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December 31, 1999

To The People of Mississippi:

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) is charged with overseeing the state's largest industry: agriculture. Agriculture is a **\$16 billion industry in Mississippi, and we have a \$15.1 million budget to oversee and regulate it.** We are relatively small as state departments go, but we have a great deal of responsibility and are serious about carrying it out. This report has a great deal of information about what we do, but first let me give you a brief overview.

The department's mission is to **regulate and promote agricultural businesses within the state and to promote Mississippi's agricultural products throughout both the state and the rest of the world for the benefit of all Mississippians.** With this in mind, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce began a new program know as "Make Mine Mississippi" in April 1999. This program was set up for any company that produces, processes, or manufactures Mississippi products. Registered companies receive an official "Make Mine Mississippi" logo for promotional purposes. As of June 30, 1999, 216 companies had enrolled in the logo identification program.

MDAC has a broad range of responsibilities, stretching from **regulating foods such as meat, fish and poultry from farm to marketplace, to overseeing seeds and the crops planted by Mississippi's farmers.** Our responsibilities also extend beyond the farm, to **regulation of pesticides, checking weights and measures of scales, even certifying gasoline pumps across the state.**

The Market Development Division is the promotional arm of the department. Its mission is to educate consumers at home and abroad on the quality of Mississippi grown and processed food, fiber and related agricultural products. In addition, the department publishes the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*, which has served as an information and marketing journal since 1930. Twice a month, approximately 40,000 people read the articles, notices and agricultural classified ads in the *Bulletin*.

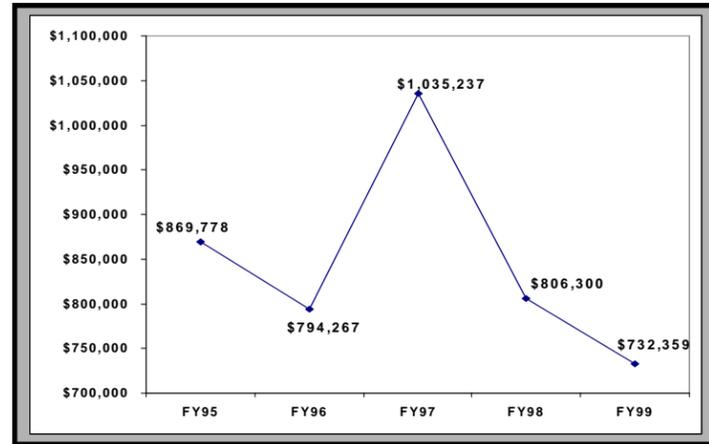
This was the first year for Mississippi's participation in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP.) MDAC and the Mississippi Department of Health's Women, Infants & Children Program (WIC) cooperate to make the FMNP a success. This program was set up to provide a limited benefit (in the form of coupons or checks) to low-income, nutritionally at-risk women, infants and children to increase their consumption of fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables; and to expand the awareness and use of farmers' markets. MDAC estimates the FMNP in 2000 will have a total economic impact of between \$70,000-80,000 to small farmers in Mississippi.

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License and Inspection Fee Collections for FY95 thru FY99

The Information Management Division and Meat Inspection Division staff in conjunction with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Services configured and installed 47 laptops, 7 desktop computers, and 54 printers for field staff of the Bureau of Regulatory Services. Also, the staff attended a four-day computer training in College Station, Texas. Today, the agency's Meat Inspection Division inspectors can perform basic office automation functions, have a dialup access to the Internet and the USDA computer system. Also, they can send and receive e-mail and transfer electronic forms with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Information Management Division successfully implemented a computer network for the Bureau of Plant Industry in Starkville. The project implementation included configuration and installation of 35 personal computer workstations on a local area network, office automation, data conversion, and training of Bureau of Plant Industry staff. Today, the Bureau of Plant Industry staff is connected with the agency's high speed wide area computer network and provides access to office applications such as word processing, spreadsheet applications, graphics, Internet electronic mail, calendaring, automated fax, and database applications.

In addition, the Information Management Division staff successfully designed, developed, and implemented two major database systems for both the Central Farmer's Market in Bassfield and Make Mine Mississippi marketing program. Today, the Central Farmer's Market staff in Bassfield can perform accounting and basic record keeping tasks electronically. Also, the marketing staff can now easily manage over 220 companies in the Make Mine Mississippi program via an integrated database email system and accept registration forms electronically via Internet.

The Egg Marketing Board is strictly promotional for that industry. On the other hand, the Central Farmers' Market offers a place where farmers from throughout Mississippi can come and market their fruits and vegetables to the public.

The department also works with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on several joint projects. Through cooperative agreements with this federal agency, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce provides agricultural statistics, as well as a food inspection service for fresh fruits, tree nuts, peanuts, vegetables, poultry and poultry products. The MDAC and USDA also operate a market news service on the trading of livestock, fruits and vegetables within the state.

The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce also has responsibilities beyond the department, sitting on several state boards, including:

Council of State Agencies on Agriculture

Mississippi Board of Animal Health

Mississippi Central Market Board

Mississippi Fair Commission

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Permit Board

Egg Marketing Board

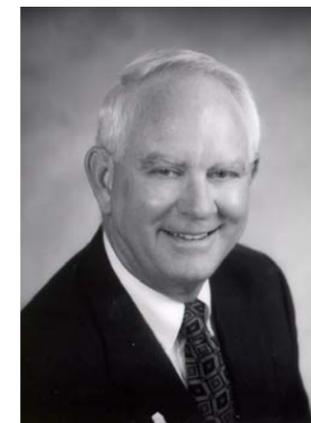
State Seed Board

State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

As you can see, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce does a lot. I am proud of our accomplishments, and I appreciate the hard work of our employees, as well as the help of the members of the Mississippi Legislature in making these accomplishments possible.

