



Orientation and Planning workshop Wednesday March 3rd, 2021

1. Welcome – Debbie Sewell, Board Chair
2. Agenda Review – Jennifer Moss, Facilitator
3. Introductions
 - a. Jennifer Moss, Facilitator
 - b. Board members
4. AAB 101 – Overview of role of Agricultural Advisory Board – Adam Chapman, AAB Staff Liaison
5. Oconee County Comprehensive Plan and the AAB – Jennifer and Adam
6. 2021 Goals & Priorities – Jennifer
7. Communication – Effective Strategies – Jennifer
8. Coordination – Effective Strategies – Jennifer
9. Action Plan – Next Steps – Jennifer and Adam
10. Workshop Evaluation – Jennifer
11. Adjourn – Debbie

Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board

When & Where

5:30PM

Wednesday March 3, 2021

Council Chambers

415 South Pine Street

Walhalla, S.C.

Alternative participation

YouTube: "YourOconee"

Zoom: 888-475-4499 or 877-853-5257 and entering meeting ID # 828 4377 0168

Radio: F.M. 92.3 (within 500' of Council Chambers)

Staff contact

846-638-4218

planninginfo@oconeesc.com

LIMITED IN-PERSON

ATTENDANCE

PERMITTED

Due to the Novel Coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing state of emergency, in-person attendance at this Commission meeting by members of the general public will be limited. Attendance will be limited to twenty percent of the stated maximum occupancy, which equates to thirty-four (34) persons (including Council members, other elected officials, and staff). Attendees will be required to sit in designated seats, appropriately spaced. In-person attendance will be allowed on a "first-come" basis.

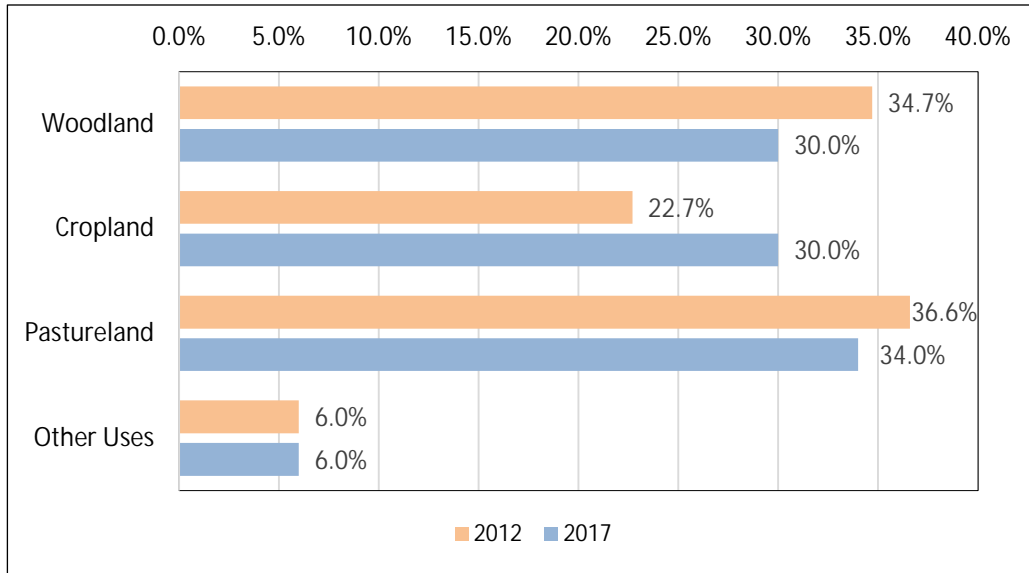
Chapter 8. Agriculture Element

A. OVERVIEW

Agriculture and forestry are critical components of both the landscape and the economy of Oconee County. Based on Oconee County tax data, 51% of the County's land area is currently in use for agriculture or forestry. However, of County land that is not included in the Sumter National Forest, nearly two-thirds is in agriculture or forestry use.

According to the Oconee Economic Alliance, Oconee County has nearly 900 farms encompassing more than 67,000 acres of land. Together, these farms have a market value in products worth more than 121 million dollars. In addition to the economic benefits of agriculture and forestry, both land uses can contribute social, environmental, and health benefits. These benefits are explored in more detail throughout this element.

Figure 8-1. Oconee County Land in Farms by Land Use, 2012 and 2017



Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Forestlands are important to the economy, character, environment, and overall health of Oconee County. Agricultural and forested lands are home to many of the area's critical natural resources and provide valuable wildlife habitat, windbreaks, enhanced water quality, decreased ambient temperatures, groundwater recharge areas, mitigation of stormwater run-off and erosion, and open space. This link to natural resource protection should be respected and enhanced when possible through the use of easements, education, and value-added land use policies such as proper regulation, prevention and mitigation of incompatible land uses, and the appropriate location of public lands and infrastructure.

Farming and food security would appear to go hand in hand, but even counties with significant farm production can have areas where access to healthy foods is non-existent or challenging.

Reliable, convenient access to fresh fruit, vegetables, and proteins is a cornerstone of community sustainability and resilience. A healthy population contributes more to the local economy, uses fewer healthcare resources, and is central to community well-being and quality of life.

B. AGRICULTURE

Over the past century, agriculture in the U.S. has become more mechanized, industrialized, and dependent on and threatened by globalization. While much of the agriculture in the Upstate consists of relatively small farms, these trends have affected farming in Oconee County as well. More than half of Americans were farmers at the turn of the 20th century, and their farms typically were diverse in plants and animals, had a focus on family subsistence, and supported the local area. While this is still true on some small farms, the trend towards specialization and truck farming (producing products primarily for shipment often bypassing local markets) has had its impacts on the Upstate as well. However, a recent return to market-farming or direct-to-consumer farming is changing how some farmers do business.



Figure 8-2. Farming Operation Characteristics in Oconee

AGRICULTURAL LAND PROVIDES BENEFITS BEYOND FOOD



open space and scenic views



biodiversity and wildlife habitat



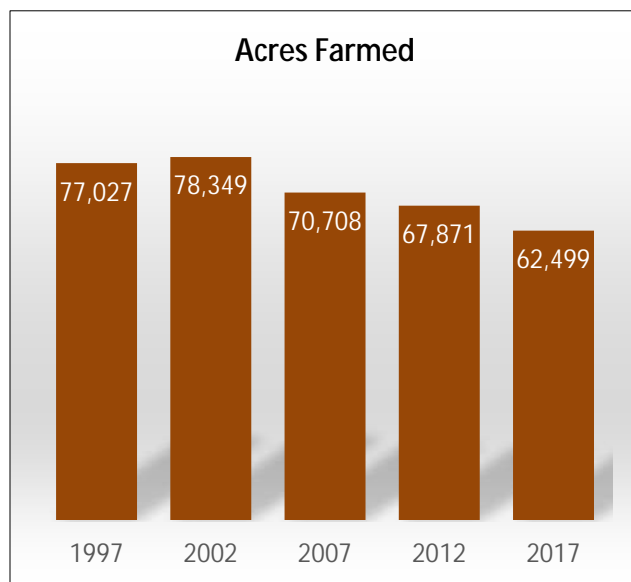
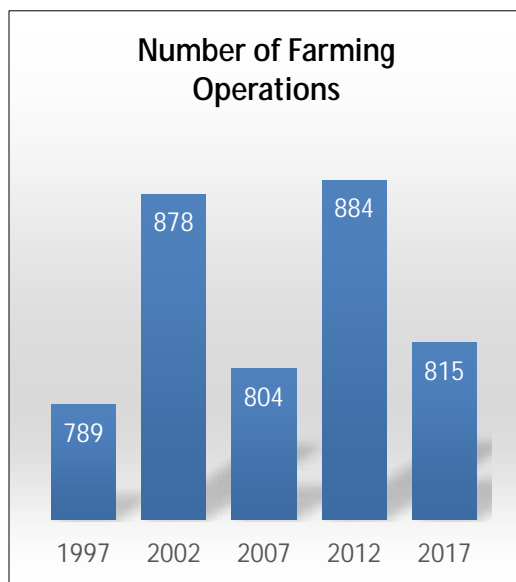
fire suppression, floodplain management, and carbon sequestration



recreation

Source: American Farmland Trust, "Farms Under Threat: The State of America's Farmland," May 9, 2018

County



Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture

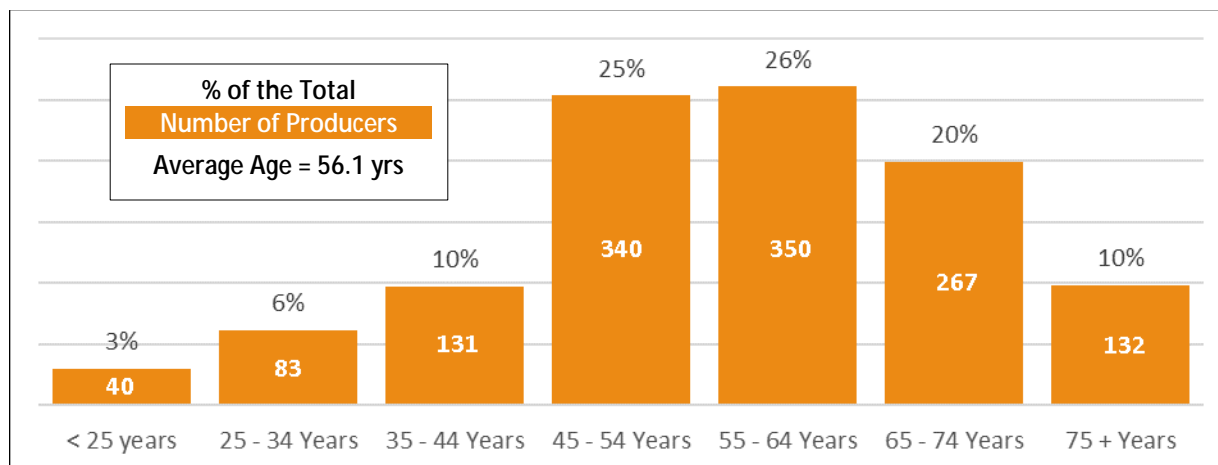
The number of farming operations in Oconee County has fluctuated over the past 30 years from a low of 789 in 1997 to a high of 884 in 2012. While the number of farm operations fell from 884 in 2012 to 815 in 2017, the average farm size remained 77 acres. In 2007 there were only 804 farms, but the average farm size was larger at 88 acres and the total acreage in farms was almost 71,000.

1. Producer and Income Characteristics

Commonly known as farmers, people who work on farms are called “producers” by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau expanded its definition of producer in the 2017 Census to include anyone involved in making decisions for a farm. This change resulted in an increase in the number of people who were reported as producers as compared to previous years. The latest Census also collected information on young producers and new and beginning producers. These new data provide additional insight into the profile of farmers in Oconee County and should help to identify trends that might be significant in supporting local farming.



