Agriculture Is Vital to South Carolina’s Economy

- In 2014 South Carolina's agriculture industry contributed more than $3 billion to the state’s economy.

- South Carolina has 25,300 farms and five million acres of farmland. More than 91 percent of farms are less than 500 acres, with an average farm size of 197 acres.
  - 23,266 farms have less than 500 acres.
  - 1,121 farms have between 500-1000 acres.
  - 919 farms have more than 1000 acres.

- South Carolina is home to the only tea farm in North America.

- Specialty crops in South Carolina include exotic mushrooms, gingko, and pecans.

- Fresh market fruits and vegetables produced in South Carolina include cucumbers, snap beans, tomatoes, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes.

Crop Insurance Is Vital to South Carolina’s Agricultural Sector

- Crop insurance protected $410 million of liability on growing crops in South Carolina in 2015. There were 1.3 million acres insured and more than $121 million was paid to farmers in indemnities for production and/or revenue losses.

- The top commodities (liability) for crop insurance protection in 2015 were:
  - Cotton - $89 million, protecting 310,757 acres.
  - Corn - $76 million, protecting 266,006 acres.
  - Soybeans - $73 million, protecting 418,828 acres.
  - Peanuts - $47 million, protecting 104,990 acres.

- The private crop-hail insurance product provided an additional $2.6 million in liability protection on growing crops in South Carolina.