As we begin the 2000 Legislative Session, things are looking better than ever at MDAC. Employee morale is high, and we are poised to do great things at our department. Our pledge is to continue the improvements we have made and give the people of Mississippi the service they expect and deserve from everyone at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

Spell,

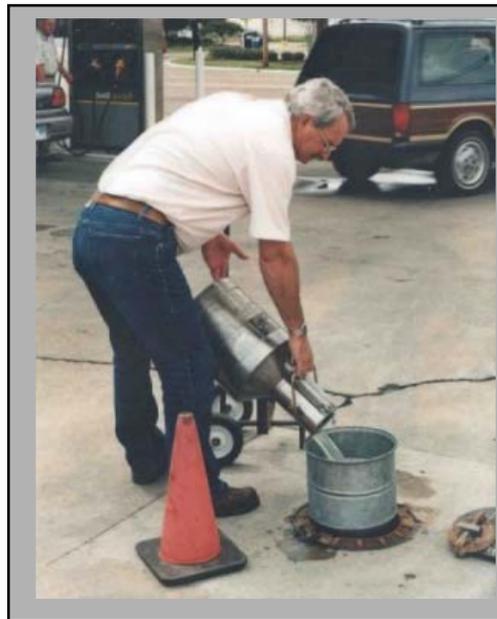


Sincerely,

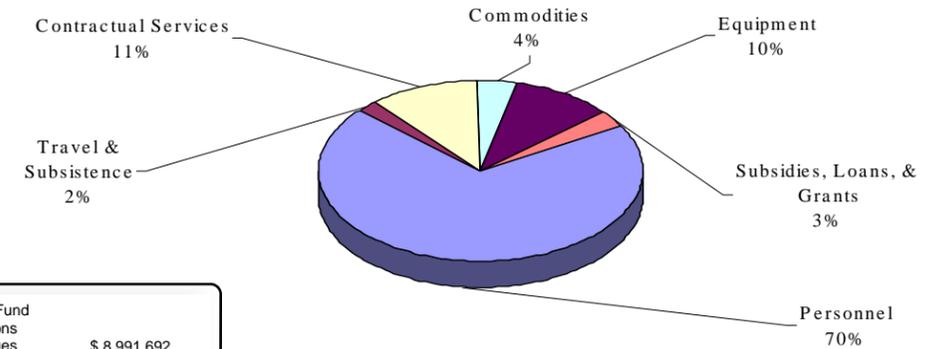
Lester

Jr., DVM
Commissioner

REGULATORY SERVICES

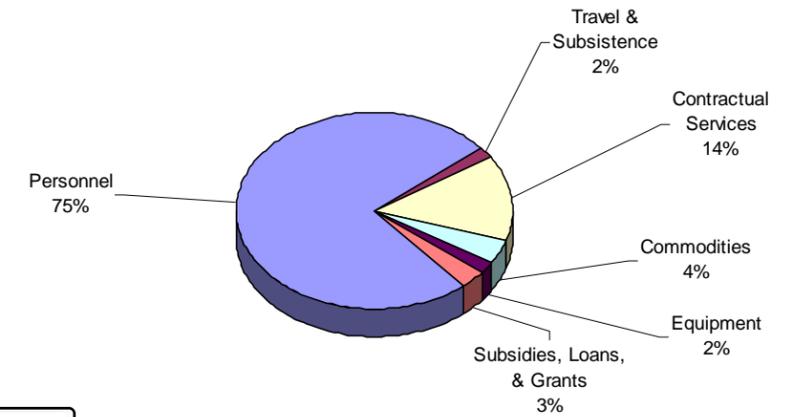


Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Support Budget for FY99



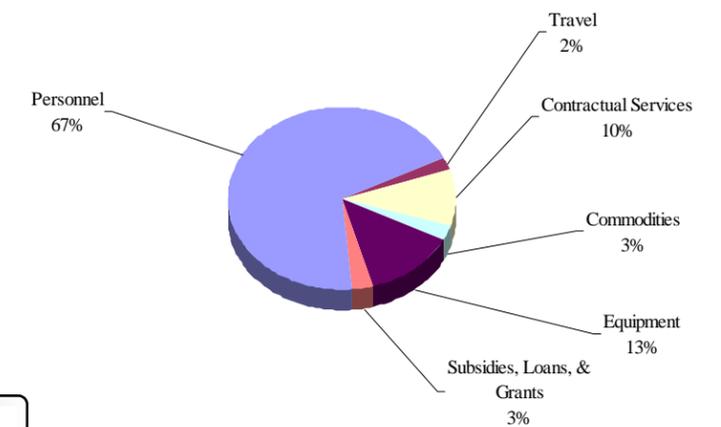
Total General Fund Appropriations and Revenues	\$ 8,991,692
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,980,993

General & Special Funds



Total Revenues	\$ 1,793,379
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,786,020

