

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Fiscal Year 2007



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE – LESTER SPELL, JR., D.V.M., COMMISSIONER

2007 Annual Report

Letter from your Commissioner



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

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. 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

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ADMINISTRATION

Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M. - Commissioner
Rickey Gray - Deputy Commissioner
Butch Alpe - BPI Director

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 985 companies have met the criteria, registered, and received official promotional assistance. Also, the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*, published by the Department with 46,000 subscribers, provides a venue for consumer and vendor contact.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's regulatory responsibilities extend from farm to marketplace. In addition to 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, certification of gasoline pumps, and verification of 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, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program. This program makes fresh fruits and vegetables available to some low-income and nutritionally at-risk citizens. Through the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Mississippi not only enhances the quality of life for these participants, it contributes to the economic well being of small farmers.

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 LWT Resources Board
- 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 achieved through the joint efforts of State and Federal agencies, the Mississippi Legislature, and a sincerely dedicated staff.

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

I N D E X

Administration

Agriculture and Livestock Theft

Agriculture Museum

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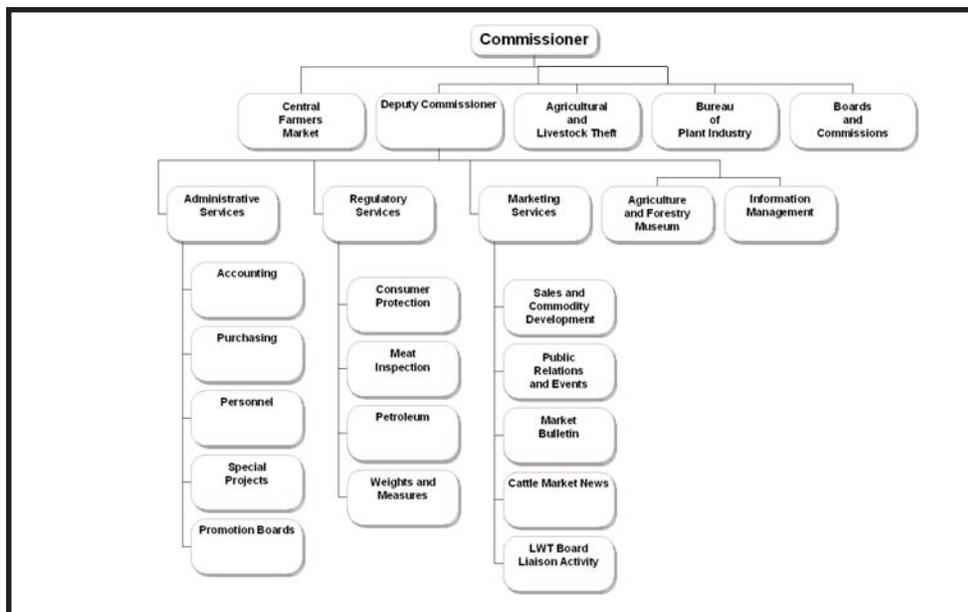
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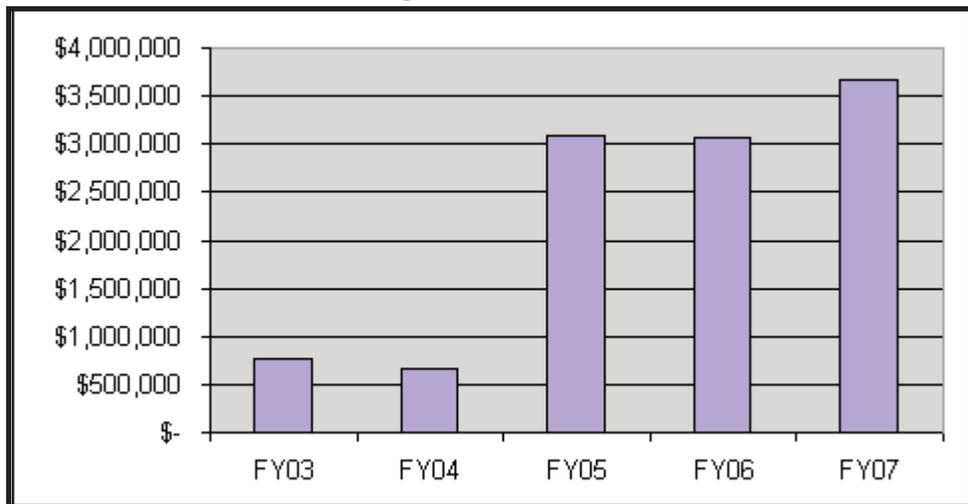
Administration

Personnel-wise, 2007 was a year in which the number of personnel remained stable. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce assumed additional responsibilities, as well as implemented new programs to protect the Mississippi consumer. All of this was done with 33% fewer personnel than in 1996 when Lester Spell assumed the leadership of the agency. The agency has been able to accomplish this by upgrading its technology, as well as cross-training its employees. The final division's (Petroleum) previously-developed technology applications began to be coordinated with other applications of the agency.



Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Organization Chart

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



License and Inspection Fee Collections for FY03 through FY07

Agriculture and Livestock Theft



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 the theft of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, fish, farm equipment, 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.

