

State of Mississippi

Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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



Annual Report 2003



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
COMMERCE**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Lester Spell Jr., D.V.M Commissioner	2
Administration	4
Agricultural and Livestock Theft	6
Agriculture and Forestry / National Agricultural Aviation Museum	7
Bureau of Plant Industry	9
Central Farmers' Market.....	16
Information Management	19
Market Development	21
Regulatory Services.....	25
Consumer Protection.....	26
Meat Inspection.....	29
Petroleum Products.....	31
Weights and Measures.....	33

December 31, 2003

To The People of Mississippi

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) promotes Mississippi's agricultural industry and regulates laws governing all sectors from on-farm production to processing to retail markets. It is a great responsibility to oversee our State's largest industry with a \$4.5 billion value for its citizens. The MDAC is committed to agriculture and creating an environment that gives Mississippi farmers and related industries opportunities and advantages. Detailed information is included in this report; however, the following is a summary.

The Market Development Division serves in promotional activities for Mississippi businesses. The Market Development Division's focus on consumer education enhances public awareness of Mississippi's superior quality products. "Make Mine Mississippi" is a logo identification program with the purpose of promoting Mississippi products at home and worldwide. This program continues to grow and currently 820 companies have met the criteria, registered, and received official promotional assistance. Also, the "Mississippi Market Bulletin", published by the Department with 37,500 subscribers, provides a venue for consumer and vendor contact.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's regulatory responsibilities extend from farm to marketplace. Besides the regulation of foods, the MDAC helps insure the health of consumers through sanitation inspections in grocery stores. The Department is also responsible for the regulation of pesticides, certifying gasoline pumps, and checking weights and measures of scales.

In cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Health and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), the MDAC assists with the Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. Additionally, for this year Mississippi secured funds to add a seniors program. These programs make fresh fruits and vegetables available to some low-income and nutritionally at-risk citizens. Through the Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, Mississippi not only enhances the quality of life for these participants, it contributes to the economic well being of small farmers.

The MDAC, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides agricultural statistics and a food inspection service for fruits, vegetables, nuts, and poultry. This joint effort operates a news service for the trade of livestock, fruits, and vegetables in the State. MDAC and USDA staff also has begun to estimate and verify farm acreage for specific crops through computerized remote sensing.

The Commissioner of Agriculture assures informed qualified leadership through service on several state boards such as:

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

Our Department has progressed over the last year with many challenges remaining for the coming year. The accomplishments of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce are through the joint efforts of State and Federal agencies, the Mississippi Legislature, and a sincerely dedicated staff.

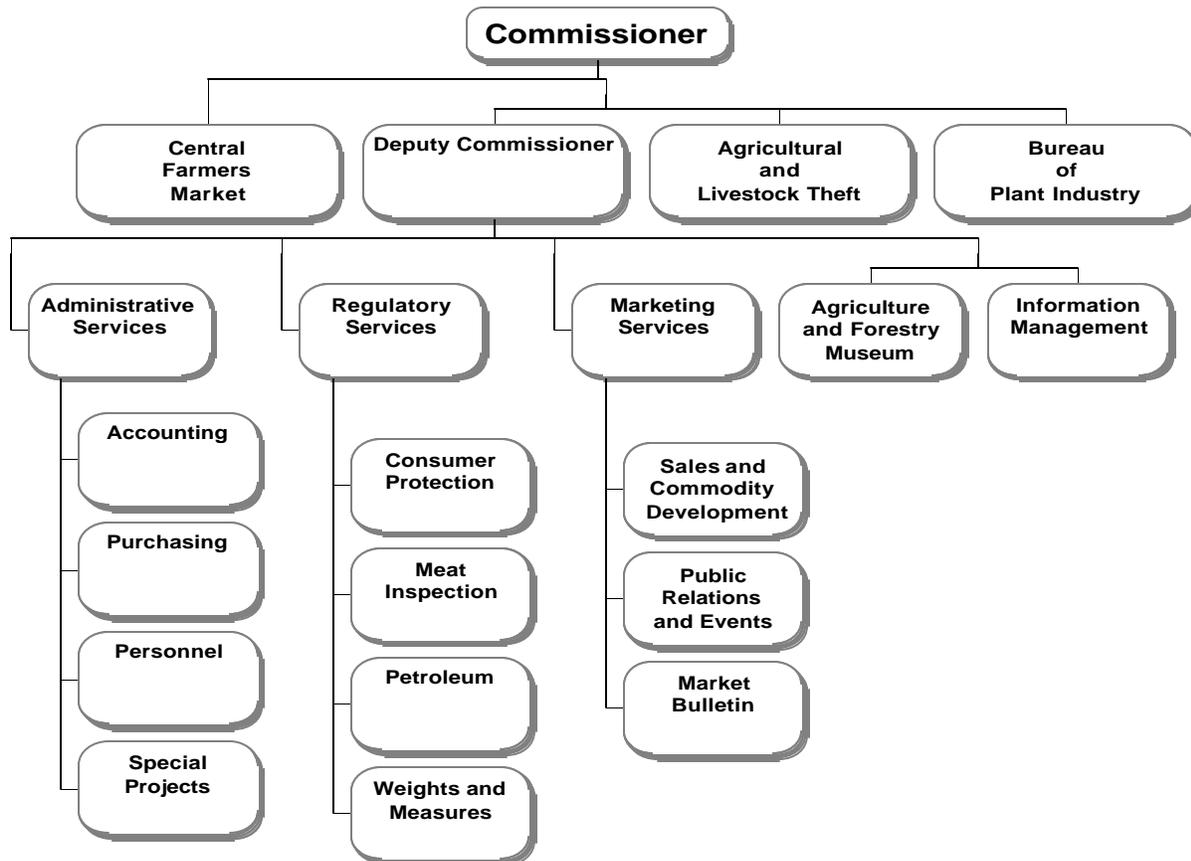


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lester Spell, Jr., DVM". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

