



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Launches Agritourism Registration Program

Jackson, Miss. --- Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith announced that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) has launched its new Agritourism Registration Program. This program is part of the recently passed Senate Bill 2439, which was enacted to provide limited liability to persons engaged in agritourism activities. Under state law, agritourism operations that register with MDAC and that meet certain signage requirements advising visitors of the inherent risks of participating in agritourism activities will be provided with limited liability.

“The Agritourism Registration Program will have a significant impact on agritourism in our state as liability issues have created challenges for many of our operations in the past. An increasing number of working farms and other agricultural enterprises are beginning to incorporate agritourism activities into their operations making it one of the fastest growing sectors in agriculture and tourism in our state. By becoming registered with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, agritourism professionals are protecting their agritourism operation, as well as the many people who visit the farms for adventure and the pleasure of experiencing farm life at its best,” said Commissioner Hyde-Smith.

To become eligible to register with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, certain criteria must be met and adhered to. Warning signs with specific language, as defined by the law, must be clearly posted and maintained in visible entrance and activity locations. Additionally, upon application for registration, the landowner must pay an annual fee of fifty dollars. MDAC will promote the registered agritourism operations through its website and other means.

Agritourism is about outdoor fun, education, and entertainment on a working farm. It also provides our farmers and landowners with a unique opportunity to demonstrate the importance of Mississippi’s largest industry – agriculture. For more information about the Agritourism Registration Program or to obtain an application, visit www.msagritourism.org or contact Donna West at (601) 359-1118 or donna@mdac.ms.gov.

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