# South Carolina Department of Agriculture

FY 2025-26 Budget Hearing

### Agency Attendees

- Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture
- Clint Leach, Assistant Commissioner for External Affairs and Economic Development
- Derek Underwood, Assistant Commissioner for Consumer Protection
- Aaron Wood, Assistant Commissioner for Agency Operations

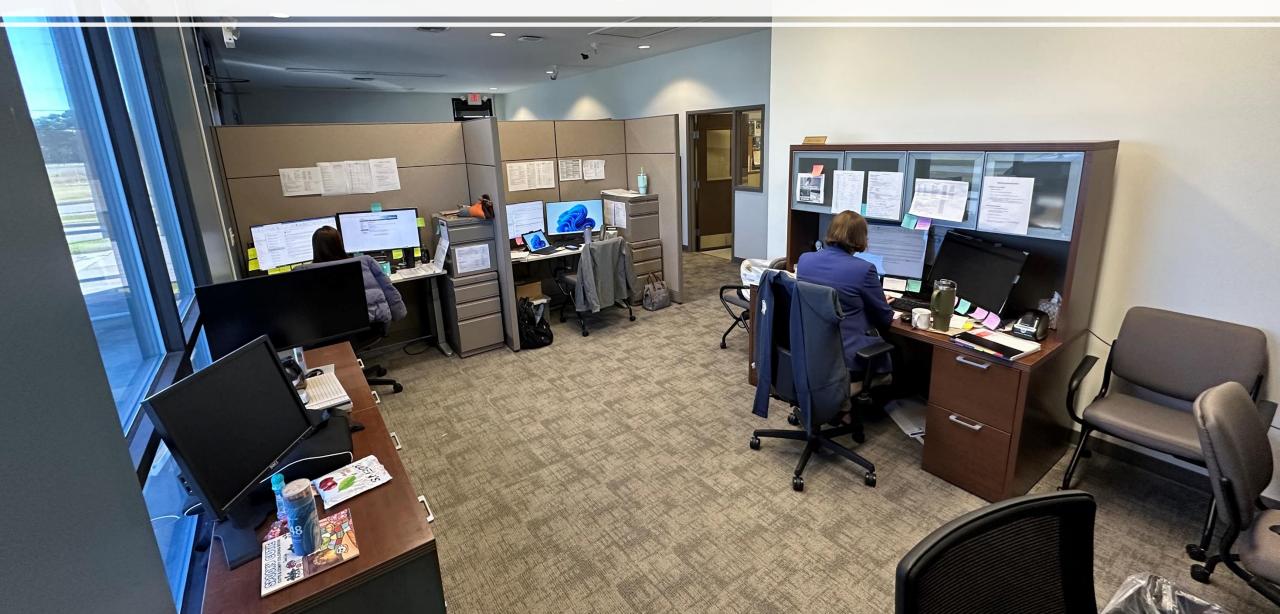
### Greenville State Farmers Market Renovation



### New Outdoor Event Space



### New Retail Food Safety Office Space



### **On-Boarding Food Protection Employees**

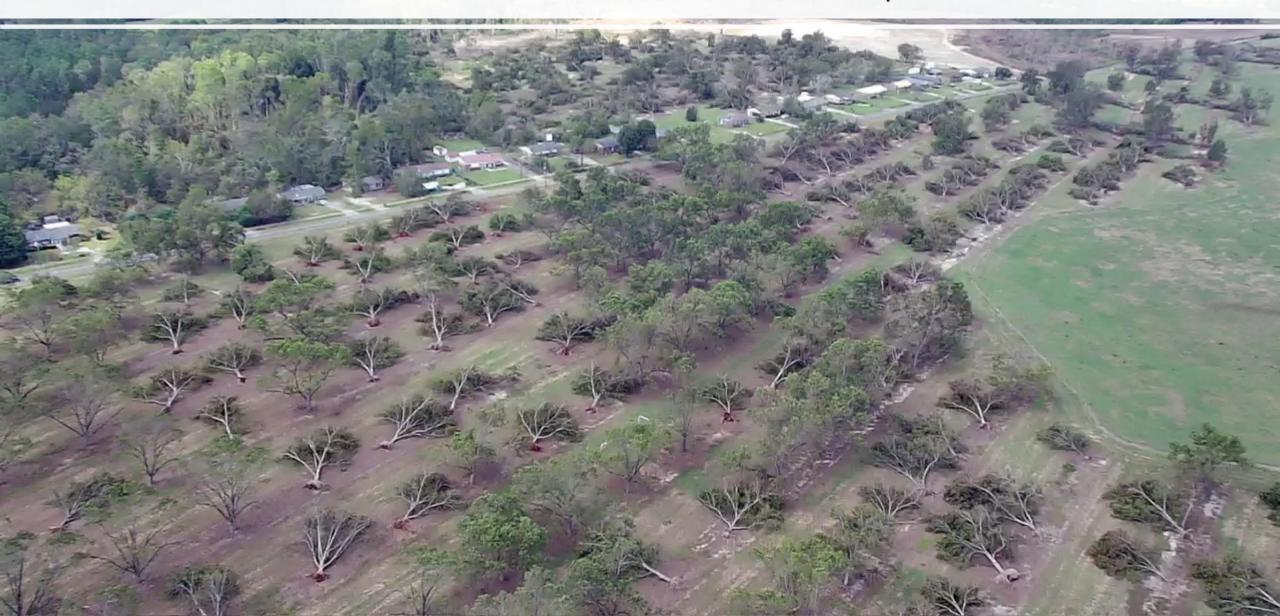




### Vehicles from DHEC



### Hurricane Helene Disaster Impact



## **Recurring Budget Requests**

#### • \$1,000,000: Customer Service Enhancements.

- SCDA is only budgeted \$300,000 (2013) for Farmers Markets operations in Columbia, Florence, and Greenville.
- Need additional microbiological testing capacity to support all Food and Feed regulatory programs.

