



Farm Facts

The S.C. Department of Corrections farms over 10,000 acres of land across the state. Below are highlights from each stop on the July 26, 2010 farm tour at Wateree River Correctional Institution, which at 7,000-acres is the largest of the agency's farms.

Sawmill – Since going operational 18-months-ago, the sawmill has converted fallen timber on prison property into 372,200 board feet used to build and repair prison structures, as well as stages used in March during a the visit by NFL Superbowl Champion Coach Tony Dungy, collectively saving the agency \$182,400.

Gristmill – The mill grinds corn into grits and corn meal from crops grown at Wateree. SCDC consumes 595,200 pounds of grits and 166,150 pounds of corn meal each year, or 1,630 pounds of grits and 455 pounds of meal daily.

Hammer mill - This mill operation stores crops harvested on Wateree Farm. Its grain capacity is 200,000 bushels, which is enough to supply feed to cows and chickens at the agency's dairy and egg laying operation at MacDougall Correctional Institution, as well as its grits and corn meal demands at institutional cafeterias.

Edible row crops – More than 50,000 pounds of sweet potatoes will be grown at Wateree this year, all of which will be consumed in institutional cafeterias. The bulk of the agency's edible crops are grown at Walden farm in Columbia, including cabbage, tomatoes, cantaloupes and sweet corn. Many of the agency's institutions also maintain gardens in the summer that put food in cafeterias.

Beef cows – Between its Wateree and Walden farms, SCDC has more than 300 brood cows that will be sold on the open market to generate revenue to buy food. The agency sold more than 133,130 pounds of beef in the past year.

Row crops – The major row crop at Wateree is corn, which is grown across 1,800 acres. Soybeans, wheat, oats and milo also are grown there, which is utilized as feed for cows and chickens.

Dairy – With the start of operations at its new dairy in January, SCDC will grow its milking herd from 220 to 1,000 cows, generating 1.8 million gallons of excess milk that will be sold on the open market, increasing revenue for farm operations and saving South Carolina dairies money they otherwise would have to spend to import milk needed to meet the state's demand.