AGENCY NAME:	South Carolina Department of Agriculture		
AGENCY CODE:	P160	SECTION:	44

Fiscal Year 2027-28
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	X	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Aaron Wood	803-734-20182	awood@scda.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Brittni Geny	803-734-2195	bgeny@scda.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-28 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Hugh Weathers	N/A
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Hugh Weathers	N/A

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture
Agency Code:	P160
Section:	44

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Certified SC Cafeteria Program	2,000,000	0	0	0	2,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Disaster Preparedness and Agriculture Resilience	343,345	0	0	0	343,345	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Farm Link	137,500	0	0	0	137,500	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B2 - Non-Recurring	Farm Link	150,000	0	0	0	150,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	C - Capital	Pee Dee State Farmers Market Event Venue	1,921,555	0	0	0	1,921,555	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B2 - Non-Recurring	Regional Farmers Markets	2,000,000	0	0	0	2,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	C - Capital	Greenville State Farmers Market Roof Replacement	745,200	0	0	0	745,200	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	C - Capital	South Carolina State Farmers Market Redevelopment Phase 2	7,150,000	0	0	0	7,150,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			14,447,600	0	0	0	14,447,600	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**1**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Certified SC Cafeteria Program**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $2,000,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $2,000,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

FY26 Agency Accountability Report Goal 3: Promote, develop and expand South Carolina's agriculture/agribusiness industry, both domestically and internationally, by providing opportunities to farmers and industry players.

Performance measures include:

- Number of participating school food authorities.
- Number of students served.
- Statewide farm impact

• Estimated economic impact

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	Public school districts will receive funding to purchase local food, which will be served to students.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The Certified SC Cafeteria program works directly to connect farmers throughout the state with school districts, school nutrition officials to increase the use of South Carolina produced food in K-12 school cafeterias. This initiative supports local farms, provides aid to schools, and promotes healthy eating for students. The program provides financial incentives to schools, reimbursing them for purchases from SC farms, specialty food producers, food hubs and local distributors. Funds are distributed based on school enrollment and need, with extra support for schools in food deserts. Schools achieving the highest local food usage receive incentive funds, to be used for food and/or equipment purchases. Using the initial $1 million recurring appropriation, great success statewide was achieved. There were 81 participating school food authorities who served 562,190 students, with local products purchased including strawberries, grains, honey, blueberries, peaches, broccoli and watermelon. Because of the cafeteria program, rice, grits, and cornmeal producers saw $103,325.23 in new purchases between January 2026 and July 2026. Dairy and protein products will be included in future program expansion. The program's impact also extends to the broader education of students and parents about agriculture, reduced dependency for out-of-state food and fostering long-term investments in local farming. The program also assists schools and farmers with educating students, parents and staff about food security.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Disaster Preparedness and Agriculture Resilience

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $343,345

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $343,345

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

FY Agency Accountability Report Performance Measures:

2.1.1: Lead and perform inspections under state regulatory authority or under federal contract involving such program areas MFRPS, AFRPS, FSMA, COOL, RRT, State Hemp Farming Program, USDA AMS, and by providing training and regulatory oversight for GAP, GHP, Produce Safety, PC Inspections, and HACCP.

2.1.2: Engage with trade groups and associations of colleagues by participating in meetings and training in order to exchange the most current information about regulatory and industry topics. Examples are the National State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), Southern State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA), National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM), Association of Feed Control Officials (AFCO), and Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO).

2.1.3: Analyze official and submitted samples for quality, purity, safety and compliance with standards internally or through cooperation with other agencies (USDA, FDA,

DPH, DES, Clemson) during normal operations or during emergencies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

The agency will spend this money on personnel, fringe, and operating costs, including outreach materials, tabletop exercises, equipment, and supplies.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

This funding is for a proposed Director of Disaster Preparedness and Agriculture Resilience as a Program Manager II (AH50), with an anticipated hiring range near the midpoint of $113,730. This person will oversee a new department (Disaster Preparedness and Agriculture Resilience Department) housed in Consumer Protection Division and will report directly to the Deputy Commissioner for Consumer Protection. They will need considerable education, technical training, and experience in agriculture and disaster response, including the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

They will manage and direct all disaster preparedness engagement with EMD, Office of Resilience, and other state and federal disaster and emergency agencies such as FEMA, FDA, CDC, and EPA. At least two current positions will report to this new Director. First, the State Rapid Response Team Coordinator (RRT) for animal and human food and feed outbreaks and illnesses, which is now in Wholesale Food and Dairy Safety. Second, the Food Surveillance Coordinator (FSC) for human food outbreaks, illnesses, public health complaints, and sampling, which is now in Retail Food Safety.

