

State of Mississippi

Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M.
Commissioner



Annual Report 2001



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
COMMERCE**

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December 31, 2001

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 \$4.8 billion industry in Mississippi with a \$16.8 billion direct and indirect impact, and we have a \$13.3 million budget to oversee and regulate. We are a relatively small state agency, 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 known 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, 2001, 599 companies had enrolled in the logo identification program.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is also charged with a broad range of regulatory responsibilities, ranging 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 extend beyond the farm, to regulation of pesticides, checking weights and measures of scales, and certifying gasoline pumps across the state. In addition, the department performs sanitation inspections in grocery stores.

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 38,500 subscribers and their families read the articles, notices and agricultural classified ads in the *Bulletin*.

FY 2001 was the third 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) 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 estimated the FMNP in 2001 had a total economic impact of between \$70,000-80,000 to small farmers in Mississippi.

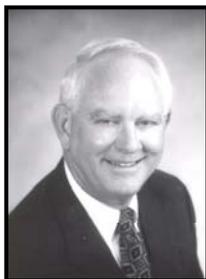
The department also works with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on several joint projects. Through cooperative agreements with this federal agency, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce provides agricultural statistics, as well as a food inspection service for fresh 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. This past year, with staff assigned from MDAC, USDA began, with the aid of computer, remote sensing of crop covers throughout the state. This project will have far-reaching benefits and is designed to estimate and verify farm acreage committed to specific crops.

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 Farmers' 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 is involved in ways that directly impact each Mississippian. 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.

Fiscal year 2001 was a year in which the department made great progress. The challenges facing agriculture and the department will continue in 2002. The staff is prepared and committed (to the successes of 2002.)



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lester Spell, Jr., DVM".

Lester Spell, Jr., DVM
Commissioner

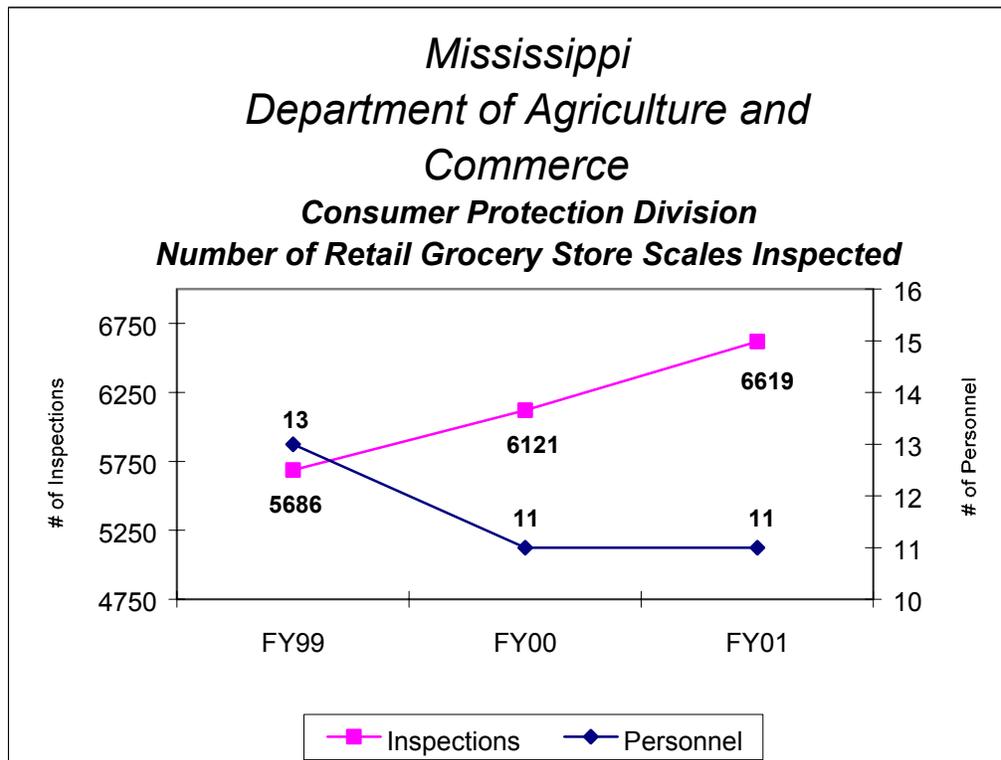
REGULATORY SERVICES



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.

In FY2001, the division continued improvement in efficiency. The chart below represents increased inspection activity with no additional personnel.



During FY2001, the division implemented the UPC inspection program to test electronic systems that employ a laser barcode reader to retrieve product identity, price and other information stored in computer memory for computing any basic charge or payment for products bought.

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

➤ Retail store inspections	4,452
➤ Pre-packaged items weighed	46,695 (6.3% rejected)
➤ Cases of shell eggs inspected	33,104
➤ Scales tested (100 pound or less)	6,619 (14.2% rejected)
➤ Catfish product label inspections	1,224
➤ Syrup product label inspections	1,577
➤ Honey product label inspections	1,546
➤ Meat compliance inspections	2,244
➤ Sanitation inspections	2,003
➤ Disposition of garbage store inspections	1,822
➤ UPC price verification inspections	66



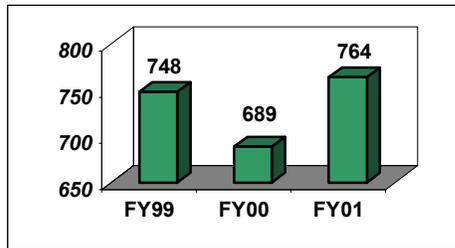
The division has increased efficiency both in the field and the office through the use of laptop computers for the field inspection staff and the WinWam software inspection program. We are continuing our Memorandum of Understanding with the State Department of Health in a united effort to better protect the general public concerning food safety. The division will continue to work in a cooperative manner with other state and federal regulatory agencies.

Grain Inspection

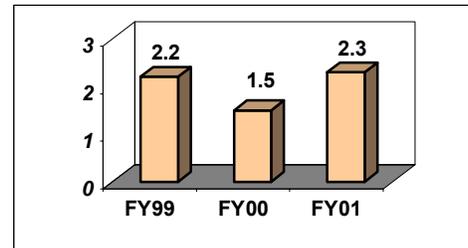
The Grain Inspection and Weighing Division facilitates the orderly marketing of grain and related agriculture products. It also promotes fair and competitive tracking practices for the overall benefit of consumers and the Mississippi Grain Industry.

The greatest accomplishment for the division for FY 2001 was the completion of 100% of the requests for inspection while continuing to work with a reduced staff since 1997.

