



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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March 14 Proclaimed as Agriculture Day in State of Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. - Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson was joined by Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President Mike McCormick, Mississippi Senate Agriculture Chairman Billy Hudson and Mississippi House of Representatives Agriculture Chairman Bill Pigott as Governor Phil Bryant signed a proclamation declaring March 14, 2019, as Agriculture Day in the State of Mississippi.

“I appreciate Governor Bryant recognizing the importance of agriculture to our state and encouraging our citizens to also recognize the value of agriculture,” said Commissioner Gipson. “Agriculture is the largest industry in Mississippi, contributing nearly \$8 billion to the economy annually in farm-gate value of the commodities produced on our 35,200 farms. Farmers and ranchers face many uncertainties and challenges as they work long, hard hours to supply the world with an abundant, safe and affordable food supply.”

This designation of March 14 as Agriculture Day in Mississippi coincides with National Agriculture Day. National Ag Day was started in 1973 by the Agriculture Council of America as an effort to encourage every American to understand how food and fiber products are produced, to appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products, to value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy, and to acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

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Picture and cutline attached.



Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson was joined by Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President Mike McCormick, Mississippi Senate Agriculture Chairman Billy Hudson, and Mississippi House of Representatives Agriculture Chairman Bill Pigott as Governor Phil Bryant signed a proclamation proclaiming March 14, 2019, as Agriculture Day in the State of Mississippi to coincide with National Ag Day.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, farmers battle uncertain weather, fluctuating market prices, and many other challenges to help supply the world with an abundant, safe, and affordable food supply, along with countless other agricultural products that we use in our everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, the American farmer is a true conservationist, taking care of the land and all that nature has provided in order to provide for others; and

WHEREAS, agriculture, the backbone of Mississippi's economy, is the state's largest industry, contributing nearly \$8 billion to the economy annually in farm-gate value of commodities produced; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is home to more than 35,000 farms covering 10.7 million acres; and

WHEREAS, agriculture employs approximately 29% of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is the Number One producer nationally of farm-raised catfish and a Top 10 producer of pulpwood, sweet potatoes, cotton, broilers, rice, peanuts, and blueberries; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is to promote the state's agricultural industry while enforcing laws governing the various agricultural sectors and providing services to consumers and agribusinesses; and

WHEREAS, 2019 marks the 46th anniversary of National Agriculture Day, an effort to encourage every American to understand how food and fiber products are produced; to appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant, and affordable products; to value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy; and to acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, and fiber industry:

NOW, THEREFORE, I Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim March 14, 2019, as

AGRICULTURE DAY

in the State of Mississippi and encourage our citizens to recognize the value of agriculture to this great state.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, on the 11th day of March in the year of our Lord, two thousand nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-third.

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR