



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2015

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What: Small Town Country Fair

When: Saturday, July 11; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Where: Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS**

Unplug and Rediscover Old-Fashioned Fun at the Ag Museum's Country Fair

The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum invites visitors to unplug and rediscover old-fashioned fun at the second annual Country Fair on July 11, 2015. The festivities will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. as Small Town, Miss., comes to life with this spectacular, Independence Day-themed celebration.

Visitors will enjoy activities for all ages including old-fashioned games, a watermelon seed spitting contest, live bluegrass music, a cupcake walk, train, carousel and wagon rides, in addition to a "Guess the Weight of the Market Steer" contest sponsored by the Mississippi Beef Council. There will be an opportunity to learn about farmstead living with quilting demonstrations and tours of the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead, while the Mississippi Egg Marketing Board will be on hand performing modern-day cooking demonstrations.

The Country Fair will also be home to the Biggest Watermelon Contest. Those who received a package of the Ag Museum's wildly amazing watermelon seeds, as well as those who have grown their own, are invited to enter for a chance to earn the grand prize of a Farm Family Membership Card, a \$75.00 value that holds benefits such as unlimited visits to the museum and access to special members-only programming and events. Participants may register their watermelon from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center on July 11.

Admission to the Small Town Country Fair is as follows: Adults: \$6 and Children (ages 3-18): \$4. The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson. For more information about the museum, call (601) 432-4500 or 1-800-844-8687, visit www.msagmuseum.org, or "like" the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Facebook.

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Photo and Cutline attached.



A watermelon seed spitting contest will be one of the many highlights of the second annual Small Town Country Fair. The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum's spectacular, Independence Day-themed celebration will take place on July 11 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Small Town, Miss., will come to life with Farmstead tours, activities and games, live bluegrass music and much more.