

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



Fiscal Year FY 2026-2027
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.
CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.
PROVISOS (FORM D)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

PRIMARY CONTACT: SECONDARY CONTACT:	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
	Aaron Wood	(803) 734-2182	awood@scda.sc.gov
	Brittni Geny	(803) 734-2195	bgeny@scda.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-2027 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

SIGN/DATE: TYPE/PRINT NAME:	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>

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

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture
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Section:	44

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Cost Increases for Required Services	1,090,000	0	0	0	1,090,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	South Carolina Seafood Marketing	350,000	0	0	0	350,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Public Health Inspections Continuity	860,000	0	0	0	860,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Retail Food Inspection Quality Enhancement	580,000	0	0	0	580,000	5.00	0.00	-5.00	0.00	0.00
5	B2 - Non-Recurring	Growing Agribusiness Fund	30,000,000	0	0	0	30,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B2 - Non-Recurring	Microbiological Laboratory Testing Equipment	750,000	0	0	0	750,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	C - Capital	State Farmers Markets Revenue Opportunities	2,500,000	0	0	0	2,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	B1 - Recurring	FTE Realignment	0	0	0	0	0	7.00	-3.00	-4.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			36,130,000	0	0	0	36,130,000	12.00	-3.00	-9.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Cost Increases for Required Services
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$1,090,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$1,090,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	The cost increases affect service delivery and all strategies in the FY25 Accountability Report Strategic Development Plan.
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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	Recipients include shared service providers, like State Fleet, Division of Technology Operations (DTO), Insurance Reserve Fund (IRF), and personnel and fringe benefits.
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FUNDS

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**

Over the last few years, particularly since 2020, costs of some required agency services have increased as much as 30% in FY26. SCDA's IRF premiums increased 15% alone from FY25 to FY26. DTO is now passing the full costs of services on to agencies, and SCDA's costs increased a little over \$100,000 from FY25 to FY26. Our fleet costs are up \$121,000 in FY26. Some of this is due to State Fleet's requirement for telematics installation on all vehicles, but it is still a required cost incurred.

We believe in the value and efficiencies of using shared services in State Government, like those provided by the Department of Administration, and we understand their costs have increased, and they must pass those on to their customers. But, the costs stop with, and must be absorbed by, agencies like SCDA.

Another hidden cost that has greatly affected our agency is the unfunded, legislatively-mandated, general increases and employer contributions for employees that are paid from revenue generated through fees and fines in earmarked funds. Many of SCDA's fees are set in statute or regulation, and there has been resistance by the legislature to raise fees. SCDA has increased some fees, like at our Farmers Markets, but the increased revenue has not kept pace with the inflationary levels of expenses. So, we are asking that these costs be funded through appropriation.

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		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	South Carolina Seafood Marketing
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$350,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$350,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Strategy 3.1 in the FY25 Accountability Report Strategic Development Plan. Expand marketing efforts, including Certified SC Grown, to both maximize return on investment (ROI) for the state and private sector participants, while also increasing sales opportunities at the State Farmers Markets, restaurants, and retail outlets.
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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	These funds would be used for advertising and marketing, including some cost-share opportunities with fishermen, processors, and industry associations.
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FUNDS

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 aims to increase the demand of local seafood (shrimp, oysters, crabs, clams and fish) through an extensive educational and marketing program. Like the Texas Department of Agriculture's "Caught Here. Not Brought Here." campaign, our efforts will focus on educating the consumer on where to purchase local seafood and what to look for while doing so, while at the same time working with the permitted growers to highlight their operations.

South Carolina's commercial seafood industry has faced a steady decline throughout the past years. Low-cost imports have undercut local prices, making it increasingly difficult for fishermen to cover rising fuel, equipment and maintenance costs. Many family-run operations are now fighting for survival.

These challenges were significantly highlighted in Spring/Summer 2025, when some South Carolina restaurants were found to be serving imported shrimp, despite being marketed as local. With this, the industry is seeking a more transparent method of marketing their product.