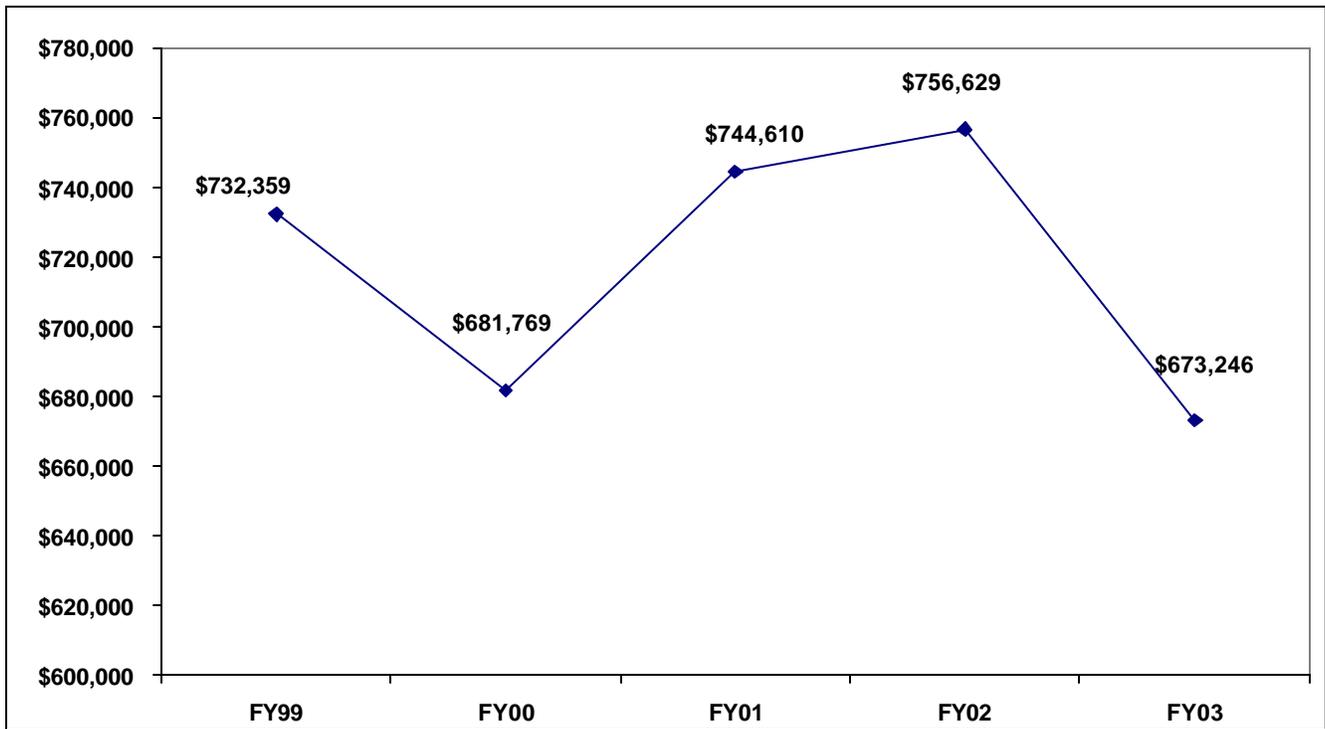
Lester Spell, Jr., DVM
Commissioner

ADMINISTRATION



Personnel-wise, year 2003 was another year under Commissioner Spell’s leadership when the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce continued to assume additional responsibilities as well as implement new programs in order to protect the Mississippi consumer. All of this was done with fewer personnel than in years past due to budget constraints. As usual, employees met the demands of the increased workloads brought about by the agency not being able to fill vacant positions due to those budget constraints. The agency, however, continued to upgrade its technology when and where needed and continued with its employee training.

Each year the agency continues to move forward with new ideas, new programs, efficient operations and dedicated employees in its efforts to insure that the citizens of Mississippi are well informed and protected in all areas relating to agriculture and commerce.



License and Inspection Fee Collections for FY99 through FY03

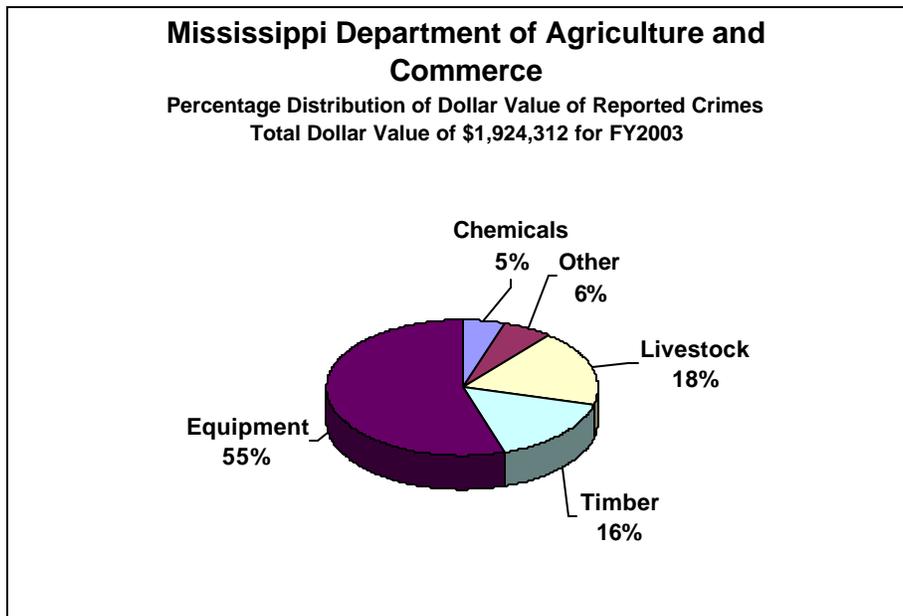
The above fees include *Market Bulletin*, Grain, Egg Marketing, Rice fees, Soybean fees, Weights and Measures, and other regulatory fees.

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 began FY2003. 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.



AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY / NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AVIATION MUSEUM

In 2003, the Museum had 128,676 visitors from all 50 states and from 20 countries.

In 2003, the Museum added some new additions as well as made numerous repairs throughout the Museum complex. The staff of the Museum has also started some new educational areas to reflect the ongoing significant of the history of agriculture. The following is a list of some of the new repairs and additions.

