

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
& COMMERCE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
COMMERCE**

121 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, MS 39201
601-359-1100

**BUREAU OF PLANT
INDUSTRY**

705 Stone Blvd
Mississippi State, MS 39762
662-325-3390

**MISSISSIPPI FARMERS
MARKET**

929 High Street
Jackson, MS 39202
601-354-6573

**MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE
& FORESTRY MUSEUM**

1150 Lakeland Drive
Jackson, MS 39216
601-432-4500

REGULATORY SERVICES

601-359-1111

FAX

601-354-6290

EMAIL

webmaster@mdac.ms.gov

WEBSITE

www.mdac.ms.gov

COVER PHOTO CREDIT:

Adobe Stock Photo

MISSISSIPPI AG FACTS

PRODUCTION VALUE

\$7.6 BILLION FOR 2017

FARMS

36,200 IN MISSISSIPPI

ACREAGE

**10.7 MILLION FARM ACRES IN
MISSISSIPPI**

CATFISH

**34,700 WATER ACRES IN
MISSISSIPPI**

FOREST

**19.7 MILLION FOREST ACRES IN
MISSISSIPPI**

NATIONALLY

**MISSISSIPPI RANKS IN THE TOP 20
IN PRODUCTION OF 15 COMMODITIES**

WORKFORCE

**29% OF THE STATE'S WORKFORCE
IS EMPLOYED IN JOBS RELATED
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO
AGRICULTURE**

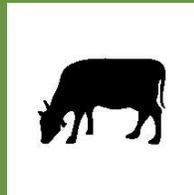
MISSISSIPPI TOP 10

Mississippi's top commodities, based on cash receipts



1. Broilers

The value of poultry produced in Mississippi in 2017 was \$2.79 billion. Mississippi ranks #5 in the U.S. in broiler production.



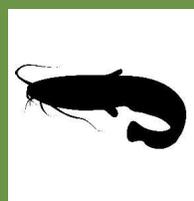
6. Cattle

The value of production of cattle in 2017 was \$285 million. Mississippi had 890,000 head of cattle on 15,940 farms.



2. Forest

The value of forestry produced in Mississippi in 2017 was \$1.39 billion. Mississippi ranks #3 in the U.S. in pulpwood production.



7. Catfish

The value of catfish produced in Mississippi in 2017 was \$181 million. Mississippi ranks #1 in the U.S. in farm-raised catfish production



3. Soybeans

The value of soybeans produced in Mississippi in 2017 was \$1.12 billion. Mississippi ranks #12 in the U.S. in soybean production.



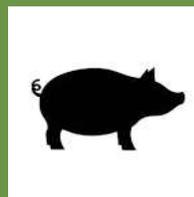
8. Sweet Potatoes

The value of production of sweet potatoes in 2017 was \$123 million. Mississippi ranks #3 in the U.S. in sweet potato production.



4. Cotton

The value of cotton production in 2017 was \$562 million. Mississippi ranks #3 in the United States in cotton and cottonseed production.



9. Hogs

The value of hogs produced in Mississippi in 2017 was \$117 million. Mississippi ranks #17 in the U.S. in hog production.



5. Corn

The value of production of corn in 2017 was \$337 million. Mississippi ranks #20 in the U.S. in corn for grain production.



10. Hay

The value of hay produced in Mississippi in 2017 was \$116 million. Mississippi harvested 610,000 acres producing 1.46 million tons of hay.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER ANDY GIPSON

It is with great enthusiasm that I present you with the 2018 Annual Report of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). This report provides an overview of services and programs offered by MDAC, in addition to highlighting our accomplishments during fiscal year 2018. As you explore this report, you will quickly discover the important role the Department plays in the lives of all Mississippians, not just those involved directly in agriculture. From ensuring the food on your table is safe to ensuring that you are getting what you pay for at the gas pump, the dedicated staff at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is working hard for all Mississippians to ensure fairness and equity in the marketplace.

Agriculture remains the state's largest industry with its 36,200 farms contributing nearly \$8 billion to the state's economy in farm-gate value alone. At the Department, we continually strive to build upon the strong foundation of Mississippi agriculture, and we are actively exploring ways to further strengthen agriculture from increasing international trade opportunities to working with our federal partners on regulatory reform.

You can learn more about the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce through our website, www.mdac.ms.gov.

Sincerely,



Andy Gipson, Commissioner



In addition to overseeing the responsibilities of the Department, duties of the Commissioner of Agriculture include leadership through services on the following boards:

- Mississippi Board of Animal Health
- Mississippi Central Farmers' Market Board
- Mississippi Fair Commission
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Permit Board
- Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Board
- Mississippi Egg Marketing Board
- Southern U.S. Trade Association
- State Seed Board
- State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The responsibilities of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) are multifaceted. The mission of MDAC is to regulate and promote agricultural-related businesses within the state and to promote Mississippi's products throughout the state and the rest of the world for the benefit of all Mississippi citizens.

BUREAU OF REGULATORY SERVICES

The Bureau of Regulatory Services is responsible for the various regulatory functions of the Department, which extend from on-farm production to processing and retail markets. Regulatory Service Inspectors conduct sanitation inspections of grocery stores and meat plants to ensure the adherence to food safety regulations. They are also responsible for the certification of gas pumps and verification of weights and measures.

- Weights & Measures Division tested 7,279 devices/scales.
- Consumer Protection Division issued 2,468 retail food establishment licenses and conducted 4,311 retail food sanitation inspections.
- Meat Inspection Division inspected 98.59 million pounds of red meat and poultry products.
- Petroleum Products Inspection Division inspected 55,688 individual devices and obtained 1,849 fuel samples.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) protects the agricultural and horticultural interests of Mississippi from harmful insects, diseases, and weeds. The Bureau is also responsible for registering pesticides, feeds, seeds, fertilizers, and soil amendments sold in the state, as well as, permitting all pest control operators throughout the state.

