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Christmas Holiday Ad Deadlines

Deadline for the December 19, 2013 issue is December 10, Noon

Deadline for the January 2, 2014 issue is December 17, Noon

Give a Little Bit of South Carolina this Christmas

This is the perfect time of the year to support local products from South Carolina Specialty Food Association members.

Being local and buying local is the new reality in South Carolina and across the country. It makes sense to support your local community and state. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture launched the Certified SC campaign back in 2007 to help consumers find locally grown and produced items. And it is working! You can see the Certified SC logo in more than 550 retail locations.

The SC Specialty Food Association (SCSFA) was formed in 1994 as the only statewide organization dedicated to promoting the best specialty food products available in the Palmetto state. Products include baked goods, BBQ rubs, beverages, condiments and dressings, convenience foods, dairy products, dips and spreads, honey, jam, jellies, fruit, veggies, nuts, flour, rice, pet food, meats, sauce and salsa, spices and seasonings, and sweets such as candy, snacks and baked goods, and much more.

Everything you will need for your own holiday cooking and gift giving is available from SCSFA members. You can find their products in local specialty stores, grocery stores, holiday markets, farmers markets, and on the Internet.

To shop from home, a good place to start is the SCSFA website: www.scsfa.org. Look over the Member page to see listings of all the SCSFA members. If a product catches your eye, just click on the web address, in the company's listing, and it will take you straight to their website to order product.

Another convenient way to order many SCSFA specialty products is from the Market Space website: www.Southcarolinamarketspace.com. This website has more than 26 specialty products in one location that you can order with just one check-out! It is so easy and convenient.

This holiday season remember to support local companies. Buy South Carolina and make everyone on your list happy! For your convenience, check out the Specialty Food vendors on pages four to seven of this issue.

Try Some Bunnies' Brew

Liquid Organic Fertilizer Benefits Holistic School

Who would have thought two rabbits could be the basis for a unique business at a special needs school?

Bunnies' Brew is an all-natural organic fertilizer in liquid form that can be used outside in the garden or inside on house plants. It is made by soaking rabbit manure in water, letting it steep, then straining it. The result is a pure liquid fertilizer that can be used without fear of burning plants or over-fertilizing them.

The innovative product, in a stylish bottle with an equally clever label, is made by students at The Barclay School. Called "a different kind of school for a different kind of student," The Barclay School is a green school with a holistic approach to special needs children.

Now in its fifth year, the tiny school across from Columbia College has only seven students. With no public funding, they are always looking for ways to produce income. The students have formed their own company, Barclay's Green Goods, to sell garden products that they make themselves. Bunnies' Brew is one of their most popular.

Dr. Gillian Barclay-Smith, head of the school, explained how the project originated. Last spring they received a call from CARE, an animal rescue group that was overrun with rabbits. "They begged us to take just two bunnies, so we did," she said. "They are a great project for the kids. Since we already had a garden, we raise lettuce and cabbage and broccoli for them—they're well fed bunnies." Dr. Barclay-Smith is a master naturalist, and several of the kids are Junior Master Gardeners.

But she and fellow teacher Edith Bailey got a little tired of dealing with the rabbits' copious by products. So they searched the Internet for a way to dispose of the unloved manure and discovered that rabbit droppings are actually good for the soil—so good, in fact, that they can be used directly on plants without any composting period.



See **Bunnies' Brew**, continued on page 8

Students Joshua Scott and Naomi Kurlowich proudly show off bottles of Bunnies' Brew, a liquid organic fertilizer, produced at The Barclay School.



Hugh E. Weathers
Commissioner

It's Time for the Next SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo

Florence is the place to be on Jan. 16 & 17



Agriculture is the foundation of the agribusiness industry, and we are happy to promote it in every way we can. This is one of our favorites.

The SC AgriBiz and Farm Expo is one of the most exciting agricultural events to take place in South Carolina. The 2013 Expo—the first ever in the state— attracted more than 2,500 visitors and more than 100 vendors. The 2014 Expo, scheduled for January 16-17 is expected to be even bigger and better based on the number of vendors and sponsors who have already signed up.

The huge trade show is just the beginning. The Florence Civic Center will once again be packed to the rafters with vendors, exhibits and interesting seminars. Whether you're a big row-crop farmer with expansive acreage or an urban dweller with a hobby garden, you'll find many topics of interest and fun events at the Expo for the whole family.

For example, the farm show allows folks to browse at their leisure and chat with a variety of vendors featuring the latest equipment and products. The great thing about this show is that it lets everyone see the newest equipment and have face-to-face contact with experts in every field.

See **It's Time for the Next SC AgriBiz & Farm Expo**, continued on page 8

State Farmers Markets Availability Listing

Seasonal In-State Featured Products

South Carolina SFM
3483 Charleston Hwy.
West Columbia, SC 29172
803-737-4664
Christmas trees, cucumbers, greens, okra, peas, pumpkins, scuppernongs

Greenville SFM
1354 Rutherford Rd.
Greenville, SC 29609
864-244-4023
apples, Christmas trees, dairy products, pumpkins, squash

Pee Dee SFM
2513 W. Lucas St.
Florence, SC 29501
843-665-5154
apples, beets, Christmas trees, citrus, greens, pecans, sweet potatoes, wreaths

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