



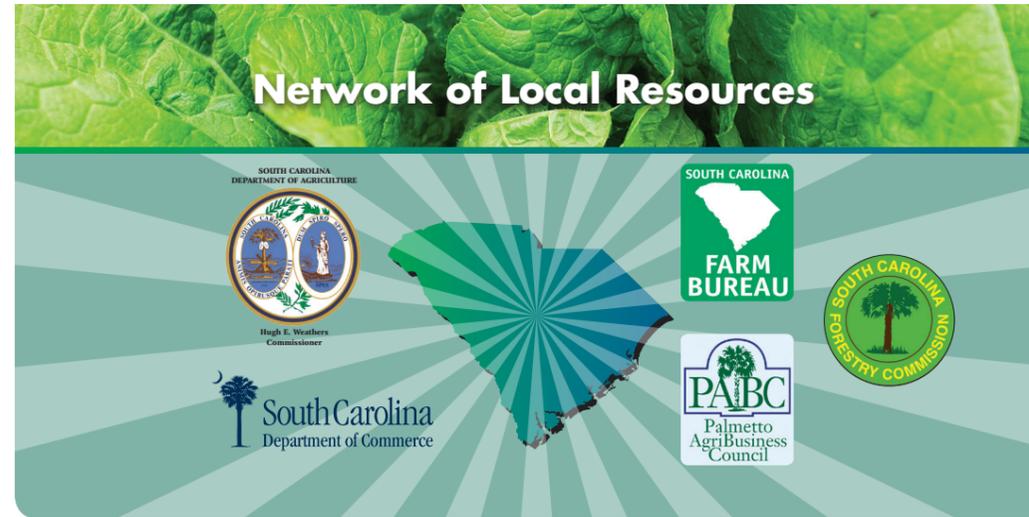
Ripe for Business



For first-generation farmer Chalmers Carr and his wife Lori Anne, the peach business has been ripe with sweet success. In 2001, Carr opened Titan Farms in Ridge Spring, South Carolina and now the producer of peaches, bell peppers and broccoli has become one of the largest and fastest growing farming operations in America. Each year Titan Farms produces an impressive 4,000 acres of peaches — making it the largest supplier in the East Coast — more than 300 acres of bell peppers and 250 acres of broccoli. Carr says when he started Titan Farms more than a decade ago, he had no idea his company would become a major supplier of produce to over two thirds of the country.

“We had a desire to grow, we saw an opportunity, but being a first-generation farmer without family to tell us how to do it, concerned us; but it turned out to be a blessing not a curse. We were able to try new things and develop our own best practices and we have been successful,” Carr said.

And the success keeps growing. Titan Farms supplies more than locally grown, quality fruits and vegetables; it also supplies a boost to the Ridge Spring economy. We employ 500 people in the heart of the season, says Carr. “When you look at rural counties, agriculture makes a high impact”.



Palmetto Agribusiness Council

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West Columbia, SC 29169
803-926-3462
www.scagribusiness.org

South Carolina Farm Bureau

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Columbia, SC 29202-0754
803-936-4210
www.scfb.org

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Post Office Box 11280
Columbia, SC 29211
803-734-2190
www.agriculture.sc.gov

South Carolina Forestry Commission

Post Office Box 21707
Columbia, SC 29221-1707
803-896-8800
www.trees.sc.gov

South Carolina Department of Commerce

1201 Main Street, Suite 1600
Columbia, SC 29201
803-737-0400
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Agribusiness is big business and getting bigger

Agribusiness volumes continue to grow and show growth as a vital component to South Carolina's economy. Referred to as the agribusiness industry, the agriculture and forestry industries represent one of the largest economic sectors in the state.

- Annual economic impact of \$34 billion
- Employs nearly 200,000 people
- Includes food processing, wood, forestry-related companies, livestock and produce companies

Growing smart investments

South Carolina's growing network of agribusiness-related companies and suppliers, distributed across every county in the state, includes family owned and operated farms, large scale private farms, livestock producers,

major food manufacturers and processors, and wood and timber related companies of all sizes.

Several key components make this state fertile ground for agribusiness growth. For new businesses or ones with expansion or relocation plans, South Carolina has an offer many industries find hard to refuse:

Dedicated project manager The South Carolina Department of Commerce, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and the South Carolina Forestry Commission have created a partnership among the three agencies to recruit agribusiness firms and establish a project manager for the state. This dedicated project manager focuses exclusively on agribusiness projects and helps bring investments and job creation to South Carolina.



Ready Workforce

Ready workforce with state technical training support As a right-to-work state with highly competitive wages, South Carolina businesses can rely on a stable, efficient workforce that is committed to growing and developing its world-class agribusiness industry. Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences offers many degree programs like agricultural education, agricultural business, forest resources management and food packaging science.

The Clemson University College of Agriculture is a vital resource for agribusiness in South Carolina. Scientists on campus and throughout the state at Clemson's five Experiment Stations conduct research and solve problems in the production, protection and use of food and fiber crops with the intent of increasing per acre value and safe food production. Cooperative Extension Service agents, with offices in each county, take science based research from Clemson and our colleagues around the country and provide a rapid and useful integration of information into the production system for growers and consumers. Through Plant Regulatory Services and the Livestock Poultry Health Division, Clemson is the state regulatory agency for animal health, plant diseases, fertilizers and pesticides. These four units under Clemson PSA provide a unique infrastructure of problem solving, innovation and quality assurance that cannot be found anywhere else in the United States allowing our current industries to expand and improve their competitiveness and profitability.



Unparalleled infrastructure keeps us well-connected through our roads, ports, rail and air. Logistically there is no better location than South Carolina for agribusiness companies to locate. Five interstates, five airports, a rail system and the Port of Charleston give South Carolina agribusiness access within 1,000 miles of 67% of the total U.S. population.

A surge in opportunity South Carolina businesses thrive thanks to lower operating and capital costs, including nearly all aspects of managing a business, from employee wages to utilities, construction and taxes. The cost of living in South Carolina is 12 percent less than the national average and is the 10th lowest in the nation. Construction costs are the 6th lowest in the United States and the 4th lowest in the Southeast. Business-friendly regulations and smart investments in energy infrastructure give us the region's most affordable power costs averaging only 5.9 cents per kilowatt hour, the lowest in the Southeast.



Local Sustainable Food

Certified SC Grown is a cooperative effort among local producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture to promote South Carolina produce and products. Certified South Carolina is a call to action to provide consumers with the ability to easily identify, find and buy locally grown products.

Nothing's Fresher. Nothing's Finer.

Fresh on the Menu is the second phase of the Certified SC program that brings together restaurant chefs who agree to prepare and include 25% Certified South Carolina Grown foods and products in their menus. There are more than 300 Fresh on the Menu restaurant statewide preparing meals made with Certified SC Grown — proving eating local is a matter of taste.

Locally grown. It's to dine for.



Natural Resources

Abundance of natural resources

South Carolina agribusiness companies prosper in part due to the vast land resources available throughout the Palmetto State. South Carolina is home to 3.2 million acres of agricultural land and 13.1 million acres of forestland. Forest management protects the water and air quality in the state and provides needed support for forest product manufacturing and jobs.