- BPI administers approximately 31 programs, which includes Pesticide and Environmental Programs; Structural Pest Control Programs; Incidents and Complaints; Feed, Seed, Fertilizer, Lime, Soil, and Plant Amendment Regulatory; and Testing, Horticulture, Apiary, and Plant Pest Quarantine.
- BPI registered 41,938 feed, fertilizer, lime, and pesticide products; registered 1,357 feed, fertilizer, and lime manufacturers, and distributors; collected 18,782 pesticide, seed, feed, fertilizer, and lime samples; issued 3,720 nursery, nursery dealers, dealers, professional, consultants, and seed licenses; and performed 1,189 certification exams.
- BPI also certified 16,908 bee colonies and monitored 2,550 detection survey traps throughout the state.
- Approximately 30,000 seed tests were analyzed.
- BPI investigated 139 pesticide drift cases.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL & LIVESTOCK THEFT BUREAU

The Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau enforces laws to prevent agricultural related thefts. The Bureau investigates any theft that involves agribusiness, including timber theft, equipment theft, chemical theft, and livestock theft. The Bureau also handles the registration of all livestock brands in the state.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED

- The Bureau investigated 176 cases with a reported value of \$1,523,836.
- Property valued at \$908,364 was recovered.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Market Development Division is responsible for promoting Mississippi's agricultural products and agricultural-related businesses statewide and worldwide through programs such as the Certified Farmers Market Program, Agritourism Registration Program, Farm-to-School Program, and the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*. The Mississippi Farmers Market provides farmers, specialty food processors, and artisans with a convenient, affordable location to sell their locally grown and produced items directly to the consumer.

- The Division received \$356,333 in Specialty Crop Block Grant funds from USDA to promote the specialty crop industry in the state. Since its inception in 2006, MDAC has received \$3,351,504.85 from USDA in Specialty Crop Block Grant funds.
- Through the Farm-to-School Program, administered in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education, schools ordered 15,354 cases of Mississippi product totaling \$557,553.20.
- The Mississippi Farmers Market provided a venue for 80 total vendors, an average of 36 a week, to sell Mississippi grown crops, specialty foods, and works from local artisans. On average, 1,700 shoppers visit the Market each week.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY MUSEUM

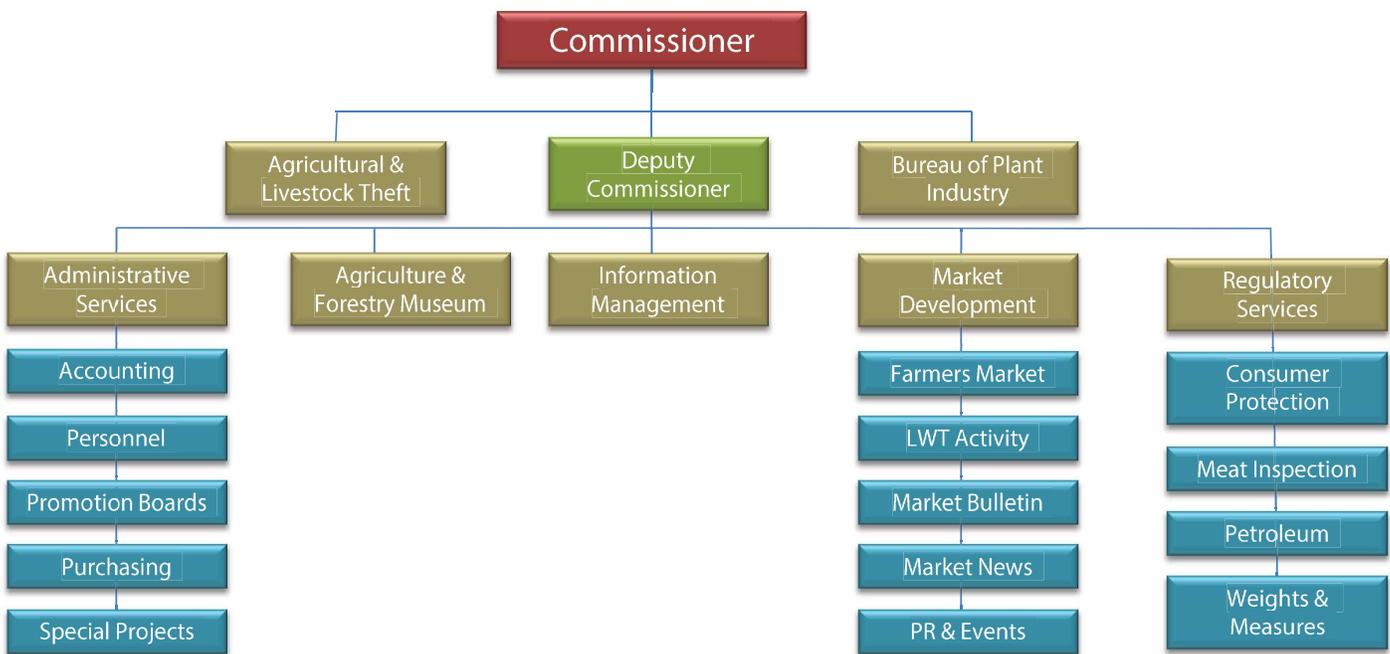
The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, the educational arm of the Department, creates an environment that communicates the value of past and present Mississippi agricultural lifestyles, relationships, and practices and their relevance. The Museum tells the story of Mississippi's agricultural history through indoor and outdoor exhibits and events.

- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum was visited by more than 122,000 people in fiscal year 2018.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE



The mission of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is to regulate and promote agricultural-related businesses in the state and promote Mississippi's products throughout the state and the rest of the world for the benefit of all Mississippi citizens.

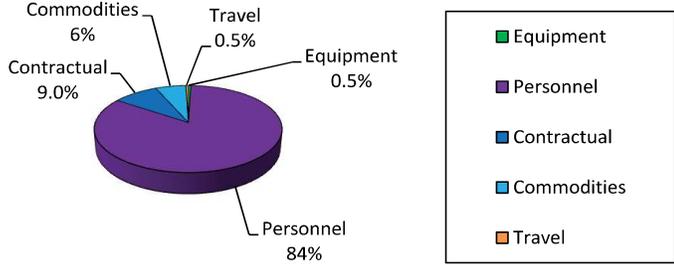


ADMINISTRATION

Andy Gipson - Commissioner
Julie McLemore - Deputy Commissioner

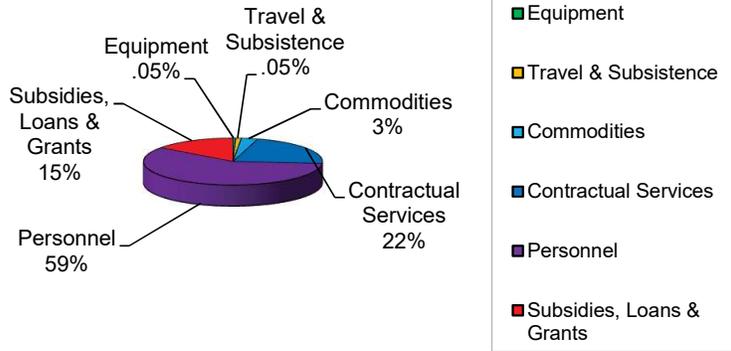
REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