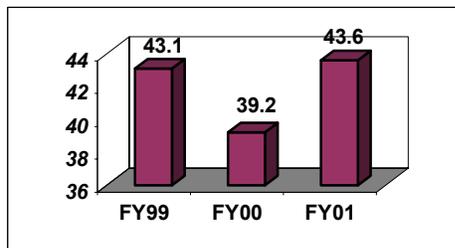
Number of Barges Inspected



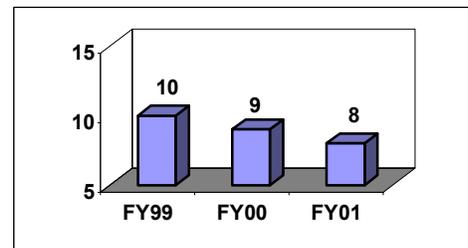
Bushels Weighed (Millions)



Bushels Graded (Millions)



Personnel



Other points of interest from the division in 2001 include:

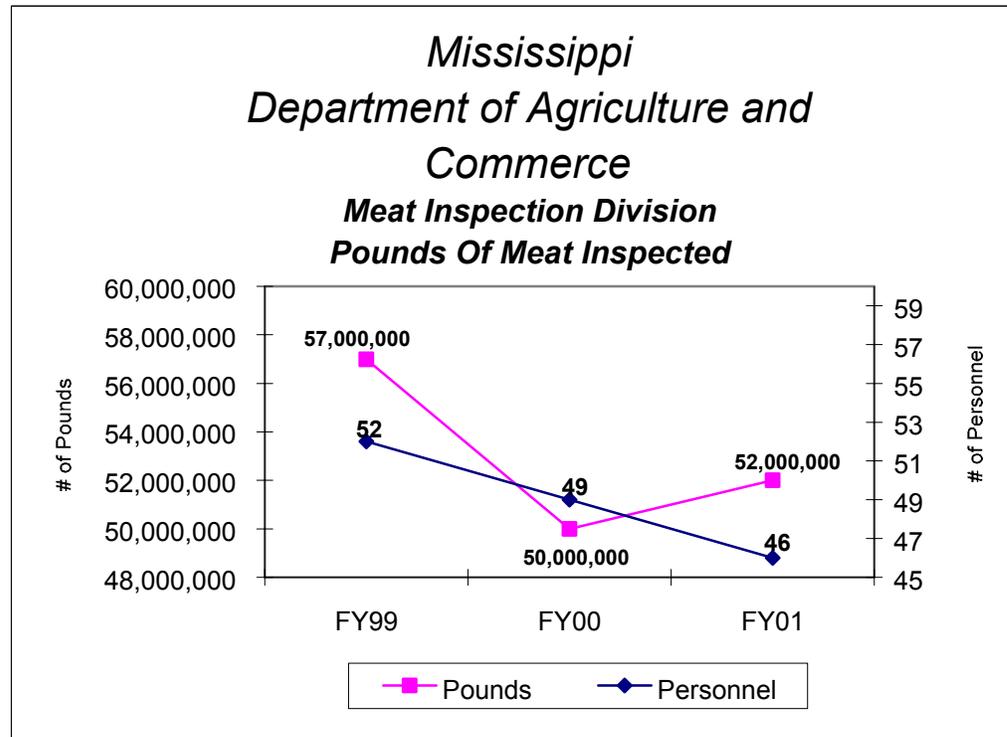
- Total fees collected \$264,720
- Submitted samples 828
- Number of bottles of syrup inspected 627,264

The goal for the Grain Inspection and Weighing Division in year 2001 is to continue providing cost effective services for the Mississippi Grain Industry by using new technologies and procedures to increase efficiency. To deliver prompt inspection results for the increasing number of inspection requests.

Meat Inspection

The Meat Inspection Division provides food safety assurance to meat and poultry food consumers. This is done by providing inspection service to establishments that prepare meat and poultry food products for entry into intrastate commerce and to some establishments that engage in interstate commerce. These products may include raw materials (carcasses and wholesale parts) and further processed products (consumer cuts, ground products, fresh and cooked sausages, ready-to-eat products, etc.)

The Meat Inspection 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 Inspection Division and systematically apply automation.

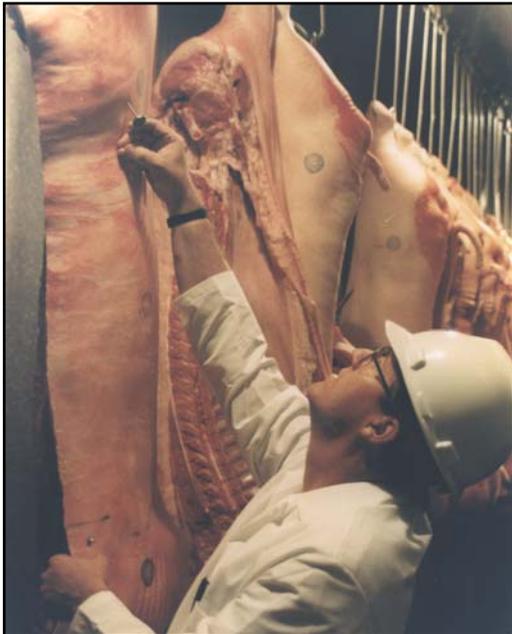


However, a simple chart does not tell the whole story. Here are some numbers that give you an idea about the scope of our division.

➤ Pounds of red meat inspected	52,336,645
➤ Pounds of poultry inspected	5,289,198
➤ Number of animals inspected	80,192
➤ Number of ratites inspected	44
➤ Number of state meat plants licenses issued	54
➤ Number of T/A plants (no state license required)	20

Currently, all meat plants are producing food products by using food safety systems that recognize current known food hazards. These new systems will continue to evolve and change as new hazards are identified or as new more scientific interventions for existing hazards are developed.

