



2018 – 2019 SOUTH CAROLINA NEW & BEGINNING FARMER PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is included in the program?

- Series of full-day 'core' Agribusiness training workshops (7-11 workshops)
- Farm-to-Table catered lunch at all 'core' training events
- Annual Resource Rodeo event
- Regional specialized training events (25+ available, many production-related)
- Three guided farm tours
- Possible paid on-farm internship (5 available)
- Graduation event and certificate (upon successful program completion)
- Program binder and all materials

What will I learn in this program? The SCNBFP is fundamentally an **AGRIBUSINESS** program, focused on providing new and beginning farmers the knowledge and tools necessary for developing a successful business enterprise. Some of the key core topics of the SCNBFP include:

- Legal Issues & Risk Management
- Land Access & Financing
- Developing a Business Model & Writing a Business Plan
- Understanding & Navigating Regulatory Issues
- Fundamentals of Farm Financial Management
- Engaging State & Local Resource Providers
- Marketing, Branding, & Agritourism
- Direct and Mediated Market Channels

Will you teach me how to farm? NO. While our regional programming may include some terrific production-related workshops, the SCNBFP, at its core, is about the *business* of farming.

Who may apply? In order to apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- Resident of South Carolina
- Age 18+
- Actively farming for less than 10 consecutive years
- You do NOT need to have current access to land or be actively farming to apply!

May I apply with a partner? Yes! We offer a joint participation option for two individuals who wish to take the program together. We have had many spouses, parent/son, parent/daughter, sibling, and business partner teams participate.

- Joint partners MUST be part of the SAME FARM ENTERPRISE
- Joint partners will be expected to share materials
- Joint applicants who do NOT share a residential address should submit two separate applications, naming the other as joint applicant
- Joint applicants who DO share a residential address should submit just one application

What are program costs? Each accepted applicant is subsidized by \$2000 - \$3000 in grant funding. This enables us to reduce participant fees to:

Program Level	Participant Type	Participant Program Fee
Level 1	Individual	\$300
Level 1	Joint	\$500
Level 2	Individual	\$400
Level 2	Joint	\$650

Payment will only be accepted online – debit cards and all major credit cards accepted.

Are additional scholarships available? Yes. For those who qualify, additional scholarships are available to cover a portion of the participant fees – typically 50%. You will have the option of requesting a scholarship in the application.

What are the 2018-2019 program dates? Dates for the full-day 'core' agribusiness workshops are listed below. Regional programming also runs November 2018 through May 2019. Topics and dates will be posted/announced throughout the program.

- November 1, 2018 (levels 1 & 2)
- November 15, 2018 (levels 1 & 2)
- November 29, 2018 (levels 1 & 2)
- December 13, 2018 (levels 1 & 2)
- January 10, 2019 (levels 1 & 2)
- January 24, 2019 (levels 1 & 2)
- February 7, 2019 (Resource Rodeo - levels 1 & 2)
- February 21, 2019 (levels 1 & 2)
- March 7, 2019 (level 2)
- March 21, 2019 (level 2)
- April 4, 2019 (level 2)
- April 25, 2019 (level 2)
- May 9, 2019 (Graduation – levels 1 & 2)

What are the workshop times & location?

- Core workshops listed above are all on Thursdays, from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm. These are all in Columbia, SC at Clemson's Sandhill REC facility.
- Regional workshops will be all over the state. Days, times, and duration will vary.

What are the "program levels"? The SCNBF is designed to provide training to new, beginning, and aspiring farmers with as little as zero years of experience, but no more than ten years.

- Level 1 – Suited for those with 0-2 years farming experience
- Level 2 – Suited for those with 3 or more years farming experience
- Levels 1 & 2 will be together for eight events (including the Resource Rodeo); Level 2 will participate in four additional advanced training sessions. Both levels will come back together for graduation.
- Program staff will recommend the appropriate level, but you will have the opportunity to request a change in assignment.

What are attendance requirements? Only those who meet or exceed attendance requirements will receive a certificate of completion for the program. While we encourage you to attend all core workshops and as many regional trainings as you like, *minimum* requirements are:

- Level 1 = five (5) core workshops + two (2) regional workshops
- Level 2 = eight (8) core workshops + four (4) regional workshops

Note: For “joint” participants, both participants *may* attend any/all events, but only one *need* attend to receive attendance credit.

How do I apply? Applications are only available online, by visiting the program website at www.scnewfarmer.org.

Here are some things you should know:

- You must apply online – paper applications are not available.
- Only a limited number of applications will be accepted. Because this is a competitive process, we encourage you to give your best effort.
- When you first open the application, you will be asked to choose a login name and password. **SAVE THESE**, as it may not be possible for us to recover them if you forget.
- The application is *long*. You do not need to finish it in one sitting – your login and password will enable you to go back and complete. Do not “submit” until you are satisfied and all sections have been completed.
- **DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JULY 15, 2018 – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

What are some basic things you look for in an applicant?

- A complete application. Those that are not complete will not be considered
- Basic computer skills – email, internet, & word-processing proficiency
- Expressed commitment to meeting attendance requirements and completing the program – this includes having reliable transportation
- Demonstration of passion, clear goals, and determination to pursue farming as a commercial enterprise and not just a hobby
- Indication that your learning goals are *compatible with program content*

When will I find out if I have been accepted?

- Notifications will be emailed to everyone sometime in mid-August. We will tell you if your application has been accepted *or* declined.
- If accepted, the notification will tell you if you have been accepted into Level 1 or Level 2.
- The notification will also notify you of scholarship status/amount.
- You will also be given instructions on confirming your acceptance and making payment. FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY!

HINT: You will receive emails from the assistant program director, Diana Vossbrinck. Please enter the address dvossbr@clemson.edu into your address book so you do not miss any correspondence.

What deadlines should I be aware of?

- Deadline to apply – July 15, 2018
- Deadline to confirm your participation (if accepted) – September 15, 2018
- Deadline to pay in full – October 1, 2018
- Deadline to request refund – October 15, 2018
- NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER THE DEADLINE

What if I have technical problems with the online application? Please contact our technician, Ray Adcock, directly at: radcock@clemson.edu. Provide him with your login name and a specific account of your problem.

What if I have additional questions about the program?

1. First, please review the complete Program Outline, found on our website at www.scnewfarmer.org.
2. If your question is not answered in the provided online documents, please email the assistant program director, Diana Vossbrinck, at dvossbr@clemson.edu.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

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