

State of Mississippi

Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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



Annual Report 2004



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
COMMERCE**

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December 31, 2004

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 \$5.6 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 853 companies have met the criteria, registered, and received official promotional assistance. Also, the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*, published by the Department with 40,000 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.

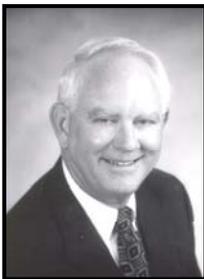
In cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Health and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), the MDAC assists with the Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. These programs make fresh fruits and vegetables available to some low-income and nutritionally at-risk citizens. Through the 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:

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.

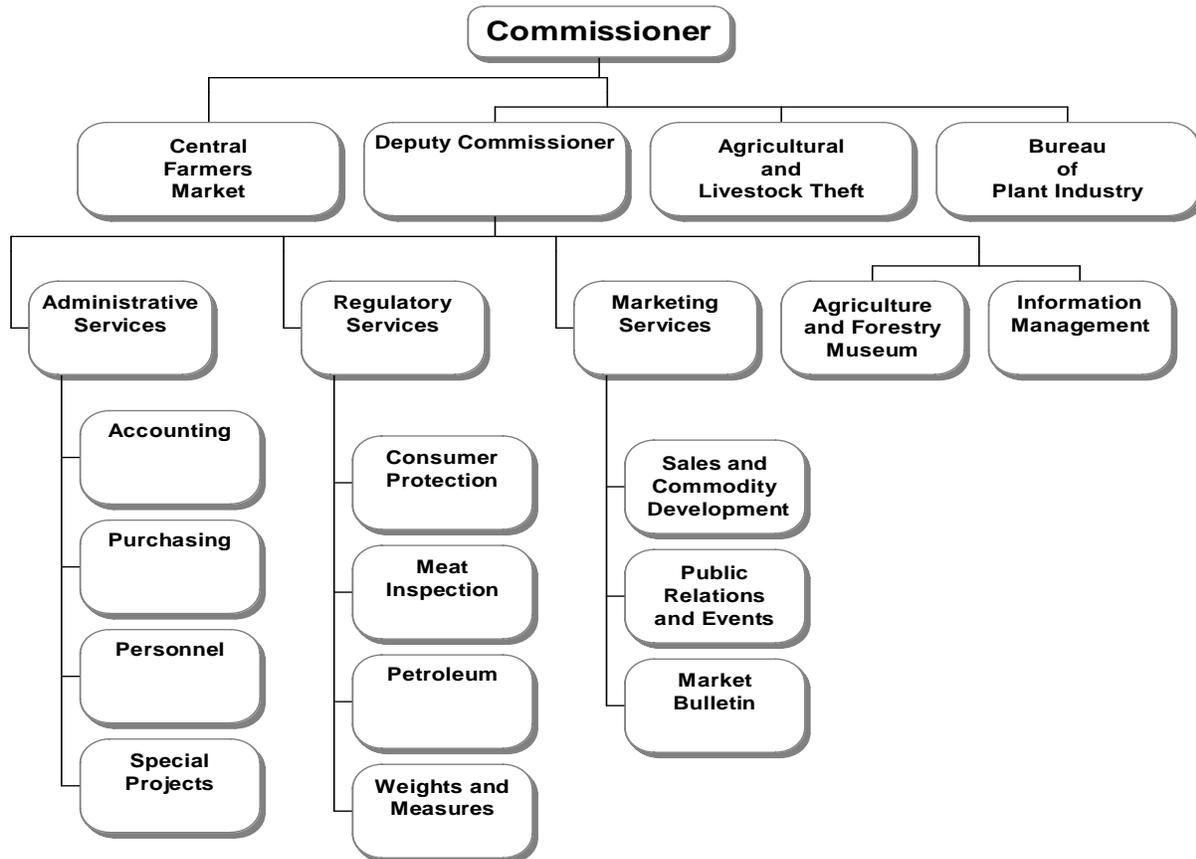


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M.".

