



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Stolen Equipment Investigation Leads to Recovery by MS Department of Agriculture

Jackson, Miss. - The Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB), the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, initiated an investigation in early February 2018 that recently resulted in the recovery of stolen equipment.

Lead investigator Keith Settlemires and investigator George Brown recovered stolen equipment including a tractor and a utility trailer. The recovered tractor was reported stolen in Alcorn County in February 2018. Investigators Settlemires and Brown worked relentlessly following leads that led to the recovery of the tractor in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on July 30, 2018. Also recovered was a utility trailer that was reported stolen in Tennessee. The tractor and trailer have been returned to the owners. MALTB Director, Dean Barnard, praised the investigators for their hard work and dedication.

Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson applauds the efforts of the MALTB investigators, "I am proud of the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau for their recovery efforts in this case. I encourage anyone that becomes a victim of an ag-related theft or agricultural crime to call and report these crimes to our office so that our investigators can begin working these cases and apprehend these criminals before they commit other crimes."

The Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau enforces state laws pertaining to the theft of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, fish, farm equipment, chemicals, timber and all other farm or agriculture-related crimes. To report or provide information regarding an agricultural crime, call (800) 678-2660.

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Photo and cutline attached.



An investigation by the Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau, the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, led to the recovery of this stolen Kubota 4-wheel drive tractor with front end loader and utility trailer.