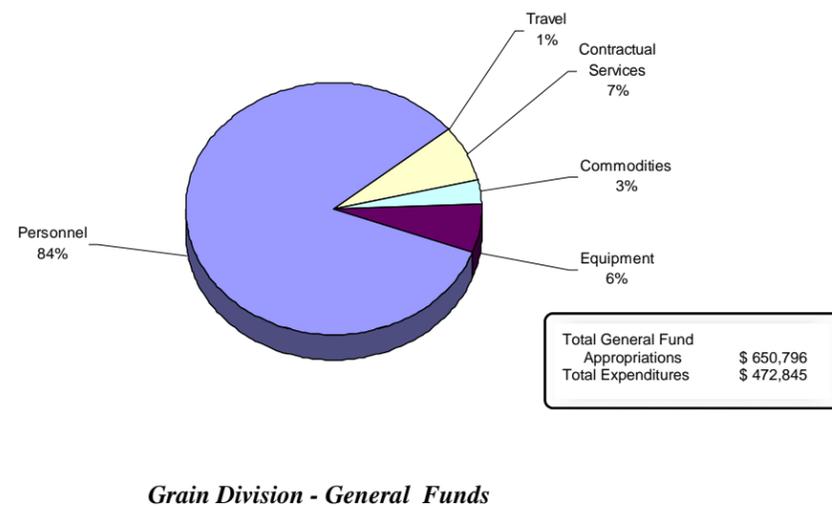
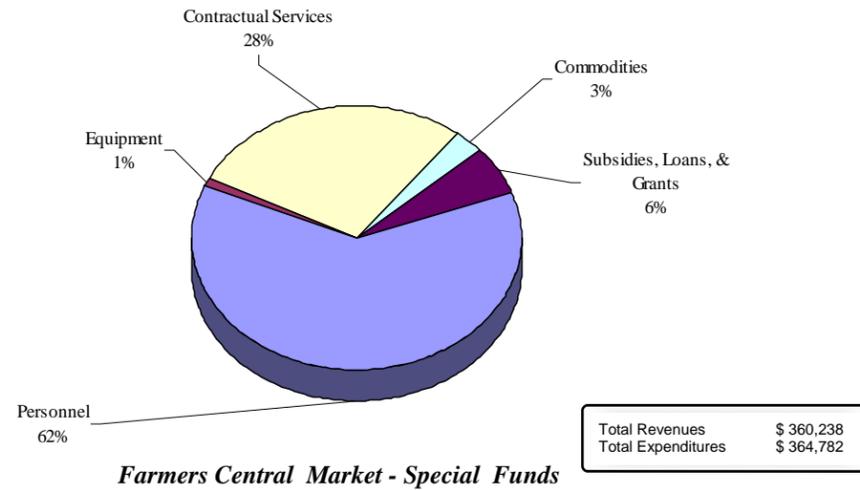
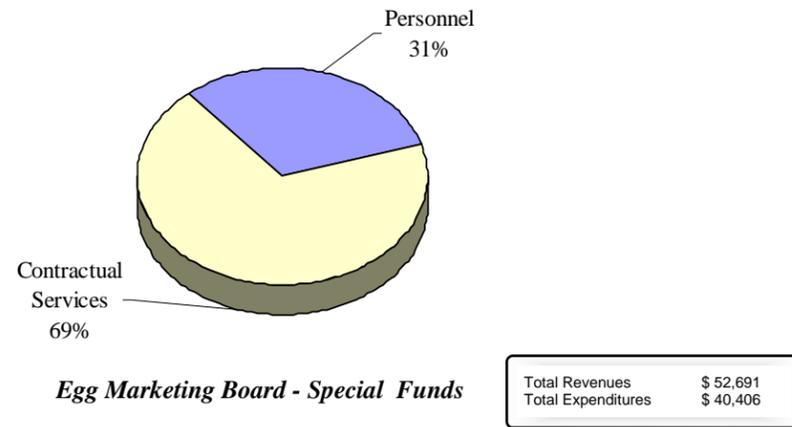
Special Funds Only



Total General Fund Appropriations	\$ 7,194,973
Total Expenditures	\$ 7,194,973

General Funds Only

**Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Program Budgets for FY99
(All Graphics Depict Distribution of Expenditures)**

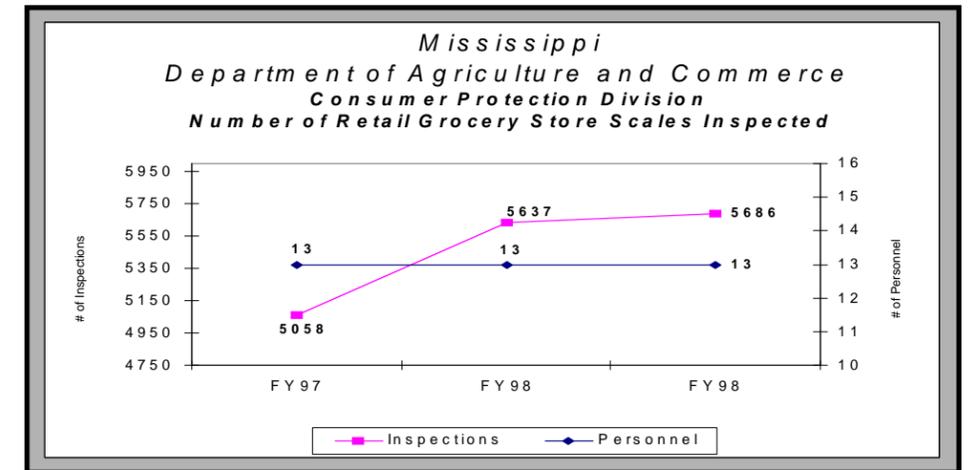


Consumer Protection

The mission of the Consumer Protection Division is to make sure the consumer receives a quality product that bears accurate identity, quantity and cost information. The division works to ensure fairness and equity in the marketplace through the administration of certain laws and regulations designed to protect the interest of the general public.

July 1997 saw the passage of legislation which reduced some past duplication of presence in certain businesses by the State Department of Health and our Agency.

The division's biggest success story in 1999 is our continued improvement in productivity. The chart below represents increased work with no more personnel.