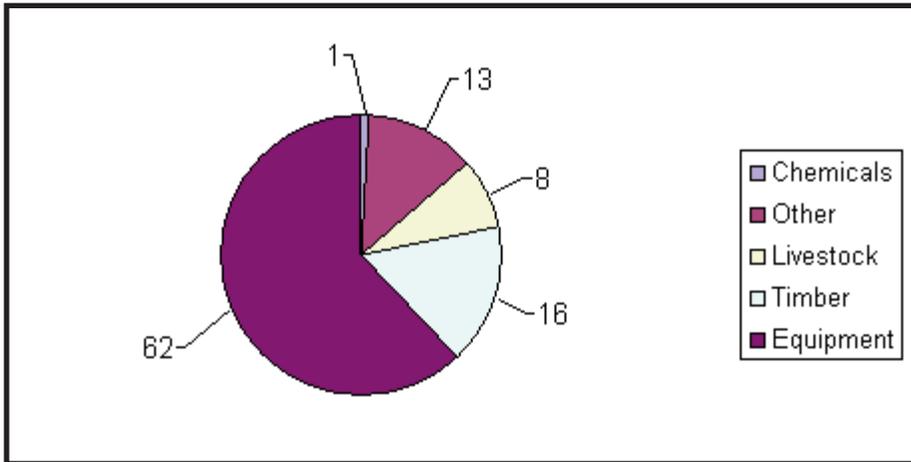
In addition to its law enforcement function, the Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau maintains registration of all livestock brands. Livestock in Mississippi do not have to be branded; however, if they are branded, the brand must

be registered. The brands are recorded for a five-year period at a cost of five dollars. Registered brands are published in book form and distributed to law enforcement throughout the state. Presently, about 1,500 active brands are on file.

In the summer of 2007, *America's Heartland*, a weekly television series, profiled the Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau in a segment that will be broadcast in 2008. The segment highlights the duties of this unique law enforcement agency and will be viewed across the country.

 Robert Jordan, Director
 E-mail: RobertJ@mdac.state.ms.us

Theft Chart, *continued on next page*



**Percentage Distribution of Dollar Value of Reported Crimes
Total Dollar Value of \$3,914,613 for FY2007**

Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum / National Agricultural Aviation Museum

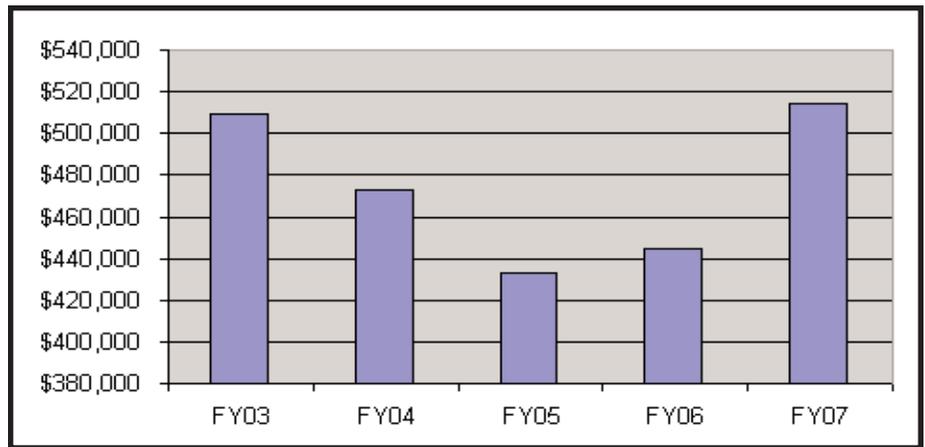
In FY 2007, the museum had 136,067 visitors from all 50 states and from 26 countries.

The year 2007 was a prosperous year in many ways for the museum. The museum celebrated the grand opening of the new “railroad era” exhibit in the Heritage Center on March 27, 2007. The new exhibit displays the introduction and importance of railroads to Mississippi through models of 3 gauges...HO, O and N Scale. In addition to the model display, a “rebuilt” replica of a caboose was constructed inside the museum to exhibit the true life-size of a railcar on the rails and communicate to visitors how important it is to yield to rail crossings. The new exhibit will continue to grow with the addition of new signage, lighting and video.



Railroad Exhibit

The Craftmen’s Guild of Mississippi opened a new center in Ridgeland in 2007, leaving the Crafts Center Shop on the grounds vacant. The museum has been able to use the building for in-house educational activities, and it is now an additional facility available for rent. Until a formal name is chosen for the facility, it will temporarily be called the Educational Center.



Museum Revenue From FY03 through FY07

In 2007, the museum made repairs throughout the complex. Two of the most important repairs were the replacement of the roof at the Forestry Building and the replacement of the roof, siding, and fascia at the General Store.

Future improvements will include repairs to the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead, Educational Center, Heritage Center canopy roof, and the air conditioning/heating units in the Forestry Building and Sparkman Auditorium.

The museum’s revenue increased in 2007 to a total of \$514,643.14, exceeding expenses of \$508,315.92.