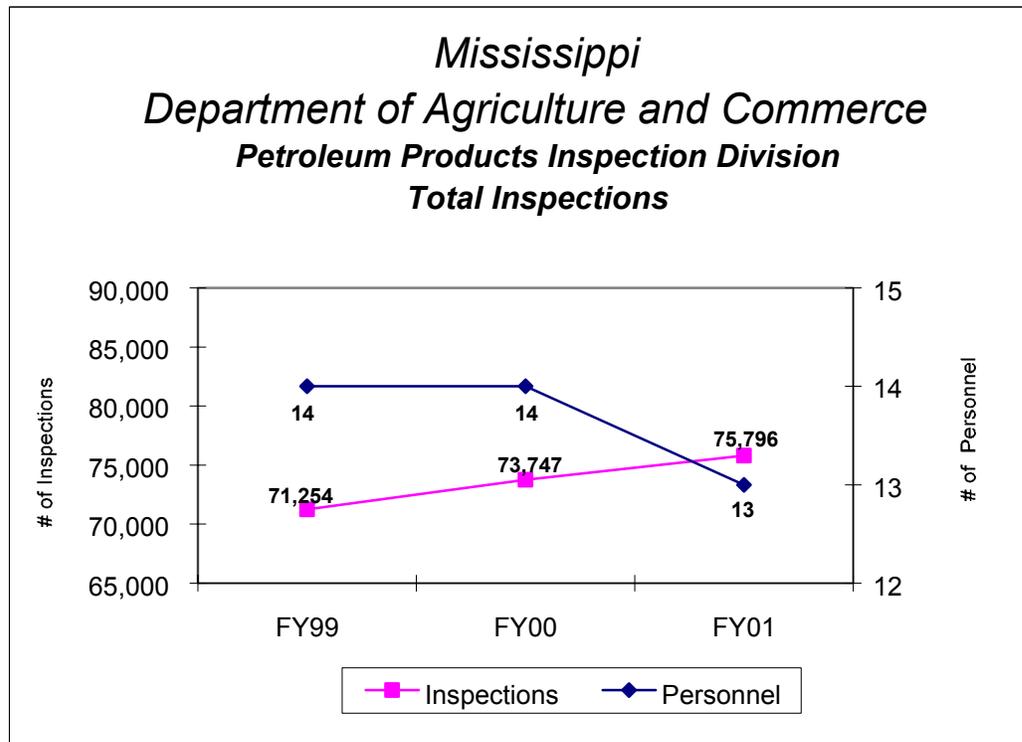
This is an exciting time for the Meat Inspection Division as we transition from organoleptic inspections to science-based assessments of food safety systems. This does however present unique challenges for this division. We must develop the skills to evaluate scientific data and to properly assess the validity of food safety systems. However, we welcome the change in the belief that these systems will result in ever-safer meat food products for the consuming public.



Petroleum Products

The Petroleum Products Inspection Division inspects retail motor fuel dispensers for quantity measurements. The division also obtains samples for quality assurance. As well as inspecting quality and quantity, the Petroleum Products Inspection Division inspectors check for water and correct advertisement signage. These inspections were conducted at the 3,732 locations registered in the state

The Petroleum Products Inspection Division has incorporated a calibration truck consisting of 4 holding tanks and 4 calibration cans, allowing division personnel to more efficiently conduct inspections. The Petroleum Products Inspection Division has also manufactured a trailer, carrying a 150-gallon prover to be used in the calibration of high flow dispensers.



Not charted are statistics giving a general idea of penalties and violations issued by The Petroleum Products Inspection Division.

➤ Stations registered	3,732
➤ Petroleum pumps tested	75,796
➤ Petroleum products sampled	4,899
➤ Violations issued	2,632
➤ Stop sales for fuel violation	98
➤ Stop sales for calibration violations	170
➤ Stop sales for sign violations	24
➤ Stop sales for water violations	32

In addition, the Petroleum Products Inspection Division has also been involved in investigations concerning the rollover of unleaded product as premium product. As a result of this investigation the Department of Agriculture has accessed a record penalty.

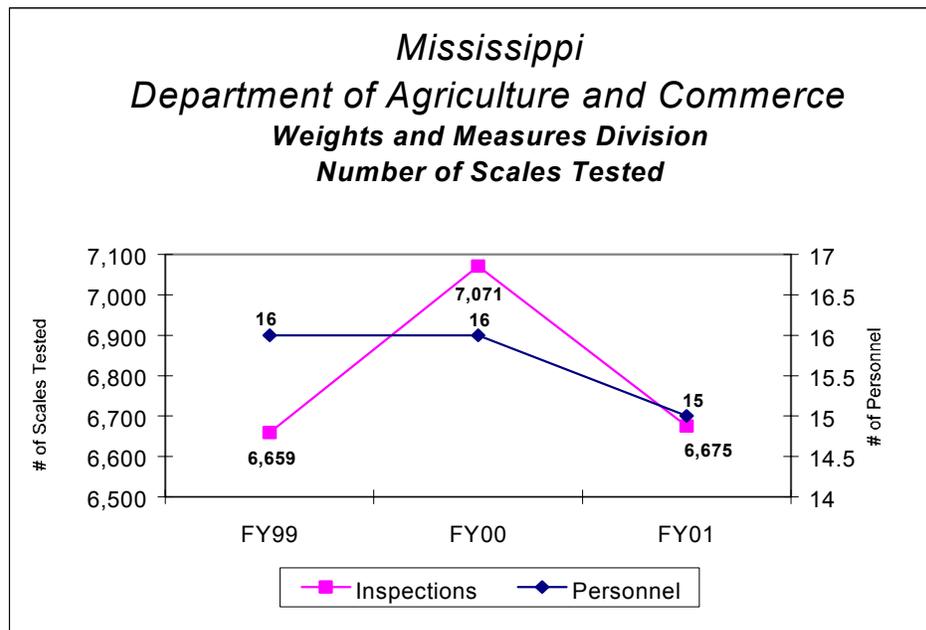


Weights and Measures

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 and 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 2001:

- Replaced testing equipment in milk tank calibration truck
- Completed conversion to electronic inspections (WinWam)
- Completed new Metrology Lab Building at Alcorn State University



- Pounds of feed, seed and fertilizer weighed * 31,924
- Pounds placed off-sale for short weight ** 118,780
- Heavy scales tested 1,714
- Heavy scales rejected 279
- Intermediate scales tested 3,490
- Intermediate scales rejected 231
- All other inspections 1,471

* Based on a 10% sample of each lot.

** If product is short weight, whole lot off sale.

MARKETING 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 4.8 billion-dollar industry. There are approximately 42,000 farms in the state covering 11.1 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 agriculture commodities and the farmers and ranchers who produce them.



Agriculture Awareness

- Presented agriculture's message to 40 school and civic organizations
- Participated in 23 conferences and festivals in Mississippi
- Conducted 20 agriculture-related promotions at the State Capitol during the Legislative Session
- Distributed thousands of recipes using products grown in Mississippi
- Counseled with companies and producers
- Conducted a National Agriculture Day Celebration

Aquaculture

- Conducted 26 inspections to permitted aquaculture farms
- Renewed 65 aquaculture permits
- Issued 12 new aquaculture permits
- Played an important role in consumer awareness of Vietnamese imported fish, known as the "copycat" to our native catfish. Worked with the Mississippi catfish industry in obtaining information and working on legislation concerning imported fish.

International Trade

- Member of the Southern United States Trade Association, encompassing 16 southern states whose mission is to increase exports for United States agriculture and high value foods.