GENERAL FUNDS ONLY



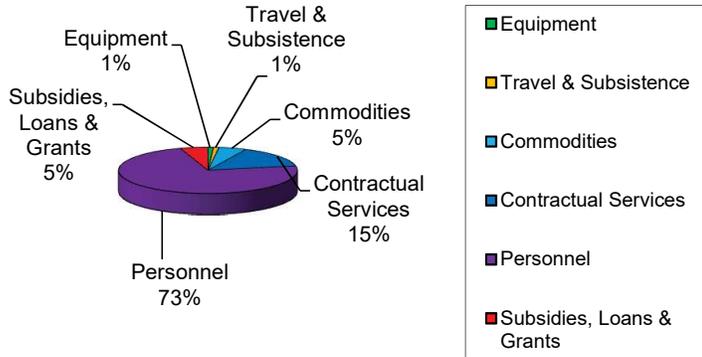
Total Revenues \$6,734,688
Total Expenditures \$6,734,688

SPECIAL FUNDS ONLY



Total Revenues \$6,493,415
Total Expenditures \$5,641,367

GENERAL & SPECIAL FUNDS



Total Revenues \$13,228,103
Total Expenditures \$12,376,055



**CONSUMER PROTECTION * MEAT INSPECTION * WEIGHTS & MEASURES
 PETROLEUM INSPECTION * FEDERAL/STATE INSPECTION**

REGULATORY SERVICES PROTECTING MISSISSIPPI

The Bureau of Regulatory Services is a regulatory bureau within the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Its mission is to effectively and efficiently administer and enforce the laws and regulations charged to the Bureau. The foremost goals of the Bureau are to protect the health and economic welfare of all citizens, to afford a measure of economic protection which citizens cannot provide for themselves, and to strive for equity in the marketplace which, when realized, works to the good of all citizens of this state.

The Bureau is divided into area-specific divisions that regulate certain businesses within the state. The Bureau administers state laws and promulgates regulations to support those laws in the areas of Meat Inspection, Retail Food Sanitation, Labeling laws, Grains, Aquaculture, Peanuts, Petroleum, and Weights and Measures. The Bureau partners with multiple federal and state agencies to carry out its mission.

Adam Choate, Director
 Adam@mdac.ms.gov

CONSUMER PROTECTION



FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

The Consumer Protection Division protects the interests of the general public by ensuring food quality and safety and fairness in addition to equity in the retail marketplace.

The Consumer Protection Division is proud to be one of the most diversified divisions within the Department. The Division's goal is to protect Mississippi consumers by diligently enforcing retail food safety and sanitation laws and regulations, weights and measures standards, and food labeling requirements in retail food establishments such as convenience stores and grocery stores. The Division conducts routine inspections of retail food establishments to ensure that food safety and sanitation regulations are being met. The Division's inspectors routinely examine meat market sanitation, ensure food is stored at appropriate temperatures, confirm the availability of hot water and soap in restrooms, and monitor stores to ensure the absence of insects and rodents.

The Consumer Protection Division protects consumers by ensuring they receive the quantity and quality of the goods they pay for. Inspectors examine scales in all retail food establishments to confirm that weights and measures standards for purchased items are being met. Inspectors also check UPC pricing for accuracy in an effort to make sure the consumer is not being overcharged or undersold when purchasing a product.

Weights and measures inspections include the following:

- Ensuring the accuracy of scales, including meat scales, deli scales, produce scales, and checkout scales.
- UPC price verification sample testing, which ensures that prices on shelves match prices at checkout registers.
- Net weight package checking inspections, which ensure not only that consumers are paying for only the net weight of foods, but also that the correct weight is properly applied to the price of the product.

The Consumer Protection Division also enforces proper food labeling requirements through cooperative agreements and collaboration with government entities.

The Consumer Protection Division works with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service to perform inspections of retail food establishments to ensure that illegally processed meats are not sold in retail food establishments.

CONSUMER PROTECTION CONTINUED

The Consumer Protection Division conducts Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) inspections through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Foods such as muscle cuts of meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and unprocessed nuts must have country-of-origin declarations at the final point of sale.

The Consumer Protection Division's food labeling responsibilities also include inspection of the sale of pure honey and pure syrup. The Division works in collaboration with the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi State Chemical Lab to regulate the sale of honey and syrup. Pure honey and pure syrup label inspections are performed to ensure consumers are receiving the product as it is advertised on the labels.

These cooperative efforts are performed routinely so that consumers are educated and aware of the quality and origin of the foods they purchase.

CATFISH, SHRIMP, AND CRAWFISH

It is essential to ensure catfish, shrimp, and crawfish being promoted as U.S. products are not being discreetly replaced with foreign substitutes. The Consumer Protection Division makes inspections in restaurants throughout the state, making sure to prohibit retailers from selling similar foods disguised or labeled incorrectly as U.S. products

MISSISSIPPI CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET

The Mississippi Certified Farmers Market (CFM) Program, which is administered by the MDAC Market Development Division, is carried out in conjunction with the Consumer Protection Division. Farmers Markets applying for CFM eligibility are inspected by the Division to ensure certain requirements are met by vendors and their foods before providing their products to consumers.

CONSUMER PROTECTION CONTINUED



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Consumer Protection Division has maintained a natural disaster partnership with the FDA and other state agencies in the event of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tornadoes. In an effort to help emergency responders, the Division has mapped the GPS coordinates of all of its inspected stores.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Issued 2,468 retail food establishment license.
- Conducted 4,311 retail food sanitation inspections.
- Checked 30,522 items for net weight.
- Inspected 65,818 dozen of shell eggs.
- Conducted 3,043 meat compliance inspections; 3,408 disposition of garbage inspections; and 1,086 UPC price verification inspections.
- Conducted 373 Catfish/Shrimp/Crawfish Marketing inspections.
- Conducted 59 USDA COOL audits.
- Certified 31 Mississippi Farmers Markets.

DIRECTOR

ADAM CHOATE

Adam@mdac.ms.gov

FEDERAL/STATE INSPECTION PROGRAM



FOOD SAFETY

The Federal/State Inspection Program Division provides quality inspections for produce growers as well as unbiased food safety audits.

This Division conducts fruit and vegetable inspections as well as third party food safety audits known as Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) audits. All inspections and food safety audits are provided statewide to farms, packers, and wholesalers.

