



SC Women's Agricultural Network Inaugural Conference

Scott, S. (oswald@clemson.edu) , Pohlman, J., Maxwell, C., Coleman, K., White, D., Funkhouser, B., Bolt, M., Mikell, H., Benjamin, H., Pope, H., Baille, C., Starnes, A., Steele, J., Davis, B.
Clemson University Cooperative Extension

Introduction

The South Carolina Women's Agricultural Network (SC WAgN) has an overarching goal to provide all women in agriculture the tools they need to grow their success, feel confident in their roles, and provide a network for women in agriculture in our state. In South Carolina, there are three existing program areas under the SC WAgN umbrella:



SC WAgN wanted to create a statewide event designed to bring together women in agriculture and those who support them with the goal of expanding and sharing knowledge as agriculture producers, educators, and professionals.

Objectives

The objectives of a statewide SC WAgN event:

- Create a statewide event that connects women in agriculture and provides resources and education specifically for their needs.
- Offer pre-conference farm tours of Clemson facilities to expose participants to the research, practices, and resources available.
- Create an opportunity for networking and making connections.
- Offer a variety of educational topics in breakout sessions during the conference to meet the needs of most producers.

Programmatic Efforts

A two-day SC WAgN conference that included farm tours and educational sessions was held on November 4-5, 2022, at Clemson University Campus.

Educational sessions and presentations during the conference were provided by Clemson Cooperative Extension professionals and South Carolina producers. Topics included:

- Farm Income Tax Basics
- Agriwellness
- Financing Options
- Hydroponics
- Forestry 101
- Agritourism
- Marketing
- Youth Agriculture Education
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Clemson's Food2Market Program for Entrepreneurs



Scan for a SC WAgN
Conference Video



Results

Sixty-five program participants from all across South Carolina attended our inaugural SC WAgN Conference. Twenty-five speakers provided over eight hours of educational content.

Quotes from conference participants:



"This conference really pumped me up to get started on my business plan."

"I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the various speakers. I left feeling so inspired."

"The topics were interesting and engaging!"



Impact

Post-conference evaluations showed:

- 63% of the participants indicated that the conference exceeded expectations.
- 40% of the participants learned something on the farm tours that they intend to implement at home.
- Over 90% of the participants indicated they would attend if the conference was offered again.



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