

MARKET BULLETIN

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‘SEAFOOD SCHOOL’ TRAINS STUDENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING AND MARICULTURE CAREERS

BY EVA MOORE | PHOTOS BY ANGELA TREPTOW, S.C. SEA GRANT CONSORTIUM

Graduates of a new month-long apprenticeship program in coastal South Carolina hope to find jobs in the commercial fishing and mariculture industries.

The inaugural class of the South Carolina Commercial Seafood Apprenticeship Program recently wrapped up. The group of six participants met daily in a classroom at the back of a former public school in the fishing village of McClellanville. The program provides housing and food, with a \$1,000 stipend upon completion of the program.

The participants learned about topics including safety, seamanship, and navigation; small engine maintenance; welding; fisheries science; raising oysters and clams; and seafood business and marketing. In addition to periodic hands-on learning sessions throughout the month, they also spent two days at sea.

Sustainability and the longevity of the seafood industry were a key point.

“If you overharvest, you won’t have any for the next generation,” one participant explained.

The program seeks to match students up with jobs when they finish the program. Co-director Jocelyn Juliano says the participants came ready to start working in the industry.

“They are so eager to get started—they want to jump



right in,” Juliano said. “Next time, we want to have job descriptions ahead of time from industry members looking to hire so the participants can meet the business owners right away and set up some jobs.”

Juliano is a program specialist at the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, which created and administers the program.

The program is supported by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture’s Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship, the McClellanville Community Foundation, the McClellanville Watermen’s Association, Clemson Cooperative Extension, a USDA Rural Business Development Grant, and the NOAA National Sea Grant Office.

In addition to the stipend and job connections, participants received a CPR, First Aid and automated external defibrillator certification, a U.S. Coast Guard Drill Conductor certification, and a certificate of completion from SC Sea Grant Consortium.

South Carolina’s seafood industry faces challenges including an aging workforce, aging dock space and facilities, competition from imported seafood, and development pressures that threaten marine ecosystems.

The program is an important step in developing a recruitment pipeline for those seeking jobs in seafood and mariculture.

To learn more and to sign up for notifications about the 2025 program, please contact the program coordinator, Angela Treptow, at angela.treptow@scseagrant.org. You can also learn more about the program online at scseagrant.org/sc-commercial-seafood-apprenticeship-program.

COMMISSIONER’S CORNER



HUGH E. WEATHERS

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

THE VIEW FROM SASDA

I’ve just returned from the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) annual meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. I always look forward to the conversations we have at SASDA as we work to serve farmers in each of our states. Fourteen Southern commissioners of agriculture, this year including my friend Dr. Louis Peterson from the US Virgin Islands, convened to compare the challenges that each of us have, and often that translates into working together on specific issues. Wild hogs are on everyone’s minds as they continue to damage crops across the Southern US. While there are many creative solutions on the table, I think we’re still a long way from getting substantial relief for our farmers.

One thing the coastal Southern states talked about a lot was our seafood industries, and the threat we face from imported seafood. We need better verification of sourcing, good labeling, and information as to whether our trading partners are following the seafood safety standards laid down in the Food Safety Modernization Act. We need better labels because not everyone can tell a local source of shrimp by taste, as some are able to do. This will be a priority going forward.

Of course the farm bill was on everyone’s mind.

Some progress has been made lately but the question is whether it will get past all the political rancor in Washington before the deadline on the extension from last year. September 30 is not that far away.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. David Kohl, president of AgriVisions, and retired professor of Ag Economics at Virginia Tech. I’ve known Dr Kohl for 40 years. He had some intriguing observations about global competition and market dynamics, particularly regarding China and India.

Colonial Williamsburg is certainly impressive – it’s billed as the world’s largest living history museum, with reenactors and historic sites spread across 301 acres. One highlight for me was seeing a commemorative plaque for one of my ancestors in the Fitzhugh family from Virginia who served in the Revolutionary War in the battalion from the College of William and Mary. I also enjoyed walking on the battlefield at Yorktown.

It was rewarding to see some of the early bravery critical to the foundation of our country. This issue of Market Bulletin is due to publish on Independence Day, a day on which I always take some time to reflect on the sacrifices made to make us free and keep us free.

Hugh E. Weathers

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Summer Garden

July 11
Learn about the summer flowers we grow and fill a mason jar to take home. If you would like to do this class for your private group of 6 or more, please email us your request and we will try to accommodate!

The Purple Tuteur Farm, Blythewood
purpletuteur@gmail.com • 803-413-2573
facebook.com/PurpleTuteur

Watermelon Field Day and Trade Show

July 11 • 8 am
The field day will begin with registration and CU CAT Trade Show at the EREC office complex. At 8:30 a.m. an indoor session will be held in the EREC auditorium. Indoor Program Topics: Rind Worm Complex—Tom Bilbo, SC Governor's School for Ag at John De La Howe—Tim Keown & Stacie Smith; Organic Watermelon Research—Bhupinder Jatana. The field research/demonstration tours: Drone Application of Herbicides—Joe Maja, Tyler Campbell, Watermelon Research Grafted Plants & Cover Crops—Bhupinder Jatana, Field Day Melon Trials (97 varieties)—Gilbert Miller. Pesticide License credits will be offered. Lunch—Dr. Greg Yarrow, Acting Dean of CAFLS, Speaking at Lunch, CU CAT Trade Show following lunch, door prizes drawn at conclusion.

