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**From Past to Plate: Clemson University to Host
Southern Heritage Crops Webinar**

CLEMSON, S.C. — Farmers, food supply chain partners, chefs, agricultural service providers, and others interested in heirloom and heritage crops are invited to attend **Explore New Farming Opportunities with Southern Heritage Crops**, a free webinar on **Tuesday, July 7, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, with a lunch break from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM.

The webinar is the first in a planned series offered through the **Clemson University Southern Heritage Crops project**, funded by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture**. The project explores heirloom crops with distinctive cultural and historical connections to the Southern United States, including the Caribbean, and their potential for farm profitability, culinary use, regional marketing, and food system development.

Consumer interest in distinctive, local, and nostalgic farm products is creating new opportunities for producers and supply chain partners. Southern heritage crops may offer farmers a way to differentiate their businesses while helping preserve crops, stories, flavors, and traditions rooted in the region.

The webinar will feature presentations and discussion on promising Southern heritage crops, production and marketing opportunities, fruit and vegetable issues, culinary connections, and ways to build stronger regional support systems.

Planned speakers and panelists include **Dr. Dave Lamie**, Clemson University Southern Heritage Crops Project Director; **Dr. David Shields**, co-star of the PBS series *The Savers of Flavor*; **Brian Ward**, Clemson University Extension Specialist; **Nat Bradford**, Bradford Family Farm; **Jon Jackson**, Comfort Farms; **Sadie Willis**, Fairshare CSA Coalition; **Chef Linton Hopkins**, Hopkins & Company Hospitality Group; and **Kris Reid**, Director of Slow Food USA.

“This webinar is designed to begin a regional conversation about how Southern heritage crops can become a viable part of farm and food business strategies,” said Dr. Dave Lamie, Clemson University Southern Heritage Crops Project Director. “By bringing together farmers, researchers, chefs, food system partners, and agricultural service providers, we hope to identify opportunities for future research, outreach, and collaboration.”

The event is free to attend, but participants must register by **noon on Monday, July 6, 2026**. The Zoom webinar link will be emailed with registration confirmation. Recorded sections will be posted online after the event, but only the live webinar will include audience Q&A.

For more information or to register, visit: <https://www.southernheritagecrops.org/events>



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