The GAP/GHP audits are voluntary independent audits of produce suppliers throughout the production and supply chain. GAP/GHP audits focus on best agricultural practices to verify that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled, and stored in the safest manner possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards. The audits verify adherence to the recommendations made in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's *Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* and industry recognized food safety practices.

Farmer Stock Peanuts must be inspected and a grade issued per lot in order for the farmer to receive payment at the point of sale. The Federal/State Inspection Program Division grades the peanuts brought to buying points in the state.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted 75 GAP/GHP food safety audits.
- Graded 75,339 tons of peanuts at four buying points in the state.

DIRECTOR

KEVIN RIGGIN

Kevin@mdac.ms.gov

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INSPECTION



ENSURING COMPLIANCE

The Petroleum Products Inspection Division regulates the motor fuel sold in Mississippi to ensure that those who purchase petroleum products and motor fuels get what they pay for in terms of quality and quantity.

All petroleum products sold in the state must be registered with MDAC's Petroleum Products Inspection Division. All retail motor fuel products which include gasoline, ethanol blended fuel, diesel fuel, biodiesel blended fuel, and kerosene, are analyzed by the Mississippi State Chemical Lab to ensure product compliance within ASTM specifications. Analysis includes tests for octane number, alcohol content, diesel flash point, biodiesel content, and the presence of water in fuel.

The Division conducts annual inspections of the Retail Motor-Fuel Dispensers (RMFD), commonly known as gas pumps, in the state to ensure that they are in compliance with all laws and regulations. These inspections consist of ensuring the accuracy of RMFDs, testing for the presence of water, checking signage to ensure that the proper price is displayed on all signs, and checking the quality of the fuel to ensure proper product designations. Violations are issued as necessary. Petroleum equipment repairmen are required to register with the Division.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued efforts of maintaining efficiency by eliminating printed inspection reports by 99 percent. Reports are sent electronically to respective responsible parties with a valid email address.
- Registered 215 fuel distributors and licensed 496 petroleum equipment repairmen.
- Conducted annual inspections of 54,938 registered devices at 2,747 retail establishments and obtained 1,849 fuel samples.
- Inspected a total of 55,688 individual devices.
- Responded to 217 consumer complaints within 24 hours, which resulted in corrective action being taken in over 25% of the complaints for non-compliance.
- Enforced stop sales for 153 fuel violations, 180 calibration violations, 314 sign violations, and 114 water violations.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS CONTINUED



Inspectors in the Petroleum Products Inspection Division conduct annual inspections to ensure that consumers get what they pay for in terms of quality and quantity. The inspector on the left is checking for the presence of water in underground storage tanks at fueling station. The two inspectors on the right are checking the diesel fuel calibration at a truck stop.

DIRECTOR
JENNIFER THOMPSON
Jennifer@mdac.ms.gov

MEAT INSPECTION



FOOD SAFETY

The Meat Inspection Division provides food safety assurance to consumers of meat and poultry food products.

The Meat Inspection Division provides inspection services to establishments that prepare meat and poultry food products for entry into intrastate commerce and to some establishments that engage in interstate commerce. The Division inspects all establishments engaged in the slaughtering of food animals and poultry, except for those plants operating under federal inspection. The Division also inspects the further processing of meat, meat-food products, poultry, and poultry food-products and their preparation for consumer items. These products are also inspected throughout formulation, packaging, labeling, and distribution to retail outlets. This assurance is becoming more critical as more food products are intended to be consumed with little or no further preparation at home.

MDAC has a cooperative agreement with the USDA establishing a meat and poultry inspection system that is equal to the federal inspection system. In addition, MDAC has cooperative agreements for the Talmadge-Aiken Program (TA), which permits state employees to provide inspections at federal meat plants, as well as the Compliance and Investigation Division Program (CID), which gives authority to inspect businesses that handle meat and poultry for law compliance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Inspected 31.28 million pounds of red meat and 67.31 million pounds of poultry.
- Inspected 22,890 rabbits, and 6,109 quail.
- Issued licenses to 33 state meat plants.
- Inspected 21 plants through the Talmadge-Aiken program.

DIRECTOR

RICHARD BENTON, D.V.M.

RichardB@mdac.ms.gov

WEIGHTS & MEASURES



ENSURING ACCURACY

The Weights and Measures Division regulates the use of weighing and measuring devices used in commerce to ensure consumers are treated fairly in the marketplace.

The Weights and Measures Division inspects and tests scales and measurement equipment used in commerce to ensure compliance with state laws and equity in the marketplace.

Division inspectors make routine inspections on all types of commercial weighing devices; including railroad scales, vehicle scales, livestock scales, hopper scales, floor scales, bench scales, and those used to weigh precious metals and stones like gold, silver, and diamonds. Inspectors conduct package inspections to verify the net contents of packaged commodities and price verification inspections in businesses that utilize UPC scanning systems. The Division also investigates complaints involving weighing and measuring devices.

The Division also licenses livestock facilities, livestock auctioneers, pulpwood facilities, bonded weighmasters, scale service companies, and repairmen that install and repair weighing or measuring devices within the State of Mississippi. The Division also maintains the Mississippi Metrology Laboratory at Alcorn State University and the Moisture Meter Testing Laboratory in Stoneville.



MOISTURE METER TESTING LABORATORY

The Mississippi Moisture Meter Laboratory provides testing and inspection of devices used to measure the moisture content of agricultural products offered for sale, processed, or stored, using standard methods set by the USDA. The Moisture Meter Laboratory also compiles grain standards used in the inspection of grain moisture meters tested in the State of Mississippi. The laboratory is located on the campus of the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES CONTINUED



The Weights and Measures Division inspects scales, both small and large, that are used in commerce to ensure accuracy. From scales like those that are used in convenience stores (left) to those used to weigh vehicles (right) are routinely inspected.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Weights and Measures Division tested 7,728 devices/scales.
- Inspected 1,006 heavy scales, 4,887 intermediate scales, 182 livestock scales, and 60 railway track scales.
- Calibrated 20 dairy farm milk tanks.
- Conducted 87 bonded weighmaster inspections, 148 pulpwood/timber inspections, 505 package inspections, and 117 UPC inspections.
- Conducted 153 oven tests (33 corn, 41 rice, 82 wheat, 36 soybeans).
- Conducted 274 grain moisture inspections.

DIRECTOR
BRENT BOWMAN
Brent@mdac.ms.gov

WEIGHTS & MEASURES CONTINUED



METROLOGY LABORATORY

The Mississippi Metrology Laboratory tests, calibrates, and certifies measuring devices used in commerce for accuracy.