The numbers below also give an idea of the scope of our responsibilities:

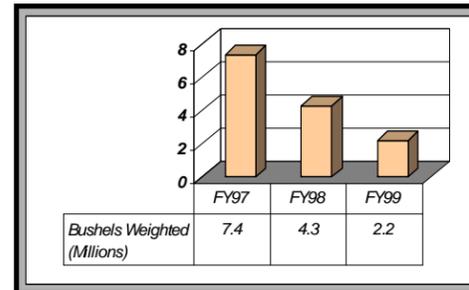
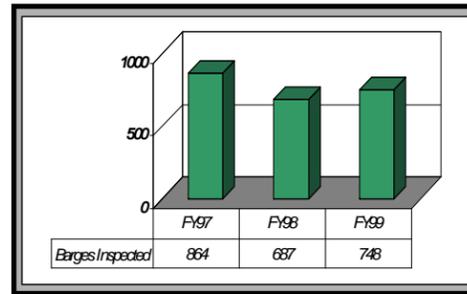
- Retail store inspections 3,402
- Pre-packaged items checked 89,075 (5.5% rejected)
- Cases of shell eggs inspected 45,924
- Scales tested (100 pound or less) 5,686 (5.6% rejected)
- Catfish product label inspections 1,379
- Syrup product label inspections 1,871
- Honey product label inspections 1,879
- Meat compliance inspections 1,774
- Sanitation inspections 1,688
- Disposition of garbage store inspections 1,750

In the coming year, we hope to **increase our efficiency and productivity through better and more usable computerization.** We also plan to maintain our good working relationship with other divisions and bureaus within the department as well as other state and federal regulatory agencies and fully implement the division's inspection responsibilities under the Bird Dealers Licensing Act.

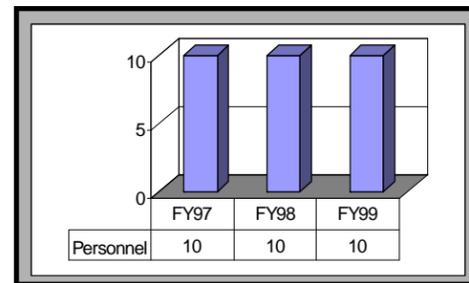
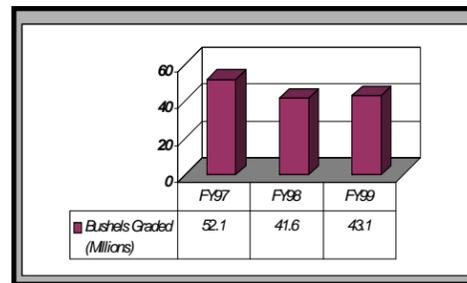
Grain Inspection

The Grain Inspection and Weighing Division facilitates the orderly marketing of grain and related agriculture products. It also promotes fair and competitive tracking practices for the overall benefit of consumers and the Mississippi Grain Industry.

The greatest accomplishment for the division for FY 1999 was the completion of 100% of the request for inspection while continuing to work with a reduced staff since 1997.



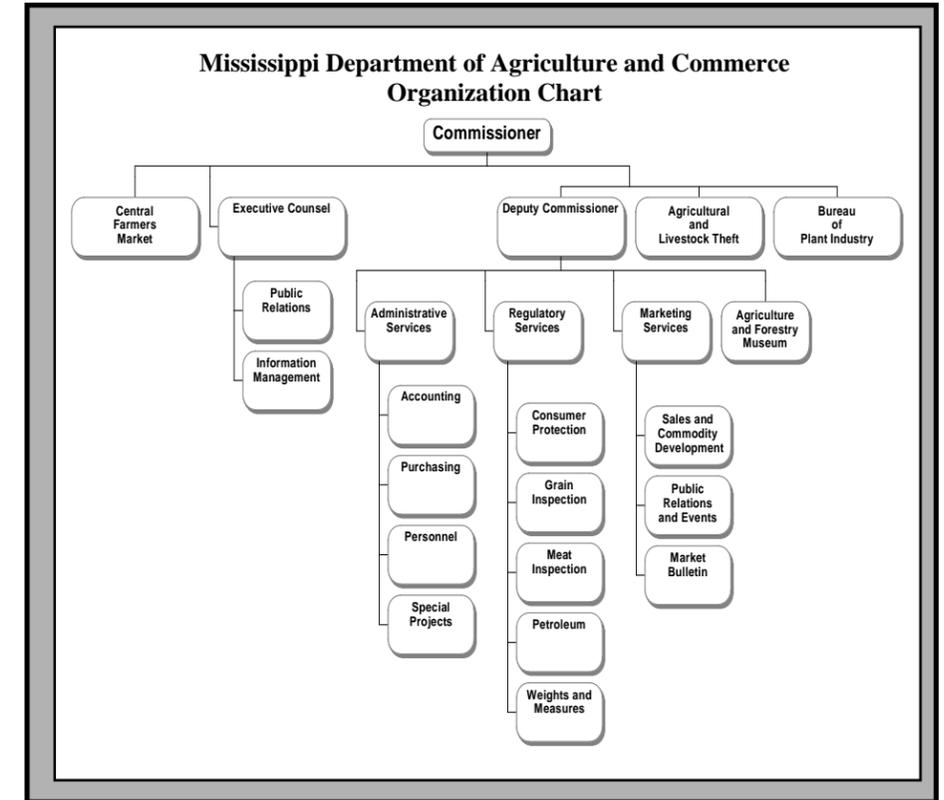
Other points of interest from the division in 1999 include:



- Total fees collected \$308,453
- Number of bottles of syrup inspected 453,024
- Number of railcars inspected 32
- Submitted samples 1,980
- Number of bags of dry milk inspected 37,472

For 2000, the goal of the Grain Inspection and Weighing Division is to **continue to provide cost effective service to the grain industry of Mississippi while entering new technologies into our daily operations.**

ADMINISTRATION



In the area of personnel, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has a great story to tell, more work is getting done with fewer people and that trend is expected to continue. In 1996, MDAC had fewer than 300 employees; by 1999, that number was still below 300 employees. In the coming years, while we expect to greatly increase productivity, total employment is not expected to rise above 300. It is important to note that the greater productivity is across the entire department, not just in one or two divisions.

