



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM
CINDY HYDE-SMITH, COMMISSIONER**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 7, 2016

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What: Harvest Festival

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

When: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm; November 10-12 & 16-18, 2016

Small Town, Mississippi, 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. With two weeks and two ways to tour, you're sure to have a great time! November 10-12 will be Industrial Demonstrations Week, and November 16-18 will be Living History Week. Small Town, Miss., comes to life from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. each day 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.

Industrial Demonstrations Week will focus on the Museum's larger mechanized artifacts and areas, such as demonstrations at the Bisland Cotton Gin, the oldest functioning cotton gin in America. There will be demonstrations at the sawmill as well as an antique tractor display and a hit and miss engine demonstration.

Living History Week will concentrate on "man-powered" demonstrations throughout Small Town and the Farmstead. Stop by the blacksmith shop, print shop and the cane mill for a visit with our interpreters and demonstrators in period clothing, and make sure to see the farm animals that will be on display.

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.

Complimentary biscuits and syrup will be offered each day (while supplies last). 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. Groups of 10 or more must make a reservation. Reservations can be made by phoning 601-432-4500 or emailing MSAGMUSEUM@mdac.ms.gov.

The 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 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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Picture and cutline attached.



Students ask questions during a blacksmithing demonstration during Harvest Fest at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. Small Town, Mississippi, will once again be brought to life during the upcoming Harvest Fest taking place November 10-12 & 16-18 from 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. The event will feature demonstrations of a working cotton gin, saw mill, cane mill and blacksmith shop.