



Rusted Root will take part in Farm Aid Oct. 12 at the Williams-Brice Stadium. Members of the band include: (left to right) Michael Glabicki, John Buynak, Jenn Wertz, Patrick Norman, Liz Berlin, Jim Donovan and Jim Dispirito. Other performers who will participate in the benefit concert are Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp and Neil Young, Hootie and the Blowfish, Sun Volt, The Beach Boys, Martina McBride, Jewel and John Conlee. Tickets cost \$27, \$2 of which will go to USC's Koger Center for the Arts. They are available at Capital Tickets, Select-a-Seat, Ticketmaster or on the World Wide Web.

SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

# FARM AID

You've heard about it, now see just what Farm Aid has to offer once it comes to Columbia.

story by *Dipka Bhambhani,*  
asst. features editor

Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp and Neil Young will lead a caravan of well-known music entertainers to perform at Farm Aid on Oct. 12 at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Among the performers who will grace the stage include: Hootie and the Blowfish, Tim McGraw, Rusted Root and Son Volt, The Beach Boys, Martina McBride, Jewel and John Conlee.

Yoder said there may be other bands added to the program at the last minute.

"We are proud to hold Farm Aid '96 in Columbia, S.C., a region with a rich agriculture tradition and hard working men and women who struggle every day to make a living on the land," Nelson said in a press release.

The benefit concert, sponsored by the Farm Aid organization, is just one solution to the problem of dwindling family farms in the United States.

Nelson said a string of natural disasters this year has made it harder than ever for farmers to make a living from the land. The current drought in the Great Plains and Hurricane Bertha, which caused crop damage in the Carolinas, have hurt family farm income, according to a press release.

"Farm Aid is more than a concert," Associate Director of Farm Aid Glenda Yoder said. "It's an ongoing support for our family farmers."

During the summer, Nelson announced that The Nashville Network will telecast Farm Aid on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m. eastern standard time.

"A lot more people want to play than we can accommodate," she said. "We may have some surprise guests, though."

Last year's Farm Aid benefit was held in Kentucky, and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture was one of the special guests.

Yoder said last year a panel of farmers and food editors presented suggestions to the secretary for what we [community members] can do to help U.S. farmers.

USC students can buy tickets to Farm Aid and support the cause year-round.

"We help farmers develop a more sustainable egg," Yoder said. "We give them a general direction so farming can be environmentally friendly."

In the last 15 years, farming has taken a more industrial turn, which is costing the U.S. its family farms, and our health, according to Yoder.

"The industrial model is not a good way of growing our food," she said.

Farmers aren't getting a fair price for their goods. So, the United States is losing 500 farmers per week.

Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp and Neil Young founded Farm Aid in 1985 when benefits were the trend.

"Willie was aware of the farm crisis in the mid-'80s," Yoder said. "So, he organized it [Farm Aid] and called other musicians."

The rest is history. In the past 10 years, Farm Aid has distributed over \$12 million to programs that keep family farmers on the land. With the help of Columbia residents, Farm Aid can keep up with its success.

Tickets are on sale at Capital Tickets, Select-A-Seat, Ticketmaster and on the World-Wide Web for \$27 plus service charges, and a limited number of \$52 tickets are available.

\$2 of each ticket sold goes to USC's Koger Center for the Arts.

"We've been overwhelmed by the welcome that we have received from the city of Columbia and The University of South Carolina," executive producer of Farm Aid Carolyn Mugar said. "Farm Aid '96 promises to deliver one of the best, most diverse shows ever."

Additional information on Farm Aid can be found at <http://www.lycos.com>

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