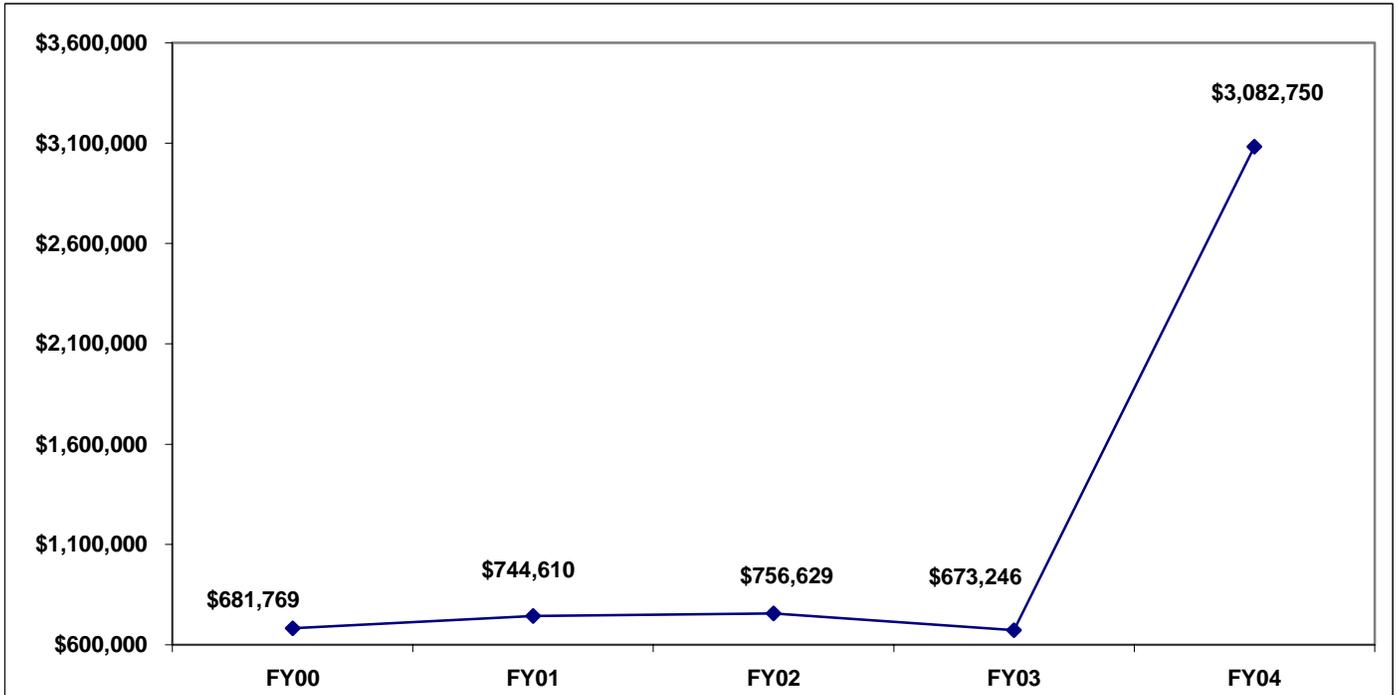
Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M.
Commissioner

ADMINISTRATION



Personnel-wise, year 2004 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 FY00 through FY04

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

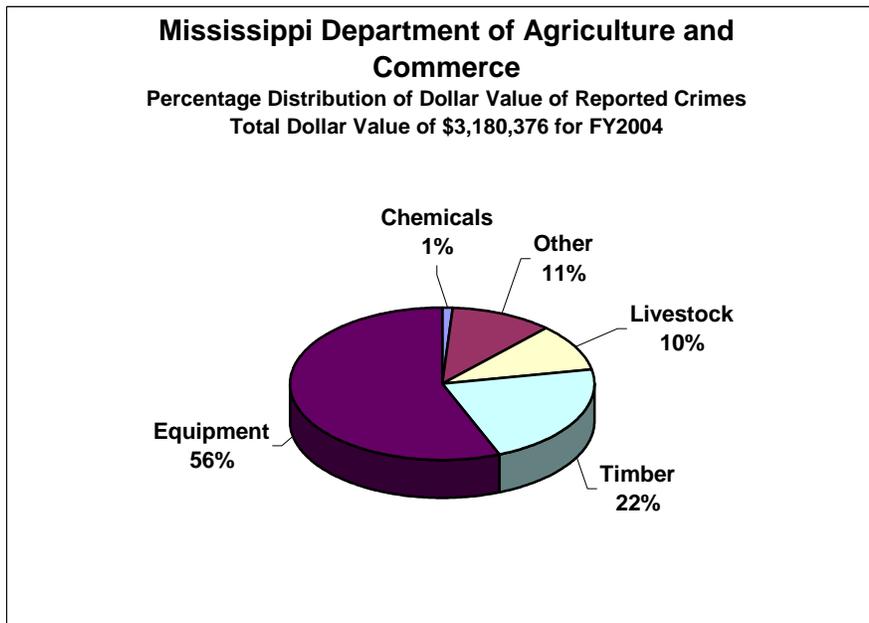
*** The large increase is due to the addition of BPI revenue.**

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. Registered brands are published in book form and distributed to law enforcement around the state. Presently, about 1,500 active brands are on file.



AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY / NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AVIATION MUSEUM

In 2004, the Museum had 126,721 visitors from all 50 states and from 26 countries.

