

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe



September 2021



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tim Keown

September 2021 was one of the most memorable months of our school's youthful existence. As I reflect on the past four weeks, one theme comes to mind – **building relationships**. We encourage our students to establish relationships with industry leaders by introducing them to political, agribusiness, forestry, and industry leaders throughout SC. This month, our students were able to network with several top officials and establish some valuable connections that undoubtedly have the potential to enhance their future.

First, our students heard from and met **Jeff Wilson**, the CEO of **West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative (WCTEL)**. Jeff told our students about his life story which had a humble beginning in rural Idaho as a farm boy. He is a true American success story and is now the Chief of the fastest growing technology company in the South. They have now expanded their service area into Georgia and their staff offers technical support as far as Los Angeles, CA! We appreciate him and his company for all their work on our campus to keep our technology running at lightning speed.

Second, our students interacted with several leaders from **South Carolina State University** during our Memorandum of Agreement signing ceremony.

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Our Aggies heard inspiring comments from **Dr. Louis Whitesides** who directs the **1890 Research & Extension Program** at SC State. This partnership will enhance not only our current student's education but also generations to come. They are providing us with high tunnel greenhouses and vertical towers for agricultural research. In return, we are hosting several summer camps for SC State 4-H program called "Ag. Immersion" camps. We are looking forward to this partnership!



Lastly, we had our 1st Annual Legislative Dove Hunt - sponsored by the **SC Farm Bureau Federation**. Our students met the SC Farm Bureau President, **Harry Ott**, and other key leaders from Farm Bureau and discussed farming and how Farm Bureau lobbies for agriculture in our state. Also attending were **Senator Billy Garrett** who welcomed everyone to his district, **Rep. Russell Ott** from St. Matthews, and **Rep. Brian White** from Anderson. Also in attendance were several staff members from the SC General Assembly. We had a successful hunt and better yet, created stronger relationships for our school. Thank you to Farm Bureau leaders **Gary Spires, Thompson Smith, Chalmers Mikell**, and your staff for making this event a huge success.



We will continue to build on the theme of **building relationships** in October. Our Aggies have an extremely busy month. They are competing in Livestock Shows all over the state - including the SC State Fair, attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, competing in Shotgun Events, and attending the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo in Moultrie, GA. I cannot wait to share their success stories in next month's newsletter!

AGGIE OF THE MONTH

Savanna Stevenson

Savanna Stevenson is an 11th-grader from Elloree, SC. This is her first year at the SC Governor's School for Agriculture but was nominated by several JDLH faculty and staff members. She was noted as having a "positive attitude" and "impressive interactions with other staff and students", as well as being very "well-spoken and knowledgeable" during class time and beyond.

Savanna was recently featured in a **Times & Democrat** article along with other Orangeburg County students, sharing her school experience thus far. **Director of Public Relations & Marketing, Ms. Belton**, stated, "Savanna was super helpful and responsive during this news feature. I also noticed that she actively promotes our school and events online and to her peers."





PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

Greg Thompson

Being humbled is something we all will experience in life. If we embrace it, we will find some underlying life lesson when we are going through it. My first experience with being humbled, that I can recall, was through an encounter I had with my uncle. My uncle was named "Hercules Thompson", but everyone called him "Herc" for short. My uncle had his share of problems, but my dad always mentioned how brilliant he was. He dropped out of school when he was in the 5th grade and was an alcoholic his entire adulthood. You see, education wasn't valued as much in the 1940s and 1950s as it is now. Many people like my uncle dropped out of school and worked on local farms.

When he was in his mid-20's he made that popular migration to the Northern parts of the United States. Many people from the Southern states immigrated to the North for better-paying industry jobs. My uncle returned to South Carolina in the 1970s. It was hard for him to find steady work that was going to pay the same wages he made up North. Plus, his alcoholism controlled his life and hampered his earning potential. He picked up odd jobs and lived around the Orangeburg, South Carolina area as one of the "town drunks."

During the holidays my grandmother wanted all her children and grandchildren together to celebrate. My dad would have to find my uncle and clean him up so he would be presentable at our family holiday events. As much as my dad tried to clean him up you could still smell alcohol on him because it was in the pores of his skin.