The reasons for the increased productivity are numerous, including greatly increased use of modern computer technology, streamlining operations and planning, and employee training. The department will continue to use these techniques in the future, thus keeping the number of anticipated new staff to a minimum.

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.

(Continued on page 22.)

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM

The museum's mission is to provide safe, family-oriented, recreational opportunities in a scenic and peaceful environment. In doing so, we enrich the quality of life for all Mississippians, while promoting the state's tourism industry. In 1998 we streamlined operations, stepped up marketing efforts and placed our museum café under private management. The results were something we are all proud of:

- \$570,755 in admissions, rentals, catering, special events, and retail sales

As good as the past year has been, 2000 looks even better. Coordination of efforts with other area attractions began in 1998 toward the goal of improving services and awareness of the museum so that we could take advantage of major upcoming tourist events. Other goals are:

- Formed volunteer group
- Co-promote the museum with other area attractions
- Complete major renovation projects

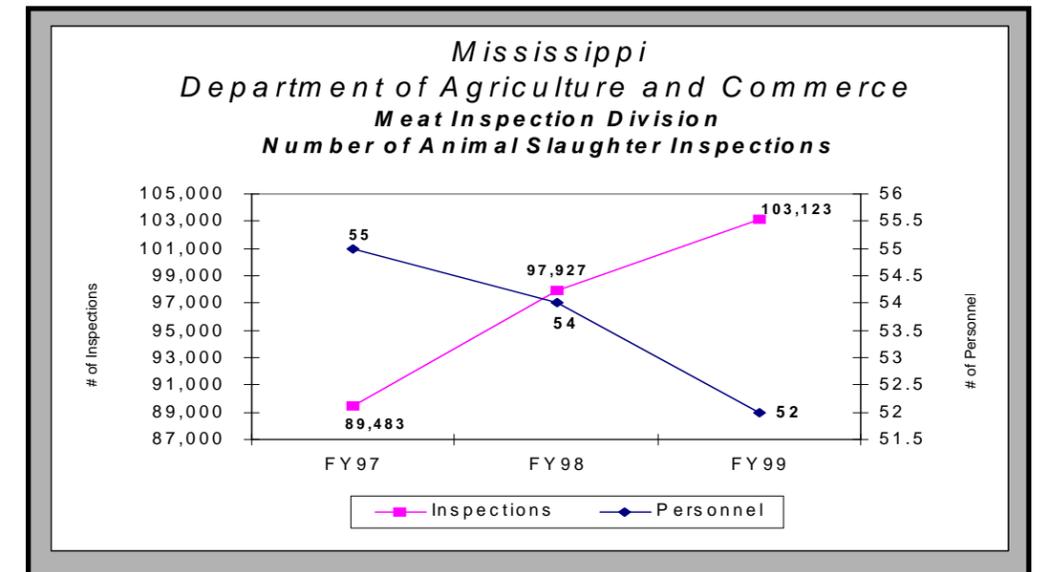
Based upon several major events already booked at the museum, we feel these goals for 2000 should be achieved.



Meat Inspection

The Meat Inspection Division provides regulatory coverage and inspection of all establishments engaged in the slaughtering of food animals and poultry, except for those plants operating solely under federal inspection. The division also inspects the further processing of meat, meat-food products, poultry, poultry food-products and their preparation for consumer items. Finally, we inspect these products throughout formulation, packaging, labeling and distribution to retail outlets.

The Meat Division continues to streamline operations and increase productivity. We have implemented the Field Automation and Information Management (FAIM) program initiated by USDA. The objectives of the FAIM initiative are to analyze the inspection and business practices of the Meat Division and systematically apply automation to those processes to improve productivity.



However, a simple chart does not tell the whole story. Here are some numbers that give you an idea about the scope of our division.

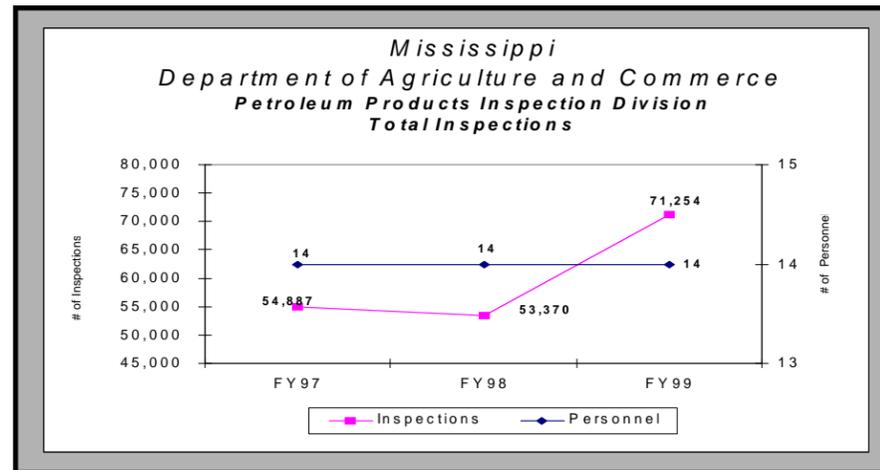
- Pounds of red meat inspected 57,347,391
- Pounds of poultry inspected 4,711,056
- Number of animals inspected 103,123
- Number of ratites inspected 1,027
- Number of meat plant licenses issued 85

In 1999, we began the second phase of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System (HACCP) and Pathogen Reduction Inspection Program, which covers small meat plants. We are continuing the cross utilization work with the consumer protection inspectors in retail stores, transportation and storage facilities.