In 2004, the Museum made numerous repairs throughout the complex. The staff has begun working on an educational program for school children throughout our state. The following is a list of repairs and new additions made during 2004:

1. New Outdoor Billboards in Bolton, Terry, Vaughan and Carthage
2. New roof on main house of the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead
3. New educational video highlighting forestry
4. New roofs on outdoor exhibit area
5. New syrup pan for the cane mill
6. Replaced one exterior side to cotton gin
7. Renewable energy home
8. New security system for renewable energy home
9. New grain bin for Ethnic Center corn heater
10. New security system for Heritage Center

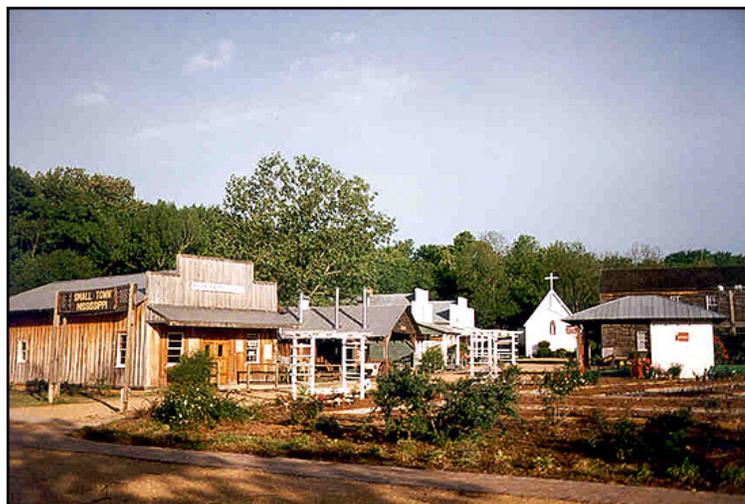
In addition to these accomplishments, the Museum has continued to improve on landscaping, including new additions to the Rose Garden. In the summer months, the Museum expects to replace the roof on the Fitzgerald Building along with other outside buildings as needed. We are also continuing to work on creating new events that will bring new interest to the facility. One of the new events this year will be Celebrate Spring, which will be an activity for young children. The Museum is also proud of its new railroad exhibit display that teaches young and old the importance of the rail industry in the past as well as the future.



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
Total revenue fiscal year 2004: \$472,744.11

The Museum continues to be one of the best places to bring family and friends. The staff at the Museum continues to promote all of its activities and events throughout the year such as: Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunrise Service, Fourth of July Celebration, Celtic Festival, Pumpkin Picking, Halloween Carnival and the Harvest Festival. The Museum also features the Alvis Christmas Village during the Christmas season.



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 2003-2004
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

Steve Moore was named branch director of the Pesticide Division in February 2004. Heath Steede, Jim McDonald and Tim Lockley were hired as district inspectors during April of 2004. Fabian Watts was hired as a district inspector in October 2003.

*Accomplishments For 2003-2004**Plant Pest Program*

- Conducted 682 nursery inspections and 301 nursery dealer inspections.
- Conducted 425 inspections for Brown Garden Snail on plant materials shipped from California and intercepted infested plants at one nursery dealer site.
- Issued 814 phytosanitary certificates on plant materials shipped out-of-state.
- Found no significant levels of Sweet Potato Weevils after setting 1650 traps on 16,500 acres of sweet potatoes.
- No positive finds of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Chrysanthemum White Rust, Viburnum Leaf Beetle, and Asian Longhorned Beetle after conducting visual detection surveys at nursery and nursery dealer establishments.
- Surveyed for Sudden Oak Death in 28 nursery establishments state-wide and collected 1089 tissue samples, all samples were found to be negative.
- Surveyed for Soybean Rust at 434 sites state-wide, all sites were found to be negative.
- Surveyed for Soybean Aphid at 24 sites state-wide, 3 counties were found to be positive.
- Surveyed for Soybean Pod Borer at 24 sites state-wide, all sites were found to be negative.
- Surveyed for Rice Blast in 8 counties, all sites were found to be negative.
- Surveyed for Cogongrass state-wide, 44 counties were found to be positive.
- Surveyed for Tropical Soda Apple state-wide, 9 counties were found to be positive.
- Surveyed for Giant Salvinia state-wide, all sites were found to be negative.
- Placed 6 pheromone traps for Africanized Honey Bee at 3 major river ports, all traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 185 pheromone traps for Blueberry Maggot in 11 counties, all traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 2435 pheromone traps for Gypsy Moth in 56 counties, all traps were found to be negative.
- Collected more than \$10.5 million in assessment fees paid on 1.11 million acres of cotton by farmers participating in statewide eradication of the Boll Weevil.
- Certified/Inspected 18,585 colonies of honeybees.
- 20,895 colonies permitted into Mississippi.
- Rule 41: Regulation of Noxious weeds adopted. This law list 8 Noxious weeds.
- Initiated Cogongrass control demonstration program for 233 private land owners. 2100 acres were treated in this program.

Pesticide Program

- Registered 10,714 pesticide products and collected \$1,769,800 in product registration fees.
- Collected 959 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to spot-check registration numbers and compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Found 41 pesticide products without proper registration while conducting registration spot-checks.
- Issued 26 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded or not registered.
- Issued 24 special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued 11 emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 302 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticide products.
- Issued 1,066 commercial applicator certificates.
- Issued 2,286 private applicator certificates.
- Made 188 inspections of records kept by private applicators of restricted-use pesticides.
- Conducted 13 producer-establishment inspections, 270 marketplace inspections, 185 inspections of applicator records and 139 inspections of dealer records.
- Conducted 67 inspections of pesticide misuse in agricultural situations and 31 inspections of misuse in non-agricultural situations. 26 worker protection inspections were conducted.
- Conducted 27 informal settlement conferences as part of enforcement actions involving violation of state and federal pesticide laws.
- Issued 76 licenses for aerial application of hormone-type herbicides and approved 119 aircraft used in application of such products.
- Issued 781 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 219 seed inspections.
- Collected 2,570 official regulatory seed samples.
- Found 258 official regulatory seed samples to be in violation of the State Seed Law.
- Issued 1,248 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Collected \$23,656.25 in fees paid for seed permits.
- Generated \$81,072 in revenues from service charges on farmer and dealer samples.
- Tested 12,970 seed samples.