The Regulatory Services Bureau maintains the Mississippi Metrology Laboratory located on the campus of Alcorn State University in Lorman. The lab is accredited for the testing of mass, volume, and length by the National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST), which certifies weighing and measuring test equipment to validate the accuracy of these standards. The certification allows the Lab to provide certification and calibration services for government, commercial, and private entities. Once certified, the equipment can be used for testing and calibrating of mass and volume standards. This certification allows the Department to test all measuring devices for accuracy used in commerce which is traceable to NIST.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Calibrated 4,815 devices.

DIRECTOR

MEL IASIGI

Mel@mdac.ms.gov



BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY PROTECTING AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INTERESTS

The Bureau of Plant Industry protects the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state from harmful insects, diseases, and weeds.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is a regulatory and service division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. BPI serves as the Plant Protection and Quarantine Division of the agency. BPI administers 31 programs pertaining to agricultural aviation, pesticides, plant pests, honey bees, seed,

animal feed, fertilizer, lime, and soil/plant amendments. Additionally, the Bureau maintains cooperative agreements with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USDA in administration and enforcement of state and federal laws. BPI is also designated by the federal government as the state agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY CONTINUED



PLANT PEST PROGRAM

Under the provisions of the Mississippi Plant Act, the Bureau carries out plant pest programs designed to prevent the spread of destructive insects, diseases, and other pests when plant material, machinery, and carriers are transported. These programs include inspection, certification, quarantine, and survey activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Certified 295 nurseries.
- Certified 958 nursery dealers.
- Issued 519 phytosanitary certificates for plant material and seed export.
- Conducted 1,253 visual surveys statewide at nurseries and nursery dealers for Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Chrysanthemum White Rust, Viburnum Leaf Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Giant African Snail, Cactus Moth, and Asian Longhorned Beetle. Survey results at all sites were negative.
- Conducted 180 visual surveys at soybean production fields in 21 counties for Maritime Garden Snail, Bud Borer, Cucurbit Beetle, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Yellow Witchweed, and Benghal Dayflower. Survey results at all sites were negative.
- Conducted 32 visual surveys at 8 different production corn fields for Cucurbit Beetle, Late Wilt or Corn, Black Maize Beetle, Java Downy Mildew, Philippine Downy Mildew, and Brown Stripe Downy Mildew.
- Conducted 84 visual surveys at cotton production fields in 11 counties for Giant African Snail, Cotton Seed Bug, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, and Benghal Dayflower. Survey results at all sites were negative.
- Conducted 92 visual surveys at rice production fields in seven counties for Giant African Snail, Apple Snails, South American Leaf Miner, Bakanae, Senegal Tea Plant, Bacterial Leaf Streak of Rice, and Bacterial Blight of Rice. Survey results at all sites were negative.
- Conducted 1,253 visual surveys statewide in nurseries, nursery dealers, and the environment for the noxious weed Cogongrass. Survey results at all sites were negative.
- Placed six traps at lumber mills and furniture manufacturers in six counties for the Sirex Woodwasp. Results from all traps were negative.
- Placed 15 traps at high risk sites in five counties for Mediterranean Pine Engraver, Six-toothed Bark Beetle, European Spruce Bark Beetle, Pine Shoot Beetle, Red Haired Pine Bark Beetle, Japanese Pine Sawyer, Large Pine Beetle, and Black Fir Sawyer. Results from all traps were negative.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY CONTINUED

- Serviced 62 sweet potato growers.
- Monitored 2,529 traps on 24,946 acres of sweet potatoes with no positive Sweet Potato Weevil detection.
- Continued to directly serve landowners in an effort to control Cogongrass.
- Conducted a Cogongrass demonstration program for 521 private land owners treating 3,356 acres.
- Collected assessment fees on 550,000 acres of cotton by farmers participating in statewide eradication of the Boll weevil.
- Certified and inspected 16,908 colonies of honey bees.
- Permitted 50,233 bee colonies into Mississippi.
- Hosted the Horticulture Inspection Society Southern Chapter annual convention.
- Issued federal and state phytosanitary certificates on plant materials such as nursery stock, seed, and lumber. Phytosanitary certificates facilitate trade with states and foreign countries requiring documentation certifying plant materials are free of disease and pests.
- BPI continues to assist eligible non-industrial private landowners in combatting Cogongrass through temporary grants from the USDA Forest Service and USDA's APHIS Farm Bill. The primary objective of the Cogongrass Treatment Program is to reduce the spread of this noxious weed to new areas by helping private landowners control or eradicate existing infestations. Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica* L.) is a non-native, invasive grass that is a state and federal noxious weed. Cogongrass has been recognized as one of the "Top 10 Worst Weeds in the World." Cogongrass infestations negatively affect tree regeneration, growth, and survival, as well as wildlife habitat, native plant diversity, forage quality and property values.
- BPI provided assistance to Mississippi hay producers that were transporting baled hay into areas that do not have established populations of fire ants. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a fire ant quarantine in place that restricts the movement of baled hay from infested areas to non-infested areas. The quarantine requires baled hay to be inspected and certified free of fire ants. Due to drought conditions, hay is being moved to areas of the United State where fire ants are not established. In order for hay produced in Mississippi to enter these drought stricken areas, each load of hay is inspected and certified as apparently free of fire ants prior to shipment.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY CONTINUED



PESTICIDE PROGRAM

Under the provisions of the Mississippi Pesticide Law, the Bureau of Plant Industry carries out various activities to register and inspect pesticide products, administers special types of pesticide registrations and exemptions, license dealers of restricted-use pesticides, and conducts activities protecting the general public and the environment from possible pesticide contamination and misuse.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Registered 14,426 pesticide products.
- Collected 399 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to check compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Issued 109 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded, and non-registered.
- Issued 11 special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued three emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 229 dealers to sell restricted use pesticide products.
- Issued 864 licenses/permits and 974 registered technician identification cards to persons engaged in professional services such as pest control and weed control services.
- Licensed 218 agricultural aviation pilots and 95 applicators, and registered 182 aircrafts for agricultural purposes.
- Issued 185 pest management consultants licenses.
- Issued four soil classifier licenses.
- Issued 2,577 private applicator certificates.
- Issued 438 commercial applicator certificates.
- Conducted 30 producer-establishment inspections, 490 marketplace inspections, 488 inspections of applicator records, 171 inspections of dealer records, and 23 container containment inspections.
- Conducted 19 nonagricultural/for cause inspections of pesticide misuse and 82 agricultural/for cause inspections of pesticide misuse.
- Conducted 1,238 nonagricultural inspections of pesticide use and 60 agricultural inspections of pesticide use.
- Collected 88 samples under the Pesticide Enforcement Program.
- Conducted 25 worker protection inspections.
- Collected 54,981 pounds of waste pesticide products for disposal.
- Issued five Horticulturalists licenses.
- Issued four Tree Surgeons licenses.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY CONTINUED

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MDAC and Mississippi State University developed an Auxin online educational training course addressing off-target movement, tank cleanout, and herbicide volatility. Prior to any agricultural producer purchasing or applying 2,4-D or dicamba, which is intended to be used on tolerant varieties of cotton, corn, or soybeans, the producer must complete the Auxin online training.

