

FARMER

2024



The Farmer

by Amelia Barr

The king may rule o'er land and sea,

The lord may live right royally,

The soldier ride in pomp and pride,

The sailor roam o'er ocean wide;

But this or that, whate'er befall,

The farmer he must feed them all.

The writer thinks, the poet sings,

The craftsmen fashion wondrous things,

The doctor heals, the lawyer pleads,

The miner follows the precious leads;

But this or that, whate'er befall,

The farmer he must feed them all.

The merchant he may buy and sell,

The teacher do his duty well;

But men may toil through busy days,

Or men may stroll through pleasant ways;

From king to beggar, whate'er befall,

The farmer he must feed them all.

The farmer's trade is one of worth;

He's partner with the sky and earth,

He's partner with the sun and rain,

And no man loses for his gain;

And men may rise, or men may fall,

But the farmer he must feed them all.

God bless the man who sows the wheat,

Who finds us milk and fruit and meat;

May his purse be heavy, his heart be light,

His cattle and corn and all go right;

God bless the seeds his hands let fall,

For the farmer he must feed us all.

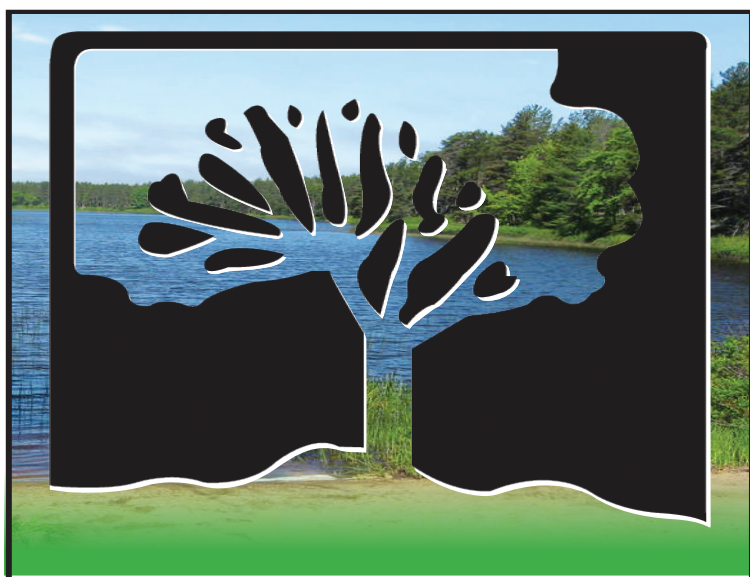
The science behind growing wheat

BY HANNAH W. MIKELL

Clemson Extension

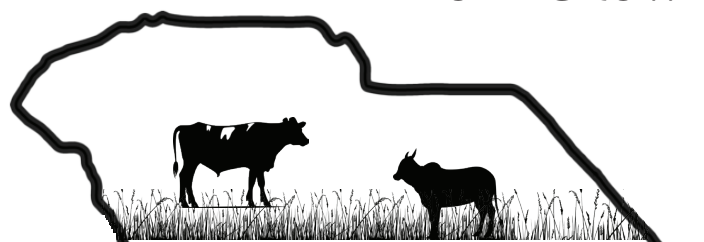
Farmers must be adept at scouting their wheat fields, a process crucial for identifying and managing pests, diseases, and other potential issues is crucial for a bountiful harvest. Scouting wheat involves systematic observation and assessment of the crop throughout its growth stages. Extension emphasizes the significance of early detection, as many wheat pests and diseases can cause irreversible damage if left unchecked. One of the primary pests to monitor is the Hessian fly, known for its destructive impact on wheat yields. By familiarizing themselves with the life cycle and behavior of this insect, farmers can implement timely interventions to mitigate its effects.

Additionally, Extension provides detailed guidelines for identifying common wheat diseases such as powdery mildew, leaf rust, and Fusarium head blight. Recognizing the symptoms of these diseases early on enables farmers to implement appropriate management strategies, such as selecting resistant varieties or applying fungicides at optimal timings. Furthermore, extension publications



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offer insights into environmental factors that contribute to disease development, empowering farmers to implement preventive measures proactively.

