



CERTIFIED SOUTH CAROLINA Membership Application

Date Received	_____
Date Approved	_____
Emailed	_____
Website	_____
Member Packet	_____
Member #	_____

The Certified South Carolina Program is a cooperative effort among producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) to brand and promote South Carolina produce and products. Our goal is for consumers to easily identify, find, and buy South Carolina products. The Certified South Carolina program is free to join. Membership is made by application to and acceptance

by the SCDA Marketing Department. All farm producers, food manufacturers, specialty food producers, packing facilities, and others engaged in the production or manufacture of agricultural products in South Carolina are eligible to apply. For additional information about the Certified South Carolina program and to view a list of our participating members, please visit our website at CertifiedSC.com.

Business/Farm Information

Business/Farm Name _____

Contact Person(s) _____ Title _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County Where Business is Located _____

Mailing Address (If different than above) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email _____ Website _____

Social Media Handles _____

Please provide a brief description of your business and/or products. Include information relevant to potential buyers/customers. The information provided will be listed on our website (certifiedsc.com) as a way to help promote your farm/business. (Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

Certified South Carolina Program Terms and Agreements

Through my signature below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the following terms during the application process and throughout my participation in the Certified South Carolina Program:

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (“SCDA”) hereby grants Applicant a revocable, limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use the applicable Certified SC logo symbols (the “Marks”) in connection with the making, growing, selling, promotion, marketing, and producing of South Carolina products. This license and the right to use hereunder is effective only so long as such products meet the quality and standards of this Agreement and Applicant complies with all the terms, conditions, and reporting requirements of the Certified SC Program, or until sooner terminated hereunder.

Applicant hereby agrees, as part of the application process, and throughout the duration of this Agreement, to allow SCDA to conduct farm visits upon request, with reasonable notice, and at a mutually agreeable time.

Applicant represents, covenants, and agrees that it will use the Marks only in the form and manner approved by SCDA. The Marks shall only be used on products identified herein and kept on file with SCDA. Changes to Applicant’s business model, method of sale (i.e., wholesale or retail), or the introduction of a new product category will require re-application for permission to use the Marks. Alterations made to any identified products will require re-application for permission to use the Marks.

Applicant understands the Marks may only be used on labels or packaging of approved South Carolina grown, processed, or manufactured products.

By submission of this survey, Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the nature and quality of Applicant’s products, branding, marketing initiatives, and online presence (including but not limited to blogs, websites, Instagram accounts, Facebook accounts, and other social media accounts) shall conform to any standards which may be set from time to time by SCDA. Applicant further acknowledges that the Certified South Carolina Marks are not to be used in any derogatory, scornful, derisive, or disparaging manner, in parody, or in connection with content that, at the discretion

of SCDA, does not portray an image or connotation consistent with that desired by SCDA. In the event SCDA determines, at its sole discretion, that Applicant has failed to meet such standards, SCDA reserves the right to revoke Applicant’s use of the Marks immediately.

This license and the right to use the Marks is effective only so long as such products meet applicable regulatory safety and compliance standards. Applicant must ensure that all that all products that bear the Marks are in and remain in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to food safety and labeling laws and regulations. Applicant acknowledges this Certified SC Program does not replace the state and federal regulatory and inspection requirements and participation in the Certified SC Program, alone, does not ensure that an applicant can legally sell his or her product.

Applicant agrees to only utilize the Marks on top-quality products. No culls or second quality products may bear the Marks.

Applicant agrees to immediately discontinue the use of Marks on items that, as determined by SCDA, do not conform to the Certified South Carolina Program Standards, upon written notification from SCDA. SCDA reserves the right to revoke Applicant’s use of the Marks immediately in case of abuse of the Marks. Upon revocation of Applicant’s license or termination of this Agreement, all rights and privileges herein granted to Applicant shall cease and terminate and Applicant shall immediately cease to use the Marks in any manner whatsoever and no products, containers, packaging, labels advertising or publicity material bearing the Marks shall be sold or otherwise publicly distributed. Unauthorized use after revocation of Applicant’s license or termination of this Agreement may result in liability and prosecution under Federal Trademark Law. Applicant agrees the Marks do not constitute any type of endorsement by either SCDA or the State of South Carolina. Applicant further agrees to abide by the terms and conditions for the reproduction and use of the logo as provided in the “Certified South Carolina Style Manual.”

