



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE  
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COMMISSIONER

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**August 31, 2010**

**What:**

**Workshops focusing on Retail Avenues and Alternatives for Sales of Fruit and Vegetables**

**When and Where:**

**6:00 p.m., Monday, September 27  
MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi**

**6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 28  
Forrest County Extension Service in Hattiesburg**

**6:00 p.m., Monday, October 4  
Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson**

### **Workshops on Fruit and Vegetable Retail Sales for Mississippi Producers Announced**

The opportunity for Mississippi fruit and vegetable producers to learn strategies for selling fresh fruits and vegetables from multiple outlets including on-farm sales, community supported agriculture ventures, and local restaurants is being made available at three grower meetings to be held in Biloxi, Hattiesburg, and Jackson. The meetings will also provide growers with information about Good Agriculture Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) certification. The three upcoming Retail Avenues and Alternatives for Sales of Fruits and Vegetables Workshop is being funded by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and co-sponsored by Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association, Mississippi Farmers Market, and the Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. The meetings will be held at the MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi on September 27, the Forrest County Extension Office in Hattiesburg on September 28, and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson on October 4. Each meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Mike Steede, a producer from Lucedale, will share his experiences on establishing successful on-farm and community supported agriculture ventures and the many advantages they bring. A representative from the Mississippi Restaurant and Hospitality Association will give growers tips on helpful avenues for selling fresh produce to local restaurants. Also, participants will be informed about the GAP/GHP certification. Growers will learn about the GAP/GHP certification process including who is required to become certified, the requirements that must be met for certification, and the advantages this process brings to the producer.

Each workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend the workshops. Pre-registration is required. The registration deadlines for the workshops are September 20 for the Biloxi and Hattiesburg locations and September 27 for the Jackson location. Pre-registration forms can be found at <http://www.mdac.state.ms.us>. For additional information or to obtain a registration form, contact Paige Manning at (601) 359-1163 or [paige@mdac.state.ms.us](mailto:paige@mdac.state.ms.us).

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