- Department conducted a catfish promotion in Miami in conjunction with SUSTA and the states of Florida and Virginia for Spanish seafood buyers. A five-course meal was prepared featuring various catfish dishes. The catfish industry was discussed in great detail.
- Department conducted tours and gave presentations to more than 100 international visitors
- Counseled individuals and associations on export opportunities
- The Market Development Division works closely with the International Trade Clubs of Mississippi and the Mississippi District Export Council

Public Information



Since 1917, the farming community throughout Mississippi has had access to one of the most important farming tools there is, the Mississippi Market Bulletin. The Mississippi Market Bulletin is a buy/sell newspaper for farmers to advertise their agricultural items that have been raised, grown, produced or operated

on their farms. It is the best source for information regarding: machinery/equipment, livestock, plants/seeds, agricultural real-estate, etc., anything related to Mississippi agriculture. It provides a wealth of information delivered to farmers' doors 24 times a year. The Mississippi Market Bulletin is a semi-monthly publication, published on the 1st and 15th of each month. Its circulation of 38,500 subscribers is not limited to in-state residents but goes to out-of-state residents as well.

- Information to the media statewide on all important agricultural events
- An agricultural commodity directory distributed statewide and located on the web at www.mdac.state.ms.us
- A directory of agricultural manufacturers and exporters
- A fruit and vegetable guide

Trade Shows, Conferences, and Fairs

- Mississippi State Fair
- Commodity Food Tent at State Fair
- Fish Farming Trade Show
- Bay Springs Field Day
- Garden and Patio Show
- National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators Conference, Wisconsin
- North American Agricultural Marketing Officers Conference, Connecticut
- Dairy Field Day
- Envirothon
- Dixie National Rodeo and Parade
- Tupelo Furniture Market
- Mississippi Market
- Distributed 4,000 calendars promoting agriculture in Mississippi



Organic Certification Program

In 2001, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce made application to the USDA National Organic Program in order to be able to certify farmers. The USDA will announce in April 2002, the states, as well as independent inspectors, that will be able to certify growers as organic farmers. In February 2001, a statewide organic meeting was held in conjunction with the ARK/LA/MS Fruit & Vegetable Conference and Trade Show. Once MDAC can start inspecting Mississippi farms for certification, we feel this will be a profitable program.

- Make Mine Mississippi – This unique marketing program was created to highlight products 51% produced, manufactured or enhanced here in Mississippi. Using a logo to identify these Mississippi value added products, the program has heightened consumer awareness about the quality and availability of Mississippi products.
- Legislation was passed in April 1999, providing the foundation for Make Mine Mississippi. At the end of FY 2001, 599 companies across the state belonged to the program. Funding secured for the Cooperative Promotions Reimbursement Program in November 1999, has been a major benefit to members. Using this program, members have increased sales and helped their business grow, adding to the economy of our state.
- One hundred sixty-nine companies across most of the product categories were allocated funding.
- A total of \$158,570 was awarded.
- The companies reported \$30,071,232 in sales as a result of the promotional activities paid for in part by this program.
- Businesses are currently reporting some 560 new jobs created as a result of the Make Mine Mississippi program.
- For every dollar spent on this program, \$71 in sales was generated as a result of these companies' promotional activities.

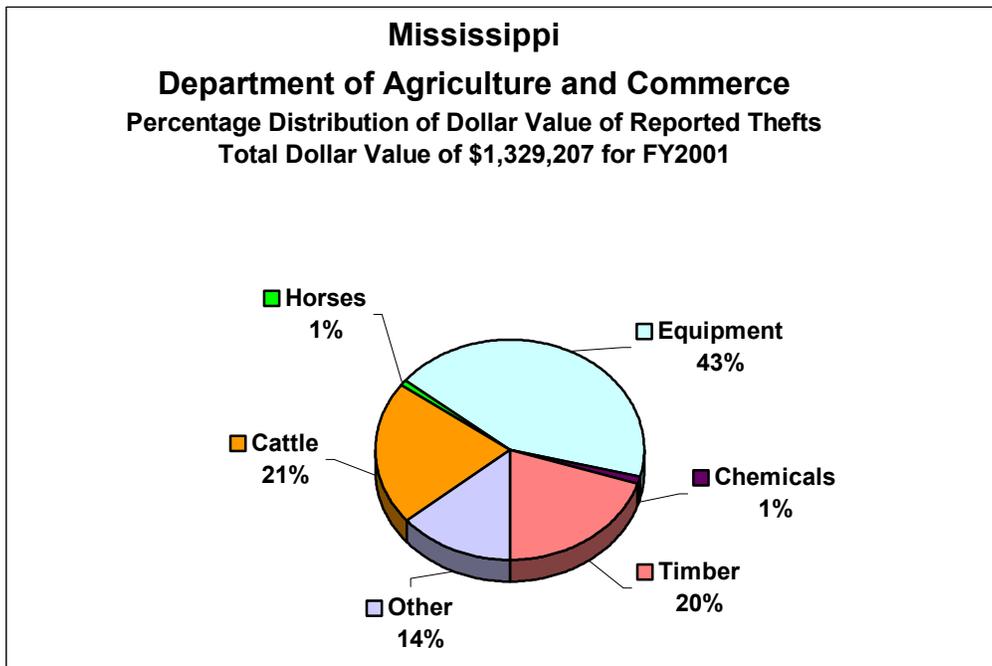
Johnston Tombigbee



AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK THEFT BUREAU

The Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau was created in 1993 to assist in the investigation of all farm and agriculture-related crimes. The bureau has a director, secretary / brand registrar and nine investigators, one for each Mississippi Highway Patrol District. Investigators are charged with 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. The bureau is also responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all persons who violate any of the laws administered by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

In addition to its law enforcement function, the Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau 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 (5) year period at a cost of five (5) dollars. We are presently in our fourth year, which means renewals will begin FY2002. Registered brands are published in book form and distributed to law enforcement around the state. Presently, we have about 1,500 active brands on file.



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 wholesale buildings, two with eight stalls and one with twenty four stalls
- Two wholesale sheds with twenty six stalls used for watermelons and shelling peas
- Two retail sheds with twenty stalls
- Restaurant
- Service station
- Office space
- 114,000 square foot building
- Fees for weighing vehicles and fees for parking vehicles for football games that are played at Mississippi Memorial Stadium

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

The Central Farmers' Market operates a 70ft. heavy truck scale 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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.



Fruits 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, one (1) part time inspector, one (1) person who operates the revolving fund and a shed manager at Bassfield. These people work with the farmers year-round, from planting to the sale of the produce. The inspectors inspect fruits 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 allows the farmer to receive payment about two or three weeks before produce companies pay for the produce. This has been a big help to farmers. The Fruit and Vegetable Division has a part-time person who works with the production and sale of fruits.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) serves as the Plant Protection and Quarantine Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. It carries out regulatory programs pertaining to plant pests, pesticides, honey bees, seed, animal feed, fertilizer, lime and soil/plant amendments (additives). Additionally, it cooperates with the Agricultural Aviation Board of Mississippi in administration of state laws pertaining to licensing of agricultural aviators and maintains cooperative agreements with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in administration and enforcement of state and federal laws.

