

News Release

For Immediate Release

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SPELL TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW MDAC EQUIPMENT

It's going to be harder than ever for operators to violate laws that fall under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). Commissioner Lester Spell held a news conference Tuesday to announce that the Weights & Measures Division of MDAC has received the largest order of new heavy equipment trucks in department history.

“This is a great day not just for the department, but for Mississippi taxpayers as well,” said Spell. “We were already doing more inspections with fewer personnel, even though we were using some very old equipment. These new vehicles will enable us to do take our productivity to an even higher level.”

The equipment purchase was made possible by a lease-purchase agreement approved in the 1996 legislative session. Several lawmakers who supported the agreement were invited to see the new equipment, which had a total value of more than \$900,000. “This would not have been possible without the support of the Mississippi Legislature, and they deserve a lot of credit,” said Commissioner Spell. “We came to lawmakers in 1996, told them we were in a bad situation and they responded.”

Equipment on display at the news conference ranged from regular pickup trucks to weight and milk tank calibration trucks worth more than \$50,000 each. The new trucks replaced equipment that in some cases dates back to the 1970's.