South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner

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South Carolina Sweet Onions are now available

COLUMBIA, S.C. – South Carolina Sweet Onions are now available at local retailers around the state.

The sweet onions were introduced to the public in 2010 with farmers growing just 60 acres statewide. However, due to increased consumer interest over the last two years, this year South Carolina farmers have planted more acres with the sweet onions.

"We're seeing good repeat business with the sweet onions," said Sonny Dickinson, assistant director of marketing with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture in Columbia. "Those who have bought and tried these sweet onions have liked it."

Dickinson said as consumers are learning about, and loving, the South Carolina sweet onion they are incorporating them into recipes.

Sweet onions have a light golden-brown color and when cut open reveal a creamy white interior. They are perfect for cooking, baking or to garnish hamburgers and other dishes. Sweet onions are a winter crop, planted in the fall and harvested in the spring. Planting occurs from November 1 through December 31 and are harvested around mid-April to June. Currently the dried onions are now available to purchase at grocery stores throughout the state. Because of an interest from consumers buying these local onions, more grocery stores will offer both four and five pound bags of dried onions.

Customers who are interested in purchasing locally grown sweet onions can look for the Certified SC Grown logo wherever they shop for fresh produce. If you don't see them, ask your produce manager. Some of the stores carrying the onions include IGA, Piggly Wiggly, Food Lion, Wal-Mart and Ingles.

Since unveiling the Certified SC Grown campaign five years ago, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture has been working with farmers, consumers, retailers and others to encourage people to buy locally grown South Carolina produce and products. For more information on buying locally grown South Carolina goods, visit the South Carolina Department of Agriculture's website at agriculture.sc.gov and click on the Certified SC Grown logo and like us on Facebook.

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Contact:
Stephen Hudson, 803-734-0648
Becky Walton, 803-734-2182