#### • \$8,000,000: Increase Federal Funds and Positions Authority.

- 4 new positions requested; 5 to be realigned from earmarked (9 total).
- Expecting a \$23,000,000 grant from USDA NRCS

#### • Realign FTE Positions

• Move 12 from Earmarked (Other) to State (General)

## Recurring Budget Requests, p.2

#### • \$2,000,000: Statewide Agricultural Marketing.

- Target audiences are growing.
- This would enhance statewide campaigns to promote local ag products at farm stands, farmers markets, retail outlets, and restaurants.

#### • \$2,465,000: Certified SC School Cafeteria Program.

- Reimbursement cost-share program to encourage schools to purchase from farms, specialty food producers, food hubs, and distributors in our state.
- Educate students, parents, and schools about SC agriculture.
- \$1,000,000: ChangeSC Statewide Implementation
  - Expand the 2024-25 pilot statewide.
  - Improve health by increasing access to nutritious food in food deserts.

### Non-Recurring Budget Requests

- \$1,400,000: Equipment Replacement
  - Many vehicles received from DHEC are 15+ years old; 32 will meet the replacement criteria.
  - Modular benches, incubators, real-time PCR and whole genome sequencing instrumentation.
- \$3,000,000: Regional Farmers Markets.
  - Reimbursable grant program for towns and counties to build or expand farmers markets.
- \$441,469: Harvest Hope Food Loss Repayment to USDA.
  - Restitution liability to USDA if a court impedes collection from Harvest Hope's self-reported food losses.

### Provisos

#### \*NEW: Commodity Boards

 This would allow commodity boards, established by the Commodities Marketing Act, to retain and invest interest earned on producer assessments, for which SCDA (the State) is a fiduciary agent.

#### • \*NEW: Earmark Redirect for Equipment Replacement

 This would redirect an unclaimed \$950,000 earmark in 2022 Act 94, Part 1B, Proviso 118.18(B)(77) Berkeley County Agricultural Educational Exhibition Area, to be used for much-needed vehicle and laboratory equipment replacement purchases.

### Cost Savings Plans

- A 3% (\$763,284) reduction in appropriated funds would be shared between Agency Operations, Consumer Protection, and External Affairs & Economic Development <u>without</u> reducing FTEs.
- Eliminating regional offices for Retail Food Safety Inspectors and realigning inspectors' territories improves efficiency (less windshield time), lowers overhead costs, and reduces turnover and associated training time.

#### South Carolina Department of Agriculture Budget vs Actual For Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 and Carryforward Balances December 20, 2024

	Fiscal Year 2024		Cash Carried	Fiscal Year 2025	
			Forward From		Expenditures
_	Authorization	Expenditures	FY2024	Authorization	Through 12/20/24
General Funds	74,971,504	62,451,093	718,270	45,082,218	14,624,098
Earmarked Funds	13,866,665	8,218,421	17,152,574	18,108,919	5,530,496
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	40,126,000	2,779,749	45,333,033	37,347,557	2,612,220
Federal Funds	12,535,444	13,705,391	3,715,353	14,494,463	5,214,069

\* Includes budgeted accounts, capital project funds and unbudgeted trust & agency accounts.

Agency Name: South Carolina Department of Agriculture Agency Code: P160 Section: 44 December 17, 2024 Agency FTE Authorized: 274 FTE Filled: 250.563 + Agency Head Temp Grant (TG): 7 Time Limited (TL): 1 Commissioner Hugh Weathers Attorney IV Alden Dalton External Affairs & Agency Operations **Consumer Protection** Economic Development **Deputy Constitutional Officer** Deputy Constitutional Officer Deputy Constitutional Officer Aaron Wood Derek Underwood J. Clint Leach (Assistant Commissioner) (Assistant Commissioner) (Assistant Commissioner) Program Program Accountant / Executive Program Manager II **Public Information** Program Fiscal Manager II Assistant Manager II Manager II Angie Director I Manager II Brittni Geny Adam Leaphart Sandra Craig Cristina Key Culler-Matthews Chris Whitmire Eva Moore Program Program Program Human Resources Program Manager I Manager I Manager II Director II Economic Manager I Administrative John Stokes Kellie Senn-Taylor Kelly Johnson Kathleen Pierce Robert Sager Development Coordinator I Officer II Ellen Lloyd Norris Thigpen Program Environmental Information Administrative Grants Health Manager III Manager I Technology Coordinator II Administrator II Lorey Bell Grady James Williamson Manager I Alicia Attaway Betsy Dorton Jeremy Laughead