This new position will lead SCDA's Disaster Preparedness and Agriculture Resilience Program, enabling effective preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies and disasters to protect public and animal health, prioritize agriculture sector resilience, save lives, and protect consumers. South Carolina is threatened every year by natural disasters, biological and cyber threats, and other hazards. Especially over the last 10 years – the great flood / Hurricane Joaquin, Hurricanes Matthew, Florence, Michael, Ian, and Helene – SCDA has been called upon to do more with disaster response and recovery in the agriculture space. Things like Farm and Forest Recovery Centers, Team SC, federally funded State Disaster Relief Block Grants, and state economic disaster financial assistance for farmers. SCDA can no longer effectively train for and carry out these response and recovery activities using staff with other primary responsibilities. This position is crucial for SCDA to fulfill the Governor's mandate (Executive Order 2023-11) and meet the needs of South Carolinians during disasters and disease outbreaks.

Annual Costs

Personnel: $113,730

Fringe: $56,865

IT Equipment: $3,851

	Operating (vehicle, gas, supplies, equipment, insurance, uniforms): $22,899 Outreach and training: $40,000 Office and storage: $6,000 Software system build, maintenance, and licenses: $100,000

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Farm Link

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $137,500

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $137,500

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
X	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 4

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

FY26 Agency Accountability Report Goal 3: Promote, develop and expand South Carolina's agriculture/agribusiness industry, both domestically and internationally, by providing opportunities to farmers and industry players.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

State agency for purposes of staff salary, fringe benefits, travel and traditional

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	operating costs

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	South Carolina Farm Link is a program designed to connect in-state landowners who are looking to sell or lease their farm property with in-state farm seekers, many of which are new and beginning farmers. In many areas, farmland is being sold for private development or other non-agricultural uses. This in turn drives up the costs of available farmland, thus creating barriers to entry within agriculture. A singularly focused FTE will help boost the program and facilitate greater conversations and connections between farm seekers and farm owners. Participating farm seekers will receive direct assistance with locating available farmland and making connections with landowners. The participating landowners will receive direct assistance to meet farmers who are the right fit for their transition needs, including assistance with no-cost consultations, transition planning and leasing templates. With the average age of a South Carolina farmer nearly 70 years of age, it is important to create a pathway for the next generation. Similar programs exist in North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. Salary ($75,000) + Fringe Benefits ($37,500) Operating costs, travel and promotional activities ($25,000)

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Farm Link

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$150,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
X	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Farm Link

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

FY26 Agency Accountability Report Goal 3: Promote, develop and expand South Carolina's agriculture/agribusiness industry, both domestically and internationally, by providing opportunities to farmers and industry players.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

State agency for expenses related to a program expansion.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon

predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	South Carolina Farm Link is a program designed to connect in-state landowners who are looking to sell or lease their farm property with in-state farm seekers, many of which are new and beginning farmers. In many areas, farmlands are being sold for private development or other uses. This in turn drives up the costs of available farmland, thus creating barriers to entry within agriculture. Participating farm seekers will receive direct assistance with locating available farmland and making connections with landowners. The participating landowners will receive direct assistance with meeting farmers who are the right fit for their transition needs. With the average age of a South Carolina farmer nearly 70 years of age, it is important to create a pathway for the next generation. Similar programs exist in North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. These funds would be used for one-time program costs: • Website design ($60,000) • Database creation ($20,000) • Educational outreach ($30,000) • Promotional activities ($40,000): Including Clemson Extension and SC State 1890 Extension, peanut, cotton, soybean, corn, fruit and vegetable annual commodity meetings, farmers markets and agricultural trade shows). As a comparison to our neighboring states: North Carolina has 238 farmers currently enrolled, representing 3,405 acres. Since 2024, they have matched 368 acres. They have 3 full-time employees. Georgia currently has 276 farmers enrolled representing 2,561 acres. Since 2019, they have saved 55 farms, representing 1,919 acres statewide. They have 1 employee dedicated to the program.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Regional Farmers Markets

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$2,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

FY26 Agency Accountability Report Goal 3: Promote, develop and expand South Carolina's agriculture/agribusiness industry, both domestically and internationally, by providing opportunities to farmers and industry players.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

State, local, or community-based farmers markets for infrastructure, fixtures, and permanent improvements.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon

predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	These funds would be used for a cost-share program to state, local, or community-based farmers markets to improve infrastructure, fixtures, or equipment, or make permanent improvements to local farmers markets, agritourism, or agricultural retail space. These projects provide greater opportunities for farmers to market and sell their products closer to their farm operations and their customers.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Pee Dee State Farmers Market Event Venue

