

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS MARKETS

Spring/Summer 2022

DO YOU HAVE AN EXCITING EVENT UPCOMING?

As a member of the SCAFM, you have access to post your upcoming events online at both the SCAFM and SC Department of Agriculture websites. We encourage you to use the links below to get your markets noticed!

[SCAFM](#)

[SCDA Calendar](#)



A Letter from the President

Spring, summer...GROW!

Another year, market season is upon us. The year 2022 brings exciting opportunities for farmers markets in the Palmetto state.

The SC Association of Farmers Markets (SCAFM) annual meeting in March was hugely successful. Representatives from various agencies and fields presented to the attending market managers valuable information on growing and improving our markets and services to our farmers.

With more people vaccinated and the weather turning warmer, people are eager to get to their local farmers markets. The locally grown produce, the fresh flowers, the bakers, soap/candle makers, herbalists, *new* vegetable/fruit ice creams and the growing vegan and plant-based items are waiting for returning and new customers.

SCDA has submitted its grant application for federal funding to purchase produce from local farmers that will be provided to SC residents in need. Together with the Pandemic relief funding and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) the federal government has worked to help our local farmers, economies and residents continue to have access to fresh, locally grown produce.

May and June will host the 2022 SC Ag+Art Tour in ten (10) counties. Farmers Market Week is August 7–13 this year; lastly, Farm-to-School month is October. Several of our markets and farmers will host Ag+Art Tours, Farmers Market Week activities and work with local schools to bring a little agriculture into the schools.

In Union County, SC Farmers Market Flavors ice cream company, FoodShare Union County and the Union County Farm & Craft Market are very busy. Farmers Market Flavors ice cream company will be visiting markets across the state providing samples of ice cream flavors like blueberry/okra and collard green/banana. Ice creams will also be in the local schools in the fall “*the best way to get kids to eat more veggies is to put the veggies in ice creams*”. FoodShare Union County has a new home – a 25’ x 35’ building at the Union County Farm & Craft Market.

I would like to ask you, market managers, farmers, SC residents to provide us with stories about your local farmers market for printing in our next newsletter.

Thank you, have a safe and wonderful summer.

Thanks for reading,
Elise Ashby, SCAFM Board President

SC Ag + Art Tour

The South Carolina Ag + Art Tour is a free, self-guided tour of farms and markets featuring local artisans at every stop! During the tour visitors have the opportunity to see first-hand where their food comes from, watch artists in action and purchase their works, enjoy the melodies of local musicians, and learn more about rural life. The tour is the largest free farm and art tour in the nation with over 60,000 visitors participating since 2012.

The 2022 South Carolina Ag + Art Tour include over 120 Tour Sites and over 300 Artisans in 10 SC Counties:

- Colleton
- Lancaster
- York
- Kershaw
- Lexington
- Richland
- Chester
- Fairfield
- Charleston
- Newberry

Weekends, May 14 through June 26. For more information including County Tour dates visit:

<https://www.agandarttour.com/>

Association News

Our annual meeting in March was a huge success! We approved revisions to the by laws and elected new members. To the outgoing board members, thank you so much for you time and talents! And to the new members, Welcome!

Also, we have two vacancies on the board right now. If you are interested in filling one of those seats, please contact any current board member.

2022 Board Members

President: Elise Ashby, Union County Farm & Craft Market, 864-427-1530,
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Vice President: Ashley Page Bookhart, Richland Co. Library Farmers Markets, 803-354-2313,
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Secretary/
Treasurer: Tammie Miller, Maranatha Farm, 864-430-5375
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Region I
Jamie Gibson, Hub City Farmers Market, jgibson@hubcityfm.org

Region II
Brad Hoffman, Fairfield Farmers & Artisans Market, 803-369-1078, gypsywindfarms@gmail.com

Region III
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Calvin Hastie, Sr, South Sumter Farmers Market, 803-774-7776, chastie@ftc-i.net

Region IV
Ian Dillinger, Colleton Museum & Farmers Market, 843-549-2303, idillinger@colletoncounty.org
Tracy Richter, Mount Pleasant Farmers Market, 843-884-8517, farmersmarket@tompsc.com

Clemson Extension Representative
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