



ACRE

Agribusiness Center for
Research & Entrepreneurship

Taking Your Cooperative or Non-Profit to the Next Level

Cooperative Conference 9/16/25 – 9/17/25

*Sponsored by Rural Cooperative Development Grant from USDA Rural Development,
Clemson University Agribusiness Team, and SC Department of Agriculture*

Agenda

September 16th – Evening Only (5-7 pm)

4:00 – 5:00 Room setup – just conference organizers

5:00 – 5:30 Welcome and Introductions

5:30 – 7:00 Dinner and Discussion: ***What are the Biggest Challenges Facing South Carolina Cooperatives Today?***

September 17th – Start at 9:30 am and end by 3:00

9:30 – 10:00 Kickoff

Steve Richards: Welcome, Introductions, and Purpose of Conference

Qualtrics Survey: *Assessment of Cooperative Needs*

10:00 – 11:00: Brian Briggeman: ***Effective Boards***

Examples of well-run cooperatives, electing a Board of Directors, and holding effective board meetings.

11:00 to 11:15 Break

11:15 -12:15 Steve Isaacs: ***Revitalizing Boards: Pruning, Picking, and Planting***

Pruning the old wood, picking the ripe fruit, and planning the new crop of board members.

12:15 to 12:45 Lunch

12:45 – 1:15 Kevin Burkett and Steve Richards: **“Financial Reporting and Taxes”**

Income Tax reporting - Form 1120 C and informational return examples. Non-Profit Cooperatives versus Non-Profit Organizations (forms 1023 and 1024)

1:15 – 1:30 Break

1:30 – 2:15 Scott Mickey and Steve Richards: **“Staying on Task, Preparing for the Future”**

Round Table Discussion: Member “wants” versus cooperative mission, grant funded missions versus core mission, and preparing for future challenges.

Update from **USDA Rural Development Director French** and South Carolina ACRE Program Director, Kyle Player.

2:15 – 2:30 Post Assessment

Topics for Follow Up

Evaluation of Cooperative Conference