Figure 8-3. Age of Oconee County Producers, 2017

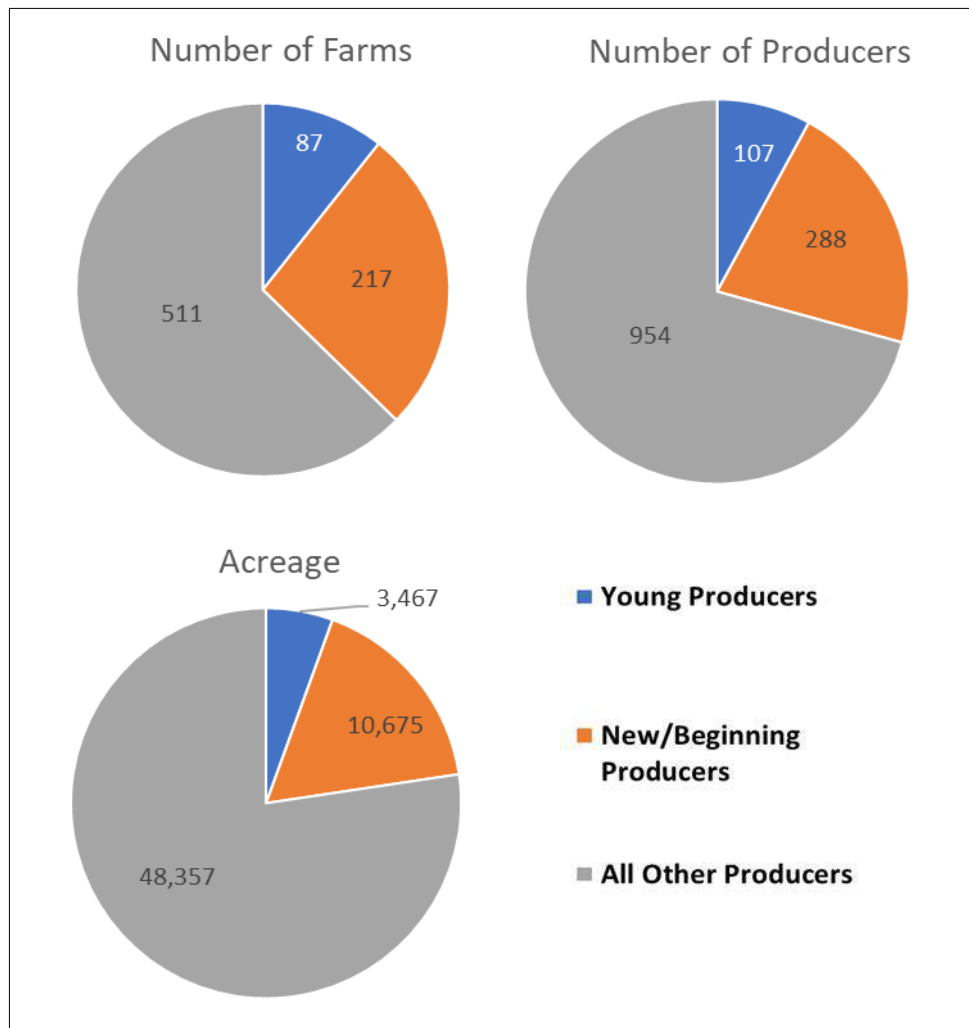


Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture

Of the 1,343 producers working Oconee County farms in 2017, 749 were aged 55 years or older. The average age for all producers is 56.1 years (Figure 8-3), slightly less than the U.S. average of 57.5 years. Fewer than one-third of all producers in Oconee County has been in operation less than 11 years and less than 40 percent indicated that farming was their primary occupation. The future of farming depends on the successful transition of farms from one producer to another, for young people to see value in the farming way of life, and on successfully supplementing farm income with diversification and non-farm related jobs that provide greater income stability. Only a small portion of the primary producers are young, aged 35 or less years, as characterized by the 2017 Census of Agriculture (Figure 8-4). A larger percent of all producers were characterized as “new or beginning,” defined as no more than ten years of farming experience, which is a title irrespective of age.



Figure 8-4. Characteristics by Producer Type in Oconee County, 2017

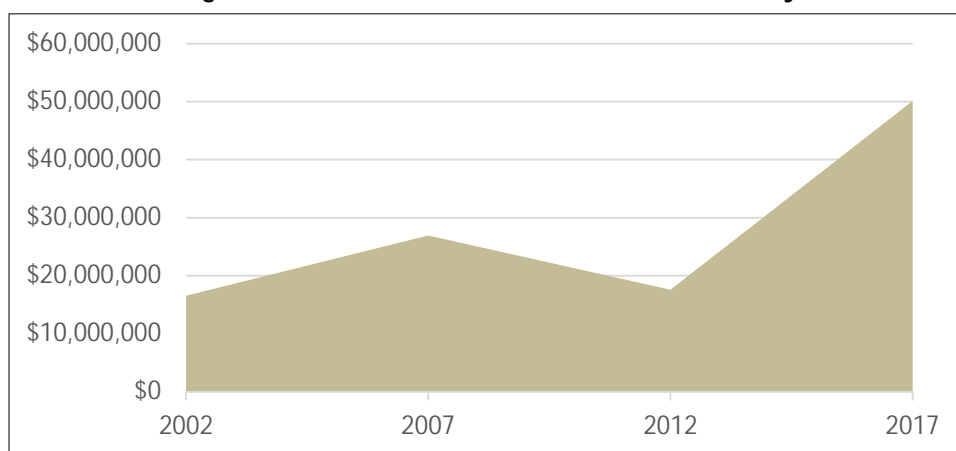


Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture

Although the number of acres farmed in the County is declining, the net income of farm operations has increased. The greatest increases in the number of farms by farm sales has been in categories with annual sales of \$50,000 or more.

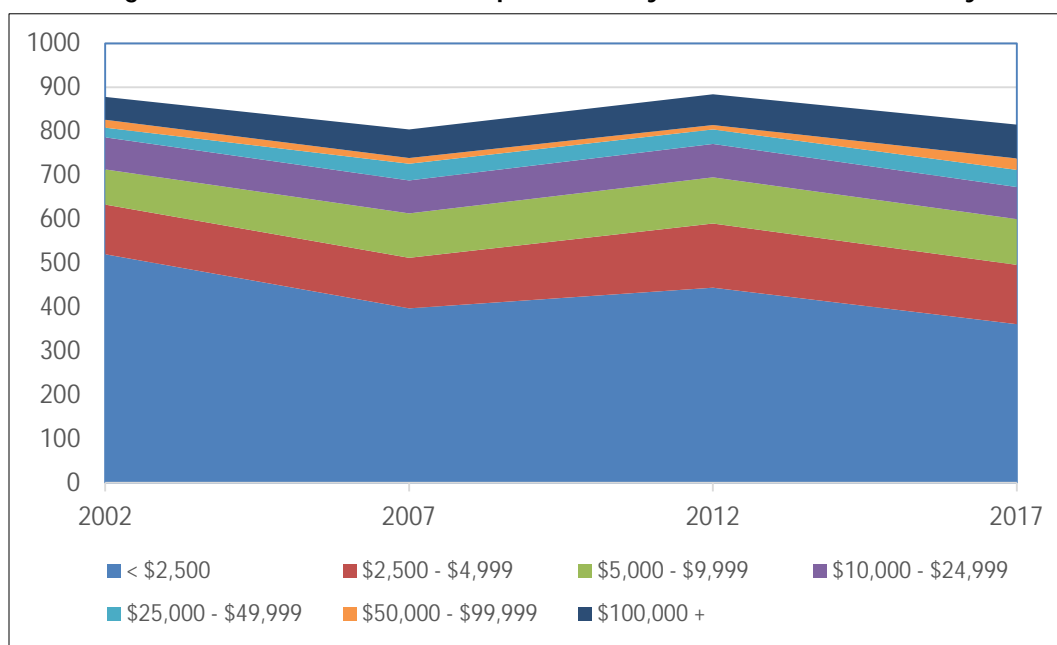


Figure 8-5. Net Farm Income in Oconee County



Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture

Figure 8-6. Number of Farm Operations by Sales in Oconee County



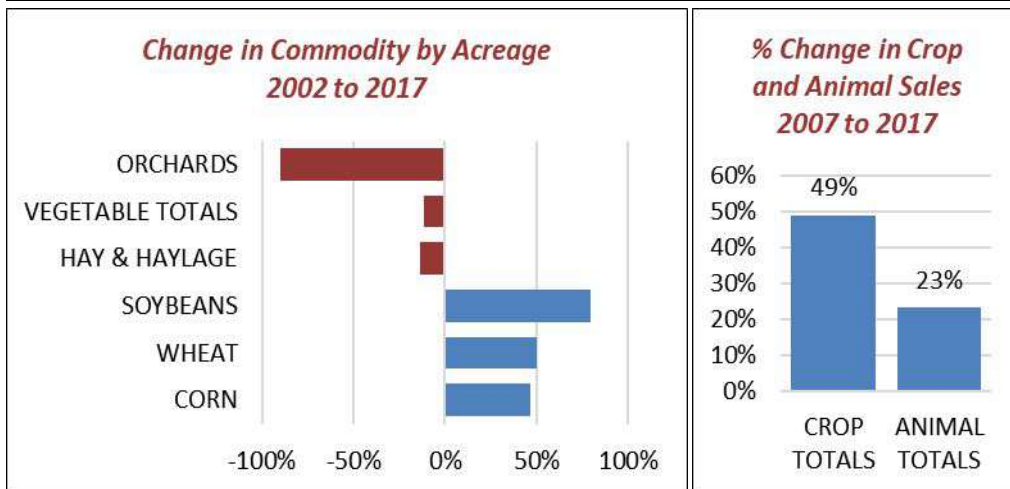
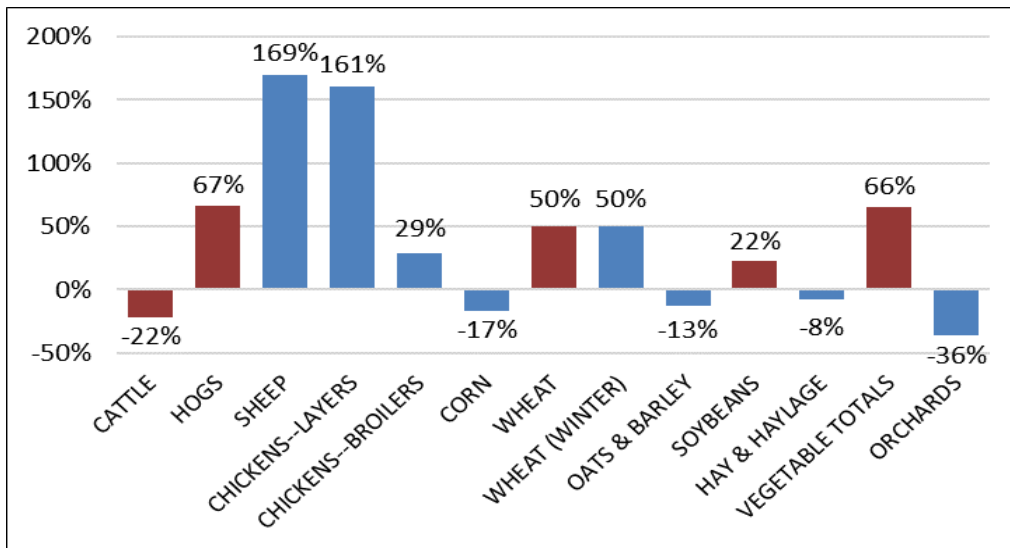
Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture

2. Commodities

A variety of vegetable, fruit, and animal products are produced on Oconee County farms, but livestock, poultry, and animal products represent 97 percent of the total share of farm sales. Oconee County is South Carolina’s number 1 poultry and egg-producing county. It ranks 77th nationwide out of 3007 counties. A distant second, in terms of sales and rank, is the production of cattle and calves, followed by milk, hogs and pigs, sheep and goats, equine, apiculture and aquaculture. As Figure 8-7 indicates, the number of sheep farms increased significantly between 2002 and 2012, but sheep remain a minor contributor to farm sales overall.



Figure 8-7. Changes in Farm Commodities



Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture



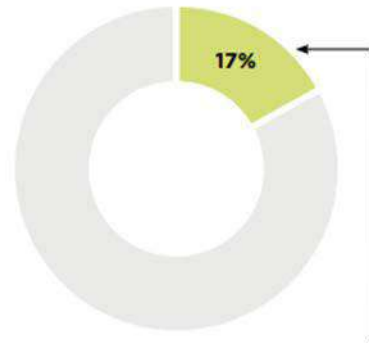
3. Agricultural Land

Soil data provided by the USDA reveals that only 7% of the County’s land area (30,650 acres) is prime farmland. Prime farmland, as defined by the USDA, is “land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses.” Prime farmland soils produce the highest yields with minimal inputs of energy and economic resources and the least damage to the environment. Soils that have a high water table or are subject to flooding may also qualify as prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during growing season. These soils comprise 2.4% of the land area in Oconee County, encompassing 10,138 acres of land.

It is possible for states to define and delineate soils that, while not designated as prime farmlands, may be farmlands “of statewide importance” for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. In general this land includes soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops – some as high as prime farmlands given favorable conditions – when treated and managed according to *best management* farming methods. Based on criteria set by the State of South Carolina, 10.4% of the land area of Oconee County (44,829 acres) is considered to have soils of statewide importance to agriculture.

Map 8-1 illustrates the location of prime and other important farmlands in Oconee County. Prime farmlands are located throughout the County but are sparser in the higher elevations in the Sumter National Forest.

