

Professional Staff



Hugh E. Weathers

Commissioner Weathers has been serving as the South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture since September 2004. He is a 1978 magna cum laude graduate from the University of South Carolina with BS degrees in Accounting and Finance. After working for C&S Bank, he returned to the family dairy in Bowman, SC to farm with his father and brother who also have a row crop operation growing peanuts, corn and hay. The Commissioner is married to Blanche Gramling who grew up on her family's peach farm in Gramling, SC. They have three sons and are members of Bowman Southern Methodist Church. Commissioner Weathers serves on numerous local, state and national boards and committees and enjoys family, sports activities, public singing, traveling and serving as your Commissioner of Agriculture.



Kim Arp

Assistant Director of Development for the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University. Kim is from Clemson, SC and received her BS in Counseling from Lander University and her MS in Counseling from Clemson University.



Paula Beecher

Paula serves as the Coordinator of Career Services for the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) at Clemson University. Paula joined the Clemson team in 2006. She is responsible for all placement activities for CAFLS undergraduate students, graduate students and alumni. Prior to coming to Clemson, Paula worked at Louisiana State University for 9 years in the College of Agriculture. Paula is a graduate of Louisiana State University where she received her BS in Agricultural Economics.



Katie Black

Katie serves as the Coordinator of Student Relations and Recruitment for the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) at Clemson University. She is available to assist students who are considering studying at Clemson as well as current students. Katie has been in this position since 2004 and received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Agricultural Education. Katie is from Summerville, SC.



Beth Crocker

Attorney for the SC Department of Agriculture. Beth is from Florida and received her BS in Animal & Veterinary Sciences from Clemson University. She then attended Law School at Drake University and completed her Masters in Agricultural Law at the University of Arkansas. Beth serves the SCDA as general counsel involving legal issues affecting the agency and its statutory authority and responsibilities. She also works closely with the Legislature on agricultural issues as well as serving on numerous boards and committees involving food policy and food safety. Beth also works with statewide programs for School Gardens and the Farm to School program.



Russell Henderson

An alumnus of the 2004 SC Commissioner's School for Agriculture, Russell is from Johnston, SC. He acquired a BS in Agricultural Mechanization and Business from Clemson University and an MS in Agronomy with an emphasis in Soil Chemistry from the University of Georgia. Russell is currently pursuing a PhD in Agronomy focusing on tobacco curing at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center through Clemson University.



Sennah Honea

Sennah works in the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences Dean's Office as an Administrative Assistant. Sennah has been employed in the Dean's Office for 21 years and works mainly with the CAFLS Ag Alumni Board and alumni activities and also assists with many CAFLS Student Services activities. She is from Seneca, SC and is currently working on her BS in Agricultural Education at Clemson University.



Marie Lybrand

Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh E. Weathers. Marie is from West Columbia and received an AS from the University of South Carolina. She has been with the Department of Agriculture since 1991 and provides administrative assistance for the Commissioner's Office including legislative and legal issues; agricultural meetings and special projects such as the Commissioner's School for Agriculture.



W. Kirby Player

Director of College Relations for the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University. Kirby is from Bishopville, SC and received both his BS in Agricultural Education and his M. PRTM from Clemson University. In his spare time, Kirby is an Independent Kitchen Consultant for The Pampered Chef Direct Sales Company.



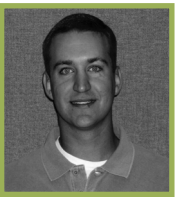
Amy Sanders

Coordinator of Student Services and Advising for the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) at Clemson University. Amy is from Pendleton, SC and received her BS in Elementary Education from Lander University. Amy coordinates the academic advising program, orientation for the college, serves as the advisor for the Ag Undeclared Program, as well as coordinates Study Abroad for the College.



Ansley Turnblad

Marketing Specialist with the SC Department of Agriculture, Ansley grew up on a farm in Calhoun County and has a deep passion for agriculture. She is a 2005 graduate of the University of South Carolina and has a degree Advertising. Ansley combined her agricultural background with her advertising degree from USC and started working for the SCDA in June 2006. She works with the Certified South Carolina Branding Program and the Certified Roadside Market Program.



Aaron Wood

Aaron is an instructor in the Agriculture Program at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, SC. Prior to that, he worked with the SC Department of Agriculture and at Clemson as a graduate teaching assistant / adjunct instructor in Biological Sciences. Aaron is from Plum Branch, where he grew up and continues to contribute to his family's beef cattle and timber operation. Aaron received his BS in Agricultural Education and Masters in Human Resource Development from Clemson University.