1. New Soil and Water Exhibit
2. New roof on Fortenberry-Parkman Farm (Main House)
3. New 4-H Exhibit Center (Exterior Only)
4. New Computers for Museum Staff
5. New educational video (Aviation)
6. New asphalt paved parking (Sparkman Auditorium)

In addition to these items, the Museum added numerous new flower gardens by taking advantage of several areas throughout the grounds. We also have added new varieties of roses in the rose garden. In the next few months the Museum will be putting a new roof over Magnolia Room (Café) as well as re-working the Study Nature Trail. We also are planning for a new educational program to assist teachers in promoting the importance of agriculture and forestry to the state of Mississippi.



The Museum's Revenue

Total revenue fiscal year 2000: \$604,308.96

Total revenue fiscal year 2001: \$344,982.14

Total revenue fiscal year 2002: \$442,834.49

Total revenue fiscal year 2003: \$509,652.92

The Museum is always a great place to host special events or to have regular meeting and seminars for companies as well as for family reunions. Of course the Museum has several annual events hosted by the Museum, which are listed as follows. Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunrise Service, Fourth of July Celebration, Celtic Festival, Pumpkin Picking, Halloween Carnival and the Harvest Festival as well as our year end Christmas Village Exhibit, which is on display for the general public throughout the Christmas season. The Museum is currently working with local volunteers to put together the first ever Museum Rose Symposium.



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, honeybees, 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 Robert H. McCarty building is located on the Mississippi State University campus in Starkville.



Bureau Of Plant Industry 2002-2003

Purpose

The State Plant Board was established under the Mississippi Plant Act of 1918, Sections 69-25-1 through 69-25-47, Mississippi Code 1972, to protect the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state from the introduction and spread of destructive plant pests. In 1971, the Mississippi Legislature abolished the board and established the Division of Plant Industry within the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to assume the board's duties and responsibilities. In 1991, the name of the Division of Plant Industry was changed to the Bureau of Plant Industry. In 1996, the state agriculture department's Seed Division and Feed, Fertilizer and Lime Division were placed under the administration of the Bureau.

Activities

- Serves as the Plant Protection and Quarantine Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.
- Carries out regulatory programs pertaining to plant pests, pesticides, honey bees, seed, animal feed, fertilizer, lime and soil/plant amendments (additives).
- Cooperates with the Agricultural Aviation Board of Mississippi in administration of state laws pertaining to pesticides by aerial application.
- 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.

Authority

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

- **Mississippi Plant Act of 1918** Sections 69-25-1 through 69-25-47
- **Mississippi Bee Disease Act of 1920** Sections 69-25-101 through 69-25-109
- **Regulation of Professional Services Law of 1938** Sections 69-19-1 through 69-19-11
- **Crop Spraying and Licensing of Aerial Applicators Law of 1952** Sections 69-21-1 through 69-21-27
- **Mississippi Pure Seed Law of 1968** Sections 69-3-1 through 69-3-29
- **Mississippi Commercial Feed Law of 1972** Sections 75-45-151 through 75-45-193
- **Mississippi Fertilizer Law of 1972** Sections 75-47-1 through 75-47-39

- **Mississippi Pesticide Law of 1975** Sections 69-23-1 through 69-23-27
- **Mississippi Pesticide Application Act of 1975** Sections 69-23-101 through 69-23-133
- **Mississippi Soil and Plant Amendment Law of 1978** Sections 69-24-1 through 69-24-27
- **Mississippi Boll Weevil Management Act of 1993** Sections 69-37-1 through 69-37-33
- **Mississippi Agricultural Liming Materials Act of 1993** Sections 69-39-1 through 69-39-19

The Bureau is also designated by the federal government as the state agency responsible for administration and enforcement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act of 1947 (FIFRA).



Personnel Changes

Butch Alpe was named deputy director of the Bureau in May 2003. Tommy McDaniel was named Pesticide Division Director after Jim Haskins retired in April 2003. Tommy previously served as Branch Director for the pesticide division. Dale Brown was named Branch Director for the Pesticide Division and Kenneth Calcote took the job of Branch Director for the Plant Division in June 2003.

Accomplishments For 2002-2003

Plant Pest Program

- Conducted 752 nursery inspections and 390 nursery dealer inspections.
- Conducted 348 inspections for Brown Garden Snail on plant materials shipped from California and intercepted infested plants at one nursery dealer site.
- Issued 720 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.
- Assisted USDA/APHIS/PPQ in surveying 15 counties for Asian Ambrosia Beetles. A total of 1,846 beetles were trapped in 6 counties.
- Found no occurrence of Blueberry Maggot after conducting trap surveys in eight counties.
- Collected more than \$15 million in assessment fees paid on 1.11 million acres of cotton by farmers participating in statewide eradication of the Boll Weevil.
- Certified/Inspected 14,735 colonies of honeybees.
- 30,960 colonies permitted into Mississippi.
- Initiated Cogongrass control demonstration program for 218 private land owners. 2,102 acres were treated in the program.
- Noxious weed law was passed by Legislature.

Pesticide Program

- Registered 9,529 pesticide products and collected \$1,496,800 in product registration fees.
- Collected 1,143 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to spot-check registration numbers and compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Found 38 pesticide products without proper registration while conducting registration spot-checks.
- Issued 51 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded or not registered.
- Issued 158 special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued 8 emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 258 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticide products.
- Recycled 830,750 pounds of agricultural plastic. Nineteen counties participated in FY03 contributing to a 29% increase over last year's totals.

- Collected 94,665 pounds of waste pesticide at an average savings to farmers of \$99,398. The Mississippi Waste Pesticide Collection and Disposal Program has currently removed more than 1.1 million pounds of unusable pesticides in the state.
- Issued 1,497 commercial applicator certificates.
- Issued 2,520 private applicator certificates.
- Made 202 inspections of records kept by private applicators of restricted-use pesticides.
- Conducted 3 producer-establishment inspections, 198 marketplace inspections, 137 inspections of applicator records and 106 inspections of dealer records.
- Conducted 133 inspections of pesticide misuse in agricultural situations and 136 inspections of misuse in non-agricultural situations.
- Conducted 22 informal settlement conferences as part of enforcement actions involving violation of state and federal pesticide laws.
- Collected \$19,271 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 121 aircraft used in application of such products.
- Issued 1,294 licenses to persons receiving fees for performing work related to entomology, plant pathology, horticulture, tree surgery, weed control, consultant services and professional soil classification.

