



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
COMMISSIONER

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Commissioner Hyde-Smith Announces Ledlow As New Director of Bureau of Plant Industry**

**JACKSON, Miss.** — Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith announced Michael Ledlow as the new director of the Bureau of Plant Industry for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) effective immediately. Ledlow, a graduate of Mississippi State University, has dedicated his career to serving Mississippi agriculture. He has a 28-year career with MDAC, where he has most recently served as the state entomologist since 2015.

As the director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Ledlow will oversee the BPI team who administers state and federal laws, regulations and programs that deal with plant pests, pesticides, honeybees, plants, professional plant and pest control services, animal feeds, seed, fertilizer, lime and amendments to soils and plants. He will also be instrumental in maintaining cooperative agreements with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture and other state and federal agencies.

“I am thrilled to announce Michael’s promotion and am confident he will serve the agriculture industry well,” she said. “He knows the needs of the agriculture community, and he understands the importance of having sound, science-based regulatory policy in place.”

The Bureau of Plant Industry is a regulatory and service division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. It was established under the Mississippi Plant Act to protect the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state from harmful insects, diseases and weeds.

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