Edisto Research and Education Center
64 Research Road, Blackville
Contact: Kendall Kirk
803-284-3343
clemson.edu/cafls/research/edisto

Tomato Pie Festival

July 13
Boondock Farms
755 Foreman Street, Jackson
hello@boondockfarms.com • 706-589-4920
boondockfarms.com/events
facebook.com/boondockfarmstead

The Tams in Concert

July 13 • 5:30 – 10:30 pm
Come enjoy a summer evening of music and dance with The Tams. Bring your own beverage coolers. Please, NO bottles, NO outside food, and NO animals allowed. It is rain or shine. This is an outside event, so bring blankets, chairs, or towels for the lawn to sit back and enjoy the music. Picnic tables are available to sit when dining. Food & Beverage trucks will be on site, with food available at 5:30pm. Enjoy the concert 7 – 10 pm.

Patchwork Farms
100 Dairy Lane, Saluda, SC
mprice9903@gmail.com • 803-317-7291
tinyurl.com/thetamsatpatchworkfarms

2024 Palmetto Palate

July 18 • 6 pm
SCFB's annual fund-raising event is back for 2024. The Palmetto Palate will bring in chefs from local restaurants and pair them with farmers from across South Carolina to create tasty tapas that brings the farm-to-table movement to life. The Palmetto Palate will also have a silent auction with local products donated by Farm Bureau members and County Farm Bureau offices.
SC State Museum
301 Gervais Street, Columbia
scfb.org

Pick-Your-Own Flowers

All summer long, Monday – Saturday • 9 am – 7 pm
We have a variety of sunflowers, zinnias, and beautiful wildflowers. Purchase your cup at The Market then fill it up! Your family/group must purchase at least one cup to enter the u-pick flower patch. No reservations required. No pets are allowed in the u-pick field. The flower patch is a short walk from The Market. After picking, cool off with a scoop or two of hand-dipped ice cream. Kids can enjoy our tractor play-set and sand pile.
The Market in Lowrys
2575 Lowrys Hwy, Chester
cottonhillsfarm.com/u-pick-flowers.html

Classes & Workshops

Schedule a cheese making class or attend a workshop at Jeremiah Farm. Workshops include 'Soap it Up' and 'Goat Keeping 101'. Visit our website for more information.
Jeremiah Farm & Goat Dairy
Platt Road, Johns Island
jeremiahfarmsc@aol.com • 843-276-3115
jeremiahfarm.com/wp/472-2/

LowCo. Farm Tours

The tour takes you through the start to finish of what it looks like to grow and ship oysters from our farm and factory right outside of Charleston, S.C. For more information in regards to the tours, contact our Eco-Tour Director.
Lowcountry Oyster Co.
15833 Bennetts Point Road * Green Pond
Contact: JB Borgstedt
jb@lowcooysters.com • 843-844-2400
<https://lowcooysters.com/pages/farm-tours>
<https://www.facebook.com/lowcooysters>

Agricultural Education Field Trips

1 hour farm tour. On-site picnic area for lunch.
Crazy Chic Heritage Farm
450 Kenal Road, Ridgeway
abbiekow@crazychicheritagefarm.com
843-475-6294

Market Bulletin Office

Monday – Friday • 8 AM – 4:30 PM
803-734-2536 • marketbulletin@scda.sc.gov
agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin

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803-734-2190

Certified SC Program 803-734-2207	Hemp Farming Program 803-734-8339
Consumer Protection 803-737-9700	Livestock & Grain Market News 803-737-4491
Fruit & Vegetable Inspection 803-737-4588	Market News Recording 803-737-5900
Fruit & Vegetable Market News 803-737-4671	Metrology Laboratory 803-253-4052

The South Carolina Market Bulletin

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POLICIES FOR ADVERTISING

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agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin-policies

Only ads pertaining to the production of agricultural products and related items are published. Ads are accepted for South Carolina items, even if the seller lives out of state, provided the item is in state at the time the ad is published and at the time of sale.

Ads are published free of charge and in good faith. The *Market Bulletin* reserves the right to edit and verify ads but assumes no responsibility for their content.

Ads cannot be accepted from agents, dealers, or commercial businesses, including real estate. Sealed bids, legal notices, or consignment sales are not accepted.

SUBMITTING ADS

No matter the submission method, submissions must include the advertiser's name, complete address with zip code and county, and phone number with area code. While we don't publish the address, we need this information for our records. Do not use all capital letters.

- **Online:** Go to agriculture.sc.gov/market-bulletin. Select "Submit Market Bulletin Ad" and complete the form. If you include your email address, you will receive an automated reminder for a renewal.
- **Mail:** SC Market Bulletin, PO Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211. You must use 8.5 × 11 inch paper.
- **Email:** Send ads to marketbulletin@scda.sc.gov. Put the words "Market Bulletin ad" in the subject line.
- **Fax:** 803-734-0659

The deadline for submitting ads and notices is noon on Tuesday of the week **before** the publication date.