Consumers want local yet lack the information to confidently identify truly local seafood, leaving them vulnerable to misleading claims.

We plan to focus on marketing the nutritional and economic benefits of purchasing local seafood. In addition to traditional marketing efforts (website, social media and consumer advertising), we anticipate providing cost-share opportunities for fishermen, harvesters and farmers to promote their local product through increased branded packaging and trade show opportunities.

We are partnering with organizations such as the Lowcountry Hospitality Association, SC Shrimpers Association and others to transparently communicate opportunities for co-branding and consumer engagement.

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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Public Health Inspections Continuity
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$860,000</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$860,000</p>
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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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
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	X	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
		HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development	
	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
	X	Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Strategy 2.1 in the FY25 Accountability Report Strategic Development Plan.</p> <p>Provide food, feed, produce, commodity safety oversight of SC manufacturers, retail food establishments, processors, distributors, farms, dairies, mills and certain retailers through risk based, compliance, mandatory inspections, and laboratory analysis of collected and submitted samples.</p>
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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	<p>These funds would be used for the following programs: Wholesale Food Safety, Emergency Response (Rapid Response Team), Produce Safety, Retail Food Safety, and Feed Safety.</p>
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FUNDS

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 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reduced state cooperative agreement funding for food and feed safety regulatory programs, specifically Wholesale Food Safety, Emergency Response (Rapid Response Team), Produce Safety, Retail Food Safety, and Feed Safety. These programs have been primarily funded through three- and five-year cooperative agreements since 2016. This impacts the level of readiness, prevention, and public health response efforts conducted on behalf of all South Carolinians. The FDA reduced these funds by 49%, 36%, 44%, 83%, and 53% respectively. Despite these cutbacks, FDA is still requiring SC to comply with reporting, assessments, sampling, analysis, auditing, and maintaining positions (FTEs) critical to meet federal regulatory expectations. SCDA is currently in full conformance with these regulatory program standards and wants to maintain these nationally recognized and consistent standards for industry at the federal and state level. Having consistent federal and state regulations makes industry compliance straightforward and easier. It is in the best interest of both businesses and consumers to have one inspector at SCDA perform both the federal and state regulatory inspections. Our inspectors live and work in the communities they serve and protect.

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		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Retail Food Inspection Quality Enhancement
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$580,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$580,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Strategy 2.1 in the FY25 Accountability Report Strategic Development Plan. Provide food, feed, produce, commodity safety oversight of SC manufacturers, retail food establishments, processors, distributors, farms, dairies, mills and certain retailers through risk based, compliance, mandatory inspections, and laboratory analysis of collected and submitted samples.
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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?

	These funds would be used to hire seven additional retail food safety inspectors.
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	<p>SCDA has the FTE slots.</p>
	<p><i>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?</i></p>
JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	<p>Since taking over the retail food safety and compliance program in 2024, SCDA has made many beneficial changes for consumers, retail food establishments, and our inspectors.</p> <p>The Retail Food Safety Department was reorganized and centralized to provide consistency and accountability, locating the central office on the State Farmers Market campus. SCDA also enhanced enforcement procedures including suspension protocols to target chronic violators to protect public health. After acquiring another 30 vehicles to accompany the 70 that transferred, inspectors are now based out of their vehicles and can leave their homes and begin inspections rather than reporting to a county health department to pick up a pool vehicle. Territories were reorganized to reduce the windshield time for inspectors between their homes and inspection points.</p> <p>During FY25, SCDA performed 48,766 inspections on 24,197 permitted retail food establishments. Inspectors are working nights and weekends to perform inspections outside of normal business hours. There has been about 15% growth in the number of establishments since the program transferred to SCDA. Through the actions outlined above, the department has reduced the ratio to one inspector per 274 establishments. Seven additional inspectors will reach the agency’s goal of one inspector per 250 establishments. That ratio leads to the right inspection frequency, the ability to handle complaints quickly, better relationships between firms and inspectors, and a good work life balance for inspectors. In other words, a few more inspectors will enhance the quality of the program and the quality of life for all inspectors.</p>
	<p><i>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.</i></p>

