



March 18, 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Clemson University Cooperative Extension is committed to protecting its employees and public health while continuing to serve the citizens of South Carolina. Therefore, starting today, County Extension offices are closed to the public until further notice to maximize social distancing. Additionally, all non-essential in-person meetings and programs have been canceled, postponed, or changed to online.

Extension Agents will continue to be available to answer questions through telephone, email, and other distance technologies. The [Home & Garden Information Center](#) (HGIC) will remain open to answer gardening, food safety and nutrition questions by phone or email, and our hundreds of online publications, fact sheets, blog posts, and videos will be available to anyone with internet access.

Soil samples and other diagnostic services will continue, but sample submission will be modified as follows:

1. Mail samples, including fees, directly to the Ag Services lab or Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic at the following addresses:

- a. **Ag Services Lab** (soil, forage, manure, etc.)

171 Old Cherry Road,
Clemson, SC 29634

Fees and Submission forms are available at

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/ag-srvc-lab/index.html>

- b. **Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic** (plant disease, weed, and insect id)

511 Westinghouse Road
Pendleton, SC 29670

Fees and Submission forms are available at

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/plant-problem/index.html>

If you require assistance with filling out forms call the Clemson HGIC at 1-888-656-9988 or email hgic@clemson.edu.

2. Commercial operations with 20 or more samples can schedule a time for a county agent to pick up samples at their facility.

For questions specific to this County Office, please contact the Pickens County Coordinator, Dr. James H. Blake, through the office number 864-898-8320 or via email jblake@clemson.edu.

In case of emergency, call Dr. Blake at 864-506-6351.



While Extension offices are closed, Extension Agents and other staff will be working remotely on projects and developing resources to benefit our clients' needs going forward. Examples of remote work include:

- Responding to client questions remotely
- Compiling information relevant to COVID-19 and its impact on South Carolinians
- Writing, revising, and editing fact sheets and other publications
- Writing research proposals and grant applications
- Engaging 4-H youth through online and social media technologies
- Developing curricula for programs, trainings, online instruction, etc.
- Developing and delivering webinars, online courses, and instructional videos
- Prepping ourselves and the Extension system to respond to the inevitable challenges that will follow in the aftermath of this public health threat