NEXT AD DEADLINE

JULY 9 • 12:00 PM

SCDA State Farmers Markets

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FARMERS MARKET
3483 Charleston Highway
West Columbia, SC 29172
803-737-4664

GREENVILLE STATE FARMERS MARKET
1354 Rutherford Road
Greenville, SC 29609
864-244-4023

PEE DEE STATE FARMERS MARKET
2513 W. Lucas Street
Florence, SC 29501
843-665-5154

VISIT AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV
Click on the State Farmers Markets button for more information about each location

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*Active email address required

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ New Renewal

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MISCELLANEOUS

WOODEN PEACH BOXES

\$30 ea
Robert Yonce
Aiken
803-685-7240

FA A PARTS

\$800; 12 welded fence panels, 16'x4', \$300; wood fencing, 4'x250', \$250; blk nursery pots, \$3 ea; more
John Grinstead
Greenville
864-277-3389

3 OLD TUBS

exc for water troughs, \$65 ea
Sam Rikard
Lexington
803-892-2630

HONEY BEES

diff size colonies, \$32/frame; Queens, \$45 ea
David Gainey
Darlington
843-861-2745

4' TUBE GATE

\$45; 7'x3/8 chain hook one end, \$20
Russell Goings
Union
864-426-2309

3 GRAIN BINS W/FANS

(2) 3500 bu \$2500; (1) 6500 bu, \$3500; portable grain dryer, 350 bu, \$1000
Carl Brown
Aiken
803-640-0281

SNAPPERZEROTURN MWR

48" cut, Briggs eng, \$2500
Terry Blakely
Greenville
864-483-1920

HDWD LUMBER

boards 1"x12"x8'L, \$4/bdft, 300 bdft min/del, will custom cut for lrg dels
Ryan Anderson
Greenville
864-234-2918

TOP SOIL/FILL DIRT

\$2/yd
R Adams
Darlington
843-393-7280

HOLE DIGGER

gas, w/8" & 10" augers, all items nvr used, \$365 cash only
Randy Orr
Anderson
864-295-3736

PEACH BASKETS

\$2 ea; 280 gal tank, \$25; plastic barrels, \$10 ea; post, \$1/bdft; more
Gary Seay
Spartanburg
864-578-8214

CEDAR

7' rnd posts, \$3 ea; poles, 8'/\$6, 10'/\$8; sq fence post, 4x4x8', \$8; lumber, \$3/bdft; mulch, \$50/p-up load
Andy Morris
Newberry
803-924-0433

5 GAL BUCKETS W/LIDS

\$1.85; wooden pallets, for hay storage, etc, \$1/reg; \$2.50/HD
F Rowe
Newberry
803-271-7768

2 SEARS SUBURBAN GARDEN TRACTORS

comp w/3ph, running when parked, \$1650 for both
D L Dimery
Lexington
803-796-2995

OLD COMP FARM BELL

old, #3, \$350; xl farm bell, w/wheel, comp, \$1200; #20 hash pots, \$200 ea; #15, \$150; more
Perry Masters
Greenville
864-561-4792

DRY ROUGH CUT PINE

Oak boards, all sizes, Pine, \$2/bdft; Oak, \$4/bdft
Joel Grubb
Calhoun
803-351-0144

JD A & B PARTS

block, heads, pulley, pistons, etc, photos avail, \$125, obo for all, cash
Carroll Shealy
Laurens
864-872-4184

1 1/2 HP TUNNEL FAN MOTORS

used, GWC, \$50 ea; boiler house heating brooders, GC, \$40 ea
Michael Wise
Newberry
803-271-4215

G107D GRILLO

walk behind tractor w/tiller attach, 4 forward, 1 rev, top spd 8 mph, \$1975 obo
John Mahon
Chesterfield
843-910-7352

DRUMS

55 gal FG metal, \$20 ea; 55 gal plastic open, \$25 ea; 30-55 gal solid, \$15-20 ea; 275 gal FG port tow tank, \$50-60 ea
P Poole
Union
864-427-1589

CEDAR LUMBER

1"x6", \$1.50/ft; Cedar posts, 5'-10'L, \$2/ft; util poles, 6'-30'L, \$2-5/ft
James Burns
Laurens
864-918-6308

RND CEDAR POSTS

cut to var sizes, 4-10" dia, 6-12' L, \$6-12 ea, depend on size; cut 4x4, \$2/bdft
Douglass Britt
McCormick
864-391-3334

5 HP ELEC MOTOR

new, bought for grain auger, nvr used, \$750
Charles Nichols
Saluda
864-445-8350

2 FIRESTONE TIRES

14.9x28", 95%, \$350 ea; 14.9x24" tire, 50%, \$200
Debbie Wade
Chester
803-581-5050

TROY BILT SP MWR

EC \$200; yard vacuum, EC, \$185; irrig hose, \$75
George Schwab
York
803-493-8021

CARPENTER BEE TRAPS

sold in lots of 5, \$85, ppd
William F Timmerman
Aiken
803-640-6265

PUSH REEL MWR

EC, \$75; RR spikes for drag harrows, LN, \$1 ea
R Long
Newberry
803-924-9039

PLANTS & FLOWERS

ADS ARE NOT ACCEPTED FROM COMMERCIAL NURSERIES, WHICH HAVE ANNUAL SALES OF \$5,000.