MDAC and Mississippi State University developed an online educational training course addressing applicators who plan to physically apply the dicamba herbicides (XtendiMax, FeXapan and Engenia). Applicators must undergo mandatory training imposed due to label changes by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

BPI worked with various agricultural stakeholders, including MSU-Row Crop Short Course, Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association, Mississippi Seedsmen's Association, Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association (MAAA), MAAA's Safety Meeting, Mississippi Pest Control Association, Mississippi Vegetation Management Association, National Pest Management Association, Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association, Mississippi Mosquito Control & Vector Association, Mississippi Department of Health, and Mississippi Farm Bureau Specialty Meetings to provide training concerning pesticide laws and regulations.

BPI has continued its efforts implementing the Mississippi Honeybee Stewardship Program. This program was developed through a joint effort between the Mississippi Farm Bureau, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Mississippi Beekeepers Association, Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association, Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council, and row crop farmers. The program promotes awareness, communication, and education between beekeepers and farmers.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY CONTINUED



SEED PROGRAM AND STATE SEED LABORATORY

The Seed Testing Laboratory provides regulatory and service seed testing to the seed industry and farmers of Mississippi. The seed lab inspects and collects samples of seed offered for sale to determine truth-in-labeling. Seed companies and farmers may submit samples of seed for testing to obtain quality and purity levels of seed. Regulatory and service tests protect and support seed companies and farmers by providing unbiased and reliable information in a timely manner. The Seed Testing Laboratory also tests all seed for the Mississippi Certified Seed Program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Issued 1,983 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Received 14,863 seed samples and performed a total of 28,854 tests on seed.
- Collected 2,811 official regulatory seed samples and found 53 official regulatory seed samples to be in violation of the State Seed Law.
- Conducted 8,294 special tests on seed such as cool germ test, accelerated aging, and chemical tests.



FEED, FERTILIZER, LIME, AND SOIL AMENDMENTS PROGRAM

Under provisions of Mississippi laws regulating feed, fertilizer, lime, and soil amendment products, the Bureau of Plant Industry carries out activities that include registering products and facilities, collecting registration and inspection fees, inspecting and sampling products for label guarantees, and assessing penalties for substandard products.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY CONTINUED

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Registered 14,316 feed products from 948 feed distributors.
- Collected 2,699 feed samples.
- Registered 13,034 fertilizer products from 348 fertilizer distributors.
- Collected 765 fertilizer samples.
- Registered 162 lime products from 61 distributors.
- Collected 56 lime samples.



PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM

The BPI public information program provided updates and training material for the following groups and/or events: Fall Flower and Garden Fest in Crystal Springs; Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association Convention in Biloxi; Pesticide Re-certification Trainings at the Panola County Extension Office, Coastal Research and Extension Center, Forrest County Extension Office, Central MS Research and Extension Center, Delta Research and Extension Center, North MS Research and Extension Center; Annual Mississippi Pest Control Association Meeting, Mississippi Vegetation Management Association, Mississippi Rice Council, Nursery and Landscape Association, Mississippi Entomological Association, Mississippi State University – Row Crop Short Course, Mississippi State University Crop College, and Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation – Agricultural Consultants Meeting.

DIRECTOR

MICHAEL LEDLOW

MichaelL1@mdac.ms.gov



MARKET DEVELOPMENT WORKING FOR YOU

The Market Development Division promotes Mississippi agriculture and the state's agricultural products across the state, nation, and world.

The Market Development Division is dedicated to promoting and heightening the public's awareness of Mississippi's agriculture commodities and the farmers and ranchers who produce them. This is accomplished through participation in trade shows, conferences and

fairs, international trade, presentations to schools and civic organizations, promotion of local farmers markets, connecting with other agricultural organizations and commodity groups, and various other communication outlets. The Market Development Division consists of three main program areas: communications/outreach, promotional programs, and grants and cost-share programs.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED



COMMUNICATIONS / OUTREACH

The Market Development Division serves as the communications and outreach arm of the Department and is responsible for media and public relations.

The Market Development Division publishes the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*, a buy/sell newspaper for farmers to advertise their agricultural items that have been raised, grown, produced, or operated on their farms. The *Mississippi Market Bulletin* is a semi-monthly publication, published on the 1st and 15th of each month, with a circulation of nearly 33,000 in-state and out-of-state subscribers.



PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS

The primary focus of the Market Development Division is the promotion of Mississippi agricultural products statewide, nationwide, and worldwide, in order to increase the purchase and consumption of products that are grown, raised, and made in the state. MDAC administers several programs that promote our agricultural products.

MDAC's Agritourism Limited Liability Registration Program provides limited liability and promotion to farms engaged in agritourism activities. There are 73 registered agribusiness operations in the state.

MDAC works in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to administer the Department of Defense (DoD) Farm-to-School Program. Through this program, fruits and vegetables are purchased from Mississippi farmers and served in schools across the state. MDAC assists MDE with identifying available produce and acts as a liaison with the participating farmers. During the 2017-2018 school-year, \$557,553 of Mississippi produce was ordered by local schools and 17 produce products were offered.

Farmers participating in the Farm-to-School Program can utilize the Revolving Fund Program to receive their produce payments within five days of delivery.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

MDAC administers the Certified Farmers Market Program to promote farmers markets in the state with Mississippi farmers selling Mississippi produce and other agricultural products. Thirty-two markets were certified in 2017.

The Livestock and Grain Market News Program is a federal/state cooperative agreement in conjunction with USDA. Fourteen livestock auction markets are reported by eight cross-trained Mississippi Board of Animal Health personnel. Prices collected from the fourteen sales represent 85 percent of all the livestock markets throughout the state. Livestock and grain pricing is collected and disseminated throughout the internet and radio five days a week. These prices are used by lending institutions, university agricultural economists, consultants, and livestock associations.

