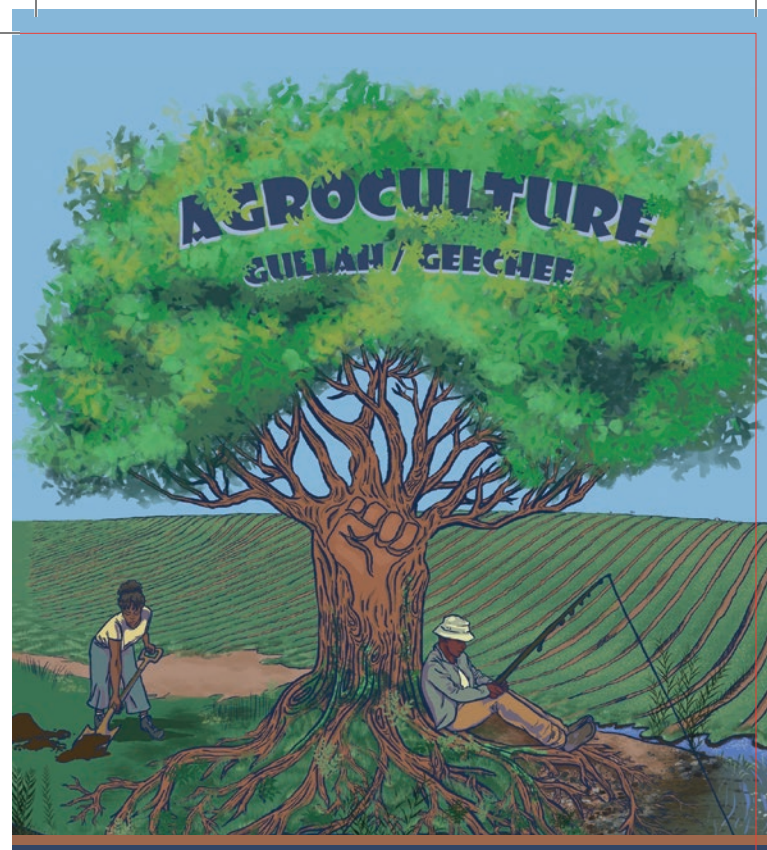
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Gullah/Geechee Agro-Culture

Family Farmers Public Resources Framework

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Farm Service Agency

There is a Farm Service Agency (FSA) office serving **every** jurisdiction in the U.S. The FSA is a key entry point for most federally funded (and some state-funded) farm programs and services. For example, farm loans and crop insurance payments are reviewed and issued through the FSA.



Eligible farmers may run for election to local county committees and have a say in their FSA management.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) Y	**Eligibility** ALL
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** ALL
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Enrollment applications accepted on a rolling basis.
Loans (Y/N) Y	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

To locate your U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) FSA Service Center, visit: **www.farmers.gov**

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FSA

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FSA
ACRE

Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship

Advanced Business Competition

The Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE), an initiative by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, is an umbrella organization that capitalizes on opportunities in the fields of agriculture, agricultural research, and entrepreneurship. Overall, ACRE seeks to provide additional economic prosperity for South Carolina agribusiness from within the state and across the globe. ACRE will house a unique research platform devoted to addressing specific challenges for industries that can provide more market opportunities to South Carolina agribusiness and farmers.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Must have agribusiness plan and product; must present pitch to industry panel
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** Specialty crops and value-added products
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Mid-March to mid-June
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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ACRE Business Planning Curriculum

Cash Assistance (Y/N) Y	**Eligibility** ALL
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** ALL
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Enrollment applications accepted on a rolling basis.
Loans (Y/N) Y	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information, visit:
https://acre-sc.com/programs/#agribusiness-planning-curriculum

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PLC

Price Loss Coverage

Farmers and landowners can choose between three programs:

1. **ARC-CO** provides income support tied to historical base acres of covered commodities. Payments are issued when actual county crop revenue is less than the ARC-CO guarantee for the covered commodity.
2. **ARC-IC** payments are issued when actual individual crop revenue for all covered commodities planted on the ARC-IC farm is less than the ARC-IC guarantee. ARC-IC uses producer's certified yields, not county level.
3. **PLC** payments are issued when the effective price of a covered commodity is less than the respective reference price. The effective price equals the higher of the market year average price or the national average loan rate for the covered commodity.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) Y	**Eligibility** ALL
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** ALL
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Enrollment applications accepted on a rolling basis.
Loans (Y/N) Y	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information, visit:
www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2022/fsa_arc_plc_factsheet_101922.pdf

Or Scan the QR Code!