AZALEAS

Gardenia, Boxwoods, \$6; Tea Olives, \$8; Crepe Myrtles & Hydrangeas, Canna Lilies, \$20; Mulberry trees, \$30
FC Noles
Barnwell
803-383-4066

MONKEY GRASS

aka Liriope, Hosta, \$4 ea; Iris, Daylily, \$5 ea; Hydrangea, Gardenia, \$10 ea
Woody Ellenburg
Pickens
864-855-2565

LRG ELEPHANT BULBS

\$30 ea; amaryllis, \$10 ea
Francis Shiver
Kershaw
803-669-1979

VARIEGATED HOSTA

1 gal pots, \$3 ea
John Grinstead
Greenville
864-277-3389

Review our advertising policies online at

AGRICULTURE.SC.GOV/ MARKET-BULLETIN-POLICIES

POULTRY

BOBWHITE QUAIL

1-3 w/o, \$2; 6 m/o, \$5; Bobwhite eggs, \$6/dz
Lee Erbe
Calhoun
843-789-9645

PEACOCKS

mature breeders, Indian Blue, sold in prs, 1 M/1 F, \$400/pr
Tammy Hodge
Sumter
803-983-5041

BOBWHITE QUAIL

2 w/o, \$3 ea; quail eggs, for hatching, \$1 ea
Darlene Eustace
Laurens
864-616-6178

DIAMOND DOVES

\$15 ea
Moscovia Faulk
Sumter
803-494-8499

BALD HEAD ROLLER

PIGEONS
\$10; Fantail pigeons, \$12; King pigeons, \$15; Pharaoh quail, \$2-5
Randy Stone
Florence
843-621-5641

LRG HUBBLE PIGEONS

breed is raised commercially for squab production, solid wht, \$15+
R Adams
Darlington
843-393-7280

SEX LINKS

Blk Copper Marans, lavender Orpingtons, Brahmas & Cochins, jumbo Coturnix & Bob Whites, \$3-5 ea
Brian Motley
Kershaw
803-315-7598

COTURNIX QUAIL

6-8 w/o, \$5/roo, \$7/hen, \$12/pr
Rendell Campbell
Lexington
803-315-5290

RIR BANTAMS

1-3 y/o, 8 hens, 3 roos, \$10 ea or \$80 for all
Darin Hutto
Bamberg
803-300-2570

TOULOUSE GEESE

proven prs, \$100; Wht King pigeons, \$30/pr
Benson Ray
Georgetown
843-933-5367

9 ISA BRN LAYING HENS

12-18 m/o, good layers, \$125 for all
Rena Harris
York
985-860-5276

MALLARD DUCKS

\$5+ ea; wild duck species, \$45+; baby yard geese, \$15 ea
Shane Sease
Bamberg
803-824-9124

GUINEA KEETS

\$5+; Coturnix quail eggs, \$2; Coturnix quail chicks, \$2+
Nelson Brawley
Union
864-426-1634

HOMING PIGEONS

wht, \$8; other colors, \$6
Donald Fisher
Chesterfield
843-634-2022

MALLARD DUCKS

flight cond; & Cayuga ducks, \$20 ea, lrg qty disc
Bob Cathey
Anderson
864-303-8203

BUFFORPINGTON PULLETS

8+ w/o, \$10 ea; wht Leghorn bantams, \$40/pr; misc Bantams, \$5+
Marc Renwick
Newberry
803-271-8691

SWEATER COCK

6 y/o, \$150; 2 y/o Sweater/Kelso cock, \$100; Sweater hen, \$25
Russell Goings
Union
864-426-2309

18 W/O STARTED PULLETS

Barred Rock, RIR, Buff Orpington, Blk Australorp & Delawares, \$18 ea; roos, \$12 ea
Candice Reble
Aiken
303-210-0325

GUINEAS

grown, \$20 ea; yng, \$7+; hatching eggs, \$8/15 eggs; Cochin bantam, Barred Rock, more, \$20/hen, \$15/roo
Philip Poole
Union
864-427-1589

COTURNIX QUAIL

2 w/o+, \$2-4; pasture raised quail eggs, for hatching, \$5/dz
Megan Setzler
Newberry
803-413-9460

SAPPHIRE ORPINGTONS

& Barred Rocks, asst mix, 12-20 w/o, roos & hens, \$12 ea
Mike Alveshire
Saluda
803-767-2732

WANT - LIVESTOCK

EACH AD MUST LIST SPECIFIC ANIMALS.