U.S. AGRICULTURE RELIES ON HIGH-QUALITY FARMLAND

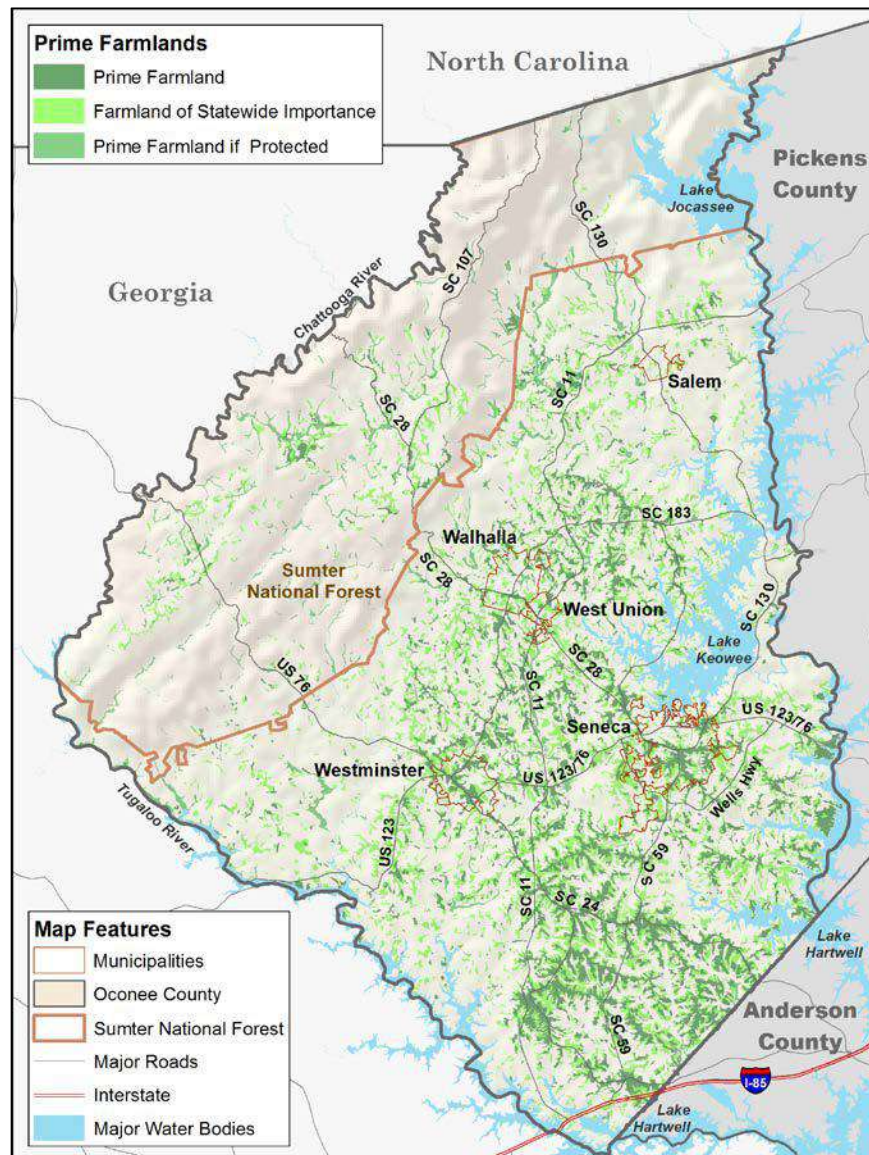


Only 17 percent of the land in the continental U.S. is agricultural land with the productivity, versatility, and resiliency (PVR) to produce a wide variety of crops with minimal environmental limitations.

Source: American Farmland Trust, “Farms Under Threat: The State of America’s Farmland,” May 9, 2018



Map 8-1. Prime Farmlands



Source: USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey, 2019



4. Threats to Prime Farmland

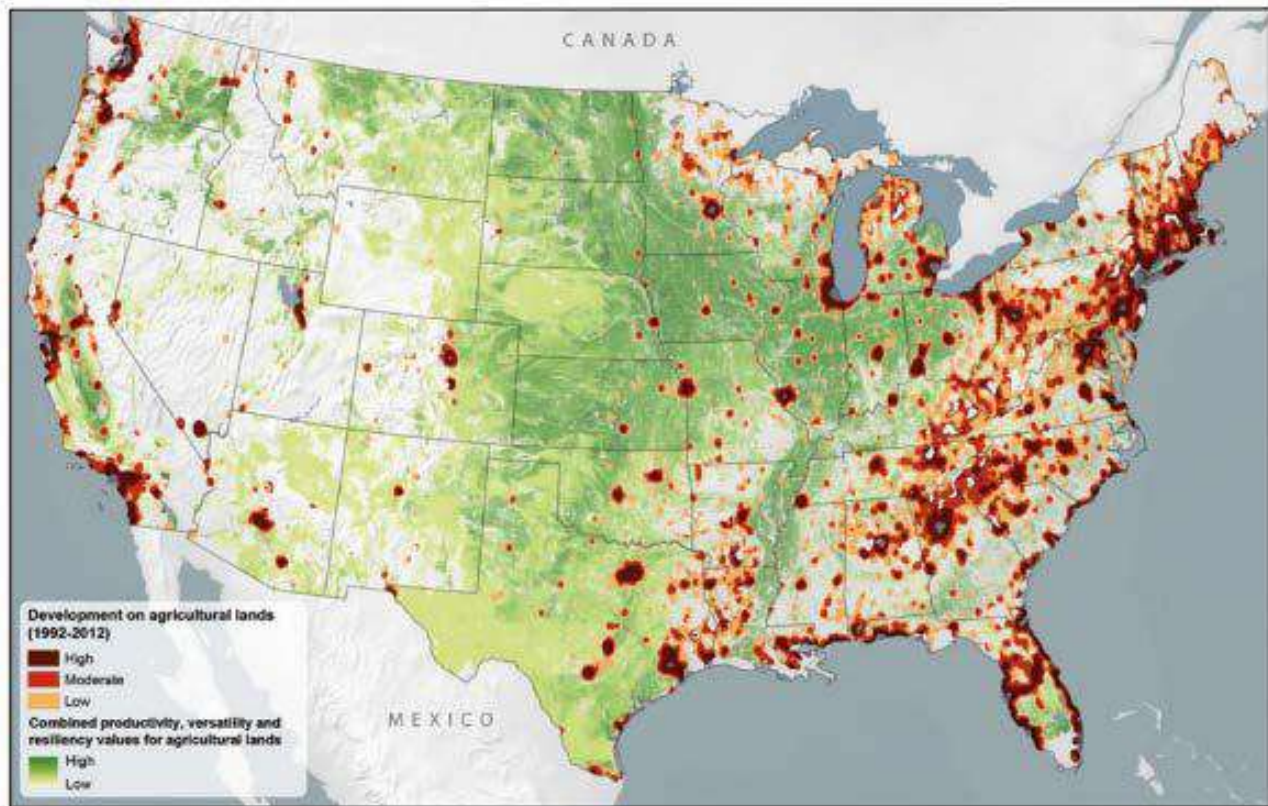
Prime farmland has been disappearing across America as urbanization has crept, leap-frogged, and in some cases, steamrolled across the landscape. The sharp increase in road and utility expansion in the 20th century divided many rural farms, opening vast areas for urban and suburban development. The relatively flat, cleared land preferred by farmers is also preferred by developers looking to minimize the cost of land preparation. However, the loss of farmland is not caused solely by the need for land to accommodate growth. It is also caused by the low relative value placed on farmland as compared to suburban and urban development.

Farm loss isn't just market economics at work, it also represents the collective valuation of farmland by the public. Studies conducted by the USDA Economic Research Service indicate that when people were asked to rank the appeal of various landscapes, farms, particularly cropland, received a low ranking. However, farms were ranked above developed sites in general. Their research provides some insight into the dynamics of farmland conversion, and perhaps is worth considering when crafting public education materials and arguments for farmland preservation.

Between 1982 and 2012, an estimated 395,900 acres of South Carolina's prime farmland were developed (*Farmland Information Center, 2016*). Conversion of prime farmlands to non-agricultural use is a concern, as the farming industry is forced to bring more marginal agricultural land into production. Marginal farmland has less productive and more erodible soil, often with irregular topography such as steeper slopes that require greater labor, equipment, and material costs. Map 8-2 indicates the entire Upstate experienced moderate to high rates of land conversion from 1992 to 2012.



Map 8-2. Conversion of U.S. Agricultural Land to Urban and Low-Density Residential Development Between 1992 and 2012



The development of agricultural land is shown in relationship to the low-to-high continuum of productive, versatile, and resilient values for agricultural land. The conversion of agricultural land to urban and low-density residential uses between 1992 and 2012 is shown as high (dark brown-red, > 25% conversion within a 10-kilometer (6.2 miles) radius), moderate (light brown-red, 10–25% conversion) and low (tan, 5–10% conversion). Urban areas are shown in gray.

Source: American Farmland Trust, "Farms Under Threat: The State of America's Farmland," May 9, 2018

An essential step in protecting valuable farmland is to ensure that policies on growth and development recognize the importance of local farming to the health, well-being, and economy of Oconee County. To accomplish this, the County will need to educate its citizens on the value of local farming activity, the need to promote and support local farmers through right-to-farm policies and similar measures, why it is necessary to allow value-added and farm-related land uses and activities in agricultural areas, and other topics that may arise that are central to preserving Oconee County's farmland. South Carolina has adopted laws to help protect farms from nuisance suits. These laws can be found in *Title 46, Chapter 45 of the S.C. Code of Laws §§ 46-45-10 to 46-45-70* (2004).

Farmers often need to diversify to stay in business. Diversification may mean using a part of a cornfield for a Halloween maze, turning raw products like grapes into other products like jelly, direct selling through farm stands, establishing restaurants and ice cream shops, or inviting schools and tourists to tour or participate in farm life and production. Zoning that tightly

separates land uses by type ignores the interdependence of different uses and synergies that these types of mixed uses can create. An example is a code that restricts agricultural land to primary production but not the processing of agricultural products. Policies that limit options may make farmland preservation very difficult.

The lack of policies to protect farming from the encroachment of inappropriate land uses can lead to additional problems. Agriculture can be noisy and smelly. Farmers often work in the very early morning hours and late evening hours. Farmland can require chemical application that non-farming residents find offensive or scary. For these reasons and many others, conventional residential subdivisions often do not make good farm neighbors. Clustering, buffering, and controlling residential density near farm borders are ways the County could help protect farmers from nuisance complaints. Another way to protect farmland and provide for residential growth is a new trend called “agrihoods.” These are subdivisions that integrate farmland into their overall design, making it a core feature much like golf courses have been in the past. Agrihoods appeal to people who want good, steady access to local farm produce. Agrihoods already exist in the Upstate, including one in the City of Greenville.

Land subdivision is a threat to many prime agricultural areas in the Upstate. Many communities have tried to deal with this through a policy of requiring very large minimum lot sizes, but is this right for agriculture? Just how small is too small for a legitimate farming enterprise? The answer to these questions has changed over time, especially with the recent emphasis on “eat local” and organic farming. Answers also vary by farming technique and product. For example, hydroponic greenhouses may only need an acre, while cattle farming can require more than 35 acres. Subdividing land into estate lots or gentleman farms and allowing land splits to accommodate family lots can eat away at Oconee County’s prime farmland over time. At the same time, it is crucial to permit subdivisions that support housing for farm laborers and businesses that provide goods and services to the farming community, issues that often are overlooked in local land use policies.

Some counties, such as Charleston County and Henderson County, N.C., have created or are in the process of creating Voluntary Agricultural and Forestal Areas programs. These programs seek to prevent the low-density sprawl development pattern and non-agricultural/forestal use encroachment that can lead to destruction of the agricultural and forestry industry.

C. FORESTRY

Roughly 63 percent of Oconee County’s land area is forested, totaling 251,354 acres (*S.C. Forestry Commission*, www.state.sc.us/forest/oco.htm, 2019). Much of the county’s forestland lies within the Sumter National Forest. Hardwoods and some pines are the dominant native trees (*USDA, Soil Survey of Oconee County, S.C., 1963*). While forestry is a key component of the economy in the state and region, Oconee County ranks 45th out of 46 counties in delivered value of timber. This is at least partially due to the lack of major processing mills that exist in or near the County.



Oconee County ranks 45st statewide in delivered value of timber sold, with a harvested timber delivery value exceeding \$4.7 million (*S.C. Forestry Commission, Value of SC's Timber Delivered to Mills in 2017*). South Carolina forest products go to many places including international destinations.