One Christmas after everyone opened gifts and we ate our Christmas dinner, my uncle challenged me in a game of checkers. I arrogantly accepted his challenge. I thought my 6th-grade education was far superior to his 40-year-old 4th-grade education. My uncle's plays on the checkerboard were fast and calculated. The entire time we were playing he verbally harassed me with cruel name-calling such as "Shoney's Big Boy" and "Fat Albert" to name a few. His strategies worked; I was more focused on the name-calling than the game sitting right in front of me. My uncle whipped me three games in a row. I took my bruised and shattered ego to my bedroom for a silent cry. I felt totally embarrassed and humbled because I thought he wasn't smart enough to beat me.

Throughout my childhood, my dad would hire my uncle to help us with special projects around the house and our family business. It was then when I saw the brilliant side of my uncle that my dad used to mention. My uncle could work with the best of them when he wasn't under the influence of alcohol. He was a skilled laborer; he could easily troubleshoot and solve problems when working on projects. As I got older, my uncle and I developed a great rapport.

He taught me many life lessons that I couldn't learn in a classroom.

When I reflected on my relationship with my uncle, 1987 stands out. I was a junior attending South Carolina State University, and my youngest sister was a freshman attending Florida A&M University. My mom took a sabbatical leave from her job as a Librarian at Paine College to pursue a master's degree in library science at Atlanta-Clarke University. My mom lived on campus in a dorm with undergraduate students. All the students addressed her as Mom, and they took excellent care of her.



The same year my uncle's health was declining fast. The many years of heavy drinking were catching up with him. He decided to move in with my grandmother who lived right outside of Orangeburg. This was a win-win situation for them both because they took care of each other. At the time my uncle was in his early 60's and my grandmother was in her 80's. They both decided to take classes to prepare themselves for the GED test. They attended classes twice a week and worked tirelessly on homework between classes. I would stop by about once a week to tutor them in math. It was a struggle because they lacked the basic math skills needed to understand Algebra functions. Our tutoring sessions tested my patience, but I was proud and honored to be an instrumental part in their pursuit of a GED. Looking back on this time in my life, I guess I can say that tutoring my uncle and grandmother was my first sign that the field of Education was the right career choice for me.

In conclusion, my uncle "Herc" and grandmother passed away before they were able to earn their GED. I learned several life lessons through my interactions with my uncle. **The most valuable lesson I learned is that you can't judge a book by its cover.** All people, regardless of their educational background deserve respect and self-worth. I once thought that intelligence was measured by educational degrees, but that is simply not the case. **Our great country is built up through the backbones of common people with the determination to accomplish their goals.** So, when our Seniors mention that their post-secondary goals are to go straight into the workforce, I don't try to alter their plans. I only provide them with the resources they need to succeed in either route they decide to take. My uncle, grandmother, and mom have proven to me that we can all be lifelong learners as it takes a different timeframe for each person to find their true passion.

REAL WORLD CLASS

Jennifer Brown & Jordan Glace

Students in our Real World class made stir fry, omelets, and breakfast sandwiches. They are developing important life skills while enjoying the learning process!





ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

Cadie Giba

The SC Governor's School for Agriculture started off the year by recruiting in several different regions. Representatives visited schools in Orangeburg, Dorchester, Oconee, and Pickens County to name a few. Additionally, the School had a presence at several Game Night Live events in Richmond and Columbia County in Georgia. In addition to school visits, the School had many on-campus events to recruit prospective families including campus tours and our **Campus Preview Day**.

Campus Preview Day is a chance for prospective students to tour our campus, meet our faculty and staff, and participate in agricultural labs. During the day, prospective families and community members receive a first-hand experience of what it's like in the life of an Aggie. Current Aggies spend time interacting with potential students and offer advice and suggestions on the application process, being accepted into the program, and the residential agriculture program.

For more information about school visits, campus tours, and Preview Days, contact admissions@delahowe.sc.gov.