MDAC works to create marketing opportunities for Mississippi's farmers and agribusinesses through international trade. MDAC is a member of the Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA). SUSTA encompasses 14 southern states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Its mission is to increase exports for U.S. agriculture products and high-value foods. MDAC works jointly with other state and federal agencies to collaborate and deliver accurate information for companies interested in exporting through site visits, research, and providing potential opportunities, such as SUSTA. Market Development staff serve as liaisons for SUSTA to promote opportunities available for Mississippi agriculture and value-added products, in addition to serving as activity managers for trade shows and missions. MDAC staff served as activity managers for the Summer Fancy Food Show in New York City, Food Hotel China 2017 and SIAL China 2017, both located in Shanghai, China, and FOODEX Japan 2018 located in Tokyo, Japan. These trade shows give small companies the opportunity to have a larger presence by being branded under the SUSTA name and pavilion. Through MDAC's membership in SUSTA, Mississippi companies can take advantage of cost-share programs, allowing them to be reimbursed for eligible expenses incurred to reach new international markets.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED



GRANTS AND COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

The Market Development Division offers grant and cost-share programs to assist farmers and agribusinesses. Funding for these programs is made available through USDA rather than state funds.

Through the Specialty Crop Block Program funded by USDA, MDAC awarded \$356,333 to organizations to enhance the state's specialty crop industry. Eleven projects were awarded to universities and producer organizations to administer research and programs in areas specifically related to consumer and grower education and workshops, technology marketing and promotion of local foods, and production for horticulture, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, muscadines, blueberries and various other fruits and vegetables.

MDAC administers the Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) Cost-Share Program to reimburse farmers for 75 percent of the cost (up to \$500) incurred to obtain the GAP/GHP food safety certification. Twenty-two reimbursements were granted. This program is funded by the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

MDAC offers the Organic Cost-Share Program to Mississippi farmers obtaining Organic Certification. The program provided one organic farmer \$750 in to offset the cost of the certification. This program is funded through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

MDAC continued the Growing Lunch School Garden Grant through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Program for schools interested in building a school garden. Three schools were awarded a school garden grant, impacting more than an estimated 500 students.

MDAC also operates the Mississippi Farmers Market to give Mississippi farmers a location to sell their locally-grown fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy products, and other agricultural products directly to the public.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received \$356,333 in Specialty Crop Block Grant funds from USDA to promote the specialty crop industry of the state. Since its inception in 2006, MDAC has received \$3,351,504.85 from USDA in Specialty Crop Block Grant funds.
- Expanded the Farm-to-School Program, working with the Mississippi Department of Education. During the 2017-2018 school year, schools ordered 15,354 cases of Mississippi products, totaling \$557,553.
- Provided 129 Certificates of Free Sales to 14 companies exporting Mississippi agricultural products.
- Registered 73 agritourism operations for the Agritourism Limited Liability Program.
- Granted three schools a Growing Lunch School Garden Grant.



Mississippi farmers visited with students at Highland Bluff Elementary School in Brandon during 2017 Mississippi Farm to School Week, October 2-6, 2017. This celebration, a collaboration between Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and Mississippi Department of Education, gives students the opportunity to meet the farmers that grow many of the fruits and vegetables served in their cafeteria throughout the school year.

DIRECTOR

PAIGE MANNING

Paige@mdac.ms.gov

MISSISSIPPI FARMERS MARKET

The Mississippi Farmers Market provides a location for Mississippi farmers to sell their locally-grown and produced agricultural products direct to the public.



The Mississippi Farmers Market was created by the Mississippi Legislature to provide a facility for the efficient handling of farm products in the interest of the farmer, consumer, general public, and the State of Mississippi. The 18,000 square foot facility serves as a central location for farmers, specialty food makers, and local artisans to sell their agricultural goods and wares. The Market provides farmers with additional marketing opportunities, while increasing consumers' access to fruits, vegetables, and other farm-raised products.

The Mississippi Farmers Market participates in two USDA Farmers Market Nutrition Programs: The WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. These programs provide vouchers to eligible WIC participants and senior citizens to shop at the Market. The Market also participates in the AARP Fresh Savings Program which provides SNAP recipients a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$20, in tokens to purchase fruits and vegetables when using their EBT card.

The Market also rents the facility for private events. A restaurant, The Farmer's Table, is located inside the Market. It serves breakfast and lunch five days per week and utilizes products from the farmers on their menu.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided a venue for 80 total vendors, an average of 36 vendors per week.
- Attracted an average of 1,700 shoppers each week.
- Successfully implemented the AARP's Fresh Savings Program, which increased farmers' sales.

DIRECTOR
ROBBY SULLIVAN
Robby@mdac.ms.gov

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY

The Information Management Division provides information technology services to MDAC staff.

The Information Management Division (IMD) is primarily responsible for providing information technology and services to all employees of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). Also, IMD provides technical and network support, application development and systems support, and strategic planning services for both the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and the Mississippi State Fair Commission.

IMD plays a critical role in (a) aligning information technology with the agency's business goals, (b) providing the infrastructure resources to support the agency's communication and decision making, and (c) exploring emerging technologies to promote agriculture and commerce in the state.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Replaced 60 aging desktops for the main office and Ag Museum employees.
- Began UAS flights with FAA authorization to support case files and collect data from construction sites and field inspections.
- Launched the Genuine MS web portal.
- Developed a web based brands system for internal staff to search, edit, register, report and print animal brands.
- Updated the Bureau of Plant Industry's feed, fertilizer, lime, soil and plant (FFLSP) e-commerce portal.

DIRECTOR

JASON PRICE

JasonP@mdac.ms.gov

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK THEFT BUREAU

The Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau assists in the investigation of all farm and agriculture-related crimes.

The Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB) enforces all state laws pertaining to the theft of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, fish, farm equipment, chemicals, timber, and all other farm or agriculture-related crimes. The Bureau consists of nine investigators, one for each Mississippi Highway Patrol District. The Bureau is also responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all persons who violate any of the laws administered by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

In addition to its law enforcement function, MALTB maintains registration of all livestock brands. Livestock in Mississippi do not have to be branded; however, if they are branded, the brand must be registered. The brands are recorded for a five-year period at a cost of five dollars. Registered brands are published in book form and distributed to law enforcement throughout the state. The most current book was printed in August 2018 and has over 1,100 brands registered.