Table 8-9. Top 10 S.C. Forest Products Markets, 2016*

| Rank | Wood-based chemical products | Solid wood products | Wood Pulp |
|------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Finland (13) | China (0) | China (0) |
| 2 | Korea, South (1) | Canada (0) | India (2) |
| 3 | China (-2) | India (0) | Japan (-1) |
| 4 | Brazil (-2) | Australia (0) | Mexico (3) |
| 5 | Canada (2) | Japan (1) | Korea, South (0) |
| 6 | Thailand (-2) | United Kingdom (2) | Italy (0) |
| 7 | Mexico (1) | Vietnam (0) | Colombia (3) |
| 8 | Kuwait (6) | Bangladesh (10) | Poland (-5) |
| 9 | India (-3) | Pakistan (1) | Netherlands (-1) |
| 10 | Netherlands (-1) | Korea, South (2) | Belgium (1) |

Legend: Asia | Europe | Central/South America

* 2015-2016 ranking changes are shown in parentheses

Source: S.C. Forestry Commission, South Carolina Forest Products Industry Export Report: 2016



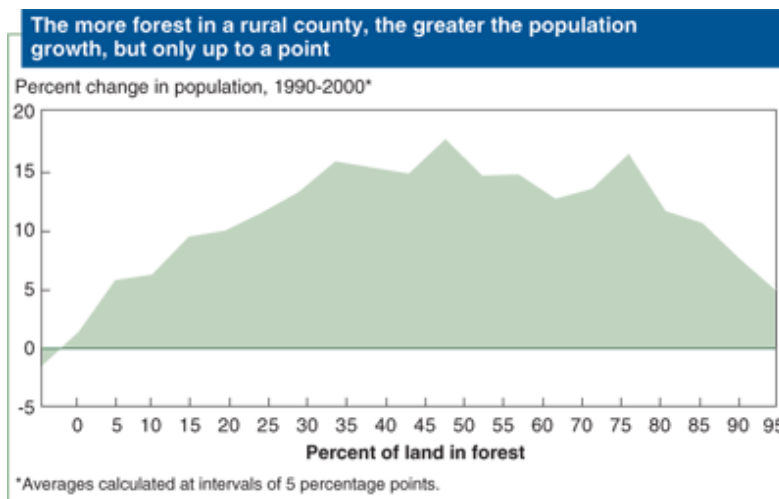
In addition to providing commercial wood-based products, forestland is productive in many other ways. It converts carbon dioxide to oxygen, provides shade to help mitigate hot summer temperatures, serves as critical habitat and food sources for many wildlife and plant species, lessens wind impacts, and conserves water and reduces stormwater impacts by filtering pollutants and aiding groundwater recharge.

Forestland and tree canopy also contribute significantly to the character of Oconee County. Studies conducted by the USDA Economic Research Service indicate that forestland is a compelling factor for where people choose to live. Tree canopy has a positive impact on community appearance and forests are important recreational resources. State-level data recently released by the S.C. Forestry Commission indicate that forest-based recreation contributes \$1.6 billion annually to the state's economy.





Figure 8-11. Relationship Between Forestland and Population Growth



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, "Farm Programs, Natural Amenities, and Rural Development," February 1, 2005

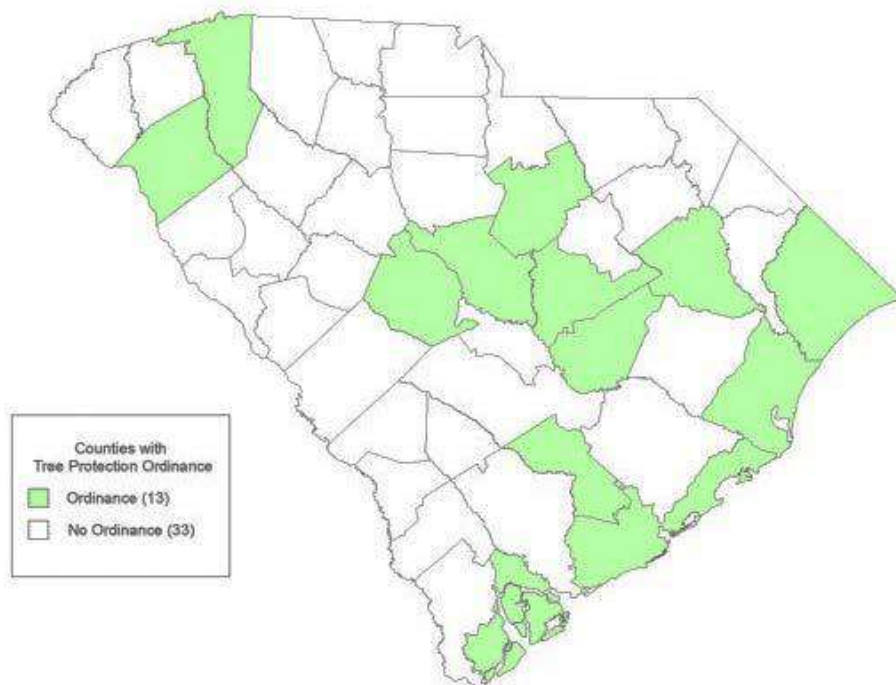
1. Threats to Forestry

There are many threats to forestlands such as clearing, grubbing, and grading for development, insect infestations and disease, invasive species, inadequate forestry management, and fire. Historically, the greatest loss in forestland occurred when land was cleared for farming. This trend reversed as a result of incentives that encourage the conversion of farmland into forests. Urbanization is now the primary cause of deforestation in South Carolina. The South Carolina Forestry Commission is working with communities across the state to develop urban forestry programs that protect remaining forestland and encourage the re-establishment of forests and tree canopies in urban areas.



Source: Clemson University

Map 8-2. Counties with Tree Protection Ordinances



Source: South Carolina's Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (Forest Action Plan)
<http://www.trees.sc.gov/scfra.htm>

Wildfire is a threat to all South Carolina forestland and the urban areas which it abuts. On average, the South Carolina Forestry Commission fights 3,000 forest fires across the state each year. Nearly all are human-related, meaning that humans directly caused or indirectly contributed to fire creation or spread.

Forests contain “fuels” that are highly flammable, including any natural material, living or dead, that will burn. Common fuels include leaf litter, limbs, pine straw, and certain species of shrubs and trees that ignite easily. The greatest area of wildfire concern is in the wildland-urban interface, where development abuts forestland. Wildfires in and adjacent to developed areas present many challenges, not the least of which is access to the fire through developed sites. Business owners and residents often unwittingly provide fuel for fires by using of one or more of the fuels mentioned above in site landscaping. The South Carolina Forestry Commission works with communities to develop community wildfire protection plans to lessen risk to buildings and forestland. Plans provide an assessment of risk and a list of mitigation measures that can be undertaken to minimize wildfire risk. The goal of the Commission is to have as many “fire-adapted” communities in South Carolina as possible. A fire-adapted community is one in which the citizenry is informed, prepared, and taking action to reduce wildfire-related incidents.

South Carolina has many communities that are recognized nationally through the Firewise USA program established and managed by the National Fire Protection Association where residents

are actively reducing wildfire risks. Ten of the 33 communities currently listed are in Oconee County including:

- Keowee Key (2006)
- Wynward Pointe (2007)
- Lake Yonah (2009)
- Keowee Harbours (2009)
- Chickasaw Point (2009)
- Waterford Pointe (2009)
- Waterford (2010)
- Beacon Shores (2015)
- Port Santorini (2016)
- Emerald Pointe (2017)



Funding for the USDA Forest Service's National Fire Plan is available through grants to communities wishing to implement a fuels mitigation and educational program. The International Code Council has also created an *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* to assist communities interested in using regulation to help reduce wildfire risk.

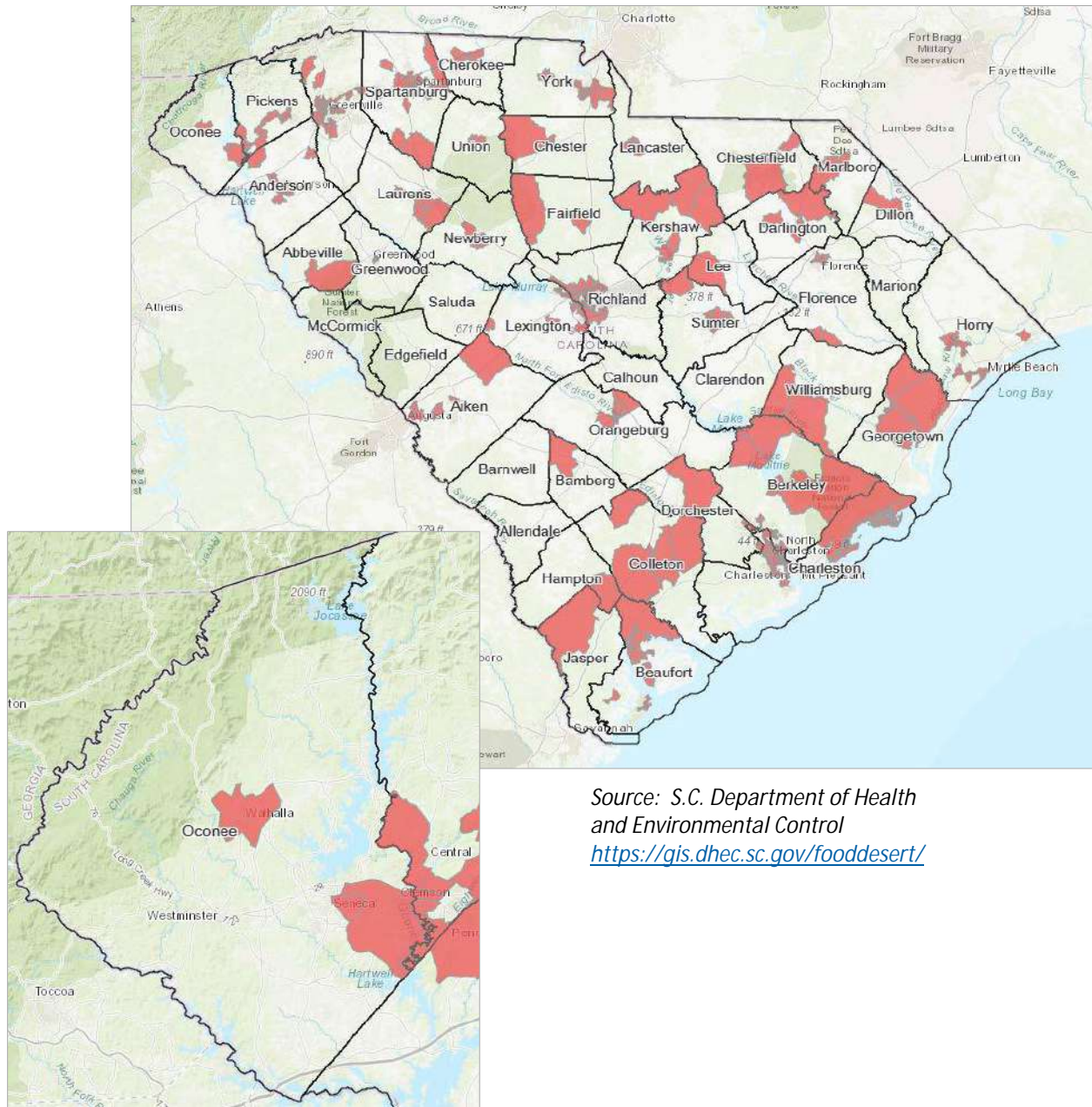
D. FOOD SECURITY

Food access is a critical element of community prosperity and security and should be an integral feature of planning at regional, county, community, and neighborhood levels. Successfully addressing food security requires cooperation and coordination from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, and collaboration with a variety of entities including retailers, transit services, and non-profits focused on healthy food education and childhood nutrition. Collaborative efforts to identify potential funding sources to address needs are also needed.

The lack of access to a variety of fresh and healthy foods can be a problem for many low-income and other transportation-challenged populations. The USDA Economic Research Service defines individuals lacking access as those who live more than one mile from a grocery store or supermarket. Low-income residents in areas without access to a grocery store who cannot raise their food and frequently lack reliable access to transportation often rely on neighborhood convenience stores which typically stock foods that are highly processed, high-caloric, and have a low-nutritional value. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity.

The USDA has mapped areas that lack access to fresh and healthy foods, known as food deserts. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has published the USDA map for the state. This data is shown in Map 8-3 along with a focused map of Oconee County.

Map 8-3. Food Deserts in South Carolina and Oconee County



Source: S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
<https://gis.dhec.sc.gov/fooddesert/>

Although these maps are based on 2015 data, there is little reason to believe food access has improved significantly since then and may have declined. As the maps indicate, there are likely significant access issues around Walhalla and from Seneca to Pickens and Anderson counties.

Ensuring access to healthy food is both a land use and a transportation issue and requires a holistic approach to successfully address the problem. Such an approach can include increasing public transit; making sure land use policies allow a mix of uses in residential areas that allows grocery stores, farmers markets, and similar fresh food outlets; and educating citizens on



backyard gardening and food preservation to encourage a certain amount of self-sufficiency where possible. Land use policies that do not allow grocery stores and supermarkets in residential areas create food deserts. Being aware of where food deserts likely exist, as indicated by Map 8-3, and using that information to inform transit service routes is also vital since the market forces that drive retail location favor moderate and high-income areas over low-income communities.

Many communities are turning to gardening as one solution for healthy food access. Backyard gardens may significantly improve healthy food choice. Community gardens are also becoming more popular across the country, as are subdivisions centered around gardens or small community farms, referred to as agrihoods. Some communities have also begun to plan edible gardens instead of ornamentals in public spaces. Gardening encourages physical activity and provides the benefits associated with other outdoor activities. The National Recreation and Park Association now offers advice on how to integrate gardening (backyard, community, public) into parks and recreation programs for children and adults. These programs teach important skills including food preservation.

