

# *South Carolina Department of Agriculture*

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 2, 2010**

## **What's in Season – in South Carolina!**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Hugh Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture, announces that it's a great time to buy South Carolina grown seasonal produce and products including peaches, berries, and shrimp. He says to be on the lookout for the Certified SC Grown logo in your local supermarket and Buy South Carolina! Nothing's Fresher. Nothing's Finer!

## **What's in Season in June!**

### **Peaches**

South Carolina growers have a good supply of just-picked, tree-ripened fresh, sweet peaches this season. Look for South Carolina's 'tastier' peaches in supermarkets, roadside markets, farmers markets and wherever produce is sold.

### **Berries**

It's a berry good time for SC berries! Blackberry and blueberry harvest has begun in many parts of South Carolina. Strawberries are still available as well.

### **Shrimp**

The state's waters opened on June 1<sup>st</sup> for commercial shrimp trawling. That means it's time for fresh, local Certified SC Grown shrimp.

### **Other Seasonal Produce Available in June**

Beans (Snap/Pole/Variety), Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cantaloupes, Cilantro, Cucumbers, Leeks, Mixed leafy greens (Collard/Kale/Mustard/Turnip), Onions, Oriental vegetables, Parsley, Peas, Peppers, Radishes, Squash, Strawberries, Sweet corn, Tomatoes, Watermelons, and Zucchini.

For daily fruit and vegetable market news reports, visit [agriculture.sc.gov/marketnews](http://agriculture.sc.gov/marketnews). To find the nearest Certified SC marketer, visit [www.certifiedscgrown.com](http://www.certifiedscgrown.com) and search the appropriate key word.

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## **Eat Smart – its' in the Garden Workshop**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Agriculture with funding from Eat Smart, Move More SC will host the 1st annual Eat Smart...it's in the Garden Workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, June 21, 2010 at the Sandhill Research and Education Center Lake House, 905 Clemson Road, Columbia, SC.

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**(It's in the garden continued)**

All teachers – preschool, elementary, after school, home school, and even Sunday School teachers will have the opportunity to learn how to maintain or expand an existing school vegetable garden. They will also be able to network with other educators, school personnel and workshop leaders who will be invited to share their success stories. Workshop participants will also learn how the Eat Smart...it's in the Garden program has already been successful throughout the state and will learn how their schools can join the fun.

The workshop is free but space is limited, so pre-registration is required by Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. To register or for more information, contact Beth Crocker, SC Department of Agriculture, 803-734-2193, [bcrocker@scda.sc.gov](mailto:bcrocker@scda.sc.gov).

For more information about the School Gardens Program, visit [www.scschoolgardens.blogspot.com](http://www.scschoolgardens.blogspot.com) or [www.agriculture.sc.gov](http://www.agriculture.sc.gov).

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**Cooking with Certified SC Grown**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – In an effort to encourage folks to try and buy Certified South Carolina Grown while supporting agricultural education efforts, the SCDA is supporting the sale of several cookbooks published by the SC Farm Bureau. The cookbooks enable veteran and novice chefs of all ages to prepare foods with Certified SC Grown produce and products in season.

*The Golden Taste of South Carolina*, a reprint of Farm Bureau's 50th Anniversary Cookbook from 1994, and *SC Ladies & Gents Love to Cook* which features over 600 mouth-watering recipes are both hardback, concealed wire cookbooks published by the SC Farm Bureau Women's Committee. These two cookbooks retail for \$20.00 each plus \$5.00 each for shipping and handling

Another favorite is *Just Peachy*, a limited edition cookbook published by the Lexington County Farm Bureau Women's Committee. *Just Peachy* includes over 20 years of Peach Recipe Contest entries from Lexington County Peach Festival in Gilbert. South Carolina is known for some of the sweetest peaches in the nation, and Lexington County is central for peach production in the state. The 2010 Peach Recipe Contest will be held at the Lexington County Peach Festival beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate Independence Day and South Carolina's revered "tastier" peach.

Proceeds from the sale of all of the cookbooks fund agricultural education projects sponsored by Farm Bureau.

To order your limited edition of *Just Peachy*, contact the Lexington County Farm Bureau Office at 121 Park Road, Lexington, SC 29072 or call 803-359-5541. To order *The Golden Taste of South Carolina* and *SC Ladies & Gents Love to Cook*, visit <http://www.scfb.org> to download the order form.

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**Lexington County Peach Festival in Gilbert*****- to feature Peachy Recipe Contest***

**LEXINGTON, S.C.** – It's time for delicious Certified SC Grown peaches which means it's also time for the annual Lexington County Peach Festival and "Peachy Recipe Contest." The festival will be held on Saturday, July 3, 2010 in Gilbert, S.C. The Peachy Contest will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Gilbert Primary School Cafétorium.

Entries will be accepted in two categories – Desserts and Salads/Main Dishes. All entries must contain at least two (2) cups fresh, locally grown peaches. Contestants are required to bring the prepared food to the Gilbert Primary School Cafétorium before 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 3, 2010. Written recipes must be presented with each entry. The name and address of the contestant (s) must be plainly written on a separate piece of paper and presented at the time the dish and recipe are delivered. Dishes will be judged and may be picked up at 11:00 a.m. A \$75.00 First Place Award and \$50.00 Second Place Award will be presented in each of the two categories during the 11:00 a.m. program.

For more information, call Betty Buff, Lexington County Farm Women's Committee, 803-794-7548 or visit <http://www.lexingtoncountypeachfestival.com>.

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