



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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

Commissioner Gipson Hosts Genuine MS Podcast Featuring Guests from Flora, Lena, Jackson, Madison, Poplarville

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson continues promoting local farmers and entrepreneurs through the Genuine MS podcast series.

The farm-to-table themed episode *Let's Eat Local* highlights Mississippi's award-winning chef Derek Emerson and farmers Jody Reyer of Reyer Farms in Lena, Leigh Bailey of Salad Days in Flora, and Van Killen of Two Dog Farms in Flora, all of whom provide fresh meat and produce to Emerson's restaurants. Emerson is the owner of four restaurants in the Jackson metro area, Walker's Drive-In, CAET Seafood Oysterette, Local 463, and Parlor Market.

Commissioner Gipson explores the state's beekeeping industry and Mississippi wildflowers during the *Beauty and the Bees* episode. He talks with Sarah Kountouris of Madison with Keep Mississippi Beautiful about the Wildflower Trail of Mississippi program. Guests Dr. Jeff Harris with Mississippi State University's Extension Service and Leilani Rosenbaum of Shroomdom and MisBEEhaving Bees from Poplarville talk about raising honey bees and all the sweet Genuine MS products they make possible.

"I encourage everyone to take a few moments to listen to these podcasts. As you hear the stories of these hardworking producers and entrepreneurs, you will begin to have a new appreciation for what they do on a daily basis to provide food for our families," said Gipson.

These, along with additional episodes of the podcast can be conveniently accessed on the Genuine MS website (GenuineMS.com/podcast), Stitcher, Spotify, and SoundCloud. Subsequent episodes will be released throughout the summer.

Genuine MS was developed by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to identify and promote products proudly created or produced by Mississippi farmers, artisans, entrepreneurs, and manufacturers. The purpose of the Genuine MS program is to increase public awareness of Mississippi's farm, food, crafted, and fabricated products by branding them as Genuine MS.

For more information about Genuine MS products, its members, or becoming a member, visit GenuineMS.com or contact the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Market Development Division at (601) 359-1159 or Info@GenuineMS.com. Follow Genuine MS on Facebook and Instagram at @GenuineMississippi or on Twitter at @GenMississippi for the latest updates.

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Photos attached.



Local farmers (left to right) Jody Reyer of Reyer Farms in Lena, Van Killen of Two Dog Farms in Flora, and Leigh Bailey of Salad Days in Flora join Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson to discuss farm-to-table in the *Let's Eat Local* episode of the Genuine MS podcast series.



Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson explores the state's beekeeping industry and Mississippi wildflowers during the *Beauty and the Bees* episode on the Genuine MS podcast. Guests included (left to right) Leilani Rosenbaum of Shroomdom and MisBEEhaving Bees from Poplarville, Dr. Jeff Harris with Mississippi State University's Extension Service, and Sarah Kountouris with Keep Mississippi Beautiful from Madison.