Extension publications highlight the significance of scouting for nutrient deficiencies in wheat plants. By conducting regular tissue tests and soil analyses, farmers can identify deficiencies early in the growing season and rectify them through targeted fertilization, thereby optimizing yield potential and grain quality. Appropriate and timely fertilizer application are crucial. During March extension agents assist farmer to conduct tiller counts to predict late season fertilizer applications.

Tillers per square foot formula:
 $48 \text{ tillers (3 or more leaves)} \times 12 = 576$
 $576 \div 6 \text{ (Row spacing)}$
 $= 96 \text{ Tillers ft}^2$



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Tillers per square foot formula:
Tillers per foot of row x 12
÷ Row width in inches



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Scouting wheat is not merely about identifying problems but also about assessing crop health and growth progress. Extension encourages farmers to monitor plant development, including tillering, stem elongation, and heading stages, to make informed decisions regarding irrigation, nutrient management, and pest control.

Scouting wheat is a fundamental practice for ensuring successful crop production. By leveraging the insights provided by Clemson Extension publications, farmers can enhance their scouting techniques, minimize risks, and maximize yields. In an era of evolving agricultural challenges, the knowledge gained through scouting serves as a cornerstone for sustainable wheat production, ensuring food security and economic viability for farmers and communities alike.

Nitrogen Recommendations

50 Tillers or less need some Nitrogen

20 - 30 Tillers need 60-70 lbs. of N

30 - 50 Tillers need 40-50 lbs. of N

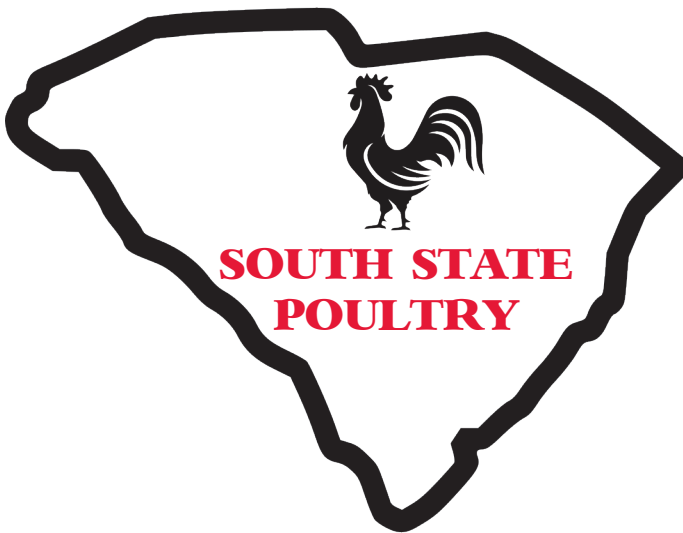
More than 50 Tillers per square foot need no Nitrogen



Exceptions

High Tiller count

Wheat looking Nitrogen stressed,
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What to know about the upcoming corn season

BY HANNAH W. MIKELL
Clemson Extension

Corn planting season is just around the corner, and we look forward to a warm spring and more corn acreage as the prices have held steady, preparing for planting season 2023. We should expect to see winter burn down applications in early March by and in full swing planting March 15th. Optimum ground temperatures are on average 55° and higher for corn this time of year. We look forward to mild temperatures in timely rains in the months to come.

Wheat acreage has declined some due to the lower prices. However, the acreage of wheat planted has received promising tiller counts which should result in more bushels per acre. Recent fertilizer application is expected soon and should carry wheat to harvest.

After recent scouting wheat this winter, it seems that hessian fly damage is minimal due to timely insecticide applications. Timely tissue sampling of the top 6 inches of wheat leaves will give us an accurate account for what nutrients the plant has utilized thus far and how much more is needed.

This is a renewal year for most Paraquat and Dicamba private pesticide applicators. Several farmers have already participated in the training and chemical spray safety procedures. Look for information on more upcoming classes at hgic.clemson.edu.



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What to know about the upcoming corn season

BY HANNAH W. MIKELL

Clemson Extension

This winter I've focused on education, continual outreach, and made field visits to help growers maximizing their yields while ensuring responsible agricultural practices. This growing season, my focus was on training growers about the safe and effective use of dicamba and paraquat.

