



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



# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For October 3, 2017**

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**What: Mississippi Farm to School Week Celebration**

**Who: Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC), Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and Highland Bluff Elementary School**  
**Special Attendees: Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith, USDA Office of Community Food Systems National Director Erin Healy, RCSD Superintendent Dr. Sue Townsend, MDE Chief of Operations Dr. Felicia Gavin, MDE Director of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools Scott Clements**

**When: Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

**9:30 a.m. Farmers speak to classrooms**

**11:00 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 3, at Highland Bluff Elementary School in Brandon, Mississippi. Special guests, including Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith, USDA Office of Community Food Systems National Director Erin Healy, Rankin County School District Superintendent Dr. Sue Townsend, MDE Chief of Operations Dr. Felicia Gavin, MDE Director of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools Scott Clements, in addition to several Mississippi farmers who grew some of the featured lunch menu items, will have the privilege of eating lunch with the students.

Over the last 15 years, the Mississippi Department of Education and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce have made successful efforts to increase the amount of Mississippi-grown fruits and vegetables served in cafeterias across the state through the Department of Defense (DoD) Farm to School Program. The program offers schools 15 varieties of Mississippi-grown fruits and vegetables, including butterbeans, southern peas, sweet potatoes, yellow squash, butternut squash, zucchini, turnip greens, collard greens, cantaloupes, watermelons, 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 schools in an effort to encourage them to serve locally-grown and locally-raised agricultural products in their 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 Mississippi and serves as an educational tool to teach children where their food comes from beyond the grocery store. For more information on Mississippi Farm to School Week or educational materials, visit [farmtoschoolweek.org](http://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 at 5970 Highway 25 in Brandon.**