Clemson’s Public Service Commitment

FY2020-21 Budget Request

As a land-grant university, Clemson is part of a national system created by the U.S. Congress to improve the quality of life for citizens in every state through teaching, research and Extension. The university’s statewide Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) system conducts research, Extension and regulatory programs that improve and protect economic prosperity and well-being for all South Carolina citizens. Clemson PSA programs develop and deliver impartial science-based information in five areas that align with the national land-grant university system and touch the life of every South Carolinian. Those areas are: agribusiness productivity and profitability; economic and community development; environmental conservation; food safety and nutrition; and youth development and families.

Recurring Requests

1. Statewide Comprehensive Extension Program Support -- $1.127 million: Clemson Cooperative Extension provides unbiased, research-based information through a system of public outreach programs in youth development; agribusiness; agricultural education; agronomy; food systems and safety; forestry and wildlife; horticulture; water resources; livestock and forages; and rural health and nutrition. Clemson Cooperative Extension offices in all 46 S.C. counties house agents who travel the state supporting youth and communities through innovative programming and onsite constituent visits. Our request includes operating funds that will allow Clemson Cooperative Extension to serve a growing South Carolina population and add agents in critical areas such as forage-based livestock, sustainable agriculture, controlled environment agriculture and an organic farm manager.

2. Critical Fruit and Vegetable Research -- $1.44 million: Scientists at Clemson’s six Research and Education Centers are driven to keep S.C. farmers competitive on a national and global scale through research critical to maintaining economically viable and competitive 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 address key challenges to maintaining and increasing the competitiveness of S.C. fruit and vegetable growers.

3. Statewide Forestry and Wildlife Extension-- $767,800: Natural resource-based sectors contribute $33.4 billion in economic activity annually to the S.C. economy and are responsible for 218,719 jobs. Forests cover 13 million acres, including 7.2 million acres of private non-corporate forestland owned and managed by 207,000 family forest owners. S.C.’s growing population and increased urbanization and the sustainable management of these natural resources requires quality research and effective Extension programs designed to impart the latest science-based information to forestland owners across all regions of the state. The requested funding will be used to hire Extension personnel tasked with broadening the scope and strengthening the capacity of Clemson Extension’s natural resources youth programs, and expanding expertise to strengthen its ability to assist constituents in confronting wildlife problems, capitalizing on the economic impacts of hunting and fishing and tackling challenges associated with the sustainable management of profitable recreational hunting game such as deer, turkeys and quail.
Nonrecurring Requests

1. Research and Education Center Graduate School Housing -- $4 million: Clemson PSA’s six Research and Education Centers (RECs) are home to teams of scientists performing transformative research that helps build the S.C. agribusiness economy, conserve the state’s environment and natural resources, and improve the nutritional quality and safety of the food supply. In order to fulfill its research mission, Clemson PSA must add talented and accomplished graduate students. The requested funding will allow Clemson PSA to add new housing for students and visiting scientists and renovate existing housing currently available at each of the RECs across S.C.

2. Pee Dee REC Greenhouse Construction -- $2 million: Clemson’s Pee Dee Research and Education Center conducts high-tech research focused on creating new row crop cultivars with genetic traits optimized for S.C. and Southeast growing conditions. These optimized plants are drought and pest tolerant and allow farmers to maximize crop yields while reducing inputs such as water, fertilizer and pesticides. The requested funds will be used to build three research quality greenhouse facilities specifically designed to support Clemson’s plant breeding programs and allow Clemson University scientists to continue making plant technology breakthroughs.

3. Sandhill REC Research and Extension Building Repairs -- $990,000: Sandhill Research in Education Center in Columbia, was established in 1926 to conduct agricultural research in the Sandhill Region of the state. Today, research efforts at the Sand Hill REC continue to support the state’s $41.7 billion agribusiness industry. The requested funds will be used for needed upgrades and repairs to one of the REC’s original 1920s buildings to allow the building to be used for integrative office space for its research, Extension and regulatory activities.

4. Facility Renovation for Water Research -- $2 million: Clemson University’s South Carolina Water Resources Center (SCWRC) is a multi-disciplinary, cross-college research organization focusing its efforts on understanding the real-time fluctuation of S.C. water resources and providing state agencies with information they need to make unbiased, research-based decisions about S.C. water resources policy. The requested funding will be used to complete a renovation that will make possible overall building repairs and renovations and feature new laboratory and computer equipment for water quality analysis, sensor development and monitoring, and technology for virtual meetings, on-site trainings, and webinars across the state and with southeast partnering universities.

Clemson Public Service and Agriculture:

Experiment Station
Develops relevant, research-based knowledge for agriculture, forestry and natural resources to enhance economic development.

Cooperative Extension Service
Supports S.C. farms, families and communities through science-based information on agriculture, forestry, natural resources, youth development, nutrition, and rural health.

Livestock-Poultry Health and State Veterinarian
Serves as South Carolina’s animal health authority, administers the state meat and poultry inspection program, and operates the state veterinary diagnostic center for livestock and companion animals.

Regulatory Services
Regulates the safe and legal use of pesticides, the quality of fertilizer and lime, the certification of seed purity and germination, the prevention and control of plant pests, and the certification of greenhouse and nursery plants as pest-free.