



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Contact:

Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
601-359-1163
paige@mdac.ms.gov

Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Contact:

Justin Nipper, Marketing and Events Specialist
601-432-4508
justin@mdac.ms.gov

Commissioner Gipson Cuts Ribbon on New Children’s Barnyard and Multipurpose Building at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum

JACKSON, Miss. — Today, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson cut the ribbon to the new Children’s Barnyard and Multipurpose Building at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.

“This has been a long, awaited day. The cutting of the ribbon not only marks the completion of our rebuilding efforts since the devastating fire in 2014; it marks a new beginning for the Ag Museum,” said Commissioner Gipson. “The Children’s Barnyard enhances our visitors’ experience and provides an opportunity to learn more about the importance of agriculture. For some visitors, their trip to the Ag Museum may be the closest that they have been to being on a working farm.”

The Children’s Barn, which is approximately 2,500 square feet, features 10 stalls, a turnout area, chicken coop, hay loft, tack room and veterinary medicine exhibit. The facility also houses a variety of farm animals such as rabbits, chickens, goats, sheep, cows, mules, pigs and the famous rodeo horse, Gunsmoke.

The Multipurpose Building is connected to the Children’s Barnyard by a covered walkway and allows visitors the opportunity to rent out the quaint venue for class school trips, meetings, birthday parties and other private events.

Construction of the Children’s Barnyard and Multipurpose Building was part of the rebuilding efforts to replace buildings lost during a devastating fire on the Museum grounds in November 2014. The \$1 million rebuilding project is funded through insurance claim funds. The Children’s Barnyard and Multipurpose Building were designed by Wier Boerner Allin Architecture. The general contractor was Paul Jackson and Son Construction Company.

The Museum, located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson, is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information about the Museum, call 601.432.4500 or 1.800.844.8687, visit www.msagmuseum.org, or “Like” the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Facebook.

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Photo and cutline attached.



Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson (center) and Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Director Hayes Patrick (left of Commissioner) were joined by community leaders and museum staff to cut the ribbon at the new Children’s Barnyard and Multipurpose Building at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. The Children’s Barn, which houses a variety of farm animals, features 10 stalls, a turnout area, chicken coop, hay loft, tack room, and veterinary medicine exhibit.