



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Commissioner Hyde-Smith Joins President Trump In Recognizing National Farm Safety And Health Week

JACKSON, Miss. — Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith joins President Donald Trump in recognizing hard-working American farmers, ranchers and foresters by proclaiming the week of September 17-23 as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

National Farm Safety and Health week serves as a time to bring awareness to the safety and health risks involved with farming, while recognizing the contributions that farmers, ranchers and foresters make to the state, Hyde-Smith said.

“Our farmers, ranchers, foresters and their families perform a vital role in our state by providing us with the food, fiber and fuel we need to survive,” she said. “It is imperative that we take the time to raise awareness about farm safety and health, and honor all that they do for our state and local communities.”

Farmers, ranchers and foresters incorporate physically and mentally demanding and potentially dangerous tasks into their jobs daily. These tasks often involve long hours and are performed in high-risk settings. According to the United States Department of Labor, agriculture has the highest fatality rate of any industry sector in America and reported 570 fatalities in 2015. These fatalities frequently result from transportation accidents and the dangers of working with heavy machinery. Tractor overturns are the leading cause of fatal injuries on U.S. farms, resulting in an average of 130 deaths each year, according to the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health.

We must all be mindful of the risks taken to get food from the farm to our plate and strive to promote safety first, Hyde-Smith said.

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