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- Conducted 5,523 special tests on seed such as cool germ test, accelerated aging on soybeans, and red rice test.
 - Performed a total of 28,521 tests on seed.

Feed, Fertilizer, Lime and Soil-Plant Amendments Program

- Registered 506 feed manufacturers.
- Conducted 651 feed inspections.
- Collected 5,281 feed samples.
- Registered 2,899 fertilizer products from 333 fertilizer companies.
- Registered 119 lime products from 57 distributors.
- Conducted 1,230 fertilizer samples.
- Issued 582 deficiency penalties.
- Conducted 92 inspections of lime.
- Collected 187 lime samples.
- Inspected 78,098 tons of feed, 21,250 tons of fertilizer and 46,085 tons of lime.
- Collected \$117,835 in product registration fees.
- Collected \$502,490 in tonnage fees.
- Assessed and collected \$8,201 in deficient penalties.

Public Information Program

- Coordinated cogongrass display for exhibit in Jackson at 2003 Mississippi Wildlife Extravaganza, which attracted more than 30,000 people.
- Coordinated displays on Bureau plant pest programs and cogongrass control for exhibit in Hattiesburg at the 2003 Fish and Wildlife Exposition, which attracted more than 15,000 people.
- Exhibited cogongrass display and distributed information on cogongrass and noxious weeds in Tupelo at 2003 North Mississippi Garden Exposition, which attracted more than 2,500 people.
- Edited, designed and produced the September 2003, December 2003, March 2004 and June 2004 quarterly newsletter, Plant Industry News.
- Conducted pesticide safety teaching station for more than 2,000 sixth graders attending Farm Safety Day Camps in Smith, Jasper and Leake counties in November 2003.
- Coordinated MDAC exhibit for 2003 Golden Triangle regional fair in October at Mississippi Horse Park at Mississippi State University.
- Produced display on pesticide applicator licensing and certification for Delta Ag Expo in Cleveland, January 2004.

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- Provided exhibit and pesticide applicator information for annual meeting of Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association at Mississippi State University, February 2004.
 - Provided 25 digital scans of agricultural commodities to Mississippi FFA representative chapter for display competition at national FFA convention.
 - Produced 25 news releases on Section 18 exemptions for non-registered uses of pesticide products.
 - Increased distribution of BPI newsletter by adding FFA school chapters, and individuals licensed in aerial application and/or pest management to distribution database.
 - Served as Bureau representative for 2004 Row Crops Field Day planning committee and coordinated educational exhibits for the event.
 - Coordinated recertification for agricultural consultants and commercial pesticide applicators upon attendance at 2004 Row Crops Field Day in Verona.
 - Assisted with development of promotional materials for 2005 National Sweet Potato Convention in Tunica.
 - Designed revision of fact sheet on Tropical Soda Apple to be distributed by the department.
 - Produced 10 digital scans for EPA inspection credentials for new district inspectors and program directors. Produced brochure on private applicator regulations.

Financial Services

- Maintained fleet of 41 passenger vehicles used by staff in performance of work duties.
- Maintained operating costs for state vehicles at average cost-per-mile of 0.086 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:

- Restaurant
- Service station
- Office space
- 114,000 square foot building
- 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
- 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.

The Central Farmers' Market Board decided at the February 12, 2004 board meeting to cease operating the heavy truck scales on the market grounds effective March 31, 2004 .



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 40,000 readers per year.

Fourteen 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 14 sales by crossed-trained animal health inspectors represent 85% of all the livestock marketed throughout the State.

Fruit and Vegetable

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, located in Bassfield, Booneville, and Lucedale. The purpose of these sheds is to give 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 2004 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 major projects during the last fiscal year:

- Implemented 14 new laptops and printers for the Petroleum Products Inspection Division. IMD staff trained the field inspectors in the use of email, Internet, and office automation.
- Replaced 98 aging and out of warranty laptops and printers with new state-of-the-art equipment for the Bureau of Regulatory Services and the Bureau of Plant Industry.
- Designed, developed, and successfully implemented an automated Livestock Auction Database Management Reporting System. In the past, the livestock information was compiled and reported manually to USDA. The manual effort required over 40 man-hours to complete and the information was stored on index cards. Today, the system allows field staff to capture and transmit livestock auction information using laptop computers to the Jackson office. The system also allows easy management and reporting of information for trend analysis and electronic submission of data to USDA. The efficiency and automation saves MDAC over 24 man-hours each week.
- Upgraded the field automation software (WinWam) for the Bureau of Regulatory Services. The upgraded software provides easier and faster searches of business information, consolidates multiple questionnaire-based inspections, and reflects new and changed federal guidelines that each state follows in performing its duties for Weights and Measures practices.