The museum continues to offer family oriented events. In 2007, it hosted the Mississippi Puppetry Guild puppet shows, celebrating Black History month and Valentine’s Day. The museum also hosted annual events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunrise Service, Fourth of July

Celebration, Celtic Festival, Pumpkin Picking, Halloween Carnival, Harvest Festival and Christmas Events. Museum staff wrote and performed in two plays in 2007: 1) “Bettye’s Web” and 2) “Night Before Christmas at the Museum.” “Bettye’s Web” included barnyard characters such as a pig, goat, mouse, and spider; and will be presented again in Spring 2008. “Night Before Christmas” included “Santa,” Rudolph, Mrs. Clause and Santa’s elf, Twinkie, and will also be performed again in December 2008.

Individuals wanting more information should contact Charlie Dixon.

Charlie Dixon, Director
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Bureau of Plant Industry



BPI front entrance in Starkville, Mississippi

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.

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.

Legislative 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).

Plant Pest Program

In June of 2006, Mississippi joined the Interstate Pest Control Compact. The Compact allows states to react quickly to significant exotic pest outbreaks by overcoming funding restraints and jurisdictional gaps. Mississippi attained membership by enacting legislation and making a one-time payment to an insurance fund. This insurance fund was established by the Compact to pool resources for problems requiring immediate attention. The Commissioner of Agriculture with the

assistance of the Bureau of Plant Industry will act as administrator for the State of Mississippi.



- Conducted 562 nursery inspections and 383 nursery dealer inspections.
- Conducted 266 inspections for Brown Garden Snail on plant materials shipped from California.
- Certified and inspected 36,263 colonies of honey bees.
- Permitted 23,845 bee colonies into Mississippi.
- Issued 393 phytosanitary certificates on plant materials shipped out-of-state.
- Found no significant levels of Sweet Potato Weevils after setting 2,020 traps on 22,000 acres of sweet potatoes.
- Conducted Cogongrass demonstration program for 328 private land owners. 2,263 acres were treated in the program.
- Collected more than \$3.8 million in assessment fees paid on 660,000 acres of cotton by farmers participating in statewide eradication of the Boll Weevil.
- Conducted detection surveys at nurseries and nursery dealer establishments for Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Chrysanthemum White Rust, Viburnum Leaf Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Giant African Snail, Cactus Moth and Asian Longhorned Beetle; all sites were found to be negative.
- Surveyed soybean fields for Soybean Aphid and Soybean Pod Borer at 70 sites in 22 counties; all sites were found to be negative.
- Surveyed rice fields for Rice Blast, Bakanae, and South American Leaf Miner at 63 sites in seven counties; all sites were found to be negative.
- Surveyed for Cogongrass statewide; three new counties were found to be positive, making a total of 64 positive counties.

BPI, continued on next page

Bureau of Plant Industry, *continued from page 4*

- Surveyed for Tropical Soda Apple statewide; 36 sites in 12 counties were found to be positive. BPI assisted USDA-APHIS-PPQ in spot treating more than 15,000 acres of pasture infested with Tropical Soda Apple.
- Surveyed for Benghal Dayflower statewide. Since ten sites in two counties were found to be positive, Benghal Dayflower was added to the State Noxious Weed List, and a quarantine was implemented on the positive counties. Currently, a suppression program is in place.
- Surveyed lakes, ponds, and watersheds for Giant Salvinia statewide; one county was found to be positive. The Salvinia Weevil was released as a biological control agent in an effort to suppress the infestation.
- Placed 30 pheromone traps for Africanized Honey Bees at two military installations, three major river ports, and two coastal ports; all traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 1,600 pheromone traps for Gypsy Moth in 49 counties; all traps were found to be negative.
- Placed six traps for Sirex Woodwasp in six counties; all traps were found to be negative.
- Assisted USDA-APHIS-PPQ in the monitoring of a nursery that tested positive for the Sudden Oak Death pathogen in 2006.
- Assisted USDA-APHIS-SITC in conducting a weigh station blitz at Moss Point and Lucedale in which trucks were stopped and inspected for plant pests and regulated plant material.

Pesticide Program

- Registered 11,424 pesticide products and collected \$1,993,075 in product registration fees.
- Collected 662 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to spot-check registration numbers and compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Issued 14 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded, or not registered.
- Issued four special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued 23 emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 260 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticide products.
- Issued 2,774 private applicator certificates.
- Issued 1,015 commercial applicator certificates.
- Made 152 inspections of records kept by private applicators of restricted-use pesticide.
- Conducted 28 producer-establishment inspections, 301 marketplace inspections, 288 inspections of applicator records, and 141 inspections of dealer records.
- Conducted 144 inspections of pesticide misuse in agricultural situations and 45 inspections of misuse in nonagricultural situations.
- Conducted 68 worker protection inspections.
- Collected \$33,970 in fines as part of enforcement actions involving violation of state and federal pesticide laws.



- Issued 72 licenses for aerial application of hormone-type herbicides and approved 107 aircraft used in application of such products.
- Issued 62 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 179 seed inspections.
- Collected 2,253 official regulatory seed samples.
- Found 85 official regulatory seed samples to be in violation of the State Seed Law.
- Issued 1,276 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Collected \$29,196.80 in fees paid for seed permits.
- Issued three permits for commercial Bermuda-grass sprigger.
- Generated \$79,990 in revenues from service charges on farmer and dealer samples.
- Tested 11,453 seed samples.
- Conducted 4,287 special tests on seed such as cool germ test, accelerated aging on soybeans, and red rice test.
- Performed a total of 27,734 tests on seed.
- Issued 143 phytosanitary certificates on seed export. Two certificates were on seed re-export.
- Received 155 applications for seed inspection fees.
- Collected \$215,252.61 in seed inspection fees and late fees for the fiscal year of 2007.

