



The Morning
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148 **Do you support Gov. Haley's
decision to veto the S.C. Farm Bill?**

» Yes
» No

VOTE ONLINE: Visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MorningNews or scnow.com to vote. Look for results — and a new question — in this space on Wednesday!

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T 148 Gov. Haley vetoes bill to give \$40M in aid to farmers

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed a bill Monday that would send \$40 million in aid to South Carolina farmers, saying farmers may complain loudly, but don't need a bailout that isn't being offered to all small businesses.

The veto sets up an override showdown with the House and Senate, which each passed the bill by wide margins. It also angers farmers who said the governor promised she had their backs during much less damaging flooding three years ago.

Haley said last week her heart breaks for farmers wiped out when up to 2 feet of rain fell in 12 hours in October over wide parts of South Carolina.

But the governor said farmers have plenty of options to pay for most of their losses, including crop insurance and a number of other federal programs that can pay for lost yields or to prepare damaged fields for the next planting.

"By any measure the current financial support we give to farmers is extraordinary, but a vocal indus-

try has asked for more taxpayer dollars to bail them out," Haley wrote in her veto message.

The farmers have rallied at the Statehouse saying federal aid was not enough after October's catastrophic floods. The deluge came after several months of drought wiped out another round of crops.

The \$40 million proposal would allow farmers in disaster-declared counties to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 each, covering no more than 20 percent of their total loss.

The governor said tens of thousands of other people in South Carolina have already started recovering with aid from public and private sources and urged the Legislature to not overturn her veto.

The original bill passed the House 95-6 and the Senate 33-3 — majorities well over the two-thirds needed to make the bill law over her objections.

Haley's veto threat was especially painful for farmers like John Pendarvis of Dorchester County. He has had a string of bad luck with the weather, starting back in 2013 when a wet summer left him with little from his

corn, cotton and soybeans crops.

Haley came to Pendarvis' farm in August 2013. "You are seeing a farming community in crisis," Haley said back then. "What we are here to do is show we have the backs of our famers."

The October flood wiped out just about everything Pendarvis was growing. Farmers reported nearly \$400 million in losses in 2015, compared to \$61 million paid in federal crop insurance payments in 2013.

"When she was running for re-election, she promised to help. Now she's backpedaling on me," Pendarvis said.

And Haley's reasoning that farmers shouldn't get help not offered to other small businesses after the flood also didn't sit well with the leader of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

"Our small businesses want our farmers, who contribute to the economic health of our state, to recover. They don't begrudge farmers from receiving funds available to them," chamber president Frank Knapp Jr. said.



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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed a bill Monday that would have given \$40 million in aid to farmers devastated by October's floods.



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¹⁴⁸ South Carolina passes bill banning abortion after 19 weeks

COLUMBIA (AP) — The South Carolina Legislature passed a bill Tuesday prohibiting abortion after 19 weeks, becoming the 17th state to pass the restrictive ban.

The legislation will now head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Republican said in March she will almost certainly sign it but wants to look at the details once it reaches her desk.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states. They've been blocked by court challenges in three others, and the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule on the ban's constitutionality. A South Dakota law signed in March takes effect this summer.

In Utah, a related law, also signed in March, requires doctors to provide anesthesia to a fetus at least 20 weeks in the womb.

The South Carolina bill is among several fronts abortion

rights supporters say make having the procedure tougher.

Abortion opponents have also passed laws in other states requiring clinics to get admitting privileges for doctors and banning a procedure commonly used in the second trimester, known as an evacuation method.

The South Carolina House approved the bill 79-29. The Senate approved a compromise in March.

The ban allows exceptions only if the mother's life is in

jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb. The measure's limited definition of "fetal anomaly" means it would be illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live.

Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

That "fetal anomaly" excep-

tion was crucial for the bill clearing the Senate where Democrats had blocked the legislation for years.

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Haley's farm bill veto plowed under in House

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

The South Carolina House made short work of overriding Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of the Farm Aid bill, voting 102 to 2 Tuesday to establish a \$40-million fund to help the state's farmers after last year devastating floods.