- Designed, developed, and enhanced two new database management systems to manage and track agency's program information. The Keep Mississippi Beautiful database captures contribution information, produces certificates, and generates summary reports. The enhanced Fruits and Vegetables database system allows the Bassfield and Lucedale vegetable sheds to perform accounting and basic record keeping tasks including generation of invoices, control costs, and manage payments to farmers.
- Enhanced the telecommunications and the telephone system from copper circuit to a higher speed fiber optics enabling faster file transfers and providing more bandwidth for future growth.
- Led the National Association of State Agriculture Technology Officials (NASATO) organization. The Information Management Director served two years as the President of NASATO.



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 5.5 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

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

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 40,000 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 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, New Mexico
- Dixie National Rodeo and Parade



Organic Certification Program

In 2004, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce was granted its certification that allows for farmers to be certified as organic growers. There are currently seven trained inspectors throughout the state. One person is the state director and one is in the Jackson office as the state coordinator.



- 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 2004, 853 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.
- Four hundred sixty-three companies across most of the product categories were allocated funding.
- A total of \$518,146 has been awarded since inception.
- The companies reported \$78,257,549 in sales as a result of the promotional activities paid for in part by this program.
- Businesses are currently reporting some 1,692 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.

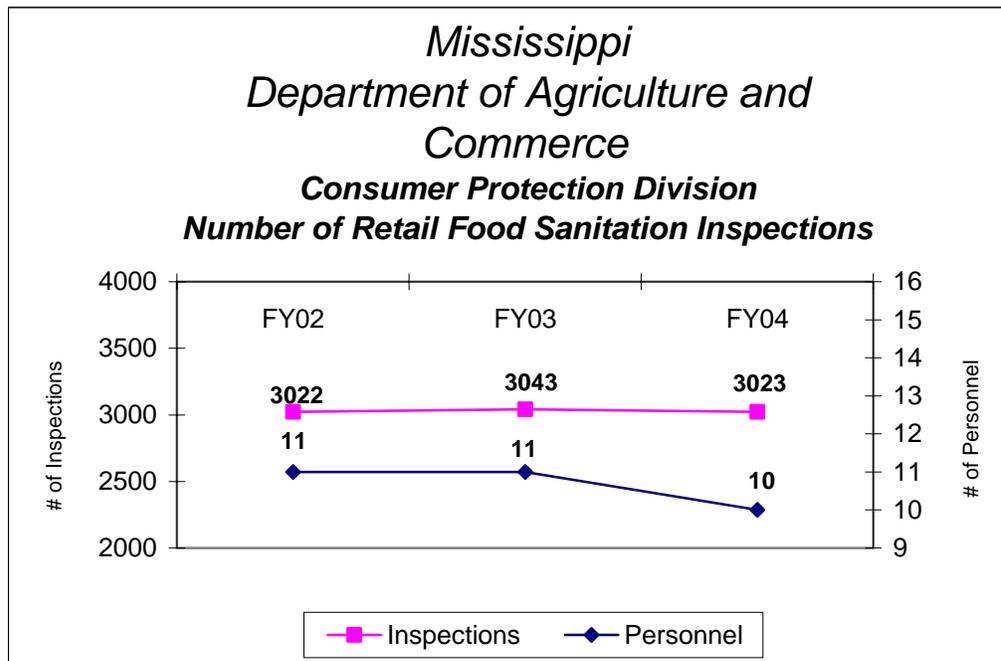
REGULATORY SERVICES



Consumer Protection

The main mission of the Consumer Protection Division is to ensure food quality and safety at the retail level, as well as ensuring 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 FY2004, the division maintained its improvement in efficiency from FY1997 with less personnel. The chart below shows retail food sanitation inspections for the past 3 fiscal years that indicates a dramatic increase from the 1,688 inspections conducted in FY1997.



Legal complaints were issued to three retail food establishments for critical violations cited under the Mississippi Food Sanitation Law. A total of \$1,500.00 in civil penalties was issued for these violations.

The Consumer Protection Division is one of the most diversified divisions in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. In addition to certain retail food sanitation responsibilities, this division also has weights and measures responsibilities. The division also administers 5 other laws as well as cross-utilization coordination with the Meat Inspection Division in conducting meat compliance inspections in retail food establishments.

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

➤ Retail store inspections	4,774
➤ Pre-packaged items weighed	35,532 (8.7 % rejected)
➤ Cases of shell eggs inspected	52,397
➤ Scales tested (100 pounds or less)	5,991 (4.1 % rejected)
➤ Catfish product label inspection	3,273
➤ Syrup product label inspections	3,244
➤ Honey product label inspections	3,239
➤ Meat compliance inspections	3,709
➤ Sanitation inspections	3,023
➤ Disposition of garbage store inspections	3,125
➤ UPC price verification inspections	273



The division inspector (pictured above) is conducting a sanitation inspection in a retail food establishment inspecting for signs of rodents or insects in the pet food section.

