



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

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**For June 21, 2019**

**Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations  
Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce  
Phone: (601) 359-1163  
E-mail: [paige@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:paige@mdac.ms.gov)**

## **Ag Commissioner Cuts Ribbon on New Exhibit Barn at Ag Museum**

**JACKSON, Miss.** - Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson cut the ribbon to the new exhibit barn and maintenance shop at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum today.

“This is an exciting time at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum as we have the opportunity to open the new exhibit barn to the public. This represents the completion of the first of several projects to further agriculture education on the grounds of the Museum, and we are looking forward to the completion the Children’s Barn, which we anticipate to be completed this fall,” said Commissioner Andy Gipson.

The exhibit barn, which has over 5,000 square feet of heavy timber construction exhibit space, features 10 antique tractors and 15 pieces of historical farm equipment. The exhibits inside the barn today depict for visitors how mechanization of agriculture has progressed over the years. The 4,000 square foot maintenance shop consists of three bays and provides space for woodworking restorations, automotive repair and restorations, and landscaping needs.

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 \$1.3 million rebuilding project is funded through insurance claim funds. The exhibit barn and maintenance shop were designed by Wier Boerner Allin Architecture. The general contractor is Paul Jackson and Son Construction Company.

Construction on the Children’s Barn has begun and is scheduled to be completed this fall, weather permitting. The Children’s Barn will be home to many farm animals returning to the Museum.

###

**Photo Attached.**



**Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson (center) was joined by community leaders and museum staff to cut the ribbon at the new exhibit barn at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. The 5,000 square foot exhibit barn features 10 antique tractors and 15 pieces of historical farm equipment.**