A gallery full of farmers in Columbia to protest Haley's veto cheered after the vote was called, and Rep. Grady Brown, D-Bishopville, the most senior House member, stood up to proclaim, "The farmers in this state have our backs."

Brown was making reference to the governor's statement to South Carolinians after the floods: "We've got your backs."

A line of House members strode to the podium to speak in favor of overriding the governor's veto.

Rep. Harry Limehouse, R-Charleston, said even in the state's major port city, South Carolina farmers are important.

"We have what we call 'nouveau South cuisine,'" he said. "People are flocking from all over to taste it, but without South Carolina farmers, we don't have nouveau

Southern cuisine."

Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell, D-Lancaster, talked about how many farmers have been seeking Chapter 12 bankruptcy, something she said she had never seen before last year, as farmers bat-

'We've got your backs.'

**REP. GRADY BROWN,
D-BISHOPVILLE**

Reacting to the House overriding Haley's veto of the farm aid bill

tled low commodity prices and a scorching dry summer.

"Our farmers were having a hard time before the floods," she said.

After the vote, House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said the General Assembly was forced to take action.

"The South Carolina House recognizes the unprecedented loss our farmers experienced last October and understands the economic impact at stake if these concerns are ignored. Gov. Haley's factually inaccurate justification for vetoing the Farm Aid bill is inconsistent with South Carolina values."

Haley said she was against the fund because it was a fairness issue, and other small business did not receive help from the state. She called the farm bill a "bail out," before vetoing the bill Monday.

Lucas chided Haley for not supporting the farmers.

"When Gov. Haley petitioned the federal government for flood relief assistance last fall, she included homeowners and small businesses but intentionally ignored our farmers' plea for help by leaving them out of the request," Lucas said.

According to Lucas, the Farm Aid bill establishes a grant process that will assist farmers with the rebuilding process by providing the agriculture industry with state disaster assistance that has already been afforded to small businesses and homeowners by the federal government.

He said he hopes the Senate will also act to ensure farmers are able to recover from last October's flood.

Sen. Kevin Johnson said he thinks the Senate will take up the override today.

"I really think the vote will be overwhelming in the Senate, also," he said.



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¹⁴⁸ Locals named economic ambassadors

As part of the 25th Annual Industry Appreciation Week, the South Carolina Department of Commerce announced the 2016 Ambassadors for Economic Development, including three from the local tri-county area.

Anne Rice of Allendale County, Alan King of Barnwell County and Greg Pierce of Bamberg County were recognized along with economic ambassadors from the other 43 counties for their "exceptional efforts to bolster community and economic development activities in South Carolina," according to a press release. The ambassadors were honored in a ceremony held on Thursday, April 28 at the Governor's Mansion Complex.

"In South Carolina, growing our state's economy and creating jobs

truly is a team effort, and the individuals recognized as ambassadors at last week's ceremony are proof of that. These local business leaders from all corners of our state are what really make South Carolina such a special place to live, work and play," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Rice is a former business owner and educator who is a development advocate in Allendale County. King is the owner of Precision Metal Fabricators in Wiliston, which recently announced an expansion to include hiring 19 new employees. Pierce is the owner of Blackwater Barrels, a new business in Bamberg that plans to hire 57 people to produce barrels for use in the bourbon industry.

Each year the Department of Commerce

joins local communities to thank businesses for their vital contributions to South Carolina's economy during the state's Industry Appreciation Week. As part of the celebration, the state recognizes individuals throughout South Carolina as Ambassadors for Economic Development. These individuals include local leaders from the private sector, representing a variety of businesses committed to advancing their communities.

"Businesses don't locate to a state or a region. They locate to a community. So, it's important to recognize the local leaders in communities all across this state that help move South Carolina and its communities forward," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.



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Greg Pierce (center above) is joined by Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. Haley and Hitt also recognized Anne Rice (below) and Alan King (bottom).



