



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
COMMISSIONER

## Press Release

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### **Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Showcases New Erosion Control Demonstration Project**

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith and United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Acting State Conservationist Kevin Kennedy showcased a new erosion control demonstration project on the grounds of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. The project, a partnership between the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the USDA-NRCS, addresses erosion problems that were occurring on the Museum grounds while creating demonstration areas for the public.

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith stated, "We appreciate the financial and the technical assistance provided by USDA-NRCS. What makes this project so great is that it not only helped the Museum to address the erosion problems on the grounds, but it also serves a teaching tool for the public. The practices that were used in this project can be utilized by others who may have the same problems."

The project was implemented to address erosion problems that were occurring along two streams on the Museum grounds as well as to serve as demonstration areas for erosion control practices that can be used in urban areas. The occurring problems were largely the result of storm water run-off from impervious areas such as parking lots and building roofs. Four demonstration areas were selected to install storm water run-off control structures including berms, drop pipes, and rock check dams to prevent erosion and stabilize the banks of the streams. Project design and funding were provided by the USDA-NRCS and was matched by in-kind services of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

"NRCS is proud to be a partner with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture in this erosion control project to increase water quality," stated Kevin Kennedy, Acting NRCS State Conservationist. David Brunson, Area Conservationist for Central Mississippi, added, "These grade stabilization structures are just like ones that we install on landowner farms to increase water quality by keeping the sediment in the fields and out of the streams and rivers."

The Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, which features the National Agricultural Aviation Museum, portrays the important role that the agriculture and forestry industries have played in Mississippi's history and how these industries have shaped Mississippi's economy through the years through both indoor and outdoor exhibits. The Museum, located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson, is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information about the Museum, call (601) 432-4500, visit [www.msagmusuem.org](http://www.msagmusuem.org), or visit the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Facebook.

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Photo and caption attached.



**A new erosion control demonstration project, a partnership between the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) and the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), was showcased on the grounds of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. Those involved in the project includes (left to right) Jim Lipe, MDAC; Kelsey Unruh, MDAC; E.J. Tynes, USDA-NRCS; Kurt Readus, USDA-NRCS; David Brunson, USDA-NRCS; Barry Willis, Wilco Construction; Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith; Don Phillips, Chairman of the Agriculture and Forestry Museum Foundation Board; Sandy Havard, Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum; Jack Winstead, MDAC; Acting State Conservationist Kevin Kennedy, USDA-NRCS; and Michael Lasseter, MDAC.**