



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE
Cindy Hyde-Smith, Commissioner



MEDIA ADVISORY

For October 4, 2016

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What: Mississippi Farm to School Week Celebration

Who: Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC), Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) & Highland Bluff Elementary School
Special Attendees: Commissioner of Agriculture Cindy Hyde-Smith, RCSD Superintendent Dr. Sue Townsend, MDE Chief Operations Officer Todd Ivey, MDE Director of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools Scott Clements

When: Tuesday, October 4, 2016

10:00 a.m. Farmers speak to classrooms

10:45 a.m. Farmers and dignitaries eat lunch with students in the cafeteria

Where: Highland Bluff Elementary School
5970 Highway 25, Brandon, MS 39047

Highland Bluff Elementary School Celebrates Farm to School Week with MDAC and MDE

The first full week of October marks Mississippi Farm to School Week. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) are collaborating with the Rankin County School District to celebrate Mississippi Farm to School Week on Tuesday, October 4, at Highland Bluff 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, Rankin County School District Superintendent Dr. Sue Townsend, MDE Chief Operations Officer Todd Ivey, MDE Director of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools Scott Clements, as well as Mississippi farmers participating in the Department of Defense (DoD) Farm to School Program who grew some of the featured 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 14 years to increase the amount of Mississippi-grown fruits and vegetables served in lunchrooms across the state. This program offers schools 17 varieties of

Mississippi-grown fruits and vegetables including butterbeans, southern peas, sweet potatoes, yellow squash, butternut squash, zucchini, turnip greens, collard greens, cantaloupes, watermelons, cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, green beans, corn cobbettes, cucumbers, blueberries and broccoli crowns.

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 draws attention to the vast number of crops that are grown in the state and serves 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.

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

Highland Bluff Elementary School is located 5970 Highway 25 in Brandon.