South Carolina Farm Aid
The Impact of the Agribusiness Sector on the South Carolina Economy

The agribusiness cluster has a total economic impact of $41.7 billion in 2013.

Economic impact has increased 23% since 2006.

The agribusiness cluster accounted for 109,141 direct jobs and 212,530 jobs total, representing 10.5% of the state's workforce in 2013.
## Table 1: Estimated Losses in the Field and from Prevented Planting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Losses in the Field</th>
<th>Losses from Prevented Planting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peanuts</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$72,899,200</td>
<td>$24,331,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>Oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$86,121,984</td>
<td>$1,393,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>Canola/Rapeseed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$125,846,000</td>
<td>$284,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45,000,000</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>Fruit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$329,867,184</td>
<td>$46,009,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Loss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$375,876,853</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, Farm Service Agency and South Carolina Department of Agriculture.
Farm in Darlington County
H4717 Overview

- House Bill 4717 became law May 24, 2016 establishing the South Carolina Farm Aid Grant Program.
- $40 million available to South Carolina farmers who suffered at least a 40% loss of an affected agricultural commodity as a result of the October 2015 flooding
Guidelines

- A person, including any grant made to a related person, may not receive grants aggregating more than $100,000
  - In a percentage ownership situation:
    \[\text{Grant amount} \times \text{ownership \%}\]

- One person’s cumulative awards cannot exceed $100,000
Use of Funds

❖ Use of funds:
❖ Must be used for agricultural production expenses and losses due to the flood
❖ Must demonstrate the intent to continue the agricultural operation
❖ May NOT be used to buy new equipment

❖ Grant recipients will be required to keep receipts from purchases made with grant funds for 3 years and are subject to audit.

❖ If the funds are used for ineligible expenses, the money must be returned and the person can be prosecuted.
Application Process

❖ Eligibility Checklist:
❖ Experienced a verifiable loss of agricultural commodities of at least 40 percent as a result of the catastrophic flooding of October 2015
❖ A farm located in a USDA flood disaster declared county in South Carolina (all but Cherokee, Jasper, Oconee, and Pickens)
❖ A farm number issued by the Farm Service Agency
❖ Signed and notarized affidavit
❖ W-9
❖ The ability to demonstrate an intent to continue farming
Flooding inside RJ Reynolds tobacco warehouse on east McIntyre street in Mullins via David Bellamy.
1244 farmers were approved for a total award amount of $35,512,560

Program insights
Farmers suffered a 75% crop loss as a result of the flood
Crop insurance only covered 37% of the crop loss
100% completion rate for on-time applications
Smallest award: $164
88 applicants awarded maximum of $100,000
Average award: $28,365
Only 8 ineligible applications

Clemson University, SC State University and SCDA conducted
20 farmer trainings in just 21 days.

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner
South Carolina Department of Agriculture • 1200 Senate Street • Columbia, SC • 29201 agriculture.sc.gov