



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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What: Harvest Festival
Where: Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS
When: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; November 11-14, 2015

Small Town Comes to Life at Harvest Festival

Join the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Lakeland Drive in Jackson for a memorable experience at the annual Harvest Festival. Small Town, Miss., comes to life November 11-14 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. with live demonstrations throughout the museum grounds that give visitors a glimpse of Mississippi's past and show the impact agriculture has made on our lives.

Demonstrations include the operation of America's oldest functioning cotton gin with cotton donated by Gaddis Farms in Bolton. Sawmill demonstrations will be performed with logs donated by Terry Wood Yard in Terry. There will also be demonstrations of the cane mill and blacksmith shop. Complimentary biscuits will be given to everyone participating in the festivities. Visitors will enjoy 1920's era music on the front porch of the Lodge and traditional melodies of shape note singers in the Church.

The exhibits inside the Heritage Center gallery give visitors the opportunity to see how agriculture has changed throughout the years from the methods and equipment used in farming with horses and mules to the invention of tractors. Visitors can discover the role that agriculture aviation has played in the agriculture industry at the National Agricultural Aviation Museum housed inside of the Heritage Center. The model train exhibit, featuring three gauges of model trains depicting life along the rails in Mississippi, is also a must see.

Train, carousel and hay rides will be available each day for \$1 per rider. Stop by the General Store for snacks and souvenirs. Admission is as follows: Adults: \$6 and Children (ages 3-18): \$4.

The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson, is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, 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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Cutline and photo attached



Students stand in line to see a demonstration of the oldest operating cotton gin in America during Harvest Fest at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. Small Town, Mississippi, will once again be brought to life during Harvest Fest taking place November 11-14. The event features demonstrations of a working cotton gin, saw mill, cane mill and blacksmith shop.