There is a growing movement centered on eating locally grown and produced foods. To support this in Oconee County, the County should ensure it has no unnecessary barriers that restrict accessory processing on farms and in commercial areas (e.g. jams, jellies, wine, pickles), encourage farmer's markets and farm stands, work cooperatively to link producers with retail consumers (restaurants, bars, etc.) as part of a broader economic development strategy, and assist with marketing local farm products.

Food security can be a much larger problem and impact many more people than shown on Map 8-3 during natural disasters and other emergencies that affect transportation systems and food production. Few emergency management plans currently address food access and security, but more communities are beginning to add this very critical link. In 2010, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), in cooperation with USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) developed best practices and guidelines for state and local emergency response efforts for incidents involving the nation's food supply. Oconee County can request state assistance in developing a local food security and response element for the County's Emergency Preparedness Plan. It should also coordinate planning, prevention, and response efforts regionally since disasters and emergencies frequently affect multiple jurisdictions at one time.



Source: S.C. Farm Bureau

E. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The table of goals, objectives and implementation strategies (GOIS) summarizes the actions that will be undertaken in the coming decade to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the Agriculture Element. The Agricultural Advisory Board of Oconee County will be a driving force and an accountable agency for all goals, objectives, and strategies below.

| Goals/Objectives/Strategies | Accountable Agencies | Time Frame for Evaluation |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Goal 8.1. Support and Protect the Agricultural Industry in Oconee County. | | |
| Objective 8.1.1. Recognize important agricultural land as a valuable natural resource to protect for future generations. | | |
| Strategy 8.1.1.1. Advocate use of “Best Management Practices” in farmland and forest operations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil & Water Conservation Commissions • Oconee County • Clemson Cooperative Extension (CCE) • SC Forestry Commission | 2025 |
| Strategy 8.1.1.2. Encourage and support collaboration between landowners and public and private agencies in the development of ecologically and economically sound plans for preservation and restoration of farmland and forests. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • CCE • Conservation groups | 2025 |
| Strategy 8.1.1.3. Work with SCDOT and other state and regional agencies to ensure projects for infrastructure facility maintenance and expansion will not be detrimental to the continuation of agriculture and silviculture. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • SCDOT • Oconee County Chamber of Commerce • Municipalities | 2021 |
| Strategy 8.1.1.4. Limit non-agricultural development in productive and prime agricultural areas to densities and development patterns that are consistent with the continuation of economically viable agriculture. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County | 2021 |
| Strategy 8.1.1.5. Support state legislation that links incentives to continue farming (such as state income tax credits or differential assessment for property taxes and affirmative supports for the business of agriculture) with controls preventing conversion of the recipient's agricultural land to non-farm uses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Chamber of Commerce | 2025 |



| Goals/Objectives/Strategies | Accountable Agencies | Time Frame for Evaluation |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| <p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.6.</u> Seek grants and take advantage of state and federal programs to assist with the purchase of development rights and agricultural easements on prime agricultural land.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service • Oconee County Chamber of Commerce • Conservation groups | <p>2023</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.7.</u> Ensure that the impacts to adjacent farms and forest land is part of the deliberation and decision making for proposed public projects.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service • Oconee County Chamber of Commerce | <p>2021</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.8.</u> Work with the state Real Estate Licensing commission to add an “Agricultural Disclosure Act” to ensure that potential home/land/business purchasers are made aware that agricultural activity is occurring on land adjacent to the purchaser’s property of interest.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • State Real Estate Licensing Commission | <p>2023</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.9.</u> Activate vacant and underutilized County owned property to facilitate a program that invites entrepreneurs, non-profits, residents, and other groups to begin entry-level agricultural businesses, community gardens, and pilot programs for engaging residents in the agricultural processes.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • NGO • Not-for-Profit organizations • CCE • Municipalities • Agriculture Organizations • School District of Oconee County (SDOC) | <p>2023</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.1.1.10.</u> Create a staff position of Agricultural communication and coordination to coordinate and communicate with farmers, foresters, local governments, agricultural groups, and the public on agricultural and forestry matters.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County | <p>2023</p> |
| <p>Objective 8.1.2. Enhance agricultural operations and opportunities.</p> | | |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.1.2.1.</u> Work with state and federal agencies to attract agribusiness-related grants and revenue sources and support efforts to establish pilot programs related to new agricultural technologies and products.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County | <p>2021</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.1.2.2.</u> Provide appropriate assistance to expand non- traditional and specialty agribusiness opportunities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County | <p>2021</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.1.2.3.</u> Ensure the ability of a farm to have a farm-related business onsite.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County | <p>2021</p> |



| Goals/Objectives/Strategies | Accountable Agencies | Time Frame for Evaluation |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Strategy 8.1.2.4.</u> Promote the establishment of new farm enterprises through support of training for interested persons. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service | 2023 |
| <u>Strategy 8.1.2.5.</u> Allow agricultural products processing facilities to locate in areas with convenient access to farms, but ensure that they do not negatively impact rural character or scenic vistas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County | 2025 |
| <u>Strategy 8.1.2.6.</u> Support South Carolina right-to-farm laws and consider adopting a county right-to-farm policy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service • Oconee County Chamber of Commerce | 2021 |
| <u>Strategy 8.1.2.7.</u> Promote farm stands and farmers markets in rural and urban areas and local food hub(s) with adjoining counties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service • FARM Center | 2023 |
| <u>Strategy 8.1.2.8.</u> Consider adopting a Voluntary Agricultural and Forestal Areas program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service | 2025 |
| <u>Strategy 8.1.2.9.</u> Encourage and support programs that educate and engage residents of all ages in aspects of farming and agriculture. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee Cooperative Extension Service • Agriculture Advisory Board • Organizations such as FFA and the Oconee Cultivation Project • FARM Center | 2023 |
| Goal 8.2. Protect Oconee County's Forest Resources. | | |
| <u>Strategy 8.2.1.1.</u> Maintain an accurate inventory of important forestland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • SC Forestry Commission • US Forest Service | 2025 |



| Goals/Objectives/Strategies | Accountable Agencies | Time Frame for Evaluation |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| <u>Strategy 8.2.1.2.</u> Coordinate and plan infrastructure and development to protect forestland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • SC Forestry Commission • SCDOT • US Forest Service • Conservation Groups | 2025 |
| <u>Strategy 8.2.1.3.</u> Support efforts to permanently preserve important forestland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • SC Forestry Commission • US Forest Service • Conservation Groups | 2025 |
| <u>Strategy 8.2.1.4.</u> Work with the Forestry Commission to educate citizens about wildfire hazards. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • SC Forestry Commission • Rural Fire Departments • US Forest Service • CCE | 2025 |
| <u>Strategy 8.2.1.5.</u> Consider adopting the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, or relevant portions, to help mitigate wildfire risk. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Rural Fire Departments | 2030 |
| Goal 8.3. Ensure continuing access to healthy, fresh food. | | |
| Objective 8.3.1. Eliminate food deserts and ensure access to healthy food. | | |
| <u>Strategy 8.3.1.1.</u> Integrate food system policies and planning into County land use, transportation, and capital improvement plans. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Local food banks • Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service • SDOC | 2030 |
| <u>Strategy 8.3.1.2.</u> Encourage residents to supplement personal food sources with gardening and fresh food preservation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Cooperative Extension Service • SDOC | 2025 |
| <u>Strategy 8.3.1.3.</u> Recruit, support, and incentivize businesses that provide healthy food choices in all areas of the County. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Oconee County Chamber of Commerce • CCE | 2023 |
| <u>Strategy 8.3.1.4.</u> Revise land use policies to require healthy food access as a part of development standards, prohibit private restrictions that limit gardens, and community gardens, in residential areas when economic incentives are offered by the County to a developer . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Municipalities | 2023 |



| Goals/Objectives/Strategies | Accountable Agencies | Time Frame for Evaluation |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| <p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.5.</u> Work collaboratively with non-profits and other entities to address the needs of vulnerable populations (e.g. elderly, children, homeless).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Municipalities • Local non-profits • Faith-based community • Farmers' markets | <p>2023</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.6.</u> Support new opportunities for distribution of locally and regionally produced food.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County | <p>2023</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.7.</u> Revise the zoning code to require healthy food access as a part of development standards.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Municipalities | <p>2023</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.8.</u> Work collaboratively to ensure that regional emergency preparedness programs include food access and distribution and are working toward the goal of establishing regional capacity for feeding the population for 2 to 3 months in an emergency.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • Municipalities • SC Emergency Management • Private organizations • NFPO • Disaster relief organizations | <p>2023</p> |
| <p><u>Strategy 8.3.1.9.</u> Demonstrate the use of agriculture as a method of mitigating climate change.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oconee County • SDOC • CCE • Agricultural groups • Private organizations • Municipalities • Conservation groups • Local non-profits • Faith-based community • Farmers' markets • Oconee County Chamber of Commerce • Local food banks • SC Forestry Commission | <p>2023</p> |



Chapter 2 – ADMINISTRATION
ARTICLE IV. – BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

DIVISION 1. – GENERALLY

Sec. 2-241. - Generally.

These regulations and procedures shall apply to all Oconee County boards, commissions, committees, or similar entities created by Oconee County Council under the auspices and authority of Section 4-9-30 of the South Carolina Code, 1976, as amended or any other such entity subject to the rules and regulations of, or controlled by Oconee County Council, which is not otherwise regulated or controlled by state law, all of which, collectively, are hereby referred to as "board" or "boards". The following regulations are in addition to, not in lieu of, all others contained in the Code. In the event of any inconsistency, only, specific regulations applicable to any board shall prevail over these general regulations, except as explicitly stated otherwise herein.

Beginning January 1, 2012, all terms of office shall run from January 1 through December 31 of the respective years of appointment and termination. All board terms shall be co-terminus with the term of office of the appointing council member, but with the initial appointments of new council members not scheduled to be made until June of the first year of the council member's term. A staggered appointment schedule for all county council-appointed boards will be maintained in the county council office by the clerk to council.

No member of a board ("member") shall serve on more than one board at any given time. County employees may not serve on a county board. Any member serving outside of their appointing district after centennial redistricting may complete the unfinished portion of their term but may not be reappointed in the old district. Appointment terms will be for four years unless otherwise stated herein. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms and will not be eligible for reappointment for an additional one-year period, thereafter. The provisions on terms and term limits shall not operate to prematurely terminate the term of any member serving at the time of adoption of these regulations, but shall apply to any terms or prospective terms thereafter.

Interested candidates for any board will be requested to complete the "Questionnaire for Board/Commission" and submit it to the clerk to council for distribution to council. Council is not required to select a member from the submitted questionnaires; members of council may directly solicit a candidate for any appointment by the board. However, all potential candidates, whether those submitting questionnaires on their own or those solicited for appointment by members of council, must complete the "Questionnaire for Board/Commission" and submit it to the clerk to council for distribution to council before being appointed to any county board or commission by any member of council.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Code, all boards will be appointed by the methodology of one member from each council district (nominated by the council member representing that district) and at large representatives as required to meet the board membership total, as stated herein.

All appointments to each board will be made upon recommendation by a council member and an affirmative vote by full council. The same process will be utilized for removal of any member.

All boards addressed by this section shall use the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, published by the South Carolina Association of Counties, as the basis for their parliamentary procedures.

A member who is absent from three consecutive meetings without adequate excuse, such as documented illness, shall be reported by the chairperson of that board to council and is subject to replacement by council. Any member may also be removed or replaced at will by majority vote of council upon the motion of the appointing council member at any time, unless appointment is required by or regulated by state or federal law.

Each board shall annually elect a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary. Each newly elected chairperson shall, as soon as practically possible, attend an appropriate training session

regarding the procedures for proper governance of such board. Additionally, the entire board shall participate in an informative meeting detailing the function and duties of such board. All such training sessions are the responsibility of the county department or agency with which the board is most closely associated.

Each board shall make recommendations in its area of expertise to council. Recommendations may be submitted either in writing, or be formally presented at a council meeting by a designated member. No recommendation of any board shall become effective unless or until approved or enacted or implemented by council.

Each board shall enact by-laws, not in conflict with this section or state law, which govern the conduct of meetings, attendance, committees and the regular business of the board.

All county boards shall comply with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") and the requirements set forth in the Code of Ordinances and subsequent ordinances concerning freedom of information and the conduct of public meetings.

Members of county boards, generally, are defined as "public officials" under the South Carolina Ethics Act, S.C. Code 1976, § 8-13-100 et seq., as amended. It shall be the responsibility of members, individually and collectively, to become familiar with the provisions of that law and conduct themselves accordingly. As stated in the South Carolina Ethics Act, and without limiting the applicability of any other provision of the South Carolina Ethics Act, members of county boards shall not use membership on the county board to obtain a direct personal economic interest, an economic interest for the immediate family of the member, an economic interest for an individual with whom the member is associated, or an economic interest for a business with which the member is associated. These requirements are applicable to all county boards, and their members, both through the South Carolina Ethics Act and, separately, through this section.