The Bureau of Plant Industry building is located on the Mississippi State University campus in Starkville. In 1997, the Mississippi Legislature authorized the sale of \$1.485 million in bonds for renovation of the Bureau building. The end of 2001 saw the successful conclusion of the renovation project authorized by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce for the 17,260 square foot facility.



Plant Pest Program

- Conducted 652 nursery inspections and 454 nursery dealer inspections.
- Conducted 392 inspections for Brown Garden Snail on plant materials shipped from California and intercepted infested plants at seven nursery dealer sites.
- Issued 3,026 phytosanitary certificates on plant materials shipped out-of-state.
- Found no significant levels of Sweet Potato Weevil after conducting trapping activities on commercial sweet potato acreage, storage houses and plant beds.
- Made no positive finds of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Chrysanthemum White Rust, Viburnum Leaf Beetle and Asian Longhorned Beetle after conducting visual detection surveys.
- Reported first occurrence of Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus in Mississippi at a greenhouse tomato operation in Newton County.
- Reported first occurrence of Daylily Rust in Mississippi in a hobbyist garden in DeSoto County.
- Found no occurrence of Blueberry Maggot after conducting trap surveys in eight counties.
- Made positive find of Giant Salvinia weed at nursery water garden in DeSoto County.
- Intercepted seven pieces of cotton harvesting equipment failing to meet fumigation standards established by state boll weevil quarantine and federal Pink Bollworm quarantine.
- Collected more than \$27 million in assessment fees paid on 1.3 million acres of cotton by farmers participating in statewide eradication of the Boll Weevil.
- Inspected 3,711 colonies of honeybees.



Pesticide Program

- Registered 9,748 pesticide products and collected \$849,900 in product registration fees.
- Collected 1,057 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to spot-check registration numbers and compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Found 53 pesticide products without proper registration while conducting registration spot-checks.
- Issued 47 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded or not registered.
- Issued 41 special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued 20 emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 371 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticide products.
- Participated on inter-agency management teams, task forces and conferences to monitor and protect groundwater from pesticide contamination.
- Assisted federal agencies in compiling bulletins on endangered species in all 82 counties of Mississippi and distributed such information to pesticide applicators and the general public.
- Promoted proper rinsing, disposal and recycling of empty pesticide containers by working with state agencies carrying out recycling programs.
- Collected more than 150,000 pounds of waste pesticide products during one-day disposal event for private and commercial pesticide applicators.
- Issued 1,748 commercial applicator certificates.
- Issued 2,045 private applicator certificates.
- Made 218 inspections of records kept by private applicators of restricted-use pesticides.
- Obtained first successful felony prosecution and conviction of individual charged with intentional poisoning of animals with agricultural pesticides.
- Initiated supplemental labeling on specific burndown herbicide products to reduce off-target drift from applications by aircraft.
- Issued 1,045 permits for burndown herbicide applications on 442,915 acres.
- Conducted 12 producer-establishment inspections, 205 marketplace inspections, 154 inspections of applicator records and 133 inspections of dealer records.
- Conducted 75 inspections of pesticide misuse in agricultural situations and 60 inspections of misuse in non-agricultural situations.
- Conducted 24 informal settlement conferences as part of enforcement actions involving violation of state and federal pesticide laws.
- Collected \$18,250 in fines as part of enforcement actions involving violation of state and federal pesticide laws.
- Issued 75 licenses for aerial application of hormone-type herbicides and approved 118 aircraft used in application of such products.

- Issued 856 licenses to persons receiving fees for performing work related to entomology, plant pathology, horticulture, tree surgery, weed control, consultant services and professional soil classification.
- Conducted 1,450 inspections of properties treated for structural pests.
- Participated in numerous steering committees and conferences related to pesticide enforcement issues.
- Received a grant in the amount of \$64,000 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the purpose of conducting a public awareness campaign concerning the illegal use of farm pesticides in and around the home.
- Worked with advertisement agency to strategically place 15 billboard notices around the state that addressed the illegal use of farm pesticides in and around the home.
- Developed a brochure for distribution to the public that explained the dangers of the use of farm pesticides in and around the home.



Seed Program and State Seed Testing Laboratory

- Conducted 379 seed inspections.
- Collected 3,225 official regulatory seed samples.
- Found 146 official regulatory seed samples to be in violation of the State Seed Law.
- Issued 1,244 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Collected \$22,947 in fees paid for seed permits.
- Generated \$52,019 in revenues from service charges on farmer and dealer samples.
- Hosted the 14th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Seed Control Officials (AASCO) on the Gulf Coast.
- Received and investigated three complaints from farmers concerning problems in cottonseed.

- Wrote new regulations to accommodate changes in the Mississippi Pure Seed Law revised by the State Legislature.
- Tested 13,605 seed samples.
- Conducted 4,045 special tests on seed.
- Performed a total of 26,283 tests on seed.
- Implemented computerized certification system that automates recording and calculating of data generated from analyzing seed performance.

Feed, Fertilizer, Lime and Soil/Plant Amendments Program

- Registered 7,882 feed products from 435 companies.
- Registered 2,357 fertilizer products from 349 companies.
- Registered 62 lime products from 133 distributors.
- Issued 917 facility registrations.
- Issued 703 product deficiency penalties.
- Assessed and collected \$34,825 in deficiency penalties.
- Collected \$484,460 in product registration and tonnage fees.
- Conducted 541 inspections of feed, 342 inspections of fertilizer and 143 inspections of lime.
- Inspected 13,324 tons of feed, 47,889 tons of fertilizer and 16,778 tons of lime.
- Collected 7,363 feed samples, 1,581 fertilizer samples and 292 lime samples.

Public Information Program

- Produced pesticide enforcement response brochure explaining procedures for investigation of pesticide misuse complaints.
- Produced four-color covers for certified nursery and nursery dealer publications.
- Produced four-color brochure for sweet potato packing industry.
- Designed tabletop displays illustrating yard-and-garden pest control, plant pest regulatory efforts and pesticide safety.
- Conducted three safety workshops on poisonous plants in forest areas for Georgia-Pacific.
- Operated teaching station on pesticide safety for Farm Safety Day Camps in Smith and Jasper counties.
- Operated teaching station on pesticide safety for School Days on the Farm at MSU.
- Coordinated information and graphics for staff entomologist appearance on TV gardening show.
- Participated as exhibitor at 12 agricultural events.

