



# THE FACTS

## About Surface & Ground Water Withdrawal

Farm Bureau believes our natural resources should be protected and preserved in ways that will allow current and future farmers and other citizens access to our State's abundant natural resources.

The 2010 Surface Water Law is a product of a strong, four-year collaboration between business leaders, conservationists and farmers. It was approved by the General Assembly with heavy bipartisan support and was endorsed by many major conservation groups.

Because we believe in water conservation, SC Farm Bureau was instrumental in passing landmark surface water withdrawal permitting and registration legislation.

Since 2011, agricultural users have been subject to a responsible registration process before any water is drawn which holds them accountable for their water use. This water use is approved by DHEC based on minimum flow and safe yields determined by scientific data.

Farmers are on the forefront of conservation efforts. They must be good stewards of water resources because if there is no water, there are no food crops.

Agriculture is one of the smallest users of surface water in South Carolina, and most of the surface water that agriculture uses comes from private farm ponds.

We believe increased efforts will be made this legislative year to amend the 2010 Surface Water Permitting Act. Senator Chip Campsen has filed S. 58, similar legislation to what was proposed last year, to revisit the agricultural registration process. Representative James Smith has also filed H. 3564.

These bills would impose heavy financial costs and bureaucratic burdens to farmers.

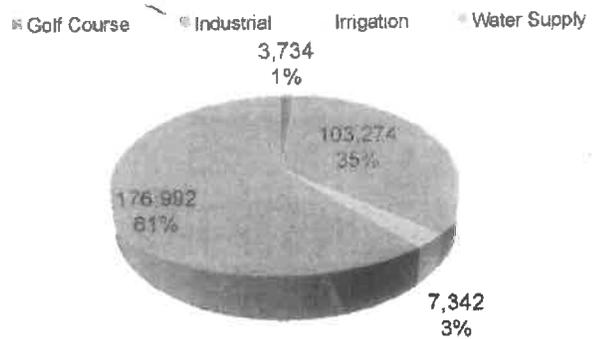
Before any bills are pushed through the General Assembly, we should wait for updated science to tell us what the facts are, so that we can then make informed decisions moving forward.

The state has embarked on a 3-year \$1.5 million study to examine all river basins in South Carolina. The data provided through this water assessment is critical to making sound decisions regarding future water use in our state.

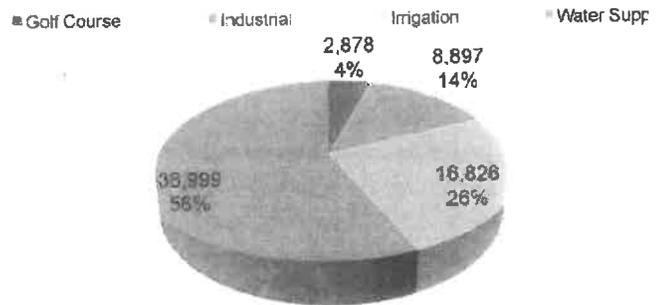
# THE NUMBERS

## On Surface & Ground Water Withdrawal

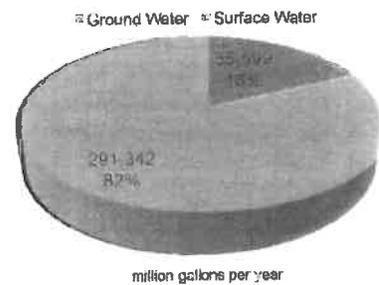
### 2013 Total Surface Water Use by Type Permitted & Registered Withdrawals



### 2013 Total Groundwater Use by Type Permitted and Registered Withdrawals



### 2013 Total Water Use by Source Permitted and Registered Withdrawals



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