



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

Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau

CINDY HYDE-SMITH, COMMISSIONER

JEFF STEWART, DIRECTOR

PRESS RELEASE

**Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
(601) 359-1163
E-mail: paige@mdac.ms.gov**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 17, 2012

Joint Investigation of Stolen Property in Claiborne County Leads to Arrest

On Friday, October 12, 2012, investigators with the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau, the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC), in conjunction with the Claiborne County Sheriff's Department and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, seized a large amount of stolen property and equipment valued in excess of \$200,000 that was taken from area residences, farms, and hunting camps.

Following a lengthy investigation by these agencies, a search warrant was issued for property located on Curtis Lester Road in Claiborne County. While executing the search warrant, investigators discovered an abundance of stolen property which included: vehicles, tractors, farm implements, ATVs, construction equipment, as well as guns, and other various items. Some of the recovered items were reported stolen as far back as 2001.

Investigators are still in the process of identifying all of the stolen items recovered during the search warrant. One arrest has been made at this time, and more are expected. This investigation is currently ongoing, and additional information will be released at a later date.

###

Photos and cutlines attached.



Some of those involved with the joint investigation include (from left to right) MDAC Investigator Lee Barkdull, MDAC Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau Director Jeff Stewart, Claiborne County Sheriff Marvin Lucas, Claiborne County Chief Investigator Lt. Robert W. Starks, and MDAC Investigator Mike McGowan.



Investigators recovered an abundance of stolen property during the investigation including this tractor, which is one of several tractors recovered.