



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
COMMISSIONER

**PRESS RELEASE- March 22, 2012**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Hyde-Smith Secures Helpful Product for Mississippi Beekeepers**

Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner, Cindy Hyde-Smith, announced approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of an emergency exemption that will help Mississippi beekeepers control varroa mite infestations in honeybee colonies.

The product receiving emergency exemption under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) is the miticide **HopGuard**<sup>®</sup> manufactured by BetaTec Hop Products. HopGuard<sup>®</sup> cardboard strips treated with potassium salt of hop beta acids may be inserted in honeybee colonies or packages of adult worker bees prior to installation in a honey bee colony to control varroa mite infestations.

The varroa mite is a harmful, honeybee parasite that feeds on adult bees and developing brood. If left untreated, varroa mites can deform bees and eventually kill the colony.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Bureau of Plant Industry has authority under Section 18 of FIFRA to obtain an exemption from EPA for a non-labeled use of a pesticide if significant losses of an agricultural commodity are likely and alternative, labeled products are not available or effective.

For additional information, beekeepers may contact the Bureau of Plant Industry at (662) 325-3390 or toll-free at 1-888-257-1285.

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