



**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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MS Department of Agriculture Accepting Applications for Marketing Improvement Program

Jackson, Miss. – Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith announced that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) is now accepting proposals for USDA's Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP). MDAC will submit qualifying proposals to USDA on the applicant's behalf.

FSMIP provides matching funds on a competitive basis to State Departments of Agriculture, State Colleges and Universities, and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system. FSMIP funds a wide range of applied research projects that address barriers, challenges, and opportunities in marketing, transporting, and distributing U.S. food and agricultural products domestically and internationally. Eligible agricultural categories include poultry; livestock, dairy, and poultry products; food, feed, and fiber crops; fish and shellfish; horticulture, viticulture, apiary, and forest products; and processed or manufactured products derived from such commodities.

Federal funds awarded must be matched dollar-for-dollar by non-federal funds and/or in-kind resources. FSMIP projects should benefit multiple producers or agribusinesses. Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that solely benefit one individual or one agribusiness. Applications must be submitted to the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce by 5:00 p.m. on June 6, 2014. Applications should be submitted to Michael Lasseter, MDAC, P.O. Box 1609, Jackson, MS 39215 or michaell@mdac.ms.gov

For additional information about this program or to obtain application guidelines, contact Michael Lasseter at (601) 359-1120 or michaell@mdac.ms.gov or visit www.ams.usda.gov/FSMIP.

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