

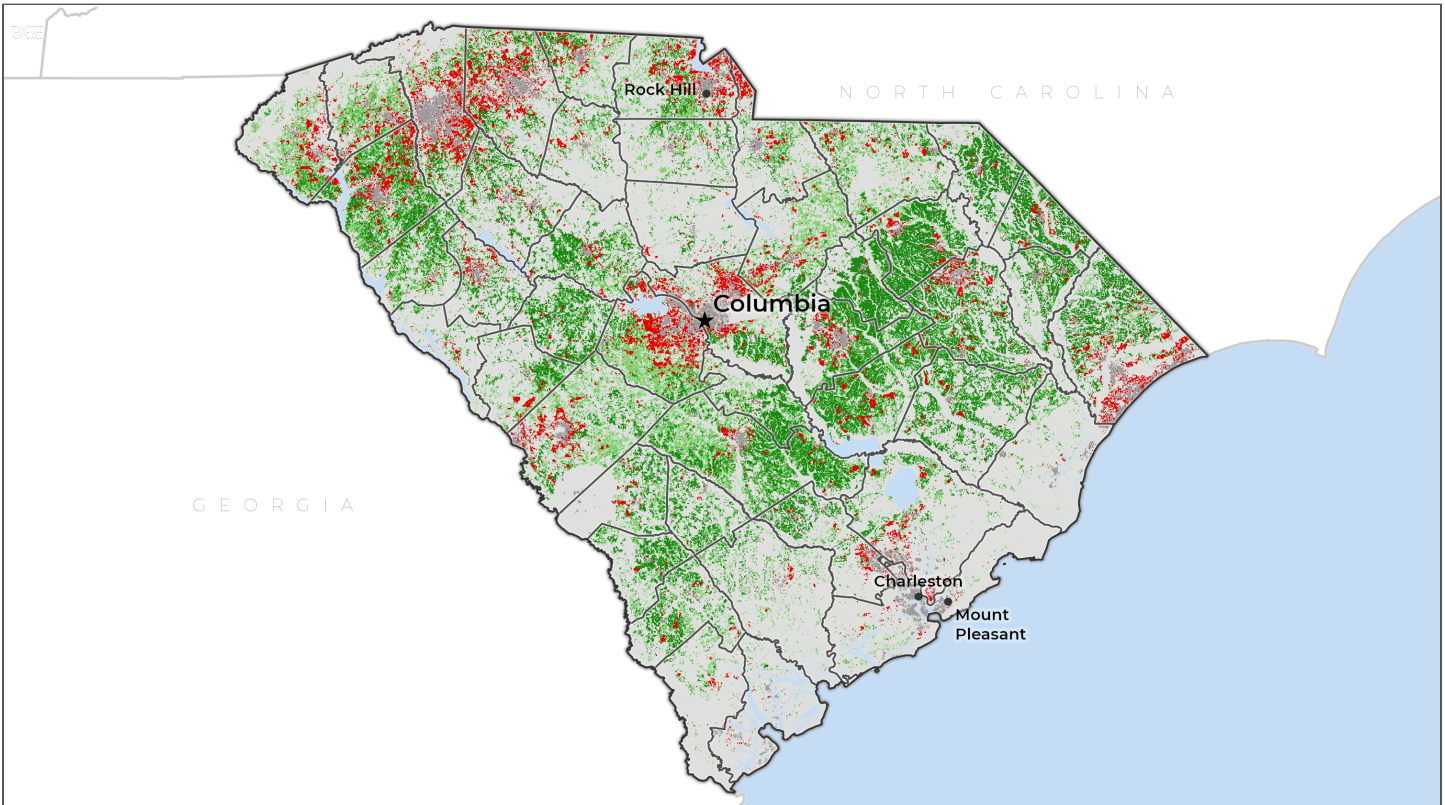


THE STATE OF THE STATES  
Agricultural Land Conversion Highlight Summary


# South Carolina

**Farms Under Threat: The State of the States** mapped agricultural land conversion and evaluated state policy responses. The spatial analysis identified the extent, diversity, and quality of each state's agricultural land—and where this land has been converted to both urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) land uses.

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION 2001-2016**



Conversion of non-federal farmland to UHD and LDR land uses from 2001-2016. The threat to working farms and ranches is pervasive, often claiming the most productive, versatile, and resilient lands.

