

Foothills Agriculture Resource and Marketing Center

The FARM Center will be a way that we can support existing farms and encourage new agriculture entrepreneurs. We will focus on:

Education, Agricultural Economic Development, and Entertainment

The FARM center will consist of 6 major areas. It will be self-supporting and will require no regular county funds or employees. It will also be available for non-Agricultural events offering a wide range of possible activities for all of Oconee County and surrounding areas.



Permanent Fairgrounds Site

The FARM Center would be the permanent home to the SC Foothills Heritage Fair. The Fair has seen constant growth from 4,900 attending the first fair to over 11,500 attending last years' event. The fair has returned over \$40,000 back to the community over the past 6 years. The fairgrounds would be available for events such as car shows, festivals, or other groups needing an outdoor venue.



150' X 250' Foothills Market Building

The covered area of the building would house the Foothills Heritage Farmers market. It can accommodate up to 90 vendors. It would be available for groups to rent when not in use by the market.

The enclosed area of the Market building would be 100' X 150'. It would house a commercial kitchen allowing groups to cater meals for various events at the FARM Center. Possible uses include corporate meetings, receptions, trade shows, conferences and other events.



180' X 250' Covered Arena

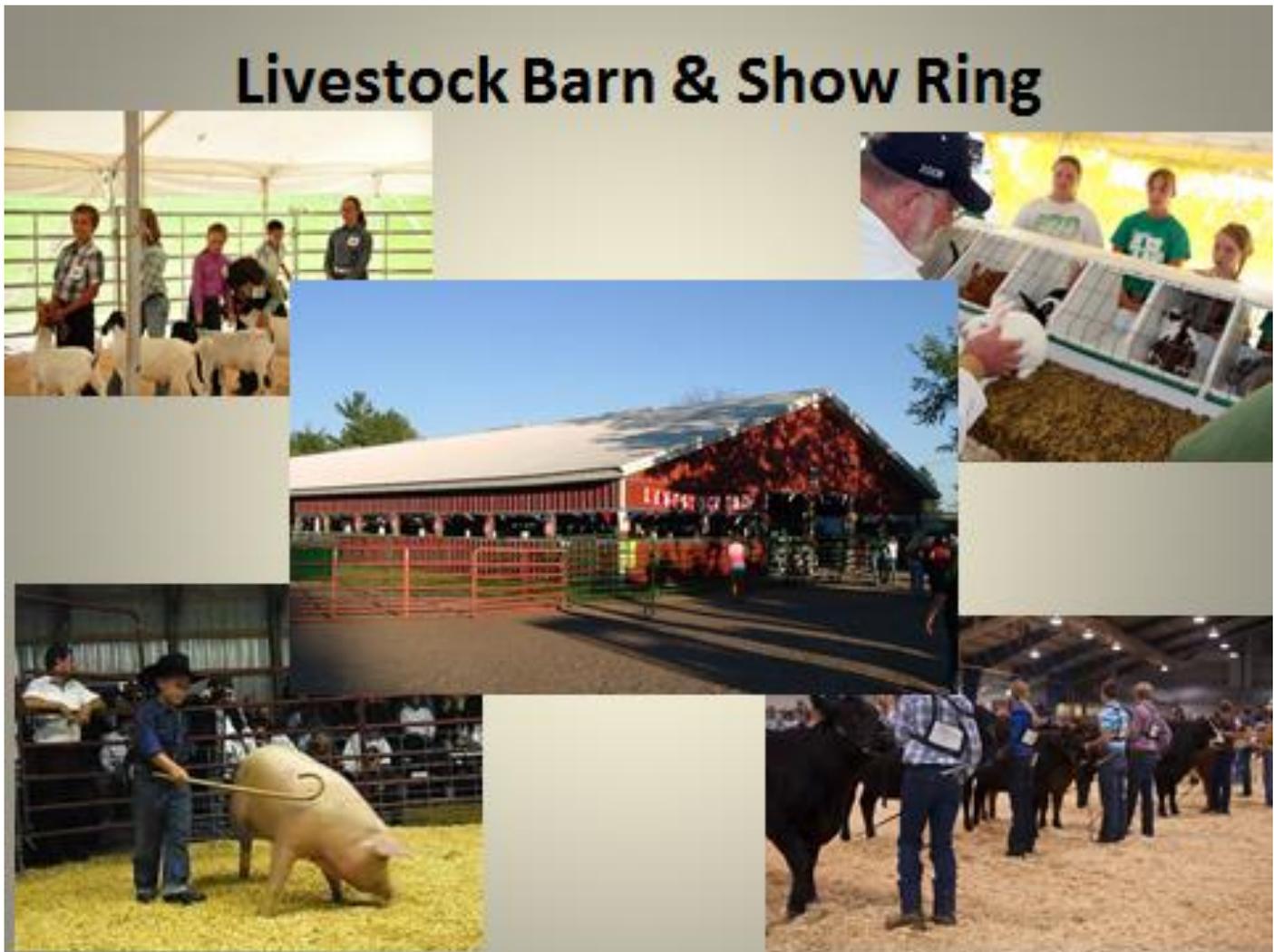
The arena would be able to host activities such as rodeos, horse shows, concerts, home and garden shows, motocross events, trade shows, festivals, graduations and countless other events. It would have permanent seating for 3000 guests with a total capacity for up to 6000 for events such as concerts. The arena would also be a great rainy day site for events occurring throughout the county.

Covered Arena



100' X 200' Livestock Barn & Show ring

The livestock barn would have an enclosed area on one end housing a show ring to be used for area youth to show animals. It would also be available for groups to use for auctions, educational clinics or demonstrations, and other events involving livestock.



50' X 75' Cold Storage Facility

The proposed cold storage facility would provide Oconee county producers a location to store products between markets. It would also give a one stop location for area restaurants to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables. Future plans include operating a refrigerated truck to deliver local products directly to the restaurants in the county and surrounding area.

Cold Storage



Incubator Farm

Incubator farms are a fairly new model developing across America to address barriers to beginning farmers, including access to land, capital, and credit, and opportunities to learn and develop skills in farm business planning. This allows new farmers a chance to work with a mentor as they learn about all the aspects of agriculture production. The number of incubator farms is increasing nationally.



The FARM Center will offer a variety of family friendly activities throughout the year. It will provide options for visitors to the county, encouraging them to stay longer. Offering additional markets for Agricultural products will result in growth of Agriculture production in the county, resulting in a positive economic impact for the entire county.