SHETLAND & WELCH PONIES

to live on 20A, any age, reasonably priced or donated, w/neg Coggins
Jeanie Sabbagha
Sumter
803-494-9449

DONKEY

to guard goats, any color, size or dispo, del if poss
Brian Baldwin
Fairfield
803-337-6070

BEEF CATTLE

any age or size
Kenneth Satterfield
Laurens
864-304-3172

WANT - MISCELLANEOUS

PULPWOOD SAW TIMBER

hdwd pine, all types of thinning or clear cut, Upstate cos
Tim Morgan
Greenville
864-420-0251

ANY SIZE WASH POTS

syrup kettle, anvils, lrg coffee grinder, old lighting rod w/ balls & weathervane, more
Perry Masters
Greenville
864-561-4792

HONEY BEE EQUIP

wooden ware, boxes, frames, etc, will pay reasonable price
David Gainey
Darlington
843-861-2745

USED HORSE CORRAL

rnd pen panels, near Sumter, fair priced
Jeanie Sabbagha
Sumter
803-494-9449

ELEC FUEL PUMP

for 500 gal dsl tank
Charles Nichols
Saluda
864-992-2753

BLKSMITH ANVILS

any size farm bells, cradle or stands for lrg farm bell
R Long
Newberry
803-924-9039

SC PORTS' INLAND PORTS BENEFIT CARGO OWNERS' SUPPLY CHAINS

BY SC PORTS

CHARLESTON, SC — MAY 14, 2024 — Retailers, manufacturers and agricultural producers are benefiting from South Carolina Ports' inland port network.

Inland Port Dillon and Inland Port Greer provide daily dedicated rail service to and from the Port of Charleston. The inland ports speed imports and exports to market, with the added benefit of reducing overall carbon footprints, ancillary costs and transit times by moving more containers via rail.

Inland Port Dillon supports major retailers and agricultural producers in the Pee Dee region and throughout the Carolinas. Alongside CSX, the Dillon operation handles consumer goods, soybeans, forest products, cotton seed and agricultural products.

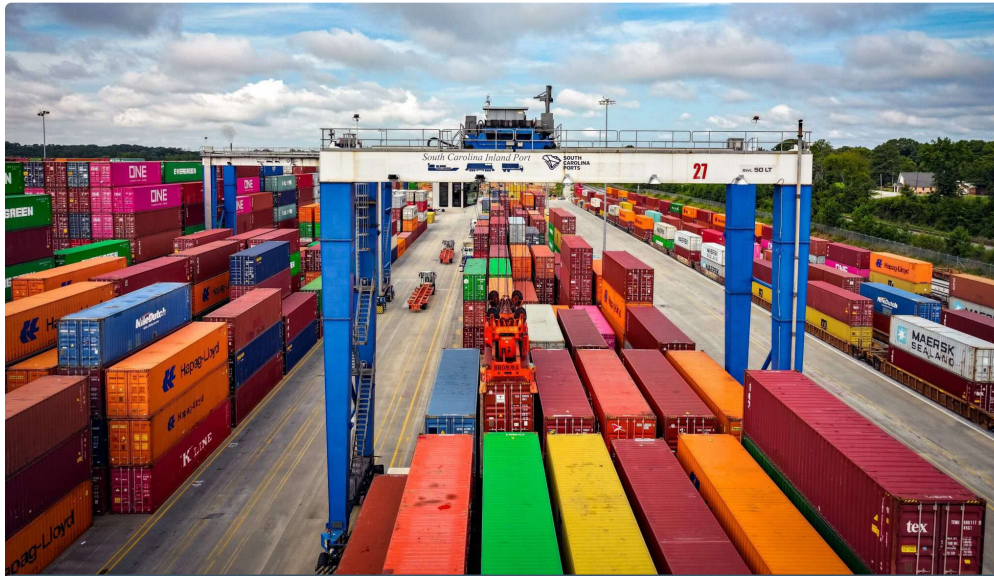
Inland Port Dillon had its highest monthly cargo volumes ever in April, handling 4,730 rail moves, a 26% year-over-year increase.

Inland Port Greer also had a strong month and a record April, moving 16,105 containers, which is up 20% from last year. Alongside Norfolk Southern, Inland Port Greer handles goods for advanced manufacturers, mega retailers and consumer goods industries across the region.

Inland Port Greer's cargo base has diversified since opening in 2013, and many of these companies have

invested in the Upstate to take advantage of the inland port. Inland Port Greer is now undergoing an expansion that will double its cargo capacity.

Container volumes remained steady at SC Ports' marine terminals, with SC Ports and the broader maritime community handling 215,058 TEUs and 119,840 pier containers last month.



Inland Port Dillon and Inland Port Greer provide daily dedicated rail service to and from the Port of Charleston. (Photo/SC Ports/Matt Peacock)

The automotive sector reflected strength at SC Ports, with 18,118 vehicles rolling across its docks last month. Monthly vehicle volumes are up 40% from last year.

"We are expanding port capacity and capabilities ahead of demand to efficiently handle goods for our customers," Melvin said. "We are proud to offer reliable, efficient port service to the booming Southeast market."