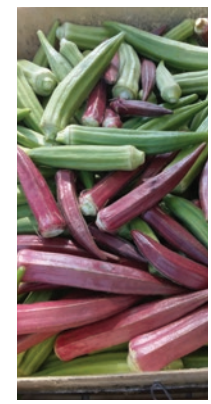
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Climate-Smart Grown in SC



Climate-Smart Grown in SC is a pilot project designed to increase the acreage and number of farmers in South Carolina using climate-smart practices. This collaboration between Clemson University and SC State University is funded by the USDA-NRCS Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities and focuses on the production of peanuts, leafy greens, forages for beef cattle, and forest products.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) Y	**Eligibility** ALL
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** ALL
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Enrollment applications accepted on a rolling basis.
Loans (Y/N) Y	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

To learn more, go to:
www.climatesmartsc.org

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Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events, or loss conditions (including blizzards and wildfires) as determined by the Secretary. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.



Cash Assistance (Y/N) Y	**Eligibility** All producers impacted by certain losses.
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** Livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Enrollment applications accepted on a rolling basis.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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Farm Loan Programs

Farm Ownership Loans, Operating Loans, and Microloans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans to help farmers and ranchers get the financing they need to start, expand, or maintain a family farm.

There are several types of farm loans offered by FSA:



Farm ownership loans can be used to purchase or expand a farm or ranch. This loan can help with paying closing costs, constructing or improving farm buildings, or to help conserve and protect soil and water resources.



Operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, seed, and equipment. It can also cover farm operating costs and family living expenses while a farm gets up and running.



Microloans are a type of operating or farm ownership loan. They are designed to meet the needs of small and beginning farmers, or for nontraditional and specialty operations, by easing some of the requirements and offering less paperwork.

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A portion of FSA loan funds are set aside for minority and women farmers and ranchers to buy and operate a farm or ranch.

Many FSA loans are available as either guaranteed loans or direct loans.

Direct loans are made directly from FSA to the farmer.

Guaranteed loans are made by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved traditional lender with the backing of FSA.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) Y	**Eligibility** ALL
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** ALL
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Enrollment applications accepted on a rolling basis.
Loans (Y/N) Y	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Find the loan that's right for you and get help applying at:
www.farmers.gov/loans/farm-loan-discovery-tool

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Healthy Bucks

Healthy Bucks, a program of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS), allows Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to obtain additional fresh fruits and vegetables when they use their SNAP benefits to purchase fresh produce at participating Healthy Bucks vendors.

Effective October 1, 2022, SNAP recipients who purchase at least $5 worth with their SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card at participating locations receive $15 in Healthy Bucks tokens to purchase additional fresh fruits and vegetables.



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Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Farmers and farmers' markets already approved to accept SNAP/EBT
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** All fresh produce
Contracts (Y/N) Y	**Time Frame** Enrollment applications accepted on a rolling basis.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 **4** 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information on Healthy Bucks, go to:
www.schealthybucks.com

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Local Food Purchase Assistances

Local Food Purchase Assistances (LFPA) is a Federal grant program authorized by the American Rescue Plan. Its purpose is to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency by supporting local, socially disadvantaged producers through the purchase of South Carolina-produced foods.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Farmers must register with the SC Department of Agriculture and sell products to designated aggregators. (Some aggregators require farmers to be good agriculture practices [GAP] certified.)
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** Agricultural products; some minimally processed value-added products
Contracts (Y/N) Y	**Time Frame** Program scheduled to end June 2025.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information on LFPA, visit:
https://agriculture.sc.gov/divisions/external-affairs-economic-development/lfpa

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Natural Resource Conservation Service

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) helps agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest landowners in South Carolina address resource concerns on their operations, including soil, water, air, plants, and animals. NRCS offers both technical and financial assistance.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Farmers must register with the SC Department of Agriculture and sell products to designated aggregators. (Some aggregators require farmers to be good agriculture practices [GAP] certified.)
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** Agricultural products; some minimally processed value-added products
Contracts (Y/N) Y	**Time Frame** Applications accepted on a rolling basis; decisions made each Fall.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information, visit:
www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/south-carolina

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Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps producers manage risk by covering crop losses and crop planting that was prevented due to natural disasters. The eligible or "noninsured" crops include agricultural commodities not covered by Federal crop insurance. Producers must be enrolled in the program and have purchased coverage for the eligible crop in the crop year in which the loss incurred to receive program benefits following a qualifying natural disaster.

Socially disadvantaged and qualifying Veteran farmers or ranchers are eligible for a waiver of the service fee and a 50% premium reduction when they file Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning, and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) Y	**Eligibility** Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm number and farm plan required.
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** Agricultural products; some minimally processed value-added products
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Ongoing applications; financial assistance applications reviewed each Fall.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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For more information on NAP, visit: **www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2023/fsa_nap_noninsuredcropdisasterassistance_factsheet_2023.pdf**

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For additional disaster assistance programs, go to: **www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool**

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Regional Food Business Center

Regional Food Business Centers (RFBCs) support producers by helping them access local and regional supply chains and linking them to wholesalers and distributors. They provide technical assistance needed to access new markets and Federal, state, and local resources, and assist small- and mid-sized producers in overcoming barriers to market access, with a focus on underserved farmers, ranchers, and food businesses.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm number and farm plan required.
Grants (Y/N) Y	**Crops/Produce Included** Agricultural products; some minimally processed value-added products
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Ongoing applications; financial assistance applications reviewed each Fall.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) NR (A rating is not yet available for this program.)