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$1,921,555

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This was first included in the 2024 CPIP. In the 2026 CPIP, it is priority 2 of 5.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	If funded, this project will go through the normal PIP approval process.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	This facility will generate income for the agency, part of which will be used for maintenance and operations.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	SCDA developed a comprehensive review and master plan for the Pee Dee State Farmers Market in 2024. The plan called for major improvements to very outdated facilities. SCDA received $1,000,000 in the FY26 budget (available February 2026) to complete sitework, paving and other improvements to the market restaurant and Pee Dee Tourism Visitor's Center. Adding an event lawn and pavilion will accommodate increased public demand for outdoor events like small concerts, food festivals, and community gatherings. It will bring more customers to farmers and businesses already at the market. PDSFM has a great location, parking, security, and some infrastructure. Events would complement existing market operations.

SUMMARY

In addition to generating approximately $250,000 per year in revenue, the existing space is currently an eyesore, and the proposed event lawn and venue would greatly improve overall aesthetics.

Event lawn and venue: $1,421,853

Stand-alone restroom building: $346,928

Food truck pavilion: $112,114

Visitor's Center back patio: $40,660

Total: $1,921,555

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	7

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Greenville State Farmers Market Roof Replacement

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$745,200

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This was first included in the 2026 CPIP and is priority 1 of 5.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	If funded, this project will go through the normal PIP approval process.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The Greenville State Farmers Market uses revenue to pay for maintenance and operating costs.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	Renovation of the Greenville State Farmers Market (GSFM) was completed in October 2025. The last remaining improvement is the replacement of 50-year-old metal roofs, which have exceeded their lifespan, on the retail sheds and office building. This market experiences tremendous usage from the Greenville community. Protecting the State's investment at GSFM by replacing the roofs and eliminating leaks is a high priority. Roof area totals 27,600 x $27/ft2.

SUMMARY

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	8

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	South Carolina State Farmers Market Redevelopment Phase 2

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$7,150,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This was first included in the 2025 CPIP. In the 2026 CPIP, it is priority 4 of 5.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	If funded, this project will go through the normal PIP approval process.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The South Carolina State Farmers Market uses revenue to pay for maintenance and operating costs.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	The South Carolina State Farmers Market (SCSFM) in Cayce currently attracts more than 178,000 unique visitors with more than 425,000 visits annually. A conceptual master plan was developed by SCDA, and Clemson University conducted a feasibility and economic impact study. The SCSFM campus now includes new headquarters offices for the Department of Education (Education) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR), bringing an additional 1,000 more state employees to the site daily. Recently completed improvements at the Farmers Market campus include an additional entrance on US Highway 321, refurbished landmark sign and new digital board, updated landscaping, a directional and landmark signage package.

SUMMARY	Currently, the agency is working on a project that involves rerouting stormwater infrastructure and reforming the detention pond for utility, aesthetics, to reclaim land area for future use. This proposed phase includes developing retail space and an event lawn, relocating the maintenance facility, combining sheds and adding much-needed parking. The Clemson feasibility and economic impact study recommends the state should "continue to move forward with site redesign and expansion plans." A redesigned and upgraded market with retail amenities will create a regional draw/attraction and maximize economic impact. Increased visitor expenditures are expected to create 126 new jobs with $3.28 million in annual labor and total economic annual impact of $8.35 million.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$934,283

What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	None

How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	I. Agency Operations II. Consumer Protection III. External Affairs and Economic Development

What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	SCDA would absorb a 3% cut by curtailing spending on non-essential operational activities equally across the agency, like travel and industry support and engagement.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

No individual measures over $50,000.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
Agency Code:	P160	Section:	44

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Free Online Subscription for The Market Bulletin

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	$81,100

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	**Mark "X" for all that apply:**
	Repeal or revision of regulations.
X	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	6,099 total subscribers. 4,022 print subscribers x $15 annual subscription fee = $60,330 2,077 electronic subscribers x $10 annual subscription fee = $20,770

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	SCDA recently eliminated the subscription fees for The Market Bulletin if it is viewed online. Some readers may choose to continue to pay $15 for a mailed, printed copy.

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

	Since 1913, the South Carolina Market Bulletin has been a resource for South Carolina farmers looking to buy and sell equipment and services and find information about agriculture. It is published twice per month. While its core readership remains loyal, paid subscriptions have steadily declined over the past few decades. Competition from services like Facebook Marketplace, combined with an overall decline in the print industry, have reduced Bulletin readership. Ad numbers have also declined. Concerned about the publication's continued viability, the Department explored options and decided to make the Market Bulletin available online without requiring a subscription. After a notification period, this change took effect February 5, 2026. People can continue subscribing to the print issue for $15 per year, and can sign up for email notification when a new issue is available electronically.

SUMMARY

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?