



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau
CINDY HYDE-SMITH, COMMISSIONER
JEFF STEWART, DIRECTOR**

PRESS RELEASE

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Stolen Equipment Investigation in Holmes and Leake Counties Leads to Arrests

On October 21, 2014, the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB), the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, arrested three individuals for nine counts of grand larceny, in conjunction with the Holmes County Sheriff's Department. All three suspects surrendered to authorities at the Holmes County Sheriff's Department. MALTB investigators also arrested James Freeny in Leake County on five counts of receiving stolen property. Freeny was in possession of equipment which had been reported stolen in Holmes County.

During the course of the investigation, MALTB investigators discovered that suspects, Gavin Jones and brothers Terry and Terrance Wade, all from Lexington, had stolen numerous pieces of farm equipment from several victims in Holmes County. These thefts occurred over a period of several months.

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith commended the investigators for their hard work and dedication and would like to thank the Holmes County Sheriff's Department for assisting in this investigation. Jeff Stewart, Director of MALTB, says these suspects were responsible for a large number of equipment thefts in Holmes County. At this time, bond has not been set. Stewart urges everyone to always keep a watchful eye on their equipment and to keep it secured.

The Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau enforces laws to prevent the theft of livestock, timber, and agricultural products and investigates all agricultural crimes. The Bureau also handles the registration of all livestock brands in the State. To report or provide information regarding an agricultural crime, call (800) 678-2660.

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