Petroleum Products

The purpose of the Petroleum Products Inspection Division is to insure that the people who purchase petroleum products and/or motor fuels in the state of Mississippi get the amount that they pay for as well as the quality they expect. The division has ten inspectors, located strategically throughout the state, and two supervisors, one each for the Northern and Southern Districts. Duties of the division under the law include: calibration checks of petroleum pumps; sampling of petroleum products, at the 3,803 registered retail outlets throughout Mississippi.

As the chart below shows, completion of intensive reorganization allowed increased productivity as evidenced by dramatic increases in the number of inspections.



➤Pe-

petroleum pumps tested	71,254
➤Stations registered	3,803
➤Petroleum products sampled	2,539
➤Violations issued	3,016

Regrettably, some retailers received more than violation warnings. The reasons for "Stop Sales" or further regulatory actions included:

➤Stop sales for fuels violations	138
➤Stop sales for calibration violations	189
➤Stop sales for sign violations	39
➤Stop sales for water violations	70

In addition to the stop sales issued by the division, civil penalties in the amount of \$900 were also collected by the Petroleum Division. For 2000, the division's goal is to **put technology to work by increasing productivity even more.** The division through the help of the MS Legislation was allowed to purchase a large calibration truck enabling division personnel to calibrate stations on a much larger scale. We intend to use this new state of the art equipment to **increase the number and frequency of station and pump inspections.** We were also able to purchase five zeltex 2-101C octane analyzers, which has drastically increased the number of quality fuel checks made by the division.

Regulation of Crop Spraying By Aircraft

The Bureau issued 74 licenses to aerial applicators of hormone-type herbicides, approved 114 aircraft for such applications, conducted 2 inspections of crop damage from application of hormone-type herbicides and received 7 damage claims relating to hormone-type herbicide applications from producers.

Honey Bee Program

The Bureau inspected 1,987 bee colonies for American Foulbrood Disease, mites and other bee pests. The Bureau issued 46 permits for bee colonies moving into the state and certified 19,548 bee colonies for migration.

Boll Weevil Management Program

The Bureau collected assessments (participation fees) of \$25 million from 6,000 cotton producers. The Bureau also filed liens on 195 producers for failure to pay assessments.

Waste Pesticide Disposal Program

The Bureau cooperated with the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority to conduct a special waste-pesticide disposal event in Verona. Approximately 23,623 pounds of waste pesticides were collected.

Seed Program

The Bureau conducted 428 seed inspections and 3,249 official regulatory seed samples. The number of samples tested by the State Seed Laboratory was 14,899 and the number of special tests performed by the laboratory was 2,603.

The number of seed permits issued by the seed laboratory was 1,367 and the amount of fees collected from the issuing of permits was \$24,302. Revenues generated from service charges on farmer and dealer samples were \$45,428.

Feed/Fertilizer/Lime and Soil/Plant Amendment Program

The Bureau registered 7,516 feed products, 2,291 fertilizer products and 71 lime products. The Bureau also registered 908 facilities producing these products. The total receipts for penalties and fees collected by the Bureau were \$585,526.

Bureau personnel inspected bee colonies and installed baiting stations near apiaries to detect the presence of small hive beetle, a destructive bee pest. No beetles were found.

The Bureau published and distributed fact sheets on tropical soda apple and cogongrass, two noxious weeds posing problems for cattle producers and homeowners. The projects were a cooperative effort with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal, Plant Health Inspection Service-Plant Pest Quarantine; USDA-Agricultural Research Service and the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Regulation of Professional Services

Licenses and Permits: The Bureau administered 425 examinations in 14 categories for persons applying for a license to perform work and charge fees related to control of insects, plant diseases and weeds, tree surgery and landscape gardening. The Bureau issued 643 new licenses and 779 new identification cards to employees of persons holding a license. The Bureau issued 34 permits to employees of license holders that apply or supervise the application of restricted-use pesticides related to control of insects, plant diseases and weeds, tree surgery and landscape gardening.

Professional Consulting: The Bureau administered 32 examinations for professional agricultural consulting. The Bureau issued 585 new consultant licenses in entomology, 281 new consultant licenses in plant pathology and 449 new consultant licenses in weed control.

Pesticide Programs

The Bureau registered 10,874 new pesticide products from 970 manufacturers and collected \$844,900 in registration fees. Bureau personnel collected 1,325 samples of pesticide products offered for sale and determined that 67 products offered for sale did not have proper registrations. The Bureau issued 43 stop-sale orders for pesticide products that were deficient, mis-branded/adulterated or not registered.

The Bureau obtained 12 local-needs registrations (Section 24c) and 11 emergency exemptions (Section 18) for use of pesticide products in special or unusual production situations. It also issued licenses to 412 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticides.

The Bureau cooperated with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to develop an environmental map of the state to help pesticide regulators and applicators assess the impact of pesticide applications in areas of special concern.

Pesticide Application Programs

The Bureau certified 2,712 commercial applicators of pesticides and 2,491 private applicators of pesticides.

