



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Agriculture Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith Hosts Tour for EPA Officials

Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith hosted ten senior officials from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a tour of Mississippi's row crop and beekeeping industries September 16-19, 2014. During the tour, EPA officials had an opportunity to meet with farmers, beekeepers, and various stakeholder organizations, in addition to Mississippi State University scientists, to gain a better understanding of the state's diverse row crop and beekeeping industries. As part of the tour, EPA officials learned about common production practices, pest concerns, pesticide application techniques, and ongoing agricultural research projects taking place across the state. Another important aspect of the tour highlighted Mississippi's unique programs pertaining to pollinator protection and restoring pollinator habitat in agricultural settings. "It's an honor to bring EPA officials and stakeholder groups together to address important issues facing Mississippi agriculture while emphasizing successful on-going programs and initiatives." said Commissioner Hyde-Smith.

The following agricultural organizations contributing to the success of the educational tour were the Cotton Foundation, Delta Council, Delta Farm/Wildlife, Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association, Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association, Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council, Mississippi Beekeepers Association, Mississippi Boll Weevil Management Corporation, Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, and Mississippi State University.

For more information, please contact the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce-Bureau of Plant Industry at 1-888-257-1285 or (662) 325-3390.

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