March 7, 2018

Fellow Farmers, Growers and Producers,

South Carolina Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation and Clemson PSA support sound science in pursuit of a more comprehensive understanding of agricultural water use in our state. Clemson Cooperative Extension and Clemson University’s Water Resources Center have undertaken a research project that will involve the inaugural South Carolina Agricultural Water Use and Irrigation Survey, and we are asking the state’s farmers to help. The survey has been designed by Clemson scientists, engineers and Extension agents to collect data on irrigation use across the state. The results of the survey will facilitate development of improved technology, better equipment and more efficient water use practices. For additional information on the survey or to pose a question to the research team, visit: www.clemson.edu/public/agwatersurvey.

Clemson Cooperative Extension Agents will contact and visit farm operations throughout the state over the next eight weeks and meet with producers to better understand their water use and need for irrigation. The data you provide will help show the complete picture of agricultural water use in our state for policymakers and help insure that the state’s agriculture industry continues to thrive. Collected data will be stored on a secure computer and individually identifiable information will be encrypted to protect confidentiality. When the research project is completed, only aggregated results will be published and Clemson will ensure individual responses are secure and remain confidential.

We believe Clemson Extension with its decades of dedicated service to the agriculture community is perfectly positioned to lead this effort, but we need your help. We ask you to take the time during your busy spring schedules to talk with your County Agent when they call and visit.

Hope you have a blessed season.

Hugh E. Weathers
SC Commissioner of Agriculture

Thomas Dobbins, Ph.D.
Director
Clemson Cooperative Extension

Harry Ott
President/CEO
SC Farm Bureau