Please allow 2 weeks for processing, provided a complete application is submitted.

Signature _____

Date _____

Glossary

| CERTIFIED ORGANIC

Organic is a label that indicates that a food or agricultural product has been produced according to the USDA organic standards, which require operations to use practices that cycle resources, conserve biodiversity, and preserve ecological balance. Organic farms and businesses are certified and inspected by USDA-accredited certifiers.

| COMMUNITY-BASED FARMERS MARKETS

Local farmers markets funded and operated by private groups or local governments.

| CO-PACKER

A company that packages and labels products for its clients. In some cases, a co-packer may also handle services like cooking, processing, and blending ingredients before labeling and packaging.

| COTTAGE FOODS

Home-based, home-made food products prepared in a non-commercial kitchen and sold to the public.

| DIRECT TO RESTAURANTS

Method of sale involving farmers, manufacturers, processors, or specialty food producers selling their food products wholesale to restaurant without the use of a food distributor.

| FARM TO SCHOOL

SC Farm to School is a collaborative program between SC state agencies that seeks to cultivate relationships among South Carolina schools, farmers, and communities, to increase the availability of healthy local food for schools, promote agriculture and nutrition education, and to provide experiential learning opportunities for students.

| HOME KITCHEN

A kitchen designed and intended for use by the residents of a home but that is also used by a resident to produce cottage food products.

| ON FARM SALES

A method of sale where a product is sold directly to consumers on the farm from which it was produced.

| PROCESSED SEAFOOD

Any marine organism that has been physically altered since capture, including seafood that has been filleted, gutted, packaged, canned, frozen, smoked, salted, cooked, pickled, dried or prepared for market in any other manner.

| REGISTRATION VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE (RVC)

Registration is required by the SC Food and Cosmetic Act for persons or firms wishing to manufacture, prepare, repack, or sell foods wholesale to other businesses. A Registration Verification Certificate (RVC) must be obtained from SCDA prior to selling food products wholesale (see definition below).

| RETAIL

Selling directly to the end consumer (i.e., farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer markets). The producer or maker is present for the sale of products to the consumer.

| ROADSIDE MARKET

Stores, markets, or stands which primarily sell local agricultural products and commodities to the public. A portion of the products offered for sale must include those grown or produced in South Carolina.

| STATE FARMERS MARKETS

The State of South Carolina owns and manages three regional state farmers markets in West Columbia, Florence, and Greenville which provide consumers with a wide variety of locally grown produce and specialty products.

| TCS FOODS

Time/Temperature Control Sensitive—TCS foods require time and temperature controls to limit the growth of illness-causing bacteria.

| U-PICK OPERATIONS

A direct method of sale where customers visit the farm to harvest fruits, vegetables, flowers, or trees on their own.

| VALUE ADDED PRODUCE

Any produce that is further processed (washed, bagged, etc.) than the harvesting cut.

| WHOLESALE

Selling produce or products to other businesses, e.g., roadside markets, restaurants, food service distributors, grocery or convenience-type stores and other stores (including consignment). The producer or maker is not present for the final sale exchange to the consumer and relies on other parties to display, initiate sales and receive payment.

Resources

| CLEMSON DEPARTMENT OF PLANT INDUSTRIES (DPI)

Call 864-646-2140 or visit

clemson.edu/public/regulatory/plant-industry

| CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FOOD2MARKET

Call 864-359-3386 or visit

clemson.edu/extension/food/food2market

| SCDA WHOLESALE FOOD SAFETY

Call 803-737-0147 or visit

agriculture.sc.gov/wholesale-food-safety

| SCDA RETAIL FOOD SAFETY

Call 803-896-0640 or visit

agriculture.sc.gov/retail-food-safety

| SCDA FEED SAFETY

Call 803-737-9713 or visit

agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety

| SC MEAT-POULTRY INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

Call 803-788-8732 or visit

clemson.edu/public/lph/scmpid/index.html

| SC AGRITOURISM ASSOCIATION

Email jmoore@scda.sc.gov or visit scagritourism.org

| SC SPECIALTY CROP ASSOCIATION

Email mcranford@scda.sc.gov or visit scspecialtycrop.com

| SC SPECIALTY FOOD ASSOCIATION

Email gheins@scda.sc.gov or visit shoplocalsc.org

Logo Usage and Trademark Statement

A signed licensing agreement or approved application must be on file with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture prior to use of the trademarked logos or slogans. Any unapproved use of these materials can result in liability under Federal Trademark Laws.