Feed, Fertilizer, Lime, and Soil-Plant Amendments Program

- Registered 573 feed manufacturers.
- Collected 4,722 feed samples.
- Registered 2,926 fertilizer products from 353 fertilizer companies.
- Registered 77 lime products from 50 distributors.

- Collected 1,539 fertilizer samples.
- Collected 250 lime samples.
- Collected \$142,867 in product registration.
- Collected \$553,357 in tonnage fees.
- Assessed and collected \$11,398 in penalties.

Public Information Program

- Edited, designed, and produced the September 2006, December 2006, March 2007 and June 2007 quarterly newsletter, *Plant Industry News*.
- Produced news releases on pest control operators, pesticide use, and Worker Protection Standards.
- Conducted pesticide safety training sessions at the 2006 Pesticide Safety Day Camp in Crystal Springs, MS and 2006 Farm Safety Day Camps in Jasper, Smith, Leake, and Marion counties.
- Provided exhibit and educational materials at the 2006 North Mississippi Garden Exposition, 2007 MS Agricultural Consultants Association Annual Meeting, and 2007 Delta Ag Expo.

Butch Alpe, Bureau Director
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Mississippi Farmers Market



Mississippi Farmers Market front entrance in Jackson, Mississippi

The Mississippi 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.

In February of 2006, the Farmers Market moved to the new 18,000 square foot market facility located at the corner of Jefferson and High Street.

The market rents space to seasonal fruit and vegetable farmers in order to sell directly to the consumer. There is no middle man, no big chain supermarket - just the best food coming straight from the field. This increases the annual net profits for farmers.

The Mississippi Farmers Market operates from a "Special Fund Account."

A summary of income sources:

- Thirty-two stall rentals
- Restaurant facility rental
- General facility rental

Fruits and Vegetables

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has a Fruit and Vegetable Division. This division's purpose is to assist our fruit and vegetable growers with planting, marketing, or any problems encountered by the growers.

MDAC has three fruit and vegetable drop points in Mississippi, which are located in Bassfield, Booneville, and Lucedale. The purpose of these drop points is to give growers a local contact with which to work. The revolving fund, located in Bassfield, is a \$1.9 million fund set up to give our growers fast pay when they sell their products. After Bassfield receives the Bill of

Lading confirming the buyer's acceptance of the shipment, a Mississippi grower is paid from this fund within five days. The buyer then pays MDAC instead of paying the grower. Each grower

closely with the Mississippi Public School Nutritional Purchasing Agent, who receives all orders from the state's schools for produce needed for school 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 more than a \$330,000 new market for Mississippi growers. Our growers now have an additional market, and school children are being introduced to locally-grown fruits and vegetables.



Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce fruit and vegetable drop points

and buyer must sign an acknowledgement with MDAC stating their understanding of the terms and regulations of MDAC's Revolving Fund.

A new and exciting program that MDAC is participating in is the Farm to School Program. This program is run by the Department of Defense, which for years bought produce from local growers for military bases. The DOD recently expanded the Farm to School Program to include the school systems. MDAC works very

John Campbell, Market Manager
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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.

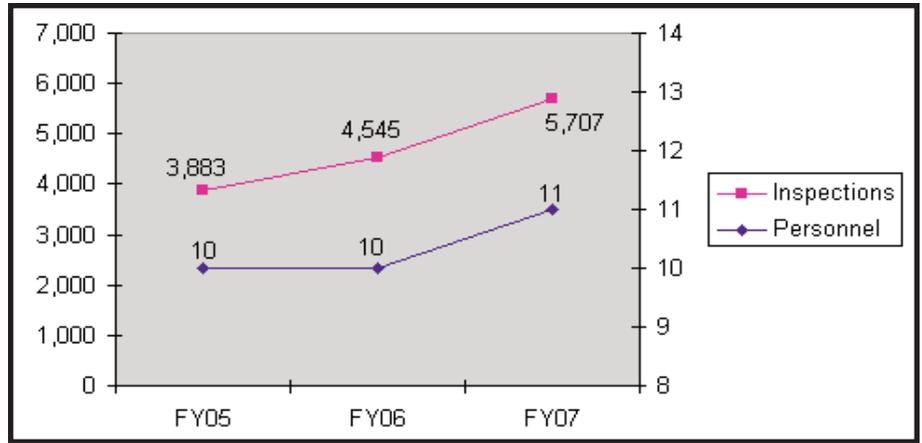
In FY 2007, the division continued improvement in efficiency. The chart on retail food establishment sanitation inspections represents increased inspection activity.

Seventeen retail food establishments were issued warning letters and eight retail food establishments were issued legal complaints for critical violations cited under the Mississippi Food Sanitation Law. Civil penalties in the amount of \$10,862.50 were issued for the legal complaints.

