



Contact: Ben Boyles
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
Agribusiness Agent
(803) 981-3021
boyles2@clemson.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 South Carolina Ag + Art Tour kicked off June 1st, continues each weekend in June

SOUTH CAROLINA – The annual South Carolina Ag + Art Tour, adds one new county, Richland, and brings back nine of the former ones, to feature 92 tour sites (farms and markets), over 200 artisans and 42 ancillary (agriculture and art-related) locations!

Now in its eighth (8th) year, this free self-guided farm and art tour is a great way to educate people about where their food and fiber comes from, as well as introduce them to local artisans, says Ben Boyles, Clemson Extension Agribusiness Agent and Tour Administrator.

“We are proud of the commitment of our farms, artisans and county teams. Because of that we are able to sustain continued growth,” Boyles said. “One of our goals has been to give people a better knowledge of what is produced in their own backyard and help them to support local businesses while making healthier food choices. We think this event does that by putting food and product with a face.”

This year the tour will include farms and artisans in Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Newberry, Richland, Spartanburg, Union and York counties with different counties participating each weekend in June (Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The 2019 schedule is below:

- June 1–2: Newberry, Spartanburg and York (East) counties
- June 8-9: Kershaw and York (West) counties
- June 15-16: Fairfield County
- June 22–23: Chester, Chesterfield, Lancaster and Union counties
- June 29-30: Richland County

The tour began in York County in 2012 and has added at least one new county each year since. Boyles said the interest in the South Carolina Ag + Art Tour continues to be phenomenal. It is already the largest FREE farm tour in the nation and has drawn over 40,000 visitors since its inception.

Tour stops include farms and farmers markets with at least one form of art at each location. Artisans on the tour range from weavers, painters, musicians, storytellers, metalworkers and craftsmen, to poets and live musical performances. Some of the farms will offer value-added products, such as jarred and canned foods, honey, baked goods or even farm-fresh meals. There is no fee to attend and visitors can start and stop their tour at any location they choose.

More information about the participating farms, markets, artisans and ancillary sites can be found online at www.agandarttour.com. This website is updated regularly.

Facebook: @agandarttour

Instagram: #southcarolinaagandarttour

#agandarttour

#agandarttour2019

Each participating county also has its own Facebook page.

About the South Carolina Ag + Art Tour

The South Carolina Ag + Art Tour is a free self-guided tour of farms and farmers markets featuring artisans at every stop occurring every weekend in June. The first Ag + Art Tour was held in 2012 in York County as a way to blend agriculture and art. The tour began to expand in 2013 and has continues to do so each year since then. It is the largest free farm and art tour in the nation.

The tour is coordinated by leadership and county-level planning teams that are led [by Clemson University Cooperative Extension](#), in partnership with the [Olde English District Tourism Commission](#) and the [Catawba Farm and Food Coalition](#). Partner organizations include economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, tourism bureaus, farm and artisan organizations, education and extension offices, arts councils and community volunteers.

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