The Consumer Protection Division has continued to increase efficiency both in the field and the office through the use of laptop computers and a specialized computer software inspection program for the field inspection staff and office personnel. The division will strive to continue to have a cooperative working relationship with other state and federal agencies to help protect the general public in helping to achieve the division and department goals.

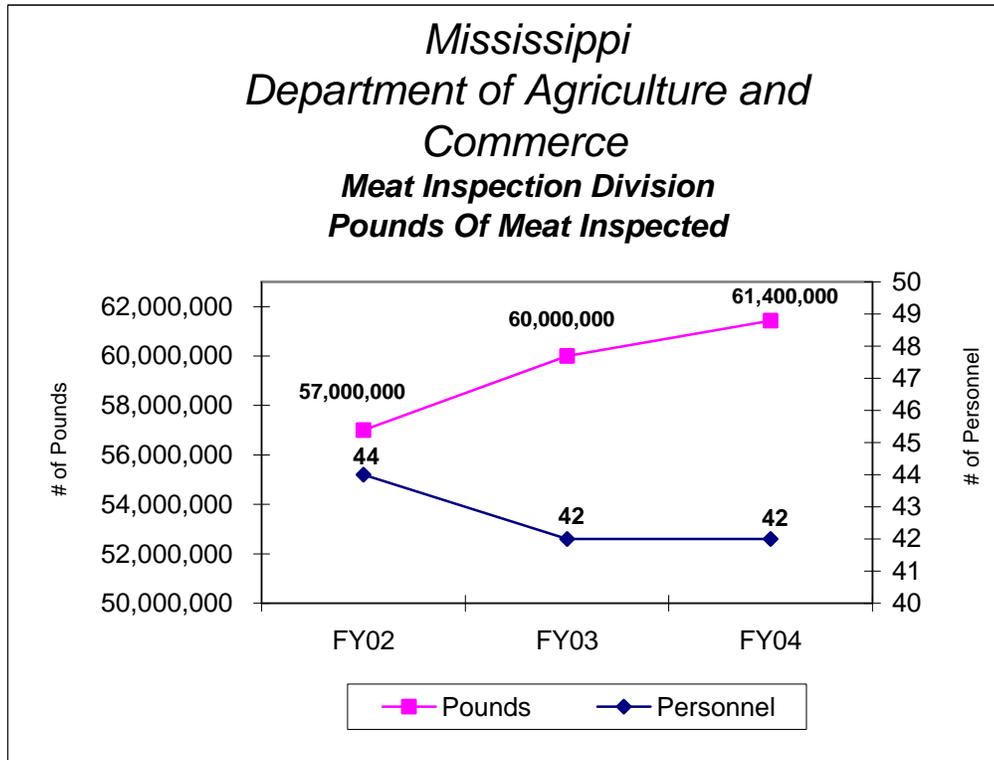
Meat Inspection

The Meat Inspection Division provides regulatory coverage and inspection of all establishments that slaughter food animals and poultry and/or further process meat and poultry products for entry into commerce except for those establishments that are operating solely under federal inspection. The purpose of this coverage is to provide food safety assurance to the consuming public. It is the goal of this division that no one will become ill from consuming meat and poultry food products.

New science based interventions that have been incorporated into food safety systems for organisms that cause foodborne illness are largely responsible for the decrease of contaminated meat and poultry determined to be in the marketplace. The incidence of products that needed to be recalled by manufacturers because of adulteration or misbranding has declined dramatically. In 2002, there were 130 recalls of products. In 2004, there were only 52 recalls. This net reduction of 60% is great news for the consuming public.

Productivity and efficiency are also goals for the Meat Inspection Division. In 2004, there were approximately 61.5 million pounds of products inspected. In 2002, there were approximately 57 million pounds of products inspected. These figures represent an increase of 4.5 million pounds of products inspected. This has been accomplished with a decrease of 2 personnel (approximately 5%) by the use of newly developing technology that allows for more efficient use of human resources.