For more on RFBC, visit:
www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/rfbcp

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South Carolina Agricultural Tax Exemption

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture issues South Carolina Agriculture Sales Tax Exemption (SCATE) cards to individuals eligible to receive agriculture sales tax exemptions when they purchase eligible products in SC for their agriculture businesses. The SCATE program is good for three years. An online application, valid email address, and $24 fee are required.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm number and farm plan required.
Grants (Y/N) N	**Crops/Produce Included** Agricultural products; some minimally processed value-added products
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Applications accepted and processed on a rolling basis.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information on SCATE, visit:
https://agriculture.sc.gov/faq/scate

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Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grants encourage a systems approach to sustainable agriculture. They are mainly designed for teams of interdisciplinary researchers.



Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Competitive grant projects
Grants (Y/N) Y	**Crops/Produce Included** Sustainably produced food, fiber, and animal products
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Applications due late May.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information on SARE, go to:
https://southern.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/research-education-grants

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SARE

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SARE On-Farm Grants

Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Competitive grant projects
Grants (Y/N) Y	**Crops/Produce Included** Sustainably produced food, fiber, and animal products
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Applications due late November.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Find out more about on-farm grants at:
https://southern.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/on-farm-research-grants

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SARE Producer Grants

Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Competitive grant projects
Grants (Y/N) Y	**Crops/Produce Included** Sustainably produced food, fiber, and animal products
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Applications due late October.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information on producer grants, visit: **https://southern.sare.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/producer-grants**

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Value-Added Producer Grant Program

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income.

Cash Assistance (Y/N) N	**Eligibility** Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and business ventures. Socially-disadvantaged applicants may receive priority consideration.
Grants (Y/N) Y	**Crops/Produce Included** ALL
Contracts (Y/N) N	**Time Frame** Applications due mid-Spring.
Loans (Y/N) N	**Process Rating** (difficulty scale of 1-10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For more information on VAPG, go to:
www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants

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VAPG

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Glossary

Base Acres: A farm's base acreage and program yield are historical averages of crop production and are used to calculate certain government payments, including Agriculture Loss Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC).

Cash Assistance: Cash assistance refers to payments issued directly to producers after satisfying some qualifying condition (e.g., covered crop loss insurance payment, payments for completing specific on-farm practices).

Programs with cash assistance payments are usually eligibility-based, not competitive or contractual. Cash assistance is not a loan and does not require repayment.

Commodities: Commodities include wheat, oats, barley, corn, grain sorghum, long and medium/short grain rice, temperate japonica rice, seed cotton, dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas, soybeans, peanuts, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, grapeseed, safflower, crambe, and sesame seed.

Contracts: A contract refers to an agreement between an entity or individual and a specific agency for a specific set of deliverables. Many contracts are competitive and must be negotiated over a period of time, after the initial contract winner has been selected.

Most contracts are reimbursable (i.e., funds are not paid to the organization until after certain deliverables have been completed and invoices and reports have been submitted). Payment made under a contract is not a loan and does not require repayment.

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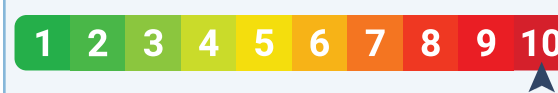
Grants: Grants refer to an award made by a specific agency to an entity (usually, but not exclusively, a nonprofit organization) for a specific set of activities or a specific program. Grants are usually competitive and are awarded after review of proposals submitted during a specific time frame.

Most grants are reimbursable (meaning funds are not paid to the organization until after certain activities have been completed and invoices and reports have been submitted). Some grants have a match requirement, which means the applicant must identify other sources of funding at a specified amount or percentage to qualify for the grant award. Payment made under a grant is not a loan and does not require repayment.

Loans: Loans refer to funding provided by a financial entity, community development financial institution (CDFI), or other agency for purchase of specific items or completion of specific activities.

Most loans require borrowers to meet certain credit standards and/or other eligibility criteria. Payments made as a part of a loan agreement require repayment according to the terms established in the loan documents.

Process Rating/Difficulty Scale:



1 = very easy, one or less hour required on average

10 = extremely difficult; more than 20 hours required on average

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Gullah/Geechee Agro-Culture

Family Farmers Public Resources Framework

Gullah/Geechee culture is characterized by self-determination and self-sufficiency; it is defiantly African and distinctively place-based.

This guide identifies resources and grant programs available to Gullah/Geechee farming and fishing communities to aid in sustaining family farming practices and strategies across generations.

This framework was funded by Southern SARE Research Grant LS21-355 – "Gullah/Geechee Agro-Culture: Sustaining Culture to Sustain Agriculture in the Lowcountry."

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