Agency Name:	Department Of Agriculture		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	8
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	FTE Realignment
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$0 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$0
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	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
		Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
	X	HR/Personnel Related
		Consulted DTO during development
	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
	X	Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	N/A
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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	N/A
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FUNDS

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**

SCDA needs to realign FTEs to reflect how the agency must pay for personnel and fringe costs due to the combination of high inflationary pressure and the inability to raise fees (either statutory or market-rate restrictions) that are discussed in B1 titled, "Cost Increases for Required Services."

General: +7 positions

Federal: -3 positions

Other: -4 positions

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.

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FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Growing Agribusiness Fund
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$30,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Strategy 3.2 in the FY25 Accountability Report Strategic Development Plan.</p> <p>Increase agribusiness development efforts through recruitment, expansion, diversification and value-added opportunities.</p>
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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	<p>These funds would flow through county governments to new or existing agribusinesses in South Carolina to secure further investment and economic impact.</p>
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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

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

Additional funds would continue SCDA's economic development incentive efforts for existing South Carolina agribusinesses in the state's rural areas. Projects are evaluated within the areas of capital investment, new jobs created and the additional use of products grown within the state. Many of these projects will be located within Tier 3 and 4 counties.

Previously, the General Assembly funded (non-recurring funds) \$40 million for this same purpose. With those funds, SCDA incentivized projects within the sectors of beef, dairy, food/beverage processing, seafood, poultry, forestry and grain storage, to name a few. Because of the \$31 million incentives currently encumbered or expended, \$465 million is being invested and 951 jobs are being created in 21 counties. With these projects, we have seen a stronger agricultural supply chain within the state.

A few specific examples of incentivized projects include Lowcountry Oyster Company (Colleton County), Senn Brothers (Hampton County), and Dempsey Wood Products (Orangeburg County).

These funds will continue to follow the traditional state incentives process with performance agreements and claw back documents, after a vetted application. Funds are expended from SCDA as a reimbursable grant, working directly with the county in which the project is located.

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.

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FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	6
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Microbiological Laboratory Testing Equipment
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$750,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Strategy 2.1 in the FY25 Accountability Report Strategic Development Plan. Provide food, feed, produce, commodity safety oversight of SC manufacturers, retail food establishments, processors, distributors, farms, dairies, mills and certain retailers through risk based, compliance, mandatory inspections, and laboratory analysis of collected and submitted samples.
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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	Equipment suppliers who are registered state vendors.
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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

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

The scope of testing in the Consumer Protection Laboratory at SCDA has historically been analytical chemistry. While the chemical testing parameters offered for our regulatory programs have been valuable for the enforcement work that they are responsible for, the biological scope of testing has had to be outsourced through memorandums of understanding with other state agencies. In the effort to streamline response and provide effective chain of custody for samples collected by SCDA regulatory programs, the Consumer Protection Laboratory will develop the infrastructure to begin microbiological testing of animal feed, produce, and foods meant for human consumption. Development of these scopes include classical microbiological and molecular biological techniques to include genetic sequencing and real time PCR methodologies. Through limited renovation of existing laboratory space and furnishing these areas with the instrumentation and equipment needed to conduct this sort of testing, the Consumer Protection Laboratory will be positioned to provide testing capacity to support SCDA compliance programs with quality biological testing results that will be produced more quickly and will be legally defensible for purposes of enforcement.

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	7
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	State Farmers Markets Revenue Opportunities
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$2,500,000
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How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	2026 CPIP, Overall Priority 1 of 4. Included in plan Year 2026, Priority 1 of 1. First included in 2024 CPIP
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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.
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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.
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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?

