



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
MISSISSIPPI LAND, WATER, AND TIMBER RESOURCES BOARD**

PRESS RELEASE

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Nature's Gourmet Farm Expanding to Become USDA Approved Facility

JACKSON, Miss. – Nature's Gourmet Farm was recently awarded funding to upgrade and expand its on-farm poultry processing facility located in Petal through the Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Program. The facility expansion is being built to comply with USDA specifications.

"I am proud that this program is investing in our small farmers. Through the development of this one-of-a-kind value-added processing facility, more consumers will be able to purchase Nature's Gourmet Farm's locally pasture-raised poultry. Additionally, as a USDA approved facility, Nature's Gourmet Farm will expand its market opportunities nationwide for poultry processed right here on the farm in Mississippi," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson, who also serves as co-chairman of the Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Board.

Nature's Gourmet Farm, located in Perry County, began operating in 2010 to provide grass-fed beef to local customers and diversified in 2012 with the addition of pastured poultry. The investment in the poultry operation will allow Nature's Gourmet Farm to not only increase its capacity to process poultry; it will provide the farm the opportunity to enter into new markets such as retail stores and restaurants all over the country.

"Agriculture is Mississippi's largest industry, so the Mississippi Development Authority is pleased to partner with Commissioner Andy Gipson and our Department of Agriculture and Commerce to support new private capital investment," said Glenn McCullough, Jr., Executive Director of MDA and co-chairman of the Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Board. "This investment will create additional new jobs in the poultry sector while growing Mississippi's economy."

The Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Program is a finance program developed to stimulate growth of the Mississippi agricultural industry by assisting the industry in the development, marketing, manufacture, production and distribution of agricultural products.

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