I've educated and trained over 650 growers and industry attendees at 8 extension meetings and /or customer appreciation meetings. I conducted educational programs and workshops to educate growers about the proper use, handling, and application techniques of dicamba and paraquat. These sessions covered important topics such as product labeling, application rates, timing, environmental considerations, and potential risks associated with herbicide use. It is my duty to ensure that growers are made aware of state and federal regulations governing the use of dicamba and paraquat. This includes providing guidance on record-keeping requirements, restricted use pesticide (RUP) certification, and adherence to buffer zone regulations to minimize off-target drift.

I work closely with growers to assess their specific field conditions, cropping systems, and pest management strategies to develop personalized herbicide plans that minimize the risk of off-target movement and resistance development. Emphasizing integrated pest management (IPM) practices and diverse weed control strategies will be essential in mitigating herbicide resistance.

In the ever-changing agricultural field, new herbicide formulations and application technologies emerge. I provide growers with information on innovative tools and practices that enhance efficacy, minimize environmental impact, and promote stewardship. In turn I've built strong relationships with growers, agricultural industry stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and research professionals to help assist with grower concerns, disseminating timely information, and fostering a collaborative approach to our ever-changing agriculture landscape.

Overall, my role as an extension agronomy agent assures growers will gain knowledge, skills, and resources they need to make informed decisions regarding dicamba and paraquat use, ultimately supporting their success and the long-term health of their farming operations.



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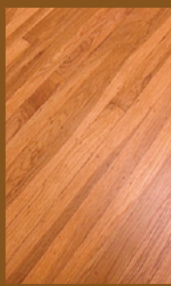
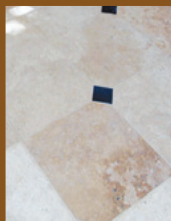
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(Picture- Dr. Plumlee, Clemson Extension Corn and Soybean Specialist speaking at a chemical company customer appreciation meeting with over 170 in attendance)



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Corn planting considerations

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As temperatures begin to warm and soils dry out, many planters will soon be in the field planting field corn around the state. As we look toward the 10-day forecast low temperatures remain the 30's through the weekend of March 20th and chances of rain increase. A few things to remember as we proceed with planting include making sure planters are set correctly for corn. Seed meters working appropriately are important for corn ensuring that corn seed is singulated and planting population is accurate. In recent years, several researchers have been evaluating planting depth settings across the planter, and results have found that not all planters are placing seed at uniform depths from row to row even though the T-handle is in the same position, just something to be mindful of. Again, yield response to uniform emergence has been documented in corn so uniform seed depth and uniform emergence is important.


As soils remain cool, soil temperature should be evaluated prior to planting. Clemson's recommendation is

to plant corn when soil temperature reaches a minimum of 50 degrees F at a 4-inch depth OR 55 degrees F at the 2-inch depth. Furthermore, when we plant, we want warm temperatures (>50+ degrees) in the days following planting to ensure we can generate enough heat units to get the seed to germinate and emerge quick and uniform.

If corn is planted, and soil temperatures get cold enough (< 50 degrees to freezing), several things can occur. Uneven emergence, growth, and development across the stand, issues with mesocotyl growth and reduced vigor can be noticed, leafing out underground, and severe cases can cause seed and seedling death.

Corn germinates in a two-step process where first, corn seed absorbs approximately 30% of its own weight in water and second, the growth of the radical and coleoptile occur. The second step is dependent on soil temperature and if soil temperatures are below 50 degrees F, then initiation and growth of the radical and coleoptile will not occur or will be very slow.

With slow growing conditions, seed will likely be exposed to insect and disease pressure for greater lengths



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of time, which could lead to further issues with emergence or seedling vigor. Planting into cold moist soils can also

shock the seed when water is absorbed causing seed death and result in variable stands or total replants.



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How labor shortages are affecting agriculture

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The agricultural workforce is shrinking, and has been for some time. The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates there are roughly 2.4 million farm jobs that need to be filled annually, but there has been a drastic decline in workers each year.

There are a number of reasons for the shortages. The AFBF says more than 73 percent of farm workers are immigrants from South America and Mexico. While the United States' H2-A visa program, which allows employers who meet specific requirements to bring foreign laborers in for temporary work, has increased the number of accepted applications for immigrants to 250,000, this number is still just a drop in the bucket in terms of labor needs.

Another factor is a career in agriculture isn't always easy or lucrative. According to the U.S Department of Ag-

riculture, for every dollar spent on food, a farmer receives only 7.6 cents. Farmers were predicted to lose 9.7 percent of total net income in 2021.