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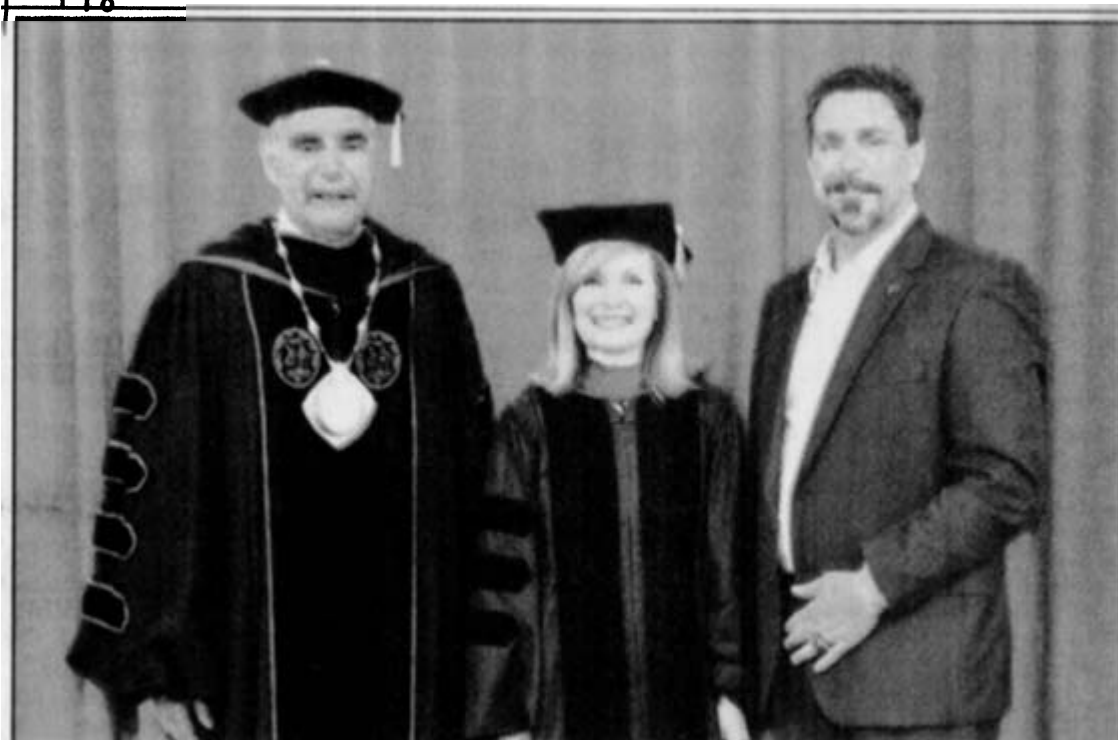


Photo - Provided

L-R Dr. Harris Pastides, President University of South Carolina, Ann Carmichael, USC Salkehatchie Dean and Trent Kinard.

Kinard receives USC Salkehatchie award

Trent Kinard was born in Bamberg, South Carolina and is a 1989 graduate of Andrew Jackson Academy, he attended Bamberg Ehrhardt prior and was a classmate of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. From 1990-1993 he was in the U.S. Air Force serving in Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. Returning to South Carolina he became a police officer with the Allendale police department, later becoming a member of the S. C. Highway Patrol in 1993. Upon retiring from the Highway Patrol, he returned to his hometown of Bamberg to live with his wife, Bridgett, and their four children Hunter, Emma, Laney and Kolt.

Not one to sit still, Trent connected to USC Salkehatchie in 2004. Having an outgoing personality and being a former college pitcher made him an ideal person to become the first

sports information director at USC Salkehatchie. Whether announcing at a game, taking action photos, designing media guides or covering the action on USC Salkehatchie Athletics facebook page for fans, Trent has promoted USC Salkehatchie athletics all across the state, the country, and even abroad.

Trent has even worked with the University of South Carolina with the Gamecocks women's basketball program last year during the NCAA Regionals held in Columbia.

His love of his home county and desire to serve people led him to run for Bamberg County Council, a position he has held since 2013. Whether promoting Bamberg County's Keep America Beautiful campaign, serving on the arts council, serving on the Cheese and Cracker board, announcing Bamberg Ehrhardt

football games on WBSC 102.3 or serving as the Richard Carroll elementary school PTO president, he is enthusiastic about all things Bamberg.

Combining his love of sports and Bamberg and his four children, he is a volunteer coach for Bamberg County Recreation for every sport one of his four children plays and then some. He was also instrumental in bringing live coverage of Bamberg-Ehrhardt high school football to local radio in Bamberg as well coach's shows with the coaches.

