



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
COMMISSIONER

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Mississippi Farmers Market and Galloway United Methodist Church Children's Center Celebrate National Ag Day**

Tuesday, March 15, marked National Ag Day, an annual celebration set to recognize, celebrate and educate consumers of the abundance provided by American agriculture. For the occasion, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) hosted preschoolers from Galloway United Methodist Church Children's Center at a National Ag Day celebration held at the Mississippi Farmers Market.

“We celebrate National Ag Day in order to recognize the contributions of our farmers who feed and clothe the world. We are proud to have shared the day with Galloway’s preschoolers, who may be our next generation’s leaders in agriculture,” said Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The group of 4- and 5-year-olds was treated to a hands-on learning experience as they dug into the Mississippi Farmers Market’s garden. They planted an abundance of spring fruits and vegetables donated by Bonnie Plants with the assistance of the staff from MDAC. Each child also planted their own seed to take home and learn how it will transition into delicious and healthy food. “The early years of life are an important time to introduce new foods, new varieties and new flavors to children. If they learn to eat healthy now, they will typically continue the habit of eating healthy as they grow,” said Sharon Patterson, director of Galloway United Methodist Church Children's Center. “I think it is important to have fresh food to grow strong bodies,” she continued.

National Ag Day is annually celebrated on a national level as well as in communities and schools throughout the country. A number of producers, agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations involved in agriculture join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture. These events mark a nationwide effort to tell the true story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us.

The Mississippi Farmers Market, located at 929 High Street adjacent to the Fairgrounds, is a division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. For more information about the market, call (601) 354-6573, download the Mississippi Farmers Market mobile app on your Apple or Android device, visit [www.msfarmersmarket.com](http://www.msfarmersmarket.com), or “like” the Mississippi Farmers Market on Facebook.

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**Preschoolers from Galloway United Methodist Church Children's Center celebrated National Ag Day at the Mississippi Farmers Market on March 15. With assistance from staff of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, they planted the market's garden with an abundance of spring fruits and vegetables while learning how the seeds transition into delicious and healthy food. National Ag Day is an annual celebration set to recognize, celebrate and educate the public of the abundance provided by American agriculture.**