/Manufacturing/ Storage Facilities .....	803-737-9690
Weights and Measures Services .....	803-253-4052
<b>SC Commodity Boards</b>	
SC Beef Board .....	803-734-9806
SC Cotton Board .....	843-665-5154
SC Peanut Board .....	803-734-2225
SC Pork Board .....	803-734-2218
SC Soybean Board .....	803-734-1767
SC Tobacco Board .....	843-665-5154
SC Watermelon Board .....	803-734-2225

# South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh E. Weathers  
Commissioner

## Palmetto State TRENDS

### Population

(latest estimates as of July 2008)

**Total Population:** 4,479,800

Urban: 76% of total population

Rural: 24% of total population

(2000 Population Census)

**Total Population:** 4,107,183

Urban: 75% of total population

Rural: 25% of total population

### Farms and Farmers

**Total Farms**

(2007) 26,900      (2002) 24,500

**Avg. Farm Size**

(2007) 189 acres      (2002) 197 acres

**Avg. Age Farm Owner**

(2007) 58.5 yrs.\*      (2002) 56.9 yrs.\*

### Land and Land Use

**Total Land in SC:**

+/- 20 million land acres

**Total Farmland in SC**

(2007) 4.9 million acres

(2002) 4.8 million acres

**Farmland Use (% of Total Farmland)**

Cropland

(2007) 44%      (2002) 47%

Woodland

(2007) 37%      (2002) 38%

Pastureland

(2007) 13%      (2002) 9%

Other \*\*

(2007): 6%      (2002) 6%

\* Individuals/family, sole proprietorship

\*\* Home lots, barns, ponds, etc.

Sources:

U.S.D.A. 2007 and 2002 Ag Census

U.S.D.A. Economic Research Service

State Fact Sheet

## South Carolina Department of Agriculture *Programs and Services*

### Laboratory & Consumer Services

- Chemical Residue Analysis
- Feed Inspection & Analysis
- Food Safety and Compliance
- Licenses, Permits, & Registrations
- Petroleum Inspection & Analysis
- Seed Certification Program
- Warehouse, Manufacturing & Storage Facilities Regulatory Services
- Weights and Measures Services

### Agricultural Services

- Agribusiness Development
- Certified SC Program
- Commissioners School for Agriculture
- Community Based Farmers Markets
- Domestic/International Market Development
- Farmers Market Nutrition Programs
- Fresh on the Menu Program
- Grading and Inspections
- Market News Service
- SC Certified Roadside Markets
- *SC Market Bulletin*
- SC State Farmers Markets
- School Gardens Program
- School Snack Program
- Small Farms Program
- Specialty Foods

## South Carolina Crops, Livestock & Poultry Cash Receipts (2008)

Crops	\$ 974,919,000
Livestock & Poultry	<u>1,376,427,000</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 2,351,346,000</b>

### Top 10 Categories in Agriculture

1. Broilers
2. Greenhouse, Floriculture & Nursery
3. Turkeys
4. Cattle & Calves
5. Corn
6. Soybeans
7. Eggs (Chicken)
8. Wheat
9. Tobacco
10. Dairy Production

Source: U.S.D.A. Ag Statistics - SC Field Office

**South Carolina  
Department of Agriculture  
Hugh E. Weathers  
Commissioner**  
State Capitol Complex  
Wade Hampton Building 5th Floor  
PO Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211  
TL: 803-734-2210 FX: 803-734-2192  
[www.agriculture.sc.gov](http://www.agriculture.sc.gov)