The SC Governor's School for Agriculture is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year! Students in 10th-12th grades in South Carolina and surrounding states are eligible to apply. Applicants can apply as residential or day students. Residential students will live on campus and will have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the campus atmosphere, agricultural life, and their academics. Day students will attend school during the week and return to their homes at the end of each school day.

To complete the application process, applicants must complete their admissions checklist in the parent portal that is located on our website. Completed applications will be reviewed after January 4th.

For more information about the admissions process, contact admissions@delahowe.sc.gov.





2021 SCACTE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our President, **Tim Keown**! Mr. Keown was recently awarded the 2021 Administrator of the Year from the **South Carolina Association for Career and Technical Education (SCACTE)**.

The purpose of this award is to recognize full-time career and technical administrators, program specialists, coordinators, and all other CTE personnel and staff who have recently provided significant contributions to professional associations and CATE programs for youth and/or adults in their fields, communities, and/or states. Recipients of this award must have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique, and novel programs; and/or improvement, promotion, research, or development of programs CATE.



CAMPUS TAILGATE

On September 24th, the JDLH School Culture Team hosted a Campus Tailgate for students and faculty/staff! Everyone was decked out in their favorite team's gear while enjoying lunch, music, games, and more!





MIDLANDS GEAR UP FILMING

The SC Governor's School for Agriculture had the opportunity to participate in filming with **Edge Factor** for **Midlands GEAR UP Project**. GEAR UP is sponsored by a federal grant that is committed to:

- the academic performance and preparation for post-secondary education of participating students,
- the rate of high school graduation and participation in post-secondary education of participating students, and educational expectations for participating students and
- increase student and family knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation, and financing.

The grant serves a cohort of 2000+ students from seven high schools: **Calhoun County High School, Clinton High School, Laurens 55 High School, Richland Northeast High School, Ridge View High School, Spring Valley High School, and Westwood High School.**

Edge Factor is a career exploration platform with thousands of videos, lesson plans, and interactive activities, used by schools across North America to help students and job-seekers get excited about their future and launch local training and career pathways. While on campus, they shot footage for a Virtual Workplace Experience, essentially a walk and talk tour that shows what it's like at JDLH, and a Career Profile, which showcases what a "day in the life" looks like of a specific job.



2022 SC JUNIOR MISS AGRICULTURE USA QUEEN

We'd like to congratulate a member of our Aggie Family, **Taylor Wright!** Taylor is the sister of our student, Allyson, and was recently named the **2022 South Carolina Junior Miss Agriculture USA Queen.**

Miss Agriculture USA is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on positively promoting agriculture featuring Queens of all ages that promote, celebrate, and educate about all the diverse aspects of agriculture.





MOA SIGNING CEREMONY WITH SC STATE 1890

Two South Carolina agencies joined together to train and prepare the next generation of leaders in agriculture. A memorandum of agreement was signed between **SC State University 1890 Research & Extension** and the **SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe** on Wednesday, September 22 on the SC Governor's School for Agriculture campus in McCormick, SC.

The agreement between the two agencies involves SC State procuring and installing a high wind tunnel for teaching year-round production and vertical farming towers on the Governor's School campus. Additionally, a summer immersion ag camp with an emphasis on STEM will be held on the campus. The camp will be made available to limited resources youth to participate. Extension agents from the Upstate, Piedmont, and Low Country SC State 1890 Extension regions will provide instruction.



“

"I am confident that the future of ag is right here at the SC Governor's School for Agriculture. These students already have an advantage by expressing an interest in agriculture at this premier institution. Through this partnership, we are helping to prepare these students for a promising career in agriculture by exposing them to potential opportunities not only through theory but through experiential hands-on learning."

-Dr. Louis Whitesides
Vice-President & Executive Director of SC State 1890 Research & Extension



AQUACULTURE

Our Aquaculture class did some pond assessment on one of the 5 ponds that we have on campus. Looks like we have some Fisheries biologists in the making!



AGGIE SPOTLIGHT

Brooke Grondski

Brooke Grondski is entering her 6th year as a member of the Rabbit Project in **Laurens County 4-H**. She was invited to be a judge for the **South Greenville Fair Rabbit Show** on September 18, 2021. She judged the breed class and there were about 15 to 20 rabbits to judge.



