

Dear SARE Advisory Committee Members,

You are receiving this invitation because you have previously served on the South Carolina Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SC SARE) Advisory Committee, OR you have been nominated to serve on the committee for 2025.

Please save the date! The **Annual South Carolina Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SC SARE) Advisory Committee meeting to prioritize training topics for the year will be held on Monday, February 17th 2025**, from 1:30 till 4:00 pm at the Lake House at Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia, SC.

Our advisory meeting will immediately follow the *2025 SC SARE Open Forum on Sustainable Agriculture*. Your input as an Advisory Committee member to our statewide Sustainable Agriculture initiative is very important, so we hope that you'll be able to attend and participate in the process to help prioritize and develop a plan for sustainable agriculture training in 2025. We can't pay you for your time but if you will be traveling from outside the Columbia area, we can provide you a one-night stay at a nearby hotel on Feb. 16th if needed and serve you a spectacular local foods lunch on February 3rd prior to the Advisory Committee meeting.

The objectives of the SC SARE Advisory Committee meeting are:

- Review critical issues, challenges and needs related to sustainable agriculture development in South Carolina
- Identify and prioritize sustainable agriculture training needs that can be addressed with available funding from SARE and other sources
- Develop a plan for educational programs to be organized in 2025 which address the critical issues that are identified

If you can attend your participation at the *Open Forum on Sustainable Agriculture* earlier in the day, prior to this meeting, is highly encouraged to facilitate the Advisory Committee discussion in the afternoon. Please find the agenda below for the entire day. (If you are unable to participate in the Open Forum; please do plan to come for lunch ahead of the advisory committee meeting).

AGENDA

2025 Open Forum on Sustainable Agriculture

8:45 - 9:30	Check in (Coffee and refreshments served)
9:30 - 9:40	Introduction and Welcome (Dr. John Andrae & Dr. Joshua Idassi, SC SARE State Program Coordinators)
9:40 - 10:15	Who's in the room? (Individuals and organizational representatives will have an opportunity to briefly discuss new or ongoing initiatives)
10:15 - 10:35	Review of 2024 programs and accomplishments
10:35 - 11:35	Facilitated Discussion: Issues relating to sustainable agriculture in South Carolina. Where should we put program resources in 2025?
11:35 - 11:45	Break
11:45 - 12:30	Prioritization of needs
12:30 PM	Adjourn Open Forum
12:30 - 1:30	Local Foods Lunch

2025 SC SARE Advisory Committee Meeting

1:30 - 3:30	SC SARE Advisory Committee Meeting (AC Members)
3:30 - 4:00	Final Commentary & Adjourn AC meeting

Please RSVP by January 31st

If you can attend, please let us know if you plan to attend and indicate if you need a hotel room on Sunday, Feb. 16th at the following link (hotel rooms are limited and will be provided on a first come first served basis). If you are not able to attend, kindly respond to this email and let me know. **RSVP here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1118220360199?aff=oddtcreator> (please do not share this link)