



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Taiwan Delegation Signs Letters of Intent to Purchase Mississippi Crops

JACKSON, Miss. — The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Office of Governor Phil Bryant, the Mississippi Development Authority, and the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation hosted a trade delegation from Taiwan which resulted in letters of intent being signed for the purchase of Mississippi agricultural commodities.

For the first time, the State of Mississippi was selected to participate in Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission, a procurement mission which has resulted in strengthened relations between Taiwan and the United States. During today's visit to Mississippi, the Taiwan Vegetable Oil Manufacturers Association signed a letter of intent for the purchase of soybeans from Mississippi. A second letter of intent was signed by the Taiwan Feed Industry Association to purchase Mississippi corn. Commissioner Gipson signed the letters on behalf of the State of Mississippi which note Taiwan's desire to purchase between 2020 and 2021 about 96 million bushels of soybeans at a value estimated to be \$1.1 billion and 197 million bushels of corn estimated to be about \$1.1 billion. The soybeans and corn will be purchased from farmers in Mississippi, Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska. Each state participated in Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission. The total amount will be divided between the states based on negotiations of producers and buyers.

"I am very pleased with the outcome of today's meeting. This is a culmination of months of collaborative work between the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Office of Governor Bryant, the Mississippi Development Authority, and the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. I am delighted with the results," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. "These efforts will create new markets for Mississippi's soybean and corn farmers and will potentially create new trade opportunities for other agriculture commodities as well."

"For the first time, Taiwan's Goodwill Procurement Trade Delegation has chosen to do business with Mississippi," said Governor Phil Bryant. "This partnership will benefit our Mississippi soybean and corn farmers and reaffirms our commitment to collaborate and strengthen our respective agriculture industries. Our efforts to put Mississippi on the world stage are hard at work."

More than one-quarter of Taiwan's total agricultural imports come from the U.S. In 2018, Taiwan was the seventh largest market for U.S. soybeans and fifth largest market for U.S. corn. An expanded trade

relationship with Taiwan will provide new markets for Mississippi's agricultural commodities, benefitting the state's largest industry.

"We appreciate the Taiwan officials and industry representatives who traveled to Mississippi to learn more about our agriculture industry," Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President Mike McCormick said. "The U.S. has formed a strategic alliance with Taiwan and their trip was aimed at enhancing that trade relationship. We commend Governor Bryant and Commissioner Gipson for their hard work in making this dialogue possible."

The delegation of Taiwan government officials and agriculture industry representatives was a follow-up from a recent trip to Taiwan taken by Governor Bryant and Commissioner Gipson, where they met with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen to promote Mississippi agricultural commodities.

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Photos attached.



Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson was joined Governor Phil Bryant in signing a letter of intent with members of a Taiwan delegation, including the Taiwan Vegetable Oil Manufacturers Association and the Taiwan Feed Industry Association for the purchase of Mississippi corn and soybeans as part of Taiwan’s Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission.



Governor Phil Bryant, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson, and Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President Mike McCormick met with a Taiwan delegation as part of Taiwan’s Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission. During the meeting, the Taiwan Vegetable Oil Manufacturers Association and the Taiwan Feed Industry Association signed letters of intent to purchase of Mississippi corn and soybeans.