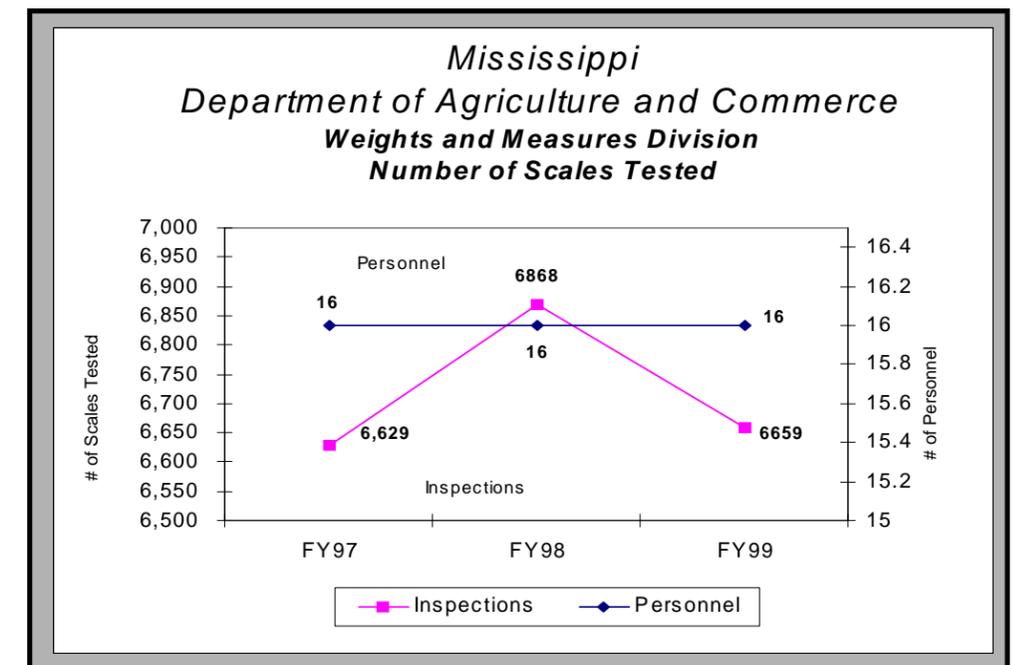
The Bureau conducted 987 inspections related to enforcement actions involving the sale, use and/or distribution on pesticides in the state. Additionally, the Bureau conducted 182 inspections of private applicator records.

Weights and Measures

The Weights and Measures Division is charged with the calibration and testing of all large and intermediate scales and measurement equipment used in commerce and trade; the regulation of pulpwood receiving facilities, sawmills and public weighmasters. In addition, the division provides training to inspectors on laws, rules and regulations administered by the division, emphasizing how enforcement is to be used to better serve the citizens of Mississippi.

The following were important accomplishments for this division for 1999:

- Increased inspections for the division by 3.6%
- Re-certification of our Metrology Laboratory



Other division figures show that 1999 was a very busy year:

- Pounds of feed, seed and fertilizer weighed 116,245.9
- Pounds placed off-sale for short weight 48,323.7
- Heavy scales tested 1,727.0
- Heavy scales rejected 283.0
- Intermediate scales tested 2,969.0
- Intermediate scales rejected 261.0
- All other inspections 1,963.0

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, employing approximately 30% of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly. Agriculture in Mississippi is a 4.7 billion-dollar industry having a 16 billion-dollar impact. There are approximately 42,000 farms in the state covering 11.7 million acres. Agriculture makes a significant contribution to all 82 counties. The Market Development Division is dedicated to promoting and heightening the public's awareness of Mississippi's crops and the farmers and ranchers who produce them.

Agriculture Awareness. This means educating the public and promoting by activity within the state. Some of the many activities we conducted in 1999 were:

- Presented agriculture's message to 30 school and civic organizations.
- Participated in 7 conferences and festivals in Mississippi
- Participated in 7 out-of-state trade shows and conferences
- Conducted 20 agriculture related promotions at the State Capitol during the Legislative Session
- Distributed thousands of recipes using products grown in Mississippi
- Assisted in marketing strategy development
- Interactive Kiosk
- Conducted a National Agriculture Day Celebration

Aquaculture. Mississippi is a world leader in aquaculture and the Market Development Division participated in many ways, including:

- Located a market for hybrid bluegill in Canada
- Hosted meetings of the Aquaculture Task Force
- Monitored a pilot program for gamefish production
- Conducted 25 inspections to permitted aquaculture farms
- Renewed 67 aquaculture permits
- Issued 14 new aquaculture permits
- Participated in 3 aquaculture trade shows/seminars
- Provided the Weekly Catfish Processors Report to the industry
- Conducted 2 tours of catfish producers and processors for international visitors

International Trade. A major goal of the division is to enhance our state's marketing opportunities around the globe. To that end, we:

- Represented the Department regarding produce export opportunities in Canada (with SUSTA)
- Conducted market research of aquaculture opportunities in Canada (with SUSTA)
- Assisted FAS with tours for visiting foreign attaches
- Conducted market research for aquaculture feed in Chile and Ecuador

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

The Bureau of Plant Industry, a regulatory and service division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, is responsible for carrying out state and federal programs dealing with plant pests, pesticides, honey bees, seed, fertilizer, lime, plant and soil additives, animal feed, agricultural consulting and professional services, such as tree surgery, landscaping and pest control. The Bureau was established under the Mississippi Plant Act by the State Legislature to protect agricultural and horticultural interests from the introduction and spread of injurious insects and plant diseases. Headquarters are located in the MDAC-State Seed Testing Laboratory building at Mississippi State University. The building is home to administrative and support staff who carry out the various regulatory programs. A statewide staff of district inspectors from the Bureau conduct inspections, investigations and surveys pertaining to the program areas.

