

Joint IPM & SC SARE Open Forum

2024 Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

The 2024 joint Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program & SC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program Open Forum was held in-person at the Lake House at the Sandhill REC in Columbia, SC on Thursday, January 11, 2024 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. A catered lunch from [Spotted Salamander](#) was served. Approximately 20 people attended.

Agenda

10:00 am – 10:15 am: Welcome and introductions

10:15 am - 10:45 am: IPM Program overview and updates (Tim Bryant)

10:45 am - 11:15 am: SC SARE Program overview and updates (Jonathan Windham)

11:15 am - 11:45 am: Updates from SC State University SARE (Mark Nettles)

11:45 am - 12:00 pm: Dr. Liliane Severino da Silva - *Development of forage and livestock systems educational resources for agricultural professionals and farmers*

12:00 pm -1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Open discussion & brainstorming for 2024-2025

2:00 pm: Adjourn

*Presentations this year were concluded ahead of schedule. Open discussion & brainstorming began at 11:19 am and ran through lunch. The meeting was officially adjourned at 1 pm. A recording of the presentations can be found here:

<https://clemsun.box.com/s/yexytcys27twjdvahjefrnqowq9m570y>

Overview of the 2023 IPM Program

Mr. Tim Bryant (IPM Program assistant, Clemson University) presented an update on the 2023 IPM program activities and accomplishments.

Resources:

- IPM Program NEW webpage: <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/ipm/index.html>
- IPM feed on X: https://mobile.twitter.com/ipm_clemson
- MyIPM apps:
<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/ipm/resources/applications.html>

Overview of the 2023 SC SARE Program

In July of 2023, Dr. Matt Smith retired from Clemson University and from his role as Program Co-Coordinator for SC SARE. Dr. John Andrae (Associate Director for Clemson's Experiment Station) is the new 1862 Program Co-Coordinator. As of 2023, SC SARE Programs at SC State University (1890) and Clemson University (1862) will receive SARE funding *independently* and will *each* have their own program assistants.

On behalf of Dr. Andrae, Jonathan Windham (Program Assistant, Clemson University) presented a summary of projects funded by the Southern SARE Program and reviewed the 2023 program activities and accomplishments for the SC SARE Program. Please see Southern SARE summary table below.

SC SARE has a NEW website! <https://blogs.clemson.edu/sc-sare/>

Project Number	Title	SARE Funds	Project Type	Grant Recipient Organization
SPDP23-021	Indigo and Companion Food Crops: Opportunities for Limited Resource Farmers in the Lowcountry of South Carolina and Georgia	\$79,500	Professional Development Program	International Center for Indigo Culture, Marshview Community Organic Farm, Save Our Land Ourselves, South Carolina State University
EDS23-047	Young Tree Farmers Camp	\$46,000	Education Only	Center for Heirs' Property Preservation
EDS23-054	Gullah/Geechee Heir Property Initiative: Sustaining Heir Property in the Lowcountry Through Sustainable Agriculture	\$40,000	Education Only	Gullah Geechee Initiative Foundation
LS23-379	Flipping the cages on sustainable aquaculture: a study on oyster aquaculture technique and policy to reduce pathogens	\$358,557	Research and Education	South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Resources Research Institute, College of Charleston, Minorities in Aquaculture
FS23-350	The Effectiveness in Attracting Oyster Spat on PVC versus Bamboo Stakes for Reef Restoration in the North Edisto River	\$15,000	Farmer/Rancher	Barrier Island Oyster Co.
GS23-274	Enhancing the Biological Control of the Diamondback Moth (<i>Plutella xylostella</i>) Through Habitat Management for Sustainable Brassica Production	\$12,341	Graduate Student	Clemson university
GS23-283	Potential of Cover Crop Influence on Water Repellency and the Sustainability of Southern U.S. Soils	\$12,042	Graduate Student	Clemson University

This information can be found by searching projects at projects.sare.org and filtering by state + year.