In addition, she donated her judging fee to her favorite non-profit rescue which she's been working with for four years, **Magnolia Fawn Rescue**. This non-profit works to rescue injured and orphaned fawns and then releases them back into the wild, if possible.



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Congratulations to Jason Connors (right) on his acceptance to **East Tennessee State University!**



Congratulations to William Huffman on his acceptance to the **College of Coastal Georgia!**

JEFF WILSON, CEO OF WCTEL

On September 16th, our students received a visit from **Jeff Wilson**, CEO of **West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.** He shared his life story and 10 skills that take require zero talent. Thank you so much for visiting our campus and speaking with our Aggies!





DOVE HUNT

The **South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation** hosted their annual Dove Hunt here on our campus! Our Aggies also had the opportunity to speak to some of the attendees including legislators, congressional staffers, and SCFB representatives, prior to the hunt.



AGGIE COLLECTION

Jennifer Brown

Students and faculty enjoy reading from our large selection of magazines available from the Aggie Collection!

The Aggie Collection exists because of the partnership with **McCormick County Library** made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** administered by the **South Carolina State Library**.





ENGLISH CLASSES

Dr. Stacy Platt

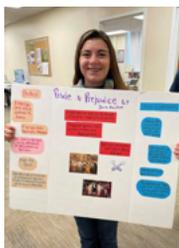
English 3 Honors: American Literature students started reading *the Crucible*. Students started their Body Biographies of different characters. This class also read nature poetry and did some landscaping with Mr. Mann's landscape and gardening class. **Mr. Mann's** horticulture students and my English students worked together to measure the property and identify plants and possible hazards in preparation for designing the yard and read nature poetry. Our guest instructor was **Mr. Brandon Platt**, a landscape designer working with **Wyatt Farms, LLC**.



English 4 Honors: British Literature students are reading and analyzing *the Canterbury Tales*. We have discussed women's roles and damsels in distress, the different classes of people and their roles, and the different characters in the tales, all during the medieval era. The students taught one another about various topics related to medieval Europe.

English 2 Honors: World Literature students completed *Wiesel's Night*. Students completed a One-Pager for review. We will read the *Secret Life of Bees* next and learn about bees and beekeeping.

English 101: Dual Enrollment students completed their novel, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. Students presented their historical background essays and projects. The topics of research ranged from medicine, landscape and gardens, dances with a dancing lesson, and teatime with tea and scones all during the 1700 and 1800s. We also completed novel timelines for review.





AKC HUNT TEST SEMINAR

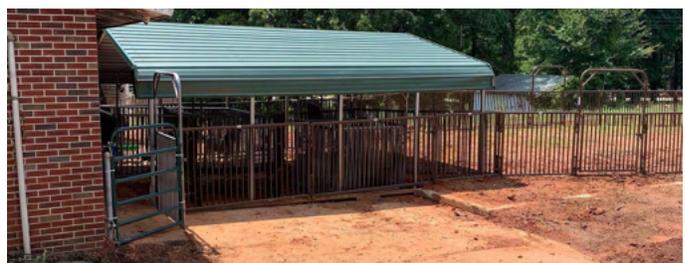
Hunter Morton

We hosted an AKC Hunt Test Seminar, featuring **Randy Hall**, on September 18th and 19th. Randy Hall is a Trainer, Handler, Hunting Guide, AKC Pointing Breed Hunt Test Judge, Certified Hunter Education Instructor, and NRA Certified Shooting Instructor. Participants went over topics such as Hunt Test Rules, Pointers Needed to be Successful, Being a Brace Mate, and more!



SHOW PIGS & GOATS

Our show pigs and goats were moved in September closer to the main part of our campus! Students now have easier access to work with their animals to prepare for upcoming livestock shows.





HYDROPONIC SYSTEM

Jennifer Brown

Students have begun their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) in the Library! The students assembled the hydroponic system, prepared the water and planted seeds.

The hydroponic system is thanks to a partnership with the **McCormick County Library** made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act Grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** administered by the **SC State Library**.



