



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

For June 17, 2019

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What: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Exhibit Barn and Maintenance Shop

Who: Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson

When: Friday, June 21, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

**Where: Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS**

Mississippi Ag and Forestry Museum to Cut Ribbon on New Exhibit Barn

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson invites the public to join him in cutting the ribbon to the new exhibit barn and maintenance shop at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Friday, June 21, at 10:00 a.m.

“I want to invite the public to join us at this exciting time at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum as we cut the ribbon to the new exhibit barn and maintenance shop. The exhibit barn allows us to display additional antique farm tractors and equipment that we have not been able to display over the past several years. This exhibit will enhance our visitors’ experience and will increase their knowledge of how mechanization in farming has progressed over time,” said Commissioner Andy Gipson. “This represents the completion of the first of several projects to further agriculture education on the grounds of the Museum.”

The construction of the exhibit barn and maintenance shop is part of the rebuilding efforts to replace buildings lost during a devastating fire on the Museum grounds in November 2014. The exhibit barn, which has over 5,000 square feet of heavy timber construction exhibit space, will feature 10 antique tractors and 15 pieces of historical farm equipment. The 4,000 square foot maintenance shop consists of three bays and provides space for woodworking restorations, automotive repair and restorations, and landscaping needs.

It is anticipated the Children’s Barn will be completed this fall and will at that time be home to many farm animals returning to the Museum. These rebuilding efforts are funded through insurance claim funds from the fire in 2014. The exhibit barn and maintenance shop were designed by Wier Boerner Allin Architecture. The general contractor is Paul Jackson and Son Construction Company. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, visitors will have the opportunity to tour the two new buildings.

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Note to Media – Commissioner Gipson will be available for interviews. The ribbon cutting will take place inside of the exhibit barn. Enter the Museum through the main entrance on Lakeland Drive, and parking will be behind the Heritage Exhibit Center. A map is attached for your convenience.

THE MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM

1150 Lakeland Drive Jackson, MS 39216
601-432-4500 | www.msagmuseum.org

Enter through the Main Gate
at Lakeland Drive.

Parking will be located behind
the Heritage Center.