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, the division is responsible for weights and measures. Consumer Protection also administers five other laws, as well as conducts meat compliance inspections in retail food establishments under a USDA Cooperative Agreement and a natural disaster partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In FY 2007, Consumer Protection was responsible for:

- Retail store inspections 6,473
- Pre-packaged items weighed 40,064 (7.60 % placed off-sale)
- Cases of shell eggs inspected 49,974



Number of Retail Food Sanitation Inspections FY05 through FY07

- Scales tested (100 pounds or less (4.00 % rejected) 6,346
- Labeling Inspections 5,522
- Meat compliance inspections 6,442
- Retail food sanitation inspections* (2.45 % failed) 5,707
- Disposition of garbage store inspections 5,710
- UPC price verification inspections 329

* This represents more than store inspections. It includes a substantial increase in the number of inspections of Chinese Catfish, Tilapia Inspection, Sampling, and Analysis Projects and the FDA and/or USDA Class I Food Recalls that the agency participated in by inspecting for recalled food products. This also includes a substantial increase in the number of meat compliance inspections as well as the retail store inspections.

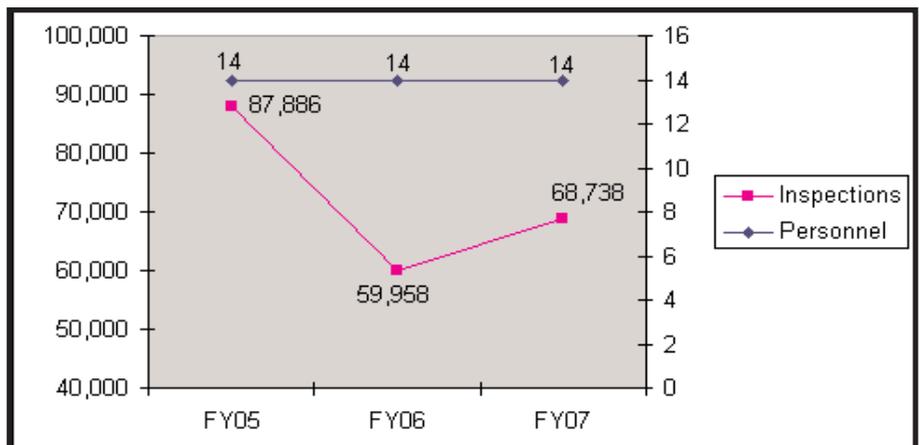
The Consumer Protection Division has continued to increase efficiency both in the field and office through the use of laptop computers and a specialized computer software inspection program for field inspection staff and office personnel. The division will strive to continue a cooperative working relationship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

John Tillson, Director
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Consumer Protection - Petroleum Division

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Petroleum Products Inspection Division, insures the quality of fuel purchased in the state through the testing of retail motor fuel samples, which include gasoline, ethanol blended fuel, diesel fuel, biodiesel fuel, and kerosene. The use of the Zeltex octane analyzers as a screening device assist inspectors in the number of gasoline samples taken to test for octane quality of fuel in Mississippi. Recently acquired testing equipment at the Petroleum Laboratory allows more thorough testing of biodiesel fuel and ethanol blended fuel.

The state-of-the-art slide-in calibration units provide all field personnel with an efficient manner in which to verify calibration of retail motor fuel dispensing devices. The Petroleum division conducts routine random device meter and fuel



Inspections and Personnel for FY05 through FY07

Petroleum, continued on next page



Inspector is checking nozzle for octane accuracy and quality

quality inspections in response to numerous consumer complaints and are typically addressed within a 24-hour period. Inspections were conducted for the fiscal year on 3,550 retail locations and involved nearly 70,000 individual pump meters. Hi-volume meters typical of truck stops are approved using the division's 150-gallon Calibration Trailer and 60-gallon Calibration Trailer.

Division field personnel are completely on line with the WinWam Computer software designed specifically for Weights & Measures officials. This software allows inspectors to complete all inspection information for immediate download to the main office computer, giving complete access to all inspection data by office personnel.

In FY 2007, the Petroleum Division was responsible for:

• Stations registered	3,550
• Petroleum pumps tested	68,738
• Petroleum products samples	2,521
• Violations issued	1,607
• Stop sales for fuel violations	97
• Stop sales for calibration violations	37
• Stop sales for sign violations	20
• Stop sales for water violations	31
• Total nozzles	50,141

 Bob Louys, Director
 E-mail: Robert@mdac.state.ms.us

Consumer Protection - Meat Inspection Division

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. This assurance is becoming increasingly critical as more food products are intended to be consumed with little or no further preparation at home.

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 on all computers that field personnel use in performing inspection duties. This system electronically schedules work, receives and transfers inspection findings, files and stores the associated information, and retrieves it for supervisory and administrative use. This results in savings in supplies, postage, and time and allows this division to con-



centrate more of its resources toward food safety for the consumers.

The Meat Inspection Division is moving from organoleptic inspection to more and newly-evolving scientific methods of assessing the effectiveness of food safety systems. This division is constantly implementing new scientific advancements in food safety. Each establishment that produces meat products now has interventions in

place to eliminate or control the pathogens that are most likely to cause food borne illness. The success of these interventions decreases the instances of illnesses caused by consuming meat-food products and increases the assurance of safety in the products that consumers now purchase and serve to their families.