Financial Services Program

- Researched, designed and implemented computerized certification system for State Seed Testing Laboratory.
- Acquired laptop computers for district inspector staff and conducted training on applications and procedures.

Financial Services Program

- Maintained fleet of 39 passenger vehicles used by staff in performance of work duties.
- Worked with office and district staff in implementing new accounting and personnel procedures as part of departmental reorganization of financial personnel.
- Maintained operating costs for state vehicles at average cost-per-mile of 0.083 cents.



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 2001, the Museum was fortunate to receive additional visitors due in part to the Spanish exhibit, which was held in downtown Jackson at the Arts Pavilion.

In 2001, the Museum improved many of the buildings, grounds and exhibits. A new brick sidewalk replaced the gravel walk through the rose garden, enabling more viewing of the rose garden for handicap visitors. The Heritage Center and General Store were installed with new air conditioning and heating units and the Children's Barnyard was covered with a new metal roof.

The National Agricultural Aviation Museum updated labels for artifacts and exhibits, improving the educational understanding of agriculture aviation. A new earth and water exhibit, provided by the Soil and Water Conservation, should be complete by Spring 2002. The Mississippi Extension Service is currently helping the Museum update the 4-H exhibit with new pictures and artifacts. In July 2002, the Museum will host the 4-H 100th year birthday celebration and break ground for a new building to be added to the Museum, highlighting 4-H in Mississippi.

The Museum's revenue

Total Revenue Fiscal Year 1999: \$570,755.00
 Total Revenue Fiscal Year 2000: \$604,308.96
 Total Revenue Fiscal Year 2001: \$344,982.14

(Revenue includes admission, rentals, special events, and retail sales.)



The Museum is still a very popular place to host special events such as: McB's Crawfish Boil, Very Special Arts, Scottish Highland Games, Celtic Festival, Fourth of July Celebration, Pumpkin Picking, Halloween, Harvest Festival and the annual Christmas Village.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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. 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 communication and decision making, and (c) exploring emerging technologies to promote agriculture and commerce in the state.

Accomplishments

The Information Management Division (IMD) staff procured and configured 30 notebook computers and printers for the Bureau of Regulatory Services. The IMD staff trained the field inspectors and implemented Win Wam™ software that allows the field inspectors to conduct regulatory inspections of devices, package checking, and price verifications. This automation allows the inspectors to perform inspections in adherence to all three National Regulations: NIST 133, NIST Handbook 44, and National Conference of Weights and Measures Publication 19 in a state government environment.

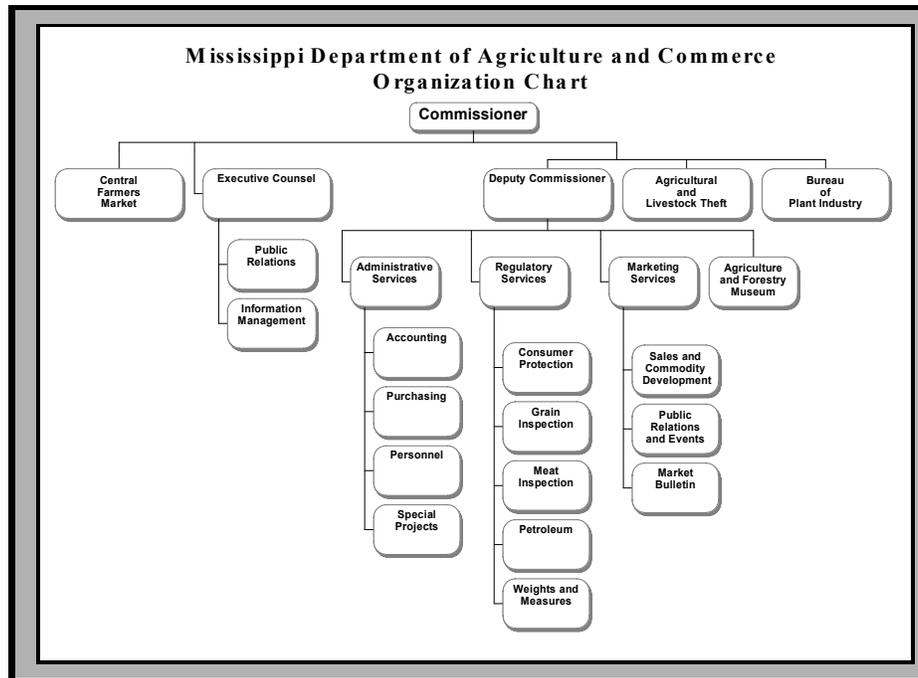
Also, the IMD staff procured, configured, and implemented a computer network for the MDAC Metrology Laboratory at Alcorn State University. Through careful planning IMD also researched, designed and implemented the computerized certification system for the State Seed Testing Laboratory. Laptop computers for the Bureau of Plant Industry inspector staff were acquired and intensive training on applications and procedures was undergone.



The IMD staff designed and implemented an Internet web site for the Mississippi Bee Keepers Association. The new web site allows the producers, processors, and wholesalers of the organization to keep up with the industry news, membership, lectures and events, bee keeping, and disseminate valuable marketing information about bee products in Mississippi. The new web site saved the organization thousands of dollars in web development costs.