Seed Program and State Seed Testing Laboratory

- Conducted 188 seed inspections.
- Collected 2,768 official regulatory seed samples.
- Found 275 official regulatory seed samples to be in violation of the State Seed Law.
- Issued 1,454 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Collected \$22,447.50 in fees paid for seed permits.
- Generated \$80,052 in revenues from service charges on farmer and dealer samples.
- Tested 11,597 seed samples.
- Conducted 4,384 special tests on seed such as cool germ test, accelerated aging on soybeans, and red rice test.
- Performed a total of 25,556 tests on seed.

Feed, Fertilizer, Lime and Soil-Plant Amendments Program

- Registered 497 feed manufacturers.
- Conducted 744 feed inspections.
- Collected 5,725 feed samples.
- Registered 2,174 fertilizer products from 336 fertilizer companies.
- Registered 129 lime products from 95 distributors.
- Conducted 1,577 fertilizer samples.
- Issued 595 deficiency penalties.
- Conducted 95 inspections of lime.
- Collected 1954 lime samples.
- Inspected 66,838 tons of feed, 45,407 tons of fertilizer and 16,029 tons of lime.
- Collected \$119,846 in product registration fees.
- Collected \$439,137 in tonnage fees.
- Assessed and collected \$18,501 in deficient penalties.

Public Information Program

- Edited, designed and produced four issues of quarterly newsletter, Plant Industry Messenger.
- Authored 13 articles for four issues of quarterly newsletter.
- Assisted with production of cogongrass poster for distribution to agricultural offices and retail establishments.
- Produced informational and registration materials for Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) national meeting in Tunica, Miss.
- Produced herbicide burndown exhibit for MAFES Row Crops Field Day in Verona, Miss., August 2002.
- Coordinated educational exhibits for MAFES Row Crops Field Day in Verona, Miss.
- Produced educational exhibits on fertilizer use and cogongrass for MAFES Fall Garden Day in Verona, Miss.
- Provided media training exercises for agricultural extension education intern working at the Bureau, summer of 2002.
- Produced department exhibit for MDAC at consumer workshop at MSU, August 2002.
- Produced brochure on private applicator regulations.
- Provided publicity for Waste Pesticide Disposal Event at Natchez in November 2002.

- Designed and produced visual presentation for state office of U. S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Plant Pest Quarantine agency (USDA-APHIS-PPQ).
- Conducted pesticide safety teaching station for sixth graders at Farm Safety Day



- Camp, November 2002, for Smith and Jasper counties.
- Produced display on pesticide applicator licensing and certification for Delta Ag Expo, January 2003.
- Secured graphics, photographic and publicity materials for promotion of Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) conference hosted by MDAC, June 2003.
- Provided exhibit for annual meeting of Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association, February 2003.
- Provided exhibit for annual conference of plant pathologists, entomologists and weed scientists (MAPSA) in February 2003.
- Assisted with registration and presentations at fertilizer blender workshop, February 2003.
- Wrote 15 news releases on Section 18 exemptions for non-registered uses of pesticide products.

Financial Services

- Maintained fleet of 39 passenger vehicles used by staff in performance of work duties.
- Maintained operating costs for state vehicles at average cost-per-mile of 0.083 cents.

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 Livestock and Grain Market News program is a Federal/State cooperative agreement. There is one livestock and grain reporter supervising the dissemination of livestock reports, collection and disseminating grain price information, voicing radio and Television broadcasts to 75 radio stations and 1 Television Station informing the agriculture community of livestock prices.

This office provides price information on livestock and grain to lending institutions, University Agricultural Economist, Consultants and Livestock Associations. A livestock report is issued in the Mississippi Market Bulletin that has a circulation of 912,000 readers per year.

Fifteen Livestock Auction markets are reported by nine cross-trained Mississippi Board of Animal Health personnel, which will reduce the total cost of the section. Prices collected from these 15 sales by crossed-trained animal health inspectors represent 85% of all the livestock marketed through all auction markets in the State.

Fruit and Vegetables

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has a newly formed Fruit and Vegetable Division. This division's purpose is to assist our fruit and vegetable growers in any planting, marketing, or any problem the growers might have.



MDAC has three fruit and vegetable sheds in Mississippi. They are located in Bassfield, Booneville, and Lucedale. The purpose of these sheds is to give our growers someone locally in their area to work with in a “hands on” daily basis. In Bassfield we have located our Revolving Fund. This is a \$1.9 million fund set up to give our growers fast pay when they sell their products. When a Mississippi grower sells his produce, as soon as Bassfield receives the Bill of Laden showing that the buyer has accepted the shipment; the grower is then paid within five days out of this fund. The Buyer pays MDAC instead of the grower. Each grower and buyer must sign an acknowledgement with MDAC that they understand the terms and regulations of MDAC's Revolving Fund.

A new and exciting program that MDAC has been working with is the Farm to School Program. This program is run by the Department of Defense that for years bought from local growers and put the produce on military bases. They have now extended the program into the school systems. MDAC worked very closely with the Mississippi Public School Nutritional Purchasing Agent. This agent receives all the orders from the state's schools for the produce they want for their cafeterias. MDAC then finds growers to supply the school system with the required fruits and vegetables. The first year MDAC participated in this program it created over a \$330,000.00 new market for our growers. Besides our growers having a new market, school children are being introduced to locally grown fruits and vegetables

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Information Management 2003 Accomplishments