In FY 2007, the Meat Inspection Division was responsible for:

• Pounds of red meat inspected	53,171,366
• Pounds of poultry inspected	8,089,223
• Number of animals inspected	82,171
• Number of quail inspected	198,549
• Number of rabbits inspected	54,815
• Number of state meat plants licenses issued	41
• Number T/A plant (no state license required)	20

 Richard Benton, Director
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Consumer Protection - Weights and Measures Division



The Weights and Measures Division has the responsibility of testing all heavy scales with capacity of 10,000 lbs. or more and retesting out-of-tolerance scales after repairs are made. Some examples are truck scales, livestock scales, poultry scales, and rail scales. Also included are intermediate scales with the capacity of 1 to 1,000 lbs. and retesting out-of-tolerance scales after repairs are made. Examples include grain elevators, gins, home/garden centers, cooperative stores, feed stores, hauling facilities, hospitals, and distribution centers. Weights and Measures has the responsibility of regulating equipment used in commerce and trade and issuing licenses to public weighmasters, scale companies/repairmen, and auc-

tioners within the State of Mississippi. The division regulates timber to insure that acceptable standards are applied uniformly in the scaling of pulpwood receiving facilities and sawmills. One inspector covers the whole state testing dairy farm milk tanks and compiles calibration readings for the accuracy of the dairyman's chart.

Our field personnel now have the opportunity to use laptop computers with the Winwam Software, which has been very beneficial in gathering the information needed on a daily basis.

Weights & Measures, *continued on next page*

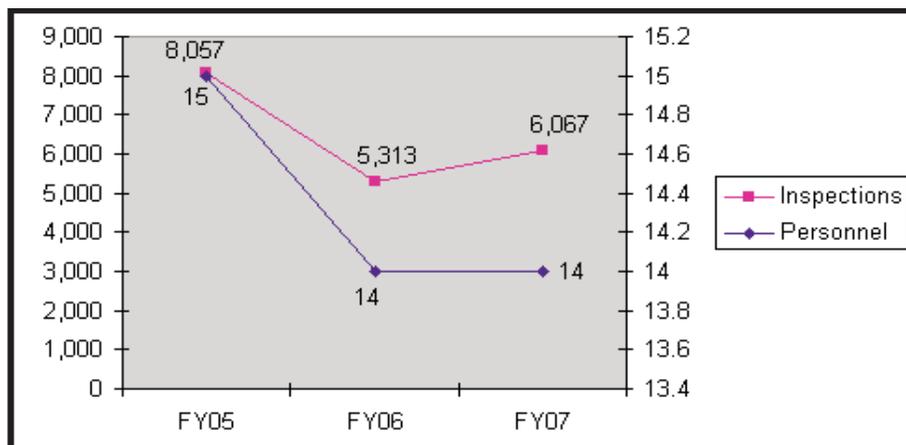
Weights and Measures, *continued from page 8*

The personnel from the FY 2007 Weights and Measures Division, which includes, two Supervisors, 12 inspectors and two Metrology Lab employees, have done the following:

- Tested 1,540 heavy scales and rejected 280
- Tested 3,543 intermediate scales and rejected 252
- Tested 140 livestock scales and rejected 16
- Tested 57 rail scales and rejected 7
- Performed 487 Weighmaster, Pulpwood & Timber Inspections and failed 19
- Inspected 59 UPC-Price Verifications and failed 23
- Performed 195 package checks and failed 65
- Calibrated 46 dairy farm milk tanks

Mississippi Moisture Meter Laboratory

The division maintains the Mississippi Moisture Meter Laboratory located on the campus of the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, Mississippi. It compiles grain standards used in the inspection of grain moisture meters tested in the State of Mississippi and also provides testing and inspection of devices used to measure the moisture content of agricultural products offered for sale, processed, or stored, using standard methods set by the USDA. In FY 2007, Grain Moisture Meters tested totaled 188 with two rejected.



Inspections and Personnel for FY05 through FY07

Mississippi Metrology Laboratory

The division also maintains the Mississippi Metrology Laboratory located on the campus of Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS. Metrology is often referred to as the cornerstone of the weights and measures program. All laws, regulations, specifications, and tolerances would be meaningless without calibrated standards. These standards are needed wherever goods are bought or sold by weight or volume. The Metrology Lab is accredited by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the testing of mass, volume, and length, and uses these standards to calibrate the weights and volume measures used by MDAC and service companies that

install, repair, and test scales and gas pumps used for commerce as required by the laws in the State of Mississippi. The Metrology Laboratory provides volumetric and mass standard calibration services to 110 Mississippi companies. Also, companies from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee look to the Mississippi laboratory for their calibration needs. These companies represent a broad range of commerce including grain elevators, the lumber and pulpwood industry, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas industry, concrete plants, agrochemical, and the technicians that service scales or meters.

Connie Braswell, Director
E-mail: Connie@mdac.state.ms.us

Information Management Division

The Information Management Division (IMD) is primarily responsible for providing information technology and services to all employees of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). Also, IMD provides technical and network support, 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 aligning information technology with the agency's business goals, providing the infrastructure resources to support the agency's communications and decision making, and 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:

- Upgraded 70 aging and out-of-warranty desktop computers and printers with new equipment. In addition, replaced two old computer servers and successfully migrated the data to the new

technology platform.

