



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

For October 9, 2014

Contact: Chaille Clements, Communications and Marketing Specialist
Phone: (601) 359-1140
E-mail: chaille@mdac.ms.gov

What: Mississippi Farm to School Week Celebration

Who: Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce & Mississippi Department of Education
Special Attendees: Commissioner of Agriculture Cindy Hyde-Smith; House Agriculture Committee Chairman Preston Sullivan; Senate Agriculture Committee Vice-Chairman Russell Jolly; Brandon Mayor Butch Lee; Mississippi Department of Education Chief Operations Officer Todd Ivey

When: Thursday, October 9, 2014

10:00 a.m. Farmers speak to classrooms

10:30 a.m. Farmers and dignitaries eat lunch with students in the cafeteria

Where: StoneBridge Elementary School
115 StoneBridge Boulevard, Brandon, MS

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and Mississippi Department of Education to Celebrate Farm to School Week at StoneBridge Elementary School

The first full week of October marks Mississippi Farm to School Week. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is collaborating with the Mississippi Department of Education to celebrate the third annual Mississippi Farm to School Week on Thursday, October 9, at StoneBridge Elementary School in Brandon, Mississippi. Students will have the opportunity to meet and dine with special guests including Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Preston Sullivan, Senate Agriculture Committee Vice-Chairman Russell Jolly, Brandon Mayor Butch Lee, Mississippi Department of Education Chief Operations Officer Todd Ivey, as well as Mississippi farmers participating in the Department of Defense (DoD) Farm to School Program who are responsible for growing some of the lunch menu items.

Through the DoD Farm to School Program, the Mississippi Department of Education and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce have made successful efforts over the past 12 years to increase the amount of Mississippi-grown fruits and vegetables served in lunchrooms across the State. This year alone, Mississippi schools ordered over \$1 million worth of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

The first full week of October was designated as Mississippi Farm to School Week by the Mississippi Legislature in 2012. Farm to School Week was introduced to encourage the serving of locally grown and locally raised agricultural products in school meals and to recognize the substantial economic and health benefits of farm to school programs. Farm to School Week will draw attention to the vast number of crops that are grown in the state as well as serve as an educational tool to teach children where their food comes from. For more information on Mississippi Farm to School Week or educational materials, please visit farmtoschoolweek.org.

Media is invited to attend. Please report to the main office upon arrival.

StoneBridge Elementary School, located at 115 StoneBridge Boulevard in Brandon, is situated off of Highway 18 past Brandon High School.

Directions to StoneBridge Elementary School – From Interstate 20, take the Puckett/Raleigh Highway 18 E exit, Exit 54. Merge onto Highway 18 E toward Greenfield Rd. Travel 5.2 miles. Turn right onto Stonebridge Blvd. The front entrance to the School will be your second left at the StoneBridge Elementary sign. Veer right to reach the visitors' parking area. Follow the covered walkway to the main entrance of the building which will be the second door on your right. The office is to the left as you walk in the doors.