Projects in SC supported by Southern SARE in 2022-2023

<https://southern.sare.org/state-profiles/south-carolina/>

A distinction between the National SARE Program, the Southern SARE Program, and the SC SARE Program was emphasized, with the SC SARE Program offering funding only for train-the-trainer activities.

Resources:

- Video links of Southern SARE faculty detailing different grants offered by the Southern SARE Program:
<https://www.youtube.com/@peedeeresearchandeducation1710/videos>
- Apply for a grant from Southern SARE here: <https://southern.sare.org/grants/>

Update from SC State University

On behalf of Dr. Joshua Idassi (SC State Program Co-Coordinator), Mark Nettles (SC State University) gave a brief talk regarding the progress of the SC State University SC SARE Program.

Forages and Livestock Systems resources

Dr. Liliane Severino da Silva (Clemson University) gave an informative presentation regarding existing and emerging/sustainable livestock forage systems in the southeast. Dr. Silva also shared the development of forage-based educational books (one of which was supported by SC SARE).

Resources:

- Forage Drops youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2fj2-Vnat-GR6rFmLz8Ag>
- Forage Drops facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/foragedrops>
- Publications & contact:
https://www.clemson.edu/cafls/faculty_staff/profiles/lseveri

Open Discussion

After the initial presentations, the floor was yielded for open discussion. The IPM Program would like to focus on surveying growers in hopes of directly sampling what areas they desire help in. Award amounts for SC SARE grants were heavily discussed. The two SC SARE Programs receive a limited amount of funding each year. In order to make the most meaningful impact, state-wide, the Clemson SC SARE Program is tentatively asking applicants to limit their funding requests to \$1,200 - \$1,500. Some attendees felt that this amount was not enough to justify completing the current [request for funding application](#) from SC SARE. It should be noted here that the SC State University SC SARE Program has no such restrictions currently in place, and while there is collaboration between the universities, their SARE Program funding is completely independent.

Concerning areas where SC SARE funding could be utilized in 2024, it was suggested (and agreed upon by many in attendance) that funding could be offered to train-the-trainer activities surrounding Climate Smart conservation practices, with regards to the new [Climate Smart Commodities Project](#). This would facilitate collaboration between Climate Smart and SC SARE, allow for the state-wide standardization of educational materials, and effectively leverage Extension resources from both 1890 and 1862 land grants.

Other areas suggested as priority for 2024 trainings included:

- Hemp fiber & grain production
- The agronomics of forages (sprayer calibration, planning, planting, etc..)
- No-till conservation tillage and IPM basics for community gardens.
 - This training would be for extension agents who would then use that information to train growers.
- Wildlife management/Nuisance wildlife & pest management
 - There is a pressing, unrecognized need for proper trainings related to the handling of nuisance wildlife in agronomic systems (deer, wild hog, beaver, ground hog, etc.). With the onset of urban-sprawl-driven deforestation, wildlife is being increasingly displaced and their displacement into farm lands negatively impacts crop yields and interrupts IPM strategies growers may have in place.
- Farm machinery trainings
- Grant-writing workshops.
 - The New and Beginning Farmer Program *does* offer a grant-writing workshop that is a part of their Advanced Series. See here: <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/newfarmer/workshops.html>

It was also mentioned that many of these topics could be expanded into webinar series, which would expand the impact of the trainings.

In closing, during the open discussion an emphasis was made that the SC SARE Program is strictly a professional development program (PDP) grant. This grant comes with restrictions, the primary limitations being that PDP funds **MUST** be used for train-the-trainer activities and that said activities **MUST** have a sustainability component. Awardees of the SC SARE Program are free to apply for additional funding from both the National SARE Program and the Southern SARE Program, both of which offer a variety of grants. Those grants can be found here: <https://www.sare.org/grants/>

Minutes submitted: January 16, 2024 by Jonathan Windham