



36th South Carolina Rural Summit Agenda
301 E Poinsett Street
Greer City Hall, Greer, South Carolina 29651

Thursday Morning, March 12, 2026

8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 – 9:20 am	<i>WELCOME TO THE 2026 S.C RURAL SUMMIT</i> Hannah Horne Hall - Emcee Mayor Rick Danner , Mayor of Greer Gilleon Frieson & Sara Schaefer , South Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Development Team
9:20 – 9:50 am	SizeUPSouthCarolina – Small Business Insights J.R. Charles , SizeUp Sonja Barkley , South Carolina Department of Commerce
9:50 – 10:35 am	Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE) Kyle Player , South Carolina Department of Agriculture
10:35 – 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – 11:40 am	Futures Under Construction Megan Tice , Real Champions, Inc.
11:40 am- 12:00 pm	Video Spotlight The Honorable Henry McMaster , Governor of South Carolina



12:00 – 1:15pm	Lunch
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Afternoon, March 12, 2026

1:15 – 1:45 pm	More Than an Art Festival: The Power of Lake City's ArtFields Carla Angus , ArtFields
1:45 – 2:15 pm	Artificial Intelligence's Impact on Rural Societies – Insights from an Engineer Dr. Lauterbach , University of South Carolina - Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing
2:15 – 3:00 pm	Innovation Where It's Least Expected: Building High-Impact Companies in Rural South Carolina Don Alexander , Anovotek, LLC
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 – 4:00 pm	Strategic Planning Panel: Consulting SC's Tier 3&4 Communities Chuck Sexton , Strategic Location Advisors Crystal Morphis , Creative Economic Development Consulting, LLC Irene Dumas Tyson , Boudreaux Group
4:00 pm	Adjourn
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Social: Lobby, Greer City Hall



Friday Morning, March 13, 2026

8:00- 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15 am	<i>Welcome Back</i>
9:15 – 10:00 am	Legislative Listening Session with Secretary Harry Lightsey
10:00 – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 – 10:45 am	Best Practices in Financial Accountability and Responsibility in the Management of Public Funds Janet Hicks , CPA Hicks Guerry Group
10:45 – 11:00 am	Closing Remarks