



Contact: Sonja Burris  
Communications Director  
South Carolina Ag + Art Tour  
803-329-5200  
[sburris@visityorkcounty.com](mailto:sburris@visityorkcounty.com)

Administrators: Ben Boyles  
Agribusiness Agent  
Clemson University Extension  
803-981-3021  
boyles2@clemson.edu

Strauss Moore Shiple  
Olde English District  
Projects Coordinator  
803-230-2336  
smshiple@oldeenglishdistrict.com

For Immediate Release

**South Carolina Ag + Art Tour continues to grow as the nation's largest free farm and art tour**

*The 2017 SC Ag + Art Tour adds two additional counties, will showcase nearly 80 agricultural sites and over 130 artisans and takes place every weekend in June!*

SOUTH CAROLINA – Still the largest free, self-guided farm and art tour, the 2017 South Carolina Ag + Art Tour has extended its reach, stretching across 11 counties in South Carolina. This year's participating counties are Chester, Chesterfield, Darlington, Fairfield, Florence, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Newberry, Union, and York. Tours will be held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sundays every weekend in June with different counties participating each weekend.

2017 Tour Dates are:

June 3 – 4: Chesterfield County, Darlington County, Florence County, Horry County

June 10 – 11: Chester County, York County

June 17 – 18: Kershaw County, Lancaster County

June 24 – 25: Fairfield County, Newberry County, Union County

“Now in its sixth year, this free self-guided farm and art tour is a great way to educate residents and visitors about where their food and fiber comes from, as well as introduce them to local artisans,” says Ben Boyles, Clemson Extension Agribusiness Agent and Tour Administrator. “We are proud of how this tour has continued to expand with one of the goals for the tour being to give people a better knowledge of what is produced in their own backyard, and this event puts food and product with a face.”

The tour began in York County in 2012 and has grown each year. Tour leaders said that the growth and interest in the Ag + Art Tour has been phenomenal.

With the addition of two new counties this year, visitors will have the opportunity to visit over 80 agricultural sites and interact with more than 130 artisans. Tour stops include farms and farmers markets with art featured at each location. Artisans on the tour range from weavers, painters, musicians, storytellers, metalworkers and craftsmen, to poets and live musical performers. Some of the farms will offer value-added products, such as jarred and canned foods, honey, baked goods or even farm-fresh meals. There is no fee to attend and visitors can start and stop their tour at any location they choose.

In addition to the tour, some counties will host kickoff events to introduce the featured farm sites and artisans to their communities. Kickoff events include a range of activities, such as farm-to-table dinners, barbecue and blues events, and special activities at local farmers markets. More information about these events and the tour can be found online at [www.agandarttour.com](http://www.agandarttour.com).

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### **About the South Carolina Ag + Art Tour**

The South Carolina Ag + Art Tour is a free self-guided tour of farms and farmers markets featuring artisans at every stop occurring every weekend in June. The first Ag + Art Tour was held in 2012 in York County as a way to blend agriculture and art. The tour expanded to include Lancaster County (2013), Chester and Fairfield Counties (2014), Union County (2015), Chesterfield, Darlington, Horry and Kershaw Counties (2016), and Florence and Newberry Counties (2017) making the tour the largest free farm and art tour in the nation.

The tour is coordinated by leadership and county-level planning teams that are led [by Clemson University Cooperative Extension](#), in partnership with the [Olde English District Tourism Commission](#) and the [Catawba Farm and Food Coalition](#). Partner organizations include economic development, chambers of commerce, tourism bureaus, farm and artisan organizations, education and extension offices, arts councils and community volunteers.