



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

LESTER SPELL, JR., D.V.M.
COMMISSIONER

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For Immediate Release**

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“Perfect Bale” donated to MS Ag and Forestry Museum

King Cotton has long been a moniker for the valuable cash crop that has always played an important role in Mississippi’s economic livelihood. For over a century, cotton has not only been an important economic engine for Mississippi, but for national economy as well.

Recently, the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum was donated what many in the cotton industry claim to be the “perfect bale” of cotton. The bale was a Dow Agrosciences PhytoGen variety and contained the qualities of the highest standard in fiber quality, brightness, staple length and other sought after traits in the cotton grading industry. Brooks Aycock III, a farmer from Belzoni, MS, grew and donated this one-of-a-kind bale to the Mississippi Agriculture Museum along with his family on November 12, 2010, at the Museum’s annual Harvest Day event. Aycock also donated additional raw cotton from his 2010 cotton crop to the Museum to run in the Bisland Cotton Gin, the oldest operating cotton gin in the United States.

“In donating the raw cotton for the gin and having this bale on display for the public to see, it was my goal to help future generations understand how cotton is grown and utilized. Their education on agriculture and cotton in general is most important to me, and I believe for our future,” said Aycock. Dr. Lester Spell, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture, added, “The education of our youth on the vital aspects of how agriculture plays such an important role in our everyday lives is so critical. With the help of farmers like Brooks who donate their time and fruits of their labor, it makes it that much easier to get the message across.”

The bale is encapsulated and will be on display at the Museum’s lobby entrance. The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is located off Lakeland Dr. and is open Monday through Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*******(See pictures attached)*******
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The “Perfect Cotton Bale” presented by the Aycock Family of Belzoni: (L-R) Shelton Aycock, Brooks Aycock III, Tangea Aycock, and Brooks Aycock IV.



(L-R) Dr. Lester Spell, Commissioner of Agriculture, Brooks Aycock III, Brooks Aycock IV, Tangea Aycock, and Shelton Aycock stand by a cotton bale that was ginned at the Museum’s Bisland Cotton Gin from raw cotton donated by the Aycock’s.