For his outstanding commitment to the greater University and Salkehatchie community, the Western Carolina Higher Education Commission is proud to honor Mr. Trent Kinard as the Outstanding Contribution to the Community award recipient for 2016.



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Gov. Nikki Hailey vetoes farm aid bill

148 **Norma Fisher**
Publisher

Gov. Nikki Hailey on Monday, vetoed a bill to award farmers aid from last year's flood, calling it "unprecedented bail out for a single industry". The veto was expected even though the bill passed both chambers with wide margins. Some have said they plan to override her veto.

"Farms like any other small businesses, have access to public and private programs that help them access capital, recover from emergencies and find markets for their goods," Haley wrote. "Unlike most small businesses, farmers are eligible for federally subsidized insurance that covers up to 85

percent of their business losses with the taxpayer covering an average of 62 percent of the insurance premium costs."

Rep. Brian White, an Anderson Republican and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee who initiated the bill, said he is not surprised at veto but is disappointed. "The farming industry does not qualify for small business loans," he said. "I'm slightly disappointed that our number one industry in the state can't get help from the governor." He pointed to incentives by the state to the tire industry as an example of state funding of a single industry. He said the state spends about \$100 million a year to recruit industry.

"Unless I change my mind,

I'm supporting the override," said Sen. Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "It's not going to replace their crop. It's not like crop insurance. It's just for the bare essentials that a farmer would need to get a crop back in the ground. That's a pretty low bar of help for any one farmer. But it can make a difference for a farmer to stay in business or not stay in business."

The bill would provide grants of up to \$100,000 for farmers to cover up to 20 percent of their crop losses from the floods. A total of \$40 million would be available under the legislation.

"The governor should not

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Governor's veto

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use small businesses as an excuse not to help our farmers recover from last year's floods," said Frank Knapp Jr., president and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. "Our small businesses want our farmers, who contribute to the economic health of our state, to recover. They don't begrudge farmers from receiving funds available to them just because other small businesses don't have the opportunity."

Rep. Garry Smith, a Simpsonville Republican said,

"The comment that farmers are being treated differently than others from what I have seen is not true," He plans to vote to override the veto.

Haley, in her message to lawmakers, argued that while some say that farmers were unprepared for the flood and cannot survive without a cash bailout, that is not true. "Many federal resources are available to farmers year-around, while others were made available as a result of the flood," she said, listing programs such as disaster loans, crop insurance and a farmer commodity program. She

said farmers also receive commodity price supports, which have totaled \$27 million to South Carolina farmers since last October's floods. "By any measure, the current financial support we give to farmers is extraordinary," she wrote, "but a vocal industry has asked for more taxpayer dollars to bail them out. I urge you to reject this bailout and sustain my veto."

As of press time it had been announced that by a vote 112-2, the South Carolina House overrode Hailey's veto of the Palmetto Farm Aid Fund bill.

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Shown, from left, are South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt; Lance Tully, Chesterfield County's 2016 Ambassador for Economic Development winner; and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley.

Tully named county ambassador for economic development

Nestlé Waters' staffer honored for work with bottling plant

From release

Governor Nikki Haley and the South Carolina Department of Commerce recognized Lance Tully, Natural Resource manager for Nestlé Waters North America, as Chesterfield County's 2016 Ambassador for Economic Development.

The award honors South Carolinians who have made exceptional contributions to their county and the state's economic development efforts.

Nestle Waters' new facility in Chesterfield County represents an investment of more than \$40 million and created nearly 60 jobs.

Each South Carolina county selects and nominates a recipient for the annual Ambassadors for Economic Development Award.

This year, Haley presented the ambassadors with their awards on April 28 at the Governor's Mansion Complex in Columbia.

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Tully

continued from the front

“Chesterfield County is proud to honor Nestlé Waters’ Lance Tully for his commitment to our community,” said Kim Burch, director of the Chesterfield County Economic Development Board. “Lance invested significant time in educating our citizens on the economic and social benefits of the new Nestlé

plant, and we look forward to his continued contributions to our county.”