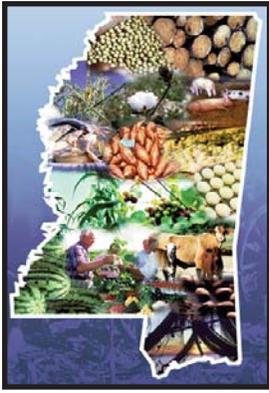
- Designed and implemented multiple database systems to assist 387 catfish farmers in determining eligibility, processing financial information, and tracking distribution of over \$8 million in aquaculture emergency grant money from USDA.
- Designed and implemented a database management system to track and manage registration of approximately 375 petroleum products distributors in Mississippi. The system generates annual registration notices and management reports for the Petroleum Products Division.
- Coordinated a multi-agency technology project between MDAC, the Mississippi Board of Animal Health, and the Mississippi State Fair Commission. Successfully implemented a wireless network on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds to provide Internet access and allow reporting of Livestock information during events like the Dixie National Livestock and Rodeo and the State Fair. Also, enhanced the Mississippi Fair Commission's high speed wireless network with fiber cable and moved the radio antenna to a more accessible

location.

- Each year, IMD staff takes pride in planning network infrastructure goals, which includes disaster recovery and deployment of preventive measures to effectively manage virus and hacker attacks. During the last three-year period, with the exception of telecommunication links in remote offices, the agency's computer network was available 99.8% of all business hours.
- IMD staff, in a cooperative agreement with USDA-NASS, continued to work on the Cropland Data Layer (CDL) using a unique statistical technique which optimizes map generation of the Mississippi's land use. Dr. Fred Shore presented research papers on CDL applications in New Orleans, San Francisco, and Seattle. Today, Mississippi is considered a leader in remote sensing for agricultural land use due to these efforts.

Umesh Sanjanwala, Director
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Marketing Division



Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, employing approximately 30% of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly. Agriculture in Mississippi is a 5.8 billion-dollar industry, with a 2.7 billion dollar economic impact each year. There are approximately 42,200 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 more than twenty schools and civic organizations.
- Participated in conferences and festivals in Mississippi.
- Conducted 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.
- Worked with the new Mississippi Farmers Market to promote agriculture and healthy eating through cooking demonstrations and other events.
- Participated in the launch of the *Great American Agriculture* magazine.

International Trade

- Member of the Southern United States Trade Association, encompassing 14 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 1911, 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, or 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 46,000 subscribers is not limited to in-state residents, but goes to out-of-state residents as well, and includes:

- Information to statewide media 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.
- A directory of the 42 Mississippi Farmers Markets.

Trade Shows, Conferences and Fairs

- Mississippi State Fair.
- Cool Season Fruit and Vegetable Production Marketing Workshop.
- Dixie National Rodeo and Parade.
- New Orleans SUSTA Conference.
- West Virginia SUSTA Conference.
- Deep South Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference.
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
- Fruit and Vegetable Production Marketing Workshop.

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 six trained inspectors, one state director and one state coordinator. To date, Mississippi has 23 certified organic growers and one certified packing line. Mississippi has become one of the largest shippers of organic blueberries in the nation.

Make Mine Mississippi Program

This unique marketing program was created to highlight products at least 51% produced, manufactured, or enhanced 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 providing the foundation for Make Mine Mississippi was passed in April, 1999.

At the end of FY 2007, 985 companies across the state 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.

- From the inception of the cooperative promotions fund in 1999 to the end of FY 2007, 648 companies were allocated funding.
- A total of \$608,146 has been awarded.
- The companies reported \$91,643,419 in sales as a result of the promotional activities paid for in part by this program.
- Businesses are currently reporting some 3,592 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 positive image of the state, and sell Mississippi products.

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, collecting and disseminating grain price information, and voicing radio and television broadcasts to 75 radio stations and one television station, which informs the agriculture community of livestock prices.

This office provides price information on livestock and grain to lending institutions, university agricultural economists, consultants, and livestock associations. A livestock report is issued in the *Mississippi Market Bulletin* that has a circulation of 46,000 readers per year.

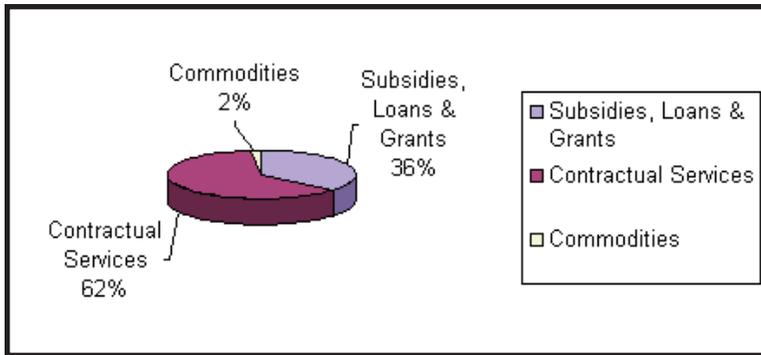
Fourteen livestock auction markets are reported by nine cross-trained Mississippi Board of Animal Health personnel. Prices collected from the fourteen sales represent 85% of all the livestock markets throughout the state.

