FY21-22 Recurring Priority #2

Critical Fruit and Vegetable Research
Recurring request: $1,448,400

Scientists at Clemson’s six Research and Education Centers (RECs) are driven to keep South Carolina farmers competitive on a national and global scale through research critical to maintaining economically viable and efficient crop production. Advancing the state’s fruit and vegetable economy requires agricultural scientists committed to conducting innovative research to meet fluctuating market demands and constituent needs. Clemson agricultural scientists are also the foundation of successful applications for research grants and contracts with the USDA, state commodity boards, Environmental Protection Agency and other key groups.

The requested funds will be used to hire scientists and research technicians with expertise to support research that addresses key challenges to maintaining and increasing competitiveness of SC fruit and vegetable growers.

**Fruit and Vegetable production:** Clemson scientists will strengthen the state’s specialty crop industry by improving yields through disease outbreak prevention and mitigation, and by developing improved cultural practices.
- Plant Disease Specialist: Address threats from crop diseases
- Vegetable Production Specialist: Improve production practices

**Fruit and Vegetable safety and profitability:** Clemson scientists will conduct research to protect food safety through each step in the food production and processing chain while developing marketing strategies and aiding in the development of crop policy.
- Post-harvest Specialist: Develop innovations in mechanization and post-harvest technologies
- Policy and Marketing Specialist: Improve profitability through crop policy and marketing

**Fruit and Vegetable improvement and pest management:** Strengthening scientific expertise in these areas will allow Clemson scientists to develop crop varieties optimized for South Carolina and Southeastern growing conditions and pest threats.
- Plant Breeder: Improve fruit and vegetable crop characteristics
- Plant Pest Specialist: Improve management of insect pests on fruits and vegetables

Six Technicians (one per researcher): Support research activities and increase research capacity.

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<tr>
<td>Research Faculty (6 FTE)</td>
<td>$ 783,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Technicians (6 FTE)</td>
<td>$ 365,400</td>
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<td>Operational Support</td>
<td>$ 300,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total (12 FTE)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,448,400</strong></td>
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