Declining interest in the field has also affected the number of farm workers. As more farm operators reach retirement age, fewer young farmers are replacing them due to volatile pricing, high real estate and land costs, steep initial machinery investment costs, and other factors. The physical demand of the industry also takes its toll. So what does this mean for the agricultural industry?

Many with knowledge of the industry indicate sweeping changes are warranted. Ellen Poeschi, the project director for the National Association of Agricultural Educators Teach Ag campaign, has said that a lack of agricultural education is contributing to the problem. Increasing availability of ag education courses across the country could build interest in the industry. Connecting students



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to internships or mentors may help, too.

Another option is to rally for greater economic opportunities in agriculture. The ag industry in general needs to find ways to make the economic benefits more competitive to other industries, and improve the working conditions and job flexibility. Agricultural industries currently average only 60 percent of what other industries offer in salaries. Farm wages have been rising due to the H-2A program, which requires farm worker pay to be higher than the state/federal minimum wage. More change is needed, but this may have to come at the federal level or be sparked by efforts on the part of agricultural advocacy groups.

Additional strategies farm operators can employ to combat shortages are: scaling back farm operations; integrating ag technology to reduce labor burdens; pivoting to crops that require fewer laborers; leasing portions of land to have extra money; employing temporary guest workers; and moving operations abroad.

Worker shortages continue to be problematic for the agricultural industry. A greater focus on remedying the issue is needed on a grand scale.



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Increased food demands put pressure on agriculture



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The population is growing and so is its demand for food to fuel those extra bodies. Harvard Business Review reports the global population has quadrupled over the last century. It's predicted that, by 2050, the population will exceed nine billion people.

The world is not able to feed all of its inhabitants, according to Penn State. There are more than one billion people who are estimated to lack sufficient food, and two billion who do not receive adequate nutrition. Researchers from the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota concluded that, to feed the world by 2030, yields on maize, rice, wheat, and soybeans will have to rise by 60 to 110 percent. At the start of 2023, projections show them only increasing by 45 to 60 percent. There are a few reasons why food supply may not meet with demand.

Climate change: Climate change is predicted to cause issues to crop yields, especially in portions of the world where the population is growing the fastest. For example, a recent NASA study published in the journal Nature predicts that high greenhouse gas emissions may cause corn output to decline as early as 2030, but wheat



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output would increase. Farmers may need to roll with the punches and shift operations to cope with the environmental changes.

Decreased commercial farming interest: Fewer people are working in farming. Land prices for expansion, new government mandates and regulations, and the impact of immigration and trade policies have made farming less attractive than it once was. Fewer commercial operations result in a diminished food commodity output.

Consumer waste: Food loss and waste (FLW) is a widespread issue, posing a challenge to food security. The World Bank estimates 30 percent of all food across the globe is wasted, amounting to 1.3 billion tons of food per year. The average global household wastes 74 kg of food each year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's 2021 Food Waste Index. Food waste is an issue that needs a solution as the world looks for ways to feed an expanding population in the decades to come.

In order to improve output, farmers have to make some changes. These can include investment in tools and technologies that enable farmers to apply nutrients more precisely and at lower cost, advises the Environmental Defense Fund. Seeds that need less water and fewer nutrients, as well as new fertilizers that are less likely to be lost to air and water, are some additional ideas. Farmers also

may want to employ green practices, such as hydroponics and drip irrigation, if they haven't already, to improve efficiency and cut costs. The public also may need to petition their lawmakers to make it easier for farm workers arriving on working visas to man the fields.

Food demand continues to rise, and it has become challenging for agricultural operations to keep up.



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The basics of regenerative agriculture

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Climate change poses a threat to various industries, not the least of which is the agricultural sector. Agricultural industry insiders recognize that the changing climate has been forcing farmers and agricultural organizations to adapt and adjust for decades, and that need to be flexible won't change in the years to come.

One of the changes many farmers may consider in coming years, if they haven't already, is a pivot to regenerative agriculture practices. Regenerative agriculture could have a profound impact on the world over the next half century, so now may be a great time to gain an understanding of the practice.

What is regenerative agriculture? Regenerative agriculture is a production system that focuses on reducing water usage and other inputs as part of a larger attempt to prevent land degradation and deforestation. According to the organization Green America®, regenerative agriculture is designed to harness the power of photosynthesis in plants to sequester carbon in the soil. The ability to do that can improve soil health, crop yields, water resilience, and

nutrient density.

Why should people be interested in regenerative agriculture? GreenAmerica® notes that regenerative agriculture draws down atmospheric carbon dioxide. That's a significant benefit, as Climate.gov, which is a product of various departments within the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, reports that adding more carbon dioxide to the environment is causing global temperatures to rise. In fact, observations from the NOAA Global Monitoring Lab in 2021 revealed that carbon dioxide alone was responsible for about two-thirds of the total heating influence of all human-produced greenhouse gases. GreenAmerica® reports that, at scale, regenerative agriculture could help to reverse the climate crisis by drawing down atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Another reason to consider regenerative agriculture is its connection to topsoil. GreenAmerica® reports that the world is on the cusp of running out of topsoil, which is vital to growing food. Regenerative agriculture rebuilds topsoil, which can lead to greater food security across the globe.

What are some regenerative agriculture practices?



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Regenerative agriculture practices include the usage of cover crops, a reduction in tilling, crop rotation, and spreading compost. GreenAmerica® notes that regenerative agriculture practitioners also avoid the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and factory farming.

As the climate crisis continues to challenge the agricultural sector, regenerative agriculture could help farmers and the larger industry successfully confront those issues.



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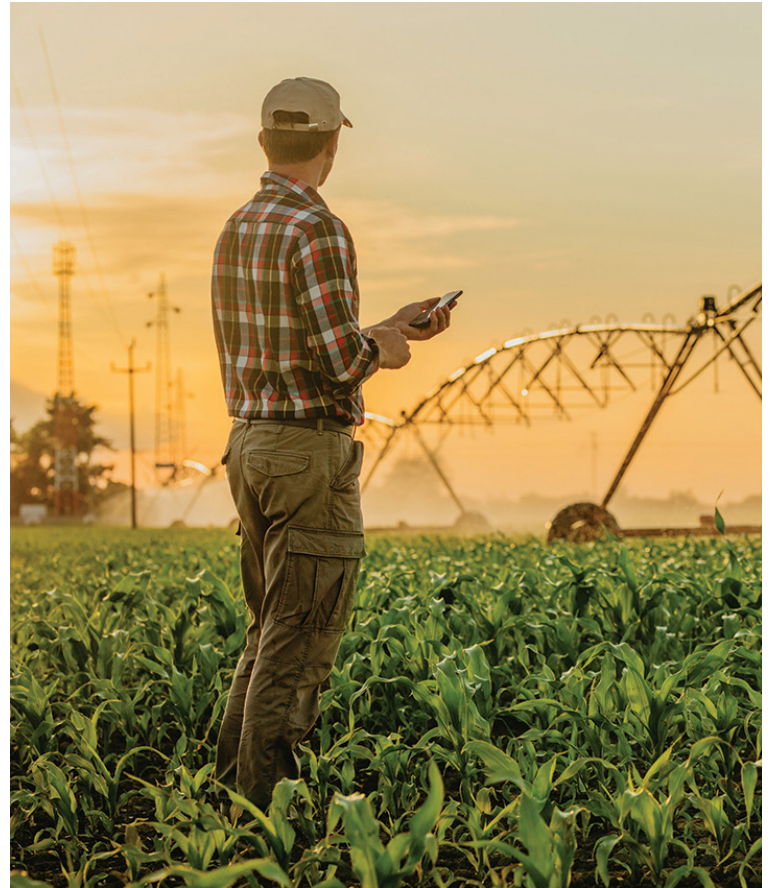
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Farming has never been a vocation for individuals looking for easy work. Farmers typically work long hours, braving the elements regardless of how unpleasant the weather may be.

All that hard work ensures individuals who live in rural, urban and suburban communities have constant, readily available access to healthy foods. Such devotion merits support, and thankfully there are many things consumers can do to show their appreciation for local farmers.

Buy fresh foods at your local farmers market. Farmers markets are many foodies' favorite places, but they aren't exclusive to individuals with a passion for food. Everyone needs to eat, so why not eat foods grown locally, which are generally more fresh and appetizing than imported fruits and vegetables sold at chain grocery stores? Even individuals who don't typically eat fresh fruit and vegetables can find something delectable at a local farmers market, where anything from homemade tomato sauces to locally raised fresh beef and pork might be on sale.