ABOUT SOUTH CAROLINA PORTS

"Our inland ports are seeing cargo increases month after month as more port-dependent businesses take advantage of the reliable, swift and direct rail connection between the Port of Charleston and inland markets," SC Ports President and CEO Barbara Melvin said. "Our inland ports are an example of what we do best — strategically invest to deliver a creative solution that further supports importers and exporters."

The Port of Charleston provides efficient, productive port service and the deepest harbor on the U.S. East Coast at 52 feet.

South Carolina Ports owns and operates marine terminals at the Port of Charleston and two rail-served inland ports in Greer and Dillon. As the 8th largest U.S. container port, SC Ports connects port-dependent businesses throughout the Southeast and beyond to global markets. SC Ports proactively invests in infrastructure ahead of demand to provide reliable service, efficient operations, cargo capacity, an expansive rail network and the deepest harbor on the East Coast at 52 feet. SC Ports is a vital economic engine for South Carolina, with port operations supporting 1 in 9 jobs statewide. Learn more: scspa.com.

\$25 MILLION AVAILABLE TO HELP EXPAND HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS IN RURAL AREAS

FUNDING PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, COOPERATIVES AND TRIBES AS PART OF INVESTING IN AMERICA AGENDA

BY USDA

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden announced June 21 that USDA is making available \$25 million through the Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) Program to help local organizations, cooperatives and Tribes expand affordable, high-speed internet projects in rural communities. The Department will begin accepting applications on June 21, 2024.

Funding is made possible through President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It reflects the goals of the President's Investing in America agenda to rebuild the economy from the bottom up and middle out, and to strengthen the nation's infrastructure.

"USDA is committed to making sure that people, no matter where they live, have access to high-speed internet," Under Secretary Gooden said. "Through the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is partnering with small towns, Tribes, local utilities, rural cooperatives, and private companies to increase access to this critical service, which will boost opportunities and help build bright futures. That's how you grow the economy – not just in rural communities, but across the nation."

The BTA program provides funding to help communities and organizations receive or deliver

broadband technical assistance and training that will expand high-speed internet into rural and Tribal communities. This includes providing funding for feasibility studies, network designs, hiring efforts, application development assistance and more.

Through this program, USDA is helping rural communities identify and pursue opportunities to meet the Administration's goal to connect every community in America with affordable, reliable, high-speed internet.

Today's announcement marks the second round of funding for the program. In its first round, the program received 96 applications requesting a total of \$44.5 million.

In this second round, applicants must apply through one of two funding categories.

Under the Technical Assistance Providers category, applicants must propose to deliver broadband technical assistance that will benefit rural communities. Up to \$15 million is available. The minimum award is \$100,000. The maximum is \$1 million.

Under the Technical Assistance Recipients category, applicants must be the recipients of the

broadband technical assistance. Up to \$10 million is available. The minimum award is \$50,000. The maximum is \$500,000.

Applications will also be evaluated according to USDA's new scoring criteria, which includes points for projects seeking to serve distressed communities and advance racial justice, place-based equity and opportunity. For example, points will be awarded to projects from or benefiting Rural Partners Network communities.

USDA encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure;
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to USDA Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD funded projects; and
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

Applications must be submitted electronically using Grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 20, 2024.

INCLUSIVE OUTREACH: CLEMSON STUDENTS HELP SPANISH SPEAKERS RECOGNIZE INVASIVE BEETLE

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR AND JONATHAN VEIT, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Translation work provided by Clemson students is helping Spanish speakers in the Lowcountry recognize and contain an invasive species that could wreak havoc in the Palmetto State.

Nearly four years ago, Clemson's Department of Plant Industry (DPI) announced that the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) had been discovered in the Hollywood area of Charleston County. The beetle is one of several invasive species that Clemson is fighting, including the yellow-legged hornet, cogongrass and spotted lanternfly.

ALB infestations cause severe economic losses for nursery and forestry industries in the Northeast and Midwest. Their damage causes falling trees and branches, creating a safety hazard. The ALB weakens tree structure as larvae chew large tunnels in the wood. Trees eventually die from the damage.

The discovery triggered a quarantine against transporting wood and wood products from the area and commenced a multiyear fight against the devastating beetle that includes trapping and surveying efforts. As part of the eradication effort, trees infested with ALB are required to be destroyed. Much of the landscape, nursery and tree removal workers are Spanish-speaking.

After noticing translation work done by students in the Department of Languages as part of a service-learning assignment for Clemson Rural Health's Veggie Rx program in 2023, DPI invasive species outreach coordinator Allison Bower contacted Assistant Professor of Spanish Magdaléna Matušková for help.

FILLING A GAP

Matušková had taught service-learning Spanish interpreting and translation courses for several years at the University of Georgia before coming to Clemson in 2022, where she designed two classes with the goal of students learning employable skills while improving their knowledge of the language and engaging in meaningful interactions with local communities.

"I'm a big advocate for service-learning courses because they teach students materials in the classroom and soft skills, like effective communication, time management and organization," Matušková said. "Students are getting out of their comfort zone in assignments designed in collaboration with community partners like DPI. They are lower stakes compared to the job market, but since students are working with community supervisors, they do not perceive the assignments in the same way as homework in class."

