**Regional Food System Group Meeting Notes**
**Thursday, October 6, 2016**

- **Updates on successful local food initiatives in the Upstate:**
  - **Hub City Co-op,** Garland McQueen, General Manager: Hub City Co-op is the first cooperative grocery store in the Upstate. The co-op features many local food and artisan items and serves downtown Spartanburg.
  - **Uptown Market,** Stephanie Turner, Market Manager: The Uptown Market is a focal point of downtown Greenwood and features a covered pavilion and houses the farmer's market.
  - **Feed & Seed,** Mike McGirr, Founder: Feed & Seed is continuing to make partnerships in the Upstate to help increase access to local, healthy foods, as well as assisting producers in selling more product.
- **Attendees discussed several opportunities for improvement within the Upstate's local food system:**
  - The Upstate needs skilled food service labor. This is an opportunity for technical schools to offer a certificate program.
  - A new processing facility, Back 40 Butchery, will be opening in Abbeville County. In order to keep up with producers' demands, another processing facility is still needed in the Upstate.
  - The Upstate needs organic and USDA certified processing facilities.
- **Provide your input!** When should the group meet? What should we be focusing on? Tell me your thoughts by clicking here to participate in the group survey.

**Next Steps**

- **Take the survey.** Feel free to forward the survey and notes on to anyone you think might be interested in participating in future meetings.
- **Be looking for an email with the next meeting date and topic.** We'll work towards meeting again in early 2017.
- **Jason Ashley's farm, Johnson Creek Farms, will be hosting a field day in April 2017.** The day will include information on how the grow forage and what types of forage is grown for the grass fed animals. Jason will also be answering questions about the new processing facility being opened. Additional information about this event will be sent to you in early 2017.