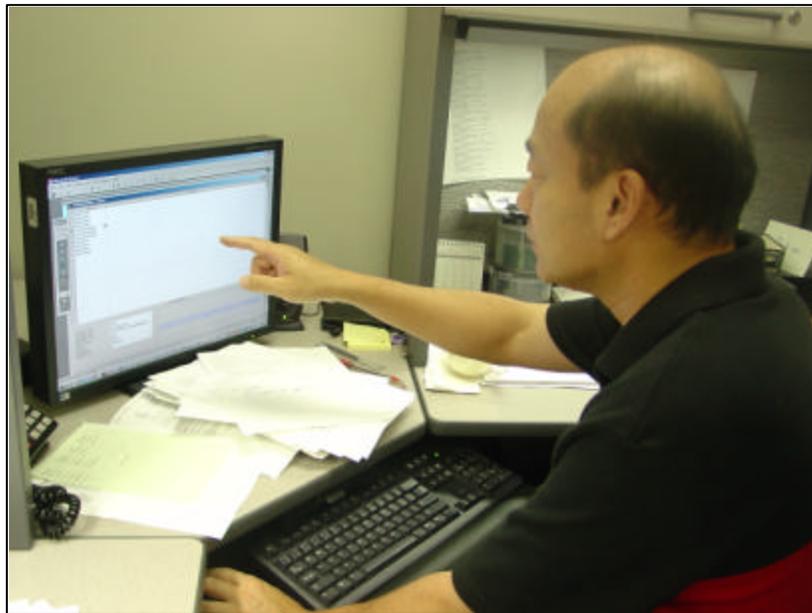
The Information Management Division (IMD) is primarily responsible for providing information technology and services to all employees of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Also, IMD provides technical and network support, applications development and systems support, and strategic 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.

The Information Management Division successfully accomplished the following projects during the last fiscal year:

- Enhanced the pesticide registration database system to track field inspection information, comply with the new EPA requirements and state regulations, and generate new management reports.
- Replaced 70 obsolete personal computers with new ones at the Jackson office, Agricultural Museum, and the Mississippi Fair Commission. The new equipment came with a full three-year warranty and state-of-the-art software.
- Upgraded the two network file servers and replaced computer equipment including 35 computers and 16 printers for the Bureau of Plant Industry. Also, replaced 25 field laptops with new state-of-the-art equipment and provided computer training for the field staff.
- Coordinated the implementation of a wireless ticket management system to manage venue entry, monitor real-time entry traffic, collect details on event attendance and generate reports to assist in decision making processes. Using barcode scanning technology and smart hand held devices, this system determines whether a ticket is valid or had already been used for admission to an event and provides alerts for lost or stolen tickets.

- Provided technical and logistics support in hosting the 2003 Southern Association of State Department of Agriculture (SASDA) conference. The Information Management (IM) technical staff designed and printed all publications and signage in-house including program books, menus, conference logos, fact sheets, sponsorship signs, and badges. The IM staff also provided multi-media support for sound systems, managed speaker presentations, handled registration processing on computers, developed a website to disseminate meeting agenda and online registration information, coordinated photography, and provided management reports for conference staff.
- Led the National Association of State Agriculture Technology Officials (NASATO) organization. The Information Management Director served two years as the President of NASATO.



Frank Yu, Senior Programmer Analyst

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 5.6 billion-dollar industry. There are approximately 43,000 farms in the state covering 11 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 30 school and civic organizations
- Participated in 15 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

Aquaculture

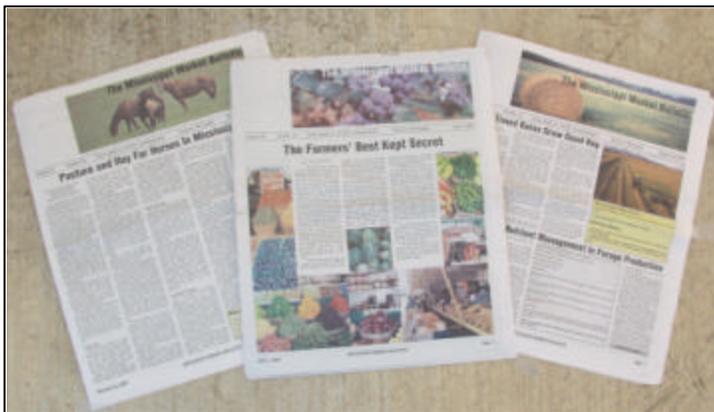
- Conducted 30 inspections to permitted aquaculture farms
- Renewed 76 aquaculture permits
- Issued 3 new aquaculture permits

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 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 39,500 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
- Distributed 4,000 calendars promoting agriculture in Mississippi

Trade Shows, Conferences, and Fairs



- Mississippi State Fair
- Commodity Food Tent at State Fair
- Garden and Patio Show
- North American Agricultural Marketing Officers Conference, Canada
- Dixie National Rodeo and Parade

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 2003, 811 companies across the state and in 30 categories 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 businesses grow, adding to the economy of our state.
- One hundred thirty nine companies across most of the product categories were allocated funding.
- A total of \$30,000 was awarded.
- The companies reported \$3,909,700 in sales as a result of the promotional activities paid for in part by this program.
- Businesses are currently reporting some 58 new jobs created as a result of the Make Mine Mississippi program.
- Make Mine Mississippi is meant to unify the promotion of all Mississippi products, promote a position image of the state and sell Mississippi products.