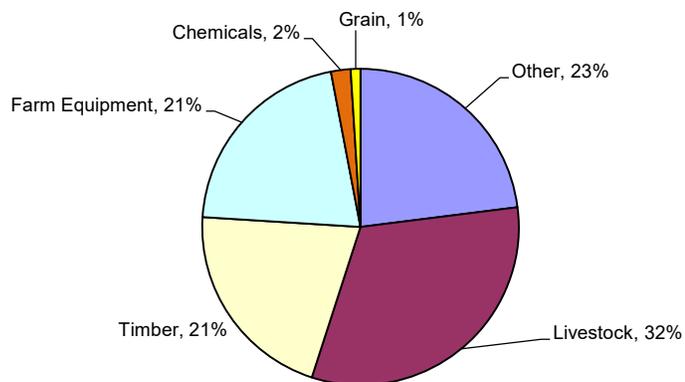
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Investigated 176 cases with a reported value of \$1,523,836, clearing 33 cases.
- Recovered property valued at \$908,364.



Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau along with the New Albany Police Department and Union County Sheriff's Office recover over half million dollars of stolen equipment.

LIVESTOCK THEFT CONTINUED



Percentage distribution of dollar value of reported crimes FY2018.

DIRECTOR

DEAN BARNARD

Dean@mdac.ms.gov



MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM

CULTIVATING MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum tells the story of Mississippi's agricultural history through indoor and outdoor exhibits and events.

The mission of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is to create an environment that communicates the value of past and present Mississippi agricultural lifestyles, relationships,

and practices and their relevance to the future of all people. The Museum consists of multiple exhibits including Small Town, Mississippi, a train exhibit featuring several gauges of trains, and a nature trail. The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is home to the Bisland Cotton Gin, America's oldest working cotton gin, and the National Agriculture Aviation Museum.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM CONTINUED



ANNUAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in cooperation with the the LeFleur Museum District, hosted the second annual Mississippi Science Fest, with over 4,000 students and adults attending the two day festival. Presenters included groups from MS State University Engineering Departments, 4-H, MSU Extension, Agriculture Associations, and STEM-based private businesses. The keynote address by Apollo 13 astronaut, Fred Haise, was held in the Sparkman Auditorium on the museum grounds.
- Over 7,000 children and adults attended the October Pumpkin Adventure, which included a hay ride tour of gardens and Small Town, Mississippi, a walk around the Museum, and a pumpkin to take home.
- Harvest Festival was visited by nearly 6,000 people. This educational event consisted of demonstrations at the saw mill, cane mill, print shop, blacksmith shop, and grist mill. The Bisland Cotton Gin, America's oldest working cotton gin, ginned five bales of cotton for visitors. The event also featured hit-and-miss engines, bluegrass music, antique tractors, and live interpreters demonstrating butter churning at the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead.
- The Museum hosted more than 500 guests for its Country Christmas event. This complementary event was sponsored by the Mississippi Egg Marketing Board and the Mississippi Beef Council. Guests were treated to wagon rides, Small Town in Lights, a skit, live music, and breakfast for dinner.
- The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board's Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Museum attracted more than 1,500 visitors who enjoyed complimentary sausage and biscuits, rides, egg dyeing, games, and an egg hunt.
- For more than 20 years, the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum has been home to the Celtic Fest. More than 1,500 attendees enjoyed the event in March 2018.
- Spring Farm Days offered the opportunity for more than 900 visitors to see tractor demonstrations, blacksmith demonstrations, and tour the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead over a 3-day period.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM CONTINUED

- AgVentures, held in partnership with Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Farm Bureau, Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association, Mississippi Cattlewomen’s Association, Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi Soil and Water Commission, and USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, was presented to 700 fourth grade students and teachers who learned the important role agriculture plays in our society. Interactive activities and displays included a catfish presentation, a reptile presentation, a tour of the nature trail, milking Cloverbelle the Cow at the 4-H Museum, and presentations about Mississippi’s agriculture and forestry products and industries.
- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Foundation held the 3rd annual “Lane of Lanterns” fundraising dinner featuring locally grown meats, fish, and produce. The Foundation also held the “Appetizers and Artifacts” fundraising cocktail event.



NEW PROGRAMMING

- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum was selected as a host site for the Smithsonian Institutes Travelling Exhibition Services Water/Ways exhibit. This exhibit is a collaboration with the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street program and the Mississippi Humanities Council and will run at the museum from December 10, 2018 to January 22, 2019.



MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM CONTINUED



NEW PROJECTS

- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum has completed phase 1 (of 2) of construction design and facilities layout for replacing the Museum's restoration shop and large equipment exhibit, selected a contractor, and began construction in April, 2018. The 9 month timeline for construction of phase one should open the new buildings in February 2019. The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum completed phase two of schematic design and budget for the Museum's Children's Barnyard and Veterinary Clinic. These buildings are all replacements from the November 2014 fire.
- The Museum finished 90 percent of the reconstruction and renovation work on the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead. This project is jointly funded through the Community Heritage Preservation Grant, administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Foundation. Traditional materials and techniques are being used to preserve the historical accuracy of the buildings in the farmstead in accordance with MDAH standards. The collection of buildings is significant because it is a fully intact Mississippi farm representative of the typical farmer from 1860 to 1960. In total, eight buildings on the Farmstead have returned to an accessible state for the public, increasing the educational value of the exhibit, and restoring a site that has great potential for heritage tourism.
- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum has rebuilt a large section of the McIntosh Blacksmith Shop.
- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum has redesigned the National Agriculture Aviation Museum exhibit using funding from the MS Agriculture and Forestry Museum Foundation. Renovation work on the exhibit is scheduled for Fall 2018.
- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum has installed a new automated gate and a new metal roof on the Masonic Lodge to improve safety and longevity on campus.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM CONTINUED



GRANT PROJECTS

- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum was chosen as a host for the Smithsonian travelling exhibit Water/Ways. This exhibit highlights the importance of transportation in the development of the United States and will be the first Smithsonian exhibit at the Museum in its 39-year history.
- The Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau grant for out-of-market advertising expenses for 2017-2018 is estimated to be more than \$14,000.
- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum received more than \$9,000 from the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Foundation for the conceptual design and renovation plans for the National Agriculture Aviation Museum exhibit. The Foundation has pledged more than \$100,000 for phase one of the renovation to take place in Fall 2018. The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Foundation also granted the Museum more than \$7,000 for a new children's train engine (tractor and frame) and \$500 for upgrades to the Bisland Cotton Gin.
- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum received a grant of over \$1,500 from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program for the installation of a Winter Crop Garden.

DIRECTOR

AARON RODGERS

Aaron@mdac.ms.gov