County council shall meet with board members and delineate duties and responsibilities of each board, as necessary and appropriate. The role of the various boards and commissions may be changed by the county council from time to time, within the parameters of state law, so as to best meet the needs of the county.

Each board will have a staff liaison to be designated by either county council or the county administrator. It is the responsibility of staff liaison to notify the clerk to council regarding resignations and/or vacancies on any board. It is also the responsibility of the staff liaison to monitor the appointment schedule and inquire and report to the clerk to council if current members wish to be considered for reappointment or replacement.

(Ord. No. 2010-39, 1-18-2011; Ord. No. 2012-05, §§ 1, 2, 4-3-2012; Ord. No. 2012-24, §§ 1, 2, 7-17-2012)

Editor's note— Ord. No. 2012-05, §§ 1, 2, adopted Apr. 3, 2012, amended § 2-241 to read as herein set out. Former § 2-241 pertained to worthless check unit, and derived from Ord. No. 2010-39, adopted Jan. 18, 2011. The provisions found in former § 2-241 have been moved to § 20-1 of this Code per Ord. No. 2012-05, § 1.

DIVISION 12. - AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Sec. 2-420.4. - Establishment.

There is hereby established the Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board (the "board"), purposed to aid and advise the county on all matters related to agriculture in order to ensure that the diverse agricultural interests in the county are supported and developed, that communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural concerns in the county are fostered, and that agriculture's vital role in the economy and character of the county is both maintained and developed.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 1, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.5. - Membership.

The board shall consist of seven voting members and one, non-voting, ex officio member, appointed by the council in accordance with the following requirements and recommendations:

- (1) The board shall consist of eight members, selected and appointed by a majority vote of council, with one member selected from each of the five council districts, two members selected at-large, without regard to district of residence and one member selected as the ex officio, without regard to district of residence. Council may receive recommendations for the two at-large seats and single ex officio seat from the county agricultural advisory board.
- (2) Each board voting member's primary residence shall be located in Oconee County; and
- (3) Council shall endeavor to appoint, but not require candidates to be appointed from, the following:
 - a. A member of the Bee Keepers' Association;
 - b. A member of the Fruits and Vegetable Growers (Clemson Extension);
 - c. A member of the Oconee Cattlemen's Association;
 - d. A member of the Oconee Poultry Growers; and
 - e. An Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner or designee.
- (4) All appointed board members shall have a demonstrated background, experience, and interest in agriculture and actively participate in at-least one of the following areas of agriculture:
 - a. Agri-tourism;
 - b. Certified organic farming;
 - c. Poultry farming;
 - d. Cattle farming;
 - e. Fruits and/or vegetable farming;
 - f. Bee keeping;
 - g. Silviculture and forestry operations;
 - h. Aquaculture;
 - i. Agri-business; or
 - j. Another agricultural pursuit, as that term is commonly understood.
- (5) Interested candidates for the board will be requested to complete the "Questionnaire for Board/Commission" and submit it to the clerk to council for distribution to council. Council is not required to select a member from the submitted questionnaires; members of council may directly solicit a candidate for any appointment by the board. However, all potential candidates, whether

those submitting questionnaires on their own or those solicited for appointment by members of council, must complete the "Questionnaire for Board/Commission" and submit it to the clerk to council for distribution to council before being appointed to any county board or commission by any member of council.

- (6) All appointments to the board will be made upon recommendation by a council member and an affirmative vote by full council.
- (7) The ex officio member shall have expertise in relevant agricultural technologies, programs, and policies as well as providing expert analysis and opinion to the voting members of the board. The ex officio member is a non-voting member and the ex officio member's attendance at meetings does not count towards quorum.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 2, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.6. - Term of members.

- (a) The length of the regular term served by each member shall be four years, beginning on January 1 of the year of appointment.
- (b) For the purposes of implementing the standards of this section and thereby establishing a reappointment/replacement schedule of the membership of the board to staggered terms, the following shall apply:
 - (1) All members appointed by council district shall serve for the same length as the remaining term of the council member who appointed them, after which the term of such board members shall be equal to and coincide with the term of the council member appointing or reappointing them, with all terms or parts thereof beginning January 1 of the year of appointment or reappointment.
 - (2) The first at-large member appointed by council after adoption of the restatement of this section shall serve for four years, and the second such at-large member shall serve for two years, after which the term of each such at-large member shall be four years following appointment/reappointment, with all terms or parts thereof beginning January 1 of the year of appointment or reappointment.
 - (3) In the event the regular term of a member in good standing expires prior to reappointment or replacement by council, said member shall continue to serve until his or her replacement is appointed and qualified. The date of reappointment or replacement, however, in no way alters the scheduled length of the term.
- (c) Removal.
 - (1) A member who is absent from three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend at least 50 percent of the regularly scheduled meetings of the board within any 12 calendar month period without adequate excuse, such as documented illness, shall be reported by the chairperson of the board to council and is subject to replacement by council.
 - (2) Any member may be removed or replaced at will by majority vote of council upon the motion of the appointing council member, at any time, unless appointment is required by or regulated by state or federal law.
 - (3) Should any voting member of this board move or establish residence outside the county where such member was residing at the time of the appointment to this board, such relocation shall constitute a resignation by the member, and a replacement member shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term of such resigned member.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 3, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.7. - Organization, meetings, officers.

- (a) *Officers.* The board shall organize itself, electing one of its members as chairman and one as vice chairman, whose terms must each be for one year. The chairman and vice chairman shall have the right to vote. The board may appoint a secretary, who may be a member of the board or an employee of the county. If the secretary is a member of the board, he or she shall also have the right to vote. Vacancies in such offices by reason of death, resignation, or replacement shall be filled for the unexpired term of the officer whose position becomes vacant, in the same manner as the original election or appointment.
- (b) *Meetings.* The board shall establish a meeting schedule during its first meeting of the calendar year. The board shall meet at least once per month.
- (c) *Bylaws.* In addition, the board shall duly adopt such bylaws as may be necessary for the orderly performance of its duties and functions. Any bylaws which may be adopted by the board for the orderly performance of its duties shall comply with all provisions of the general law of the State of South Carolina and of the ordinance codified in this section, and of all other ordinances of Oconee County, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act.
- (d) *Staff liaison.* The board shall have a staff liaison to be designated by the county administrator. The staff liaison may serve as secretary should that be the wish of the board. It is the responsibility of the staff liaison to notify the clerk to council regarding resignations and/or vacancies on any board. It is also the responsibility of the staff liaison to monitor the appointment schedule and inquire and report to the clerk to council if current members wish to be considered for reappointment or replacement.
- (e) *[Freedom of information compliance.]* The board shall comply with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") and the requirements set forth in the Code of Ordinances and subsequent ordinances concerning freedom of information and the conduct of public meetings.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 4, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.8. - Powers and duties.

The responsibilities and duties of the board shall be as follows:

- (1) To serve in an advisory role to council on any matter concerning agriculture in order to ensure that the diverse agricultural interests in the county are supported and developed, that communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural concerns in the county are fostered, and that agriculture's vital role in the economy and character of the county is both maintained and developed;
- (2) To formulate plans and recommend their implementation to council, including, but not limited to, ways to bolster agri-business, agri-tourism, and agriculture in general;
- (3) To make policy recommendations, through the planning commission, to council regarding agricultural land use;
- (4) To coordinate policy development with other jurisdictions and agencies to better promote the agricultural industry; and
- (5) To serve as an educational and public awareness forum for agriculture related topics.

The board shall report directly to council, or other appropriate advisory boards, commissions, and/or committees as appropriate and necessary in order to carry out the foregoing functions.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 5, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Sec. 2-420.9. - Salaries and funding.

Members of the board shall not receive any salary or reimbursements related to serving on the board.

(Ord. No. 2016-17, § 6, 6-21-2016; Ord. No. 2018-29, § 1(Att. A), 10-2-2018)

Rule 1. Short Title.

This Ordinance may be cited as the _____ County Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

Rule 2. Applicability; Deviation from Rules.

Note: County council must select one of the three options set out below and delete the language of the two options not selected. The bold faced caption preceding the selected language should also be deleted. If the Second Alternative is chosen, the names of the boards and commissions must be inserted.

Preferred Language (Rules to Apply to County Boards and Commissions).

These Rules shall apply to all meetings of county council, including committee meetings, and to all boards and commissions for which the county council appoints a majority of the members. As used in these Rules, the term “Meeting” means the convening of a quorum of the membership of county council, or such other board or commission, to discuss or act upon a matter over which county council or such other board or commission has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power; the term “Quorum” means a simple majority of the membership of the county council, or committee of county council, or such other board or commission. Where applicable, the term “county council” means not only the county council, but also any other board or commission in the county governed by these Rules.

These Rules were adopted as guidelines to assist county council and county boards and commissions in conducting orderly and productive meetings. Any deviation from or waiver of these Rules shall not affect or void any action taken by county council, or a county board or commission. Furthermore, such deviation or waiver does not convey any right or cause of action to third parties not otherwise imposed by law.

First Alternative (Rules to Apply to County Council only).

These Rules shall apply to all meetings of county council, including committee meetings. As used in these Rules, the term “Meeting” means the convening of a quorum of the membership of county council to discuss or act upon a matter over which county council has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power; the term “Quorum” means a simple majority of the membership of county council, or committee of county council.

These Rules were adopted as guidelines to assist county council, in conducting orderly and productive meetings. Any deviation from or waiver of these Rules shall not affect or void any action taken by county council. Furthermore, such deviation or waiver does not convey any right or cause of action to third parties, not otherwise imposed by law.

Second Alternative (Rules to Apply to County Council and Specifically Named Boards and Commissions).

These Rules shall apply to all meetings of county council, including committee meetings, and to the following boards and commissions of the county:_____. As used in these Rules, the term “Meeting” means the convening of a quorum of the membership of county council, or such other board or commission, to discuss or act upon a matter over which county council or such other board or commission has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power; the term “Quorum” means a simple majority of the membership of the county council, or committee of county council; the term “county council” includes all boards and commissions in the county governed by these *Model Rules*.

These Rules were adopted as guidelines to assist county council (and county boards and commissions) in conducting orderly and productive meetings. Any deviation from or waiver of these Rules shall not affect or void any action taken by the county council, board or commission. Furthermore, such deviation or waiver does not convey any right or cause of action to third parties, not otherwise imposed by law.

Rule 3. *Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties and Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (current edition) to Govern Other Cases.*

County council will refer to the *Model Rules*, and the Comment sections contained therein, as the primary resource in determining the intent and meaning of these Rules. In all cases not covered by these Rules, county council shall be governed by such rules as are set out in the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*. Provided, however, that state and federal law shall take precedence over these Rules in all cases. Whenever possible, these Rules should be interpreted to conform to state and federal law; if an irreconcilable difference occurs, only the portion of the Rule or Rules directly in conflict with state or federal law is to be overruled, the remaining portions surviving.

Rule 3.1. Role of the Individual Council Member.

County council is a policy-making, legislative body. It provides a vision for the county and provides guidelines to county administration regarding how the county is to be run. County council members have authority only when acting together, speaking with one voice, and have no individual authority over county operations.

Rule 4. Meetings, Notice.

County council shall meet at least once monthly, but may meet more frequently provided that public notice, as described herein, is provided. Written public notice shall be given for all regularly scheduled meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. Notice must include the dates, times and places of the meetings.

Public notice of each called, special or rescheduled meeting must be posted on a bulletin board at the meeting place for county council, or other suitable place, as early as practicable, but

not less than twenty-four hours prior to each meeting. The notice must include the agenda and the date, time and place of the meeting. The twenty-four hour requirement for posting notice does not apply for emergency meetings.

All persons, organizations, and news media requesting notification of county council meetings shall be notified of the times and places, and given copies of the agenda for all meetings, whether scheduled, rescheduled or called. Efforts made to comply with this notice requirement shall be noted in the minutes.

Special meetings may be called by the chair or by the majority of county council, provided that the notice requirements are met. Meetings, whether scheduled, rescheduled or called, may be canceled or rescheduled by the chair or by a majority of county council, provided that the requirement for at least one meeting per month is met. Meeting notice requirements apply to committee meetings as well as meetings of the full council.

Rule 5. Agenda.

Every meeting shall have an agenda. The agenda will be compiled at the direction of the council chair by the clerk to council or such other person as may be designated. The agenda shall be posted, pursuant to Rule 4 and as required by the Freedom of Information Act, at least twenty-four hours prior to meetings. Additionally, a copy of the agenda shall be provided as part of the notice given to any person, organization, or news media requesting notification of county council meetings.