	<p>Over the last three years, SCDA has evaluated options to utilize vacant and unsightly space at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market (PDSFM) to generate income. As you may recall, we did a feasibility study for an RV Park and a Master Landscaping and Use Plan. One of the results of the Master Plan was the evaluation of an outdoor event area. It was determined that an outdoor event space would be the best option to benefit the farmers and vendors at the market while providing the best economic return to SCDA.</p> <p>Hosting outdoor events, like small concerts, food festivals, and arts gatherings, will bring more customers to farmers and businesses at the market. PDSFM already has the parking, security, and some of the infrastructure. Events would sync up nicely with existing market operations. There will also be lower maintenance and operational costs than some of the other options that were evaluated.</p>
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SUMMARY

The proposed space is currently an eyesore where greenhouses and outbuildings used to be. Revitalizing this area will greatly benefit the market.

SCDA received \$1,000,000 in the FY26 budget (available February 2026) to complete some sitework, including paving, upfitting restrooms to ADA compliance, and improvements to the restaurant and Pee Dee Tourism Visitors Center.

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 D – PROVISIO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	NEW
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark “NEW”).

TITLE	Retail Food Civil Penalties
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	II. Consumer Protection; C. Retail Food Safety
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2026-2027? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Add
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Retail food permitting fees are not covering personnel nor operating costs associated with the program due to inflationary pressures.
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approximately \$500,000 in penalties were collected in FY25 and remitted to the general fund.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

Retail food civil penalties assessed for violations of Regulation 61-25 may be retained by the Department of Agriculture to defray any costs associated with the Retail Food Safety and Compliance Program.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

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

FORM D – PROVISIO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	NEW
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark “NEW”).

TITLE	Carryforward Certified SC School Cafeteria Funds
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	III. External Affairs & Economic Development; A. Marketing & Promotions
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2026-2027? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Add
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	Being able to carryforward funds across fiscal years would benefit school districts who are purchasing and receiving local food, since the fiscal year falls in the middle of the growing season in South Carolina.
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	School district procurement rules and timelines, and farmer production, processing, packaging, and distribution schedules, don't necessarily align with the state fiscal year. This would offer school districts flexibility to increase the amount of locally grown and processed products.
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

There would be no addition to, or reduction of, state, federal, or other funds.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

The Department of Agriculture is athorized to carry forward any unexpended funds from the \$1,000,000 in recurring Certified SC School Cafeteria funding from previous fiscal years into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purpose. Any Certified SC School Cafeteria funds carried forward are not considered part of, and should not be deducted from, the base for purposes of calculating the agency's general fund appropriations ten percent carry forward amount, as provided for in this act.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

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

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

TITLE	Agency General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$835,011
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	None
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	<p>I. Agency Operations: A. Operations</p> <p>II. Consumer Protection: A. Consumer Protection</p> <p>III. External Affairs & Economic Development: A. Marketing & Promotions; E. Agricultural Center for Research & Entrepreneurship (ACRE); F. Infrastructure Grants</p>
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	<p>A 3% reduction in appropriated funds would be shared between the programs above that are funded by general appropriations.</p>
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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.

<div> <div>AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS</div> </div>	<div>N/A</div>
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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	<div>SCATE Card Validity Extended</div> <div>Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.</div>		
EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	<div>\$480,000</div> <div>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.</div>		
FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	<div>Mark “X” for all that apply:</div> <div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> </div> <div> <div>Repeal or revision of regulations.</div> <div>Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.</div> <div>Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.</div> <div>Other</div> </div>		
METHOD OF CALCULATION	<div>30,000 SCATE cardholders x \$24 = \$720,000 x .67 = \$480,000.</div> <div>or</div> <div>\$8 per year x 2 additional years = \$16 x 30,000 cardholders = \$480,000.</div> <div>Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.</div>		
REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	<div>In 2025, SCDA changed the validity period for SCATE Cards from 3 years to 5 years, giving cardholders 67% more time before renewal.</div> <div>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?</div>		
REDUCTION OF REGULATION	<div>N/A</div> <div>Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?</div>		
	<div>In 2025, SCDA changed the validity period for SCATE Cards from 3 years to 5 years, giving cardholders 67% more time before renewal.</div>		

SUMMARY

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