Order directly from local farms. Some farmers have embraced the e-commerce revolution and begun



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selling the foods they grow to consumers via their own websites. Research local farms and determine if it's possible to buy directly from them. Farms may offer delivery or pick-up, and consumers can enjoy fresh foods even more knowing that they helped farmers earn higher profits by buying directly from them.

Check labels before buying in local grocery stores. Packaging labels will indicate where fruits and vegetables came from. When possible, choose items produced by local farmers. This may include fruits, vegetables, meat, pork, or even desserts like pies. Locally produced foods often taste more fresh than items sent from overseas or distant farms, and consumers will feel better knowing they helped to support local farmers.

Spread the word. Get the word out after a satisfying experience with local farms and farmers. Whether it's buying food from farms or taking advantage of family days that let kids enjoy a day on the farm, sharing positive experiences via social media or word-of-mouth can be a great way to inspire your neighbors to support local farmers as well.

Consumers can do much to support hardworking local farmers. In addition to feeling good about supporting their rural neighbors, consumers also might feel good when they sit down and enjoy a meal featuring locally grown, fresh foods.



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The role of the earthworm in agriculture



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Home gardeners and commercial agricultural enterprises are increasingly integrating more natural and sustainable practices into plant production. Although chemical pesticides and fertilizers can improve crop yields, chemicals can deteriorate soil efficiency and may affect the ecosystem in negative ways. In lieu of turning to a laundry list of products to help the soil, farmers and home gardeners may benefit from relying more heavily on the humble earthworm.

Earthworms are beneficial. According to CABI, an international, inter-governmental, not-for-profit organization that provides information and applies scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment, earthworms are useful for the management of biodiversity. Earthworms are any gardener's friend. These shy, light-sensitive creatures burrow through the soil, pulling leaves and other plant matter deep within. When the earthworms consume this detritus, the decomposed plants as well as the worms' droppings provide nutrients to the soil. Together with microbes, earthworms convert biodegradable materials and organic waste into nutrient-rich products.

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They also may help reduce instances of soil-borne diseases.

The benefits to worms do not end there. Earthworms also aerate the soil, enabling water to be absorbed, which helps develop strong plant roots. Earthworm burrows serve as channels where roots can elongate into deeper soil layers, enabling plants to grow more securely and deeply. This, in turn, can help reduce soil erosion. While research is ongoing, there are some reports that the unique talents of earthworms can help convert land that is largely barren into fertile soil.

Breeding earthworms. It may be in gardeners' and farmers' best interests to raise earthworms. According to the science information site Sciencing, earthworms are hermaphrodites, meaning they have both male and female reproductive organs. Despite this, most worms need a partner to reproduce - although certain types will reproduce alone if partners are scarce. Worms can be purchased or found for breeding. A worm box, which can be made or bought from gardening shops, is a box made from untreated wood. The earthworms will need a temperature of at least 25 F, and dark, moist soil.

Place moistened paper scraps into one half of the worm box. Place the worms on top and give them opportunities to hide. Place small amounts of organic matter, such as kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and leaves,

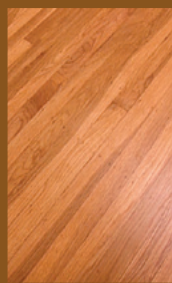
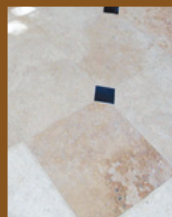
on the paper layer every day. Leave the other side of the worm box empty, as this will be where the worm dropping compost will eventually collect. After two or three months, there will be quite a number of hatched worms to release into the garden along with the compost. Leave some worms behind to continue to reproduce.

Earthworms amend the soil in natural ways that can reduce the need to use chemical products and protect biodiversity.



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FARM CREDIT

Local farmer becomes Agricultural Advisor

submitted



I wanted to share some wonderful news that our family recently experienced. Governor McMaster named my brother, Cody Simpson, his Agriculture Advisor, in addition to being Chief Executive Assistant. My brother is a 5th generation farmer and college graduate of Francis Marion University. He continues to represent the Pee Dee and our area well. Please see the attached letter from Governor McMaster.