 Conversion of agricultural land to UHD and LDR land uses	<p><b>Farmland*</b> that is:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #008000; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Above state median PVR**         </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Below state median PVR         </div>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #808080; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Urban areas         </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #D3D3D3; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Federal, forest, and other lands         </div> </div>	<p>*Farmland is composed of cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.</p> <p>** Our productivity, versatility, and resiliency (PVR) index helps identify high-quality agricultural land (see page 2).</p>
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<p><b>RELATIVE CONVERSION THREAT</b></p> <h2 style="color: #0056b3;">HIGH</h2> <p>South Carolina scored among the top states for the conversion of agricultural land to urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) uses.</p>	<p><b>RELATIVE POLICY RESPONSE</b></p> <h2 style="color: #0056b3;">LOW</h2> <p>South Carolina scored among the lowest states for policies and programs that protect agricultural land from development, promote farm viability, and facilitate the transfer of agricultural land.</p>	<p><b>HOW IS THIS STATE DOING?</b></p> <p>South Carolina is in a red box because its conversion threat is higher than its policy response, relative to other states. Learn more at <a href="http://www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat">www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat</a></p>
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POLICY RESPONSE	High			
	Medium			
	Low			✓
		Low	Medium	High

CONVERSION THREAT

## DEVELOPMENT THREATENS SOUTH CAROLINA'S AGRICULTURAL LAND

From 2001-2016, 280,700 acres of agricultural land were developed or compromised.

South Carolina's farmland and ranchland was converted to:

- **Urban and highly developed (UHD)** land use, including commercial, industrial, and moderate-to-high-density residential areas.
- **Low-density residential (LDR)** land use, where scattered large lot development fragments the agricultural land base and limits production, marketing, and management options for the working farms and ranches that remain.

### LDR PAVES THE WAY FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural land in LDR areas in 2001 was

**8 TIMES MORE LIKELY**

to be converted to UHD by 2016, compared to other agricultural land.

84,000 acres

**30%**

of conversion was to UHD

196,700 acres

**70%**

of conversion was to LDR

### CONVERSION AFFECTED ALL TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND



**CROPLAND: 104,800 acres**  
**PASTURELAND: 74,700 acres**  
**WOODLAND: 101,200 acres**

## SOUTH CAROLINA'S BEST AGRICULTURAL LAND IS UNDER THREAT

We used our unique **PVR index**, which quantifies the productivity, versatility, and resiliency of agricultural land, to identify:

1. **South Carolina's best land**, which has PVR values above the state median, and
2. **Nationally Significant land**, which is the country's best land for long-term production of food and other crops. **49%** of South Carolina's agricultural land, or **2,836,300 acres**, falls in this category.\*

Protecting high-PVR land is critical for the long-term sustainability of agriculture, yet from 2001-2016:

- ▶ **124,200 acres** of South Carolina's best land were converted to UHD and LDR uses.
- ▶ **111,300 acres** of South Carolina's Nationally Significant land were converted.

\*These two categories overlap and the same land may be included in both.

## What's at stake?

- ▶ **5,791,300 acres of agricultural land remain<sup>1</sup>**



**CROPLAND: 2,640,100 acres**  
**PASTURELAND: 1,049,400 acres**  
**WOODLAND: 2,101,800 acres**

- ▶ **\$3.0 billion earned from cash receipts in 2017<sup>2</sup>**

- \$74.6 million from local food<sup>3</sup>
- \$750.9 million from agricultural exports<sup>4</sup>

- ▶ **280,700 acres were converted—enough land to generate \$146 million in annual revenue<sup>2</sup>**

- ▶ **South Carolina's top 3 agricultural products:<sup>2</sup>**

- Poultry and Eggs \$1.7 billion
- Nursery and Greenhouse \$208.3 million
- Corn \$187.9 million

- ▶ **39,300 producers and 25,600 farm laborers on 24,800 farms<sup>2</sup>**

- ▶ **5 times as many producers over 65 as under 35 years old<sup>2</sup>**

1. Farms Under Threat 2016

2. National Agricultural Statistics Service 2017

3. Sold directly to consumer and intermediate outlets, NASS 2017

4. Economic Research Service 2017



**Farms Under Threat** is American Farmland Trust's multi-year initiative to document the status of and threats to U.S. farmland and ranchland and to identify policy solutions to ensure the protection and conservation of America's diverse agricultural landscape. For more information about AFT, visit [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org). If you have any questions about the analysis methods or would like access to data, please contact AFT's Farmland Information Center: [www.farmlandinfo.org](http://www.farmlandinfo.org) or (800) 370-4879.



Explore our interactive maps at [www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat](http://www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat)