



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

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COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

For March 16, 2017

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MS Ag Museum Hosts Ribbon Cutting for Renovated Small Town Sawmill

- WHAT:** The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum will host a ribbon cutting for the new amenities added to the Small Town Sawmill exhibit and provide a live demonstration of the sawmill operating.
- WHEN:** Thursday, March 16 at 10 a.m.
- WHERE:** Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39216
- WHY:** The renovated Small Town Sawmill exhibit will educate the public on the importance of the forestry industry to the state's agricultural economy and will give visitors a better understanding of the forestry practices in Mississippi's early years. The ribbon cutting will allow the public to celebrate the preservation of this state artifact and recognize those who made the exhibit's new amenities possible.
- BACKGROUND:** The new features added to the Small Town Sawmill, including an observation deck and educational signage which tells the story of the forestry industry, were made possible through contributions from the Mississippi Forestry Association and Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Foundation. The sawmill, originally donated by Howard Berry, was moved to the museum from Jefferson Davis County in 1986. The sawmill uses a circular saw with replaceable teeth and is run by a diesel motor. Taylor & Jeanes, Inc. restored and repaired the sawmill to working condition the same year it was donated.
- The Small Town Sawmill ribbon cutting for the new amenities will coincide with Spring Farm Days — a special event hosted by the museum March 15 through 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests will step back in time to learn about farmstead life and gardening through live demonstrations throughout the three day event. For up-to-date information on the museum, its progress or events, “like” the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum on Facebook, visit msagmuseum.org or call 601-432-4500.

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