CERTIFIED SC GROWN LOGO

Shall only be used on first quality products, grown in South Carolina, that meet the US #1 Quality Grade Standard, or higher U.S. Grade Standards, whichever is the accepted USDA industry grade standard for that commodity. The logo shall not be used on secondary labels or cull products.



CERTIFIED SC PRODUCT LOGO

Products that are eligible for inclusion in the program are value added products, manufactured food products, and other agricultural products that may be further sorted, graded, blended, processed and packaged in South Carolina. In addition, specialty agricultural food businesses located in South Carolina may have an exclusive recipe manufactured in another state, under the South Carolina address and company label, and be eligible for membership in the program.

Please let us know how you intend to use our logo (Check all that apply):

☐ Packaging ☐ Social Media ☐ Website ☐ Signage ☐ Other: _____

Methods of Sale

Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On Farm Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Retail* | <input type="checkbox"/> State Farmers Markets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Market | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm to School | <input type="checkbox"/> U-Pick Operation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale* | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct to Restaurants | <input type="checkbox"/> Community-Based Farmers Market |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Market Names _____ | | |

*These terms are commonly confused. Please check the glossary to make sure you are selecting the correct method of sale for your product.

Harvested Produce / Field Crops / Forestry

Check all the following items that apply to your farm and business. Please see page 8 for value added products and further processed produce.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apples | <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton | <input type="checkbox"/> Muscadine Grapes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorghum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arugula | <input type="checkbox"/> Cottonseed | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Pines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asparagus | <input type="checkbox"/> Cucumbers | <input type="checkbox"/> Mustard Greens | <input type="checkbox"/> Soybeans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barley | <input type="checkbox"/> Edamame | <input type="checkbox"/> Napa Cabbage | <input type="checkbox"/> Squash (Yellow) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basil | <input type="checkbox"/> Eggplant | <input type="checkbox"/> Oats | <input type="checkbox"/> Strawberries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beans (Snap, Pole, Variety) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fennel | <input type="checkbox"/> Okra | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar Cane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beets | <input type="checkbox"/> Figs | <input type="checkbox"/> Onions | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Chokes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackberries | <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Cut Flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Parsley | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Corn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blueberries | <input type="checkbox"/> Garlic | <input type="checkbox"/> Peaches | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Potatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bok Choy | <input type="checkbox"/> Ginger | <input type="checkbox"/> Peanuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Swiss Chard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broccoli | <input type="checkbox"/> Gourds | <input type="checkbox"/> Peas (Snap, Sugar) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butter Beans | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Onions | <input type="checkbox"/> Pecans | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabbage | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Peanuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Peppers (Red, Green, Yellow) | <input type="checkbox"/> Turnip Greens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cantaloupe | <input type="checkbox"/> Hay | <input type="checkbox"/> Plums | <input type="checkbox"/> Turnips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrots | <input type="checkbox"/> Herbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Potatoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Turmeric |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cauliflower | <input type="checkbox"/> Kale | <input type="checkbox"/> Pumpkins | <input type="checkbox"/> Watermelon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Kohlrabi | <input type="checkbox"/> Radishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cilantro | <input type="checkbox"/> Leeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Raspberries | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Pine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collard Greens | <input type="checkbox"/> Lettuces | <input type="checkbox"/> Rutabagas | <input type="checkbox"/> Zucchini |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn (Field) | <input type="checkbox"/> Microgreens | <input type="checkbox"/> Rye | |

Other _____

Are you a member of the SC Agritourism Association? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Produce

What is your produce harvest season? (Check all that apply)