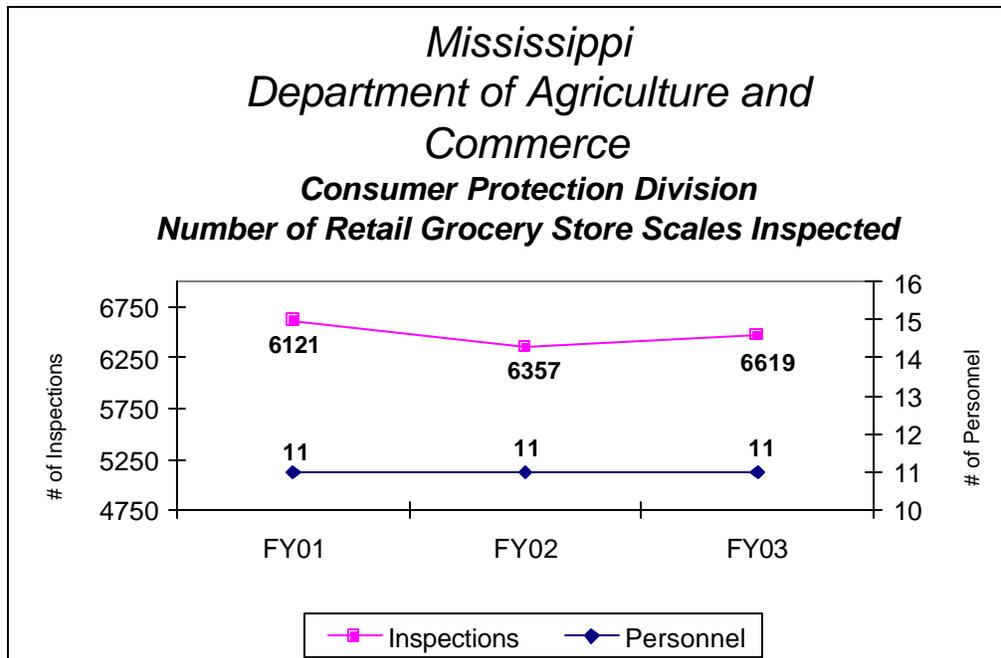
REGULATORY SERVICES



Consumer Protection

The mission of the Consumer Protection Division is to ensure food quality, fairness and equity in the marketplace through the administration and enforcement of certain laws and regulations designed primarily to protect the interest of the general public.

In FY2003, the division continued improvement in efficiency. The chart below represents increased inspection activity with no additional personnel.



Legal complaints were issued to three retail food establishments for critical violations cited under the Mississippi Food Sanitation Law. A total of \$1600.00 in civil penalties were issued for these violations.

During the latter part of June, the division implemented a program of pulling samples of raw unprocessed fesh or frozen shrimp in retail food establishments statewide. This was conducted to test for Chloramphenicol, an antibiotic that has been banned by the US Food and Drug Administration in food producing animals. The first twenty five samples analyzed in July indicated that three samples contained one part per billion or more. The lots that these three samples were pulled from were destroyed. An additional twenty three samples were pulled in July and the lab results indicated no detectable amounts of chloramphenicol.

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

➤ Retail store inspections	4,980
➤ Pre-packaged items weighed	42,409 (11% rejected)
➤ Cases of shell eggs inspected	47,457
➤ Scales tested (100 pound or less)	6,477 (2.3% rejected)
➤ Catfish product label inspections	3,349
➤ Syrup product label inspections	3,316
➤ Honey product label inspections	3,313
➤ Meat compliance inspections	3,650
➤ Sanitation inspections	3,043
➤ Disposition of garbage store inspections	2,647
➤ UPC price verification inspections	240



The division has continued to increase 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 strive to continue to have a good working relationship with other state and federal agencies, as well as other divisions of the department, in a cooperative effort on matters of mutual concern to help achieve the division and department's goals.

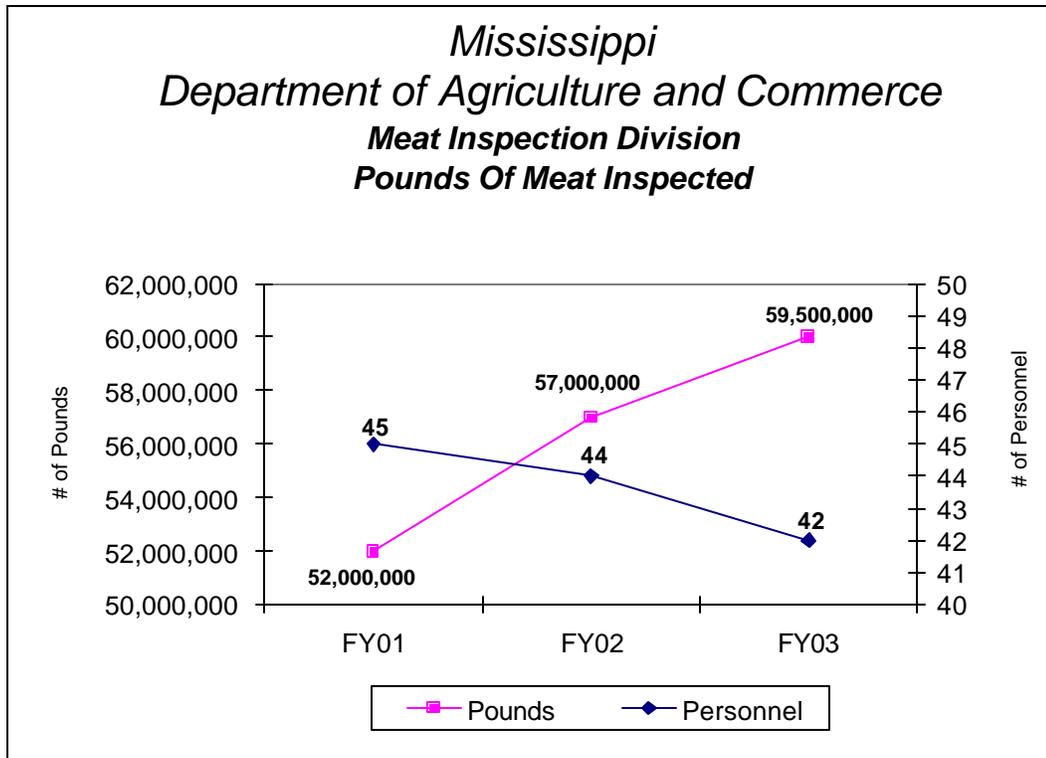
Meat Inspection

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. New scientific methods of controlling foodborne illnesses are now being implemented and are proving to be quite effective.

Dr. Elsa Murano, USDA UnderSecretary for Food Safety recently stated that “The CDC, in its annual report on the incidence of infections from foodborne pathogens, noted significant declines from 1996 to 2003 in illnesses caused by *E. coli* 0157:H7 (42%), *Salmonella* (17%), *Campylobacter* (28%) and *Yersinia* (49%). Illnesses caused by *Salmonella* Typhimurium (typically associated with meat and poultry) decreased by 38%.”

The Meat Inspection Division continues to increase productivity by taking advantage of newly developing technology. There is a new electronic version of the existing inspection system. This system has been installed in approximately 40% of the computers that field personnel use in performing their inspection duties. The remaining 60% of the computers are scheduled to have this system installed within the next year. This system will electronically schedule work, receive and transfers inspection findings, file, and store the associated information and retrieve it for supervisory and administrative use. This will result in savings in supplies, postage, and time and allow this division to concentrate more of its resources toward food safety for the consumers.