He was also recently promoted to Major in the South Carolina State Guard where he was named Aide-de-camp to Major General Leon Lott, Commander. My family and I are proud of my brother. I updated his biography to reflect his recent promotions and included it below. I just wanted y'all see his story. He loves the Pee Dee and represents our state well.

Sincerely,
Katilyn Hughes

W.R. "Cody" Simpson, III, holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in Business Administration from Francis Marion University (FMU).

During his time at FMU, Cody was elected as a two-term student body president and Governor of the South Carolina Student Legislature. He was awarded two resolutions on behalf of the South Carolina Senate for his dedication and service to the Palmetto State in addition to being awarded the Legacy Award, the Pride of the Patriots Award from FMU, and the Dr. Neal Thigpen Award in South Carolina Politics. Cody was also recognized by Francis Marion University as the 2019 Benjamin Ingram Wall Young Alumnus of the Year.

Cody currently serves as the Chief Executive Assistant and Agriculture Advisor to South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster. Previously, Cody was employed at Francis Marion University, where he held several positions including special projects for Dr. Fred Carter, FMU President.

Cody is a Major in the South Carolina State Guard, where he serves as the Aide-de-Camp to Major General Leon Lott, SC State Guard Commander, and Officer in Charge of the Executive Governmental Affairs unit. He is a graduate of the South Carolina State Guard Command and General Staff College. He is a former Commissioner on the Pee Dee Region Forestry Commission, former Co-Chair of the 2015-2016 Leadership Florence Class, former member of the Downtown Florence Millennials Advisory Commit-

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tee, and founding advisor for the Junior Leadership Florence County 4-H Program.

Cody is a proud member of Farm Bureau, Forestry Association of South Carolina, Hampton Masonic Lodge No. 204, and Kappa Alpha Order.

In his free time, he enjoys traveling and working on his family's South Carolina Century Farm, W.R. Simpson Farms, LLC, in the Home Branch Community of Clarendon County.



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Tips for safer farming

submitted

Tractor accidents, grain entrapment and injuries from ornery livestock are just some of the dangers agricultural workers face every day. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States.

In 2016, the agricultural industry had a rate of 21.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, and each day agricultural workers experienced 100 non-fatal, lost-work-time injuries.

Agricultural dangers are not limited to North America. In Ireland, farm accidents have increased by 13 percent in the last five years and by 31 percent in the last decade, according to a national survey of farm accidents conducted by the Teagasc National Farm Survey. Furthermore, 97 percent of all farm accident victims required medical treatment.

Farms are dangerous places, and while carelessness can and does contribute to many incidents, accidents also take place during routine, seemingly safe activities. These

farm safety guidelines can help lower the risk of injuries.

Know farm equipment. Read and follow all instructions in the equipment operation manuals. In addition, attend local farm safety workshops to learn more about specific equipment and products.

Conduct routine safety checks. Look around buildings and grounds for obvious hazards, such as fire hazards and hazardous materials, including farm chemicals that are not stored correctly.

Practice cleanliness. Maintain clean and neat work areas with tools stored properly and out of the way after use.

Be mindful of your clothing and hair. Many accidents involve a power take-off system, or PTO, which is a common component of large rotary mowers, tractors and forage choppers. Clothing can easily get caught in an engaged but unguarded PTO stub. It's easy for laces or coveralls to become wrapped around a spinning stub shaft. The PTO driveline and other protrusion points also can be dangerous if people do not pay attention.

Use rollover protection structures. ROPS can be



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used on tractors and other equipment to prevent injuries. In addition, wear seat belts and employ other safety equipment as advised.

Avoid extra passengers. It can be tempting to take the kids for a spin, but do not allow additional passengers to ride on agricultural equipment.

Exercise caution when handling chemicals. Take extra precautions when handling any chemicals, including pesticides.

Wear protective gear. Wear appropriate gear and equipment as outlined by NIOSH or the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Make sure the skin, feet, ears, eyes, and hands are protected at all times.

Employ lock out/tag out control. This is a process where one can work on equipment only after every energy source has been controlled, such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, and electrical, according to Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Turning off equipment and using certain controls or locks on devices can prevent equipment from restarting before it is safe to do so.

Farm safety should be a priority for owners, their families and employees so that agricultural injuries can be reduced.