In the translation workshop course (SPAN 4420), her students created an English brochure and translated it into Spanish to share with the Spanish-speaking public. Matušková said students work in groups independently under the supervision of the community partner. They must manage their project and resolve challenges that arise as a team. She acts as a consultant to support them as needed.

Jessica San Agustin, a psychology major with a minor in Spanish studies and youth development, was one of five students in the group that worked with DPI. Students translated other materials into Spanish, including translations for the nursery industry and an educational compliance PowerPoint.

"We use them at our educational and outreach events, which allow us to include everyone in the regulatory process."

Miguel Martinez, an ALB survey specialist with DPI, said the educational materials help precisely explain why it's critical to report sightings.

"There are times when our English-speaking survey specialists must survey the property of a home where the residents are Spanish-speaking, and it can be difficult to explain why we were there," he said. "We didn't have a Spanish word for Asian longhorned beetles and the other insects. There is no colloquial name for these insects in Spanish, and we knew the scientific names would confuse the general public. So, we directly translated the English name into the Spanish name."

He added that Matušková's students "were incredibly professional."

"They set goals that they wanted to meet when they met with us and asked good questions.

Everything was focused on the project," Martinez said. "They were incredibly meticulous. I was very impressed with their work."

Matušková said she will offer the translation workshop again in Spring 2025 and is looking forward to collaborating with DPI, Veggie Rx, and other new community partners on their translation projects.



The Asian longhorned beetle



Assistant Professor of Spanish Magdaléna Matušková, far left, and Department of Plant Industry invasive species outreach coordinator Allison Bower are pictured with students.


San Agustin said the class helped her overcome a disdain for working on group projects because her team collaborated and communicated throughout the entire process.

"My time working on this project gave me insight into how important translation is," San Agustin said. "I think that translation work is vital to our modern world. I'm so glad I got to be a part of this."

'INCREDIBLY METICULOUS'


The translations are more than the agency communicating to the broadest audience possible, Bower said.

"The translations also make regulation more equitable," she said.




Clemson University Organic Certification Basics




An introduction to organic certification for the small farmer with the opportunity to experience an organic inspection firsthand




CLASS DATE
September 11th, 2024




CLASS LOCATION
Phillips Market Center
117 Ballard Ct, West Columbia, SC 29172

CLASSROOM	MOCK INSPECTIONS
<p>Clemson University Organic Certification Program in partnership with The Southeast Transition to Organic Partnership Program (SE TOPP) invites you to attend the Organic Certification Basics class for the small farmer.</p> <p>This free event will provide a general overview of organic certification and tools for new and transitioning organic farmers. The main topics covered are Organic System Plans (OSP), organic regulations, organic crop practices and addressing misconceptions of organic certification. Please bring your laptop or other note-taking applications. Please Scan the QR code to get to the registration link</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">   <p style="margin: 0;">SCAN ME</p> </div>	<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>UPSTATE INSPECTION Thursday September 19th Clemson University Organic Research Center 101 Ag Services Center Clemson, SC 29634</p> </div> <div>  <p>LOW STATE INSPECTION Tuesday September 17th Clemson University Coastal Research & Education Center 2865 Savannah Highway Charleston, SC 29414</p> </div> <p>The training will also include a mock inspection to provide a firsthand look at an organic inspection and recordkeeping requirements. To attend the mock inspection, you must attend the classroom learning portion. This training is geared towards the new or transitioning small organic farmer. Please dress for the farm visit.</p>

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program
Transition to Organic Partnership Program



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CLEMSON BREAKS GROUND ON FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HUB

BY STEVEN BRADLEY, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Clemson University broke ground on a new home for its Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation (FEC) and, from a broader view, on a new era of stewardship for South Carolina's natural resources.

Upon projected completion in early 2026, the 85,000-square-foot building on the northeast corner of Cherry and Perimeter roads will replace Lehotsky Hall as the department's nerve center on campus.

South Carolina's forests are among its most valuable assets — not just in financial terms — as both a distinctive feature of its landscape and a renewable resource with recreational, wildlife, and environmental benefits.

But there is no denying their economic impact: Forestry generates \$23.2 billion annually in the state and accounts for more than 100,000 jobs, according to the S.C. Forestry Commission.

As the university pursues a bold strategic vision, Clemson Elevate, the facility empowers FEC to continue to “elevate” in keeping with that blueprint.

President Jim Clements said at the groundbreaking that it served as an important reminder of why the university was founded, quoting the Will of Thomas Green Clemson, its founder and namesake.

“Mr. Clemson stated: ‘My purpose is to establish an agricultural college ... a high seminary of learning. ... I trust that I do not exaggerate the importance of such an institution for developing the material resources of the state.’”

Clements continued, “We were created to serve our state as a land-grant institution and to give people a path to a better future through education; the new Forestry and Environmental Conservation Building will continue to meet the Will of Thomas Green Clemson and our mission and vision as an institution. This building is also an opportunity for Clemson to create an environment that serves to attract the best and brightest minds and continues

our mission of recruiting and retaining top talent.”

