



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
COMMISSIONER

**PRESS RELEASE- September 10, 2012  
For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Stacey Swain, Communication and Policy Advisor  
(662) 325-3393  
Email: [stacey@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:stacey@mdac.ms.gov)**

**MDAC Assisting Hay Producers to Comply with Fire Ant Quarantine  
Restrictions for Out-of-State Transport**

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's (MDAC), Bureau of Plant Industry, is providing assistance to Mississippi hay producers that are transporting baled hay into areas that do not have established populations of fire ants. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a fire ant quarantine in place that restricts the movement of baled hay from infested areas to non-infested areas. The quarantine requires baled hay to be inspected and certified as apparently free of fire ants.

Due to drought conditions, a large volume of hay is being moved to parts of the Midwest, particularly Missouri and northern Arkansas, where fire ants are not established. In order for hay produced in Mississippi to enter these drought stricken areas, each load of hay will need to be inspected and certified as apparently free of fire ants prior to shipment.

Prior to inspection, the hay must be removed from direct contact with the soil, preferably within 24 hours of baling, and placed on concrete, pallets, tires, or plastic. Hay should be stacked and separated by truck loads; a certificate of inspection is required for each truck load. It is strongly recommended that the area surrounding the storage site be treated for fire ants to discourage fire ants from moving into the hay.

If you anticipate shipping baled hay to parts of the Midwest, particularly Missouri and northern Arkansas, contact MDAC's Bureau of Plant Industry well in advance of your shipment for detailed instructions at (662)325-3390.

###