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> January | <input type="checkbox"/> February | <input type="checkbox"/> March | <input type="checkbox"/> April | <input type="checkbox"/> May | <input type="checkbox"/> June |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July | <input type="checkbox"/> August | <input type="checkbox"/> September | <input type="checkbox"/> October | <input type="checkbox"/> November | <input type="checkbox"/> December |

Is your operation Certified Organic? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Certified By _____ Certification # (Required) _____

Does your operation participate in third party auditing? (Check all the apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonized Good Agricultural Practices (HGAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Primus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Handling Practices (GHP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonized Good Handling Practices (HGHP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Are you a member of the SC Specialty Crop Growers Association? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Produce Safety Rule

Are you exempt from the SC Produce Safety Act? ☐ Yes* ☐ No**

**A copy of your SCDA Produce Safety Rule Certificate of Exemption or a previous inspection summary must be submitted, prior to application approval, to ensure compliance with state (SC Produce Safety Act) and federal (FSMA Produce Safety Rule) law.*

****Has someone from your farm completed the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

For more information about the Produce Safety Rule or how to obtain a Produce Safety Rule Certificate of Exemption, please contact Brooke Horton at bhorton@scda.sc.gov / 803-351-1244 or visit scproducesafety.com.

To apply for a new exemption or access your current exemption certificate, visit psrexemption.agriculture.sc.gov.

Milk and Yogurt

A copy of your SCDA Milk Permit must be submitted for review to ensure compliance with state and federal law, prior to application approval. For more information on how to obtain a milk permit, please contact the SCDA Milk Safety Department at 803-667-1161.

Please see page 8 for cheese, butter, ice cream, and other value-added dairy products.

Product Type (Check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasteurized Milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Raw Milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Grade A Milk Products: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cow | <input type="checkbox"/> Cow | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goat | <input type="checkbox"/> Goat | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep | | _____ |

Eggs

For eggs sold away from the farm, a copy of your SC Egg License must be submitted with your application prior to approval.

For more information on how to obtain an Egg License, please contact the SCDA Wholesale Food Safety Department at 803-737-0147 or visit agriculture.sc.gov/wholesale-food-safety.

Do you sell your eggs on your farm or away? ☐ On Farm Sales ☐ Away from Farm

Type of Eggs Sold ☐ Chicken ☐ Duck ☐ Turkey ☐ Guinea Fowl

Livestock and Livestock Products

Product Type (Check all that apply)

☐ Beef ☐ Sheep/Lamb ☐ Turkey ☐ Guinea Fowl ☐ Other: _____
☐ Pork ☐ Chicken ☐ Duck ☐ Squab _____

How is your product sold? ☐ Live ☐ Processed/Product ☐ Both

An approved label is required prior to application approval. For more information about obtaining a SC Meat-Poultry Inspection Department approved label, please contact the SC Meat-Poultry Inspection Department at 803-788-8732 or visit clemson.edu/public/lph/scmpid/index.html

Do you have a SC Meat-Poultry Inspection Department or USDA approved label for your meat/poultry product? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of Processing Facility _____ Establishment # _____

Facility Full Address _____

Additional Product Description _____

Manufactured, Value Added, Specialty Food, or Further Processed Food Products

Products that are eligible for inclusion in the program are value added products, manufactured food products, and other agricultural products that may be further sorted, graded, blended, processed and packaged in South Carolina. In addition, specialty agricultural food businesses located in South Carolina may have an exclusive recipe manufactured in another state, under the South Carolina address and company label, and be eligible for membership in the program.

Are your food products made in a home kitchen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Foods (candy and non-potentially hazardous baked goods) prepared in a home kitchen under the Home-based Food Production Law (a.k.a. Cottage Foods Law) exemption are **not eligible** for the Certified SC program.

Clemson University's Food2Market program is a valuable resource for food entrepreneurs. Clemson can provide required product testing for canned/jarred/bottled products. They can also provide shelf-life and nutritional testing for food products. For help bringing your food product to market please contact Kimberly Baker or Adair Hoover with the Food2Market program.

kabaker@clemson.edu / 864-359-3386 | cpope@clemson.edu / 864-656-9986

clemson.edu/extension/food_nutrition/food2market/index.html | agriculture.sc.gov/faq/food-safety

FOR RETAIL ONLY: SCDA Retail Food Establishment Permit Number _____

For on-site retail sales only, please provide a copy of your retail food establishment permit number. For more information on how to obtain a permit, please contact the SCDA Retail Food Safety Department at 803-896-0640.