Clemson's new forestry hub positions the department for future growth at a time when both its undergraduate and Ph.D. enrollment have reached all-time highs and research funding skyrocketed to more than \$20 million last year from \$2.6 million in 2020.

At the conclusion of Friday's event — after the “dig” — attendees were invited by senior Environmental and Natural Resources major Abby Bonker to take home a pine seedling, donated by ArborGen, and plant their own “seed of change.”

The space will include classrooms, labs, collaboration spaces, offices and support areas across four levels, as well as an outdoor lab for easy access to Hunnicutt Creek, a garden courtyard and an indoor-outdoor connection throughout the space.

Provost Bob Jones, a two-time FEC graduate himself, said he was honored to be part of the groundbreaking.

“Since my time as a student, I have witnessed Clemson set new records in student success, research, outreach, diversity, athletics, fundraising, industry partnerships, innovation and impact — thanks in part to the visionary leadership of my friend and colleague, Dr. Jim Clements,” Jones said. “Over President Clements' decade of leadership, Clemson University has continued to attract some of the best and brightest minds to take on the evolving challenge of conserving our earth's natural resources — across South Carolina and beyond.”

Clemson's Department of FEC seeks to prepare leaders in sustainable forestry and wildlife and fisheries conservation and ecology through instruction, scientific inquiry and outreach to citizens of South Carolina, the nation and the world.

The agriculture and forestry industries — collectively known as agribusiness by the S.C. Department of Revenue — represent the state's largest economic

sector and fastest-growing industries, expanding by 40 percent between 2010–20.

At the groundbreaking, CAFLS Interim Dean Greg Yarrow, center, noted the efforts of his “friend and colleague, Dr. Pat Layton, who helped bring us here today,” as well as the work of FEC Chair Todd Petty.

Department Chair Todd Petty said, because of the industry's impact on the state economy, the intellectual space where teaching and learning about forestry happen at Clemson has significant meaning to the citizens of South Carolina.

“With this new building, our faculty, staff and students will have a physical space within which we can meet the expanding and everchanging needs of the forest industry and natural resource management professions,” Petty said.

The building will showcase mass-timber construction and advanced applications of wood products and technologies that are an essential part of modern conservation and forestry sciences and feature a native flora landscape that connects workspaces to the natural environment.

College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Science (CAFLS) Interim Dean Greg Yarrow said the building is a testament to the importance of forestry and natural resources to Clemson and the state it calls home.

“This is an exciting and monumental day for our students, faculty and staff and for the citizens of South Carolina who depend on the management and sustainability of South Carolina's forests and the conservation of our natural resources,” Yarrow said. “This building will be more than wood, bricks and mortar; it will be a hub of innovation, research and education.

“It will help us lead into a sustainable future, where students and faculty alike come together to tackle the most pressing forestry, natural resources and environmental issues of our time.”

SCDA NOW IN CHARGE OF RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS, MILK SAFETY, MORE

As of July 1, many food safety duties that were part of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) are now handled by the SCDA.

The change is a result of legislation passed in May 2023 that eliminated DHEC and divided its programs among existing and new agencies.

1. Our new Retail Food Safety department regulates restaurant kitchens, grocery store delis, caterers, school cafeterias, some convenience stores, and certain other establishments that prepare food for on-site consumption.
2. Milk Safety regulates fluid milk and grade “A” milk products such as yogurt.
3. SCDA's Laboratory Services department has taken over the Milk Lab and will be responsible for testing fluid milk samples and some milk products.
4. Businesses that were regulated by the former DHEC Manufactured Foods program—including ice, soft drinks, bottled water, frozen desserts,

butter and cheese—are now regulated by SCDA's existing Food Safety program, which oversees food manufacturing at the wholesale level.

These new programs are part of SCDA's Consumer Protection Division, which regulates many agricultural, food, and consumer-related services in South Carolina, including weights and measuring devices (including fuel pumps and grocery scales), animal and pet food, seeds, and produce farming.

Consumers will soon begin to see new SCDA-branded letter grade decals on Retail Food Establishment windows. The public can access the SC Food Grades system through the SCDA website or using the QR code on the decal to read inspection reports and view letter grades for Retail Food Establishments.

SCDA is committed to customer service and excited to take on these new responsibilities. During the transition period, we ask for patience from the public and inspected businesses as we continue to adjust our staffing and procedures.

While retail food safety officers will be based in the regions where they work, all administration has

been centralized at SCDA's State Farmers Market Campus. DHEC's regional offices will no longer be accepting payments or services relating to Retail Food Safety.

CONTACT US

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350 Ballard Court West Columbia SC 29172

Milk Safety
milksafety@scda.sc.gov | 803-896-0523
117 Ballard Court West Columbia SC 29172

Laboratory Services
803-737-9700
123 Ballard Court West Columbia SC 29172

Food Safety (food manufacturing, RVCs)
RVCregistration@scda.sc.gov | 803-737-0147
123 Ballard Court West Columbia SC 29172

Visit SCDA's website, agriculture.sc.gov, for further resources, forms, and information.