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Date: 7/1/2016 1:24:01 PM

Subject: Fwd: SC Farm Aid Grant Application Opens July 1

From: SC Farm Bureau Government Relations Division <GovRelations@scfb.org>
Date: June 30, 2016 at 5:05:10 PM EDT
To: John Padgett <john.padgett@s cdr.sc.gov>
Subject: SC Farm Aid Grant Application Opens July 1
Reply-To: SC Farm Bureau Government Relations Division <GovRelations@scfb.org>

Dear Farm Bureau Member –

South Carolina House Bill 4717 became law on May 24, 2016 establishing the South Carolina Farm Aid Grant Program. \$40 million dollars was made available to South Carolina farmers who suffered at least a 40% loss of an affected crop as a result of last October's flooding.

The official application for the South Carolina Farm Aid Grant Program will open tomorrow, July 1. Please note, this application, available at <https://agriculture.sc.gov/sc-farm-aid/> --this is the **only** application a farmer can fill out to receive disaster relief aid from the State fund. The application deadline is August 15. Any application received after August 15 will not be eligible to receive funds.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture will administer this program as efficiently and effectively as possible as we recognize the needs of farmers still trying to recover. The South Carolina Farm Bureau is working closely with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and Clemson University Extension Service throughout the application period to assist farmers with the application process.

It is imperative that you fill out your application as soon as you can. If you send your application in before August 15, and you are missing any information or forms, your application may be sent back to you in order for you to resubmit the full application with all correct attachments and forms.

Clemson Extension Service is hosting regional training sessions to help farmers with the application process. A full list of those training sessions can be found [here](#).

For more information or to be put in contact with a Farm Aid staff member, please call Megan Heidkamp at (803)734-2210.

Also, for your information, the South Carolina Disaster Recovery team will be holding **informational sessions** for CDBG funding for housing needs. They will be taking statements about disaster relief needs as a result of the flooding. This is an opportunity for farmers to not only address the Governor's disaster recovery plan, but you may also want to identify the needs that unmet on your farm that may not be covered even with the relief the state has to offer.

We encourage farmers to attend these meetings and submit statements for the record. However, please remember this is separate from the disaster relief available to farmers

from the state of SC, which we know there is \$40 million for that process. At this time, the state relief through the SC Department of Agriculture is the only relief available to SC farmers.

Sincerely,
Harry Ott
SC Farm Bureau President

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