



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

**Contact: Contact: Jeff Stewart, Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau Director
(601) 359-1121
E-mail: jeff@mdac.ms.gov**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Cattle Theft Investigation in Madison and Yazoo Counties Leads to Arrests

On October 22, the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB), the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, arrested five individuals for two counts of conspiracy to commit livestock theft, in conjunction with the Madison County Sheriff's Department. One suspect turned himself in to Yazoo County authorities, and all suspects will be charged in both Madison and Yazoo Counties.

During the course of the investigation, lead investigator Mike McGowan, of MALTB, and Russell Kirby, of the Madison County Sheriff's Department, discovered the suspects, Jimmy C. Davis, Bruce M. Strong, Eddie B. Douglas, Lenard E. Bassett, and Justin D. Washington of Yazoo County and Charles E. Washington of Madison County, had stolen a total of 91 head of cattle spread over the two counties from one cattle producer. The theft occurred over a seven month period of time, and five of the suspects were employed by the producer. More arrests and further charges are expected to be made at a later date.

The Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau enforces laws to prevent the theft of livestock, timber, and agricultural products and investigates all agricultural crimes. The Bureau also handles the registration of all livestock brands in the State. To report or provide information regarding an agricultural crime, call (800) 678-2660.

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