Agritourism

Agritourism is a fast growing part of the future of Mississippi's agriculture. An estimated 30 million people travel to and around Mississippi each year. By linking the state's Travel and Tourism Industry with Mississippi's number one industry, agriculture, a very successful partnership is being realized. With the public's desire for a "farm experience" and for the fun of fairs and festivals, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is committed to promoting Agritourism in our state.

Andy Prosser, Director
E-mail: Andy@mdac.state.ms.us

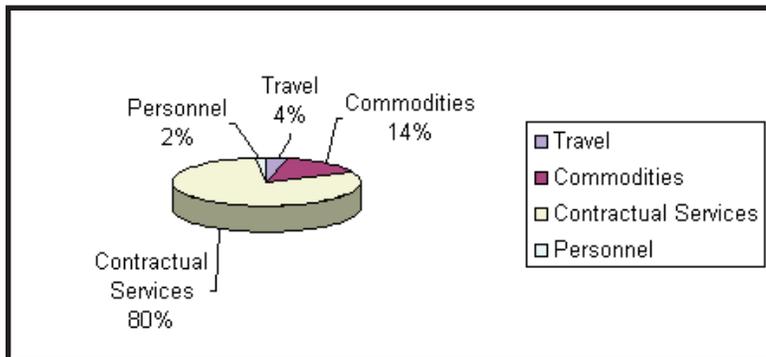
Charts and Graphs



Egg Marketing Board

Egg Marketing Board Special Funds

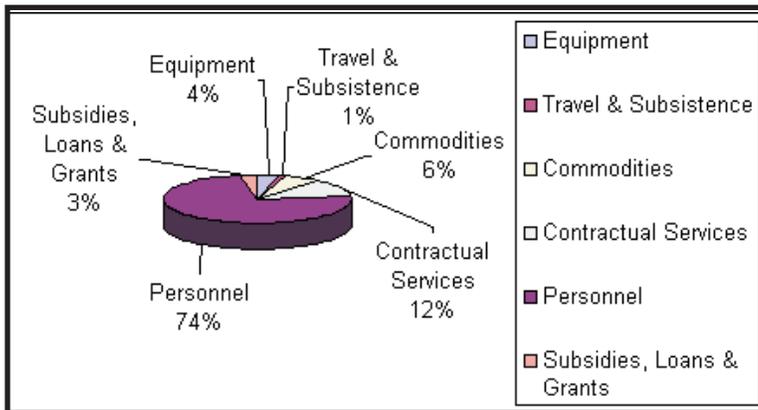
Total Revenues	\$61,733
Total Expenditures	\$35,608



Central Farmers Market

Central Farmers Market Special Funds

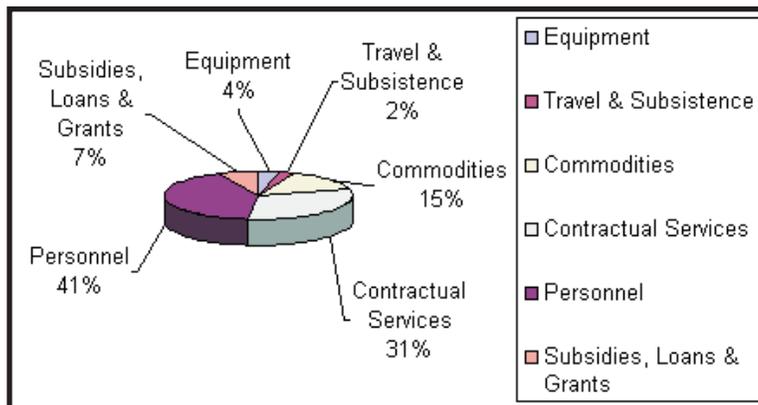
Total Revenues	\$32,583
Total Expenditures	\$30,776



General & Special Funds

MDAC Support Budget General and Special Funds FY 2007

Total Revenues	\$13,934,168
Total Expenditures	\$12,863,099

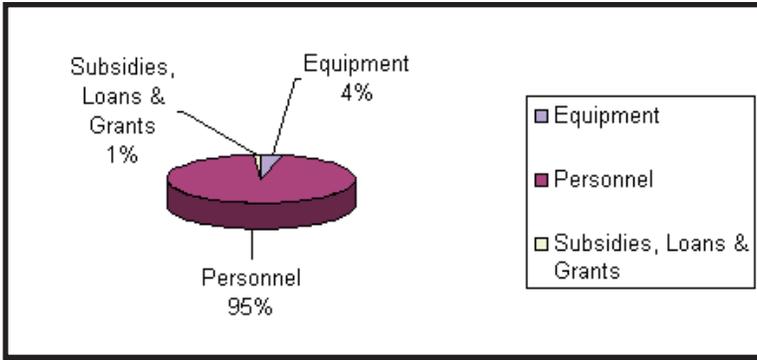


Special Funds Only

Special Funds Only

Total Revenues	\$6,093,767
Total Expenditures	\$5,022,698

Charts and Graphs



General Fund Only

General Fund Only

Total Revenues	\$7,840,401
Total Expenditures	\$7,840,401