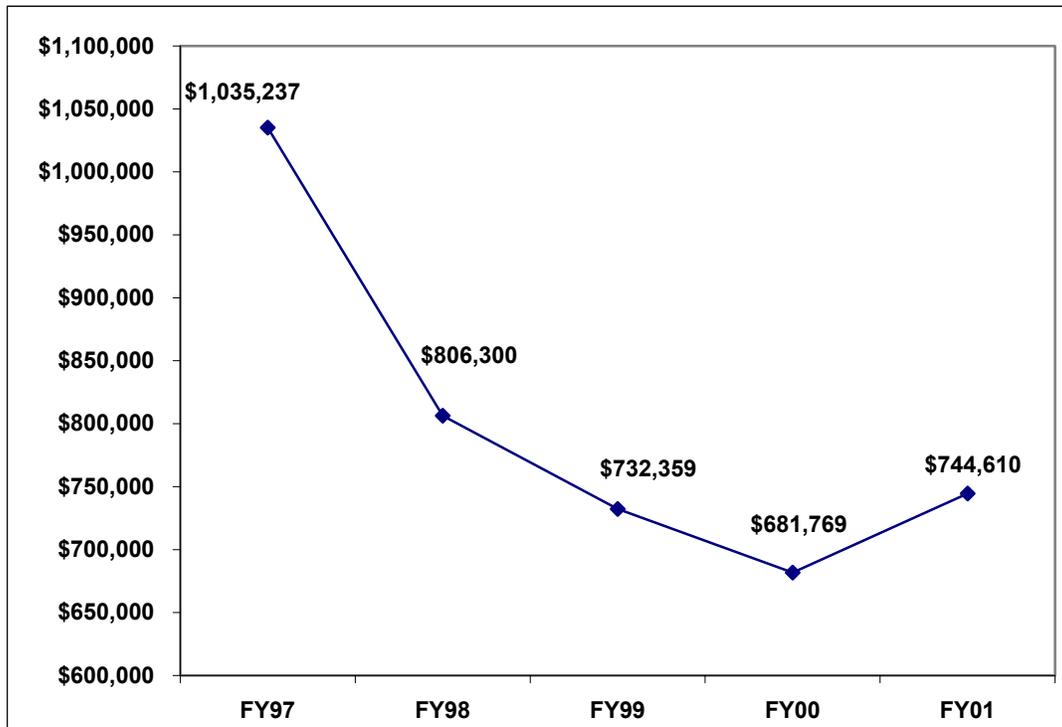


ADMINISTRATION



In the area of personnel, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce continues to have a great story to tell, more work is being accomplished with fewer people and that trend is expected to continue. In 1996, MDAC reduced its staff to less than 300 employees; by 2001, that number continued below 300 employees. Although authorized positions for Fiscal Year 2001 stood at 300 for the combined divisions of the department, the divisions were unable to fill vacant positions due to budget constraints. Some additional positions could not be refilled because of fiscal factors. Still, employees throughout the department assumed additional responsibilities and continued to perform at a high competence rate.

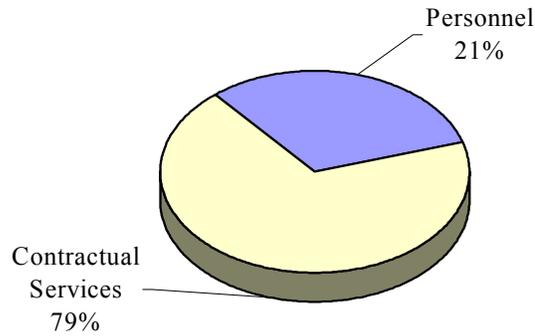
Advance planning, dedicated employees, continued use and upgrade of modern computer technology, creating more efficient operations and employee training will keep the department moving ahead professionally as well as keep it productive with fewer staff members.



License and Inspection Fee Collections for FY97 through FY01

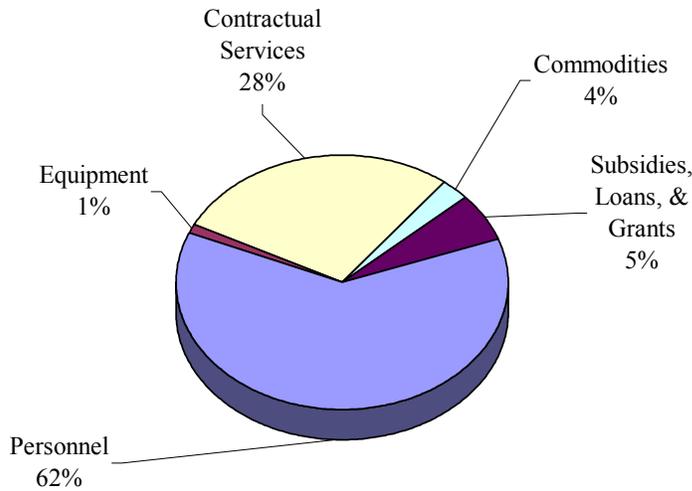
The above fees include *Market Bulletin*, Grain, Egg Marketing, Rice fees, Soybean fees, Weights and Measures, and other regulatory fees.

*Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Program Budget for FY01*



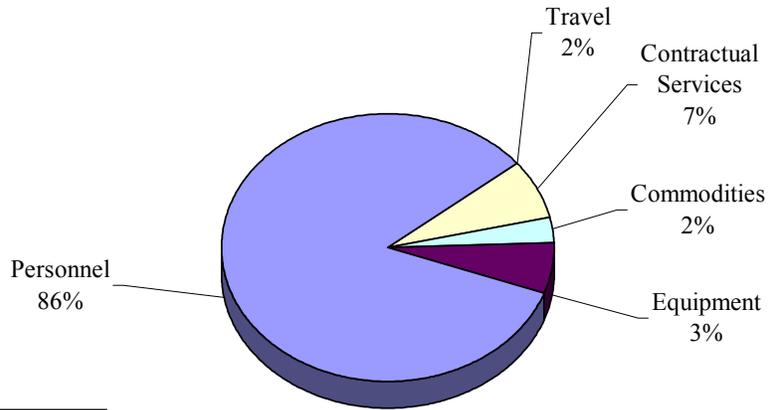
Total Revenues	\$52,834
Total Expenditures	\$59,898

Egg Marketing Board - Special Funds



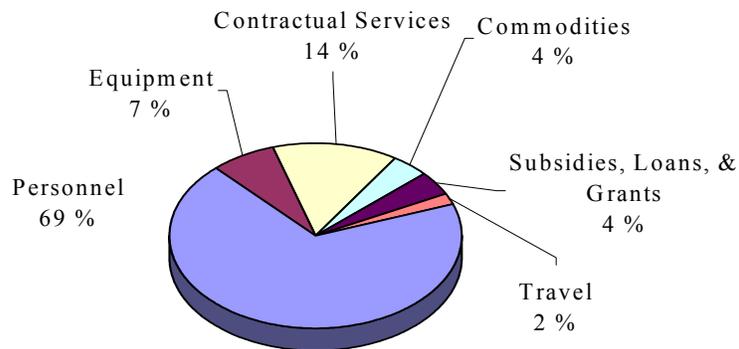
Total Revenues	\$356,926
Total Expenditures	\$380,901