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

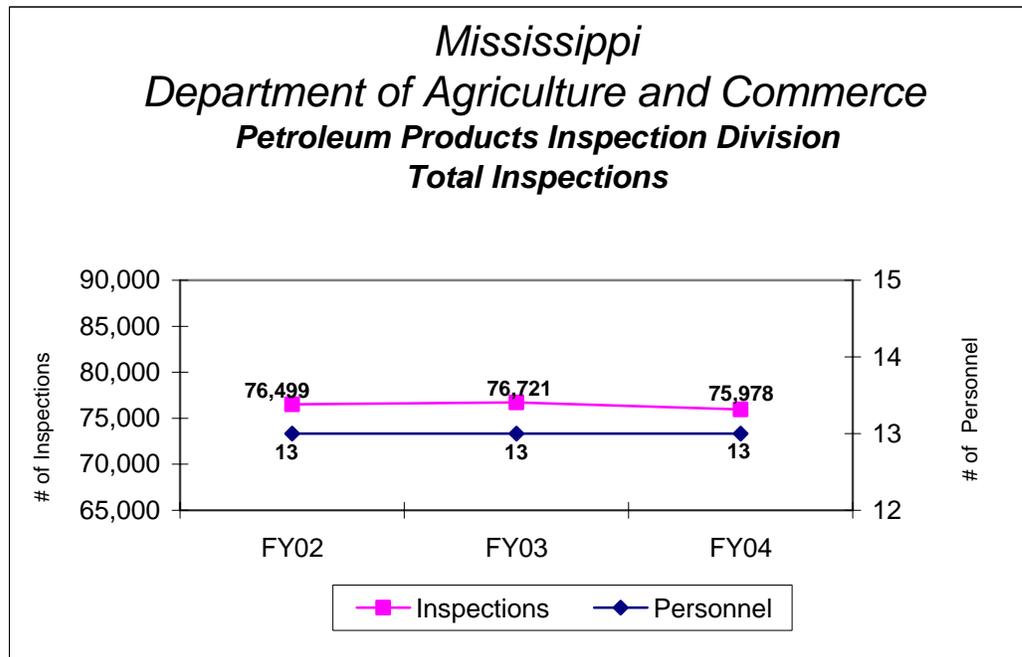
- Pounds of red meat inspected 61,435,402
- Pounds of poultry inspected 5,997,687
- Number of animals inspected 83,179
- Number of quail inspected 240,424
- Number of rabbits inspected 72,671
- Number of state meat plants licenses issued 52
- Number of T/A plant (no state license required) 22

This is a challenging time in the arena of food safety. We must continue to develop new skills and evaluate scientific data as new techniques become available that make the production of safer foods possible. We welcome this challenge as we strive to realize our goal that no one becomes ill from consuming meat and poultry food products.

Petroleum Products

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce’s Petroleum Products Inspection Division is responsible for insuring the quality of fuel purchased in the state through the testing of retail motor fuel samples. The agency is also responsible for validating the calibration of retail motor fuel dispensing devices through random retail device inspections. Inspections were conducted on 3,636 retail locations and involved almost 76,000 individual pump meters. Not only does the division conduct routine random pump meter and fuel quality inspections, but also the division responds to numerous consumer complaints. These complaints are typically addressed within a 24-hour period.

The Petroleum Products Inspection Division also tests hi-volume meters using sophisticated equipment such as a 150-gallon Calibration Trailer. A Calibration Truck and two state of the art slide-in Calibration Units are used to test standard volume meters. The PPID also uses the 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	3,636
➤ Petroleum pumps tested	75,978
➤ Petroleum products samples	3,425
➤ Violations issued	1,713
➤ Stop sales for fuel violations	101
➤ Stop sales for calibration violations	181
➤ Stop sales for sign violations	12
➤ Stop sales for water violations	74
➤ Total nozzles	48,959
➤ Total penalties collected	\$15,850

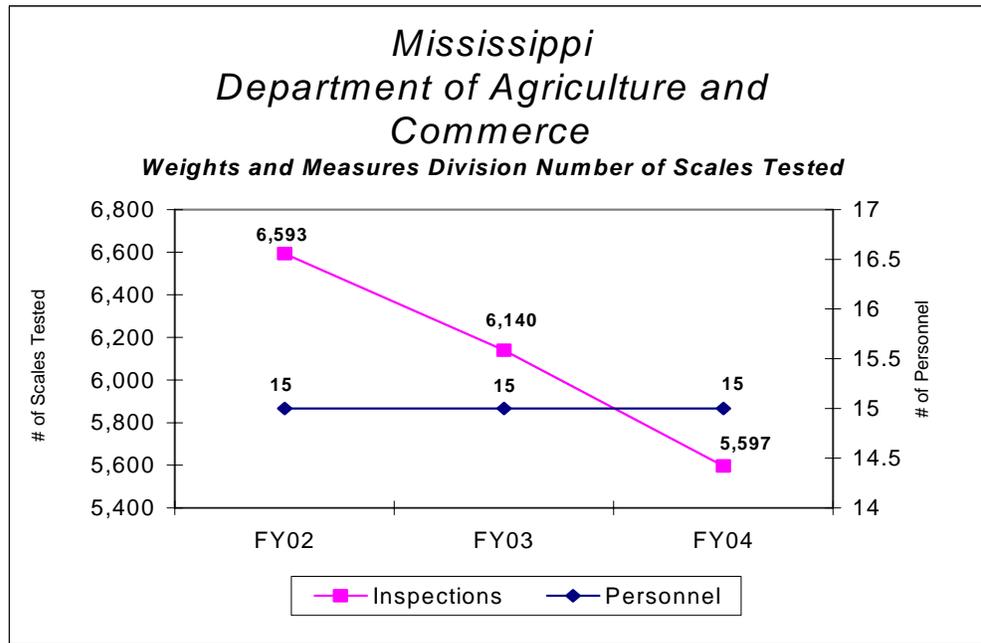


Weights and Measures

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 2004:

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

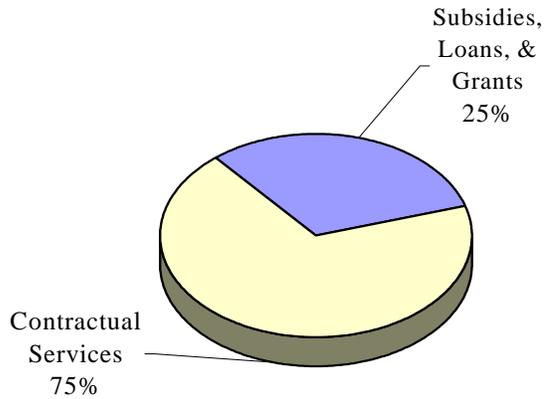


- Heavy scales tested 1,401
- Heavy scales rejected 190
- Intermediate scales tested 3,395
- Intermediate scales rejected 245
- All other inspections 801

* Based on a 10% sample of each lot.

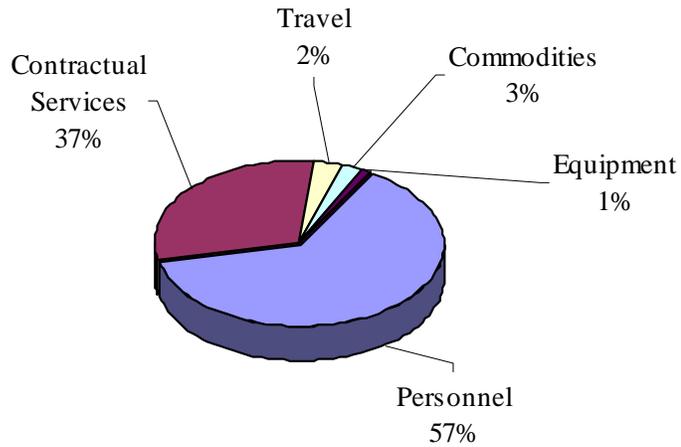
** If product is short weight, whole lot off sale.

*Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Program Budget for FY04*



Total Revenues	\$46,478
Total Expenditures	\$50,760

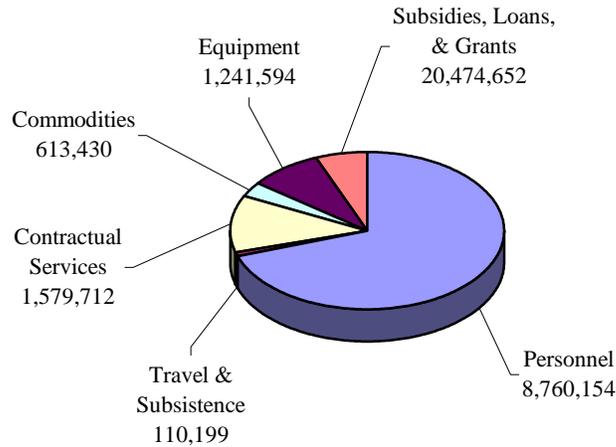
Egg Marketing Board - Special Funds



Total Revenues	\$290,428
Total Expenditures	\$305,652

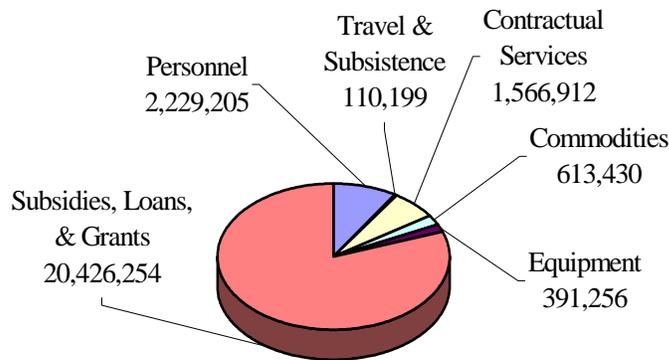
Farmers' Central Market - Special Funds

*Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Support Budget for FY04*



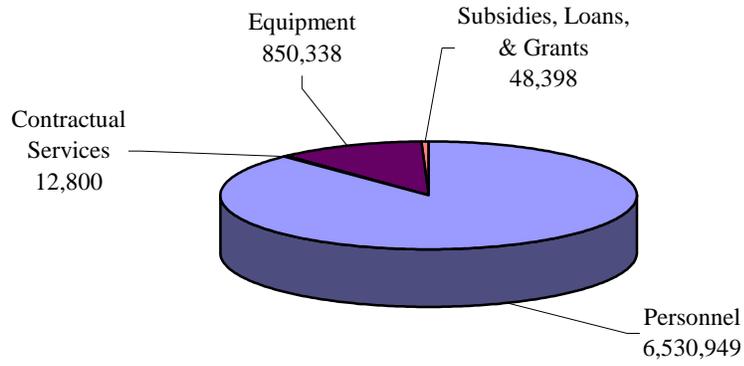
Total General Fund	
Appropriations Revenue	\$35,412,312
Total Expenditures	\$32,779,741

General & Special Funds



Total Revenue	\$27,969,827
Total Expenditures	\$25,337,256

Special Funds Only



Total General Fund	
Appropriations	\$7,442,485
Total Expenditures	\$7,442,485

General Fund Only