The Bureau is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the following Mississippi statutes:

- Plant Act of 1918
- Regulation of Professional Services Law of 1938
- Pesticide Law of 1975
- Pesticide Application Act of 1975
- Bee Disease Act of 1920
- Crop Spraying/Licensing of Aerial Applicators Law of 1952
- Boll Weevil Management Act of 1993
- Waste Pesticide Disposal Act of 1993
- Pure Seed Law of 1968
- Commercial Feed Law of 1972
- Fertilizer Law of 1972
- Agricultural Liming Materials Act of 1993
- Soil and Plant Amendment Law of 1978

Highlights of Bureau activities for 1999:

Building Renovation

In 1997, the State Legislature authorized the sale of \$1.485 million in bonds for the renovation of and additions to the Bureau building. Construction of a new office wing was completed in August of 1999. Work continued in 1999 on renovation of the seed laboratory, a new parking lot and outside landscaping.

Plant Pest Programs

The Bureau conducted a trap survey for blueberry maggot in the commercial blueberry production areas of Mississippi. The objective of the survey is to learn if these pests are present in the state. None of these pests were found.

CENTRAL FARMERS' MARKET

The Mississippi Central Farmers' Market was created by an Act of the Legislature, House Bill 54 Laws of 1946. The Market was created to provide facilities for the efficient handling of farm products in the interest of the farmer, consumer, general public and the State of Mississippi.

The Central Farmers' Market operates from a "Special Fund Account." A summary of income sources: Three (3) wholesale buildings (40 stalls), two (2) wholesale sheds (26 stalls), two (2) retail sheds (20 stalls), restaurant, service station, office space, 114,000 sq ft building, fees for weighing vehicles and fees for parking vehicles for football games that are played at Mississippi Memorial Stadium.

The Central Farmers' Market provides marketing space for fruit and vegetable farmers to rent and sell directly to the consumer. This has increased the annual net profits for the farmers.

The Central Farmers' Market has a heavy truck scale 70 feet long that operates 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week, to weigh vehicles.

LIVESTOCK MARKET NEWS SERVICE

The Market News consists of eleven (11) market reporters. These men attend seventeen (17) cattle sales per week reporting number of cattle and prices at sale that day. The office consists of reporting daily summary of sales for radio, television and teletype that covers most of the United States.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

The Fruit and Vegetable Division consists of one (1) federal-state inspector collaborator, four (4) marketing specialists, one (1) fruit and vegetable inspector and one (1) part time inspector and one (1) person with the revolving fund. These people work with the farmers year round from planting to the sale of the produce. The inspectors inspect fruits, such as blueberries, and vegetables that are shipped. The marketing specialists help farmers sell their produce.

The Legislature has set up a revolving fund for fruits and vegetables. This fund will pay farmers for their produce after the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce office at Bassfield gets a signed receipt from the buyer. This will let the farmer get his money about two or three weeks before produce companies pay for it. This has been a big help to farmers. The Fruit and Vegetable Division has a part time man that works with the production and sale of fruits.

- Participated in a trade mission to South America with SUSTA
- Hosted a reverse trade mission with two Japanese paper company executives promoting Kenaf
- Mailed monthly trade leads to exporters
- Counseled individuals and associations on export opportunities
- Co-hosted trade seminars sponsored through the International Trade Club of Mississippi

Public Information. A lot of our work involves sending information straight to the public and to media outlets. Some of our publications include:

- *Mississippi Market Bulletin* (37,000 subscribers)
- Information to the media statewide on all important agricultural events
- A directory on 25 agricultural industries
- A directory of agricultural manufacturers and exporters
- A fruit and vegetable guide

Trade Shows and Fairs. Both of these are excellent opportunities to showcase Mississippi products. We participated in local, regional, national and international shows, including:

- Produce Marketing Association Show in New Orleans
- Mississippi State Fair
- Catfish Farmers of America
- Dixie Farm Show
- Commodity Food Tent at State Fair
- Fish Farming Trade Show
- Garden and Patio Show
- North America Agriculture Marketing Officials Conference – Nashville
- National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators Conference – Puerto Rico
- Contract Poultry Growers Expo
- MS Turfgrass Association annual meeting and Trade Show
- Greenhouse Tomato Short Course
- Aquafair
- Dairy Field Day
- National Honey Producers Meeting, Jackson, Mississippi
- Ag and Forestry Summit
- Dixie National Rodeo and Parade
- Served as a judge in 5 state competitions
- Tupelo Furniture Market

MAKE MINE MISSISSIPPI – This logo identification program for products grown, processed, and value added in Mississippi was developed by the Market Development Division. The goal of the program is to heighten consumer awareness about the many and diverse product offerings in Mississippi. Legislation for the program was passed in April, 1999. As of June 30, 1999, more than 200 companies have enrolled in **Make Mine Mississippi**, which offers them many promotional benefits including advertising discounts and cost/share reimbursement funds. The Market Development Division has the responsibility for recruitment and administration of the program.



AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK THEFT

The Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau was created to assist in the investigation of all farm and agriculture related crimes. The bureau has a director and nine investigators, one for each Mississippi Highway Patrol District. Investigators are responsible for enforcing all state laws pertaining to theft of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, fish, farm equipment and chemicals, timber and all other farm or agriculture related crimes.

In addition to its law enforcement function, the Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau maintains registration of all livestock brands. Livestock in Mississippi does not have to be branded; however, if they are branded, the brand must be registered. The brands are recorded for a five (5) year period at a cost of five (5) dollars. Registered brands are published in book form and distributed to law enforcement around the state. Right now, we have about 2,000 active brands on file and have registered more than 10,000 since 1952.