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Career opportunities in agriculture

submitted

Individuals approach their careers in various ways. Some may aspire to climb the corporate ladder, while others may pursue a career that affords them ample personal time to spend how they see fit. Many individuals look for careers that afford them ample opportunities to work in the great outdoors, which could make the agricultural sector an appealing industry.

Talented individuals with an array of diverse skills dot the agricultural sector landscape, and the following are just a few of the many careers to consider within this vital industry.

Equipment technician: Data from the career experts at Indeed indicates agricultural equipment technicians earn an average salary around \$65,000 per year. Agricultural equipment technicians maintain and repair existing machines and install new ones, among their many responsibilities.

Purchasing agent: An agricultural purchasing agent buys products and raw materials at wholesale. Indeed notes that purchasing agents often must meet specific purchasing quotas for processors and work with various clients who supply an array of agricultural products. The national average salary for agricultural purchasing agents is around \$51,000 annually.

Warehouse manager: The receiving, shipping and storage of agricultural materials is overseen by a warehouse manager. Indeed notes that these professionals now

routinely utilize artificial intelligence products to manage inventory. Warehouse managers must know and adhere to safety procedures and guidelines that dictate how materials and products are stored. The average salary of a warehouse manager is around \$52,000 per year.

Sales: Like every industry, the agricultural sector requires talented sales personnel. Agricultural sales reps sell materials and products and identify the needs of potential customers. Agricultural sales reps may spend ample time on the road at trade shows. Doing so allows them to identify customers as well as their needs and wants, and promote their own products and services. An ability to foster strong and trusting interpersonal relationships is invaluable for agricultural sales reps, who Indeed reports earn an average of about \$60,000 per year.

Environmental engineer: Environmental engineers play pivotal roles within the industry, and could become even more vital in the decades ahead as the effects of climate change become more apparent. Environmental engineers design and implement solutions that occur on agricultural sites, helping to address issues such as unhealthy soil, insufficient drainage and inefficiencies, among other concerns. A career as an environmental engineer within the agricultural industry can be rewarding and lucrative, with Indeed noting that the average annual salary for this position is a little more than \$77,000.

These are just some of the career paths individuals can consider as they explore the agricultural sector.



The buzz about bees in the garden and on the farm



submitted

Warm weather and extra hours of sunlight spark flowering trees and plants to bloom anew. This is the time of year when the air is sweet with the aroma of blossoms and the familiar hum of insects can be heard all around.

Not all “bugs” are the same this time of year. While you probably won’t want ants invading your backyard grill fest, the presence of bees nearby can be a good thing - even if those curious yellow-and-black critters get a little close for comfort from time to time. That’s because almost 90 percent of wild plants and 75 percent of the leading global crops depend on animal pollination, indicates the World Wildlife Federation.

Bees are remarkable creatures in small packages. The following are some bee facts to buzz about, courtesy of the WWF, Save the Bees®, NASA, and the Texas A&M University Honey Bee Information Site.

There are roughly 20,000 species of bees around the world. Most of them are solitary bees.

Bees have five eyes. Two of the eyes are large compound eyes with hexagonal facets. The other three are small, simple eyes.

Honeybees have a move called the “waggle dance.” It is a clever way of communicating to tell them where to go to find the best sources of food.

Bees can carry up to 122 times their body weight in pollen and nectar.

Bumblebees leave footprint scents behind. They are able to distinguish between their own scents, the scent of

a relative and the scent of a stranger as they look for food. They also can avoid flowers already visited.

Should a queen bee perish, the hive workers will select a new young larva and feed it a special food called “royal jelly.” The larva will develop into a fertile queen.

Bees flap their wings 190 to 200 times per second. They can fly up to 15 miles per hour.

Female bees can sting; males do not. Losing the stinger will cause the bee to die. The honeybee only can sting once because its stinger is barbed. Bumblebees and hornets can sting multiple times because they have smooth stingers.

It can require nectar from two million flowers to make one pound of honey.

Many bees are not aggressive. Simply moving away from them can prevent a person from being stung. Generally, bumblebees and honey bees will only sting by accident or if a nest is being disrupted.

Wasps are different from bees in that they are mostly known to be predators. They eat other insects and often food that people eat, which is why wasps are more likely to be found around your cookout. Bees tend to be covered in hair, while wasps (which include yellow jackets) are smooth.

Bees are remarkable creatures and should be celebrated as the weather warms up.