Registration Verification Certificate (RVC) Number _____

Registration with SCDA's Consumer Protection Division is required in order to wholesale most food products to the public. The registration process is free and it includes review of product labels. Specialized training and product testing may be required for some products. Registration certificates are issued upon completion of a compliant inspection by SCDA. For more information or to register, contact Emily Walker at ewalker@scda.sc.gov or 803-737-0147. More Info: agriculture.sc.gov/wholesale-food-safety

Are you a member of the SC Specialty Food Association? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is your product being co-packed? If so, please provide their name and contact information.

Name _____ **Phone/Email** _____

Full Address _____

Please check all product types that will potentially bear the Certified SC Product logo:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acidified Foods*
(Pickles, Salsas, Relishes) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbonated Beverages | <input type="checkbox"/> Fermented Foods* | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasteurized Juice* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baked Goods | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheese* | <input type="checkbox"/> Honey** | <input type="checkbox"/> Roasted/Boiled Peanuts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Dessert Foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandwiches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butter | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry/Nonperishable Foods
(Grits, Cornmeal, Flour) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jams/Jellies* | <input type="checkbox"/> Sauces/Condiments* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candy/Confections | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Rubs/Spices | <input type="checkbox"/> Marinades/Dressings* | <input type="checkbox"/> Value Added Produce |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta | | |

☐ Other: _____

*In addition to an RVC, these products may require specialized training, licensing, certification and/or analysis to sell and produce.

**For Beekeepers who have applied and been granted exemption for their honey, please provide copy of your honey exemption certificate. For more information on how to legally sell honey, visit: agriculture.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SCHome-basedFoodProductionLawBook2025_digital.pdf

Fish and Seafood



CERTIFIED SC SEAFOOD LOGO

There is a separate application for the Certified SC Seafood Program. Please visit certifiedsc.com/lists/certified-sc-seafood for a copy of the application. The Certified SC Seafood logo shall only be used by approved Licensed Wholesale Dealers, Distributors, Retailers, Shellfish Mariculture Permit Holders, and Aquaculture Permit Holders on seafood products grown or landed in South Carolina.

**Note: Cut or processed seafood sold wholesale requires an RVC from the SCDA Food Safety & Compliance Department.*

Greenhouse Nursery, Floriculture, and Turf Grass

Please list all Genera grown that will bear the Certified SC Grown logo.

All plant material bearing the logo must be propagated and grown at a nursery within South Carolina. Products that are purchased from out of state and re-wholesaled to landscapers or retailers are not eligible to bear the Certified SC Grown logo. *Attach separate sheet if necessary.

Plant License Number (Required) _____

For more information about how to obtain a plant license number please contact the Clemson Department of Plant Industries (DPI) at 864-646-2140 or visit clemson.edu/public/regulatory/plant-industry

Alcoholic Beverages

Please provide a copy of your license from Department of Revenue.

Please check all that apply to your business: ☐ Brewery ☐ Cidery ☐ Distillery ☐ Winery

Additional Product Description _____

Animal Feeds / Pet Foods and Treats

Animal feeds and pet foods/treats must be registered with SCDA. Please provide a copy of your current registration and label for each product.

For more information, please contact Bernadette Mundo, Feed Liaison and Labeling Reviewer at 803-737-9713 / bmundo@scda.sc.gov or visit agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety.

Other

For all other products (i.e., soap, cosmetics, etc.), please attach a detailed description of the product and its ties to SC agriculture along with a copy of your products labels.

Member Benefits

- License to use the Certified SC logo on your marketing materials
- Brand signage available
- Website listing with your farm / market's details
- New member certificate
- Participation in a brand with state-wide recognition

Print and Return or Email Completed Application

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Attn: Certified South Carolina

P.O. Box 11280

Columbia, SC 29211

certifiedsc@scda.sc.gov

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