

South Carolina SARE Program

2020 Open Forum and Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2020

Lake House at Sandhill REC - Columbia, SC

PARTICIPATION

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OPEN FORUM ATTENDEES			
Patrick	Belk	Greenville Technical College	
Barbara	Benton	Sailpoint Farms and Garden	
Fred	Benton	Sailpoint Farms and Garden	
Douglas	Flory	Farm Credit	
Raghupathy	Karthikeyan	Clemson Univeristy	
Charly	McConnell	Clemson University	
Mira	Mihajlovich	Clemson University	
David	Mims	OTC, LLC	
Anthony	Mirisciotta	GrowFood Carolina	
Steven	Richards	Clemson University	
Cory	Tanner	Clemson Extension	
Harlow	Tighe	Eagle House Botanicals, LLC	
Savannah	Weeks	Clemson Extension	
Thomas	Dobbins	Clemson Extension	
Jeremy	Greene	Clemson University	

Overview of the 2019 SC SARE Program. Geoff Zehnder reviewed the SC SARE funding and planning process along with 2019 program activities and accomplishments, including training events organized by other organizations with SC SARE support. Top priority areas that were addressed in 2018 training events were:

- ***Bedding Down the Farm: Wrapping up the Growing Season and Preparing for Winter*** Half day SC New & Beginning Farmer Program (SCNBFP) event. Instructor, Dave Robb. January 5th, 2020. Clemson University Student Organic Farm. Clemson, SC.
- ***Developing an Online Presence for your Farm Business.*** (website and social media platform development). Full day SC New & Beginning Farmer Program (SCNBFP) event. 9am – 2pm March 1, 2019. Clemson, SC.
- ***Spring into Action: Early Season Preparations for Vegetable Production on the Farm.*** Half day SCNBFP event. March 20, 2019. Clemson University Student Organic Farm. Clemson, SC.
- ***Sandhill REC Field Day: Cover Cropping in Sandy Soils.*** Full day workshop. April 3, 2019. Sandhills Research and Education Center. Columbia, SC.
- ***Farmscaping for Beneficial Insects: Best Practices for Integrated Pest Management.*** One day SCNBFR workshop. April 30, 2019. Aiken, SC
- ***Integrated Weed Management.*** Full day training for farmers and ag professionals. May 23, 2019. Clemson Madren Center and CU Organic Research Farm, Clemson, SC.
- ***2019 Soil Health Conference 2*** Full day Conference. (programming for public on day 1 and exclusively for extension personnel and ag professionals on day 2) October 28-29, 2019. Clemson Madren Center and Clemson Organic Research Farm. Clemson, SC
- ***Hempcrete Building Workshop;*** Two-day workshop. Instructor: Chris Magwood; Using plants in building structures. April 27-28. American College of the Building Arts, Charleston, SC
- ***South Carolina Hemp Summit.*** Full day training. Speaking engagement. May 17, 2019. Bowman, SC

Other Program Activities in 2019

- Travel scholarships for Extension agents and other ag professionals to attend relevant conferences.
- Sponsor for SC Sustainable Agriculture Agent of the Year Award (Ben Boyles) presented at Carolina Farm Stewardship Association Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference on November 6, 2019.

Open Forum Discussion.

Discussion focused on the following category areas for training: Pest Management, Soil Health, Livestock, and Other (discussion on Other included any additional topics pertinent to the growth of sustainable agriculture in the state not directly related to previous topics).

Advisory Committee Meeting: Prioritized Topic Areas for Training in 2020.

Open Forum participants and Advisory Committee members reviewed topic areas identified in the Open Forum meeting and discussed priority topics by category. Members then cast votes for their top choice training topics to be included in the 2020 SC SARE

training program. AC members were allocated 5 votes total with one vote maximum per training topic.

Pest Management

- Farm Equipment Demos/Cooperative Equipment Sharing for Weed Management (8 votes)
- Establishment & Management of Beneficial Habitats (6 votes)
- Weed, Insect, Nematode Management (3 votes)
- Hemp IPM (3 votes)
- Vertebrate Pest Management (2 votes)

Livestock

- Integrating Livestock into Diversified Vegetable Agriculture (including food safety) (9 votes)
- Pasture Management (0 votes)

Soil Health

- Fertility Management (Organic amendments, calculations & timing, symptomology) (17 votes)
- Using Animals to Improve Soil Health (11 votes)
- Cover Cropping (profits, yield, soil health) (9 votes)
- Economics of Implementing Soil Health Practices (9 votes)
- Fundamentals of Soil Health (0 votes)

Other

- Planning for Resilience in Age of Changing Climate (12 votes)
- Making Money with Specialty Crops (ideas: strawberries, blueberries, sweet potatoes, peanuts, rice, heritage crops, luffa, lavender) (4 votes)
- Innovative Technology for Small Farms (3 votes)
- Soil Testing/Site Selection for Urban Farms (3 votes)
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (Train the Trainer) (3 votes)
- Scaling-Up; Options and Meeting Market Demand (2 votes)
- Veteran New Farmer Training (0 votes)
- Post Harvest Handling of Produce (0 votes)
- Farm Labor for Small Farm Operations (livestock, hemp, produce) (0 votes)

Respectfully submitted: February 5, 2020

Kelly Flynn