REAL WORLD & FLORICULTURE FIELD TRIP

Jennifer Brown & Kinsley Miller

On September 29th, our Real World class and Floriculture class visited **Moore Farms Botanical Garden** in Lake City, SC. What a spectacular place! So much to see and so much to learn. The green roof, living walls, and app-controlled greenhouses are just a few of the stops on the incredible tour.

We took students for a hike in **Congaree National Park** which contains the largest tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the southeastern United States. The forest canopy averages about 100 feet making it one of the tallest deciduous temperate forests in the world. The biodiversity and giant Loblolly pines are awe-inspiring!





The Education Center AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

Kinsley Miller

To kick the month of September off, the Education Center was invited to speak to the **Master Gardeners of the Foothills** at their headquarters in Clemson, SC. This group is comprised of certified master gardeners from Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson counties. Over 20 master gardeners and guests were in attendance. The group enjoyed a presentation on our School and the programs the Education Center has to offer!

On September 11th, **Abbeville Troop 62 Boy Scouts** began a project to clean up and repair one of the Education Center's primitive camping sites. This project has gone smoothly through September and the hard work of the troop is showing at the campsite!

On Tuesday, September 14th, the Education Center hosted the **McCormick County Livestock Association's** meeting on the Basics of Small Ruminant Management. The Livestock Association worked with Clemson Extension Livestock and Forages Agents Lindsey Craig and Reid Miller to provide this educational experience. The demonstration was held on campus at our new Livestock Show Barn!

The Education Center was proud to have **Laurens County Farm Bureau Women's Committee** visit on September 15th. This group enjoyed a tour of campus and our residence halls!

On September 28th, the Education Center had the pleasure of speaking to agriculture classes at **Piedmont Technical College on their Saluda Campus**. Thank you to instructor and longtime agriculture educator **Mr. Dan Henderson** for allowing us to speak about our school and career opportunities for college students and new professionals!





SOUTH GREENVILLE FAIR

Students participated in the **South Greenville Fair** in Simpsonville City Park on September 17th and 18th.

Congratulations to the following students on their placements!

Goat

- **Coralie Davis**, 2nd in Showmanship & 3rd in Market Class



Pocket Pet

- **Colette Alston**, 1st & Champion Senior Showman
- **Lacey Willis**, 2nd in Senior Showmanship & Reserve Champion Showman Overall



Rabbit

- **Alyssa Gillman**, 1st in Senior Showmanship & Grand Champion Senior Showman, 1st in Mini Rex for Breed
- **Jason Connors**, 2nd in Senior Showmanship & 1st in Lionhead
- **Val Vazquez**, 3rd in Senior Showmanship and 1st in Mini Lop
- **Harley Reeves**, 1st in Netherland Dwarf, Best of Breed, and Reserve Champion Best in Show





SOUTH GREENVILLE FAIR

Beef

- **Caroline Jordan**, 1st in Class & Grand Champion Continental (*Charolais heifer owned by Davis Farms*)
- **Kyle Gilreath**, 2nd in Senior Showmanship & 1st in Class and Reserve Champion in Continental (*Simmental heifer owned by Ryan Black*)
- **Jake Simpson**, 3rd in Senior Showmanship, 1st in Breed, & Reserve Champion Angus (*Angus heifer owned by Allison Harmon*)
- **Jaquez Perry**, 4th in Showmanship & 4th with Hereford (*Hereford heifer owned by LYN Farms*)
- **JC Chandler**, 6th in Senior Showman & 2nd with Gelbvieh Balancer (*Gelbvieh Balancer heifer owned by Caitlyn Griffin*)
- **Hadleigh Corcoran**, 7th in Senior Showmanship & 1st with Shorthorn (*Shorthorn heifer owned by Carolina Cattle Company*)



Dairy

- **Sierra Tinsley**, 2nd in Senior Showmanship & 1st in Jersey Breed Class
- **Lyle Fulmer**, 3rd in Senior Showmanship & 1st in Guernsey Breed Class





UPSTATE LIVESTOCK SHOW

Students participated in the **Upstate County Livestock Show** hosted by the **Union County Livestock Association** at the Union County Fairgrounds September 23rd-25th.