The agenda will designate the time and location of the meeting and the type of meeting to be held: council session, committee meeting, public hearing, public comment, workshop or emergency session.

Rule 6. Hearings.

A. Public Hearings

Public hearings are the method required by the Home Rule Act for county council to gain input from the public at large. Members of council should refrain from making comments during the public hearing and should neither enter into debate with the public nor with other council members during the public hearing. Public hearings are required before final action is taken to:

1. Adopt annual operational and capital budgets;
2. Make appropriations, including supplemental appropriations;
3. Adopt building, housing, electrical, plumbing, gas and all other regulatory codes;
4. Adopt zoning and subdivision regulations;
5. Levy taxes;
6. Sell, lease or contract to sell or lease real property owned by the county;
7. Impose ad valorem property taxes upon a fire service area; or
8. Provide for the distribution of assets following the abolishment of a special purpose district.

Final action for any of the first six matters must be in the form of an ordinance. A minimum of 15 days' notice of the time and place of the hearing must be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county, prior to conducting a public hearing for any of the above categories of ordinances.

Notice for item 7 must be provided once a week for three successive weeks in a paper of general circulation in the county, and the hearing must not occur fewer than 16 days following the first notice. Item 8 requires at least two public hearings with ten days prior notice published in a newspaper of general circulation prior to each meeting.

Following the abolishment of a special purpose district located within the county, two public hearings are required prior to distributing assets and/or refunding taxes.

B. Quasi-Judicial Hearings.

When conducting a quasi-judicial hearing, county council takes on the role of an impartial trier of fact in a dispute involving the legal rights of one or more parties. In a quasi-judicial hearing, council members must be careful to provide basic rights due under state and federal constitutions and statutes. Among these basic rights, which council must protect, are the right to an attorney, the right to cross examine witnesses and the right to due process. Further, council members must base their decisions on the evidence presented at the hearing and must not discuss the case beforehand or be influenced by the opinions of others who are not a part of the proceedings.

Rule 7. Minutes; Ordinances to Be Codified.

All proceedings of county council shall be recorded and all ordinances shall be indexed, codified, and published by title. The clerk to council shall make a permanent record of all ordinances adopted, shall make them available to the public and shall furnish a copy of the record to the clerk of court for filing at that office.

Written minutes shall be kept of all meetings; provided however, that minutes of executive sessions are not required but may be kept at the discretion of council. Copies of the minutes of council shall be kept in perpetuity; whereas copies of any audio or video tapes may be destroyed by the clerk to council after twenty-four calendar months. Minutes shall include, as a minimum:

1. Date, time and place of the meeting;
2. Members of county council recorded as either present or absent;
3. Substance of all matters proposed, discussed or decided and, if requested by a member, a record by member of any votes taken;
4. If any member of council has a conflict of interest on a matter before council, that member shall recuse himself or herself and provide a written statement describing the matter and the potential conflict as required by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-700 and by Model Rule 11.
5. Any other information that a member of council requests to be included or reflected in the minutes.

Minutes are public records and shall be made available within a reasonable time after the meeting, except any information not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Minutes are not subject to disclosure until approved as written by the county council.

Rule 8. Voting.

The preferred method of voting by county council is by voice vote, although the chair may call for a show of hands or a roll call vote at any time. Any council member may demand a show of hands or a roll call vote. The demand is in order before or immediately after the voice vote has been taken, even though the chair may have announced the results of the voice vote. A council member may not explain his or her vote while voting, but may change his or her vote at any time prior to the chair’s announcing the result.

A. Passage by Majority Vote.

The term “majority” or “simple majority” means more than half of those present and voting. When a two-thirds majority is required, the term “two-thirds majority” means at least two-thirds of those present and voting. The term “positive majority” means a majority of the members of council, regardless of whether they are present or not.

Except as otherwise provided for in these Rules, or by pertinent state or federal statute, any ordinance, resolution or motion passes if it receives a majority of the votes cast. State and federal statutes and, in some cases, these Rules may require passage by more than a simple majority. The following actions are included in those requiring a super-majority:

Two-thirds Majority:

1. Adoption of an emergency ordinance (§ 4-9-130);
2. Removal of an employee appointed by a county supervisor (§ 4-9-430);
3. Sale or transfer of the county library assets for a non-library purpose (§ 4-9-39);
4. Defeat of a Motion to Follow the Agenda (Rule 14, ¶ 5);
5. Passage of Motion to Suspend the Rules (Rule 16, ¶ 3); and
6. Passage of a Motion to Call for the Question [Vote Immediately] (Rule 15, ¶ 2).

Positive Majority:

1. Impose or increase a business license tax (§ 6-1-315);
2. Override the millage rate increase limitation on property taxes (§ 6-1-320(C));
3. Impose a service or user fee (§ 6-1-330);
4. Impose a local accommodations tax (§ 6-1-520);
5. Impose a local hospitality tax (§ 6-1-720); and
6. Impose a developmental impact fee (§ 6-1-930).

B. Voting on Motions.

In the case of debatable motions, the vote can be proposed in one of two ways:

(1) If debate has been completed and no other council member wishes to speak, the chair can call for the vote. If there are no objections, the chair can proceed with the vote;

(2) If the chair calls for the vote and there is an objection, a council member may make a Motion to Call for the Question [Vote Immediately]. If this motion is approved by a two-thirds vote, debate will stop. The chair will then read the proposed motion to county council and ask for the votes of the council members.

In the case of non-debatable motions, the vote shall occur immediately after the motion is recognized by the chair. The chair shall read the proposed motion to county council and then call for the vote.

C. Voting to Elect Boards, Committees and Commissions.

When council is voting to elect one or more persons to open positions on a board, committee or commission, ballot elections should be used if the number of candidates exceeds the number of positions available. As an alternative to the ballot method, a majority of council may decide to vote on each nominee individually, taking them up in the order nominated. If the number of vacant positions equals or exceeds the number of candidates available, the council may dispense with the process under this Rule and appoint by acclamation or similar method.

Once the election process begins, motions are limited to Rule 14 privileged motions (adjourn, recede, raise a question of privilege, convene an executive session, or follow the agenda); to the following Rule 15 subsidiary motions: motion to postpone and motion to commit; and to the Rule 16 incidental motion of the point of order. All other motions are out of order until the election process is completed.

With a ballot election, each council member shall vote—on one ballot—for up to as many positions as are open. Each member shall sign or otherwise mark his or her ballot and the minutes will reflect each member's vote. Members may vote by ballot for someone who was not nominated.

Each ballot is considered one vote cast, and a candidate must receive a majority of votes to be elected. If no candidate receives a majority vote, balloting continues as needed until all positions are filled. If fewer than the proper number of candidates receive a majority vote, those candidates receiving a majority are elected, and balloting continues with all other candidates remaining on the ballot. If more candidates receive a majority vote than there are positions open, those receiving the largest number of votes will be elected and those receiving a majority, but tied for last of those receiving a majority, will remain on the ballot for repeat balloting, as needed. If all positions are not filled after the first vote, no candidates shall be involuntarily eliminated.

Model Rule 9. Ordinances and Resolutions.

County council shall take action by passing ordinances and resolutions. An ordinance is local legislation passed by the governing body of the county, duly enacted pursuant to proper authority, describing general, uniform and permanent rules of conduct relating to the corporate affairs of the county. A resolution is an expression of opinion or policy concerning some particular item of business coming within the county council's official cognizance and often deals with matters of special or temporary character.

Proposed ordinances and resolutions are introduced for discussion by any member of council offering the ordinance or resolution as a main motion. Resolutions are passed after a single period of debate (or reading) and vote; ordinances require a reading at three public meetings on separate days, with at least seven days between the second and third reading.

County Council may introduce an ordinance and give first reading "by title only." When giving first reading by title only, the minutes of the meeting should show that Council believed there was a valid reason for expediting the ordinance and that there was a general understanding by the Council of what the first draft of the ordinance would have said, had it been in writing.

Emergency ordinances—valid for only sixty days—may be passed after a single reading if a public emergency exists affecting the life, health, safety or property of people. An emergency ordinance is effective immediately upon enactment, without regard to reading, public hearing, publication requirements or public notice requirements. Every emergency ordinance shall be designated as such and shall contain a declaration of the emergency and describe it. Emergency ordinances require a two-thirds majority for passage.

Legislation affecting the following issues can only be enacted by ordinance and require a public hearing, as set out in Rule 6, prior to passage:

1. adopting annual operational and capital budgets;
2. making appropriations, including supplemental appropriations;
3. adopting building, housing, electrical, plumbing, gas and all other regulatory codes;
4. adopting zoning and subdivision regulations;
5. levying taxes;
6. selling, leasing or contracting to sell or lease real property owned by the county.

Rule 10. Debate.

Debate is the discussion on the merits of a pending question to determine if the issue should be adopted or not. Debate shall be managed by the chair in an impartial manner. Council members can participate in the debate only when they are recognized by the chair. Debate can be interrupted (*i.e.* a member may interrupt another member who has the floor), only to make a Motion to Adjourn, a Motion to Raise a Point of Privilege, a Motion to Raise a Point of Order, or a Motion to Convene an Executive Session. The council member making a motion is entitled to speak first; members who have not spoken on the issue shall be recognized ahead of those who have previously spoken.

Rule 11. Conflicts of Interest.

No member of county council, or of a county board or commission, may knowingly use his or her official office to obtain an economic interest for himself or herself, an immediate family member, or an individual or business with whom he or she is associated. Any member who, in order to discharge his or her official responsibilities, is required to take an action that affects the economic interest of any such person or business shall prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict of interest. A copy of the statement shall be furnished to the chair of county council, or other board or commission, as appropriate. The chair shall cause the statement to be printed in the minutes and require that the member be excused from any votes, deliberations, and other actions on the matter in which the potential conflict of interest exists. The chair will ensure that the disqualification and the reasons for it are noted in the minutes.

It is the responsibility of the individual member to notify the chair of the potential conflict and, once notification is made, to refrain from participating in the discussion, deliberation, and voting on the issue. It is generally expected that the member with the conflict will leave the council chambers while the issue is being discussed, deliberated, or voted upon, but the member may remain in the chamber if a quorum would be lost in his or her absence. If the council member remains in the chamber, the minutes should reflect this fact and should indicate a reason.

Enforcement of this Rule is left to the individual member. The chair will not require the member to leave the chamber, nor will the chair prohibit the member from participating in the debate or in voting.

Rule 12. Main Motions.

In order for county council to take official action on any subject, a council member must first propose a main motion. A proposed main motion will not be recognized by the chair until another council member seconds the motion. A second does not require the council member seconding the motion to support the motion. A council member may withdraw a main motion that he or she has made at any time before the council has voted on that motion.

Rule 13. Procedural Motions.

During the course of debate, council members may introduce procedural motions, which are limited to those specific motions described in Rules 14 through 17. Procedural motions are used to facilitate the orderly discussion of business before county council. They limit but allow for interruptions and allow county council to focus on one issue at a time. Procedural motions are divided into privileged, subsidiary, incidental and recall motions and are further described in Rules 14 through 17, respectively. Privileged motions and Points of Order do not require a second; all other incidental motions and all subsidiary and recall motions require a second.

Rule 14. Privileged Motions.

The five privileged motions are the highest ranking group of procedural motions, with the Motion to Adjourn having the highest precedence of the group. Only the Motion to Reconsider has higher precedence. Privileged motions can be made anytime; the Motion to Adjourn, the Motion to Raise a Point of Privilege and the Motion to Convene an Executive Session can interrupt another member who has the floor. When making one of these three motions, the council member should get the attention of the chair. The chair, interrupting anyone then speaking, recognizes the council member, who then states the motion.

Privileged motions require no second, cannot be reconsidered and, except for the Motion to Recede [Take a Recess], are not debatable. All privileged motions pass by simple majority. Specific characteristics of each privileged motion, listed in order of precedence, are set out below.

1. Motion to Adjourn.

An unqualified Motion to Adjourn is the highest ranking privileged motion and requires, if approved by a majority vote, that the meeting end immediately and reconvene at the next regularly scheduled or called meeting. As the highest ranking privileged motion, the Motion to Adjourn can be raised anytime, except when a vote is being taken or being counted. It can be interrupted only by the motion to reconsider; it can interrupt any person having the floor. The Motion to Adjourn cannot be amended, debated or reconsidered; it requires a majority for passage. Like all privileged motions, it does not require a second.

2. Motion to Recede [Motion to Take a Recess].

A recess is a short intermission, taken immediately upon passage. Following the recess, the meeting takes up at the same point where it was interrupted. The motion cannot be debated or reconsidered, but can be amended as to the duration of the recess; it requires a majority for passage. Also, the Motion to Recede is out of order if anyone has the floor or a vote is being taken or counted. Like the Motion to Adjourn, the Motion to Recede is privileged only if the recess is to be taken immediately; a Motion to Recede at some point in the future is a main motion. Like all privileged motions, it does not require a second.