“Locating, building and opening the new Nestlé Waters bottling facility in McBee was a team effort between our company and the community,” said Tully. “I look forward to helping to showcase Chesterfield County as a business-friendly environment to other prospective em-

ployers.”

Nestlé Waters, the nation’s leading bottled water company, began construction of the 200,000-square-foot facility in January 2015, east of the town of McBee.

The plant has two production lines, which have the capability of running Deer Park Natural Spring Water or Nestlé Pure Life Purified.

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148 Lucas rips Haley on farm bill veto

Editor's note: The S.C. House voted 112-2 Tuesday to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of legislation that would provide \$40 million in grants to help the state's farmers recover from last year's floods. Republican House Speaker Jay Lucas, whose District 65 includes parts of eastern Lancaster County, wrote this in reaction to the override.

The South Carolina House recognizes the unprecedented loss our farmers experienced last October and understands the economic impact at stake if these concerns are ignored. Gov. Haley's factually inaccurate justification for vetoing the farm aid bill is inconsistent with South Carolina values.

When Gov. Haley petitioned the federal government for flood relief assistance last fall, she included homeowners and small businesses but intentionally ignored our farmers' plea for help by leaving them out of the request. Because of the governor's refusal to advocate on behalf of our state's largest industry, the General As-

sembly was forced to take action.

The farm aid bill establishes a verified grant process that will assist our farmers with the rebuilding process. This program provides our agriculture industry with state disaster assistance that has already been afforded to small businesses and homeowners by the federal government.

I am extremely proud of the leadership the House has demonstrated today and hope the Senate will act accordingly to ensure our farmers are able to recover from last October's historic flood.

**Rep. Jay Lucas
Hartsville**

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SC House overrides Haley's farm-aid veto

BY JAMIE SELF
The State
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COLUMBIA — The S.C. House voted Tuesday to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of \$40 million in state aid to farmers whose crops were damaged in October's historic rainfall and flooding.

After several speeches from the House podium pledging to help farmers — many looking on from the House balcony — representatives voted 112-2 to override the governor's veto, prompting applause from the floor.

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, a Republican from Darlington, said Haley "intentionally ignored our farmers' plea for help by leaving them out" of a request that she made for federal aid for S.C. homeowners.

"Because of the governor's refusal to advocate on behalf of our state's largest industry, the General Assembly was forced to take action," Lucas said.

Some House members, who said they are farmers, abstained from voting.

To send the aid to farmers, two-thirds of the S.C. Senate also must vote to overturn Haley's

veto. Senators approved the aid by a veto-proof, 33-3 margin.

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, a Republican from Florence, said he is confident the Senate will override Haley's veto with overwhelming

support on Wednesday. "This is something that farmers have got to have," he said.

Haley vetoed the aid package Monday. In her veto message, the Republican governor called the money an "unprecedented bailout" for a "vocal industry," adding the same aid was not available to small businesses and homeowners who also suffered losses in the flood.

But lawmakers supporting the farm aid said the state already sends millions to businesses in the form of tax benefits.

"South Carolina farmers need our help," said state Rep. Gary Simrill, R-York, speaking before the vote.

"Did you realize that we put \$40 million in beach re-nourish-

ment in the budget that passed this House?" he asked other members, noting beaches are important to state's tourism sector.

"House?" he asked other members, noting beaches are impor-

tant to state's tourism sector.

State Rep. Justin Bamberg said farming is key to his Bamberg community — the same community, he noted, where Haley grew up.

"When she vetoed the farm-aid bill ... she looked at each and every farmer ... looked them in the eyes and told those farmers to go back and walk through their struggling crops and kick rocks," said the Democrat. "While we are on watch, our farmers will not kick rocks."

If the Senate votes to override Haley's veto, farmers will be able to apply for grants from the state. To qualify, a farmer must have lost at least 40 percent of a crop. The grants will cover 20 percent of that loss, not to exceed \$100,000.

Speaker Lucas also challenged Haley's veto justification, calling it "factually incorrect." Haley argued that farmers already have access to enough taxpayer-funded federal aid.

But the speaker's office said farmers do not have access to federal disaster-relief programs available to small businesses or homeowners. Federal programs for farmers are inadequate in dealing with disasters like October's flood, Lucas' office said.