Congratulations to the following students on their placements!

Dairy

- **Sierra Tinsley**, 1st in Senior Showmanship & Grand Champion Overall Showman
- **Lyle Fulmer**, 3rd in Senior Showmanship & Grand Champion Guernsey



Beef

Students placed in the Top 10 out of three heats in Senior Showmanship

- **Kyle Gilreath**, Mike Scales Showman Award Belt Buckle
- **Caroline Jordan**, Reserve Grand Champion in All Other Breeds with her Charolais
- **Jake Simpson**, Reserve Grand Champion Angus





ANDERSON COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW

Beef

- **Jake Simpson**, \$500 Scholarship from the Anderson County Cattleman's Association
- **Hadleigh Corcoran**, Grand Champion Shorthorn

All of our students placed in the Top 10 in Senior Showmanship and placed 1st or 2nd in their breed.



Dairy

- **Sierra Tinsley**, 3rd in Senior Showmanship, Two 1st with her Holsteins, Grand Champion with her Jersey, and 1st and 2nd with her Brown Swiss
- **Lyle Fulmer**, 2nd in Senior Showmanship, 1st with his Guernsey





ANDERSON COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW

Swine

- **Trey Haddon**, Grand Champion Market Hog
- **Cordell Swygert**, Reserve Champion Market Hog



Goat

- **Kyleigh Banks-Adams**, 6th in Market & 3rd in Class



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe

September 2021

CAMPUS CALENDAR | OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Early Release Day	2 Burlap Wreath Workshop
3	4	5 LECALE Livestock Welfare Law Enforcement Training	6 Orangeburg Dairy Show	7 Orangeburg Beef Show	8 Laurens Beef Show Orangeburg Swine Show	9 Laurens Dairy Show
10	11 JDLH Fall Plant Sale	12	13 2nd Nine Weeks Begins	14	15 SC State Fair Dairy Cattle Show	16
17	18	19 FFA Day at the SC State Fair	20	21 SC State Fair Beef Cattle Show	22	23 SC State Fair Rabbit & Poultry Show
24 SC State Fair Goat Show JDLH Howe-Hoween Festival	25	26	27 Jostens Senior Order Deadline	28	29 Early Release Day	30
31						

SC Governor's School for Agriculture
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

HOWE- LOWEEN FESTIVAL

OCT
24
4:00 PM

SC Governor's School for Agriculture
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

FALL PLANT Sale

TUESDAY
OCTOBER
12
9AM - 4PM

SC Governor's School for Agriculture
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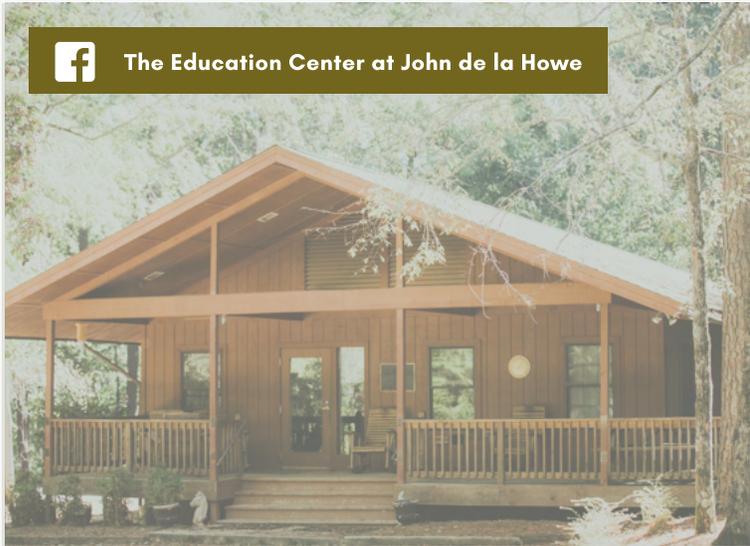
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The Education Center at John de la Howe



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South Carolina's Governor's
School for Agriculture Field
Trial Team