

Anderson Soil & Water Conservation District

"Putting Conservation on the Ground"



January 2014

www.andersonswcd.org

Published Monthly

South Carolina Envirothon



May 2, 2014

Sandhill Research and Education Center
Columbia, SC



The Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental competition. It is a hands-on outdoor competition geared for teaching 9th-12th grade students about the environment and natural resources. Teams of between 3 and 5 students are tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, a current environmental issue and an oral presentation. The topic for the 2014 competition is *Sustainable Local Agriculture/Locally Grown*.

One Team will be sponsored by ASWCD

Team registration, photo waivers, and medical release forms must be received at the Conservation District office no later than **March 7, 2014**

You can find all forms on our website
or by calling our office and requesting them.



Office (864) 224-2126 Ext. 101 • Fax (855) 551-0108 • Email: andersonswcd@live.com • Face book: Anderson Soil-Water District

NOTE: Commissioners meet on the second Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center



andersonswcd.org

Facebook Group



All services and programs of the conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Can SC's small farms be saved?

by Bruce Smith

CHARLESTON — Getting South Carolinians to spend just \$5 more a week on local farm products would generate an additional \$1.2 billion for the state's small farms, according to a new report commissioned by the state Agriculture Department.

The 164-page report released Thursday, "Making Small Farms Into Big Business," provides suggestions for expanding the role small farms play in providing food for instate markets. It noted that while South Carolinians spend \$11 billion on food each year, more than 90 percent of that money goes for food products produced outside the state.



Farm in Fort Motte, S.C. A new report commissioned by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and released Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013, suggests ways to grow the business of South Carolina's small farms. It notes that while South Carolinians spend \$11 billion on food each year, 90 percent of that money is spent on farm products produced outside the state.

The report was compiled by the Crossroads Resource Center – which has done similar analyses of food production in other states – working with farm, conservation and business groups from across South Carolina.

One suggestion was that the state should undertake a marketing campaign similar to one in Colorado in which people would be urged to eat five fruits and vegetables a day, as well purchase \$5 a week in products produced by South Carolina farmers.

"The potential impact if every South Carolina resident purchased \$5 of food each week directly from a farmer in the state would be about \$1.2 billion," the study concluded.

Another recommendation was that farmers collaborate by sharing production infrastructure such as buildings where products can be washed and sorted for sale or where products can be stored. The report suggested establishing 15 to 20 such associations around the state.

It also suggested that the state establish three food hubs – businesses that handle the gathering, distribution and marketing of locally grown products. Currently, GrowFood Carolina, based in Charleston, is the only such hub.

"We can expand market opportunities for farmers across the state by developing a strategic plan based on the recommendations found in this report," Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers said in a statement released with the report. "As more consumers buy local, we need to not only meet that demand, but we must also capitalize on it."

More than 150 farmers, business people and political leaders were interviewed for the report.

Want to help conservation in your community?

We Need YOUR Help!!

Be a Sponsor...

Becoming an affiliate member of the Anderson Soil and Water Conservation District, you are joining with others in our county to carry out the important task of preserving the natural environment for future generations. Our conservation friends are important to us, and your financial support will help continue the work that we do. We thank those of you who have generously donated in the past and encourage others to become involved. Please fill out the application below and return it today with your **tax-deductible** donation toward caring for our natural resources.



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USDA-NRCS

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Affiliate Membership Application Form

Your support is very much **needed** and appreciated. Please return to the address below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Conservation	\$1000 or above
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Conservationist	\$500 —\$999
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Conservationist	\$200 —\$499
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Conservationist	\$50 —\$199
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Conservationist	\$49 or less

Name _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donation Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(All memberships include a FREE monthly newsletter. Donations of \$200 or more also include a Newsletter Ad for your business and a Membership Certificate of Appreciation.)

Return to:

Anderson Conservation District
1521 Pearman Dairy Road, Anderson, SC 29625
Thank You!

Anderson Soil and Water Conservation District
1521 Pearman Dairy Road
Anderson, SC 29625

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