3. Motion to Raise a Question of Privilege.

A Motion to Raise a Question of Privilege is a device to allow county council to take up a matter for immediate consideration because of its urgency; it can interrupt any person having the floor. The motion cannot be amended, debated or reconsidered, but it can be appealed. It is generally ruled on by the chair, but a vote may be taken if the decision of the chair is appealed. If approved, what follows will be a main motion taken out of order. Generally there are two types of questions of privilege—questions relating to the privilege of county council, a board or commission as a body, and questions of personal privilege. If the two come up together, a question of council privilege should take precedence over a question of personal privilege. Like all privileged motions, it does not require a second.

4. Motion to Convene an Executive Session.

Executive sessions must be convened and conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and may be convened only for one or more of the specific reasons enumerated in the Act. A properly stated motion provides an appropriate reason for convening the executive session. If a valid reason is not stated, the chair may inquire or, if the reason is obvious, provide the reason when restating the motion. The reason for convening the executive session must be recorded in the minutes, in accordance with Rule 7. The motion may be amended and debated with regard to stating the appropriate reason or reasons for convening the session; however, it cannot be reconsidered. A public vote is required on the motion prior to convening the executive session; a majority vote is required for passage. The Motion to Convene an Executive Session can interrupt any person having the floor. Like all privileged motions, it does not require a second.

5. Motion to Follow the Agenda.

This motion is used to get a meeting back on schedule and is appropriate when the meeting has been allowed to digress or when a specific time scheduled for an item of business has arrived and the chair has failed to take notice. Once the motion is made, the chair must conform with the agenda or put the motion to a vote. The motion cannot be amended, debated or reconsidered; a two-thirds majority vote is required to overrule this motion. Like all privileged motions, it does not require a second.

Rule 15. Subsidiary Motions.

The six subsidiary motions help deliberative bodies reach a decision on other pending motions, usually a main motion. Subsidiary motions are always applied to another pending motion. Three subsidiary motions – Motion to Amend, Motion to Limit/Extend Debate and Motion to Call for the Question [Motion to Vote Immediately] – can be applied to other subsidiary motions and the Motion to Amend can be applied to the Motion to Recede [Take a Recess], a privileged motion. All subsidiary motions are out of order when another person has the floor.

1. Motion to Lay on the Table [Motion to Table].

A Motion to Lay on the Table proposes that the consideration of a motion be postponed until a later time. It is an appropriate motion to take up a more pressing matter, out of order, and to return later to the tabled motion. The main motion can be brought back for consideration if a Motion to Recall is later passed by county council. A motion that has been laid on the table will die if it has not been taken from the table by the close of the meeting following the meeting in which the motion was tabled. Amendments and debate are not allowed on a Motion to Lay on the Table and it cannot be reconsidered; it requires a majority vote for passage. The Motion to Lay on the Table is out of order if another speaker has the floor.

2. Motion to Call for the Question [Motion to Vote Immediately].

If passed, this motion cuts off debate and forces an immediate vote on the pending issue. The Motion to Call for the Question is neither debatable nor amendable, but it can be reconsidered

up until a vote is taken on the called question. A two-thirds majority is required for passage. The Motion to Call for the Question can be applied to any motion requiring a vote.

3. Motion to Limit/Extend Debate.

The Motion to Limit Debate and the Motion to Extend Debate change any time constraints placed on the length of debate. The details of such motions are to be provided by the council member making the motion. Either motion can be applied to any motion that is debatable (not just to main motions). Debate is not allowed on either motion, nor can either be reconsidered. A two-thirds vote is required for passage. The motions can be amended as to the length of the time limitation.

4. Motion to Postpone/Motion to Postpone to a Time Certain.

A Motion to Postpone and a Motion to Postpone to a Time Certain are appropriate when a council member believes that the pending main motion should not be considered until some point in the future. These motions are in order even though debate has already occurred on the main motion. The Motion to Postpone to a Time Certain sets a particular time for the main motion to be considered again, which may be later in the same meeting, at a future meeting or upon the occurrence of a specified event or the issuance of a necessary report. The motion is debatable, amendable as to the duration of postponement and can be reconsidered. If the motion sets the matter for a date and time certain, a two-thirds majority is required for passage; if the motion does not set a specific time for consideration, it is referred to as a Motion to Postpone and only a majority vote is required for passage. If the motion is set for a time certain, the chair will bring the motion back to county council for further consideration at the specified time.

5. Motion to Commit [Motion to Refer to Committee].

The chair may refer any matter to a committee. If the chair does not refer a matter to a committee and a council member believes that further information or study is needed before the county council can act on a matter, he or she may propose that it be referred to a committee or to a particular office in county government for further study. If an appropriate committee does not already exist, a special committee can be formed as a part of the motion. A Motion to Commit may specify the date that the committee or department will report back to the board. If a special committee is formed, the chair will appoint its members and its chair. This motion is debatable and can be amended as to where the motion is to be committed and the date and time that the committee will report back; it can be reconsidered. The motion requires a majority for passage.

6. Motion to Amend.

A Motion to Amend is used to make a change to a pending motion. Amendments must be closely related to the original motion and must not change the nature of the motion that they amend. A Motion to Amend can itself be amended, but the Motion to Amend an amendment cannot. These rules are to be enforced by the chair.

In addition to main motions, some subsidiary motions and the Motion to Recede [Take a Recess], can also be amended. Debate is allowed on a Motion to Amend only if the original motion is debatable, and is limited to the proposed amendment. The Motion to Amend can be reconsidered. A majority vote is required to adopt an amendment. If the amendment is adopted, county council will then consider the amended version of the motion.

Rule 16. Incidental Motions.

Six incidental motions allow council members to appeal rulings by the chair, raise points of order, question precedence of motions and raise objections to consideration of matters that are incidental to the discussions at hand but do not directly relate to the main question under discussion. Incidental motions are in order only if they pertain to the motion then pending or to the business at hand. If the incidental motion is in order, it takes precedence over any other motions that are pending. Points of Order may interrupt another member who has the floor. Incidental motions have no rank among themselves; except as described below, they rank below the privileged motions and the Motion to Lay on the Table.

1. Point of Order [Motion to Raise a Question of Order].

The Point of Order takes precedence over any question from which it arose. It yields to any privileged motion and a motion to lay the underlying question on the table. The Point of Order is not debatable (except that the chair may ask the member raising the point to explain it), is not amendable, and cannot be reconsidered. It does not require a second. The Point of Order is in order when another person has the floor and can interrupt a person speaking if the point genuinely requires attention at the time it is raised. Normally, the point is ruled on by the chair and no vote is taken, unless there is an appeal or the chair is in doubt.

2. Appeal.

The duties of the chair include making rulings on questions of parliamentary procedure. An Appeal is the vehicle available to members of council who believe that the chair's ruling was erroneous. The Appeal is in order when another has the floor, but must be taken immediately after the ruling and is out of order if other business has intervened. It is debatable unless the underlying question is not debatable or if the Appeal relates to decorum or priority of business; it is not amendable.

The decision of the chair stands unless reversed by a majority of the members; the chair may vote to create a tie and thus sustain the ruling. An Appeal takes precedence over any pending question at the time the chair makes the ruling. It yields to all privileged motions, incidental motions arising from itself and, if debatable, to the following subsidiary motions: Motion to Limit/Extend Debate, Motion to Call for the Question [Vote Immediately], Motion to Commit, Motion to Postpone/Motion to Postpone to a Time Certain and the Motion to Lay on the Table. If debatable, each member may speak only once. An Appeal can be reconsidered.

3. Motion to Suspend the Rules.

The Motion to Suspend the Rules allows county council to do something it could not ordinarily do without violating one or more of its regular rules. The motion cannot be used to suspend a rule in violation of state or federal law, nor can the suspension violate a fundamental rule of procedural law.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules can be made anytime there is no question pending. When a matter is pending, this motion takes precedence over any other motion if it applies to the pending matter of business. No subsidiary motion can be applied to this motion. It is out of order when another council member has the floor; it is not debatable, not amendable and cannot be reconsidered. It requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

4. Motion to Divide the Question.

The Motion to Divide the Question allows members of county council to require a question dealing with a single subject to be divided into parts and to have each part considered and voted on separately, but only if each part is capable of standing alone. This motion is not debatable, cannot be reconsidered and requires a majority vote for passage. It is amendable only with regard to how the question should be divided.

This motion is out of order when another has the floor. It takes precedence over the main motion. If applied to an amendment, it takes precedence over the amendment, but it cannot be made to the underlying matter with an amendment pending. It yields to all privileged motions, to all applicable incidental motions and to all subsidiary motions with the following exceptions: Motion to Amend and Motion to Limit/Extend Debate.

5. Motion to Consider by Paragraph/Motion to Consider by Section.

Motions to Consider by Paragraph or to Consider by Section allow county council to break down complex proposals into their component parts and to consider, debate and amend each paragraph or section separately. This procedure can be applied by the chair on his or her own initiative or by the county council following the adoption of a motion by any member.

These motions are not debatable, cannot be reconsidered and require a majority vote for passage. They are amendable only with regard to how the question should be divided. These motions are out of order when another has the floor. They take precedence over the main motion. If applied to an amendment, they take precedence over the amendment, but cannot be made to the main motion with an amendment pending. They yield to all privileged motions, to all applicable incidental motions and to all subsidiary motions with the following exceptions: Motion to Amend and Motion to Limit/Extend Debate.

6. Requests and Inquiries.

From time to time, council members may need additional background information or may wish to provide such information, so that the council can understand better the issue under discussion. Requests and inquiries provide the vehicle for exchanging this information. Parliamentary Inquiries and Points of Information may interrupt another who has the floor, but

only if the matter requires immediate attention. Requests and inquiries are not amendable, debatable or subject to reconsideration. No votes are taken on Parliamentary Inquiries or Points of Information; other requests/inquiries require a majority vote for passage, except that reading of papers requires unanimous consent. All share similar characteristics and procedural requirements and can be subdivided into the following categories:

1. Parliamentary Inquiry

Such inquiries are always directed to and answered by the chair and are used to clarify specific parliamentary or organization rules that have bearing on the issue at hand.

2. Point of Information

This inquiry is addressed to the chair or to another member through the chair, for information relevant to the business at hand, but not related to parliamentary procedure.

3. Reading of Papers

No member of council has the right to read or have another person read from any papers or books as part of that member's debate on any matter without unanimous consent of the other members of council. Even so, it is customary to grant leave to members to read short, pertinent printed matter, so long as the privilege is not abused.

4. Any Other Privilege

Examples of other privileges include requesting to address the council on a personal or non-business matter or, if there is no motion pending, requesting to make a presentation.

Rule 17. Recall Motions.

Two recall motions allow issues that have been previously disposed of or assigned to a committee to be brought back to the county council as a body.

1. Motion to Reconsider.

The motion to reconsider allows county council to debate whether or not to overturn a decision made at the meeting that is in progress or at the immediately preceding meeting; provided, however, that third reading to an ordinance may be reconsidered only at the same meeting in which the third reading was adopted. Furthermore, if the matter to be reconsidered was the adoption of a resolution that has already been published or acted upon, the motion is out of order. The Motion to Reconsider allows county council to consider new information that may affect the decision that has already been made. Any council member who voted on the prevailing side can make a Motion to Reconsider. The motion is debatable if the matter to be reconsidered is debatable, but it cannot be amended. A majority vote is required for the motion to pass. The Motion to Reconsider, itself, cannot be reconsidered. If the Motion to Reconsider is agreed to, the original decision will be voided and the county council will return to debate and vote again on the original motion.

Subject to the time restriction indicated above, the Motion to Reconsider can be made at any time, taking precedence over any other motion and yielding to nothing. The Motion to Reconsider is out of order when another person has the floor. Once the Motion to Reconsider is made, the consideration of the motion takes the priority of the motion to be reconsidered, but has precedence over any new motion of equal rank. A Motion to Reconsider temporarily suspends any action growing out of the motion to be reconsidered. If the Motion to Reconsider is made but not considered immediately, any member can call up the motion by bringing it to the attention of council at any time consideration of the motion would be in order.

2. Motion to Recall from the Table/Motion to Recall from Committee.

The Motions to Recall from the Table and to Recall from Committee allow the county council to consider a question that has been laid on the table or that has been assigned but not yet reported out of committee. These motions take precedence over nothing and must be made when no other business is pending. The motions are not debatable or amendable. A tabled motion that is not recalled by the close of the meeting following the meeting in which it was tabled is dead. A majority vote is required for passage of either motion.