Farmers' Central Market - Special Funds



Total General Fund Appropriations	\$618,556
Total Expenditures	\$406,724

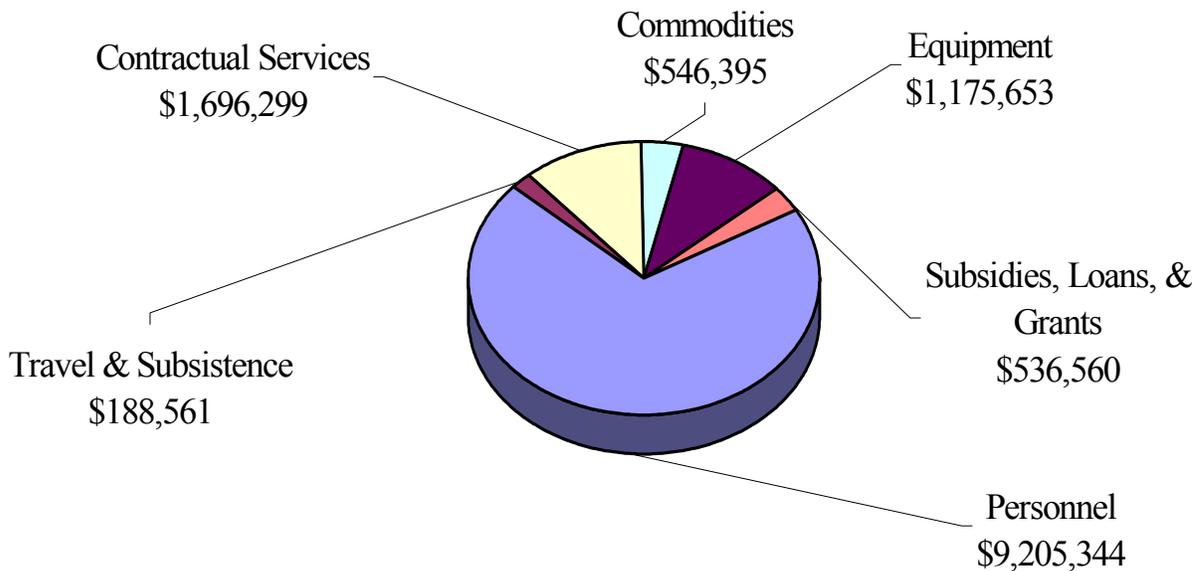
Grain Division - General Funds



Revenue	\$3,184,982
Total Expenditures	\$3,112,322

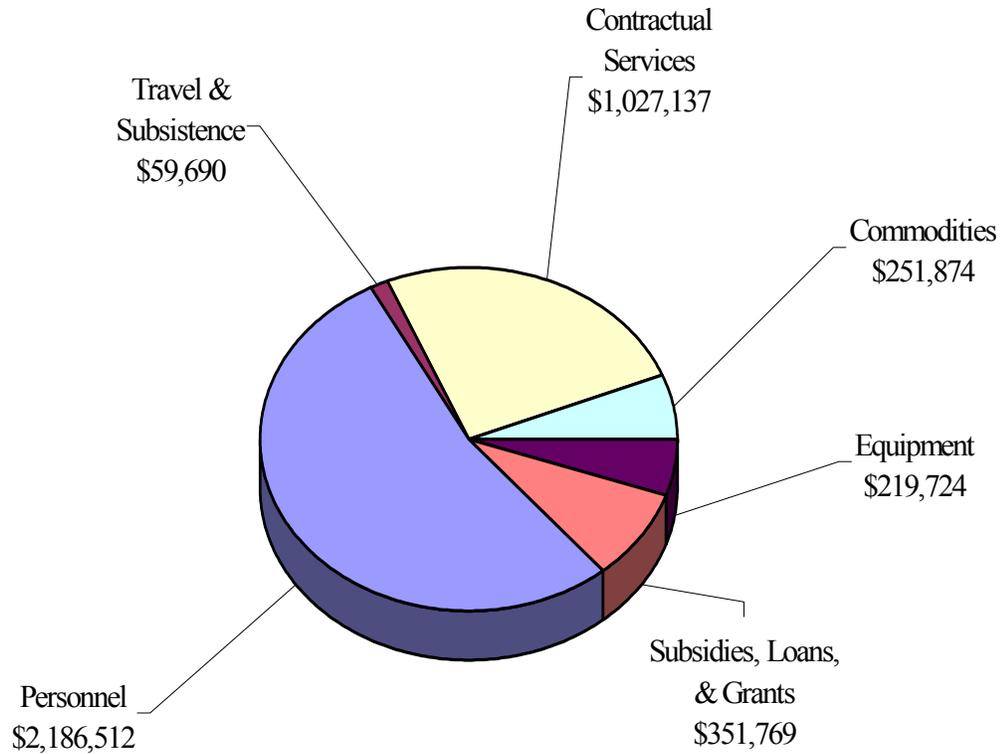
BPI - General Funds

*Mississippi Department of Agriculture and
Commerce
Support Budget for FY01*



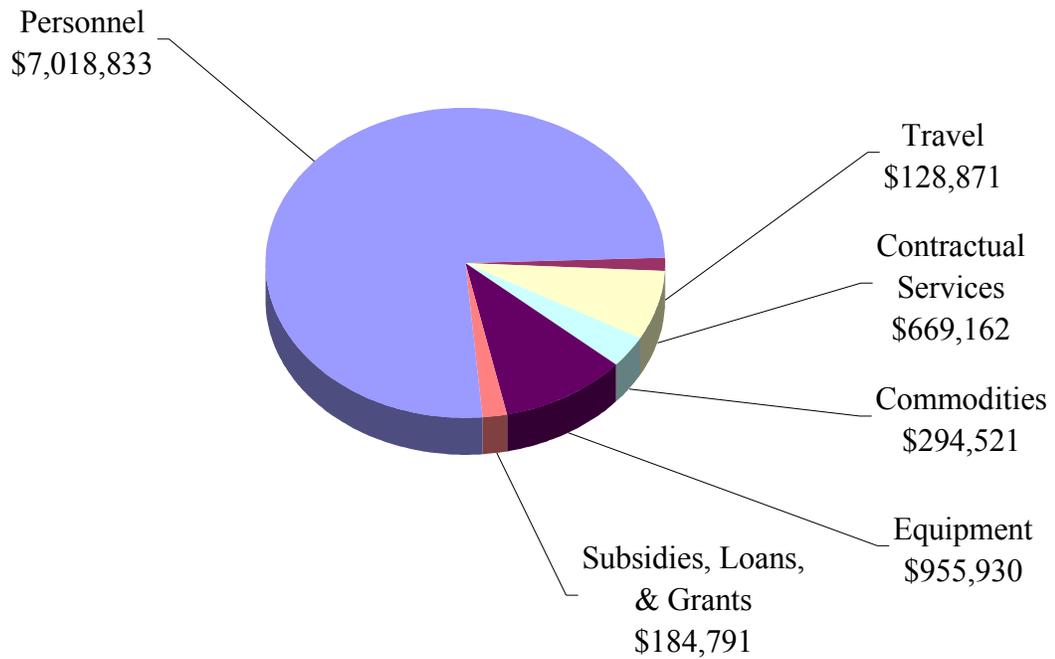
Total General Fund Appropriations and Revenues	\$13,877,659
Total Expenditures	\$13,348,812

General & Special Funds



Total Revenues	\$4,401,966
Total Expenditures	\$4,096,706

Special Funds Only



Total General Fund	
Appropriations	\$7,338,074
Total Expenditures	\$7,338,074

General Fund Only