Here are some numbers that give you an idea about the scope of our division.

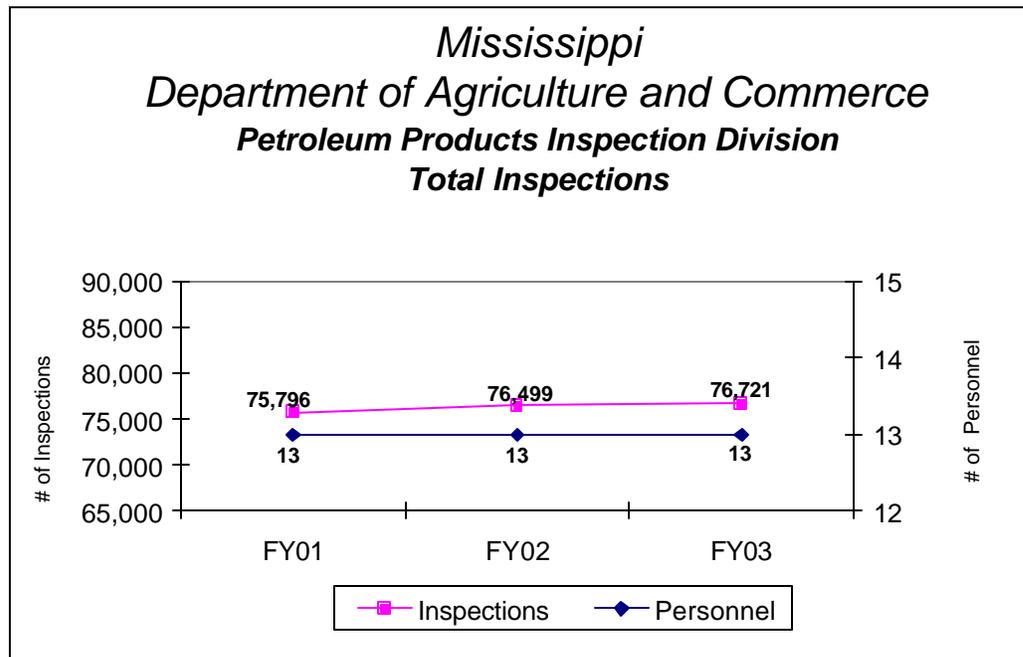
- Pounds of red meat inspected 59,514,551
- Pounds of poultry inspected 5,861,255
- Number of animals inspected 79,425
- Number of quail inspected 223,442
- Number of rabbits inspected 42,315
- Number of state meat plants licenses issued 53
- Number of T/A plant (no state license required) 22

The meat inspection division is moving from organoleptic to more and newly evolving scientific methods of assessing the effectiveness of food safety systems. This division is constantly developing and implementing new scientific advancements in food safety. One of the new advancements in food safety is that all materials that are used in the production of raw beef products must have gone through scientifically validated interventions that are proven effective in reducing the occurrence of the pathogen E. coli 0157:H7 to an undetected level. These interventions are one example of how changes in methods of meat inspection are providing new levels of safety to the meat food products that the public consumes.

Petroleum Products

The responsibility of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Petroleum Products Inspection Division is to insure fuel quality through the testing of retail motor fuel samples and through retail device inspections, which validate the calibration of retail motor fuel dispensing devices. Inspections were conducted on 3,688 retail locations and involved over 76,000 individual pump meters. Not only does the division conduct routine random pump meter and fuel inspections, but the division also responds to consumer complaints. Every effort is made to address these complaints within a 24-hour period.

The Petroleum Products Inspection Division uses sophisticated equipment such as a 150-gallon Calibration Trailer to test hi-volume meters, a Calibration Truck and two recently acquired slide-in Calibration Units to test standard volume meters. The PPID also uses state of the art Zeltex octane analyzers as a screening device to assist in sampling the quality of Mississippi gasoline.



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

➤ Stations registered	3,688
➤ Petroleum pumps tested	76,721
➤ Petroleum products sampled	3,892
➤ Violations issued	1,297
➤ Stop sales for fuel violation	98
➤ Stop sales for calibration violations	162
➤ Stop sales for sign violations	27
➤ Stop sales for water violations	66

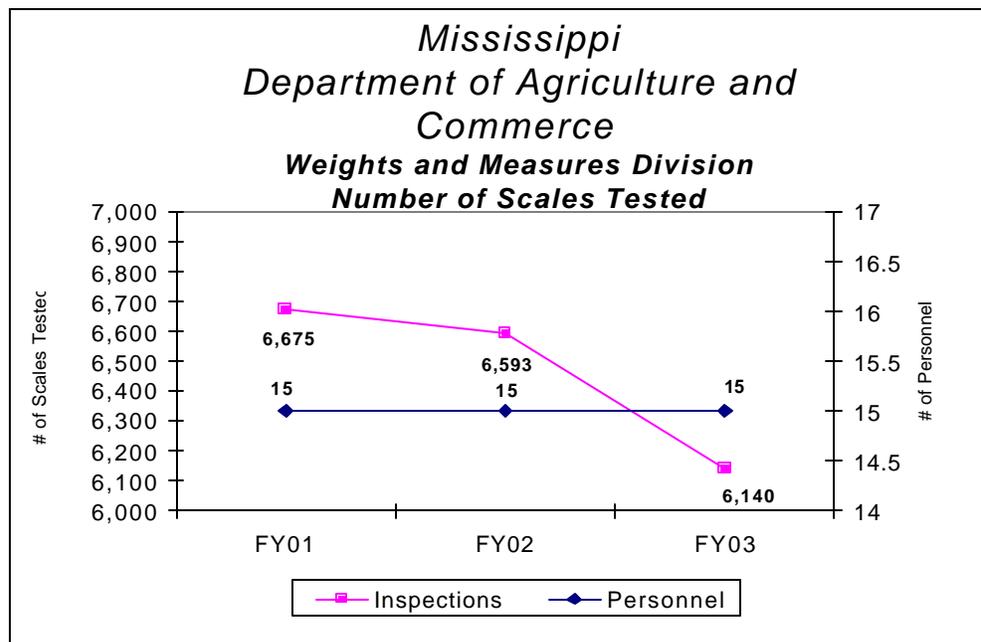


Weights and Measures

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 2003:

- New Metrology Laboratory building completed and equipped
- Metrologist finishes NIST training and starts work on process for Lab Accreditation

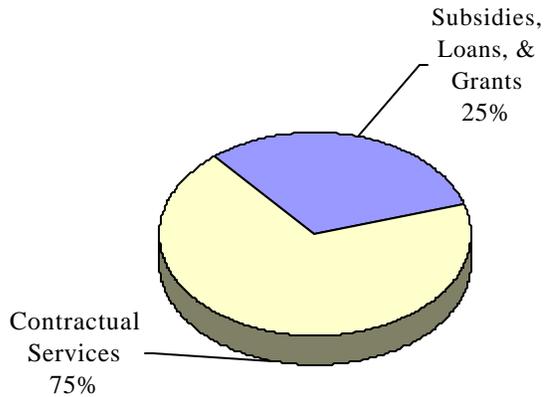


- Heavy scales tested 1,578
- Heavy scales rejected 282
- Intermediate scales tested 3,629
- Intermediate scales rejected 250
- All other inspections 933

* Based on a 10% sample of each lot.

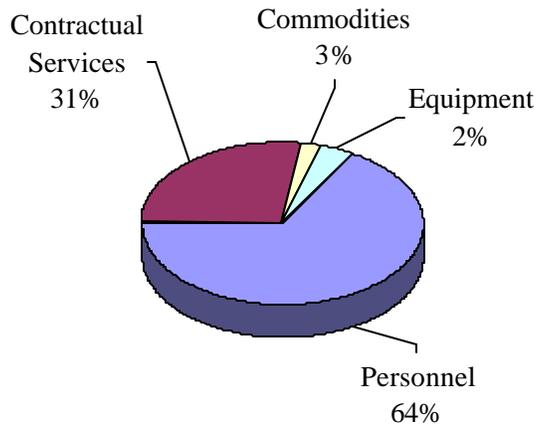
** If product is short weight, whole lot off sale.

*Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Program Budget for FY03*



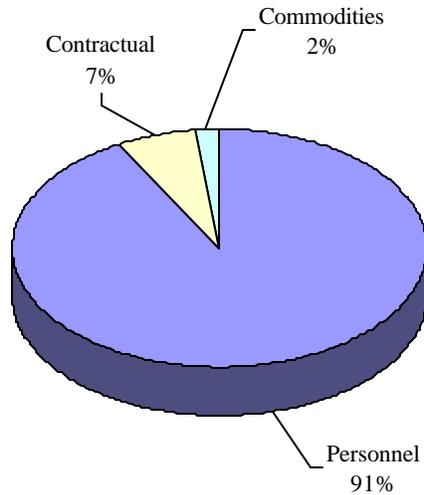
Total Revenues	\$54,982
Total Expenditures	\$51,264

Egg Marketing Board - Special Funds



Total Revenues	\$329,423
Total Expenditures	\$311,150

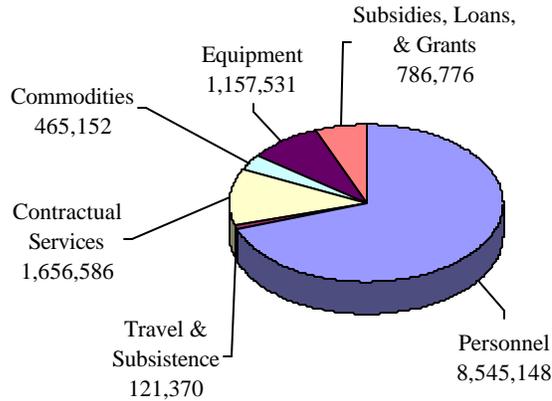
Farmers' Central Market - Special Funds



Total General Fund	
Appropriations	\$323,605
Total Expenditures	\$294,463

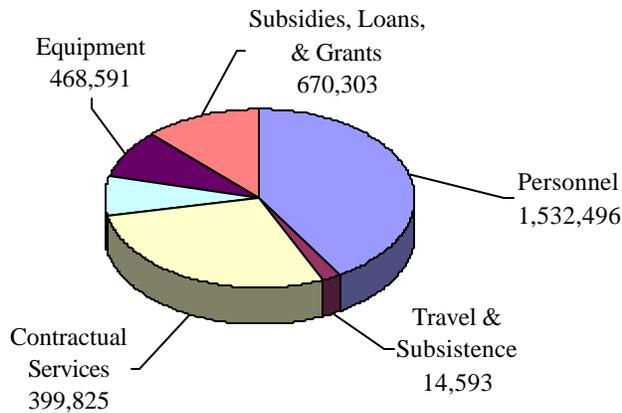
Grain Division - General Funds

*Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Support Budget for FY03*



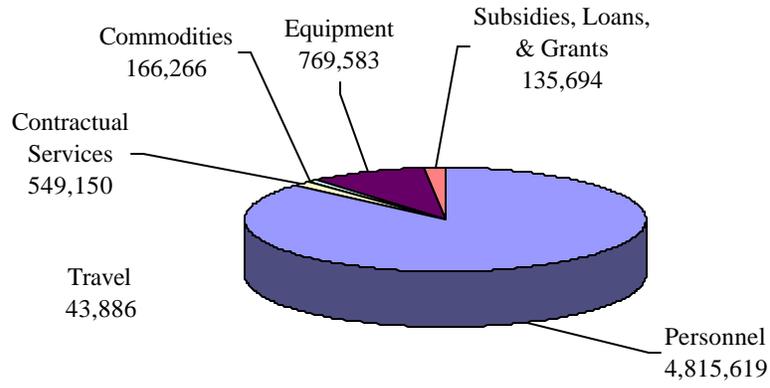
Total General Fund Appropriations Revenue	\$12,424,512
Total Expenditures	\$12,732,563

General & Special Funds



Total Revenue	\$5,184,363
Total Expenditures	\$5,492,414

Special Funds Only



Total General Fund	
Appropriations	\$7,240,149
Total Expenditures	\$7,240,149

General Fund Only